

The Abbey Christian Brothers’ Grammar School



Annual Report to Board of Governors

For School Year 2018 / 2019

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Prayer of Edmund Rice

O God, we thank you for the life of
Edmund Rice.

He opened his heart to Christ present in
those oppressed by poverty and injustice.

May we follow his example of faith and
generosity.

Grant us the courage and compassion of
Edmund as we seek to live lives of love
and service.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

HEADMASTER'S PREFACE

I am delighted to present our Annual Report for the 2018 – 2019 academic year. It contains information regarding the Boards' statutory responsibilities and accountability as well as reflecting on the wide and rich experiences of our students.

At the end of my first full year as Principal I cannot help but be impressed by the quality and warmth of the relationships not only between staff and students but throughout every aspect of our school community. I feel that these relationships are the key to the successes of the boys throughout the school.

Academically, the students performed at the very top levels in comparison to other NI grammar schools but this is only one aspect of our students' success throughout the year.

The extra-curricular life of the school is vibrant. Each week over 80 Year 8 pupils have been participating in various sports. This is equally reflected in other year groups. Our Edmund Rice Outreach Work including our Zambia Immersion Project, Social Justice Groups, Edmund Rice Summer Camps all show Edmund Rice charism is alive and thriving in our young people.

I welcome the initiative of the establishment of Abbey Past Pupils and Friends Association as well as our Parents Group in supporting the Abbey Community through many initiatives such as supporting the link bus providing computers and supporting the many extra-curricular activities experienced by the boys.

I am delighted to welcome our new staff Victoria Magowan and Sarah Kee in Science and bid a fond "adieu" to Margaret Lane and Colin Gamble who leave after many years of selfless service to the school. We wish them well in their next chapters in their lives and thank them for their time with us. I also thank Fiona Flynn (office), Claire Collins (Irish and History), Laura McCartan (Business Studies), Ryan McCann (Moving Images Art), Fiona Hughes (Counsellor), Kelly Smith (Irish Assistant), Mary McKevitt (Cleaning Staff), Wioletta Sienkiewicz (Cleaning Staff), Marzena Miller (Cleaning Staff), Celine Gonzales (Assistant Cook) for their contribution to the Abbey.

As a school and community we are committed to continuous improvement and welcome your continued support as we endeavour to give our young Abbey men the qualities and qualifications for success in their lives.

I trust you find this report interesting and informative.

Yours sincerely

Mr Sean Sloan

Correspondent to the Board of Governors

Abbey Christian Brothers Grammar School

Teaching Staff 2018 – 2019

	NAME	Code	RESPONSIBILITY
001	Sloan, Mr Sean	SS	Headmaster
002	O'Shea, Mr Paul	POS	V.P. Psychology/ Senior School/DT Child Protection/Timetable/Learning Group/New Staff
003	Ruddy, Mr Ronan	RR	V.P./Spanish/Pastoral Team/ Open Day/Transfer/Year 8/eLearning
004	Rath, Mr John	JR	S. Teacher./Technology/ SENCO/BTec Quality Nominee/Extra Curricular
005	Wadsworth, Mr Dominic	DW	S. Teacher/Music/ P.R. Overview/UCAS/APTA/Community Links/ Year 9 + 10
006	McGrath, Mrs Catriona	CMG	S. Teacher/Careers/Middle School/Curriculum Options/Timetable(Shared)/EF/ALC
007	McCartan, Mr Jim	JMC	P.E./Junior Gaelic Football
008	Patterson, Mr Gervase	GP	Management Team/Head of Physics
009	McKeever, Mr Padraig	PMK	Head of Spanish/Year Tutor
010	McCann, Mr Dwyer	DMC	Head of ICT/I.T. Coordinator
011	McMahon, Mr Mel	MMM	Head of English
012	Burns, Mrs Sinead	SB	Head of Mathematics
013	Doey Ms Laura (McAreavey, Mrs Fiona)	LG	Head of Moving Images/Art
014	Lane, Mrs Margaret	ML	Head of Biology
015	Mooney, Mr Tony	TM	Management Team/Head of Technology & Design
016	Simpson, Mrs Denise	DS	Head of Geography
017	Tohill, Mrs Bernarde	BTO	Maths/Year Tutor/Numeracy/Using Number
018	Hamill, Mr Brian	BH	Physics
019	McKeever, Mrs Lisa	LMK	Head of RE
020	Elmore, Mrs Annette	AE	Geography/Year Tutor
021	Grogan, Mr Mark	MG	Computers/Web-site, E-Communications/Year Tutor
022	McGinley , Mrs Orla	OMG	Biology
023	Morgan, Mr Gerald	GMO	Assistance to Head of English/Head of LLW
024	Quinn, Miss Mairead	MQ	Head of French
025	Savage, Mr Gerard	GS	Head of Construction/Buses
026	Gamble, Mr Colin	CGA	Head of Chemistry/Quizzes
027	Rodgers, Mr Mark	MRO	Technology & Design/Year Tutor/Literacy & Communication Coordinator/Positive Mental Health
028	McCorry, Mrs Deirdre	DC	KS3 Science Coordinator/Biology
029	McGivern, Mrs Joan	JM	Spanish
030	Gallagher, Mr Sean	SGA	Irish/History/Year Tutor/School Newsletter
031	Boyd, Mrs Gail	GB	Mathematics
032	Reynolds, Ms Annelise	ARE	Head of Careers/English/Debates
033	McMahon, Mr Rory	RMM	Geography/Year Tutor
034	McClean, Mrs Pauline	PMC	Head of Irish
035	Gormley, Mr Jody	JG	Head of PE
036	Evans, Mr David	DE	Head of History
037	McParland, Mr Paul	PMP	Head of Drama
038	Hughes, Ms Orla	OH	Head of Art
039	Doherty, Mrs Karen	KD	Maths, Assistant to Head of Maths
040	McGivern, Mr Eddie	EM	Head of Psychology/Religion
041	Murphy, Mrs Mary	MM	Maths
042	Gordon, Mr Dan	DG	PE
043	Cranston, Mrs Kim	KC	Technology/Construction/LLW
044	McGinley, Mrs Seaneen	SD(EO)	English
045	Downing, Mr James	JD2	Head of Computer Science/ICT
046	Carey, Mrs Maeve	MC2	Head of Environmental Technology/Chemistry
047	Farrell, Mrs Karen(O'Hanlon Emma)	KG	English
048	O'Donovan, Mrs Martina	MO	Head of Home Economics
049	Keenan, Mrs Caroline	CK	Head of Music
050	Rooney, Mr Connor	CR	History
051	Kelly, Ms Roisin	RK	English/French
052	Harvey, Mr John	JH	Religion
053	McQuillan, Ms Phyllis	PMQ	Head of Business Studies
054	Patton, Mr David	DP	Physics/Mathematics/Environmental Technology
055	Collins, Mrs Claire	CC	Irish
056	Miss L McCartan	LMC	Business Studies/Careers

Support Staff

Colleen McAvoy	Bursar, Support Staff Manager, Building, Health and Safety Officer.
Mary Rafferty	Administration, Intake Admin
Tess McKernan	Administration
Patricia McKinley	General office - supervisor
Fiona Small	Exam officer, MIS,EMA, Reports
Ashleen Kelly	Administration, Classroom Assistant
Claire Trainor	Principal's PA
Catherine Brownlee	Science Technician
Carmel Hetherington	Reprographics/Library
Rory McLoughlin	Music/Art Technician
Robbie Hannon	PE Technician
Sean Higgins	Technology Technician, Electrical Maintenance
Neil Clarke	Information Technology Technician
Willie McCullough	Caretaker, Minibuses, Cleaning Staff Supervisor
Malachy Small	Caretaker, Minibuses, Cleaning Staff Supervisor
Annette Breen-Mallon	Classroom Assistant
Joan Jackson	Classroom Assistant
Anne Collins	Classroom Assistant
Annemarie Moire	Classroom Assistant
Shona Woods	Classroom Assistant
Ashleen Kelly	Classroom Assistant
Fionnuala Murray	Irish Language Assistant
Noleen Byrne	Home Economics
John Manley	Canteen Supervisor
Claire McGahan	Assistant Cook
John Sinton	Assistant Cook
Bernie Mallon	Canteen Staff/Cleaning Staff
Margarita McGivern	Canteen Staff
Aislin Callaghan	Canteen Staff
Elaine Ruddy	Cleaning Staff
Rosin McDonald	Cleaning Staff
Wioletta Sienkiewics	Cleaning Staff
Maureen McKevitt	Cleaning Staff/Canteen Staff
Kasia Chudoba	Cleaning Staff/Canteen Staff
Magdalena Oprzedek	Cleaning Staff
Bernard Magee	Cleaning Staff
Dagmara Sarwara	Cleaning staff/Canteen Staff
Teresa Sosin	Cleaning staff
Phyllis Barr	Cleaning staff/canteen Staff

Nurse/Counsellor
Mrs Jane McGinn (Mrs Geraldine Gallagher/Mrs Mina Hanratty)

SMT Responsibilities

Mr S Sloan

Full/Total responsibility for the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School
Care of SMT
Contact with all outside agencies (SELB, DENI etc.)
Transfer procedure
Retention/Consolidation of Christian Brothers' /Edmund Rice links and ethos
School Fundraising
School Development Plan
PRSD
PTMs
SDP
Gathering/Monitoring Information School Trips Information

Mentor: Computer Science, Chemistry, PE, Physics

Mr P O'Shea

Head of Senior School
Child Protection
Leaving Ceremony
EMA
Student Council
HODs Teaching and Learning
Timetable
DENI Return
Staff in Service
New Staff/Student Teachers

Mentor: Religious Studies, English, History, Psychology,

Mr R Ruddy

Pastoral Overview (Medical/Counselling)
Year 8 Pastoral Care and Liaison with Primary Schools
Anti-Bullying
Open Day
Transfer
Statistics
E-learning/ E Safety
BOG Report
Prize Giving Junior School

Mentor: French, Irish, Spanish, Technology, Maths,

Mr J Rath

SENCO
Quality Nominee for B'Tec
Extra Curricular

Mentor: ICT, Construction, Drama, Junior Science, DAS, Biology

Mr D Wadsworth

Pastoral Care Year 9 and Year 10
PR overview (social media/website)
UCAS
APTA
Community Links
ER Day

Mentor: Careers, Music, Home Economics, MIA, Art

Mrs C McGrath

Head of Middle School
Rota
Options
Timetable (shared)
EF Audit/Leavers Return
Curriculum
SHS/ALC Link
GCSE Prize Giving

Mentor: LLW, Business Studies, Accounting, Geography, Environmental Technology

Upper Middle Management Responsibilities

Mr T Mooney

- Staff Handbook, Parents Handbook, School Calendar
- Internal Examinations
- P.S. Visit

Mr G Patterson

- Public Examinations
- Rota back up
- P.S. Visit

Intake by Primary School 2019 - 20

TOTAL ACCEPTED 2018/19								
	<u>A</u>	<u>B1</u>	<u>B2</u>	<u>C1</u>	<u>C2</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>OPT</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Anamar								0
Ballyholland P.S.	13	1						14
Bridge GMI Primary School	1							1
Bunscoil	1							1
Carrick P.S.	3			1				4
Clonalig P.S.			1					1
Christ the Redeemer								0
Cloughogue P.S.	8	1						9
Dromintee P.S.	4							4
Holy Cross P.S. Kilkeel	1							1
Jonesborough P.S.	1				1			2
Muire na nGail National School								0
Killowen P.S.								0
Kilbroney Integrated P.S.								0
Scoil Naomh Bird								0
St. Brigid's Glassdrummond	5							5
St. Anthony's Craigavon								0
St. Bronagh's Rostrevor								0
St. Brigid's Drumilly								0
St. Clare's Abbey	6	1	2					9
St. Colman's P.S. Annaclone	1							1
St Colman's Bann								0
St. Colman's P.S. Dromore								0
St. Colman's P.S. Saval	2		1					3
St. Dallan's P.S. Warrenpoint	8	2					1	11
St. Francis Aghaderg		1	3					4
St Joseph Bessbrook								0
St Francis National School Blackrock								0
St Francis of Assisi Keady								0
St. Joseph's Edward St Newry	1						2	3
St Joseph & St James Poyntzpass								0
St. Joseph's Meigh	2							2
St Ita's P.S. Belfast	1							1
St, Malachy's Armagh	1							1
St. Malachy's Kilkee		1						1
St Malachy's Camlough								0
St. Malachy's Carnagat	1	1						2
St Mary's P.S. Banbridge	6							6
St Mary's P.S. Barr	1							1
St. Mary's Mullaghbawn	3							3
St Mary's Rathfriland								0
St. Oliver Plunkett Carrickrovady								0
St. Oliver Plunkett P.S. Forkhill	6							6
St. Patrick's Aghacommon								0

St. Patrick's Crossmaglen								0
St. Patrick's Drumgreenagh								0
St. Patrick's Cullyhanna	6							6
St. Patrick's Mayobridge	2	3						5
St. Patrick's P.S. Newry	1							1
St Patrick's Magheralin								0
St. Patrick's Hilltown		1						1
St. Peter's Bessbrook			1					1
St Paul's Ballykeel								0
St. Ronan's P.S.	17	2					1	20
St. Teresa's Lurgan	1							1
Outside Northern Ireland	3							3
Tannaghmore	1							1
Windsor Hill	1	2						3
TOTAL	108	16	8	1	1	0	4	138
Upgrades								
6 Students upgraded to A	3	-2	-1					0
6 Students upgraded to B1		7	-6	-1				0
2 students upgraded to C1								0
1 student upgraded to a B2 admitted on appeal. 1 students Grade B2 admitted on appeal			1		-1			
TOTAL	111	21	2	0	0	0	4	138

Intake by Grade 2019 - 20

<u>School Year</u> <u>2019/2020</u>		
	App	Adm
Grade A	108	108
Grade B1	17	16 (2 upgraded to A)
Grade B2	20	8 (1 upgraded to A) (6 upgraded to B1)
Grade C1	11	1 (1 upgraded to B1)
Grade C2	10	1 (1 upgraded to B2)
Grade D	4	
Other	6	4
TOTAL	176	138

1 C2 upgraded to B2 Admitted on Appeal

1 C1 upgraded to B2 admitted on Appeal

School Enrolment YEAR 2019/20

1ST YEAR

BR 8	30
DON 8	30
IV 8	26
OR 8	26
SL 8	26

TOTAL 138

5TH YEAR

12CK	25
12KC	24
12LMK	27
12PMC	26
12RK	26

TOTAL 128

2ND YEAR

BR 9	26
DON 9	27
IV 9	27
OR 9	25
SL 9	27

TOTAL 132

6TH YEAR

13CR	25
13DE	23
13DMC	24
13GMO	23
13PMQ	21

TOTAL 116

3RD YEAR

BR 10	25
DON 10	26
IV 10	26
OR 10	26
SL 10	26

TOTAL 129

YEAR 14

14DC	23
14DG	23
14JM	22
14MMM	23
14OMG	23
14POS	4

TOTAL 118

4TH YEAR

11DP	26
11JG	28
11KD	25
11MC	28
11MM	26

TOTAL 133

TOTAL 894

STATEMENTED

1ST YEAR	4
2ND YEAR	4
3RD YEAR	2
4TH YEAR	
5TH YEAR	1
6TH YEAR	5
7TH YEAR	1

**TOTAL 17
877**

GCE A2- ANALYSIS BY DEPARTMENT - SUMMER 2019

SUBJECT	Ent	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	% A* - C 2019	% A* - E 2019	NI% A*-C
ACCOUNTING	7		3	2	2				100	100	71
ART / DESIGN	4	2	1	1					100	100	86
BIOLOGY	22	4	7	4	5	1	1		91	100	82
BUSINESS ST.	31	2	14	10	4	1			97	100	84
CHEMISTRY	13	2	3	3	4	1			92	100	86
CHINESE	1			1					100	100	
COMPUTER SCIENCE	10	1	4	1	2	1		1	80	90	
CONSTRUCTION	28	15	10	3					100	100	
DES & TECH SC	6	3	1	1	1				100	100	69
DES & TECH RM	9		2	4		3			67	100	69
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY	24		6	6	5	5	2		71	100	78
DRAMA	7			5	2				100	100	86
ECONOMICS	11		1	6	2	1	1		82	100	87
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	4		1	2	1				100	100	94
ENGLISH LITERATURE	2	2							100	100	81
ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY	20	3	1	7	6	3			85	100	
FRENCH	2			2					100	100	85
GEOGRAPHY	18	1	4	5	4	4			78	100	81
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	5		1	2	2				100	100	
HOME ECONOMICS	3	1		1		1			67	100	
HISTORY	22	2	7	8	4	1			95	100	83
IRISH	7		6	1					100	100	92
MATHEMATICS	34	4	16	9	5				100	100	86
MOVING IMAGE ART	2	1	1						100	100	
MUSIC	9		6		1	2			78	100	89
PHYSICAL ED. STUDIES	10	1	2	3	2	1	1		80	100	65
PHYSICS	21	2	10	4	2	3			86	100	79
POLISH	2		1		1				100	100	
POLITICS	3		1	1	1				100	100	90
PSYCHOLOGY	9			3	1	2	1		67	100	67
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	5		3	2					100	100	85
SOCIOLOGY	7			1	3	1	2		57	100	72
SPANISH	5		2	1	2				100	100	91

% of Students getting 3 Grades A*-C at A level is 84 %

% of Students getting 3 Grades A*-C at A level for Northern Ireland is 76%

AS-LEVEL ANALYSIS BY SUBJECT - SUMMER 2019

SUBJECT	Ent	A	B	C	D	E	U	% A – C 2019	% A – E 2019
ART AND DESIGN	1		1					100	100
BIOLOGY	19	9	4	3	2	1		84	100
BUSINESS ST.	37	8	15	11	2	1		92	100
COMPUTER SCIENCE	14	5	7	2				100	100
CHEMISTRY	17	4	6	2	3	1	1	71	94
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - NI	11	4	2	2	2	1		73	100
DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY	40	3	7	14	10	4	2	60	95
ECONOMICS	5		2	2		1		80	100
ENGLISH LITERATURE	13	6	3	3	1			92	100
ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY	20	7	8	4	1			95	100
FRENCH	2		1		1			50	100
FURTHER MATHS	4	2	2					100	100
GEOGRAPHY	25	5	7	4	8	1		64	96
HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE	3		1	1	1			67	100
HISTORY	28	3	13	7	4		1	82	96
IRISH	5	2	3					100	100
MATHEMATICS	30	17	6	5	2			93	100
MOVING IMAGE ARTS	3		3					100	100
MUSIC	3			1	1	1		33	100
PHYSICAL ED. STUDIES	8	5	2		1			88	100
PHYSICS	26	8	6	2	4	2	4	62	81
POLITICS	7		1	2	3	1		43	100
PSYCHOLOGY	19	1	8	6	1	2	1	79	95
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	11	2	4	4	1			91	100
SOCIOLOGY	5			3		2		60	100
SPANISH	15	2	7	6				100	100

Subjects in bold / italics are linear

GCSE Results by Department 2019

Subject	Ent	A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E	F	2019 A* - B	2019 A* - C
Art and Design	9	3	4		2					78	100
Biology	55	10	19	14	7	4	1			78	98
Business Studies	44	9	13	12	4	4	2			77	95
Chemistry	20	6	7	3	1	2	1			80	95
Computer Science	19	3	4	5	3	3	1			63	95
Construction	34	4	20	9	1					97	100
Digital Technology	53	3	23	12	9	5	1			72	98
Drama	24	0	8	11	5					79	100
English Language	131	8	50	43	21	9				77	100
English Literature	131	19	44	42	18	8				80	100
French	18	3	10	3	1	1				89	100
Geography	64	9	25	14	11	3	2			75	97
History	62	21	27	11	3					95	100
Food Nutrition Science	15	1	5	4	3	1		1		75	93
Irish	31	3	14	7	4	2	1			77	97
Maths	72		21	40	8	3				85	100
GCSE Maths in one Year	59	18	28	11	2					100	100
Further Maths	37	5	16	6	8	1	1	1		73	95
MI Arts	9		4	4		1				89	100
Music	11	2	4	3	2					82	100
PE Studies	44	3	16	9	9	5	2			64	95
Physics	28	6	10	6	4	2				79	100
Religious Education	129	16	47	34	20	9	3			75	98
DA Science	110	9	31	33	18	11	8			66	93
Spanish	82	3	36	19	15	9				71	100
Technology	27	4	6	13	2	1	1			85	96

	Abbey	NI Grammar School Average
% of students obtaining 5+GCSE	100	97
% of students obtaining 7+ GCSE	96	92

ART & DESIGN

DEPARTMENT OF ART & DESIGN

Art & Design Results:

Excellent results were achieved within the Department again this year. This was particularly important with this being the first year of examination in the New GCSE Specification. The Department achieved 100% A*-C* at GCSE, 100% A*-B at AS Level and 100% A*-B at A2 Level. At GCSE the moderator reported that “The freedom to diversify in disciplines showcased the students’ creative and technical strengths in both concepts and choice of media. Much of the work was exciting, skillful and mature in execution.”

At AS Level the moderator noted that “candidates benefitted from ceramic and print-making workshops” and the Final Outcome was “imaginative and engaging.” It was also noted that the candidate’s “creative intentions were ambitious, interesting and original.”

At A2 Level the moderator reported that the standard of work was “Excellent, visually exciting” and that “it was obvious that the pupils were well guided and supported.” The moderator complimented the final outcomes observing that they were “original and highly imaginative.”

The moderators recommended that the work of Louis Cunningham and Owen Tuohy at A2 Level and Joshua McCamley and Luke McAleenan at GCSE should be submitted for possible inclusion in the “True Colours Exhibition”. This prestigious annual exhibition at the Ulster Museum Belfast, showcases the best student artwork in Northern Ireland. Selection for this is a fantastic achievement and a real incentive for our current students.

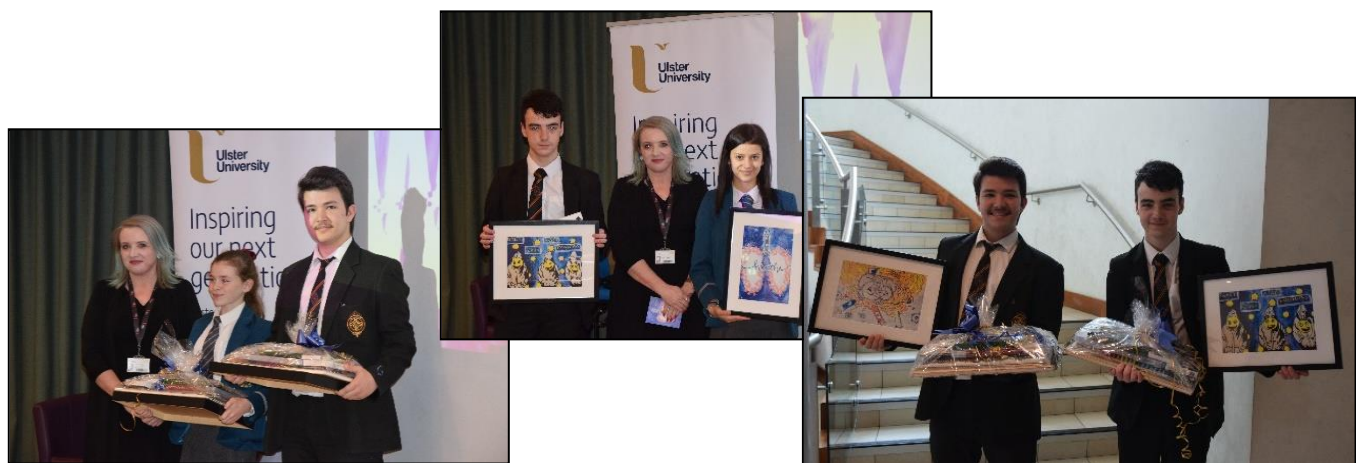
Creative Awards:

The Department continues to recognise the importance of working with the local community and in promoting environmental issues. To this end Year 9 students were set a task by the Department to present designs for the Newry & Mourne School's Environmental Calendar. Congratulations to the twelve students who received “Certificates of Achievement” for their superb effort and creativity.

The Department was delighted to participate in a Graphic Design project organised by the Ulster University. This was an opportunity to strengthen links with the University. The theme of the competition was “Good Health & Well Being” and students were challenged to design a postcard to promote this theme. Two Year 11 students, Luke Fitzpatrick and Hani Mustafa, were awarded first and second place respectively in the competition. As a result of their success, Year 11 Art & Design students and staff were invited to attend a presentation on 14th June at the Ulster University. At the event both students were presented with a fabulous art pack containing materials which the boys have been putting to great use in the continuation of their Art studies.

The students also had the opportunity to view the Ulster University End of Year Show.

Huge congratulations to Luke and Hani on their success!



In addition, congratulations to Year 11 Art and Design student Matthew Cespon who is one of 12 UK winners in the NASUWT “Arts & Minds” competition 2019. The theme issued to students focused on “Celebrating Black History Month”. Matthew completed a Photoshop piece that illustrated the concept with sensitivity, determination and power. To celebrate the success and announce the overall winner, NASUWT have kindly invited Matthew, his parent and his Art and Design teacher Mrs Doey to the awards ceremony in London on the 8th October. Along with the flights, NASUWT will provide plush accommodation and a tour of one of London’s top sightseeing spots. The Art and Design Department are immensely proud of Matthew and his efforts. Well done Matthew!

Museum Visit:

On 16th January all middle and senior school Art & Design students had the opportunity to visit the “True Colours” Exhibition at the Ulster Museum, Belfast. This annual trip is an invaluable resource which allows students the opportunity to see the best of GCSE, AS & A2 work in Northern Ireland. This visit is hugely beneficial in demonstrating the standard students should aspire to. At this exhibition we were delighted to view the work of two Abbey Grammar students. Owen Tuohy exhibited his AS Level final piece which focused on the theme of “Life & Death.” He created a highly original installation using Photoshop manipulation and mixed media. Arthur Cespon at A2 Level also exhibited his final outcome. Arthur produced a delicate, oriental wooden screen with porcelain and cut paper windows. To exhibit at the “True Colours Exhibition is a fantastic achievement reflecting Arthur and Owen’s high level of skill and the quality of teaching and guidance in the Department.





In addition to visiting this exhibition, students were given a highlights tour by one of the museum guides emphasising a possible career path using Art & Design. The museum visit proved hugely beneficial to all students' progress and to their Art & Design education.

Careers:

To ensure students have access to a breadth of educational experience and to highlight careers in Art & Design, the Department arranged a number of opportunities for GCSE, AS & A Level students to work with practicing artists. On the 3rd October artist Seamas O'Labhradha was invited to the school to carry out a gestural figurative drawing workshop with AS & A2 students. Pupils were engaged in a focused study, working from a model, learning step by step how to ensure proportions are accurate. They were later able to apply the knowledge they gained to their own specific themes. Seamas ran a second workshop after school when Yr 11 students joined the group. During this workshop Seamas focused on Still Life composition and the idea of telling a story through the relationship between objects.



A second artist was invited to the school on 10th October. AS & A Level students benefited from the expertise of print maker Robert Peters. The full day Workshop allowed the students freedom to create a wide range of outcomes using dry point printing under Robert's expert direction. This workshop helped students gain confidence, learn new techniques, and greatly enhanced their portfolios. Newry High School students were invited to join the Abbey students during both these workshops.



AS & A2 students also participated in two ceramic workshops on Saturday 10th November and Wednesday 21st November. With Ms Hughes, they took time out of their weekend to visit Mount Ida Pottery, Banbridge to work with ceramicist Trevor Woods and to learn from his expertise. Evidenced clearly from their learning, students developed their skills in ceramics which had a great impact on the progression of their work and on their overall grade.



GCSE students also participated in two workshops which highlighted careers in Art & Design and enhanced their learning. On Wednesday 19th September, Yr 12 students attended a studio visit to Mount Ida Pottery in Banbridge. Students interviewed ceramicist Trevor Woods, gaining a valuable insight into Trevor's experiences running a creative business. In addition, they learnt new techniques in construction under Trevor's guidance. On the 15th November, Yr 11 & 12 students participated in a workshop run by Printmaker Robert Peters. Our students had the opportunity to work with a practicing print maker, highlighting careers in Art & Design. They developed their skills base in this media producing a range of successful prints.

Professional Development:

As an important part of continued professional development within the Department, both teachers attended relevant Agreement Trials. We thank the headmaster for permitting us to avail of these opportunities which have proven invaluable regarding subject knowledge and achieving high standards while also providing an important opportunity to network with other teachers. In addition, Ms Hughes attended several Textile, ceramic and sculptural courses in her own time to develop new skills and broaden the range of media and techniques available to our students. By taking advantage of training opportunities, we hope to continue to strengthen the Department by ensuring that our students receive quality Art & Design education which strives for excellence.

Ms Hughes continues her work on the CCEA Senior Team as an Assistant Principal Moderator at AS Level Art & Design. This is the sixth year she has held this prestigious position which is of huge benefit to her teaching in The Abbey. She is at the fore of changes occurring in the curriculum and through visiting schools has a greater breadth of understanding of standards expected at AS Level. Her experience has a positive impact on her teaching at all levels. Ms Hughes thanks the principal for continuing to support this important role.

In addition, in October Ms Hughes was appointed Vice President of the AADE – The Association for Art & Design Education. As Vice President she is engaged in promoting the importance of Art & Design in education. In that role she is involved in skills training for Art & Design Teachers throughout Northern Ireland.

Promoting the Department:

The Art & Design Department continues to promote the Abbey through the creative work presented throughout the school, in the Abbey Way, at primary school visits, parent evenings, GCSE & A Level End of Year Exhibitions and on Open Day. This affords us the opportunity to celebrate our students' significant accomplishments and to encourage potential students to join the Abbey and strive to contribute to its success.



Ms O Hughes
Head of Art

BUSINESS STUDIES

Staffing

As a department we would like to thank Miss Laura McCartan for her work in the department during the last academic year. She was diligent in all her tasks and was an excellent addition to the department for the year. She deserves great credit for the dedicated hard work she put in to making sure that the needs of the pupils were met through excellent teaching and learning.

The department is delighted with the continued success in grades at examination level and with the increased number of students choosing the subject at all levels. GCSE Business Studies in the last academic year had a total of 98 students at KS4. At A-Level there were 67 students across lower and upper sixth. The growth in the subject continues to exceed all our expectations.

Staff Professional Development

Online Course with CCEA for A2 Exemplifying Performance

Miss McQuillan completed the online course in March 2019. During the event she communicated queries regarding the new syllabi to ensure teaching and learning for the new specification is in line with CCEA expectations.

Exam Success

Success has continued at A-Level with 97% of students achieving A*-C with 84% of A-Level students achieving A*-B. At GCSE 95% of students achieved A*-C with 77% of GCSE students achieving A*-B. These statistics are significantly higher than the number of A*-C grades achieved in comparable boys' grammar schools.

Top Candidates

Our stop students in the CCEA examinations last year were:

A-Level

A2: Shea Murphy;

AS: Feidhlim Shiels;

GCSE

Year 12: Ryan Mulgrew

Year 11: Matthew Donnan

School Consortium

In recent years we have strengthened our links with other schools in Northern Ireland. With new syllabi in place at both GCSE and A-Level these relationships are vital and we have excellent working relationships with other Business Studies' teachers in Sacred Heart, St Dominic's, Belfast, Our Lady's, St. Colman's and Loreto, Omagh. We communicate regularly via email and mobile phone and share resources and guidance. On the staff day in April 2019, Miss McQuillan and Miss McCartan went to Sacred Heart to moderate the new Controlled Assessment – we are a young department and we felt this was good practice. Miss McQuillan was over in November 2018 for a meeting with CCEA feedback with Mrs L Fleming and again

this support and guidance is very useful and informative. This was reflected in excellent feedback from CCEA regarding the controlled assessment sample submitted.

Awards

In November 2018 it was announced by CCEA that the department had two top candidates for the 2018 A-level examination series. Keala Troy, a Sacred Heart student, who completed her Business Studies A-level with us achieved 1st in Northern Ireland and Cormac Mallon achieved 2nd in Northern Ireland. Miss McQuillan was delighted to attend the CCEA celebrations in the Titanic building in December 2018 as a representative of the school, having been invited by Mr P Kane, principal of Sacred Heart. It was a tremendous achievement for the department and a testament to the hard work of the students and staff.

External links

PKF – FPM 2019 Leadership Event

On Thursday 14th February 2019, four of the A2 Business Studies students attended a leadership presentation by Brian McConville at the kind invite of Feargal McCormack, the Managing Director of PKF-FPM with Miss P McQuillan. It was held in the Business School in the University of Ulster's York Street campus and on arrival we were kindly provided with breakfast in a café within the campus. Brian McConville is the Managing Director of the MJM Marine and the event was once again presented by Gerry Kelly from UTV. It provided the students with a practical insight into business including topics for their A2 modules and also topics they had studied previously including; business culture, leadership, motivation and communication and they gave feedback to their fellow A2 students on this. A video of the event was created by Miss P McQuillan and put up on the departmental twitter page. The students who attended were very impressive and participated in the event by asking questions to Mr McConville regarding the growth of the MJM Group, the challenges he faces with Brexit and the entrepreneurial characteristics he feels he possessed which have got him to where he is now with many industry leaders commenting on their questions at the end of the day. It was a very enjoyable day for both the students and Miss McQuillan and links were made with the Quays, Bank of Ireland and Randox Health and it would be hoped to use these links next year. We hope to continue this connection with Mr McCormack and the team of PKF-FPM in the future and thank him for his continued support of the department.

Careers focus

Higher Level Apprenticeships

We had a number of students from the Business Studies Department who went on to do apprenticeships post A-Level. Denis Lynch, Connall Diamond and Jack Grant have gone to Deloitte and Shea Murphy has begun his apprenticeship with PWC following in the footsteps of Cormac Mallon (Deloitte) and Fionn Palmer (PWC) from the previous year. Miss McQuillan made a link with Cormac and he provided guidance and support to all applying students giving valuable insight into Deloitte and interview guidance which is a testament to the success. We hope to continue this into the future.

Departmental Initiatives

Revision classes have become ingrained in the department to help continue the exam success of recent years. Miss McQuillan and Miss McCartan both led revision classes for GCSE, AS and A2 examinations after school and during study leave. A calendar of scheduled revision sessions was sent out to all students and relevant parents were given communication on revision classes as well.

Extra-Curricular Activity / Successes

Mini Enterprise was led by Miss McCartan with the Year 11s all invited to take part with twelve students signing up. They designed various items such as USBs, water bottles, hats, socks. In the end after their research they decided to sell kitbags pricing local suppliers and designing school kit bags. They made a profit of £136 and the students enjoyed the experience and the chance to carry out business theory into practice. The £136 was donated to Lauren's Adventures.

Vision / Ethos

Our vision is for the Business Studies Department to be renowned for excellence across Northern Ireland by our peers with regards to teaching, learning and initiatives to promote Business Studies as a subject amongst young learners. We aim to contribute to the skills and qualities of our future leaders and prepare our learners for the dynamic and global business environment. Striving to promote a culture that equips every learner who comes through the department as an independent life-long learner and prepare them for the world of work with not only academic knowledge but promoting their personal and social development.



Miss P. McQuillan
Head of Business Studies

Biology Department

This year the Biology department said a fond farewell to Mrs. Margaret Lane, who served tirelessly and passionately as Head of Biology for 24 years. We wish her well in her retirement! We welcomed Miss Victoria Magowan into the department to work alongside Mrs. Deirdre McCorry and Mrs Orla McGinley.

The department is delighted with the GCSE, AS and A2 examination results which were all above the Northern Ireland average. Our top performing students in the CCEA examinations, summer 2019, were:

A2: Eoin Finnerty AS: Callum McNulty GCSE:-Year 12 Joseph Garvey; Year 11: Conor Coghlan

Gene Technology:

In March, Ms Michaela Robinson, from Timstar laboratory Supplies, visited the Biology department and delivered a Gene Technology workshop to our AS Biology students. AS students had the opportunity to carry out PCR, a technique used to amplify DNA, and genetic fingerprinting. They were able to use restriction enzymes, DNA probes and develop DNA fingerprint profiles using gel electrophoresis. This is an important area of the CCEA AS2 Biology specification and it was a great benefit to our students to have 'hands on experience'.

Field studies:

AS students participated in field studies in April. For the last 22 years AS students have attended SELB Killowen Outdoor Education Centre to complete these studies. Unfortunately, this superb facility has now closed. Mrs. Lane and Mrs. McGinley took the students to Rostrevor and delivered a field studies programme themselves. Our students experienced rocky shore studies, studied hedgerow management and agriculture-environment management schemes.

Biology Challenge:

In April, 48 year 11 Biology students entered the UK Biology Challenge, facilitated by the Royal Society of Biology. They enjoyed great success and 3 students were awarded a gold award certificate (top 5% of all UK entrants), 4 students a silver award certificate and 8 a bronze award certificate. All students also received a free year of BioNet membership which provides them with electronic subscription to 'The Biologist magazine'.

Gold award recipients were:

Jack Sands, Piarais Murphy and Comhghall Canavan

Silver award recipients were:

Josh McKevitt, Christopher Cook, Sean Campbell and Conor Coghlan

Bronze award recipients were:

Harry Meehan, Mark Beattie, Jake O'Reilly, James O'Carroll, Ruaidhri O'Shea, Kyan Jamiolkowski, Jacob Green and Conor Goss



ECO-Committee:

Mrs McGinley was the Biology specialist in the school's eco-committee. The eco-committee have been actively promoting recycling throughout the school and all classrooms have a recycle bin which is emptied by the eco-committee members. The eco-committee officially opened their newly created eco-garden which was kindly sponsored by Mr Oliver Hearty and sons, all past pupils of the Abbey. Mr Eddie McDonnell,



father of a year 9 student, was also involved in the project. The garden has a wide array of plants and bird feeders to help increase biodiversity

Mrs. O. McGinley
(Head of Biology)

CHEMISTRY

May 2019 saw the retirement of Colin Gamble. Colin was Head of Chemistry for many years and was instrumental in moving the Chemistry Department forward. Under his leadership the Department saw sustained academic excellence. The Department also ran many competitions for students, such as the Chemistry Olympiad and CREST Awards, and Chemistry's reputation grew within the school.

Colin's retirement saw Miss Sarah Kee join the Chemistry Department alongside Dr Maeve Carey. Sarah is a teacher with both valuable industrial and teaching experience who is already bringing new ideas and initiatives to the Department and, although we miss Colin, we will honour his legacy by continuing to build excellence within the Department.

Examination results:

Congratulations to our top performing students in the CCEA examinations 2019 who were:

A2: Eoin Finnerty

AS: Calum Mac Anulty

GCSE Chemistry: Joseph Garvey

Open Day:

The Chemistry Department continues to draw the crowds on Open Day with a range of interactive activities and opportunities for prospective Abbey students to talk about the school with current students. This year we had volunteers from Y8 through to Y14. It is always impressive to see the maturity and character of our students when they are in the public eye.

We are, as always, very grateful to Catherine Brownlee, our technician, for her hard work and dedication on Open Day and, indeed, every day.

Developments:

2019 saw the first awarding of the revised GCSEs which included practical skills assessment. We received training and guidance from CCEA on how to conduct the exams and how to prepare students. We collaborated closely as a department and with the other science departments to ensure that we prepared the students well for the exams. The examination statistics show that this was very successful.

The Year 10 Scheme of Work has been revised by Sarah Kee to provide a better basis for GCSE and Double Award Chemistry.

2019 also saw the introduction of Pugwash as an extra-curricular activity for Y13-14 students. It is run by Maeve Carey, in collaboration with Environmental Technology. Y8 STEM Club took a break in 2018-19 after running for six years but it is back for 2019-20.

Careers:

Many students go on a range of placements related to Chemistry, such as placements at Norbrook, Dundalk IT and QUB. Both Sarah Kee and Maeve Carey have industrial experience so can inform students about what Chemistry is like as a career.

Chemistry is an essential subject for some of the most sought-after degrees such as Medicine and Dentistry, so part of our role is to ensure that students achieve the high grades that they need and much of our focus as a department is working with students to ensure they achieve these grades and end up in their chosen career.

Dr Maeve Carey and Miss Sarah Kee

CAREERS DEPARTMENT

AUGUST:

- Meetings and correspondence with upper sixth students and parents following A Level results ran from results day until the first teaching day;
- Presentation to incoming upper sixth students and parents delivered on their registration day re. UCAS applications;
- Meetings with sixth year students and parents ran throughout their registration day on subject choices and career pathways after presentation.
- A. Reynolds spoke to Year 10 students about subject choices at the invitation of Year Tutor, Mr McKeever, on their registration day.

SEPTEMBER:

- Successful visits to QUB and UUJ Open Days by all upper sixth students;
- 15 Year 14 students attended St. Mary's University College, Belfast open morning.
- Year 12 students met the external careers advisor, Mr Peter McEvoy, from Careers Service NI and completed Department of Employment and Learning documentation to facilitate their career guidance interviews;
- Year 14 students availed of 'drop-in' appointments re career options, university choices and subject drops;
- Year 14 students registered with UCAS and began university applications;
- Year 13 students availed of 'drop-in' appointments re career pathways and subject choices;
- A. Reynolds, met and interviewed new sixth form transfer students.
- Year 8s completed a workshop about enterprise and employability with Young Enterprise.

OCTOBER:

- PwC met Year 14 students interested in their school leavers' and graduates' programmes including funded degrees, such as the new technology degree with Queen's University;
- **Dan Foster** (A*A*A*A*- Class of 2018) was awarded an 'Excellence Scholarship' by NUI Galway (based on his A Level results) of EUR1500 at a presentation on 11th October in NUIG. Dan is studying for a Bachelor of Arts in English literature and modern languages. He will also be eligible for an open-ended scheme of EUR200 for performance in university exams.
- UCAS application process continued with 3 students submitting their applications before the October 15th deadline for medicine, dentistry, or Oxford;
- Year 13 students completed a three or five-day work-related learning programme/work experience;

NOVEMBER:

- **Matthew Ruddy** (A*AB - Class of 2018) was awarded the *Dunwoody Scholarship* by Queen's University Belfast, an academic scholarship for outstanding achievement in A Level examinations and worth £500. Matthew is studying for a Bachelor of Science in mathematics with finance at Queen's.
- **Ruairi MacCormack** (A*A*AA - Class of 2018) was awarded a sports scholarship for UCD where he is studying for a Bachelor of Commerce. The scholarship is worth EUR750 and provides access to the gyms, pool, strength

and conditioning advice, nutrition advice, physiotherapy, preferential allocation of student accommodation, a study mentor and even study or academic support.

- Year 14 CAO applicants attended a presentation by DCU.
- Year 14 students with interview requirements for entry to their degree course or HLA completed a 'Success Skills / Mock Interview' programme delivered by Young Enterprise Northern Ireland in preparation for higher education selection process as highlighted below.
- Work-related Learning: Week 1 (Years 12 & 14)
 - Monday 12th: Year 14: Mock Interview Skills (Young Enterprise NI) – groups session
 - Tuesday 13th: Year 14: Mock Interview Skills (Young Enterprise NI) – One-to-one interviews (30 minutes each)
 - Wednesday 14th: Year 12: 'Learn to Earn' Programme (Young Enterprise NI)
- A. Reynolds attended NISCA conference for careers advisers.

DECEMBER:

- A. Reynolds completed mock interviews with Oxbridge/medicine/dentistry candidates.
- A small number of Year 14 students completed HE applications to Dundalk Institute of Technology;
- Year 10 career guidance interviews commenced (one-to-one interviews allow every student the opportunity to discuss and understand their subject choices and career pathways).
- University applications were completed for St. Mary's University College, Belfast.

JANUARY:

- UCAS applications closed on 15th January with 102 applicants on the system and several references completed for repeating students from last year's cohort;
- University applications were completed for Irish universities via CAO – approximately 25 students completed applications online.
- All Year 10 students received a one-to-one career guidance interview prior to end of January KS4 subject choice;
- Year 10 Employability Programme was delivered by Young Enterprise NI 'Project Business';
- All Year 12 students received a one-to-one career guidance interview prior to A Level subject choice with the exception of one because of absences from school;
- A. Reynolds completed mock interviews with medicine/dentistry and where requested, teaching applicants.
- Five Year 13 students were successful in securing a place on the Queen's University Pathway Programme. Students have a mentor for the rest of the year and the opportunity to have taster academic sessions at Queen's including a week in July plus up to two grade reductions in their offer of a university place at Queen's when they complete the programme and apply to Queen's as 7th Years. This follows from our getting three students onto the first cycle of this QUB incentive last year.

FEBRUARY:

- Year 13 students attended a Queen's University outreach event in Newry Leisure centre as prep. for higher education applications.
- Approximately 10 of the Year 14 students completed FE applications to the Southern Regional College and Belfast Metropolitan College to ensure Plan B pathway options were in place;
- Year 12 students' application forms for SRC processed and submitted;
- Year 13 students attended the UCAS convention in Lisburn as preparation in support of their applications to higher education.

MARCH:

- 8 Year 13 students attended the Medical Symposium event in Daisy Hill Hospital;
- Year 13 one-to-one careers guidance interviewing commenced (A. Reynolds & C. McGrath) and continued throughout March, April and May;
- Final decisions (firm and insurance choices) were made on university choices via UCAS;
- Year 14 students received a presentation and information session on Student Finance NI and how to apply for financial support on progressing to further education and higher education;
- Student Finance applications began for submission in April;
- Queen's University, Ulster University & Stirling university delivered presentations to Year 13 students;

APRIL:

- Work-related Learning: Week 2:
 - Tuesday 22nd: Year 9 students – Young Enterprise NI : Employability Programme;
 - Thursday 24th: Year 11 students – one day work experience placement: *'Take Your Son to Work Day'*
- University of Dundee rep. met the Year 13 students re. studying in Scotland and Dundee;
- A. Reynolds attended the Queen's University Careers Teachers' meeting afternoon event.

MAY:

- A. Reynolds attended NISCA conference for careers advisers at the end of May and a meeting with agri-food & agri.-tech. businesses.

JUNE:

- A. Reynolds met Young Enterprise manager to review the delivery of programmes for Years 8-14 and to agree service delivery for 2016-2017 academic year;
- A. Reynolds met the outgoing careers adviser from the Careers Service (Dept. of the Economy) to complete end of year evaluation of the School/D.Ec. Partnership Agreement. Service delivery for the 2019-2020 academic year was not agreed at this meeting and is to be agreed with the new advisers on 3rd September.
- A. Reynolds attended the Heads of Careers conference in Scotland hosted by the University of Strathclyde and the University of Stirling;

- A. Reynolds attended an evening event with University of Dundee faculty staff in Belfast.
- Joseph Garvey (12PMQ) was awarded the Arkwright scholarship.

JULY

- A. Reynolds accompanied two sixth year students on a three-day residential to Oxford University for Northern Irish students and Careers teachers.
- Tom Comer (6th Year) was also awarded a summer residential at Oxford University under the oxford UNIQ programme.
- JP Donaghy was awarded a summer residential at the University of Edinburgh through the Sutton Trust programme.
- John Dunne and Ronan Lynch were awarded places on the 'Gifted and Talented' summer scheme with the University of Dundee.

AUGUST:

- Results: Years 14, 13, 12.

LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS – Class of 2019

Year 14 – Destinations 2019	
Higher Education:	80% of total pop.
Northern Ireland	62
Republic of Ireland	8
England	9
Scotland	9
Wales	0
TOTAL Higher Ed.	88
Further Education:	0.05% of total pop.
Belfast Metropolitan College – HND/Fd.deg.	4
Southern Regional College – below L5	1
85% in higher or further ed.	
	0.05% of total pop.
Higher Level Apprenticeships	5
90% in higher or further ed., or work-related training and employment	
Other:	0.1% of total pop.
Continuing A Levels (started new A Level)	4
Repeating A Level modules (externally)	1
Fulltime work	3
Pilot training (Ryanair mentoring scheme)	1
Gap Year	3
94% in higher or further ed., work-related employment with training, or school	
TOTAL Pop.	110

COMPUTER SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



One of the key subjects for job prospects in industry today is Computer Science, which in the Abbey we offer at both GCSE and A-level. Last year we had 45 students at GCSE level and 24 at A-level. Results were excellent with an A-level A*-C rate of 89%.

Results at GCSE were also excellent with the department obtaining a 95% A*-C rate, a 32% A*-A rate and a 58% A*-B grade rate.

Courses

GCSE level

Our GCSE students are studying the OCR course which comprises 20% coursework and two 40% theory exams at the end of 5th year. The coursework topics change every year and is a pure coding solution in Python with some documentary evidence submitted in the form of a written project. It is graded 9-1.

A-level

Our A-level students are studying the WJEC A-level which is a preferred A-level for both QUB and University of Ulster Computer Science undergraduate course. This means for example that QUB applicants applying for Computer Science need BBB instead of ABB if they have studied A-level Computer Science.

This course comprises 1 exam (25%) and 1 on screen programming exam (15%) in AS, and 2 exams in A2 (20% each) and one piece of coursework. (20%)

Work experience

Students studying Computer Science at both GCSE and A-level are both encouraged to network with businesses to obtain work experience and/or internships. Some companies such as Liberty IT offer full time jobs to undergraduates that have completed successful placements.

Scholarships/Earn as you learn

Another exciting development is higher level apprenticeships or several earn as you learn employment opportunities that allow students after A-level to work in IT companies and earn a salary whilst gaining experience. Some lead companies also offer subsidised degree tuition that allow students to obtain qualification or even part time degree courses while still working.

Top Candidates

The following candidates performed exceptionally well and were excellent ambassadors for the subject and the Abbey as a school. Both students obtained A* grades and completed the A2 coursework to an outstanding level.

2018 Computer Science Award: Cathal Gorman.

2019 Computer Science Award: Adam Piwowarczyk.

Life skills and personal development

A key theme throughout this subject is applying knowledge into real world situations and developing important life-skills such as discipline, goal setting and creative thinking. There is no point being an excellent programmer for example if you cannot communicate your ideas to less technical employees when you work as a programmer in industry. I blend my own industry experience in the recruitment, finance and entrepreneurial sectors as much as possible to add real world context to this subject.

Staffing The department is led by James Downing who is HOD and Dwyer Mc Cann also teaches the subject to GCSE level. Dwyer has many years of experience in this subject as well as being HOD for ICT for over 20 years.

Departmental Initiatives

The Department has links with local companies in the private sector such as Kainos and First Derivatives and other public organisations such Sentinus that can offer IT training to a range of classes annually.

Mr J Downing (HOD Computer Science)

CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

The Department is delighted with the continued improvement in grades at examination level and with the increased number choosing the subject at all levels. GCSE Construction in the last academic year had a total of 82 students at KS4. At A' level there were 42 students between lower and upper sixth. The growth in the subject continues to exceed all our expectations.

Staffing

The 'Subsidiary Diploma course' delivered to our 'A' Level students last year consisted of the following units.

Core Units

Health Safety and Welfare	Delivered by Construction Department members Delivered by Mrs K. Cranston & Mr G. Savage
Surveying	Delivered by Construction Department members Mr G. Savage & Mr J Rath
Construction Science and Materials	Delivered by The Physics Department member Mr Hamill.
Construction and the Environment	Delivered by Geography Department members Mrs A. Elmore and Mrs D Simpson

Specialist Units

Building Technology	Delivered by Construction Department members Mr Savage and Mrs K. Cranston
Mathematics in Construction	Delivered by Mathematics Department member Mrs M. Murphy & Mrs G Boyd

Professional development

Mr Savage was last year successful in being reinstated Lead Internal Verifier for the Abbey by BTEC Quality Assurance team for the academic year 2018-19. This enabled the centre to produce their own Assignment briefs, assess students' work and sign off students' grades. Mr Savage continues to make himself available as a member of the CCEA moderation team for GCSE Construction. This is of tremendous benefit to the HOD's professional development as he plays a pivotal role in the delivery and support for teachers from other schools and his experience is equally beneficial to the Abbey students' in that they are getting very clear direction and up to date guidance thus enhancing their ability to attain top grades.

As part of the Quality Assurance development of the Department Mrs Kim Cranston attended a regional event in Manchester in February. This CPD event provided expert support and guidance to New BTEC Lead IV's to ensure that they carry out their new role effectively.

Mrs Cranston stated "I attended the Ensuring Quality as a BTEC Lead Internal Verifier Course on Monday 25th Feb 2019 at The Studio venue in Manchester. The course was very effective as it clearly showed all the steps to be taken to carry out effective BTEC administration to ensure learner success. It highlighted the importance of standardisation, supportive assessment feedback and assessment records and illustrated in great detail how the IV process is documented and followed. I would like to place on record my thanks to Mr Savage and Mr Sloan for facilitating my attendance at the course."

Results

GCSE Construction

It is particularly satisfying to witness the continued success of the GCSE Construction course. The numbers choosing the subject are increasing year on year with 49 students having chosen the subject for the incoming academic year. Last year was an excellent year at GCSE with the 34 5th year students attaining the following results: 24 students attained an A*/A grade, 9 students a B Grade and 1 student achieving a C grade.

In the newly revised GCSE Construction we had 48 students in 4th year and they completed their Unit 1 exam in June which was worth 20% of their GCSE grade. The results were as follows: 25 students attained an A/B grade, 19 students attained the new C*grade, 5 students attained a C grade. The final 3 students attained a grade lower than a C but each of these students had extenuating circumstances and will repeat the exam in the present academic year.

‘A’ Level Construction.

Students through study of the carefully chosen core and the specialist units continue to be provided with a greater awareness of the skills, qualities and knowledge that particular occupational areas require and are empowered to make informed choices for third level study.

The grades this year for this group were excellent with the group of 21 students collectively attaining 100% A*/A grades.

All the A’ level students have all been placed in their chosen courses at third level.

Top Candidates

GCSE

The top GCSE Construction student last year was Caolon Gormley who received an A* Grade

A’ Level

The top BTEC Construction & The Built Environment Student last year was Michael Mc Nally who received an A* Grade.

Quality Assurance by BTEC

In February of last year we had our now annual quality review from Edexcel’s Quality Assurance team. The focus of the review was to quality check our course, its delivery and our administrative procedures. We received an excellent report.

Standards verification by BTEC

We also, just before Easter of last year, completed a standards verification examination of students’ work conducted by an external BTEC Standards Verifier. The verification process involved the Standards Verifier selecting a sample of internally set assignments accompanied by students’ marked submissions. This sample enabled the Standards Verifier to check the accuracy of assignments, the quality of the students’ submissions and that the marking and apportioning of grades for the students’ work satisfied the national standards set. We again received an excellent report.

School Consortium

We have over the past year continued to strengthen our collaborative links with St Patrick's Grammar in Armagh, St Malachy's High School Castlewellan and this net has been widened further to include St Patrick's High School Keady, St Ronan's Lurgan and St Joseph's Crossmaglen. We have been in communication by phone and email and have met up on a number of occasions to share good practice. Mr Savage along with other members of the group intend in this academic year to meet and plan for the introduction of the New Specification. This move to the new specification in the year 1920-21 also necessitates training on BIM modelling skills of Autodesk Revit Architectural Fundamentals. This training is essential as the skills required are needed impart knowledge and guidance to the students on producing 3d buildings as part of their controlled assessment.

Careers in Construction

Mr Savage as part of the Construction Department's focus continued to collate all the University course offers made to our students last year and presented the findings to the incoming 7th year Construction group. This information helped the 7th year cohort to analyse the individual unit grade requirements set by each University and helped them make informed and realistic course choices. The results of this were clearly measurable as 80% of the Construction cohort had chosen, and were accepted on the degree course of their choice in the area of Construction and The Built Environment at third level. The other 20% had chosen Business related courses the skills of which would be easily transferrable into the Construction sector.

Construction Ambassadors

We have initiated a programme in which we invite Industry professionals to work closely with students. These specialists not only discuss their professional roles but work closely with the students in 'real life' work related tasks. The benefits of this initiative are that it creates an awareness for, and exposes students to the everyday tasks performed within the different job roles. We have availed of the services of Mr Simon Best from Mineral Properties Association who provided guidance to the staff delivering our Building Technology unit and we hope to build on and further develop the range of contacts in this new academic year.

In the last academic we had past pupils addressing the students discussing how they have progressed professionally since leaving the Abbey and helping the students make informed decisions in relation to their future careers.

We have been working with a number of organisations to develop stronger more tangible links with Industry through presentations and workshops. These, in the incoming academic year will take the form of 'hands on' with professionals sharing their role through our new scenarios.

With our surveying unit we have availed of the services of a qualified land surveyor Mr Stephen Druse who has previously worked on our new school build and has on a regular basis come in to support the staff and work with our students in demonstrating equipment and their use. We have set up a network of companies who have in the past helped to us keep our students up to date with all the technological advances in the area of sustainability and this will be further developed in the next academic year.

In summary, the subject to date continues to exceed all our expectations and we look forward to another exciting year.

Mr. G. Savage (Head of Construction)

DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Agreement trial

At GCSE and A2 level teachers mark and moderate the coursework element of the specification. On the 30th November 2018 Mr McCann attended an A2 agreement trial in Cookstown. This gave teachers and opportunity to share their experiences with coursework and mark and standardize coursework samples. In August 2019 CCEA once again confirmed that they were satisfied with our moderation process, and marking was within the agreed standard and demonstrated consistent application of the mark scheme at GCSE and A2 levels.

Careers

The Digital Technology Department continues to promote Careers in ICT. On Thursday 24th January 2019 Mr Donal O'Hanlon from Sentinus, gave a Bring IT on presentation to our year 10 pupils. This examined salary prospects of future IT graduates and the different pathways students can take in order to pursue a career in IT. It was a very useful and informative information session.

Digital Futures Final Competition

In November 2019 Mr David Pilkington from Sentinus gave our Y11 Computer Science students a workshop on App inventor. This software allows students to develop a prototype App. Throughout the workshop students worked in teams to come up with an App idea. The workshop gave the students enough information and skills that would allow them continue to with the app development outside class time in preparation for a Digital Future final. Mr McCann and three Y11 students attended the Digital Future Final on the 19th June 2019 in Queens University Belfast. Here schools pitched their idea to a panel of judges in a Dragon's den type format. While judges commented on how useful our app idea "student revision" was, we unfortunately never progressed to the final stages. In the afternoon students were given a tour of Digital DNA in St Georges Market Belfast. The purpose of the exhibition was to give leading digital companies, fast-growing enterprises and startups an opportunity to share and showcase their knowledge and ideas. The competition and tour of Digital DNA was a great experience for our students, and we look forward to competing next year.

Staff Development

Mr Mc Cann attended a three day upskilling teacher training course in the programming language C# from 17th June 2019 until Wednesday 19th June 2019 in Queens university Belfast. The was facilitated by representatives from All State Computers. The content programming course was challenging and a lot of time would have to be devoted to developing my own teacher skills to use C# programming even to GCSE Level.

ICT options Post 16 in the Abbey

Throughout term two the Digital Technology department completed extensive research into the possible introduction of a new Post ICT course. Department

members consulted and visited St Louis Grammar Kilkeel and St. Mary's Ballymena exploring various alternative ICT qualifications Post 16. It was decided to offer BTEC Information Communication Technology Extended Certificate Level 3. This allows the Abbey student Post 16 to avail of two ICT pathways, the traditional academic route of Digital Technology and Computer Science and the more vocational route of BTEC.

DRAMA

1. Staffing:

The Abbey Drama Department is currently operating with just one Drama specialist. At the end of the 2017-18 academic year, the previous Head of Drama, Mr Joe Smith left the teaching staff after 16 years of service. However, the numbers choosing Drama at KS4 and A Level are increasing reflecting a vibrant department and a subject that appeals to students.

2. Staff Professional Development:

HOD took part in the CCEA introductory event for the new GCSE Drama syllabus.

3. Results:

GCSE results were excellent with all pupils achieving grades in the A-C* grade range.

A Level results were also good with all pupils achieving in the A-C grade range.

4. Visits:

Year 14 pupils joined pupils from the English department to see the National Theatre performance of Macbeth. They also had the opportunity to join other schools for a drama presentation with Ciaran Hinds in Warrenpoint.

5. Careers focus:

The careers focus in the Drama department has shifted in recent years away from the traditional through-line link from subject to industry career. Having listened to our Head of Careers presentations to staff and pupils about the importance of social, interpersonal, intrapersonal, presentational and team-work skills in the workplace, we now highlight for pupils and parents these transferable skills being developed in the study of Drama. This seems to have struck a chord with both pupils and parents and is evidenced by our highest numbers in the senior school for many years and by feedback from parents.

6. Extra-Curricular Activity

The senior pupils in the Drama Committee met every two weeks after school to discuss ideas for the department and to plan activities for the junior Drama Club. They also ran the Drama Club weekly after-school.

The 2019 Abbey production of Bugsy Malone began initial work in June. Girls from several local schools joined Abbey boys to rehearse and audition for parts in June.

7. Extended Curricular Activity

Pupils and teachers at KS4 and A Level again committed a huge amount of extra time after school to developing and rehearsing exam pieces to high standards. The practical exam work at both GCSE and A Level was commended for its excellence by both visiting examiners. The CCEA GCSE examiner recommended our pupils work to CCEA as top band exemplar recordings.

Mr. P Mc Parland (Head of Drama)

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Exam Success: It was pleasing to see all of our pupils scoring A*-C grades in A Level English Language and English Literature with two A Level pupils scoring full marks in two of their three A2 modules. It was also extremely satisfying to see all of our GCSE English Language and English Literature pupils achieve at least a C grade in their exams. The pass rate for A*-C is significantly higher in the Abbey when compared to other comparable boys' grammar schools.

Only a small number of Year 11 pupils did not achieve a pass in their GCSE unit exams last summer.

Abbey Press: *Beneath Our Feet* has gained significant publicity since its launch in 2018. It has been launched as part of the Belfast Book Festival and the Bangor Aspects Festival. It had a Lurgan launch and was also launched in Armagh on World Book Day in October. Mr McMahon was invited to read from his work in Ors, France, on November 4th 2018 as part of celebrations to mark the centenary of Wilfred Owen's death. He was also interviewed on the Arts Show, BBC Radio Ulster by Marie-Louise Muir.

School Magazine: The English Department contributes regularly to the many articles, stories, poems and book reviews that appear in *The Abbey Way*. It is a valuable forum for publishing some of our pupils' best work.

Library: The English Department continues to promote the use of the library by taking pupils in Years 8-10 there once a week to choose fiction and non-fiction texts. Senior pupils at GCSE and A Level also have access to the library to research information for their exams and coursework. Each first year also undertakes an

induction programme to help with the use of the library in term one. Extra funding was raised for the school library through our book fair last year.

Debating: Years 9 and 11 have internal class debating competitions each year. This is organised by all English teachers.

Extra Literacy Assistance: Mr. Rodgers provided literacy assistance last year to those pupils who have weaknesses with their written English. He regularly emails parents of KS3 pupils with useful literacy information/resources. Ms. Sara Millar also came in to assist pupils who have problems with literacy. Mr. McMahon takes those boys in Year 13 who have not achieved a pass grade in GCSE English Language for extra classes. English teachers regularly give up many free periods to assist pupils and to take support classes after school throughout the year but especially coming up to exams. Last year a buddy system was used to help pupils who struggle with literacy.

Revision Classes: Teachers took booster/revision classes after school for A Level Literature and GCSE classes.

World Book Day and National Poetry Day: Boys are encouraged to bring in their favourite books to read and discuss.

Writing Club/ Competitions: The English Department continues to help those pupils in the school who show an interest and a flair in writing.

- Mr Morgan organised and co-ordinated the 'Mission Catastrophe' and 'Poetry Escape' writing competitions, amongst others. Many of our students have been successful in getting their work published. Details from these were then posted on our school website;
- Ms. Kelly organised writing classes for her Year 8 pupils with Martelle McParland, professional writer, in preparation for the Seamus Heaney New Writing competition;

Internal writing competitions are a feature of the English classroom with prizes being awarded for the best and most improved work.

A Level Pupils on BBC Newslane: Abbey past pupil, Cormac Campbell, contacted Mr McMahon re. an article on the Polish community in N. Ireland and their response to Brexit. Two of our A Level pupils volunteered to be interviewed for the article which was then broadcast on BBC Newslane.

Abbey Read-On: Mrs McGinley co-ordinated members of the English Department for our annual 'Read On' Challenge. Tasks were set up to enhance the pupils' participation. The project raised a significant amount of money for the Cancer Fund for Children. Mrs McGinley also led an assembly and gave prizes to the best readers in Year 8;

Spelling: Last year the school continued its promotion of spelling with the English teachers running internal class competitions with the best spellers at Key Stage Three competing against each other in the school assembly hall. This event involves all of Junior School and was co-ordinated by Mr. Rodgers, Teacher-in-Charge of Literacy.

Careers Focus: In each year group a strong focus was placed on jobs and employment arising out of the study of English. Year 10 pupils undertook a careers programme at the end of term three whilst A Level pupils carried out research on preferred occupations and gave presentations on this to their peers in term one. Careers visits were also organised at the end of January. Two past pupils (Niall McArdle and Shane Mulholland from First Derivatives) visited the school to discuss careers in business and communication.

Book Fair: Ms O’Hanlon organised a school book fair which was run during term time. This fair raised money to spend on books for our school and classroom libraries;

Zambia Fundraising: Mrs McGinley, Ms. Kelly and Ms. O’Hanlon were involved in a “synchronised swimming” event for the school’s fundraising for Zambia.

Staff Training/Development:

- Miss Kelly is instrumental in assisting ‘Abbey Pride’ as it develops in the school;
- Ms. Kelly, Mrs McGinley, Mrs Farrell and Mr McMahon were involved in the school’s Advocacy group. A Level pupils were encouraged to write letters to local politicians to raise concerns on the plight of the homeless. Mrs McGinley was instrumental in organising food parcels and kits of clothes for the less fortunate;
- Mrs Farrell co-ordinated and ran the Kairos retreat, wrote and led the year 8 retreat, APTA Mass for the Dead, organised the year 8 induction Mass and other prayers services throughout the year;
- Many of our English teachers are markers for a range of exam boards. Ms Reynolds has been a principal A Level examiner with CCEA for the last five years;
- Mr Morgan posts information in the school’s twitter account and on the school website to keep people up-to-date with our department’s events;
- All full-time English teachers have classes at GCSE and A Level;
- Four of the English Department are helping out with Drama provision at KS3 this year;
- Mr McMahon is regularly in touch with HoDs in other schools, namely St. Mary’s, St Mark’s and St. Ronan’s, Lurgan. Meetings are organised and resources shared;
- Mr. McMahon was invited to be a contributor on a CCEA review panel for the provision of English from KS3 to A Level. This group meets twice a year.

Mr M McMahon (Head of English)

ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

2019 saw the second A-level Environmental Technology class leave the Abbey. 100% of candidates achieved A*-E under the guidance of Mr David Patton. The top performing student at A-level was Micheal O'Shea who achieved an A*, as did two other students. The current (2019-20) A2 class has 20 students, with no students dropping the subject between AS and A2 and all students on target to get at least a C grade. The AS class is again full and the subject is now well established within the school. We still work with the vision of developing independent learning and good research and literacy skills so that students transition successfully to University.

Pugwash

A new club named Pugwash was launched, where we discussed the ethics of science and how it affects society. This club attracted Science/Politics/Environmental Technology AS Students. We went to London to meet Micky Brady MP and get a tour of the Houses of Parliament. We also attended the Young Pugwash conference at the University of London.



Dr M Carey
(Head of Environmental Technology)

FRENCH DEPARTMENT

Staff: Ms M Quinn, Mr R Ruddy, Ms R Kelly.

Professional Development:

November 2018 - Ms M Quinn attended the CCEA run support event for the Revised Specification for the new GCSE course. It was an extremely beneficial course. It was well run and very informative. It was good to have the opportunity to liaise with other French teachers to discuss the introduction of the Revised Specification for GCSE French. It gave me the opportunity to hear about the changes in the Revised Specification and even more importantly allowed the opportunity to ask for further guidance and have my questions answered so that I was in the best position possible to prepare Abbey students for the new format exam.

Teaching & Learning:

- October 2018– E Learning. Pupils in Yr 8 were taken to the ICT suite and downloaded the sound files (which were previously provided on CD) onto their My Documents folder and then at home were able to transfer the sound files onto their phone. During the course of the year pupils listened to these sound files both at home and during class time as revision.
- May 2019 – E Learning. Pupils in Yr 8 were again taken to the ICT suite and downloaded the summer oral questions and corresponding sound files for their summer oral onto their My Documents folder and then at home were able to transfer the sound files onto their phone. Many pupils found this a valuable tool in helping them prepare for their first big French oral.
- June 2019 –This was a very busy time for the French Department. In discussions with the Spanish & Irish Departments we felt that it would be beneficial to offer students the opportunity to complete modules in Yr 11. As a results of this, the booklets that we had produced were adapted to match the modules to be taken by Yr 11 students in Summer 2020.

Results:

- The academic year 2018 – 2019 was an excellent year for the French Department. The GCSE pass rate was 100%. We were delighted with these results which were testament to a hardworking, conscientious cohort of students.

Top candidates:

- Top candidate at GCSE was Caolon Whitmarsh who scored 398 out of a possible 400 marks, losing only 3 raw marks across his 4 papers.

Extra-curricular/ Visits:

- Our 2 AS pupils participated in the annual French exchange to Reims organised by the Sacred Heart. The French students hosted their Abbey pen pals in February and then made the visit to Ireland in April. This exchange afforded our students the opportunity to be fully immersed in French life, living with a French family and speaking French during their entire stay.



Miss M. Quinn (Head of French)

GEOGRAPHY

At Key Stage 3 the revised curriculum is being actively followed, pupils have become more active learners by participating in group work and presenting their work to the class through power point presentations. A variety of active learning strategies were implemented to help pupils improve on their thinking skills and problem solving. Pupils are also assessing their own work along with the work of others and evaluating what they have learnt throughout the unit taught.

At GCSE, AS and A2 level the new specification was implemented, pupils were encouraged to partake in independent learning by researching a variety of case studies. This independently learning was encouraged from Yr 11 to Yr 14. A new strategy was introduced, a revision calendar based on a question a day. Each Geography student received a calendar with a question a day to help them focus on revising a topic of their specification. This worked well for those who followed the calendar, teacher checked notes at the end of the week.

Mrs Elmore lead the school's Eco Committee and has collaborated with the Religion and Biology Department. The eco committee have been actively promoting recycling throughout the school and all classrooms have a recycle bin which is monitored by the eco committee. They have also purchased picnic tables for the school yard. The eco committee have also enlisted the help of the wider community through past pupils in helping create an eco-garden. This will help pupils understand the importance of caring for nature and the environment.

Top Candidates:

A2 Level : Miceal O Shea A* $465 / 500 = 96\%$

AS Level: Sean Coughlan A $193/200 = 96\%$

GCSE level: John Taylor A* $284 / 300 = 95\%$

Year 11 Module 1: Cillian O'Neill A $112/120 = 93\%$

Mrs D Simpson

(Head of Geography)

History

The 2018 / 19 academic year was an outstanding one for the History Department.

GCSE

The results at GCSE were the best ever, with nearly 80% of students obtaining an A* or A grade and 95% obtaining A*-B and 100% A* - C*. This is a truly exceptional performance and is well above the corresponding CCEA averages. This was the first sitting of the newly revised GCSE paper 2, which has been made more challenging by CCEA. Our pupils performed exceptionally well on this paper with 85% obtaining an A grade and 100% A* - C.

A level

At A level over 40% achieved a grade A* / A with 95 % achieving a grade C or above.

Top Students

Special mention should go to Conor Boyle, who obtained full raw marks across both GCSE papers and Luke McAleenan, who scored an excellent 137 out of 140 raw marks. At A-Level the top performers were James Flanagan and Rokas Gostautas, both of whom obtained excellent A* grades.

The excellent results across GCSE and A-Level coupled with the high quality teaching are reflected in subject numbers for Year 11 and Year 13, which are the highest of any optional subject in the school.

Staff Development

Mr Evans continues his work on the CCEA Senior Examining Team as a Principal Examiner for GCSE. This is the fifth year he has held this position and has ensured he is front and centre of leading changes to the Northern Ireland History Curriculum.

Key Stage 3

Key Stage 3 teaching is carried out by a number of teachers who are committed to delivering the subject and maintaining a keen interest in history for our students. Our Yr 8 students in particular respond well to the model making task and parents and prospective pupils alike admired the various projects on display on Open Day.

Mr D Evans

IRISH

GCSE Success:



We are very proud to have a pupil who achieved joint 2nd in GCSE Irish in the 2018 exams. This is an outstanding result from a very deserving young man. Jack's result was achieved while Jack was a 3rd year pupil here in the Abbey. He is a keen Irish speaker and enjoys all aspects of Irish culture. He has participated in the Scór competitions throughout his life. Jack will continue his study of Irish to A-level. He is a former pupil of Bunscoil an Iúir, the Irish medium primary school in Newry and we in the Irish department are very proud of his achievements. Results overall at GCSE have been excellent and again above the Northern Ireland average.

A-Level Results

2019 was another very successful year for our AS & A-Level pupils, with the A-level class again achieving 100% A grades and the AS class achieving 100% A-B grades.

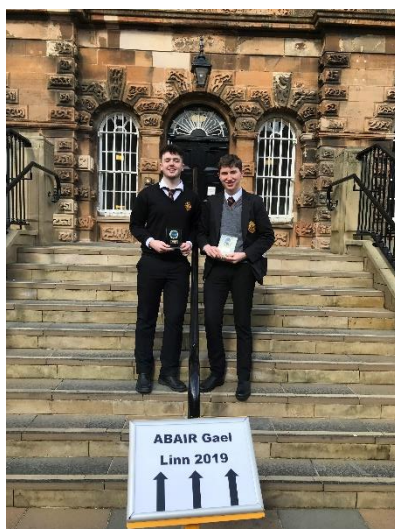
Staffing

The Irish Department is now staffed by Mrs Pauline McClean and Mr Sean Gallagher following the departure of Mrs Claire Collins. As a result, GCSE gaeilge is now offered in Our Lady's Grammar School as an Area Learning Community after school session.

Abair-

Irish Public Speaking Success for Abbey.

The Irish department are once again celebrating success at the Ulster Final of the prestigious Abair public speaking competition. With 2 pupils participating in the Ulster final, one at senior level, Tom Magill and Aidan Lavery at GCSE level. Aidan Lavery, a newcomer to the competition, was placed first in Ulster for his insightful commentary on the influence of bloggers on teenage society. Tom Magill Placed second with a powerful speech about young male drivers. Both pupils received scholarships to the Gaeltacht worth over £300 each.



Gaeltacht Students and Scholarships 2019

Around 80 Abbey students attended a Summer Course in Machaire Rabhartaigh, and Dún Lúiche Donegal. As a department we advise the students which courses are most suitable, based on this, pupils make their choice and bring in their applications and money. The first and second year pupils attend Dún Lúiche, where Irish department member, Mr S Gallagher carries out the role of Head Teacher. We are extremely grateful for the level of support provided by both Gael- Linn, Feis an Dúin, Armagh GAA, Down GAA and Coláiste an Phiarsaigh who regularly provide scholarships to Abbey students every year. Thanks to the generosity of the afore mentioned we were able to redistribute approx £4000 of scholarships to those registered students.

Seachtain na Gaeilge 2019

Nationwide ‘Seachtain Na Gaeilge 2019’ Celebrated in the Abbey.

In March the Abbey joined hundreds of schools and organisations, North and South, in a week-long celebration of the Irish Language. The Abbey’s programme kicked off with several competitions happening during class time. First and second years were involved in poster competitions with quizzes etc. happening during class time. The third years got involved in a competition involving both their sporting and film making skills putting together a film about a Gaelic football match as a class group.



The year eight pupils took part in an Irish Language Quiz, organised by the AS and A-level pupils in the school. There was a traditional music session at break time in the school canteen and we had a number of speakers come in and speak to our pupils about the importance of the Irish language. The fifth years were also treated to a workshop run by Conradh na Gaeilge and they were delighted to receive their Ceol CD's.

Tráth na gCéist agus Céilí

This year saw the 2nd annual quiz and céilí for 3rd year pupils given in collaboration with the Sacred Heart Grammar School. The Irish department along with the entire third year class walked over to Sacred Heart Grammar School for the now annual event. The quiz was organised by the AS Irish pupils in the Sacred Heart and they were helped out on the day by the Abbey AS and A level pupils. The boys and girls thoroughly enjoyed the céilí. It was a great experience for all involved. It is hoped that we will continue this tradition in the coming school year with the Sacred Heart visiting us here in the Abbey.



Lower 6th pupils visit the Gaeltacht for an intensive course.

The Irish department also facilitated a visit to the Gaeltacht in conjunction with Sacred Heart Grammar school. This was an excellent course which helped prepare the students for their upcoming exams. The pupils also got to visit Raidió na Gaeltachta as part of the course and witnessed Irish being used outside the classroom.



Visiting Raidió na Gaeltachta



Professional Development

All members of the department attended either GCSE or A-Level courses run by CCEA in the last academic year with regards to the changes made to the specifications.

Mrs P McClean (Head of Irish)

LEARNING FOR LIFE AND WORK

Year 8 students in Year 8 were involved in a Love for Life presentation in October. The seminar, entitled 'Who's Choosing' focused on issues and decisions facing our young students, including: the real me; healthy living; influences; smoking/alcohol/drugs; relationships.

Year 9 Smashed Project: all Year 9 students attended a drama production on the dangers of alcohol abuse. This high-energy and interactive workshop was extremely informative and engaging for the students; they found it a worthwhile and enjoyable experience.

Year 10 students were involved in a Love for Life presentation in October. The workshop, entitled Icebergs and Babies, looked at a range of issues facing young people, including: sources of pressure, self-image, media and sex and virginity as a healthy life choice.

Year11 completed their GCSE LLW module exams. Results were very encouraging with 100% A*-C grades in Unit 1 and 87.5% A*-C grades in Unit 2.

Make Your Mark 2018 - 10 issues that were proposed were discussed in LLW classes. The tally of results across all our KS3 and KS4 classes were submitted online to the British Youth Parliament at the beginning of October. The debate in the Houses of Parliament took place in November 2018. The 5 top issues were discussed and debated and the final two issues for the year's campaign was decided upon. Our school had contributed to the almost 1 million votes cast throughout the UK.

Newry and Mourne Youth Council LLW teachers explained to KS4 classes about the work of the NMYC and why it is important for our young people to get involved in these initiatives. Students were encouraged to volunteer for their local Youth Council.

Learning for Work programme: students in Years 8-12 participated in a series of workshops as part of an on-going Learning for Work programme organised in conjunction with the CEIAG department.

Mr. G Morgan
(Head of LLW)

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

The department comprises of five full time Mathematics teachers: Mrs Burns, Mrs Tohill, Mrs Boyd, Mrs Doherty and Mrs Murphy. All Mathematics classes were delivered by the five specialists as well as Mrs Boyd & Mrs Murphy being involved with the delivery of the Mathematics module for BTec. Construction.

Due to the changes at A-Level, and the new linear system in place with Edexcel, the department had to switch examining board at A-Level. Our students in 7th year were the first cohort to sit CCEA GCE Mathematics (Legacy Specification) and a concerted effort went into supporting our A-Level students. Results were outstanding with 100% A*-C pass rate.

In 6th year, students sat the new AS specification with very pleasing results.

At GCSE students were entered into CCEA's New Two Tier Modular GCSE Mathematics without coursework exam. 11SB and 11KD completed their full GCSE in one year as in previous years with outstanding results. All remaining 4th year students sat 45% of their GCSE with pleasing outcomes. 12GB, 12KD & 12DP sat their completion paper in June, with some students also opting to repeat their module from 4th year, in January to try to improve their grade. The department are extremely delighted with the 100% A*-C results!

GCSE Further Maths (Additional Mathematics) entries were similar to last year and results here were very pleasing ensuring a good uptake at A Level for the next academic year.

At KS3 the New Revised Curriculum was actively followed while still preparing Year 10 pupils for their KS3 Mathematics exam. The interactive whiteboards have provided the department with the facility to use a variety of resources.

Our top students in the CCEA examinations last year were:

- **GCE A2:** Cian Carragher
- **GCE AS:** Stas Domanski
- **GCSE Further Maths:** Conor Burns
- **GCSE: Year 12:** Conor Boyle
- **GCSE: Year 11:** Ruaidhri O'Shea

Staff Training/Development:

- Mrs Burns attended GCE Mathematics (New Specification) course, hosted by CCEA, in March.
- Mrs Doherty attended GCSE Mathematics (New Specification) course, hosted by CCEA, in April.
- Many of our Mathematics teachers are markers for CCEA examining board;
- Mrs Doherty posts information in the school's twitter account and on the school website to keep people up-to-date with our department's events;

Numeracy Support

Numeracy support continued throughout the year and was co-ordinated by Mrs Bernarde Tohill. This involved one to one support for students both from maths specialists as well as the Year 13 Numeracy Prefects. There were 15 prefects involved in total, many on a weekly basis and 10 different students got support last year.

Careers:

The Mathematics Department continues to promote Careers in Mathematics (as part of The STEM initiative) through classroom displays and normal classroom teaching. Students are constantly reminded of the necessity to achieve a pass grade in GCSE Mathematics and the fact that a number of courses at University level will specify at least a grade B in GCSE Mathematics.

Mathematics Challenges

Students are invited to enter Mathematical Contests organised by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. These are as follows:

- The U.K. Junior Mathematical Challenge
- The U.K. Intermediate Mathematical Challenge
- The U.K. Senior Mathematical Challenge

Students for these competitions are selected according to performance in house examinations and ability at Mathematics.

Gold, Silver and Bronze Certificates are awarded, depending on results. Last year's results were as follows:

Senior Challenge:

SILVER

Neil Mc Creesh

Adam Piwowarczyk

Orlagh Gallogly (Sacred Heart)

Niamh Fitzgerald (Sacred Heart)

BRONZE

Conor Cleverley

Patrick O'Connor

Cian Carragher
John Cosgrove
Sean Coghlan
Kaylem McShane

Eoin Finnerty
Conor Cassidy
Calum Macanulty

Best in School: Neil McCreesh

Senior Pupil photo:



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

Intermediate Challenge:

GOLD

Hareth Khan

Aaron Mc Cluskey

BRONZE

Joseph Garvey
Eoin Geoghegan
Daniel Fearon
Ruiadhri O'Shea

Daniel King
John Taylor
Mark Lennon

Best in School: Hareth Khan

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.

Intermediate pupil photo:



Year 12: Hareth Khan, Joseph Garvey, Daniel King, Eoin Geoghegan, John Taylor, Daniel Fearon

Year 11: Aaron Mc Cluskey, Mark Lennon, Ruaidhri O'Shea.

Junior Challenge:

GOLD

Finn Donnelly
Caleb Savage

Eoin Kernan

SILVER

Aiden Lynch

Ordhan Watters

BRONZE

Daniel McMahon
Donagh Murdock
Mikel Farrugia

Ciaran Coghlan
Joshua Kupczyk
Oliver Mc Court

Best in School: Finn Donnelly

Due to his outstanding score in the Junior Challenge, Finn was invited to partake in a follow-up round called the Junior Kangaroo, which is also taken by over 25 countries throughout Europe. He was awarded a Merit certificate which is a fantastic achievement. Well done Finn!

Junior pupil photo:



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

Mathematics)

Mrs S. Burns (Head of
& Mrs K. Doherty

Moving Image Arts

Results

MIA A2, AS and GCSE Results

The high examination results illustrate the quality of teaching and learning in the department.

A2 MIA – 5 Students received grades ranging from A* to B

1 x A*, 3 x A's, 1 x B

2 A2 students obtained a grade higher than they did in AS

AS MIA – 6 students received grades ranging from A to B

2 x A's and 4 x B's

GCSE MIA – 9 students received grades ranging from A to C

4 x A's, 4 x B's, 1 x C

E-Learning

The department has continued to develop E-learning through the continued use of Bravo, YouTube and Pinterest. These platforms help aid the students in their learning.

External Links

Amma Centre Training

The annual Amma collaboration induction for AS proved successful this year. As the majority of students are new to the subject, the 2-day course at the beginning of term offered the students the chance to learn the basics before starting AS MIA.

Sacred Heart

Good communication continued via necessary emails/phone calls to the Sacred Heart discussing pastoral and/or academic concerns.

The Paulie Project - RoadSafeNI Charity

AS and A2 MIA students started gathering ideas for a project called 'The Paulie Project' which aims to alert the public to the dangers of carelessness on the roads. Past Sacred Heart student Rita Bentley from the RoadSafeNI Charity visited the Abbey to share her personal and tragic story. Rita listened the students as they shared possible ideas for the creation of a documentary.



Extra-Curricular Film Club – Juniors

Film Club continued for junior school. Junior School met on a Tuesday after school to watch films centred around key topics such as Bullying, Racism and Exclusion.



Vision/Ethos

Many Year 10's have expressed an interest in studying Moving Image Arts. The HOD will run a film club for Year 10's to ascertain possible interest for a GCSE class for the academic year 2020/21. The HOD will present findings to the Headmaster. The HOD believes that MIA enhances the school curriculum as the subject offers creativity, technical ICT skills and film making knowledge. Additionally, as there are chances to study Film and Animation in Queen's and Ulster University, and with the local film industry annually booming, the above request seems logical.

The Moving Image Arts Department continues to promote the subject through the Key Stage 3, Year 9 project titled 'Jaffa Cakes', the Abbey Way, parent evenings, GCSE & A Level End of Year Exhibitions and on Open Day.

Continued Professional Development

The HOD, Mrs Doey graduated with a Masters in Restorative Practices from the Ulster University in November 2018. Mrs Doey based her dissertation on 'To what extent may Restorative Practices assist the behaviour management policies and practices in a Boys' Grammar School in Northern Ireland?' To date, the Masters has helped in developing alternative behavioural strategies and is proving beneficial as modern classroom dynamics are changing due to mental health, SEN and social, emotional and behavioural concerns.

Ms Hughes joined the moderation team for CCEA, Moving Image Arts. This proved advantageous as various assessment strategies were discussed and implemented, bringing extra skills to the department.

Mrs L Doey - Temporary Head of Moving Image Arts

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

2018-19 was yet another successful year within the Abbey Music Department. Within the classroom, pupils continued to excel with GCSE pupils completing a new specification. Results and numbers continue to thrive as well as those receiving instrumental lessons and involved in extra-curricular groups.

This year we welcomed Ryan McCann to the department as our new music technician as Gary Treanor moves on to become more involved in guitar tuition. We thank him for everything he has done and wish him well in the future.

September	School Mass	Traditional Group
October	Abbey Past Pupils Reunion	Jazz Band
November	Santa at Buttercrane	Junior Jazz Band/ Senior Band
Jazz	GCSE Awards	Junior Jazz Band
	Abbey Zambia Takeaway	Jazz Band feat Mrs.
Cranston		
December	Newry Business Christmas Charity	Jazz Band
	Christmas Party at Ashgrove Nursing Home	Abbey Choir
	Carol Singing	Abbey Choir
January	Open Day	Jazz Band/ Orchestra/
	Traditional	Group/ Soloists
February	Warrenpoint Feis	Abbey Choir/ Senior
	Choir/	Traditional Group
	Jazz with the Ulster Youth Jazz Band	Jazz Band
	School Choir of the Year - heat	Senior Choir
	Newry Feis	Junior/ Senior Jazz Band
March	UYC Workshop and Auditions	Abbey Choir
	Spring Concert	All groups and soloists
	Seachtain Na Gaeilge	Traditional Group
April	Guitar and Drum Night	Guitar groups/ soloists/
		Junior Jazz Band

	Newry Feis Brass Group/	Choir/ Chamber Choir / Group/ Traditional Soloists
May	Blues on the Bay	Jazz Band
	Rutter Concert	Choir and Orchestra
June	Induction Mass	Choir

Extra-Curricular Success

A number of groups competed in Newry Feis with the Abbey Choir, Jazz Band and Senior Choir all achieving first place in a range of classes. Well done to all pupils involved as well as for their dedication to rehearsals.

The Ulster Youth Choir held a workshop in March, which finished with pupils being given the opportunity to audition for the choir. Year 11 student, James Greer performed all over Ireland as part of the Peace Proms with the Cross Border Orchestra, whilst Year 14 student Eoin Finnerty performed with the Ulster Youth Chamber Choir at a number of events. A number of pupils also took part in the Music Services Tour in August 2019.

SELB Tuition

SELB instrumental tuition on offer includes **upper & lower strings, brass, woodwind, percussion & recorders**. This continues to be very successful with many excellent and committed tutors from the board who give over and above of their time and professionalism – assisting with Feis entries, exam recitals, etc. The numbers taking lessons was around 55 pupils. Senior (grade 5+) attend the Music Centre and receive (and pay) for their lessons directly. The costs of the lessons were met by the parents at a range from £110 – 330 per year.

Private Instrumental Tuition

This service is offered in order to allow all pupils the opportunity to receive instrumental tuition who cannot obtain it through the SELB Music Service. The system operates alongside the excellent SELB service but the pupils pay the tutors directly while the quality of service is monitored by the HOD.

Mr Murphy	Guitar (classical & rock)	30 pupils
Mr Poland	Drums	15 pupils
Miss F Flynn	Voice	15 pupils

Miss N Burns

Piano

10 pupils

Best Pupil at A2

Patrick O'Connor

Best Pupil at AS

Gavin Gribben

Rosie Cameron

Best Pupil at GCSE

Francis Farrell



Mrs C Keenan (Head of Music)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In the past Academic year Abbey Grammar School was represented in a wide range of sporting activities including Gaelic football, hurling, basketball, rugby, athletics, golf, soccer, cross country and Ju-Jitsu.

Over 300 pupils represented the school in both hurling and football.

The MacRory squad also took part in fundraising events for Special Olympics Ireland, PIPS and the Zambian Immersion project.

65 Year 8 pupils took part in Gaelic football last year coached twice per week by four members of staff. We hosted the Ben Dearth blitz and ultimately won it in dramatic fashion beating St Colman's College who missed a last minute penalty. This was a great induction for Year 8 students into gaelic football in the Abbey.

The Dalton Cup squad competed gamely but did not make it out of the group stages.

The Corn na nOg squad gained great experience competing against much stronger teams but failed to qualify for the knock out stages of the competition.

Year 10 footballers also took part in the Best Blitz to raise funds for Lauren Fitzgerald. On a wet Saturday morning they played with great determination and skill and won the tournament.



The Brock squad beat St MacCartans Monaghan and were defeated narrowly by St Michaels Enniskillen before losing to St Pats Maghera.

The Rannafast squad lost the in the semi- final to St Pat's, Cavan following victory over St Pats Maghera in a tempestuous match at QUB.

The MacRory squad were beaten in the quarter final by a single point by eventual Mac Rory and Hogan Cup winners St Michaels Enniskillen.

Twenty students also completed GAA Foundation Level Coaching and Child Protection Award which enabled them to coach at Cul Camps over the summer.



We had three students on the An Dun hurling team which won the Mageean Cup (hurling equivalent of Mac Rory Cup).



Past pupil Callum O'Neill (second from left back row), received a Sports Scholarship from Queens University Belfast.



Past pupil Ruairi McCormack (tenth from left middle row), received a Sports Scholarship from University College Dublin.



We had two students, John Mc Govern and Rory Kearney who received Future Stars Awards from Queens University Belfast.

Paul Martin was awarded an Ulster Colleges Allstar at corner back.

Six students were offered places in UUJ's elite athlete programme.

A further six pupils have been selected for a GAA elite development 1-day programme at UUJ.

Eight players were part of Down U17squad.

Five players were part of Armagh U17squad.

Year 13 students contributed to the coaching of P6 and P7 St Ronan's students after school.

The weights room continues to a popular resource at both lunch and break times when it is being used to full capacity under teacher supervision.

We have continued to build strong links with Sacred Heart School with six girls studying PE at AS level and seven at A2 level.

Our students also achieved highly in their public exams. At GCSE 95% of students achieved an A* – C grade and at A level 80% of students achieved an A-C grade which was well above the NI average of 65%. We were also the host centre for A level PE moderation in this area.

Dan Gordon was appointed Sports Development Leader and we all look forward to the positive impact that this will have on all students in the Abbey.

All staff within the department were fully trained to use the Defibrillators and in Emergency Response First Aid.

Mr. J Gormley (Head of PE)

PHYSICS

The department continues with an excellent record of academic success at both GCSE and A-level. At A-level the lowest grade for any candidate was a B with Tyler Keenan our top performing candidate. At GCSE every candidate passed discrete physics with Joseph Garvey becoming our top scoring candidate. Despite this success, for the first time in many years, we have only one year 11 and one year 13 class in physics this year.

Our links with the Armagh planetarium have been maintained and we are made aware of upcoming events which may be of use to our students. We have continued to contribute to the world famous SETI project (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence) a topic that generates huge interest in the classroom.

We have maintained our membership of the Planetary Society which is the largest non-governmental research and exploration organisation in the world. They supply us with regular updates relating to many modern research projects including the push for space tourism and the possible human exploration of Mars.

The department continues to maintain our affiliation with the Institute of Physics which supplies us with regular educational periodicals and cutting edge reports on the fast changing world of professional research, including the recent discovery of the Higgs boson at the LHC. These are all made available for the use of students.

For many years now our A Level students are encouraged to subscribe to the excellent Physics Review magazine which is specifically written for A Level students.

Led by Mr Hamill we continue to incorporate the use of our ipads into our classroom delivery. There is an excellent set of notes on learning resources for the use of our AS and A2 pupils. These notes will continue to be adapted by the three Physics teachers this year to make them even more useful for students. These resources are now available to our students via Google drive and I would encourage the governors to access this resource to see for themselves the extent and range of these materials

Mr David Patton continues to teach physics to A-level along with BTEC construction and the Environmental Technology.

Mr G. Patterson (Head of Physics)

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

There were two members of staff in the academic year 2018-19 – Paul O’Shea & Eddie McGivern. Both taught an AS and A2 Class. Psychology is a linear subject following the AQA syllabus and exams. Eight Abbey pupils sat they A2 exam with 5 getting an A-C grade (62.5%). Five Sacred Heart pupils sat the A2 exam with four achieving A-C grade (80%). This gave an overall pass rate of 69% A-C compared to the UK wide pass rate of 70.4%. AQA does not publish north of Ireland only statistics. Two of the Abbey cohort are going on to study Psychology at university (one in 2019, one in 2020).

Seventeen Abbey pupils sat the AS exam. Fourteen achieved A-C grade (82.3%). Five Sacred Heart pupils sat the AS Exam. Four achieved A-C grade (80%). This gave an overall pass rate of 81.8% at AS compared to the UK wide pass rate of 70.0%. Eddie McGivern attended the British Psychological Conference (Northern Ireland) in May. Others in attendance included NI schools teaching Psychology and representatives from QUB and the University of Ulster. Again the view was expressed that schools and universities should push for CCEA to introduce Psychology as an A Level.

Eddie McGivern (Psychology HoD)

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Staffing

The Religious studies department currently comprises of 5 teaching staff. Mrs Lisa Mc Keever (HOD), Mr Eddie Mc Givern, Mr Diarmuid Brankin, Mr Paul O'Shea (VP) and Mrs Laura Guiney.

Our Vision as a Department:

Our aim as a Religious Studies Department is to nurture the faith and spirituality of each of the pupils in our care. We as a department strive to do this by promoting Gospel based values - encouraging our pupils to care for and support one another, respect themselves, each other, their teachers and the environment. For some of our pupils, the only faith development they receive is what we, their Religion teachers teach them. Therefore, it is essential through our leadership, that we lead by example and make a lasting impression on them.

How Do We Put Our Vision Into Practice?

At the very beginning of September we invite members of the 'Gideon Bible association' in to speak to our Year 8 pupils and to distribute a copy of the New Testament to each pupil. This is very beneficial for our department as we spend a significant amount of time in first term studying the different parts of the bible.

Particularly in Junior school, prayer is an important aspect of our lessons. We also teach pupils how to pray. The availability of the school Oratory allows us the opportunity to take Junior school pupils at least once per month to this beautiful room which creates the perfect ambiance for prayer. Pupils from other faiths are also encouraged to use the oratory for quiet prayer time. All year 8 pupils will take part in a retreat throughout the school year.

Over the past number of years our Year 8 pupils have been involved in the 'Samaritan Christmas Child Project', whereby the Religion teacher of a year group distributes

information to each pupil. Each pupil then has to wrap up a shoe box with Christmas paper and fill it with items for children of a variety of ages. The boxes are then sent off to disadvantaged children throughout the world. The pupils take great pride in filling their boxes. This year, we intend to continue with this project with Year 8 pupils as we believe it is important that our pupils are aware of the needs of those less fortunate than themselves. In addition to this, the HOD organises an annual event 'Christmas Jumper Day' whereby all pupils wear a Christmas jumper into school, bring in £1.00 and all money collected goes to a local charity. This sense of 'giving' and 'helping others' reflects the ethos of the RE department.

1st, 2nd and 3rd year pupils also present wall displays on the RE corridor at important liturgical dates in the school year. We feel that it is our responsibility as a department to take the lead in celebrating important feast days and bringing them to the attention of others e.g. Each year we try to encourage pupils to take in rushes to make St. Brigid's Crosses in class to celebrate St. Brigid's Day. Pupils really enjoy this activity. A large number of pupils also take part in the 'Give it up for Trocaire Day' which traditionally is held in March.

Each year, all Junior pupils take part in the celebration of 'Catholic Education Week' which takes place at the end of January. A range of activities are organised in Religion class and a display board is put up along the Religious Studies corridor.

In senior school in particular, we strive to develop careers awareness by bringing in a number of guest speakers throughout the year e.g. Tommy Coyle from UCD will visit school and speak with A'Level Religious Studies pupils about the Theology course on offer in UCD. In addition, past pupils will be invited in to speak with pupils about how their Religious Studies A'Level has helped them with their degree course. Our pupils enjoy listening to these different experiences. These speakers encourage them to think about the different paths that there are in life. In addition to this, the RE department also liaises with members of other departments e.g. the biology, geography and history departments. When teaching 'Bioethics' on the AS and A2 Ethics course, students studying biology are able to cross reference across aspects of their Biology course looking at issues such as abortion, IVF, stem cell research from a secular perspective. Similarly, in Geography, when studying the environment, links are made with the geography course when looking at human responsibility to the environment. Further in History, pupils are required to draw on their knowledge of World War's when exploring the topic of 'The Just war theory' in Ethics.

Academic Achievements:

This year we are delighted with the GCSE, and A2 Level results. The Religion Department has grown over the last few years. 100% of our 7th year pupils achieved Grade A*-B in their A Level exam in June 2019 and 98% of our GCSE pupils achieved Grades A*-C in June 2019. This is an amazing set of results and is testament to the hard work and commitment of both the teachers in the Religious studies department and the pupils in our care.

Mrs. L. McKeever (Head of RE)

SPANISH DEPARTMENT

Staff: Mr P. McKeever, Mrs J. McGivern, Mr R. Ruddy, Carmen López.

Professional Development:

In Autumn Term of 2018 Mrs McGivern attended a course given by CCEA on the Revised A2 Specification of Spanish. Mrs McGivern posed detailed questions at the course and followed this up with an exchange of emails with The Chief Examiner, Mr Pat Dorris on the specifics of the A2 Oral Examination.

In Autumn Term of 2018 P. McKeever attended a Course given by CCEA on the delivery of the new GCSE Spanish Curriculum. The Course was beneficial in that it clarified many of the issues pertaining to The Revised Specification for GCSE Spanish. They also brought teachers through the logistics of conducting the new format GCSE Examinations where teachers are now acting as examiners for CCEA. In May 2019 we conducted our new format GCSE Spanish Orals in the Abbey. This involved moving the department to The R.E. corridor and engaging the services of external supervisors. All went very well and we are grateful to our colleagues in RE for their generosity in allowing us to use their departmental facilities to ensure the smooth running of the new format GCSE oral exams.

Teaching & Learning

In June 2019 teachers from The Spanish Department met with their Irish and French counterparts to look at the issue of Year 11 Modules. After a lot of discussion, it was decided that in June 2020 our Year 11 students will sit 50% of their GCSE Spanish Examination. The two disciplines we have chosen for Year 11 are Listening and Reading. We chose these disciplines as they are receptive skills as opposed to the productive skills of Writing and Oral which we will cover in Year 12. Our reason for moving towards modules at the end of Year 11 was to ensure our students keep their focus on the learning of Spanish right up to the end of Year 11 – if pupils were not sitting actual GCSE Modules at this time in Spanish we feel their focus might wain.

Within the department we spent a lot of staff time producing new Teaching and Learning materials for the new format GCSE. We have produced a new Writing Skills booklet which covers ALL of the topics on the new Specification. We have also produced a new Role Play booklet which covers all of the likely Role Plays of the new specification.

We have also produced a series of vocabulary tests based on the “Essential GCSE Vocabulary” appendices released by CCEA. These tests will ensure that vocabulary is regularly tested within the department. This is particularly important in light of the Year 11’s sitting formal GCSE Examinations in Spanish in June 2020.

We have uploaded sound files for our Junior pupils. The sound files which match our Abbey produced Spanish Teaching and Learning materials in years 9 and 10 have been uploaded to Shared Resources and pupils can now access these from home. This is a progression from the “CD” format through which we formerly provided oral material to our students.

As part of our Careers Programme within the Department of Spanish in January 2019 we invited back a past student of Spanish, Neil McDonald. Neil is currently working with First Derivatives, in their Madrid office. Neil gave a really encouraging and informative talk to our Year 12 Spanish classes and then to our year 13 Spanish Class. He spoke about how his knowledge and study of Spanish had helped his career path. He also gave the students excellent advice on Study Skills and on how to continually pursue success.

RESULTS:

We are extremely proud of the results achieved by Abbey students in Spanish this year.

At GCSE we had a total of 82 students, with an A* - C pass rate of 99%. Two students John Taylor and Caolan Whitmarsh secured 398/400 marks, each losing only 3 raw marks across all 4 papers.

At AS Level we had a total of 18 students, with an A-C pass rate of 100%.

At A2 Level we had a total of 8 students with an A-C pass rate of 100%. We were particularly proud of the achievements of two SEN students at A2 level who each secured a "C" grade.

The very high numbers of students choosing Spanish at the Abbey continues to hold. Seventeen of our last year's AS students have decided to continue with Spanish to A2 level. This is one of the highest numbers of entrants for an individual school at this level in Northern Ireland. We also have 3 large classes at GCSE next year. Spanish is an optional subject at GCSE and in our department we feel that the high numbers who continue to opt for Spanish at GCSE, AS and A2 level reflects the trust that our students have in the teaching and learning which they experience within our Department.

This year we had a full-time Spanish Language Assistant Sra. María del Carmen López Gómez. We were able to timetable each AS or A2 student for 2 periods per week with The Assistant in small groups of 3 or 4 students. The Assistant proved particularly useful in the preparation of both the AS Presentations and the A2 Discussion Topics, as both of these now have to focus completely on the target country, Spain. We are grateful to the school management for ensuring that in spite of tight budgets, we are still able to retain our Assistant as this is an essential element in the delivery of our Spanish Curriculum.

We also had the unusual experience of having an exchange student from Spain in Yr 10 for the full year. Pelayo Gonzalez Pinto, spent the year in 10 Slemish and thoroughly enjoyed his time in the Abbey. He was an exemplary student and offered to help in any way in the department.

Mr P McKeever (Head of Department)

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Arkwright Scholarship

The Arkwright Scholarships Trust administers one of the most prestigious scholarship schemes in the UK. 2019 marked the seventh 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. Thomas Brownlee and Joseph Garvey joined Hasan Khan, Jack Murphy, Connall Diamond, Garrett Canavan, Venkatesh Kamath, Conor McAvoy, Jason McCabe, Glenn Mooney, Shea Quinn, Rafael Ali, Zain Shahid, Christopher Downey, John Catterson and James Vint as Abbey Arkwright Scholars, in addition Brendan O'Shea and Turlough Brady past pupils who are Arkwright Associates. Each scholar received a £1,000 bursary towards their A Level studies and to support the Technology department. 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.

Young Engineers for Britain

This year two fifth years won through to the final of 'The Big Bang' showcase which was held in Birmingham in March 2019. Thomas Brownlee and Luke McAleenan developed their project 'Sonorous' which was a safety device to be worn while listening to music to make the user more spatially aware. The pupils served as excellent ambassadors' for our school and the Technology Department are rightly proud of them.

GCSE and A Level extra-curricular support

All technology staff worked with pupils outside timetabled classes to help them complete their coursework which is worth between 50 percent of their respective courses.

Mt T Mooney

Head of Technology

SEN PROVISION

INSPECTORS IMPRESSED WITH SEN PROVISION IN THE ABBEY

SEN has remained one of the strongest areas in the Abbey in recent years. This year, the SEN Register has 49 pupils listed, of which 17 are Stage 5. Strategies unique to the Abbey have been highlighted in recent ETI publication 'Report of a Survey of Special Educational Needs in mainstream schools – Promoting Improvement in the interest of all learners' (February 2019) following a visit to the school, by Dr Fionnuala McCann, an ETI SEN Specialist Inspector in February 2018. This was followed up with another visit in December 2018 to look at SEN targets for the new School Development Plan. The Department of Education selected 30 Primary & Post Primary schools in Northern Ireland, whose SEN provision had been reported as 'Outstanding' in their General Inspection process, to gather evidence for their survey. The Abbey was the only Grammar school in Northern Ireland chosen to participate in the survey.

Mr J Rath (SENCo)

ABBAY PARENT TEACHER ASSOCIATION (APTA)

Committee meetings

Two meetings were held over the year to discuss school initiatives such as 1st year Induction Programme, fundraising ideas, events and school issues such as pupil use of social media and phones.

Induction Fun Quiz for First Years.

The quiz was well supported by parents, pupils and staff and raised over £500.

Remembrance Mass for Deceased Past Pupils, Parents, Staff & BoG

Fr Colm Murphy celebrated the third annual Mass in November to remember deceased friends. Fr Colm led a moving service and the Abbey choir supported with singing.

Edmund Rice Fun Day

This year we held the sponsored "Beyond The Big Stone" walk up to the top of Slieve Martin for all KS3, staff and APTA parents. Profits from the event were split between money for the link bus and Lauren's Journey (approx. £1000 each).

The Christmas Fair did not happen but APTA is planning for the future – "Fashion Show" March 27th 2020 to raise a bigger sum to help subsidise the cost of the 'Link Bus' which carries Abbey boys from school extra-curricular activities into Newry bus depot.

Mr D Wadsworth (APTA)

ABBEY RUGBY

There were two squads trained this year U14s and U12s over the course of three terms culminating in two Ulster regional blitz competitions as well as friendly local blitzes involving Banbridge HS and Rathfriland HS. There was a short period of support from a new YDO coach but due to lack of funds/Stormont suspension, this was not continued. Having gained experience from rugby at the Abbey some boys then join their local club. There would be a large representation at Newry RFC and Dundalk RFC of youth members being Abbey pupils.

Mr. D. Wadsworth (TiC Rugby)

ABBEY CBS ECO-CLUB

WHO ARE WE?

- A mixture of students from all year groups and teachers
- We are always looking for new volunteers
- We meet once a month

OUR MOTTO:

- **Always be active, do something!**
- **Be aware of the impact you have on the environment.**
- **Believe in the power of action and change.**
- **Environmental awareness**
- **You can get involved**
- **Care for the environment**
- **Best to Reduce, Reuse and Recycle**
- **Sustainable action is needed**

WHAT DO WE DO?

We have 3 key targets:

- **1. Whole school recycling** – this has already started and will continue throughout the school – blue bins, batteries, printer cartridges and clothes
- **2. Outreach campaigns** – working with the local community to help others – raising funds for local charities (Trocaire, Zambia), Migrant Crisis, Lauren Fitzgerald campaign
- **3. Eco-garden** – this has now been completed and we officially opened this in June 2019.

2018-19:

Our achievements to date:

- We have successfully achieved the bronze and silver award for our school. We have successfully fundraised by selling Timoney's ice cream in school. With the money raised we have purchased enough blue bins so every class room now has one. We have also used this money to purchase 4 picnic benches. These are located in the yard for the boys to use during break and lunch time. This money has also been used to purchase gardening equipment and supplies, for our Eco-garden.
- We had the NI Recycling bus attend school to give a workshop to our Eco-club warriors
- We have encouraged the boys to bring in clothes etc for Cash for Clobber
- We have increased our membership of the club
- We have organised litter picks in the school grounds and in the local community
- We have secured reusable water bottles, free of charge, from Northern Ireland water to distribute to all students, to encourage them to go plastic free.

Our targets for 2019-20:

- To continue to increase our membership and in particular to target out new Year 8 students
- To apply for the Green Flag which will be proudly displayed at the front of the school
- To continue to fundraise, to improve our recycling efforts especially with plastic bottles
- To present an assembly to all our student body to inform them of the work we have done and our targets for this year. This will take the form of a 'Green Week' in school to raise awareness to our school population of the work we do and to encourage everyone to get involved in some way.
- To encourage recycling of school uniforms. This will allow parents/students to purchase second hand blazers, jumpers, trousers, PE uniforms for a very small charge
- To continue to be more visible in the local community with our very successful litter picks, etc
- To continue to push for recycling with batteries, ink cartridges and clothes
- To highlight and raise awareness of our Outreach Campaigns to help others suffering in the world at this time

The club is very grateful to Eddie McDonnell and Oliver Hearty and Sons for their assistance and sponsorship throughout the year.

Mrs A Elmore

Basketball

The 2018/2019 season was another very successful one for the Abbey basketball teams. Again we had teams in all year groups with approximately 150 boys participating. Our Under 19 boys worked very hard this year but unfortunately were unable to make the ulster final but they have high hopes for next year.

Our Under 16 squad made the Ulster semi-finals but were narrowly beaten by the overall league winners. The 2018-19 season U16 squad were made up of a very young team who had a lot of injury problems at the start of the season which they overcame to have a very competitive season.

The Abbey Junior basketball players have had a very successful year with our third year team winning the Ulster title. This is the second ulster title in a row for this young team. The third year team played several games in the lead up to the day, winning each game despite injury problems early in the season, and they secured their place in the Ulster Final. In the Ulster Final they met St Ronan's College. On their previous meeting the Abbey won their game by seven points and the Abbey knew that St Ronan's having been beaten by us in the final last year would be bringing their A game. The Abbey started off well but the men from St Ronan's came back strong and the game was basket for basket. In what was an exciting Ulster final the Abbey men managed to score an extra basket on a St Ronan's turnover leaving us with a 3-point lead in the last minute of the game, and St Ronan's were unable to catch us. The Abbey took home the win.



This meant that the team qualified for the All-Ireland playoffs. Mrs McClean was given the opportunity to host the playoffs and the School was the centre for the playoffs. The Abbey men got off to a slow start losing their first game. However, the boys regrouped and the Abbey won both of their other games, but the points difference in the first game meant that the team just missed out on a semi-final place. Given that in the previous All-Ireland playoffs the boys were beaten well by every other team they met this was a huge improvement and hopefully a sign of things to come.

Last year we also had two senior pupils begin the process of doing their basketball coaching certificates (Tom Magill and Farron O'Hare). The boys worked very hard and were a great help to Mrs McClean with all the junior teams. But they did a lot of the coaching of the 3rd year team and brought them on leaps and bounds.

Our first year team participated in the annual Vincent O'Halloran tournament but lost each of their games. The pupils had a great day and learned so much about the game through playing in the group level. Miss McQuillan came to the first year tournament and I am very grateful to her for giving up her time to help supervise the first years.

Basketball will continue to be available this year again to all age groups and thanks to our very successful fundraising basketball skills and drills morning and quiz night in the Canal court thanks to Mr Aidan O'Rourke, we will be able to purchase new kits and equipment for the teams. As usual a big thanks goes to the headmaster for his support throughout the year, to Mr Robbie Hannon in assisting at away games and to Mrs Rafferty for always booking our busses. We hope that the 2018 – 2019 season is just as successful as the last season.

Mrs P McClean

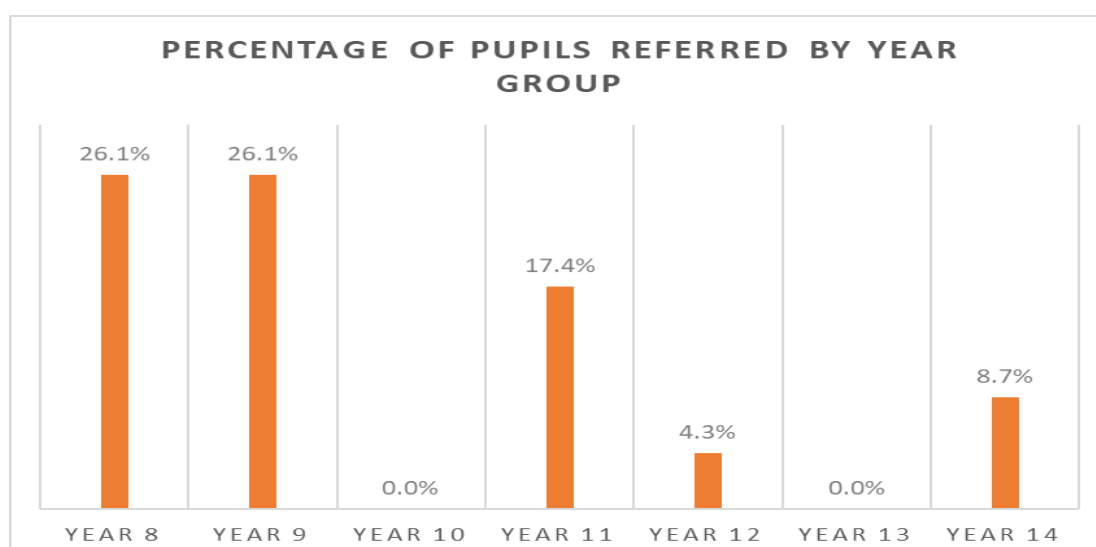
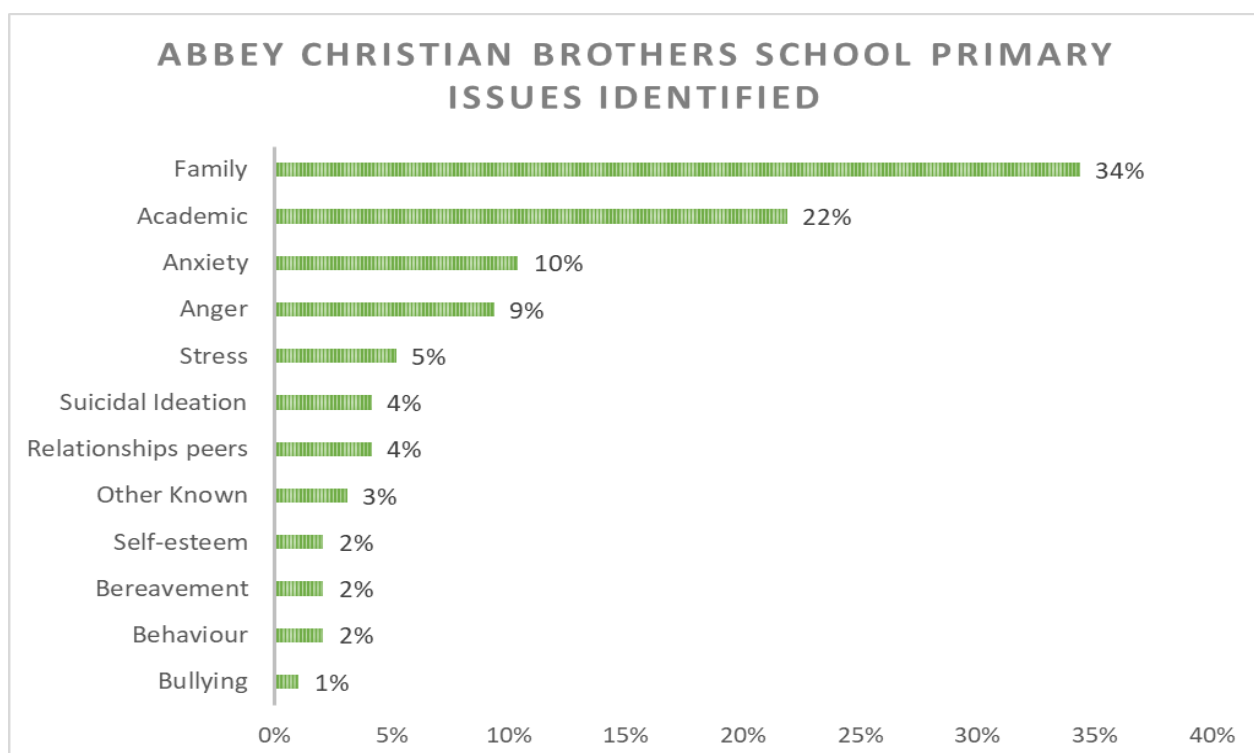
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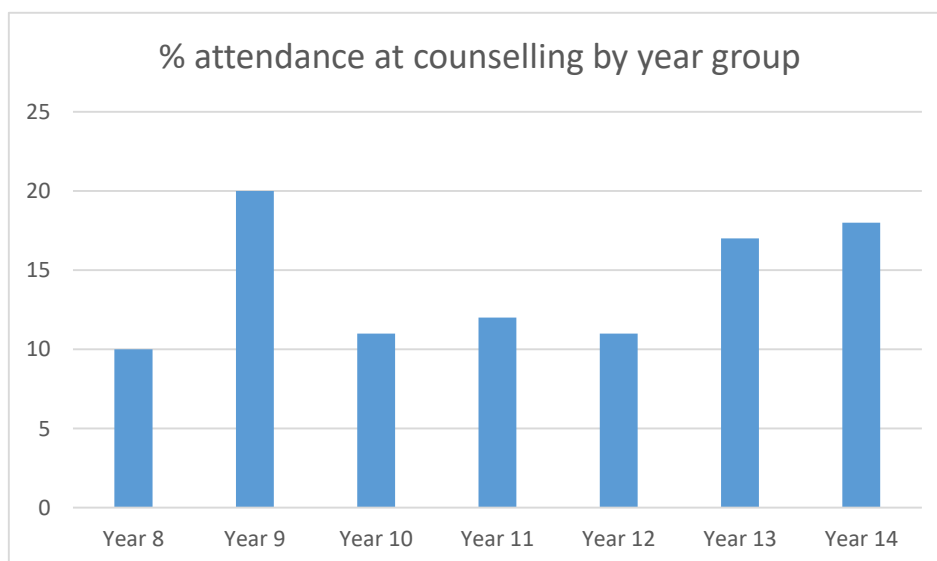
The Abbey Chess Club is now in its 17th year and is still extremely popular with the students. Run at lunch time by Mr Rory McMahon, numbers frequently exceeded not only the chess sets available but also seats in the room! This year the successful in-house competition will run again. Each player will play all other members of the club with the eventual winner receiving the chess trophy! In 2017-18 the club will run over both Junior lunch and Senior lunch to accommodate demand from both areas of our school.

Mr R McMahon

COUNSELLING

The counselling service is an essential part of school life. We have two fully trained counsellors who provide a total of 12 sessions per week. The use of the service is excellent and we frequently have a waiting list. Leona Hoey is our FamilyWorks counsellor who is here every Wednesday and Bridie Wroe offers counselling sessions on Thursdays. The first table refers to issues dealt with overall. The second table referrals by Year Group on Wednesdays (Leona) and the third table is referrals by Year Group on Thursdays (Bridie)





COUNSELLORS SCHOOL EVALUATION FORM

School Name: Abbey Christian Brothers School

Key Contact Name: Ronan Ruddy

Counsellor Name(s): Leona Hoey

Period: Sept 18 – June 19

The counselling service is well established in the Abbey Grammar School. The school counsellor has a very strong relationship with the Key Contact who is available throughout the day if there are any safeguarding issues to be addressed. The Key Contact goes over and beyond their duties as safeguarding officer to provide the best support for every young person in need. The staff on reception are also exceptionally helpful. They are discreet and efficient when locating pupils. The counselling service is very well used throughout the year and the Key Contact meets regularly with the counsellor to discuss any new clients and potential referrals to provide a context, as well as checking in on the progress of existing clients and safeguarding issues all within the realm of maintaining confidentiality. Wasted sessions are kept to a minimum slotting additional referrals in as often as possible. Referrals have been co-ordinated by the key contact and with regular communication with the counsellor, the waiting list is well managed.

ABBEY LINKS WITH RATHORE SPECIAL SCHOOL

The Abbey continued its partnership with Rathore Special School, Newry in the 2018/2019 School Year.

This is the sixth year of the Abbey hosting the Rathore students here in The Abbey. We host the Rathore students in our school because the Rathore students benefit in terms of positive affirmation by visiting The Abbey on a regular basis and engaging in joint activities with Abbey students.

The Rathore students were hosted by Upper Sixth Abbey students from the Departments of P.E. and Music, led by Mr Jim McCartan, P.E. Department and Mrs Caroline Keenan, Music Department. This year we again invited Upper Sixth students from SHS Newry to participate in our Joint Programme. The SHS students played a full part in the programme and we are most grateful to them for the loyalty and commitment they demonstrated. Each week the students from all three schools, Abbey, SHS and Rathore engaged in sporting and musical activities, suitable to the ability of the visiting Rathore students. The PE and Music groups then came together for a joint snack and some social time.

Both schools view the social aspect of our joint activities as a central part of our partnership. Students from The Abbey hosted our annual Christmas Party for the Rathore students on Thursday 29th November 2018. On the day of the party Abbey and Sacred Heart students served lunch for the visiting Rathore pupils and this was followed by a concert and “sing along” which involved students from all year groups at The Abbey as well as the visiting Rathore students.

All of the Abbey, Sacred Heart and Rathore students who participated in the partnership really enjoyed the experience and we look forward to continuing to develop our relationship with Rathore in the next school year.

Mr P. McKeever

GOLF

The Abbey Golf Team participated in the Darren Clarke Golf League this year as defending champions. They comfortably won their first game against St. Paul's, Bessbrook in Ashfield Golf Club. Their second fixture against St. Joseph's, Newry, resulted in a walkover victory which meant that the final league game against local rivals St. Colman's would determine which school would progress to the next round. Unfortunately, St. Colman's proved to be a much stronger team and they progressed to the eventual final. This was a young Abbey team and there are high hopes for better fortunes over the next few years. Each player was presented with a certificate and prize at the end of the year as a thank-you for their efforts.

Abbey golf squad 2018-19:

Matthew Lynch, Mark Mc Ardle, Eoin Murtagh, Ryan Trainor, Ryan Patterson, Michael Walker, Ben Buchanan

Mr G Morgan

DEBATING

NI Schools Debating

- Technically we are still the NI schools Debating Champions as the competition did not run this year! The organisers wanted a break after 25 years of the competition. I hope to enter two teams this year when it re-opens and give our new and inexperienced debaters a chance of external competition.



Healthcare Debate – BHSC

- Five 6th Year students entered this competition for the first time and competed in the semi-final in the Mater Hospital, Belfast.



Oxford Schools

- Tom Comer (Year 13) and Conor Burns (Year 12) took part in a workshop and series of debates organised by the Oxford Union convenor for schools. We met on a Saturday in Queen's for the day-long event. Tom has since been accepted onto the Oxford UNIQ programme.

In-house Debates

- Year 9 & Year 11 debates run in English classes. These debates form the base from which senior debaters develop. They have been successful in developing interest and talent in students and it is testament to my colleagues in English that students begin class debating with such positive experiences.

EU Mock Council

- We have been involved with the EU Mock Council for two years and been on TV twice including student interviews. This year the competition was cancelled which was very disappointing; worse still the competition was re-instated after Christmas but on a date where we already had a scheduled event. I have contacted the organisers to ask about the new academic year.

Br. McFarland Senior Debating Trophy

- Preliminary debates ran this year and generated a lot of interest from middle and senior school students. We hope to develop through sponsorship awards for 'best in class' and 'runners-up in class'.

In short, debating in The Abbey continues to provide a structured and competitive environment for interested students to hone their communication and research skills, both of which can only benefit them hugely in the future.

Ms A. Reynolds (Debating)

Edmund Rice Camps

Edmund Rice camps are now in their third year and are well established as a significant event with great benefit to both the Primary School students and also the Abbey and Sacred Heart students who run the camps. It takes a full academic year of planning for the camp to be a success, led by Mrs Annette Elmore and Mr John Rath.

This year's Camp took place 1st – 5th July 2019 inclusive. The Edmund Rice Camps are a completely volunteer run organisation run by young adults between the ages of 17 and 18. It is a week-long camp for children to give them a chance to make new friends in a fun-filled, supportive environment. There is a 1:1 ratio of leaders to children to ensure a positive role model for the children and to ensure that every child enjoys the week.

OCTOBER 2018:

ER co-ordinators, along with Mrs Elmore visited the SHS to deliver presentation to the Year 13 and 14 students. The aim is to increase the awareness of the camps and to recruit new leader volunteers. A second assembly was held at the Abbey CBS to invite our own students to apply. After the launch of the camp at the 2 schools, we were inundated with applications. Over 100 students applied to become volunteers. Students were then either selected for interview or offered a place based on their application form

A fun quiz was held in the Bosco GAA hall to raise funds for the camp. This quiz was organised by the co-ordinators to invite all new potential leaders to participate in the quiz

JANUARY- JUNE 2019:

6 training days were completed, one Sunday each month. This is to allow the new leaders to learn the songs, games, etc which are used at camp. Other days were used to deliver basic First Aid and Child Safeguarding. These sessions were delivered by Mr Rath and Mrs Elmore. A bag pack in Tesco's was organised to raise vital funds for the Lauren Fitzgerald campaign

FEBRUARY 2019:

Mr Sloan made contact with St Clare's Abbey, St Ronan's and St Patrick's to arrange the selection of the suitable pupils who will attend the camp.

The pupils were asked to be selected on the following basis:

- Students who would not normally have the money necessary to attend any other camp or gets to go on holiday
- Students who would be very quiet and lack confidence/self esteem

SUNDAY 30th June 2019:

Last training day. This is a full day session, where the timetable of the week ahead is finalised. Supplies are purchased and leaders are asked take on various roles throughout the camp.

SEPTEMBER/OCOTBER 2019:

A meeting will be held with the co-ordinators and mentors to evaluate the summer camp. The Headmaster is contacted to request the use of the facilities for next year's camp.

Mrs A Elmore / Mr J Rath

Kairos

Thirty Lower Sixth Form students attended the largest Kairos retreat to date in Greenhills YMCA, Newcastle. They shared personally about how their Christian faith impacts on their lives. The 3 day event was facilitated by six Upper Sixth students, who were trained in retreat leadership. Claire Collins, Sean Sloan and Karen Farrell also attended, each of whom made their own personal contribution, along with Fr Colum Murphy. One parent's response to the experience was 'It has had a profound effect and I know that he will carry this treasured experience with him through the rest of his life' and a student commented 'Kairos has opened my eyes not only to the outside world but also to within myself and my person. I cannot express the gratitude but mainly the gladness for the assure attitude and trust that Kairos has developed within me.'

Mrs K Farrell (Chaplaincy)

BADMINTON

Badminton has been up and running now for eight school years. It is open to all students and took place on a Thursday afternoon. Each week we have 12-16 students who thoroughly enjoy the sport and the social contact with pupils from other year groups. They maintain their fitness levels and also improve agility and reactions.

The club has always attracted students who may not otherwise become involved in extracurricular sport and we culminate each year with an internal badminton competition open to all students and staff. It is particularly important for Year 8 students to help them settle in to the extra-curricular life of the school.

Mr R Ruddy

STEM CLUB

The STEM Club was on a Wednesday afternoon from the middle of September until Christmas. A range of students from Y8 attended to conduct experiments and activities related to Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. A group of Y13 students also came to support the boys which was valuable experience for all involved and helped the Y13 students with their interpersonal skills and experience that they could use for their CVs.

STEM Club provided a place where the boys could develop their creativity, their interest in STEM and where they could make friends.

Dr M Carey and Mrs C Brownlee

Activity	Teacher(s) leading this activity	Other Teachers involved	Year Groups Involved	Activity start date	Activity Finishing date	Day(s)/Where each week
Hurling	Mr J Harvey		1 st and 2 nd	September	October	Training after school: Monday
Hurling	Mr J Harvey		3 rd and 4 th	October	November	Training after school: Monday
Hurling	Mr J Harvey	Mr Rodgers	3 rd , 4 th and 5 th	January	February	Training after school: Monday
Hurling	Mr J Harvey		1 st , 2 nd and 3 rd	April	June	Training after school: Monday
Hurling	Mr Rodgers		5 th , 6 th , 7 th	September	October	Training after school: Wednesday

HURLING

Hurling in the Abbey last year was very successful in terms of pupil participation and the introduction of indoor hurls to help develop the basic skills of those pupils who have never played before. This meant that there were more recreational sessions as we could play indoor games. All the students showed great commitment and below is the progress of each group.

Mr M Rodgers & Mr J Harvey
(Hurling coaches)

MEDICAL

In 2018-2019 school year approximately 1,564 pupils/staff availed of the medical room service.

Presenting issues:

Allergies, anxiety/panic attacks, asthma/inhalers, blood glucose monitoring, blood pressure check, bullying, concussion/head injury, constipation/bowel problems, coughs & cold/flu, diarrhoea/vomiting, vision difficulties, fractures/sprains/soft tissue injuries, headaches/migraines, health promotion information, infection/antibiotics, medication, stress, wound dressing/management.

Listed below is a summary of pupils with Medical conditions.:

Pupils with an Allergy – 64.

Pupils with a prescribed Epipen – 16.

Asthma pupils with prescribed inhalers – 125.

Cardiac condition - 10 pupils.

Cardiomyopathy – 2 pupils.

Family history of cardiomyopathy – 11 pupils.

Diabetic pupils – 4 Insulin dependent

Epilepsy pupils – 3 pupils

1 pupil on the Heart & Lung Transplant list

Each pupil with a medical condition has an ICP(careplan) containing all up to date information and contact numbers. ICP`s are reviewed 6-12 monthly with the school health team in John Mitchel place, GP`s, parents/pupils and the school nurse.

	YR 8	YR 9	YR 10	YR 11	YR 12	YR 13	YR 14	SHS	STAFF	A&E	HOME	TOTAL
SEPT	57	42	45	30	15	12	6		9	2	45	216
OCT	55	47	32	46	18	16	11		10	6	59	235
NOV	68	47	22	51	18	6	6		4	14	42	222
DEC	23	12	13	10	10	2	4		9	1	18	83
JAN	52	27	21	6	25	7	10		5		32	153
FEB	24	15	22	21	10	13	4	1	2		35	112
MAR	46	38	39	15	14	16	13	2	6		46	189
APRIL	39	24	44	22	16	17	7		18		64	187
MAY	65	59	49	12	6	5	5		7	4	59	208
JUNE	49	34	28	4	10		3		11	5	33	139

Year 8 completed Health checks, heights & weights programme.

Year 11, Year 12 and Year 14 completed the Immunisation programme.

Professional Development on going, Courses attended.

Administration of medicines 09/06/15

Anaphylaxis 27/08/2019

Basic life support children – 27/08/19

Centralised health awareness - Allergies, Asthma, Diabetes, Epilepsy, food intolerance, 27/08/2019

Epilepsy Awareness and Buccal Midazolam Training 25/08/17

First aid at work 2day course - 11th & 12th of June 2018

Defibrillator AED update training – 27/06/19

Record keeping: Evidence person centred care - 28/09/18

Safeguarding Children Level 2 – 17/09/18

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

I have organised an Abbey Mental Health Awareness Week #AMHAW in the Abbey for the past five years.

Premise

Five years ago, I organised a Mental Health Awareness Week for my year group (Year 13), the reason for this was because I was aware of specific needs and problems within that year group. Throughout the year, I continued to be involved with my own year group and supporting them through any mental health issues they may encounter, I have also increased this to pupils from other year groups and tried to get parents involved (where appropriate).

Undoubtedly, each year group has its own pupils with mental health problems, so I felt it was important that this progressed into a whole school initiative.

Mental health in young men has a stigma attached to it and I appreciate that this is not comfortable for everyone to discuss, but we need to be aware of the issues that some of our pupils bring to school every day and how we can support them.

Promoting positive mental health is something that I personally have a keen interest in and I think this was culminated by the fact that several years ago, three young men whom I grew up beside, took their own lives, all within a very short time of each other; obviously it shocked and saddened the community and many people had unanswered questions. The statistics linking poor mental health and suicide, particularly in young men, in Northern Ireland are truly shocking.

As a Deputy Designated Teacher in school, I have dealt with some Child Protection issues relating to our pupils' mental health and how fragile it can be, this was alarming to me and it made me aware of how help from outside agencies can be limited or hard to find; the result of this, was me putting in to place the Year 13 Abbey Mental Health Awareness Week, four years ago. I was surprised by how much the boys bought into it and the feedback from my year group, parents and yourselves was extremely positive and very encouraging.

Over the past four years, the week was pitched at all of our pupils from 11- 18 years old, obviously done in an age appropriate way and is something I would be keen to expand in the next academic year; I have also attached my plan for last year, where we had the theme of "Resilience".

Mental Health in the Abbey

Moving forward, promoting positive mental health within our pupils is something that I am extremely passionate about and I feel my work in this area over the past few years has helped to alleviate the stigma attached to this problem.

What is involved:

- Organise and deliver age-appropriate special assemblies;
- Highlight #AMHAW through posters, on internal screens and where possible make it connectable and humorous for pupils;
- Raise the issue regularly at pastoral team meetings;
- Set up voluntary drop-in sessions with the school counsellors and nurse;
- Make resources that can be delivered in a cross curricular theme through taught lessons in LLW, RE and PE, highlighting the importance of life skills and coping, faith and physical activity respectively;
- Organise liturgies whereby pupils can feel spiritual support, which is one element of solace for those experiencing difficulties;
- I will raise awareness for #AMHAW on Twitter and Facebook, so parents can have a deeper understanding of how they can support their sons and talk about this issue at home. Furthermore, I will distribute resources to parents via email, again raising awareness for this subject;
- Make staff and pupils aware of events throughout the year, i.e. National Mental Health Day etc;
- Liaise with CAHMS, PIPS, The Samaritans, Social Services – where necessary;
- Have an information evening for parents, who may have concerns about their son and how they can support them;
- Have expert guest speakers delivering information to pupils, again, in an age-appropriate way;
- Continue to build on my own Continuing Professional Development by seeking further training;
- Deliver a module to Year 14s on how they can cope with their own mental health and deal with any problems as they arise; link with a local psychiatrist who will team teach the module with me;
Continue to support pupils after this taught mental health module – this has been extremely busy in the last academic year;
- Work with the SRC in the school on the best ways to deliver the message to the pupil body;
- If possible, I would also like to liaise with other schools on how they are dealing with this issue;
- I would like to act as a mediator for the boys, almost like a referral point for those who do not feel comfortable directly being referred to the counsellor;
- Act as a support to teachers who have had a disclosure from a pupil, as this can be difficult for staff members too – I have been surprised over the past few

years by the amount of staff entrusting me and seeking advice on the issue of mental health, either for themselves or a close family member;

- Present my plan and work being done, at a BoG meeting;
- Formulate a Mental Health Policy for approval by BoG;
- Celebrate National Mental Health Awareness Week and have a staff focus (May time);
- Educate staff and pupils on the meaning of “mindfulness” and “resilience”

Summary and Feedback:

After the previous Mental Health Awareness Weeks there was a greater uptake in counselling inside and outside of school, the boys whom we were aware of, as having experienced their own difficulties learnt from this week, they learned that they were not on their own. The raising of awareness was a positive experience and was definitely well received. The feedback from pupils, parents, teachers and our local community was inspiring and I feel work in this important area is something that should be integral to our school year.

I would like to be further involved in this area with the boys; as I mentioned we all spoke freely and honestly and the boys appreciated and respected that. They could buy into an area that would help them, whether it was from the liturgies, or even playing a sport that I organised as an afterschool activity.

Boys’ mental health is extremely important, perhaps even more so in our modern society – it is vital that it is addressed and assistance offered where necessary. The key element here is support and understanding.

Further information and facts on why this is important in Northern Ireland:

ALMOST as many people have died from suicide in Northern Ireland since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement as were killed during the entire Troubles. That’s the disturbing key finding from an examination of 15 years of suicide data carried out by The Detail.

The signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998 was a landmark moment in Northern Ireland’s history and followed decades of murder.

However, the political deal could not completely wipe out our troubled past and this – warns researchers – is still impacting on the mental health of people here today.

It has been estimated that around 3,600 people were killed in Northern Ireland’s bloody conflict between 1969 and 1997.

A less well known statistic is that almost as many people took their own lives in the 15 years which followed this.

The latest figures show that a total of 3,288 suicides were registered in Northern Ireland from the beginning of 1998 to the end of 2012.

Mr M Rodgers (AMHA)

Abbey Social Justice

Advocacy and Faith in Action Leadership Team

Media Awareness

- School website updated with a section on Social Justice providing information on key groups of social justice in the school, organised through Mr Grogan by Miss McQuillan
- Social Media awareness has increased – two students took admin of the Twitter and Facebook page and update regularly alongside Miss McQuillan
- Video created summarising the work to date and uploaded to a Youtube Channel which has been created to raise public awareness on the team.
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1If46rowEpQ>

Action

- **June 2018:** Visit to Cormac McArt by P McQuillan to draw up concise plans for year ahead It was nice to sit with Cormac and discuss plans and feasibility to hopefully grow Advocacy Leadership Team going forward.
- An email was sent to staff in **June 2018** to get involved and numerous staff showed an interest which will hopefully take the group forward by delegating particular areas to work on. In 2018/19 18 students were involved in the team and it was decided to allow them to focus into areas of interest so they were divided in to groups of 5 or 6 and worked on the following;
- **Nov/Dec 2018:** “I’m A Teacher, Get me out of Here!” This fundraiser was based around the bush tucker trials known to many from the TV show, “I’m a celebrity, Get me out of here!” Voting took place in the weeks before the event, where students and staff bought votes to put forward 5 teachers to take part in the ‘trial.’ The trial was broken up into 5 dishes; a drink, starter, main, appetiser & dessert. The teacher to make it through all five dishes, won a cash prize to donate to a local charity. £771.15 was raised from the event and the rest of the money raised went towards reaching out to a local Care Home and funded our annual senior citizens Christmas party. The event was enjoyed by many staff and the student body got great enjoyment watching staff members so enthusiastically to on the trials.
- **Christmas Party:** The students focused on organising the senior citizens Christmas party at Ashgrove Nursing Home, which was a glowing success. The group entertained the guests with bingo, food, and presents, music and Irish Dancing. The Music Department, once again, performed some beautiful music.
- **Jan/Feb 2019:** Mr M McMahon and Miss R Kelly worked with drawing up letters meeting with the students on three occasions to guide structure and points to include with the letters being presented to political representatives – one was handed to Mickey Brady MP.
- **Feb/March 2019:** Mrs S McGinley worked with a group on the creation of the Homeless kits and 25 kits will be donated to local homeless charities. They organised and collected items from Year 8 form classes giving specific items for each form class and the class with the most items were awarded bonus merits.

- **Feb 2019:** Presentation at the Edmund Rice Awards in Dromantine by Tom Hamill. Students prepared this presentation themselves with consultation with both groups and Mr Harvey and Miss McQuillan.
- **April 2019:** Abbey CBGS Annual Sleepout in 2019 – raised £1604.56. The event was promoted on the Abbey Social Justice Facebook page and twitter account to raise awareness of the event and the work being done. Now just finished its 3rd year the event is always keenly supported by students with 52 participating in the event. Many thanks to Mr Harvey, Miss McQuillan and Miss McCartan who gave up their evening to stay outside and supervise the group.
- **June 2019:** Representatives of the Abbey Social Justice team met with Mickey Brady MP in his Newry office after presenting him with a letter in London whilst on a trip to Westminster with Dr Carey. They were outlining their concerns on poverty and homelessness in Northern Ireland. Miss McQuillan attended with the students and it was a very informative meeting in which Mickey answer questions they had and offered guidance to them on what they should do as young individuals and as a team to try and help those the most vulnerable in society.



Zambia Immersion Project 2019

Our time in Zambia lasted two and a half weeks, but the experience lasted over a year and there was a huge sense of camaraderie and team spirit built through the early fundraising that went on. 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 this journey in October 2017 starting with our own fundraising events either on our own or in small groups as applicants with the team officially being selected in March 2018 working over the year with fundraising activities until March 2019. All the students involved in the Zambia Immersion Project, past and present, have shown real character 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 truly role model our Christian Brothers' and Edmund Rice ethos as a community steeped in faith, by reaching out, connecting and sharing in the lives of the marginalised in Livingstone, Zambia.

Through the many bag packs, the Spinathon and the Zambia Night Takeaway, to name a few, excitement and awareness grew in the school community and this definitely peaked at the Zambia Night Takeaway in November 2018 at which there was a huge turnout. 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'.

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 be 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 would have mainly 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 three or four students to suit the needs of the children. Being there each day enabled close bonds to form with the children and the 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 would have 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 is Sr. Mary along with her staff. Sr. Mary's team go to the local compounds each day to distribute medicine through community clinics and have 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 it 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 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 and made such an impact on our lives in that short space of time. We finished the morning the refreshing Coca-Cola and a few biscuits at Sr. Mary's office which always went down a treat.

The whole team would return from their morning work for 12.30pm, have a habitual crisp sandwich made by the group that was at the clinics and discuss their morning sometimes reflecting on the hardships they had seen or a lesson that didn't go right but always reflecting and seeing were to improve as well as having a funny story of something a student said that morning or someone that we met on clinic visits. 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 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 breaking 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 and they enjoyed telling us about themselves and their lives always with a smile on their face despite the hardship they face.

The orphanage was very rewarding, and the place we spent most of our afternoons and this allowed us to form bonds with children that we will cherish forever-which also made it almost impossible to leave. One afternoon we played St Raphael's 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 would cook 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 would be followed by a reflection of the course of events of the day as a team by the fire pit and plan 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 last 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.



Mrs C McGrath, Mr W McCullough, Ms P McQuillan

HEADMASTER'S DIARY OF EVENTS 2018-2019

August 2018

Examination Results
University Entrance

Staff Day
SMT Meetings

Public Relations – examination results
Meetings with Parents and new students into Year 13
Induction of all year groups – parents present for Years 8,11,12,14
Year Tutor and Form Teacher Meetings
Heads of Department and Departmental Meetings
Finance Meeting BOG

September 2018

Staff Day
Area Learning Community Meeting
Open Days QUB, UUU

Careers Year 12
St Mary's Open Day
PPTC Meeting

Meetings with teachers who hold responsibility points
Meeting

Catholic Heads

Interviews / meetings with individual SMT members

Begin PRSD with SMT

ER Principal's Conference
School Mass
Year 8 PIE/PIM Assessment
Formal
C2KNI meeting
Achievement Prizegiving for KS3
Study Supervisor Interviews

CCEA meeting
APTA

October 2018

Headmaster, SMT Mentor, Head of Department Meetings
UCAS begins
First Year Trip
PPTC Meeting

Art Trip

CHA Conference
Work Experience for 6(1)

Class Masses begin
Finance Committee & Board of Governors Meetings
DENI Finance

GL Assessment meeting
APTA Quiz
ASCL Conference

November 2018

Key Stage 3 Reports

Year 9 PTM

6(2) Mock Careers Interview
GL Familiarization and Assessment Tests

Kairos Retreat
Staff Day
ALC

meeting
DA Science Module Exams
DENI engagement event
Kairos Retreat
Mass

AGM for parents
Zambia Night Takeaway
APTA Remembrance

December 2018

Staff Day

6 (1) and 6 (2) Christmas Reports
Staff Meeting
Exams
Christmas Concert
Year 10 PTM
Interviews
Zambia Team Meeting

CCEA reward ceremony

Newry Principals Meeting
Year 11 – 14 Christmas

APTA Christmas Fair
Biology/Chemistry

January 2019

Primary School Visits

GBA meeting

Christmas Reports (4th,5th,6(1),6(2))

Open Day

Pupil Progress follow-up to Reports

Year 11,12 PTM

Catholic Schools Week

GL Assessment

Results

Area Learning Community meeting

Year 13,14 PTM

PPTC Meeting

Meet SMT individually

Mental Health Week

Subject Choices Year 10, 12

Staff Day

February 2019

Year 8 PTM

Area Learning

Community Meeting

Catholic Schools Week
and Meetings

Transfer Results

Ash Wednesday Service

Catholic Heads Meeting

ERST meeting

3rd Year and 5th Year subject choices

Skills Forum

March 2019

Transfer – Preference Forms

Irish Day

Finance Committee and Board of Governors Meetings

Area Learning

Community

ERST meeting

Inquest

Internal Audit

Past Pupils Meeting

Ash Wednesday

Education Law

update meeting

Staff Day

Geography Field Trip
meetings

PPTC Meeting
Headmaster/ HOD

School Debating Competition

Careers Week

April 2019

Catholic Heads Meeting
 ERST Mass and Lecture
 Community
 GL Assessment – Special Provision
 Year 8,9 PTM

PPTC Meeting
 Area Learning

 Year 8,9 Careers

May 2019

Edmund Rice Feast Day
 (1) and 6 (2)
 SMT Conference
 Induction Mass
 Community
 Teacher Interviews
 Head Boy Interviews
 Spring Concert
 Interviews Meetings with Parents of new 1st Year Students
 Hattie lecture
 C2K: School improvement meeting

Release of 5th, 6

 Staff Day
 Area Learning

 PPTC Meeting
 Religion Teacher
 John

June 2019

Headmaster meetings with staff
 Summer Examinations and Reports
 Catholic Heads Meeting
 Development Plan
 Finance Committee & Board of Governors Meetings
 Transfers
 Information to Parents regarding new school year
 Staff Day
 NHS & MA
 Interviews – Appointments Business Studies and Irish
 Community meeting
 DENI finance meeting

Staff Function
 PPTC Meeting
 School

 Appeals regarding

 ECO Garden meeting
 Peace IV meeting with

 Area Learning

 LGBT meeting

Headmaster, Heads of Department Meetings
 Child Protection Training
 PRSD/HOD meeting

£ £

ABBEY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Financial Report for the year ended 31st March 2019

	£	£
Income		
Budget Share		4,259,590
Other Income		390,079
Total Income		4,649,669
Expenditure		
Teaching Staff Costs		3,130,863
Support Staff Costs		925,608
Premises Running Costs		270,413
Teaching Resources		114,167
Other Operating Costs		304,137
Total Expenditure		4,745,188
Surplus/(Deficit)		-95,519
Represented by:		
Surplus School Revenue Account		-171,310
Surplus General Revenue Account		65,889
Surplus School Meals Account		9,902
		-95,519