

ST. DOMINIC'S
VERITAS
FOUNDED 1870



GRAMMAR SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS

Annual Report of the Board of Governors

2023-2024

A copy of this report may be obtained free of charge by contacting the School or it may be downloaded from www.stdomnics.org

In Education since 1870



ST. DOMINIC'S
SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS



Dear Parents,

It is with great pleasure that I present the Annual Report of the Board of Governors for the academic year 2023–2024. This report highlights the many achievements of our school community and reflects our unwavering commitment to providing the highest standards of education, pastoral care, and personal development for all our students.

The past year has been a highly successful one, marked by outstanding examination results at GCSE, AS, and A-Level. Our students have demonstrated exceptional dedication, resilience, and ambition, achieving outcomes that are a testament to their hard work, the expertise of our teaching staff, and the unwavering support of their families. These successes reinforce our reputation for academic excellence and our commitment to ensuring that every student reaches their full potential.

Beyond the classroom, the school continues to offer a broad and balanced curriculum enriched by a vibrant extra-curricular programme. Students benefit from a wealth of opportunities in sport, music, drama, and an array of clubs and societies that help to nurture their talents, develop leadership skills, and instil a lifelong love of learning. These activities are made possible by the voluntary commitment of our dedicated teachers and support staff, whose enthusiasm and professionalism are at the heart of everything we do.

A key strength of our school is the strong partnership between staff, students, and parents. This collaboration creates a nurturing environment where students feel supported and encouraged to excel in all aspects of their education. The commitment of our parents and guardians to the life of the School is invaluable, reinforcing the sense of community and shared purpose that defines our school.

As a School committed to self-evaluation and continuous improvement, we consistently reflect on our practices to enhance the educational, pastoral, spiritual, and extra-curricular provision for our students. Each year, we strive to build upon our successes, ensuring that our school remains a place of inspiration, opportunity, and personal growth.

We look forward to another year of progress, achievement, and excellence, and we remain steadfast in our mission to provide the very best educational experience for the young people we serve.

I hope you find the information within the report interesting and informative.

Yours Sincerely,



Principal



Bookflix



Our Vision

- Each one of us is unique, created by a unique God, for a unique purpose.
- St. Dominic's is a community committed to mutual respect where every individual is valued, respected, encouraged and empowered to reach her/his potential in an atmosphere of love, forgiveness, honesty, openness and optimism.
- We are committed to celebrating difference, to promoting equality, self-belief and a culture of confidence where success is celebrated.
- We strive to unlock our individual and collective potential and to be prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities of the twenty-first century, reflecting our strong Dominican ethos.
- Our Aims
 - To bring our students to a full understanding of our Catholic faith and to promote Christian values and attitudes in all members throughout the school community
 - To awaken in students a sense of their dignity and self-worth and to promote self-confidence
 - To promote the physical, emotional and mental well-being of all our students and staff
 - To create warm, caring and positive relationships between all members of the school community and to inculcate in all members of the community respect for, and sensitivity to, the dignity, feelings, and rights of others
 - To promote the values of good citizenship throughout the school community
 - To build an effective partnership between parents, students, staff and the Board of Governors and to work together to fulfil the school's vision
 - To be a learning community for the development of all
 - To optimise the opportunities for our pupils through links with the wider community
 - To ensure that our students and staff are prepared effectively for the changing world in the 21st century
 - To ensure that our students have access to a wide range of learning opportunities
 - To develop a culture of high achievement among all pupils with every pupil reaching their full potential



BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2023-2024

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Mr Rory Galway | Chairman (Trustee Appointee) |
| Mrs Fiona Collins | Trustee Appointee |
| Dr Bob Cummings | Trustee Appointee |
| Mrs Lisa Magennis | Elected Parent (Designated Governor for Child Protection) |
| Dr Mary McIvor | DENI Appointee |
| Ms Eileen Lavery | DENI Appointee |
| Mr Paul McGlade | DENI Appointee |
| TBC | Trustee Parent Appointee |
| Dr Andrea Rainey | Elected Teacher |
| Mrs Orla O'Neill | Principal |
| Co-opted: | Ms Imelda McDaid |

Finance Committee

Mr Rory Galway
Mr Paul McGlade
Ms Imelda McDaid
Mrs Orla O'Neill
Mr Hugh Carvill

Admissions Committee

Mrs Fiona Collins
Mrs Lisa Magennis
Dr Mary McIvor
Mrs Orla O'Neill
Mr Philip McMaster (VP)
Ms P Mc Nulty (VP)



Income Statement for the year ended 31 March 2024

| | 31.3.24 | 31.3.23 |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|
| | £ | £ |
| INCOME | | |
| Dept. of Education grants | 6,808,886 | 6,173,091 |
| Other Operating income | 86,746 | 56,648 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 6,895,632 | 6,229,739 |
| EXPENDITURE | | |
| Teaching staff costs | 4,447,502 | 3,974,982 |
| Non-Teaching staff costs | 1,023,788 | 880,753 |
| Other Operating costs | 1,031,489 | 1,205,681 |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 6,502,779 | 6,061,416 |
| SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR | | |
| | <hr/> | <hr/> |
| | 392,853 | 168,323 |



Fundraising 2023-24

| ORGANISATION | AMOUNT |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| CORRYMEELA COMMUNITY | £429.60 |
| HABITAT FOR HUMANITY | £227.00 |
| CONCERN WORLDWIDE | £290.00 |
| MACMILLAN CANCER SUPPORT | £890.00 |
| TROCAIRE | £4,225.00 |
| CONWAY EDUCATION | £500.00 |
| WOMEN'S AID FEDERATION NI | £1,000.00 |
| NORTHERN IRELAND HOSPICE | £1,000.00 |
| THE WELCOME ORGANISATION | £735.05 |
| ST. VINCENT DE PAUL | £4,060.00 |
| TOTAL | £13,356.65 |



Staffing and Recruitment 2023-24

Several recruitment exercises were carried out to replace staff who left at the end of this year. The following posts were filled by the following:

- Vice Principal – Mr Philip McMaster
- Teacher of Chemistry – Miss Niamh Howell (Permanent)
- Teacher of Chemistry - Miss Autumn McLaren (Temporary 1 year)
- Teacher of HE and HSC – Miss Elaine Woods (Permanent)
- Teacher of Geography – Mrs Hannah O'Neill (Career Break)
- Teacher of ICT – Miss Anna Keenan (Temporary 1 year)
- Teacher of French and Spanish - Miss Caroline Patterson (Temporary 1 year)

Other internal posts recruited

Head of Year – Miss Meabh Cassidy

Head of Department HSC – Ms Joanne O'Kane

Head of Department Maths – Leah Hunt

Coordinator of STEM – Mr Jamie Mulholland

Coordinator of Junior Science – Mrs Karen Gibson



Staff Training 2023-2024

- **Staff training in the 2023-24 year was reduced as a result of Action Short of Strike.**

| Date | Training |
|--|---|
| 10 th November 2023 | FFT's Aspire data analytics training for middle leaders. Empowering middle leaders to further track performance, improve teaching and boost learning. |
| 10 th November 2023 and ongoing throughout the year | Learning and Teaching Policy Review Working Party. Reviewed the learning and teaching policy and developed a revised, evidence informed policy. |
| 9 th February 2024 | Being-Well Doing Well Familiarisation |
| October 2023-June 2024 | Four staff completed the Catalyst School Leaders Programme |
| October 2023-June 2024 | Eleven members of staff completed a Certificate in Evidence Informed Practice from Chartered College of Teaching. |



Curriculum

• Key Stage 3 Curriculum Plan 2024-25

| Subject | Number of periods per week | | |
|--|----------------------------|-------------------------|---------|
| | Year 8 | Year 9 | Year 10 |
| English | 6 | 6 | 6 |
| Maths | 6 | 7 | 6 |
| Religious Studies | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Spanish | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| French | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Irish | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Gaeilge | 4 | 4 | 4 |
| Art | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Music | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| Drama | 2 | 2 | 1 |
| Technology & Design | Carousel | Carousel | 2 |
| Home Economics | Carousel | Carousel | 2 |
| Pupil Voice | | 1 | |
| Geography | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| History | 3 | 3 | 3 |
| Science | 7 | 7 | - |
| Biology | - | - | 2 |
| Chemistry | - | - | 2 |
| Physics | - | | 2 |
| PE | 2 | 2 | 2 |
| ICT | 2 | | 2 |
| LLW | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Pastoral Care | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| Carousel :Computer Programming (Coding)/Technology & Design/Home Economics | 2 (12/13 weeks each) | 2 (12/13 weeks each) | - |



Curriculum

Key Stage 4 Curriculum Plan 2024-25

Compulsory Subjects (brackets indicate the number of periods)

- English Language and English Literature (8)
- Mathematics (students with a proven ability in Maths will be selected to study Further Maths also)- (7/8 periods for GCSE Maths/GCSE Further Maths)
- RE (5)
- LLW/Careers (1 or 2 depending on GCSE Maths/GCSE Further Maths)
- PE (2)

Additional Subjects -students choose 5 subjects according to the following timetable blocks:

Final Y11 Blocks for 2024-25

| Block A | Block B | Block C | Block D | Block E |
|----------------|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|-----------|
| Double award 1 | | Art | Double award 1 | |
| Double award 2 | | Drama | Double award 2 | |
| Double award 3 | | History | Double award 3 | |
| Art | Digital Technology | Health and Social Care | French | Chemistry |
| Biology | French | Irish | History | Drama |
| Business | History | PE | Health and Social Care | Geography |
| Gaeilge | Media Studies | Physics | Irish | History |
| History | PE | Technology & Design | Music | Spanish |
| Spanish | | | Spanish | |
| | | | Technology & Design | |

- **Key Stage 5 Curriculum Plan 2024-25**

- Pupils usually study four subjects in Year 13. All students complete at least three of these subjects
- at A2 level.

Y13 Blocks for 2024-25

| Option A | Option B | Option C | Option D | Option E |
|----------------------|--------------------|----------------------|-------------|----------------|
| Biology | Digital Technology | Biology | Chemistry | Biology |
| Health & Social Care | English | Business Studies | English | Chemistry |
| Irish | Finance | French | Geography | Drama |
| Physics | History | Health & Social Care | Applied ICT | History |
| Politics | Maths | Media Studies | Maths | Sports Studies |
| RE | Psychology | Politics | Psychology | Physics |
| Spanish | Sociology | Software Systems | | Sociology |
| Drama | Art | Further Maths | | TD |
| | | Music | | |



A2 Results – Headline Figures

| | 2019 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|---------|-----------------|------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 3+ A*-C | 88% | 98% | 93% (128) | 96.2% | 94.4% |
| 3+ A*-B | 66% | 84% | 73% (101) | 77.6% | |
| 3+ A*-A | 17% | 49% | 41% (56) | 35% | 22% |
| 4+ A*-A | 3% | 8% | 8.7% (12) | 6.7% (9) | 4% |
| %A*/A | 47% (14% A*) | 69% | 64% (26.9% A*) | 59% (22%) | 49.7% (18.2%A*) |
| %A*/B | 85% | 92% | 89% | 89% | 82% |
| %A*/C | 96% | 99% | 98% | 99% | 97% |



AS Results – Headline Figures

| | 2019 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|--------|-------|------|------|-------|-------|
| 3+ A-C | 80.5% | 99% | 92% | 88.8% | 85.8% |
| 3+ A-B | 55% | 85% | 76% | 66.4% | 67.2% |
| 3+ A | 22% | 45% | 33% | 28% | 30.6% |
| 4+ A | 6.5% | 20% | 17% | 13.4% | 12.7% |
| %A/A | 43.7% | | 56% | 50% | 50% |
| %A/B | 74% | | 86% | 79% | 79.5% |
| %A/C | 89% | | 96% | 92.3% | 92.9% |



GCSE Results Headline Figures

| | 2019 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 |
|--------------------|------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 7+ A*-C Inc E&M | 97% | 100% | 100% | 97.8% | 98.8% |
| 7+ A*-B Inc E&M | | 85% | 87% | 81% | 81.8% |
| % A* | | 24.7% | 26.3% | 26.2% | 17.6% |
| %A*/A | | 67% | 71.8% | 71.5% | 64.3% |
| %A*/B | | 88.8% | 89.7% | 89.3% | 87.5% |
| %A*/C | | 99% | 100% | 98.8% | 98.6% |



GCSE Results Headline Figures

| Pupils with | 2019 | 2021 % | 2022 % | 2023 No and % | 2024 No and % |
|-------------|------|-----------|-----------|------------------|------------------|
| 11 A's | | 4.9 | 5.44 | 8 (5.75%) | 3(1.8%) |
| >=10A's | | 21.2 | 22.45 | 33(23.74%) | 36 (21.8%) |
| >=9A's | | 34.7 | 37.41 | 55(39.56%) | 52 (31.5%) |
| >=8A's | | 43.2 | 52.38 | 77(55.39%) | 70 (42.4%) |
| >=7A's | | 53.1 | 58.50 | 86(61.87%) | 82 (49.7%) |
| >=6A's | | 60.2 | 63.95 | 94(67.62%) | 98 (59.4%) |
| >=5A's | | 70.2 | 68.03 | 100(71.94%) | 106 (64.2%) |



Examination results and Headline figures for GCSE and A level 2019-2024

| Performance A Level | |
|---------------------|-------|
| 2024 | |
| A* - A | 49.7% |
| A* - B | 82% |
| A* - C | 97% |

| Performance GCSE | |
|------------------|-------|
| 2024 | |
| A* | 17.6% |
| A* - A | 64.3% |
| A* - B | 87.5% |
| A* - C | 98.6% |

| Fast-track Maths course – Year 11 results. | | | |
|--|-----|------|------|
| Number of students | A* | A*/A | A*/B |
| 87 | 41% | 100% | 100% |
| | | | |

| Fast-track Irish course – Year 10 results. | |
|--|------|
| Number of students | A* |
| 10 | 100% |



A Level Achievement

| Subject | Entries | % A*-A | % A*-B | % A*-C | % A*-E |
|----------------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Art and Design | 8 | 50.0% | 87.5% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Biology | 32 | 40.6% | 78.1% | 93.8% | 100.0% |
| Business | 13 | 23.1% | 46.2% | 76.9% | 100.0% |
| Chemistry | 22 | 50.0% | 86.4% | 95.5% | 100.0% |
| Design and Technology | 7 | 57.1% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Drama and Theatre Studies | 24 | 41.7% | 95.8% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| English Literature | 23 | 39.1% | 65.2% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Finance | 17 | 41.2% | 88.2% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| French | 1 | 0.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Geography | 9 | 44.4% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Government and Politics | 38 | 42.1% | 84.2% | 94.7% | 100.0% |
| Health and Social Care | 26 | 34.6% | 88.5% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| History | 14 | 50.0% | 78.6% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| ICT Digital Technology | 11 | 27.3% | 63.6% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| ICT Applied | 8 | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Irish | 15 | 93.3% | 93.3% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Mathematics | 37 | 62.2% | 89.2% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Mathematics: Further | 1 | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Media | 9 | 44.4% | 88.9% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Music | 4 | 25.0% | 50.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Physics | 16 | 56.3% | 62.5% | 93.8% | 100.0% |
| Psychology | 19 | 31.6% | 63.2% | 89.5% | 100.0% |
| Religious Studies | 3 | 0.0% | 33.3% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Sociology | 11 | 54.5% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Spanish | 3 | 66.7% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Sport / P.E Studies | 17 | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Sport / P.E Studies Double Award | 5 | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |



GCSE Achievement

| Subject | Entries | % A*-A | % A*-B | % A*-C | % A*-E |
|---------------------------|---------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Arabic | 3 | 66.7% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Art and Design | 31 | 54.8% | 90.3% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Biology | 20 | 80.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Business | 27 | 48.1% | 81.5% | 96.3% | 100.0% |
| Chemistry | 20 | 90.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Design and Technology | 18 | 33.3% | 77.8% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Drama and Theatre Studies | 40 | 82.5% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| English Language | 167 | 64.7% | 94.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| English Literature | 164 | 73.2% | 95.7% | 99.4% | 100.0% |
| French | 41 | 46.3% | 73.2% | 97.6% | 100.0% |
| Gaeilge | 3 | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Geography | 22 | 59.1% | 72.7% | 95.5% | 100.0% |
| Health and Social Care | 41 | 51.2% | 75.6% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| History | 108 | 52.8% | 75.9% | 95.4% | 100.0% |
| ICT | 29 | 79.3% | 86.2% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Irish | 27 | 81.5% | 96.3% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Mathematics | 167 | 76.6% | 98.8% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Mathematics: Further | 86 | 62.8% | 86.0% | 97.7% | 100.0% |
| Media | 23 | 39.1% | 78.3% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Music | 15 | 93.3% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Physics | 20 | 65.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% | 100.0% |
| Religious Studies | 164 | 68.3% | 80.5% | 94.5% | 100.0% |
| Spanish | 44 | 93.2% | 100% | 100% | 100% |
| Sport | 26 | 53.8% | 73.1% | 100% | 100% |



Admissions 2023-24 and Leavers Destinations 2023-24

- 2024 – Approved Admission – 141

| Intake for 2024-25 | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
|--------------------|----------|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|--------|-----|-------|-----|
| Band 1 | | Band 2 | | Band 3 | | Band 4 | | Band 5 | | Band 6 | | Total | |
| Applied | Accepted | App | Acc | App | Acc | App | Acc | App | Acc | App | Acc | App | Acc |
| 107 | 107 | 37 | 35 | 28 | 0 | 14 | 0 | 13 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 209 | 142 |

- Leavers Destinations 2024

| Higher Education | Further Education | Employment / Training | Higher Apprenticeship | Gap Year | Total Students |
|------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|----------|----------------|
| 112 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 124 |



Parent Link 2023-2024

- The Parents' Association (Parent Link) continued its' sterling work.
- A member of the group took a Street Art tour in Belfast and the group took the Crumlin Road Gaol Tour
- They organised a summer Cinema night in June, a Fancy Dress Cinema night for Halloween on the 4th October and a Junior Christmas Disco on the 6th December 2023.
- They assisted with the tuck shop at our School Show 'Oliver'.
- A Christmas Wreath Workshop was enjoyed by parents and staff alike on Thursday 5th December 2024.
- Parents assisted as ambassadors at the school Open Day in January. One parent addressed the prospective parents.
- Parent Link also raffled off a widescreen Smart TV to raise funds for the charities associated with the School Bazaar.
- Raffle for First Prize, 'A Night at the Galgorm
- The annual Table Quiz will be on Friday the 4th April in St Gall's Club and always proves to be an excellent fundraiser for school projects.
- Parent Link financed a range of pupil projects and activities throughout the year including:
 - - Breakfast Club; students avail of this every morning
 - - hoodies for the IT trip and the Music trip
 - - a meal for the French trip
 - - money towards the Year 8 panto and Year 8 outdoor pursuits day
 - - new equipment for the all-Ireland winning Camogie team
 - - dresses for the Netball team
 - - donation towards the Boston trip for our Dominican 'Sisters In' students.
 - - donation towards students going to the Albert Schweitzer International Leadership conference in Maynooth.
- They are organising a Crowd-Funding campaign for a new Fitness Suite in the school.
- They completed a survey from the Minister of Education on Free School Meals.
- They assisted our Vice Principal who is reviewing our RSE policy.



Staff Health and Wellbeing

A. Enhance provisions for staff and seek opportunities to improve operations/admin tasks.

1. Staff room – water cooler installed in August 2023 to mains for drinking / refilling bottles as requested in Staff Survey. Potential for new renovations discussed in Feb 2024 meeting.

2. Utilise the library as a quiet space available for staff to use during free periods. Recent staff voice requested more space required for staff to work. Action: standalone computer taken from Maths 6 store and placed in library. Library timetable generated and shared with all staff.

3. Switch from Canon to Calvert. More photocopiers accessible around the school for both staff and pupils. Staff survey highlighted time wasted when accessing computer to print then demand for photocopiers and reliability was a problem. Aim: complete installation by Sept 2023. Action: new system launched in August 2023, staff training delivered by AR, pupil training delivered during Inductions by HOS. Large posters with instructions laminated and pinned at 11 new machines. Old printers removed (parts sold).

4. Update staff on how to access their pension – new online portal. Staff survey suggested staff would like more guidance. AR demonstrated how to access new portal during staff day in August 2023. For individual finances staff referred to several companies to seek advice. EA Well Being Hub newsletters circulated throughout the year – webinars available and further guidance on AVCs etc.

B. Deliver SHWB events throughout the year

1. Produce a workshop of SHWB events that can be delivered during a half-staff day
2. AR planned several workshops as proposed in Staff Survey (e.g. art class, cookery, 5-a-side, hike etc) for after the September 2023 ALC SHWB conference – not enough time available, events planned will be used at a later stage. Due to ASOS, there wasn't any available time during staff days. These planned workshops will be used next year.

3. Staff Well-Being and Team Building events delivered 2023-2024:

Staff Yoga Term 1 and 2

Staff Cookery classes - Dec 2023

Staff Choir - Nov/Dec 2023

Staff Talent Show fundraising for St V de Paul - Dec 2023

Staff 'Battle of the Zumbas' in West and South Belfast - Feb 2024

3. Develop SHWB Policy

Generate Whole Staff HWB Policy – SHWB lead (AR) generated proposed policy and shared with SHWB committee in February 2024. Draft policy circulated for all staff to review. Relevant changes made. Ratified by BOG in June 2024. Policy will be reviewed in 2026.

Staff/Pupil Health and Well-Being Update

- The school is working with EA on the 'Be Well Do Well' scheme (C Thomas leading as part Senior Pathways project). CT delivered training to all staff in February staff day to give an overview of the five-year project.
- Three surveys will be delivered on 'well-being': AR circulated the first survey to parents/carers. Pupil well-being survey will be rolled out in June and August. Staff will be asked for input in June.
- SHWB committee met in February during staff day.
- AR shared proposed SHWB policy with the committee then circulated to all staff for consultation. The policy can now be ratified by the BoG and will be reviewed in two years.
- Staff Yoga continues every Monday – delivered by both an external trainer (Liz) and our own office staff Anne Molloy (CT organises). Liz has delivered several yoga sessions and well-being sessions to pupils during Term 2 (co-ordinated by CT).
- AR ran a staff 'Battle of the Zumbas' – teaching and non-teaching staff joined forces to attend Zumba classes in both North and South Belfast.



Digital Skills for the Future

- IT Provisions/Upgrades:
- Transfer whole school print and photocopying devices from Canon to Calvert's. Wiring/electrics in and delivery of machines early August 2023. Staff update and training delivered during INSET day – 23rd August. Pupils updated and trained on new printing system during August induction days (and/or early Pastoral care session Sept 2023).
- Utilise new software Papercut – bursars office will receive monthly reports on paper usage/wastage, costs per department etc. Outcomes can inform future planning e.g. Eco targets and departmental budgets.
- New large screen, projector etc installed in the Studyhall – Feb 2024.
- Two new machines purchased for the Upper Study and software installed to allow pupils to access specialist software for TD/IT during evening study (Tues and Thurs until 8pm) – March 2024.
- 30 new SDD cards purchased and installed mostly in IT4 to improve the speed of pupil log-in times, which was negatively impacting on teaching and learning (Feb 2024).
- Review of all machines in Term 3 took place to plan for future purchases/school needs.
- Proposal to BOG/Principal for a new IT5 room - replace AppleMacs with a trolley in Music, redesign Media Room to become whole school IT room with ~15 machines (April – June 2024)
- BETT Conference 24th+25th January 2024:
- AR attended the BETT conference in London in January. Over 30,000 people attended from around the globe. During the two days a range of talks, live demonstrations, workshops and networking events gave great insight to the latest digital technology being used in the classrooms. This year there was a huge focus on Artificial Intelligence, which will feature in the school's development plan going forward.



Digital Skills for the Future

- **EdiS Update:**
- PMcM and AR attended the EdiS Roadshow training session in March 2024 at W5.
- Significant time was spent 'Data Cleansing' the current school system (SIMs) from November 2023 to March 2024 – archiving, correcting and deleting old staff/pupil records in preparation for the upcoming transition to Bromcom.
- St Dominic's has volunteered to be a pilot school for the new computer system that will be rolled out across Northern Ireland for all schools. This work is scheduled to commence in in Term 1 Sept-Dec 2024. Staff training will be put in place.
- **Online Parent Teacher Meetings – School Cloud:**
- Recent parent survey outcomes suggested that Parents like a mixture of online and face-to-face PTMs. School Cloud license renewed and continues to be effective software for the Online Parent/Teacher meetings. Staff training delivered to new staff (ongoing).
- **Farmington Scholarship:**
- AR applied in Jan 2024 for a Scholarship for the next academic year. The proposed project title is "Artificial Intelligence and its Moral Compass – Educating Young Minds About the Ethical Principles of EdTech".
- Online interview took place in February 2024 and scholarship awarded. Funding will be provided to cover AR for 30 days research next year (one day a week).
- AR will attend a conference in Oxford (Fri 21st – Sun 23rd June) to meet this year's scholars, then present her own work next June 2025.
- This work will involve liaising with the RE department, the IT department, our Area Learning Community and Down and Connor Catholic Schools Support Service, with the aim of generating lessons to revamp the current Cephass course (KS5 pupils) and also to deliver a joint KS3 RE/IT learning project.



Digital Skills for the Future

- **CyberFirst School:**

- AK and AR attended CyberFirst event in Springvale (May 2024)
- AK, IP and AR met with local Cyberfirst officer (June 2024) to plan for Bronze CyberFirst Award application in Term 1 of upcoming academic year.
- Future opportunities include scholarships for students, staff training and links with businesses.
- Future action planning, with the IT department, will include enhancing Digital Skills Across the Curriculum and Use of Robotics – proposal for purchase of new technology presented to BOG Term 3 2024.

- **Maths and Numeracy**

- St Dominic's continues to chair and host meetings for the ALC Maths and Numeracy group.
- A lot of work has gone into planning two key upcoming events. AR has sought approval and finance from the ALC principals/WBPB and arranged two guest speakers to provide the following training:
- ETI training for Maths HODs/Numeracy Co-ordinators will take place on Tuesday 4th June – Julie Harris (maths ETI specialist will deliver). Area inspector (Wendy) will be invited to attend.
- All maths teachers in the ALC (including Malone College and St Colm's) will be invited to attend a Maths CPD Conference with guest speaker Jo Morgan (from England) on Thursday 29th August 2024. All principals have approved to contribute towards the cost of the workshops (~£150 per school), with the remainder covered by the WBPB.

St Dominic's will host and lead both events.



Digital Skills for the Future

- EA Senior Pathways 2023-24:

- The school continues to be a HUB for the Education Authority. Day 2 and Day 4 of the Senior Pathways training program was hosted in St Dominic's by Vanessa Goucher and A Rainey in Nov 2023 and February 2024.
- AR is a tutor for the course and oversees a group of 10 staff from a range of schools who are delivering school improvement projects.

- Catalyst Schools:

- JM and AR completed training in Term 1
- DM and FMcA got involved at Stage 2 in Term 2 – links with Businesses
- DM and CMcN travelled to Doncaster (April 2024) for a School Learning Journey Experience (all expenses covered) – XP Schoolin Doncaster bases its practices on High-Tech charter schools in the States and has a keen focus on project-based learning. Staff will bring their experiences back to St Dominic's to inform planning for next year.



Departmental Annual Reports 2023-2024



Art and Design : Staff Development and Training

CCEA GCSE (17th October), AS (8th November) and A2 (25th October) Agreement Trial

Better understanding/awareness of the new specification and marking process. Introduction of new resources and ideas to create better teaching and learning.

Visit to the Art Department in Rathmore Grammar School and P Bell.
(Particular focus on the Unit 2 project)
Sharing of best practice for GCSE, AS and A2.

GCSE Moderation and Training
A2 Written component moderation training.
CCEA GCSE
Moderator standardisation Agreement Trial

Moderation of other centres of work



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Art and Design: Initiatives & developments

Google Classroom

- All year groups completed a monthly upload of the work they produced each month into google classroom, creating a digital archive of each candidate work to date. This was then cross moderated by both Teachers in the department and assessed using CCEA assessment matrix. The candidate's received clear, concise, specific and individual feedback on their portfolio of work. This feedback informed their future work and enhance their current work.

Centre Internal Standardisation

- This centre standardised marking to make sure that all candidates at the centre were marked to the same standard. The Head of the Art & Design department was responsible for internal standardisation and can confirm that the practice has taken place. This centre ensures that there was consistent marking, that final internal moderation reflects a single agreed standard for all involved.

Internal standardisation (to ensure, as far as possible that there is uniformity and consistency in the centre's assessments) involved:

- A Mini Agreement Trial, where teachers within the department marked trial pieces of work in conjunction with CCEA assessment criteria, and identified differences in marking standards.
- Five items of work were used from each unit which included the work of top and bottom candidates.



Art and Design: Initiatives & developments

- Discussions about any differences in marking at a departmental training meeting for both Art & Design teachers involved in the assessment. Any significant differences were exchanged collectively to arrive at an agreed common standard.
- Referring back to archive material such as previous work within the centre and examples from CCEA Art & Design agreement trials. This helped to aid comparative judgements.
- CCEA can be confident that the centre's co-ordination of standards has been agreed to produce an overall rank order for each component within each title.
- The teachers within the centre examined and marked candidates work every month to enable them to assess and ensure the Candidates were reaching and exceeding their full potential.

Centre Cross-Moderation

- Before internal assessment, submission of marks to CCEA for GCSE, AS and A2 and the identification of the moderation sample; cross-moderation took place by the teachers in the department, one of whom is trained as a CCEA Art & Design Moderator.
- During the cross-moderating of work, the Centre took the responsibility to ensure that all candidates presented their work in the most appropriate format for the work produced
- This cross-moderation process took place in January, February, March before final submission of marks via ECRS in April and included all work identified for moderation at a Centre. All units were assessed and feedback given to the candidate each time on areas to improve on



Art and Design: Initiatives & developments

Data

- Continue to work towards attaining well above the NI average. We will continue to try to raise the number of Pupils achieving full marks at GCSE, AS and A2 Level. We will continue to let the data speak; inform professional discussion's always to lead improvement.
- The department will complete an analysis of exam results in August and compare with NI GS girls' average.
- Analyse results for individual assessment objectives and identify areas for improvement.
- Consult the Chief examiners and Moderators report and identify areas for development.

Books – Collegial Book discussion

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- The department feel C.B.D is the greatest tool they have for self-evaluation and drives continuous improvement. The department feels it will be important to always have a focus for improvement each time set by HOD and agreed with department Teacher prior to CBD.
- The process took 15 minutes in total without speaking for the first 5 minutes.
- The hope is the evidence speaks for itself.
- The department only discussed learning, and the discussion must be evaluative always referencing quality.
- The department feels this provides a forum that drives continuous improvement.
- HOD Links with Universities
- M Davison continued to contact the Art College and expressed an interest in having a range of Students from different disciplines complete a work placement in the department.
- HOD Meetings and Visits regarding the Specification at GCSE and A-Level.



Art and Design: Initiatives & developments

- M Davison met with P Bell HOD of Art in Rathmore Grammar School after school regularly and discussed her approach to the New Spec at GCSE (Part B in particular) AS and A2 Unit 2.
- This regular contact is invaluable to M Davison as a HOD.
- After School Workshops
- Robert Peters Workshops ran for all Year 11,12,13 and 14 Pupils on various staff days. This offered invaluable printing experience for the Pupils
- Teachers regularly offered experimental workshops outside of class time for all Year 11-14 Pupils.
- Early morning Supervision
- M Davison has been supervising Pupils every morning from 7.45 onwards every day. This enabled senior Pupils to use the facilities, it also gives all Pupils in the department a time slot where they can discuss their work or concerns about their work with M Davison.
- After school Supervision
- B McElwee has been supervising Pupils every evening Monday from 3.30-4.30 This enabled senior Pupils to use the facilities, it also gives all Pupils in the department a time slot where they can discuss their work or concerns about their work.

Exhibition Visits

- Year 11-14 viewed the online True Colours Exhibition during class time in January.
- All Pupils Year 11-14 have attended the RUA exhibition in their free time it is impossible to bring the Pupils there and back within a double period. Both Teachers attended the exhibition together after hours in December.
- Year 13 and 14 also attended current exhibitions and workshops in the Ulster Museum, local gallery's, Belfast Exposed, The Crescent Arts Centre and The Mac after school and on weekends.



Art and Design: Initiatives & developments

Past Pupil Talks and portfolio discussions.

- M Davison contacted a group of her recent past pupils to come in and share best practice with her AS and A2 classes. This was a highly successful workshop and the current pupils really benefitted from this.
- Niamh Hughes (Fine Art) and Tiarna Dougal (Graphic Design) came in separately in term one on three different occasions.
- The past pupils shared their portfolios and new creative processes with the AS and A2 classes. Both Niamh and Tiarna were very generous in sharing planning and projects from their degree course with M Davison. This then informed M Davison's planning and expectation for the A Level classes to incorporate degree standard work. This will be a very helpful activity that M Davison will build on with various past pupils for future years



Art and Design: Successes and Achievements

- Detail and success and achievements (enrichment) within your department here. If you need to use more than one page then please copy this slide retaining the heading.
- Senior work from the department was entered into the Specialist crafts cover competition and the Texaco art competition.
- After school and early morning supervision of the Art rooms ran from September to May for Yr11-14 students.
- Frame Of Mine
- Frame Of Mine, a gallery on the Ormeau Road announced an upcoming exhibition of children's artwork. They requested submissions of original artwork, any medium, any size, including sculptures and 3D pieces from all artists, age under 18.
- The exhibition ran for two weeks in November at Frame of Mine gallery and included a launch event on the 17th November.
- Artworks were judged by a panel of passionate artists and arts professionals, with selected artworks displayed online and on-site at Frame of Mine.
- All of the entries for the Frame of Mine children's art exhibition that were submitted, were selected for display. The standard of work far exceeded expectations of Andrea Foye, the owner of the gallery. It was great to see such talent in the next generation of artists coming through our department.
- The panel awarded prizes for children based on their age group and we are happy to report a number where from St Dominic's Grammar School.
- The following children are overall winners in their age group:
 - Age 14, Lucy Green
 - Age 15, Naoise Notman
 - Age 16, Cara Molloy



Art and Design: Successes and Achievements

Detail and success and achievements (enrichment) within your department here. If you need to use more than one page then please copy this slide retaining the heading.

- These young artists and their parents attended the launch night and received framed certificates and prizes for their efforts.
- Christmas Clonard Credit Union Art competition 2023
- Congratulations to the very talented Aoibhinn McDonnell on receiving an Award in the Christmas Clonard Credit Union Art competition. She was declared winner of the 13s category for her festive submission.



- Naoise Notman Year 14 receiving her award from the Frame of Mine Competition. Naoise painted a portrait of her late Mother. Naoise placed First in her category.



Biology:

Staff Development and Training

- Conor Waters - Certificate in Evidence-Informed Practice 2023-2024.
- Karen Gibson – involved in CCEA marking GCSE and A level.
- Rebecca Rowan and Emma McDonnell – attended ASE conference in W5.
- New member of staff mentored by Conor Waters.
- Conor Waters – attended webinar on ICT in teaching.
- Conor Waters – attended webinar on AI in teaching.

C



Biology:

Initiatives & developments

Key stage 3

- 9ac producing podcasts for the first time on a chosen project in Science.
- Year 10 summer test – updated and made more robust.

Key stage 4

- All notes, past paper questions and assessments updated.
- New single Science course set up for teaching 2024/2025.
- Collaboration between CW and Ms Stewart Donnaghmore re sharing or resources for single award Science.
- Google classrooms updated for all classes.
- Targeted group of pupils for revision classes prior to November exam using Google classroom.
- Booster lessons held for November repeats and online Boosters held before Year 11 and 12 Summer Exams. [C](#)

Key stage 5

- All notes, past paper questions and assessments updated.
- All assessments updated.
- Google classrooms updated for all classes.
- Year 13 spoke to scientists online as part of ‘I’m a Biologist – Get me out of here’.
- Academic mentoring provided for pupils in years 13 and 14.



Biology:

Successes and Achievements

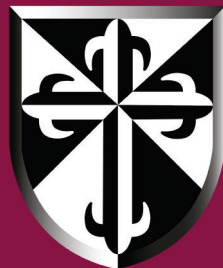
- Belfast Health Trust medical debate - Jenna Ferguson, Isha Deshpande, Hana Hassan and Marianna Garvin recently entered in November 2023
- BT Young Scientist - Congratulation to Jenna Ferguson who recently entered a project for the BT Young Scientist.
- Some of our year 13 Biologists attended a talk from the Pharmaceutical Society for NI in W5 as part of World Pharmacists Day.
- The British Biology Olympiad 2024 - Well done to Oviyaa Sivakumar (Bronze), Anna Neal (Highly commended), Caoimhe Ni Loingsigh (commended) and Jenna Ferguson who all participated.
- DNA competition 2024 Anna Neal recently entered with her essay titled – “Is the human Y-chromosome vanishing in the future?”.
- MiSAC UK Annual Competition 2024 - Well done to Eimear Sheehan Year 12 who entered this competition with a project on leprosy and is eagerly waiting on results.
- Intermediate Biology Olympiad - 155 of our year 10 pupils took part in the challenge. Well done to a considerable number who were commended or highly commended. Particular recognition goes to Eimear Turkington who achieved silver (top 10% of cohort) and Obehi Matthews, Clare Rooney, Erin McGranaghan, Hannah Mailey, and Eve McCann who all achieved bronze (top 15% of cohort).
- Intermediate British Biology Olympiad - 10 of our year 13 pupils completed it and are awaiting on results.
- Virtual work experience – 10 pupils from all years are completing this over the summer. It is provided by the Sanger Institute in Cambridge.
- C Waters accompanied 6 groups to Young innovators in Queens..
- Tiarna McKeown – Sentinus Young Innovator.
- Jenna Ferguson – will be attending the Ulster Gene Editing Academy in Coleraine –August 2024.
- Anna Neal entered the Oxford Science Writing contest on evolution and climate change





Year 13 Biologists attended a talk from the Pharmaceutical Society.

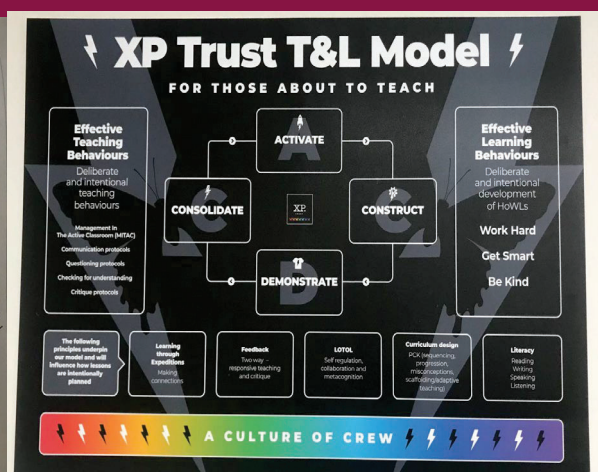
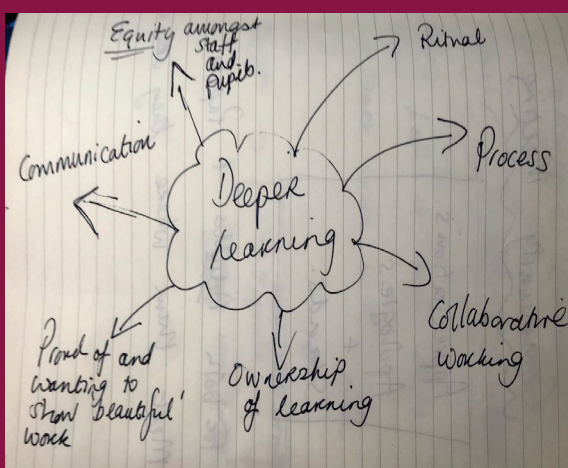
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GRAMMAR SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS

Business Studies: Staff Development and Training

- Agreement Trial for GCE Professional Business Services which will be introduced in September 2024
- CCEA Networking Event to make contacts with industry leaders in the professional business services industry to aid curriculum development
- Deeper learning workshops at Catalyst schools. The purpose of these workshops was to develop strategies to enhance deeper learning competences in the classroom. We were trained in the Co-Designing Schools Toolkit which gave details of 19 learning practices which, at the heart of these classroom strategies, promote equally high outcomes for all students. These workshops focused on how we could implement small experiments called 'hacks' in our classroom to begin shifting our teaching and learning culture.
- Shadow and Share Scheme with Catalyst schools to observe and engage with key leaders in corporate affairs and sustainability at Coca-Cola Hellenic. The purpose of this scheme is to develop deeper understanding of the skills and roles of various industry leaders to share with our students
- Catalyst Schools Learning Journey to Doncaster XP Academy. The purpose of this trip was to observe the curriculum being delivered through learning expeditions which foster the deeper learning skills we aim to encourage in our students. Learning expeditions are cross curricular based projects and we were trained in how XP Academy dissect KS3 and KS4 curriculum to build a scheme of work robust, fit for purpose but enable the curriculum to be delivered through an engaging 'expedition' which the students take ownership of.



Business Studies: Initiatives & developments

Priority One Developing Oracy

- To develop their oracy skills, in term 3, AS students produced revision presentations on Marketing and presented to their peers, but the opportunity did not present itself to deliver to GCSE pupils. HOD will carry this action forward next year to ensure AS present Human Resources revision presentation at the end of term one to Year 12 and Marketing at the end of term 3 before the Year 11 module.

Priority 2 Promoting Industrial Links

- The department continues to make new links with industry leaders to enhance our students' appreciation of the world of work and the deeper learning skills they need to gain to become successful contributors to our economy.

Priority 3 Promoting Business Studies in KS3 and KS4

- The business studies department has continued to work with Year 12 HOY, and Danske Bank to coordinate an introduction to financial education in KS4. Joanne Kane from Danske Bank delivered weekly business/finance taster sessions for each Year 12 class during term one.
- HOD continues to be part of the cross curricular team of teachers to prepare Year 10 for the Shakespeare Festival. D Murphy worked with two Year 10 classes to produce marketing materials to promote the Shakespeare Festival.

Priority 4 Developing Numeracy

- Lunchtime mentoring by A-level students took place across terms two and three for Year 12 pupils which focused on evaluating financial performance and helping pupils gain confidence when using their numeracy skills.



Business Studies: Successes and Achievements

Eve Duncan was awarded an Immerse Education 2024 Essay Competition Scholarship which will enable her to take part in an Immerse summer programme, focusing on academic research and women in leadership. Eve's essay was based on her extensive research on business culture, which is part of the A2 specification.

This year, the business studies department has continued to foster our relationship with the Innovation Factory. The innovation Factory has regenerated the historic Mackie site on the outskirts of Belfast and provides hi-tech workspace and valuable business resources for the expanding entrepreneurial community in the area. On a recent visit, Shane Smith, engagement manager of innovation factory, gave GCSE business studies students an insight into innovation and its importance to Northern Irish economy. He discussed the role of the Innovation Factory in supporting local entrepreneurs.

The department continues to make new links with industry leaders to enhance our students' appreciation of the world of work and the deeper learning skills they need to gain to become successful contributors to our economy.

Business Buddy, Helen Todd, director of People Impact Consulting, gave A-level students a detailed insight into people investment planning which enabled students to further their appreciation of talent acquisition, succession planning as well as employee engagement and well-being.

Local Entrepreneur, owner of Ginger and Berry, Evie Reynolds enriched our GSCE students' knowledge of the curriculum by discussing key entrepreneurial skills and the importance of customer service in business growth.

Angela Wilson, owner of Silver Apples Digital, spoke passionately to our GCSE students about Digital Marketing and gave them a valuable insight into careers in this field.



CEIAG: Staff Development and Training

PeopleHawk

19th October 2023-I attended training sessions with Alister Craig and practiced implementing this training in school.

Alistair Craig carried out a 1 hour introduction and training session for staff; teachers of Y12, Y13 and Y14 careers classes and Year Heads.

Fiona McStay PeopleHawk Schools Forum after school meeting

25th June 2024

15th May 2024

28th March 2024

28th Feb 2024

C

Unifrog – online and in-person training Matthew Lawlor-Jones

Tuesday 25th June 2024 15.45

Wed 19th June 2024 11am-1.00pm In person training

Wed 31 Jan 2024 Northern Ireland regional network meeting 15:45-16:30pm

18th Sept 2023 3.30pm

NISCA Careers teacher Conference

Wed 15th May 2024 All day OM

Thur 23rd Nov 2023 All Day MG

UCAS

UCAS Reference changed format, I informed teaching staff and provided a new template with instructions and examples.

West Belfast Area Learning Community

Attending meetings each term and planning a careers convention



CEIAG: Initiatives & developments

- Developed new schemes to reflect the Gatsby criteria and ETI guidelines
- Assigned Gatsby criteria to all existing paper-based Careers schemes in Y10, 11 & 12.
- Used the Unifrog package to develop a scheme for Y8-10 classes to use digital workbooks where possible.
- Used PeopleHawk (PH) to develop an Interview Skills workshop for the Y13 pupils who are planning to apply to courses that interview applicants.
- Created an Interview Evening for the UCAS Early Applicants including MMI for the Medical applicants
- Used Video Interview software (PH) to develop interview skills for Nursing & Teaching applicants.
- Planned a scheme for incoming Y13 pupils to use PeopleHawk EPIC (Explore, Prepare, Inspire, Connect) software to deliver a careers course.
- UCAS – update the information to staff on the changes to the reference section of the application.



CEIAG: Successes and Achievements

- Guided the Y13/14 through UCAS, CAO and St Mary's applications.
- UCAS- 120 Y14 pupils applied to university via UCAS
- Increased number of Y14 pupils applying for and receiving Higher Level apprenticeships.
- Increased the number of pupils receiving offers for high demand courses, Medicine, Veterinary, Pharmacy.
- Experiences of work- work experience during June, subject specific open days, site visits, virtual work experience using the Speakers for Schools site, Y12 WBALC Careers convention, visiting speakers, job profiles using our software packages.
- All Y12 pupils receive a guidance interview from
- Curriculum subjects have developed and delivered careers objectives following the introduction of careers across the curriculum.



Chemistry: Staff Development and Training

ASE Conference June 2024

Miss N Howell attended the following workshops:

- Cathy McNamee – Head of Science, Sacred Heart Omagh. Engagement and Active Learning at KS3
- Big Impact in Little Chemistry - Dr Rebecca Laye – Royal Society of Chemistry
- Dr Liam O'Hare, QUB, SMART Spaces: A theory, practice and research journey

Miss A Doherty attended the following workshops

- Using AI to help improve a work-life balance. – Huw Thompson, Strangford College.
- An update on the findings from a consultation on the development of inspection. - John Murray – Senior Science Inspector (ETI).

Miss Emma Mc Donnell attended the following workshops:

- Promoting the NI Curriculum in CCEA GCSE Science Qualifications from a Skills Development Perspective – Elaine Lennox – CCEA

Miss A Doherty presented a 1 hr workshop on Retrieval Practice to post-primary science teachers at ASE Conference.



Chemistry:

Staff Development and Training

- Miss N Howell co-ordinated the monthly Yr 8 Science club.
- Miss Howell completed EPD1.
- Dr Francis Weldon, Stem Outreach, Almac presented to Yr 13 and 14 Science pupils on Higher Level Apprenticeships/Placements in October 2023.
- Miss N Howell's Chemistry class took part in a 2-hour workshop on Careers and Counterfeit Cures ran by QUB/RSC in March 2023.
- Miss A Doherty attended online webinar 'Key points to take away from CCEA GCSE Chemistry' in October 2023.
- Miss A Doherty attended online webinar on AI in the Chemistry classroom ran by RSC in June 2024.
- Dr Peter Hoare, Newcastle University ran a 2hour workshop for Yr 14 Chemistry pupils on Spectroscopy in a suitcase in February 2024.
- Miss A Doherty attended a fully funded 2-day course in QUB on Cognitive Science run by RSC in October 2023 and April 2024.
- Miss A Doherty participated in Chartered College Certificate in informed practice course (Nov 2023-June2024).
- Miss A McLaren attended an online course on Chemistry for non-specialists run by STEM Learning in June 2024.
- Miss N Howell took part in CCEA Standardisation Double Award Chemistry Yr 12 in June 2024.
- Miss A Doherty took part in CCEA Standardisation GCE Chemistry and GCSE Double Award Chemistry Yr 11/12 in June 2024.
- Non-specialist teachers and new staff members mentored for delivery of Chemistry curriculums.



Chemistry:

Initiatives & developments

KS3 Year 10 Chemistry

- Carousel Learning used to target pupils on retrieval.
- Set up staff Google classroom with revision resources for KS3 Exam.
- Collated KS3 exam data and worked with B McArdle on suitability of Yr10 pupils into GCSE Science subjects.
- Standardisation of KS3 Chemistry
- Supported new/non-specialist staff in delivery of subject.

GCSE Year 11 and 12 Chemistry / Double Award Chemistry

- Updated GCSE Yr 11 booklets.
- Standardisation of mock exams within department.
- Targeted a group of Yr 12 pupils for revision using GC and classes prior to November exam.
- Presented results analysis of November and February GCSE DA Biology, Chemistry and Physics results to Department/ SLT link.
- Held booster class prior to Yr11 and 2 exams in May/June 2023.
- Prepared Chemistry booklets for delivery of new subject SA Science.

AS/A2 Chemistry

- Support staff in delivery of AS Chemistry.
- Standardisation of mock exams within department.
- Set up academic mentoring for A2 pupils.
- Held revision classes before all AS/A2 exams.
- Prepared revision material using examiner reports and past papers.



Chemistry: Successes and Achievements

Chemistry Olympiad (All Yr14)

Silver

Leah Ferris
Rebecca McConville

Bronze

Aine Doherty
Dervla Crilly McAufield
Hannah Murray
Keeva Todd
Neala Torney
Niamh Gervin

The National Science Thinking Challenge (Yr 11)

Gold

Zoe Griffiths
Srishti Tallur

Silver

Fionnuala Murphy
Ananyaa Rahate

Bronze

Lavanya Agarwal
Lara Brenna
Anna Feli Varghese
Akshara Rakesh



Chemistry: Successes and Achievements

The Chemistry department represented in the following:

- Chemistry at Work-QUB November 2023
- Miss Howell accompanied GCSE Yr12 Chemistry class.
- Anna Burns, Yr 14 entered the Chemistry Olympiad Ireland in February 2024
- Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) Top of The Bench Competition March 2024
- Evie Dawson Yr 12, Fionnuala Murphy Yr 11, Laura Rytko and Noor Vandierendonck Yr 10 accompanied by Miss A Doherty
- RSC Salters' Discovery Day May 2024
- Yr 10 pupils May Connolly, Laura Rytko, Noor Vandierendonck, Niamh McDowell, Stephanie McArdle and Lily-Grace McGibbon accompanied by Miss A Mc Laren
- RSC Schools' Analyst Competition June 2024 –internal winning group: Yr 13 pupils Molly Lavery, Simra Omar and Orla Rozanswka.
- Cambridge Chemistry Challenge June 2024 -awaiting results





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GRAMMAR SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS

Citizenship: Staff Development and Training

- **QUB Advisory Council**

Ciarán Crudden and two A level students took part in an advisory council for a QUB research project into teaching and learning in a post-conflict society. The aim was to create a collaborative partnership with educational institutions across NI and review and improve teaching and learning in History.

The advisory council was made up from about 6-10 advisors, including teaching staff, History Teachers Association NI, CCEA, researchers and other educational experts, as well as young people with experience from NI secondary education.

C



Citizenship: Initiatives & developments

Google Classroom

- All resources for staff were made available on google classroom to facilitate sharing of best practice and collaboration within teams. Assessments in junior school were also digitised in a quiz format.

World's Largest Lesson

- The RE department ran the 'world's largest lesson' with an environmental focus.

Assemblies

- Students across the school were encouraged to take control of assemblies by highlighting social action, volunteering, and opportunities across all year groups. Several year 14s interviewed Foodstock, a local social action hub, and presented to younger year groups to follow up on the school's contribution to Foodstock at Christmas. Students also presented on Children in Conflict, Climate Change, and produced a presentation for the school's Open Day.

C

Oxfam – Send My Friend to School

- 10C presented to year 10 as part of their 'Get Creative for Climate Justice' project. Oxfam joined together with 'The Climate Coalition', 'Christian Aid' and 'Send My Friend to School' for Get Creative for Climate Justice! The project took young people's art exhibitions from across 167 schools and presented them to MPs in the Attlee Suite in the Houses of Parliament. They called for climate justice by guiding MPs around the amazing art on display. The exhibition helped amplify young people's voices from within Parliament, as well as raising awareness of the impact of climate change throughout the schools. Students from the School's Eco-Club also helped to deliver aspects of the programme to 10C.



Citizenship: Initiatives & developments

Mock Magistrates

- Katie Tweed and Ciarán Crudden ran the 'Mock Magistrates' programme for the first time between September and April. The students performed exceptionally well on the day and were a credit to the school.

Habitat for Humanity

- A group of ten Year 13 pupils teamed up with students from Friends School Lisburn to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity, providing the cost of a home for a family in the developing world. They took part in a 10km run on St. Patrick's Day as part of this. The three-day programme allowed students to explore issues of poverty, social justice and conflict and see the role they can play in regenerating communities across the globe.

Youth Talks Back

- Active Communities Network's member and Year 14 student Nadia Boudhaim Maguire had the opportunity to be a part of the annual event, 'Youth Talks Back', in partnership with Féile An Phobail. The day involved a panel of young people and 4 local specialists: Chris Quinn (NI Children's Commissioner), Donal Nugent (Founder 'Let's Face it'), Diane McMullan (Belfast Drug and Alcohol Coordination Team) and Ben Johnston ('Alternatives' Programme). The panel focused on the issues young people face in our community; mental health, vapes and alcohol, drugs, employment and education. They also had the opportunity to network with agencies and representatives from companies such as WorkForce, Catalyst, Common Youth, and Shankill Women's Centre.

COP 28

- About 100 pupils from 30 schools became world leaders for the day at the mock COP28 event in Belfast. Students from Eco Club represented the school and were interviewed by BBC News.



Citizenship: Initiatives & developments

COP 28

About 100 pupils from 30 schools became world leaders for the day at the mock COP28 event in Belfast. Students from Eco Club represented the school and were interviewed by BBC News.

Arabic Day

We were delighted to host an Arabic Culture Day on Friday 21st June. Our students and staff were treated to a wide range of workshops on Arabic culture from language to dance, art, music, fashion and much more. The day was funded by Qatar Foundation International and Paul Maskey MP attended the proceedings.



Citizenship: Successes and Achievements

Mock Magistrates

Students from across year 10 participated in the Mock Magistrates competition, finishing 2nd place in the NI heats and losing out by just one point. The students were a credit to the school, with several finishing on top marks for their role on the day.



Citizenship: Successes and Achievements

Foodstock

Several of our Year 14s interviewed Paul Doherty from Foodstock about his work and the impact of the school's donations before Christmas. Paul revealed that the school's efforts helped over 40 families to get through the Christmas period – providing toys, food, and support through the community hub in Andersonstown. Scarlett Murray, Brenna McElvenna and Dervla Crilly McAufield spoke to Paul during his collection at Christmas but have followed up by presenting to different year groups at assembly to highlight the need that exists in our community throughout the year and advertise ongoing volunteering opportunities in the centre.



Computing: Staff Development and Training

- Using Artificial Intelligence in Education - (AK)
- EPD1 Using ICT for classroom and time management - (AK)
- CCEA GCE Digital Technology and Software Systems Development Agreement Trials - (AK & IP)
- Cyber First Schools conference - (AK)
- CCEA Moderators Meeting for GCE Digital Technology Controlled Assessment (Saturday 18th May 2024) - (GM)
- CCEA Examiners' Meeting for GCE Digital Technology AS2 Paper (Tuesday 4th June 2024) - (GM)
- CCEA GCE Digital Technology Agreement Trial - (GM & IP)
- CCEA GCSE Digital Technology Agreement Trial - (IP)
- New permanent member of staff hired to add more expertise to the department



Computing: Initiatives & developments

- Collaboration with industry for post 16 careers talks (Kainos)
- QUB training for year 13 students to facilitate year 8 Micro:Bit club
- KS3 Programming competitions (igloocode & CyberFirst)
- Non-teaching days used for coursework clinics (year 13 and 14)
- Past pupil university talks for year 13 and 14 IT students
- Launch of new A-Level (SSD) with an excellent first year with controlled assessment
- Working collaboratively with principal moderator for the new A-Level to ensure high quality experiences, teaching and learning
- Upgrading of IT4 to combat slow login times
- QUB trip with Maths to “Girls into Electronics” with year 11 pupils



Computing: Successes and Achievements

- Increase in participation of Igloo Code Competition from year 10 students
- Increase in participation of CyberFirst programming competition from year 9 students
- 14 student receiving a full scholarship to study computing in USA (Nadia Boudhaim Maguire)
- Maintaining GCSE numbers with the incoming year group



Drama Department: Staff Development and Training

- **Post Qualifying Leadership (PQL)**
Stranmillis University College
A Braniff and C Cauley completed the following 4 units of the PQL .
Unit 1: Developing Resilience and Supporting Wellbeing as a leader
Unit 2: Coaching and Mentoring for Performance Improvement
Unit 3: Management Skills Training (Strategic Leadership)
Unit 4: Management Skills Training (Operational Leadership)
- **Chartered College of Teaching**
A Braniff and C Cauley - Research module
- **CCEA Examiner**
C Cauley was employed as a CCEA Examiner for the following GCSE :
 - Devised module
 - Written paper
- **WJEC**
C Cauley was appointed Team Leader for the A Level WJEC practical module



Drama Department: Initiatives & developments

Drama Practicals – AS, A2 and GCSE

- ❖ The A2 showcase of 6 Devised performances and 12 duologues took place on the 29th February for the visiting examiner. The Drama department invited the parents to the evening performance, and it was very successful.
- ❖ The AS showcase took place on the 20th March and students performed extracts from *Decky does a Bronco*, *39 Steps*, *Pygmalion* and *Blithe Spirit*. The standard was extremely high with all students achieving in the top band.
- ❖ The GCSE students showcased their work over two days performing their Scripted performances. Year 10 pupils were invited to the moderation to encourage uptake at GCSE. The GCSE external moderation took place on the 5th March.
- ❖ After school rehearsals took place in Term 2 to prepare the students for their practical exams and this resulted in the students achieving so highly in their practical exams.

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Bruiser Workshop

- ❖ Lisa May took the A2 Drama students for a Physical Theatre workshop in Term 1 to help with their understanding of the Bruiser style. The workshop was highly effective with the students learning from a professional director. This aided the students in their practical performance and within their coursework.

Lighting Workshop

- ❖ Lisa May took the A2 Drama students for a Physical Theatre workshop on the 7th October to help with their understanding of the Bruiser style. The workshop was highly effective with the students learning from a professional director. This aided the students in their practical performance and within their coursework.



Drama Department:

Shakespeare Festival

- ❖ Year 10 pupils took part in *The Shakespeare Festival* on Wednesday the 14th June in the Study Hall. (The timetable was collapsed on the 12th and 13st June to allow for collaboration with teachers of English, Drama, Art, Media and ICT) The festival as always was a huge success and the adjudicator this year was Maureen Boyle.

Theatre Visits

- ❖ Mirror Ball – The Lyric Theatre
- ❖ Teechers – Bruiser Theatre Company (The performance took place in the Little Theatre, and this enabled all senior students to attend.)
- ❖ Cabaret – Playhouse Theatre – London
- ❖ Six – Vaudeville Theatre - London

Theatre trip to London

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- ❖ The theatre trip to London took place from the 27th January to the 29th January. The students had the opportunity to attend dance and drama workshops and watch the West End performances, Cabaret and Six. It was a very successful and enriching trip with the students meeting the lead actor from Six the musical.

Drama Club

- ❖ The Year 8 Drama club took place every Tuesday afternoon.
- ❖ The year 9 and 10 Drama club took place on Thursday afternoon. The Drama club performed at the school's Open Day.



Whole School Initiatives Led:

SistersIN

A Braniff led and developed the SistersIN project this year. The SistersIN Leadership Programme was developed to specifically help sixth form girls build their confidence and broaden their career perspectives.

It delivers:

- Leadership Development Training
- Mentoring from female business leaders
- Job shadowing opportunity
- Project leadership experience
- Leadership masterclasses
- Final presentation by pupils at the Celebration Event

The SistersIN mission is ‘...to enable, empower and develop female pupils in education to become the leaders of tomorrow; to help them discover their full potential & open new possibilities for their professional journeys by building leadership capability and confidence.’

10 students were chosen to be part of this year’s cohort and they have been involved in organising a Science Fair, History Club, Dance Club, Book Drives and raising awareness for the Homeless Welcome Centre.

Ever to Excel

- Aine Braniff led the Ever to Excel programme.
- The Ever to Excel programme invites 2 students to spend a week at Boston College, a premier Jesuit, Catholic university. This is a one of the kind transformative opportunity for A level students. Participants will have the opportunity to discover new interests, deepen their faith and make friends from all over the world.
- Evie Browning and Enya Fitzsimons were the successful applicants.



Eco Co-ordinator: Staff Development and Training

- **COP28 on-line Simulation Training**

J McCartan along with 4 senior students attended a training briefing for the COP28 simulation event facilitated by British Council and QUB prior to the event on Thurs 30 November 2023

- **NGO contacts/meetings**

J McCartan met with Anna Green in November 2023, Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful RE: second green flag application (March 2024) to discuss the Action Plan as part of the project.

J McCartan met with Dawn Patterson, Uylster Wildlife (Bog Meadows) RE: Eco Club volunteering project in Bog Meadows Apr – Jun 2024.

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Eco Co-ordinator: Initiatives & developments

St Dominic's Students attend Mock COP28 event run by QUB and the British Council 30th Nov 2023

- About 100 pupils from 30 schools became world leaders for the day at the mock COP28 event in Belfast. Students from Eco Club represented the school and were interviewed by BBC News. They had the opportunity of taking on the role of Secretariat and Press, whilst other students become world leaders, business representatives and environmental activists and lobbyists. The students linked up with others in Egypt while the United Nations climate summit took place in Dubai. They debated the same issues facing delegates in the United Arab Emirates.
- The students were able to work through the first "global stocktake" of the Paris agreement, which examines efforts made by countries to reduce global warming causing emissions with the aim of keeping global temperatures "well below" 2°C since the pact was signed in 2015.

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It was an amazing active learning experience to take part in a real-life simulation and our students were commended on their participation and enthusiasm by Dr Peter Doran and Dr Amanda Slevin, QUB.



Eco Co-ordinator: Initiatives & developments

Eco Club Google Classroom

- A google classroom was set up for all Eco Club members to communicate and share ideas.

Cross Curricular Work

- Eco Club liaised with Geography, History, TD, HE in the organisation and delivery of St Dominic's Bazaar, Dec 2023 to raise money for those less fortunate than ourselves (awareness of poverty in our community).
- Eco club students created items to be sold and ran their own 'Eco Wrapping station' for wrapping gifts, where they made £30. Eco club students assisted with the 'Oxfam – Send my Friend to School' project by leading 10C and Citizenship.
- Eco Club liaised with SENCO and English Dept. in relation to delivering the global perspective in the Green Flag Application– Refugee Poetry and Making our school a Welcoming Space for all.

Assemblies

- Eco Club students delivered assemblies on keeping our school environment clean and the work of the Eco Club in March and April 2024.



Eco Co-ordinator: Initiatives & developments

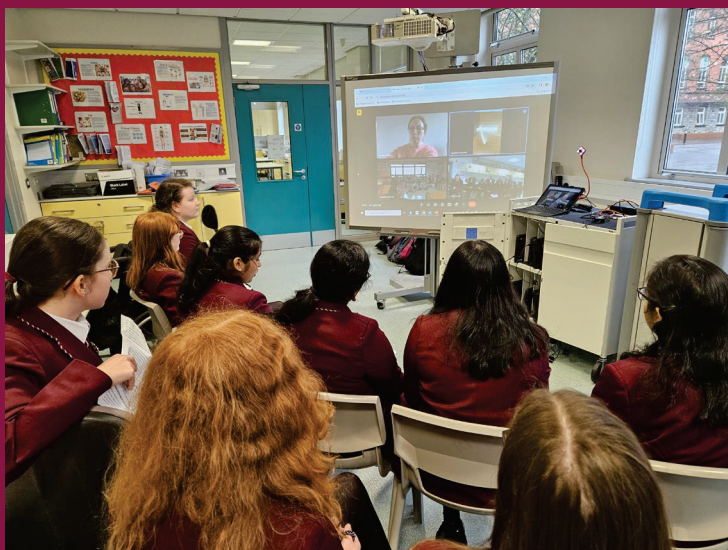


Enhancing Biodiversity in the School Grounds

The Eco Club have been regenerating the willow weave around a tree to the left of the entrance that was begun in 2019, by replacing the posts and creating a new weave. The project was completed in June 2024.

Eco Club host online Conference with Ecole Internationale de Genève, Switzerland

On Wed 27th March members of the Eco Club hosted a 'question and answer' session with primary school students from Ecole Internationale de Genève, Switzerland. The contact was set up by St Dominic's teacher, Mrs Dickson's who is currently on a sabbatical in Switzerland. This is the school her children attend, and her son's class were keen to find out about how to become an Eco school. It was an informative meeting and hopefully a new link the Eco club can foster in the future.



Eco Co-ordinator: Initiatives & developments



Coppicing in Falls Park with Belfast City Council

As part of their on-going commitment to the local environment the October 2023, led by Belfast City Council, where students had the opportunity to assist the council in woodland management, coppicing hazel trees on-site. They cut off branches which were then used to create a 'dead hedge' which serves as a sound and pollution buffer to the adjacent Falls road and provides much needed habitat for insects and small mammals such as hedgehogs. They also cut and decorated some willow discs which are an ideal eco-friendly tree decoration which were sold at the St Dominic's Christmas Bazaar.

Biodiversity Activities



Litterpicking in School Grounds



Eco Co-ordinator: Initiatives & developments



Ulster Wildlife Bog Meadows Volunteering

St Dominic's Eco Club visited Bog Meadows to assist Ulster Wildlife with their wildlife garden. From April to June 2024 the Eco Club participated in an ongoing project.



Eco Co-ordinator :

Successes and Achievements

Green Flag Award

- St Dominic's were successfully awarded their second green flag on 19th June 2024. This award will run for 2 years.
- This programme is very much a whole school effort and for the last two years the focus has been 'Global Perspective', with the smaller strands of 'Climate Action' and 'Biodiversity'. All the work the school is doing on these areas was submitted including: the work conducted with our Newcomer students, Politics in Action/Climate Action, Habitat for Humanity, volunteering as well as all the on-going work of the Eco-Club.



French: Staff Development and Training

CCEA Examination Teams

- H Abraham joined the CCEA GCSE marking team for the Unit 4. R Richards has been on the A2 team for 2 years and we envisage that all members of the department will have undertaken experience in marking with CCEA by June 2025.

New staff

- Miss C Patterson was inducted as a permanent member of the French department.

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French: Initiatives & developments

Cross moderation

Regular cross moderation is now fully embedded into best practice as a French department. R Richards and H Abraham worked together in this area with all exam classes.

GCSE writing – H Abraham and R Richards ensured that there was regular weekly cross-moderation of GCSE extended writing.

AS & A2 speaking – Following February mid-term break, R Richards & H Abraham all undertook to cross moderate AS & A2 students through conducting at least one mock oral examination on a weekly basis.

Booster classes

Booster classes took place in term 3 for all GCSE students, focussing on exam technique in all skill areas.

Past paper revision booklets supplied to exam classes.

AS & A2 conversation classes

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Compulsory extra-curricular conversation classes are offered to all AS & A2 students, which, in the absence of a French assistant, aids our students in building confidence and ability in spoken French. These are funded through Extended Schools.

Links between year groups within department

We try to foster relationships between year groups to create a warm and supportive environment within the department. This year, year 12 students visited Year 10 groups to provide information and encourage uptake at GCSE.

French Trip to Paris January 2025

All initial planning took place for next year's trip to Paris. All spaces have been allocated and deposits received. This is our first trip since Covid and so is incredibly important for the department.

Continued revision of schemes

Revision of Junior schemes has been taking place over the last two years and this year we have honed them to create a scheme that is both accessible to junior students and prepares them well for GCSE. We will continue to reflect upon these. H Abraham has begun revision of A2 Unit 3 scheme.

European Day of Languages

EDL celebrated in class with Year 8s through a breakfast and dress up day.



French: Successes and Achievements

French Club

This year the French club has gone from strength to strength with numbers of year 8 and 9s in attendance being at an all-time high.

Year 13 students have been given an important role in leading this, with the support of H Abraham and C Patterson. The students have prepared activities and led with confidence. This is something we have been delighted to see grow – students taking ownership of their French department and fostering relationships through year groups – this year has been testament to this.

Uptake

This year the French department has the highest number of students over Year 11-12 since prior to Covid – testament and proof that our department continues to grow thrive.

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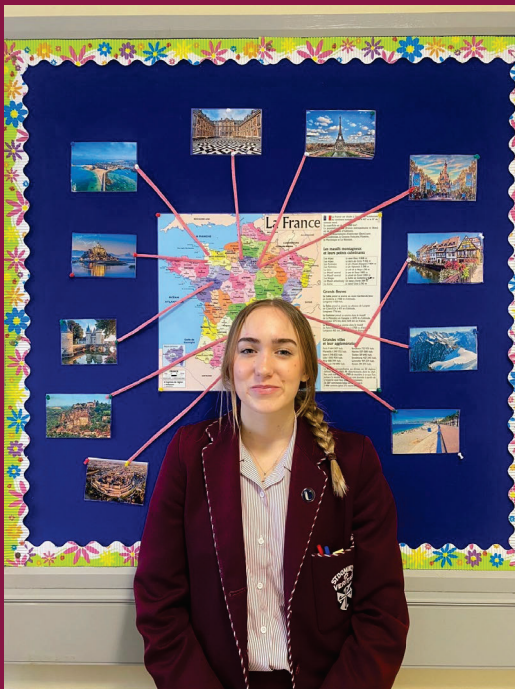
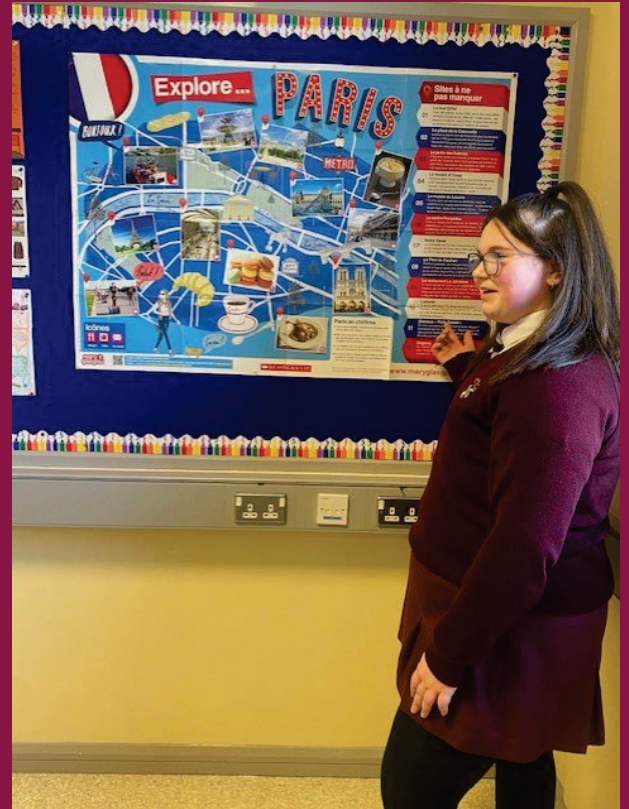
Open Day

Open was a success once again, with our French student ambassadors being exceptionally impressive at engaging with our visitors.

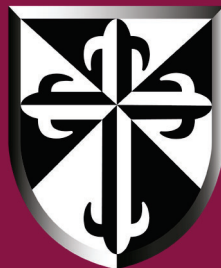
Pelican Programme for Languages

AS student Maria Morton was accepted onto the Pelican Programme through Corpus Christi College.





ST. DOMINIC'S
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GRAMMAR SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS

Geography Department: Staff Development and Training

- Mrs H O' Neill completed a Certificate in Evidence Informed Practice with the Chartered College of Teaching which examined current research in pedagogical methods. Mrs H O'Neill placed her focus on the effective use of collaborative learning in the geography classroom.
- Mrs H O' Neill attended a very informative insight event, hosted by Tourism NI in collaboration with Catalyst, designed to develop links between tourism, hospitality and schools. The geography department now has greater awareness of, and shares with students, the work-experience and career opportunities within the tourism and hospitality industries.
- Mrs H O'Neill and Miss J Fell contributed to St Dominic's teaching and learning working group which was tasked with the development of a new teaching and learning strategy for the school.
- Mrs JM McCartan attended CCEA's Standardisation Meetings for the marking of the AS 1 and AS 3 geography examinations.
- Mrs JM McCartan attended an 'Introduction to Remote Sensing and Earth Observation in the Classroom' facilitated by Queen's University, Belfast. The course will be beneficial to the geography department as some of the activities can be incorporated into lessons at the different key stages.
- Mrs M Rodgers attended the Geographical Association's lectures provided by Queen's University, Belfast which were devised to support the teaching of CCEA's A' Level Geography Specification.



Geography Department: Initiatives & developments

Induction of New Staff Member

- Mrs H O'Neill joined the geography department in September 2023.

Key Stage 3 Geography

- KS3 units of work and resources are reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis to address the ability range within classes and to take account of students' knowledge, interests and current world events.
- Assessments were reviewed and updated to cater for the range of abilities within each year group.

Key Stage 4 Geography

- KS4 booklets, resources and assessment are reviewed and updated throughout the year to provide more interactive materials to develop students' interest, knowledge and understanding of the course content.

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Supporting Learners

- Retrieval practice resources were created and uploaded to Google Classroom to help KS 4 and KS 5 learners to assess their strengths, identify areas for development and so to help them to prepare for their examinations.
- CCEA Analytics data from GCSE, AS and A2 examination units was used with students in their preparation for their summer examinations and to inform assessment throughout the year.
- Throughout the year, an open-door policy operated within the department to ensure that students received the support that they needed.
- In Term 3, booster classes were provided by staff so that students at examination level were supported in their learning .



Geography Department: Initiatives & developments

Learning beyond the Classroom

- Year 8 geography students had an opportunity to develop new friendships with students in other Year 8 classes, and to learn in an informal environment, by participating in the exciting and creative activities of the Geography Club. This club was led by Mrs H O'Neill and took place on Fridays at lunchtime. Activities included creating papier-mâché globes of the world, making model volcanoes which subsequently erupted, quizzes to test and expand their geographical knowledge and understanding of current world events, to name but a few.

Praise and Reward

- To celebrate success and develop positive relationships with parents/guardians, e-Cards are being trialled within the department.

C



Geography Department: Successes and Achievements

Concern Ambassadors

Concern Ambassadors from Year 12 represented Concern by speaking at KS 3 assemblies and engaging in fundraising activities, for example, a 24-hour fast and a Year 8 bake-off. The primary aim of this was to increase students' awareness and understanding of global issues.

Geography Club

Year 8 geography students had an opportunity to develop new friendships with students in other Year 8 classes, and to learn in an informal environment, by participating in the exciting and creative activities of the Geography Club. This club was led by Mrs H O'Neill and took place on Fridays at lunchtime. Activities included creating papier-mâché globes of the world, making model volcanoes which subsequently erupted, quizzes to test and expand their geographical knowledge and understanding of current world events, to name but a few.

Eco Club

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The Eco Club, led by Mrs JM McCartan, continues to thrive with students making a huge difference with their environmental work within the school, the school grounds and in the wider environment/ community. For example, students were involved in litter picks, planting tree seedlings with Belfast City Council, coppicing trees in Falls Park and volunteering with Ulster Wildlife in the Bog Meadows. The Eco Club members were delighted that their commitment and dedication was recognised with the awarding of the second Green Flag in June 2024.

GCSE and AS Fieldwork

Year 12 and Year 13 geography students visited Magilligan Field Centre in October 2023 to complete the fieldwork necessary for their Unit 3 geography examination. This fieldwork experience linked their classroom learning to the real world. Year 12 students measured key river variables to establish the changes in the Curly Burn with distance downstream. Year 13 students examined vegetation succession in the sand dunes at the Umbra Nature Reserve.



Geography Department: Successes and Achievements

Trip to Carlingford Outdoor Adventure Centre

Students in Year 12 and 14 were given the opportunity to participate in activities at Carlingford Outdoor Adventure Centre. The various activities developed self-esteem, geographical skills and students' ability to work as part of a team.

Launch of Trip to Iceland

Mrs JM McCartan launched the Geography Department's trip to Iceland which will take place in September 2025. Year 11 –Year 14 students will visit various sites in Iceland, including the Secret Lagoon, the Lava Centre, Reykjanes Peninsula, the Golden Circle and Iceland's South Coast. This trip will link classroom learning with real world experiences and develop enthusiasm and interest in geography.



Government and Politics: Staff Development and Training

- C Thomas took completed the EA Senior Leadership Pathway course.
- C Thomas examined on two modules, The British Political Process and Political Power. Feedback disseminated to the department.
- CCEA table marking replicated for A-Level mock papers

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Government and Politics: Initiatives & developments

- The Department devised a task list for students that were repeating a module. Previous evidence had shown that regularly revisiting the repeat module in y14 leads to a significant increase in the marks attained.
- The booklets for all four modules were updated to reflect new developments and to refresh the resources.
- C Thomas circulated an 'update document' to raise staff awareness of how political developments since the previous teaching cycle might relate to the subject specification.
- Both C Thomas and D Scott oversaw the transition of students from Mrs Dickson's class into their new classes.
- The 'Level 4' culture was promoted throughout the department. Neither staff no students will be satisfied with work below this level.
- D Scott made extensive use of Google Classroom for collaborative working.



Government and Politics: Successes and Achievements

- The department provides the membership of the Politics in Action Group.
- Two of these students took part in an award winning podcast and a documentary concerning perspectives towards the teaching of History in a divided society. They were also invited to take part in an Advisory Council at QUB on the issue.
- A number of students are also involved in the YMCA Youth in Government programme.
- A number of students spent the afternoon working with Dr Padraic Quirk, Deputy Director of the Social Change Foundation. They examined and discussed the results of the World Values Day survey.



HE and Health and Social Care: Staff Development and Training

- CCEA Agreement Trials (HSc - A2, AS & GCSE)
- CCEA Standardising Meetings (HSc - A2, AS & GCSE)
- CCEA Briefing Meetings (HSc – A2 & GCSE)
- CCEA Assistant Principal Moderator Training
- CCEA Moderator Training
- Engaging with educational research on ‘adaptive teaching’.
- PRSD – Elaine Woods (main focus was delivering effective adaptive teaching and implementing retrieval practice into KS5 curriculum)

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HE and Health and Social Care : Initiatives & developments

- Leading the A2:3 Sharing Good Practice Group (Resource sharing initiative with a number of HSc. Departments across NI including St. Genevieve's (Belfast), St. Catherine's (Armagh), Regent House (Newtownards), Loretto (Omagh) & St Joseph's (Donaghmore)).
- Collaboration with St. Catherine's (Armagh) and St. Joseph's (Donaghmore) on developing the use of retrieval practice resources in A2 & GCSE Health & Social Care.
- Retrieval practice resources were designed and incorporated into the delivery of GCSE & A2 HSc (examination units), to help learners assess their understanding of key topics, and subsequently plan for improvement.
- Provision of A grade exemplar material/examination responses to all KS 4-5 students. This included A* scripts from CCEA.
- Review of 'CCEA Analytics' data from GCSE/AS/A2 examination units to identify 'areas for development' (e.g. AO3 questions, specific topics), this was shared with the department at weekly departmental meeting and additional practice/revision into was incorporated into lesson planning and classroom practice.
- Design of 'Coursework Support' folders, including sharing good practice advice and exemplars, for new teachers of Health & Social Care.
- Target setting, with reviews of progress after each key assessment.
- Open door policy within the department, to provide a support environment and encourage the sharing of good practice across the team.
- Recipes at KS3 were updated, to include more practical cookery and allow for additional skills development.



HE and Health and Social Care: Successes and Achievements

- Two Christmas cookery sessions & an Easter session took place during Terms 1 & 2, these proved to be very popular with our Year 8-10 pupils.
- Parent and Daughter cookery was also re-established in May 2024. This was 2 evening sessions and involved 22 Year 8 pupils and their parents/guardians.

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Photos of Departmental Success



Photos of Departmental Success



Photos of Departmental Success



History:

Staff Development and Training

- Mr Crudden alongside two A Level pupils took part in an advisory council for a QUB research project into teaching and learning in a post-conflict society. The aim was to create a collaborative partnership with educational institutions across NI and review and improve teaching and learning in History.
- The advisory council was made up from about 6-10 advisors, including teaching staff, History Teachers Association NI, CCEA, researchers and other educational experts, as well as young people with experience from NI secondary education.
- Mrs McPeake attended the Teaching Holocaust and Human Behaviour workshop. This two- day workshop was held in Corrymeela. It aimed to empower teachers to support students to develop their empathetic and critical thinking skills when studying the Holocaust.
- Ms O'Neill was inducted into the History Department, teaching History at Key Stage Three. All History staff gave support, advice and resources during her initial year in the Department.



History: Initiatives & developments

- History Mentoring

The History Department again led a weekly History Mentoring Clinic in which A Level pupils were given support. This proved very popular and helped pupils to improve upon areas of weakness. This happened in conjunction to one-on-one support offered by all teachers within the Department.

- Continued revision of Junior Schemes

Units of work, resources and active methodologies were reviewed to increase challenge, relevance and enjoyment of the subject. Pupils were asked to reflect on experiences of units and these views taken on board for the review of schemes. The Department has also taken into account the changing nature of skills and assessment objectives at GCSE and A Level which we seek to begin to develop in Junior School.

- Booster Classes

Booster classes held by both GCSE and A Level teachers to further reinforce classroom teaching and enhance examination performance.

- Cross Moderation

Cross moderation continued across all Key Stages in the Department.

- Year 10 Shared Education History Project

Through the year 10 History curriculum students from 10D explored a 'shared' history of the events of 1916, studying the Irish experience of WWI, the Battle of the Somme, and the Easter Rising. They travelled to the Corrymeela Community for an overnight residential and the Somme Heritage Centre for an educational visit. Through a programme designed by 'Facing History and Ourselves', the students took part in discussions on identity, diversity and sectarianism.



History: Successes and Achievements

- The Junior History Society continues to thrive. Under the guidance of Mrs Mc Peake, they have worked to help with the Green Christmas Bazaar. They also created beautiful vintage Christmas and Valentine cards.
- The History Department collaborated with the Sister IN leadership programme. Year 13 pupils led a Year 8 History Club. They studied the topic of the Titanic, creating a Titanic display which was used as part of History Open Day display
- The Department continued its collaboration with the Holocaust Education Trust, Ireland. We are hoping to hear testimony from second generation survivors. We had previously hosted Tomi Reichental, a survivor of Bergen Belsen. He has retired his visits following ill health. We have enrolled to be considered for 360 Testimony which is an interactive experience being introduced for pupils to engage with survivor testimony.
- Open Day proved very successful within the Department. A refugee bedroom from the Blitz was recreated to mirror the Year 8 study of the Belfast Blitz and proved popular with all who visited.
- Students in Year 8 took part in a class competition to decorate the best Anderson shelter and make it look as welcoming as possible. Prizes were awarded to the best three in each class, although there were several winners in each class as the standard was so high. Students received beautiful journals and diaries as prizes to encourage them to write about their lives and create evidence for future generations to read.



History: Successes and Achievements



Irish and Gaeilge: Staff Development and Training

CCEA – GCSE Irish

- A Clarke was trained and employed as an examiner for GCSE Irish Reading and Writing.
- Clíodhna McNeill was trained and employed as an examiner for GCSE Irish Writing.

CCEA – GCSE Gaeilge

- A Clarke was trained and employed as a moderator for GCSE Gaeilge Reading and Writing.

CCEA – AS Irish

- A Clarke was trained and employed as an examiner for AS Irish Reading, Translating and Use of Language.

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The Chartered College of Teaching

- Clíodhna McNeill completed a Certificate in Evidence Informed Practice.

XP Academy in Doncaster

- Clíodhna McNeill completed a learning journey with Catalyst Schools

Teaching & Learning

- Clíodhna McNeill helped redesign the School's Teaching and Learning Policy with the Teaching and Learning Group.



Irish and Gaeilge : Staff Development and Training

- **Fulbright**
- Caragh McNeill was successful in her application for this prestigious Foreign Language Teaching Award which is recognised worldwide. This provides her with a professional development opportunity to teach Irish to language students in CUA University, Washington DC, USA. Caragh will also have opportunities to teach, study, develop expertise, skills, and experiences.
- Caragh attended the following training:
- Fulbright FLTA Award Training at Merrion Square Dublin-Background on Fulbright & how to be the best Fulbrighter.
- 2024 FLTA Orientation- hosted virtually by the University of Oregon. The purpose of this orientation was to prepare all FLTAs – regardless of their level of experience – to live, study, and teach in the U.S.
- FLTA Familiarisation Training- What to expect from US students and needs of students.
- Fulbright Communications Training- How to be an ambassador for the Irish language and culture in the USA.
- CUA Familiarisation/ The Catholic University Washington DC- Zoom Call with Head of Department of Modern Languages to discuss and familiarise the current language programme & syllabus
- The Irish Department wishes Caragh the very best of luck as she embarks on this new endeavour.



Irish and Gaeilge : Initiatives & developments

- **Oracy - Scéim na bhFáinní – The Fáinne Scheme:** The Fáinne Scheme continued this academic year with students being entered for Bunteastas, Fáinne Airgid, Meánteastas and Fáinne Óir. Students showed high proficiency with their use of the spoken language.
- **Oracy – Abair** - The Irish Department was delighted to host Abair, the Irish language Public Speaking competition in school this year. One of our Year 13 students took part and was awarded 1st place. The competition also provided all A Level students with the opportunity to immerse themselves in the Irish language for the day as they listened to the speeches.
- **Praise and Reward - Gaeilgeoir na Míosa – Gaeilgeoir of the Month** Gaeilgeoir na Míosa certificates were distributed to all classes each month to celebrate students making an effort to use, or to improve, their Irish.
- **Literacy – Spelling Bee** - Year 8 students took part in a debut Departmental Spelling Bee. Students learned a list of words and had to recall their spelling in front of their peers.
- **Visit from Cairo** - The Irish Department hosted a visit from language expert Dr Heba El Sanhoury. She met with Irish teachers to discuss the teaching of languages and to share best practice.
- **Extra-Curricular – An Cumann Gaelach (Irish Club)** An Cumann Gaelach was held weekly throughout the school year for Year 8 & 9 students. High numbers of students attended the club, and students remained committed all year. An Cumann Gaelach also provided Year 14 students with the opportunity to take a leadership role in delivering the programme of activities.



Department/Area of Responsibility: Initiatives & developments

- **Extra-Curricular – Feis Naomh Doiminic**

Feis Naomh Doiminic was held for the second year this year. The Feis provided a lovely opportunity for students in Years 8-12 to take part in poetry recitals and to showcase their talents in other areas of Irish culture such as music, dance and art. The Feis also gave the A Level students an opportunity to host the event and to fulfil a judging role.

- **Extra-Curricular – Feis Bhéal Feirste**

Feis Bhéal Feirste was back up and running after a 4 year break this year. Students from Years 8-12 prepared conversation and poetry through the medium of Irish and performed in front of other schools in the Belfast area. This was a great opportunity for students to use the spoken language outside of the classroom and to develop their confidence. C

- **Links with the community**

Year 8 & 9 Gaeilge students were very fortunate to be invited to a number of events in the Cultúrlann this year including Irish medium film screenings. It was lovely for them to have a break from GCSE work and to participate in something outside of the classroom.

Year 14 A Level students were also fortunate enough to take part in a series of visits to places in An Cheathrú Ghaeltachta – The Gaeltacht Quarter to gain an insight into the area for their A2 oral discussion.

- **An Ghaeltacht**

The Year 13 Gaeltacht Residential took place in September. Students and teachers spent the weekend in Donegal immersed in Irish language and culture. The weekend was successful in helping Year 13 students to bond with their new classmates too.

A number of students from Years 8-12 have secured a place on a summer Gaeltacht course which will enable them to reinforce their knowledge and understanding of the Irish language.



Irish and Gaeilge : Successes and Achievements

- **Scéim na bhFáinní – The Fáinne Scheme** 79 Year 8 students were awarded their Cúpla Focal badge. 82 Year 9 students were awarded their Fáinne Airgid badge. 8 Year 9/12 students were awarded their Fáinne Óir badge.
- **Abair Public Speaking Competition** - Cuisle Clenaghan, Year 13, was awarded 1st place in Abair. She prepared and delivered a 4-minute presentation on the topic of 'Life as a Twin.' She spoke proficiently through Irish and kept the audience engaged with her humour.
- **Feis Bhéal Feirste** - 18 students from Years 8-12 were placed 1st-3rd at Feis Bhéal Feirste for either poetry or conversation. Due to this success, the school was awarded 2 shields for Best Overall School for Poetry and Best Overall School for Conversation. Méabh MacElhatton, Year 11, was also awarded a cup for Best Overall Student in the Year 11 category.
- **Gael Linn – Tráth na gCeist** - Students in Year 10 were awarded 1st place for their participation in the Gael Linn Irish language quiz.
- **Comhrá '23 – Conversation '23** - Students in Year 13 took part in a global conversation through the medium of Irish. They joined in the conversation online in a bid to sustain the longest ever conversation through Irish.





KS3 Science : Staff Development and Training

- Miss Howell attended Enriching the Curriculum at KS3 through
- STEM Miss Howell, Miss McDonnell, Miss Doherty and Miss Rowan attended an ASEN Conference
- CCEA examiner – K Gibson, D.Gibson, A.Doherty, N.Howell
- Science Club – various members of the department

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KS3 Science :Initiatives & developments

- Booklets for the incoming academic year have been redesigned to match the targets set out in our action plan.
- End of topic tests for all topics this year were developed to provide a range of difficulty. Questions worth higher marks that required extended writing were included. Graph drawing and interpretation alongside at least one numeracy task were added to end of topics tests where possible.
- The summer test also incorporated the above and allowed pupils to face questions which required their critical thought.
- To equip students for GCSE study, appropriate GCSE foundation tier questions were incorporated into assessment resources

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KS3 Science : Successes and Achievements

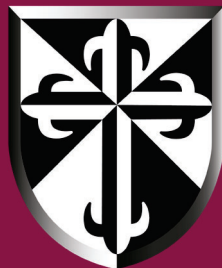
- Miss McLaren ran a science fair with her 2 year 9 groups. The winners were; Margaret Morgan, Jaime Whelan, Ella Monaghan and Abbie Voyle (winners).
- Miss Howell and Miss McDonnell facilitated the Crest Awards for a 2nd year.
- 7 Year 8 pupils will be attending a space camp at Queen's University during the summer.
- Several Science teachers were involved a regular Science club.

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GRAMMAR SCHOOL
 FOR GIRLS

Literacy: Staff Development and Training

- **Poetry in Motion**
D Kelly and F McAuley received training from Shelley Tracey, Community Arts Partnership, on the Poetry in Motion programme that 9C were involved in.
- **WBALC ESF Newcomer Literacy Event**
D Kelly attended a Literacy conference in St Comgall's on 16th May. Presentations and training from Children's Books Ireland and Conway Mill Homework Club.
- **WBALC English/Literacy group meetings in De La Salle College** throughout the year. (Focus on Literacy Support in writing). F McAuley and D Kelly attended meetings to discuss and build on Literacy objectives and delivery of good shared practice.
- **EA Dyslexia awareness training for Classroom Assistants.**
- **Training on educational research: 'adaptive teaching'.**



Literacy: Initiatives & Developments

- Two designated days each week for Literacy Support at KS3. Timetable is adapted and amended following assessment of student needs on an on-going basis. The Literacy Support teacher is protected from cover (except in exceptional circumstances).
- Literacy Support utilises ICT to support learning and skill development.
- Weekly reports from LS teacher on teaching and learning during each LS session.
- DK provided training and resourcing for two Sixth Form mentors.
- Literacy aids such as coloured overlays and reading rulers have been expanded to more KS3 pupils.
- Sixth form mentors were selected to support KS3 pupils.
- The Bridge Project workshop was held with year 13 pupils. (Improving academic writing at A Level with Sheena Wilkinson 19th and 20th September 2023).
- Global-themed books for students were purchased to promote DEI.
- The Intercultural Educational Service produced bilingual Arabic/English stories which were used with pupils at KS3.
- WBALC Cluster Group meetings focused on a shared Literacy Objective, Literacy Support with Writing. Good practice templates were shared and used to produce writing scaffolds for adaptive teaching support.
- Bilingual dictionaries were given to pupils who speak Somali, Arabic and Yoruba for use in class, at home and in some exams.
- Reading for pleasure: the Booktrust Bookbuzz Reading Programme was rolled out for Year 8 pupils. Sets of selected novels were purchased and rotated around the Year 8 form classes (Sept 2023-June 2024). This helped develop literacy skills across the curriculum.
- Sixth Form Library/English Prefects promoted reading and library use by junior pupils.
- A trip to Waterstones was arranged for Year 13 pupils to research and purchase coursework texts in advance of A2 and for wider reading.



Literacy: Successes and Achievements

- Successful launch of the Library. All junior pupils have a timetabled slot during English class to go to the Library.
- Purchase of bean bags and rugs. Repurposing of parts of the Library and improvement of the space.
- Harry Potter Competition in the Library. Guest speaker invited and prizes awarded.
- World Book Day . Class activities, displays, whole-school book box borrowing by some teachers across the curriculum.
- The Book Bag project and displays (Year 8 pupils – Term 2).
- World Book Day. Year 8 literacy afternoon in the Library.
- Poetry in Motion programme. Four Year 9 poetry workshops with Linda Hutchinson.
- ‘Herstory’ poetry workshop for Year 9 with Niamh McNally (26th September 2023).
- National Poetry Day display based on the 2023 theme of ‘Refuge’. The poem ‘Refuge’ by JJ Bola was used as a basis for a display of other poems on this theme. The poems were displayed for all pupils in a central area. Prefects also presented assemblies on this theme, using the poem to lead their ideas.
- Year 8 internal diary-writing competition based on the novel Wonder. Book prizes given out to winning pupils.
- Junior English Club.
- Shakespeare Festival. Adaptation of plays for performances (Year 10).
- Year 13 Flash Fiction Competition.



Mathematics: Staff Development and Training

- **CCEA Standardisation AS Pure Mathematics** -Brenda Magenis
CCEA Standardisation AS Applied Mathematics - Lizzie McNicholl
- St Mary's University College - 14th May - '**Assessment and Problem Solving in Numeracy**'
- Leah Hunt, Meabh Cassidy and Emma McDonnell
- Thrive webinar - '**Supporting SEN: Your strategies for Inclusive Classroom Practice**'
- Emma McDonnell
- **Staff Learning and Teaching Group**
- Leah Hunt, Meabh Cassidy and Andrea Rainey
- **Chartered Teacher Status**
- Leah Hunt and Meabh Cassidy
- **Participation in WBALC**
- Leah Hunt, Meabh Cassidy and Andrea Rainey



Mathematics: Initiatives & developments

Year 10

Adapted teaching style/methodology/techniques/resources used of Year 10 content to cater to ability of classes due to streaming.

Monthly Mathematics Task

Meabh Cassidy co – ordinated a Mathematics task each month with a winner receiving a prize.

Year 13 Learner to Leader

Year 13 Mathematics students used their mathematical skills to help junior school pupils in their free periods co –ordinated by the Numeracy Co – Ordinator Meabh Cassidy.

St Pauls Primary School Numeracy Talk

Leah Hunt and Meabh Cassidy delivered a Numeracy talk and activity to the P4 – P7 pupils from St Paul’s Primary School.

Girls in Electronics

10 St. Dominic’s students participated in the ‘Girls in Electronics’ event in collaboration with Queen’s University. This was a joint venture with ICT and teachers Emma McDonnell and Anna Keenan.



Mathematics: Successes and Achievements

- **GCSE November Module Results**
 - 100% A* - B in M4 module.
 - 100% pass rate in Year 12.
- **UKMT Junior:** 6 Silver Winners and 3 Bronze Winners
- **UKMT Intermediate:** 1 Gold Winner, 8 Silver Winners and 9 Bronze Winners
- **UKMT Senior:** 1 Gold Winner, 2 Silver Winners and 6 Bronze Winners
- **Mathematics Olympiad:** 3 Merit Winners



St Dominic's Grammar School - Annual Report of the Board of Governors 2023-2024



Media Studies: Staff Development and Training

- Adobe Express level 1 training

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Media Studies : Initiatives & developments

- Organised and ran Film Club on Thursdays during the year.
- Organised film club trip to the cinema to see 'Inside Out 2'
- Made and published the first St Dominic's podcast.
- Contributed to Shakespeare festival by organising trailers competition

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Media Studies : Successes and Achievements

- Mia Clarke year 13 made a documentary with BFI

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Numeracy: Staff Development and Training

- St. Mary's: Assessment and Problem Solving in Numeracy May 2024
- WBALC Meetings: HOD Maths and Numeracy Co ordinators:
November, February and June
- ETI: Julie Harris new framework for maths and numeracy June 2024

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Numeracy: Initiatives & developments

- Two days a week for Numeracy Support with Numeracy Support Teacher. Timetable was reviewed at key points throughout the year (after November Modules, at the beginning of term two, after results in February and at Easter).
- MC liaised with Numeracy Support teacher to ensure good attendance and engagement from students.
- MC provided training for Y13 mentors who were involved with small group and 1-1 numeracy support.
- Y13 students helped with the running of maths club on a Wednesday afternoon.
- Numeracy support resources were given out to students to include core number, core algebra and core data handling work.
- UKMT competition was run across all year groups:
 - Junior (Y8+9)
 - Intermediate (Y10-12)
 - Senior (Y13+14)
 - Olympiad: offered to A2 students and AS further maths students
- Monthly maths challenge ran each month until study leave started.
- Maths prefect created resources to help develop problem solving skills.



Numeracy: Successes and Achievements

- Launch of monthly maths challenge. Good engagement across a range of year groups throughout term one and two.
- Expansion of numeracy support provision across KS3,4 and 5.
- Over 140 students received numeracy support across the academic year.
- UKMT Maths competitions:
 - Junior: 20 entries
 - 6 silver, 3 bronze
 - Intermediate: 40 entries
 - 1 gold, 8 silver, 9 bronze
 - Senior: 20 entries
 - 1 gold, 2 silver, 6 bronze
 - Olympiad: 4 entries
 - 3 merits
- Introduction of maths prefect: support on open day and organised displays around thinking and problem solving skills.
- National Numeracy Day: a range of classroom activities including careers activities and mental maths games.



Music:

Staff Development and Training

- E Mullen completed Kodály Musicianship Level 4, certified by the CPD certification service, November 2023.
- S McNeill completed CCEA AS Examiner training in April 2024 and acted as a visiting examiner for AS Music Unit 1 in May 2024.

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Music : Initiatives & developments

- The Music Department has performed at/provided music for the following events this year:
 - 23/08/23 - Staff Mass
 - 05/09/23 - Trocaire 50th Anniversary Celebration Event with The Priests -
 - 25/10/23 - Mass for Dedication of Studies
 - 15/11/23 – GCSE Awards Ceremony
 - 18/11/23 – GSOTM Belfast Schools Traditional Music Competition
 - 19/11/23 - SVP Concert at Clonard Monastery
 - 28/11/23 – Mass of Remembrance
 - 18/12/23 – PPU Carol Service
 - 20/12/23 – A-Level Awards Ceremony
 - 13/01/24 – Open Day
 - 21/02/24 – PPU Poetry Evening
 - 03/03/24 – Irish Doctors Orchestra Concert with St. Malachy's Choir – Ulster Hall
 - 07/03/24 – NYCNI Choral Workshop
 - 15/03/24 – Senior Cumann Ceoil visit to Cathedral Nursery School
 - 15/03/24 – Senior Cumann Ceoil at Belfast TradFest - 2 Royal Avenue
 - 27/03/24 – Spring Concert – Ulster Hall
 - 07/05/24 – Leavers' Mass – St. Paul's Church
 - 13/06/24 – Year 8 Mass – St. Paul's Church
 - 25/06/24 – Solemn Novena – Clonard Monastery
 - 25/06/24 – Extracurricular Awards Ceremony
 - 28/06/24 – Staff Mass
-
- A new award for KS3 Musicians – The Doctor Maria Maloney 'Spirit of Music' Award – was donated to the school by Dr Dennis Maloney, and presented to 2 Year 10 pupils (Niamh McDowell, Molly McCaffery) at the Spring Concert. This will be awarded each year to pupils who have contributed extensively to the Music Department at KS3.
 - AS and A2 pupils attended a Lunchtime Recital at the SARC building at QUB to hear a string quartet play music by Beethoven.



Music : Successes and Achievements

- The Senior Cumann Ceoil competed in the GSOTM Belfast Schools Traditional Music Competition and were awarded 1st place for the second year running.
- Many of our singers and instrumentalists competed at music festivals throughout the year and several were awarded with 1st, 2nd and 3rd places in their categories.
- The festivals included: Hollywood Music Festival, Lagan Festival of Speech Drama Art & Song, Belfast Festival of Music Speech and Drama, Larne Music Festival, Derry Feis.
- There were also special awards given to Maddy McCrory (Year 8), Olivia O'Rourke (Year 9), May Connolly (Year 10) and Julia Hegarty (Year 11), at their respective competitions.
- The Music Department delivered another very successful Spring Concert in the Ulster Hall, Belfast, and performed at 3 other high-profile events throughout the year. These included a joint choral performance with the choir from St. Malachy's College, accompanied by The Irish Doctors Orchestra; SVP concert in Clonard Monastery with Malachi Cush, soprano Margaret Keys and Fr. Martin O'Hagan; Trocaire 50th Anniversary Celebration event in Riddel Hall with The Priests and Ruth McGinley - pianist.



Physical Education and Sport: Staff Development and Training

- NI athletics professional development course. Laura Bannon attended a one-day course on athletics events. She was able to share the information with the remaining department members on her return.
- CCEA Standardisation- Marking of Paper 1.
- Yvonne Murphy attended the CCEA standardisation day for the marking of the GCSE paper 1. Through this experience, Yvonne was able to feedback to the remaining department members some of the issues pupils found with aspects of the paper and what was answered well. From this, we were able to look at our own delivery and content and make some adjustments.

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Physical Education and Sport: Initiatives & developments

- **Curricular**

- KS3 and KS4 non exam pupils had access to Patrick Gallagher from Ulster Boxing Association. He attended for 6 weeks and took a number of PE classes through the basics of boxing. Pupils enjoyed this as it was a new experience for almost all and they all engaged well in the classes.
- 'Give it a try' rugby programme. 2 coaches from Ulster rugby attended the school to introduce rugby to a Year 9 class. This was funded through the 'Give it a Try' talent identification programme. From this, pupils that were interested were given information on the nearest club and invited to attend for training.
- A year 8 rounders tournament was planned and delivered in June. This was designed to bring the classes and their tutors together for one last class experience before the end of the term.
- GCSE PE- we restructured the course to allow Year 11 pupils the chance to plan and deliver their event management section of the course. They all ran an event within PE and then completed their orals which will go towards their overall GCSE marks next year.
- The internal moderation was also revised to cover the oral aspect only and the practical activities were all covered throughout the year. This minimised time out of class for both pupils and teachers.

- **Extra-Curricular**

- Ella Fleming, a current Yr13 pupil set up and ran a KS3 dance club. Ella was working towards her Duke of Edinburgh award and also was part of the Sisters IN programme. She advertised and promoted the club herself and ran her club every Thursday after school. She had a group of around 15 pupils who attended on a regular basis. This group produced and performed their own routine for the School Open Day . We were delighted to see one of our own pupils taking on a position of responsibility and leadership within the PE department.
- Ulster Handball have continued to provide coaching to us on a weekly basis to help prepare our teams for the Schools' competitions. Our Minor team were successful and won the Ulster Championship this year.



Physical Education and Sport: Successes and Achievements

This year we have had a vast amount of success across several sporting activities. We have claimed 8 NI/Ulster titles across netball, basketball and handball. The following teams have all represented across their respective leagues:

Netball:

We have taken part in the following competitions this year:

Minor A League and Plate

Minor B League and Plate

Junior A League and Cup

Intermediate A League and Cup

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Senior A League and Plate

This year once again, we have had incredible success with our netball teams.

Our minor teams performed well in their corresponding competitions and the Minor A team won the NI Plate.

Our junior team were also very successful and won the NI Cup. Olivia Mayne, Emily Doherty and Emma Rice all represented the Belfast Region and were successful with this team.



Physical Education and Sport: Successes and Achievements

Our intermediate netball team were very unlucky to lose out in the NI cup competition but came back strong to win the NI league.

Anna Rice, Amelie Annett and Aoibheann Donnelly made the U17 NI team with Aoibheann captaining this team. Anna Rice also was selected onto the NI U21 team- a fantastic achievement for a 15-year-old.

Jemima Watson made the NI U17 Development Squad.

Our senior netball team won the Div 2 NI League this year and were very unlucky to miss out on the Div 1 final, as we lost to eventual winner OLSPCK.

Netball continues to grow within the school, and we are extremely lucky to have the support and coaching from Laura Lovett.

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Basketball

Competition entered:

All Ireland School Leagues beginning in the North-East Region

U19's

U16's

Junior

Minors

Year 9&10:

Cleveland NI Competition

Year 8 entered the following competitions:

Cleveland NI Blitz x2

Vince Halloran Cup



Physical Education and Sport : Successes and Achievements

The u19, Junior and Minor teams all won the North Region Basketball competitions. They all progressed to the All-Ireland Series ¼ finals.

This was a great success at it was our first time playing 'B' grade basketball and our minor and junior teams lost out by one score!

Year 8's

Unable to play in the school leagues have competed in the Cleveland Blitz- they finished first in one tournament and 2nd in the other.

International Honours

Aoibheann Donnelly was selected to represent Ireland U16- Captaining this team.

Aoibheann and Roisin Quinn were both selected for the U17 Northern Team.

Sadhbh Drain and Caitlyn Barr were both selected on to the NI U15 team.

Nina McBride was selected on to the U13 All-star Northern team.

Gaelic Football

Gaelic football continues to grow within the school. The information below outlines the pupils' involvement in Gaelic football this year and the successes we have had.

8 Gaelic teams representing 23/24 in schools' competitions.

150 pupils playing school Gaelic football.

Year 9 won the first ever Antrim schools' Cup.

2 Year 8 teams entered the development blitz and both teams came back as winners, with both the shield and cup.

4 x Year 9 Gaelfast All Stars

3 x Year 12 QUB Future Stars

1 x Ulster schools All Star

18 x County players



Physical Education and Sport : Successes and Achievements

Camogie

Y8: Won the Celine McAteer Shield

U14: Beaten by 1 point Ulster SF

U16: Reached final of Medallion Shield

Reached SF of Ulster 7s

U19: Competed in the group stages of the U19 League.

Maeve Devlin-QUB Future Star

Antrim:

Intermediate senior: Isla Annett, Ciara Maguire, Dervla McAufield

Minor: Dervla McAufield, Maeve Devlin

U16: Cara Lynch, Fionnuala Baker, Amelie Annett, Aoife Fitzsimons, Roise McCourt, Amy Gault, Erin Kelly

U14:Orlagh Abram

Handball

One wall

With the supply of a coach from Ulster Handball, we ran a successful handball club this year. 2 teams participated in the Ulster finals with one team being crowned Ulster Champions- Nina McBride, Cara Garland, Daire Fegan and Katie Clarke (yr8).

Athletics

A group of pupils attended the District Cross-Country event. This club was taken on this year by Aidan Doyle and was a very welcomed addition to the Extra-curricular calendar.

Waterpolo

No schools' water polo competitions took place this year. This was disappointing as we had previous success. This will continue to be looked at as and when the competitions arise.

Polly Short represented the Irish U17 team.

Polly Short and Kathryn Reynolds- Ulster U17 team

Maria McAree- Ulster U15 team



Physical Education and Sport : Successes and Achievements

Soccer

Sophie Gargan was selected for the NI U19 Team and signed for Linfield FC.

Holly Hilton and Sophie Glover-Monaghan were selected for the NI U15 team.

D Cassidy and L Bannon took 2 teams (Yr.8/9 and Yr.10/11) to the Electric Ireland blitz day.

Plans are in place already for September to set up a new school football club and Mr Linden has agreed to taking this club.

Dance Club- Ella Fleming continued to run her weekly dance club. This attracted a dedicated group of pupils who enjoyed the experience offered by Ella. It is great to see our pupils stepping up to help at our after-school sports. This group performed at the School Open day in January.

Sports Day

Sports Day once again was a great success. All KS3 pupils attended and had a great day at Mary Peter's Track. A group of staff and Yr. 11 GCSE PE students were also involved in the running of the day which made it a success.

We also have a wide range of other pupils competing in sporting competitions outside of the school environment who have achieved success at the highest level. We would like to recognise their efforts and discipline in relation to their sport.

I would like to put on record my thanks to all the staff who have given up their time this year to help with our sports teams. Our sports can only continue to thrive if we have staff willing to invest in them.

Mrs Bannon- Gaelic Football

Ms Murphy- Basketball

Ms McAuley- Basketball

Mrs Cassidy- Netball

Miss Cassidy- Camogie

Miss Woods- Camogie

Miss Fleming- Gaelic Football

Mr Linden- Yr. 8 Gaelic Football





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AND AMAZING SUPPORT
TOO!!!



Physics: Staff Development and Training

PeopleHawk

Fischer Family Trust

Catalyst

Tooled Up Education

Magenta Principles

CCEA Examiner GCSE Physics

CCEA Examiner A-Level Physics

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Physics: Initiatives & developments

- Practical investigations and theory embedded throughout the KS5 schemes of work to promote links between Unit 1/2 and the practical Unit 3. Experience of carrying out the practicals to improve confidence going into the Unit 3A, where pupils often feel high levels of pressure to perform on the given day. Practical based questions included in assessments with emphasis on graph work and significant figures.
- All GCSE and A-Level resources updated and improved to include the relevant past papers and links to the most up to date specifications.
- Google Classroom resources updated and improved to promote independent learning and provide a suitable communication link between student and teachers.
- Reshuffling of teaching order to provide maximum impact with available practical equipment. All practical equipment ordered through technician. Technician to manage orders, classroom setup and availability.
- Improved process and timetable for GCSE Physics and GCSE Double Award Science Unit 3: Practical Skills to provide minimal disruption to students' learning and to ensure all students are fully prepared for the exam.
- Standardisation and moderation of all major assessments, with emphasis on the mocks in December/January and the Key Stage 3 exam in April.
- Improved evaluation and target setting for pupils immediately following receipt of their results in the mocks and Key Stage 3 exam.
- Booster classes for November module and for the Summer exam series. Academic mentoring for KS5 pupils throughout the year.
- Development of link with National Space Academy which led to a fully ESA funded masterclass being delivered to two year 10 classes and places in the year 8 and year 12 Summer Space Camps.
- Common year 10 Revision List produced for all year 10 students to ensure they go into the exam with confidence and fully prepared.
- Continued weekly meetings between the Science Heads of Department and SLT link to monitor, evaluate and review. Analysis of Key Stage 3 results to ensure pupils choose the correct path for them for GCSE.
- Preparation for the introduction of GCSE Single Award Science.



Physics: Successes and Achievements

KS3 National Space Academy Junior Space Camp

KS3 National Space Academy Space to Learn Masterclasses

KS4 National Space Academy Senior Space Camp

KS4 Science at Queens Event

KS5 Physics Olympiad

KS5 Liverpool John Moore Summer School

KS5 'Experience Physics @QUB' event

KS5 Sutton Trust Summer Schools

KS5 Sutton Trust USA Programme

KS5 Sentinus Research Academy

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KS5 Nuffield Research Placements

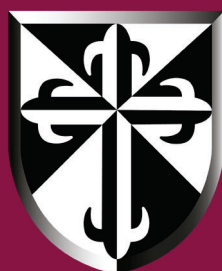
KS5 Generation Innovation Work Experience Programme

KS5 QUB Physics Work Experience





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GRAMMAR SCHOOL
FOR GIRLS

Psychology: Staff Development and Training

AQA Team Leader Standardisation Meeting -28th May 2024

Association for Psychology Teachers Annual Conference (QUB) - 18th June 2024

AQA Psychology: The Teacher's Conference (Manchester) - 1st July 2024

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Psychology: Initiatives & developments

I provided support and guidance to two schools who are setting up new Psychology Departments.

I delivered CPD to other Psychology teachers at the Association for Psychology Teachers at Queen's University, Belfast at the Teacher's Annual CPD event.

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Religious Studies: Staff Development and Training

- Microsoft training (WE school initiative)
 - o Fostering a growth mindset
 - o AI for educators
 - o Supporting SEL
 - Take 5 programme research
 - Holocaust Trust – why is genocide a contemporary issue?
 - UNESCO Transforming Education - Creative Problem-Solving workshop (2hour)
 - WLL teacher/coordinator training
 - Concern Video competition online training
 - 5th HMD Holocaust Trust zoom meeting access to 2023/4 new resources.
-
- Turning Failure into Growth – Growth mindset for pupils (Education +)
-
- CCEA online marking training for 2024 Series
-
- EA session 'Using AI in schools.
-
- CCEA Summer 2024 Briefing



Religious Studies : Initiatives & developments

- “Why study RE?” presentation for parents of pupils from different faith backgrounds. P Mc Master – year 8 induction.
- Launch of the Year 13 and Year 14 Cephass programmes
- Design of the new Welcome Unit / introduction to Catholic faith Yr8
- Updating of year 11 Philosophy booklets.
- Updating of year 12 Ethics booklets.
- Editing of AS Ethics and Philosophy booklets (in light of new data)
- GCSE Year 11 Ethics module high achievers recognised (certificates & badges)
- Termly oratory visits with junior pupils.
- Ethics video competition launch (4 teams entered)
- Concern debate launch (open to all year 12s)
- Love for life talks years 9, 11 and 12.
- Retreats for year 8, 9 and 10 – De La Salle pastoral centre.
- New KS3 RE Positivity and Award certificates
- Launch of the Columbanus Writing Competition (13-18 years old)
- November prayers for the dead – Oratory – weekly liturgy.
- New Advent Liturgy, KS3 pupils
- Christmas hampers coordinated by the RE dept.
- Foodbank toy collection coordinated by the RE dept.
- World’s Largest Lesson – Human Rights theme, certificates of completion all Year 10
- Period dignity group delivering assemblies to all year groups.
- Delivery of RSE programme to all year 8, 9 and 10 pupils.
- Engagement in “switch of fortnight” scheme – year 9 pupils presented with certificates.
- Year 10 engaged in world’s largest lesson – certificates given – topic global goals and social justice.
- Coordination of whole school hamper appeal and toy drive.
- Year 11 booster classes
- Year 12 booster classes
- New exam support booklets for years 11 & 12
- New revision support booklets for all Year 8 & 9 pupils



Religious Studies : Successes and Achievements

September

- Year 14 well-being activity (hot chocolate & positive messaging)
- Love for Life Presentations Years 9, 11 and 12
- Pupil Voice activity – 11E attend the interactive Global Goals assembly, UN led.
- St. Dominic's RE representatives attend the Dedication of Studies Mass at Queen's
- "Season of Creation", Clonard liturgy. Dr Rainey with Year 14 volunteers Amy Murray & DiRose Curato

October

- Creative Creations celebrated (web entries, photographs & certificates)

November

- Switch off Fortnight Mission & Award certificates, all Year 9
- RE & Eco Club eco messages (T-shirts display & submissions for competition)
- Celebration of Interfaith Week Years 10 Islam and Year 11 Hinduism (certificates of achievement)

January

- Year 10 Term 1 top scorers awards (certificates & pins)
- Certificates & award pins presented to top achievers Year 11 and 12 winter mock exams.

February

- Year 10 World's Largest Lesson award (familiarity with the Global Goals)
- Year 10 'We completed the Trocaire Challenge' award certificates. (All Yr 10)



Religious Studies : Successes and Achievements

March

- Trocaire Box art competition Year 9s
- Year 14 Cephas journals assessed. Classification awarded and certificates distributed. Year 14 Cephas Awards presented (Commendation, High Commendation & Distinction)
- May
- KS3 test & awards for high achievers Year 10s
- Aya Askar year 9 is a UK winner of the Switch of Fortnight T-shirt, part of our Care for Creation topic. She wins 10 T-shirts printed with her winning design.
- Term 2
- St Dominic's Year 13 Knights of St Columbanus debate team are Irish finalists (Jenna Ferguson, Isha Despande, DiRose Curato).
- Anna McQuillan is placed 3rd in the Columban Missionaries all Ireland essay writing competition on the theme of 'Biodiversity Matters' (winning £150).
- Term3
- Sophia Allely Year 10 is the all-Ireland Winner of Trocaire gamechangers competition.
- Joudi Almohamad Year 10 is an all-Ireland finalist in the Trocaire Gamechangers



SEN:

Staff Development and Training

- Members of the department took part in the following online training courses:
- Tooled up Webinars
- AAIS Post Primary Ausome Peer Training for pupils and teachers
- AAIS Lego based club: Building social skills, one brick at a time
- AAIS Post Primary-Understanding sensory processing and autism
- AAIS Sensory rooms: Recommendations for Post Primary
- AAIS Moving on up
- AAIS Stepping up
- AAIS Post Primary Tier 1 ASD Training
- AAIS Post Primary Tier 2 ASD Training
- Strategies to support pupils with spelling difficulties
- BHSCT Epilepsy Training
- Autism and fussy eating (Parent line NI)
- Understanding ADHD (Open University)
- Strategies to support pupils with working memory difficulties
- EA Dyslexia awareness for classroom assistants
- EA Dyslexia friendly Post Primary Classroom C
- Memory Masterclasses –ALC
- Neurodiversity Week Videos
- Read and Write –exam mode



SEN: Initiatives & developments

- The SEN Department took part in Neurodiversity Celebration Week. A noticeboard was created, Assemblies took place, and a lesson was delivered in pastoral care class on the topic.

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Shared Education: Staff Development and Training

- **QUB Advisory Council**

Ciarán Crudden and two A level students took part in an advisory council for a QUB research project into teaching and learning in a post-conflict society. The aim was to create a collaborative partnership with educational institutions across NI and review and improve teaching and learning in History.

The advisory council was made up from about 6-10 advisors, including teaching staff, History Teachers Association NI, CCEA, researchers and other educational experts, as well as young people with experience from NI secondary education.

C



Shared Education : Initiatives & developments

History Project

Through the year 10 History curriculum students from 10D explored a 'shared' history of the events of 1916, studying the Irish experience of WWI, the Battle of the Somme, and the Easter Rising. They travelled to the Corrymeela Community for an overnight residential and the Somme Heritage Centre for an educational visit. Through a programme designed by 'Facing History and Ourselves', the students took part in discussions on identity, diversity and sectarianism.

Politics in Action

Working with 'Politics in Action', St Dominic's year 13s worked with Friends' School, Lisburn' in an investigation into Stormont reform, legacy and culture in Northern Ireland, and refugee rights. Pupils met with politicians and other key stakeholders to research their topic and presented their findings at Queen's University to the secretary of state, MLAs and other local representatives.

Habitat for Humanity

A group of ten Year 13 pupils teamed up with students from Friends School Lisburn to raise funds for Habitat for Humanity, providing the cost of a home for a family in the developing world. They took part in a 10km run on St. Patrick's Day as part of this. The three-day programme allowed students to explore issues of poverty, social justice and conflict and see the role they can play in regenerating communities across the globe.



Shared Education: Successes and Achievements

Stories of Impact Podcast and Documentary

Two Year 14 students, Bláithín Drain and Scarlett Murray, were interviewed alongside Mr. Crudden and our partners in Friends' School, Lisburn for the 'Stories of Impact' podcast series. Richard Sergay, an American Journalist who has spent most of his career working for ABC news, interviewed the students and teachers about their experience in Shared Education for the podcast, and at a follow up documentary filmed in QUB.

The focus of the interviews was how information is processed in a polarised world and in a post-conflict society. The group were joined by a psychologist from Queen's University to reflect on participation in Politics in Action, as well as the hopes, beliefs, and daily experiences surrounding the political and social divide in the North of Ireland. The podcast episode received over 13000 listens worldwide and was awarded the Hermes Creative Award which recognises outstanding work in the industry, administered by the Association of Marketing and Communication Professionals (AMCP). The short documentary is due to be released this summer.



Shared Education: Successes and Achievements

History Project

Despite challenging funding cuts, we were still able to run the Corrymeela residential, benefiting from around £8000 of funding support from Corrymeela owing to our relationship with the centre, as well as 'Facing History and Ourselves'. The opportunities for building relationships between the pupils and the long-term impact of this part of the programme is a huge success within Shared Education.

Politics in Action

Students were able to present the Secretary of State, Chris Heaton Harris, with a manifesto of their ideas on Stormont reform, legacy and culture in Northern Ireland, and refugee rights. They also had the opportunity to interview local party leaders and MLAs about their chosen topic. Several students signed up to be Politics in Action 'Social Media Ambassadors', taking control of documenting their project for promotion on PIA's social media output.

C



Sociology: Staff Development and Training

- Member of the schools Teaching and Learning working group
- WJEC GCE Sociology webinar: Feedback on summer assessments
- Education Plus webinar 'Empower Educators to Explore the Potential of Artificial Intelligence'
- WJEC A2 Sociology standardisation conference
- Keypoint Educational course 'Aim for Excellence – Leading an Outstanding Sociology Department'

C



Sociology: Initiatives & developments

- Updated year 13 and year 14 schemes of work and resources, developed use of retrieval practice in lessons.
- Held focused revision and booster classes in term 2 and 3.
- Updated assessment schedule.
- Updated subject information on school website, options information.
- Arranged for Year 13 Sociology students to attend the Queens University of Belfast A-Level Sociology conference.
- Made link with Martina Jordan from Restorative Practices who spoke to Year 13 and Year 14 Sociology students about restorative justice.
- Links established with other potential speakers.
- A new Sociology A-Level award 'Harriet Martineau Cup for Sociology'.



Sociology: Successes and Achievements

- Summer 2023 A-Level results



STEM: Staff Development and Training

Catalyst Schools Programme

Andrea Rainey & Jamie Mulholland attended the Catalyst Schools Leaders programme, learning about strategies and methods on how to implement change at all levels within the school

C



STEM: Successes and Achievements

BT Young Scientist Competition:

Ava McGurk student travelled to the RDS in Dublin at the beginning of January to compete in a 550 pupil event at the 60th Year of the exhibition. Ava carried out extensive research into The Invalidation of Emotion through Toxic Positivity. Her research, carried out over a number of months, investigated the suppression of our emotions via 'toxic positive' comments by those around us.

Ava liaised with professors at local universities, as well as the Northern Ireland Commission for Children & Young People (NICCY) as part of her investigation. After a rigorous judging process over 3 days, Ava placed first in her individual age category of Health & Well-Being, as well as picking up one of five 'Gold Partner Awards', winning the overall BT Health & Well-Being award. A huge success from a pupil with a very bright future ahead of her.

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Sentinus Young Innovators:

A number of pupils from Years 11-14 travelled to QUB in October to participate in the Sentinus Young Innovators competition. Eve Kempston, Matt McLean and Rosemary Aby entered the group categories on their research on 'The Rise of Short Form Content'.

In the individual categories, Aamna Rashed investigated 'The Effect of Acid Rain on Plant Growth', Ava McGurk carried out research on 'Can Learned Food Associates help combat Obesity', whilst Tiarna McKeown carried out research into The Aerodynamics of Flight as part of her summer programme with Sentinus. Special congratulations goes to Ava McGurk in 12F for winning 'Best in Overall Science'. A huge congratulations to all the pupils!



STEM: Successes and Achievements

Arkwright Engineering Scholarships:

- A huge congratulations to Cara Dougan 13E who travelled to Edinburgh in October to receive an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship. Following a rigorous selection process including an aptitude test, a portfolio submission and an interview stage, Cara was awarded the prestigious scholarship from the UK wide organisation. The scholarship will be a huge step forward for Cara fulfilling her ambitions of studying engineering at university and pursuing a career in the field. Well done Cara!

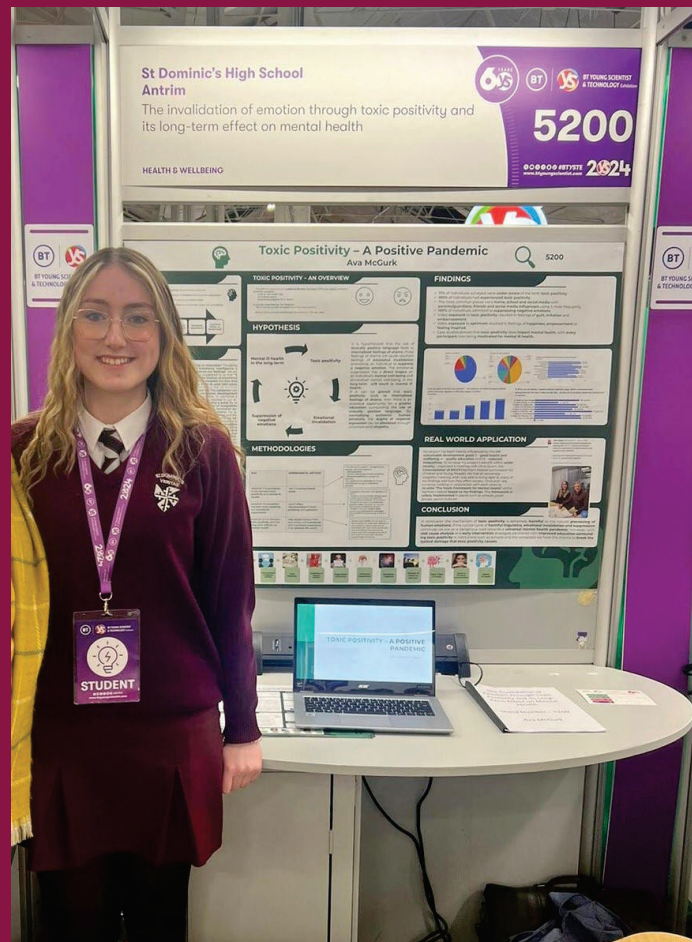
CREST Awards:

- A number of pupils from Years 8 to 14 once again completed their CREST Bronze awards, carrying out research and study into anything they find interesting in science. They got first hand experience and insight into what scientific research is like and gained certificates which will help them significantly with university/job applications

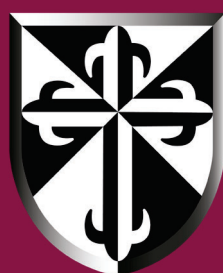
Year 9 Science Fair

- Miss McLaren ran a science fair with her 2 year 9 groups. The winners were; Margaret Morgan, Jaime Whelan, Ella Monaghan and Abbie Voyle (winners).





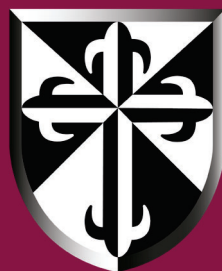
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Technology and Design: Staff Development and Training

- Health and Safety Training - Circular and Band Saws:
October 2023 - K Turner and J Mulholland
- CCEA GCSE ,AS and A2 Agreement Trial
Autumn 2023 Online - K Turner and J Mulholland

Better understanding/awareness of the new specification and marking process. Introduction of new resources and ideas to create better teaching and learning.

- CCEA GCSE Moderation and Training-Moderator Standardisation Agreement Trial .
April 2024 - K Turner

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- Moderation of other centres of work CCEA
May 2024 - K Turner
- St Marys University College student mentoring and guidance through teaching practice. K Turner and J Mulholland assisted and mentored Orlaith Devlin through her teaching practice experience. Jan – March 2024



Technology and Design: Initiatives & developments

Centre Internal Standardisation

Our department used Internal Standardisation marking to assess work at GCSE and AS/A2. Time was dedicated to this for both teachers to mark in accordance with the CCEA guidance.

We can confirm that there was consistent marking across years in the centre and that final internal moderation reflects a single agreed standard for all involved. Internal standardisation (to ensure, as far as possible that there is uniformity and consistency in the centre's assessments.

Coursework Target Setting for GCSE and AS/A2, with reviews of progress after each section of c/w. Teacher feed back and support given.

Continuous assessment of each area for exam – end of unit tests with mentoring, if needed.

Open door policy within the department, to provide a supportive environment and encourage the sharing of good practice across the team.



Technology and Design: Successes and Achievements

- **Christmas bazaar:** Senior pupils making and selling crafts at the Christmas bazaar.
- **Senior Pupils TD Club:** Halloween/Christmas crafts. Initiative led and ran by Year 13 pupils for Year 8s.

Saly Alissa and Grace Nugent, A Level students of Technology and Design, started up their own TD club for Year 8. They ran a series of sessions creating wonderful and exciting crafts like Halloween conker spiders, conker worms and Christmas decorations to mark the Autumn and Winter seasons. They were very organised and directed the Year 8 pupils in a safe and productive manner.

- **IET Faraday Engineering Challenge 2023**

A group of Year 9 pupils took part in the IET Faraday Engineering Challenge. They competed against another school and one of our teams gained top marks across a variety of tough engineering challenges. The winning team from the day was placed onto the UK wide leader board to be confirmed in June. The following girls were the winning team:

Ni Chathail, Saorlaith

Gastar, Ysabella

Marley, Katie

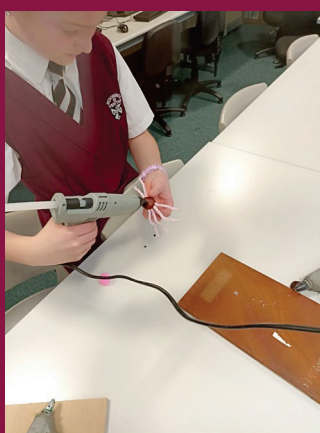
Caldwell, Cara

Moss, Megan

McNamee, Mae

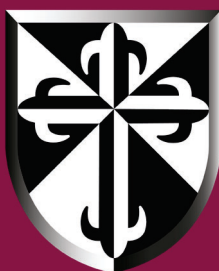


Photos of Departmental Success in Technology and Design



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St Dominic's Grammar School - Annual Report of the Board of
Governors 2023-2024

FOR GIRLS

Photos of Departmental Success in Technology and Design



St Dominic's Grammar School | Annual Report of the Board of Governors 2022-2023





Volunteering & Student Leadership Opportunities



Volunteering

Staff Development and Training

- July, new Olympic Day initiative Get Set for Community Action UK
- Microsoft training (WE school initiative)
 - ✓ Fostering a growth mindset
 - ✓ Promoting social and emotional well-being in educ.
 - ✓ Tech 4 Good – service learning
 - ✓ AI for educators
- Diana Award 2023/4 Leader Training programme
- 'Dirt is Good' Facilitator Training, new 2023/4 programme
- Take 5 Exploratory session with J Brogan Belfast Health Development Unit
- Dirt is Good 2024 Programme Completion training 2024
- Soar Leadership Programme team briefing (Exodus)

9 briefings/information sessions (via zoom & in person) with outside agencies including: -

- #iWill UK,
- The Diana Award team UK,
- Concern Ireland,
- Volunteer Now NI,
- The Dirt is Good team UK,
- Get Set for Community Action UK
- Trocaire N Ireland.

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Volunteering Initiatives & developments 1

5 Structured Teams / Programmes

- Year 13 Diana Award team
- Year 14 Diana Award team
- Dirt is Good KS5 Coaching programme team Year 13s
- Dirt is good KS3 Social action team, one year 8 class
- Concern debate team Year 12 (1 year only)

&

- The Impact Awards (a fluid programme)
- Get Set for Community Action (a fluid programme)

INITIATIVES

- Get Set for Community Action Awards (Champion School Award)
- Trocaire 50 Year Celebration Evening, representing St Dominic's
- Year 12,13 & 14 Impact Awards presented (summer completions)
- Year 12 cohort Diana Award Training & Training Certificates awarded
- Concern debate volunteers Training Day at the Maldron hotel
- Year 13 & 14 Diana Award activities planning, well-being focus 2023/4
- Launch of the St Dominic's 'Acts of Kindness' Award
- Concern team Inter school debates (Series of 3)
- Diana Award Antibullying Assemblies PPs designed & disseminated , Year Heads & Tutor
- Dirt is Good Coach Year 13 Training event joining UK teams (zoom)
- Anti-Bullying Week activities – noticeboard & volunteer present KS3 assemblies (Year 9 & 10)
- Positive Self-Esteem Initiatives e.g. displays, poster competition & the 'Positivitree'
- KS3 Dirt is Good Launch Year 8 & 4 online teams setup
- First Impact Awards signed off & awarded (list of awardees below)
- Training of the new Trocaire Ambassadors (reps across Years 8-13)
- Dirt is Good Coach Completion Training, zoom session



Volunteering

Initiatives & developments 2

- Diana Award Year 13 team portfolio submissions – external end of programme evaluation
- St Dominic's Dirt is Good' Project showcased as good practice to UK schools
- Dirt is Good KS3 Project submissions (4 teams), Completion certificates presented
- Malawi speaker visit (all Year 9s)
- Trocaire Ambassadors Year group assemblies & pupil Ambassador packs presented
- Year 12 Concern workshop at Stormont to celebrate International Women's Day,
- Volunteer Week Activities & celebrations (2 phases - Exam groups and others)
- Year 13 / 14 Diana Award 'Free the Shoulders' badges presented
- Power of Youth Award event (10 pupil awardees) at Belfast Castle
- Soar Leadership programme planning with Exodus team 2025/6
- Olympic Day promoting Olympic Values KS3 groups, Spirit of Sport awards presented
- Eileen Wen to attend Summit of the Future Youth Dialogue.

Ongoing Activities

- Rotating team meetings - Dirt is Good Year 13, 2 Diana Award teams (13 & 14)
- Concern debate team (Term 1 only)
- Monthly updating of the Volunteer Display boards
- Review of Impact award booklets
- Fortnightly school media entries celebrating volunteering
- Fortnightly dissemination of pupil leadership opportunities & competitions (UK & NI schemes).

Development Planned 2024/5

- Soar leadership programme (6 sessions) priority for Year 11s, certified by Stranmillis College
- New 25 hour Impact awards to be offered to all Year groups



Successes and Achievements 1

Belfast Good Community Relations Youth Award

- Nadia Broudhm Maguire 14

Uberheroes Acts of kindness equality award (highly commended)

- Kaila Patterson 12

Knights of St Columbanus 'Honouring the Faith' Award

- Anya Morgan 14

25 hours Impact award (new May 2024)

- Siena Notarantonio 9
- Roise McCourt 11*

50 hours Impact award

- Kaila Patterson 12
- Ella Flemming 13
- Aisling Logan 12 *
- Eimear Mc Cambridge 11 *
- Kerry Ferguson 13 *
- Emily Rogan 13 *
- Erin Magee 11*
- Paige Brennan Collins 11*
- Evie Boyle 11

100 Hour Impact Award

- Hana Hassan
- Kaila Patterson 12
- Karen O'Rourke 11
- Roise Slavin 11*

200 Hour Impact award

- Eric McDonnell 13
- Eve Kempston 12*
- Anna Neal 13 *

*also Power of Youth awardees (Belfast castle)

Year 13 Diana Awardee ('Free the Shoulders' award)

- Caitlin Crookes
- Aoife Doherty
- Caoimhe Ni Longsigh
- Emily Rogan
- Kerry Ferguson
- Jenna Ferguson



Volunteering

Successes and Achievements 2

Dirt is Good KS3 Programme

- 8d 26 pupils Dirt is Good Certificates of Completion (social action programme)

BFI Film Institute extension programme

- Mia Clarke 13

St Dominic's Sports Volunteering

- 31 Year 11 sports leaders/volunteers

St Dominic's Act of Kindness Awards

- Mimi Paige 8
- Aoife Glover
- Sofia Devlin
- Eimear Doherty
- Amelie Donnelly C
- Sarah Hegarty
- Maia McGuigan
- Niamh Wallace
- Sarah McCann 10
- Anna Joy 11
- Rosemary Aby
- Ciara Turkington 12
- Emily Rogan 13
- Lucy Reynolds
- Kerry Ferguson
- Jana Hassan
- Eric McDonnell
- Cara Kane

University of Ulster Discovery Academy Extension Programme awardees

- Kaila Patterson 12
- Maria Morton 13





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Pastoral Care & the Preventative Curriculum



Year 8 Pastoral: Staff Development and Training

- J Fitzsimons : Online Epilepsy Awareness Course (Belfast Health and Social Care Trust. – Completed on 22nd August 2023
- J Fitzsimons : Online CPD – Supporting Young People who Self-harm with Dennis Ougrin - completed on 4th April 2024
- J Fitzsimons : Completion of 4 units out of possible 6 from the Post - qualifying Leadership Programme at Stranmillis University. Units completed:
 - Unit 2: Coaching and Mentoring for Performance Improvement
 - Unit 3: Management Skills Training I (Strategic Management)
 - Unit 4: Management Skills Training II (Operational Leadership)
 - Unit 5: Building a Champion Team in School or College as a Learning Leader
- J Fitzsimons : Completed online training of Chartered College of Teaching and will complete assessment in July.



Year 8 Pastoral: Initiatives & developments

- J Fitzsimons liaised with Tooled Up and started to share weekly newsletters with parents of all year groups through gateway app.
- J Fitzsimons organised a meeting with Year Heads and Heads of School along with founder of Tooled Up Kathy Weston on how to use this resource more efficiently. Planning for further implementation on Tooled Up in progress.
- Signposting parents to resources within Tooled Up
- Pupils of month – photos shared on Facebook
- Use of a new behaviour contract with 2 students and their ongoing friendship issues
- Use of shared document between YH and tutor on Google Drive to communicate and keep a record of important pastoral information.
- Use of Tooled Up resources for individual mentoring – target setting.



Year 8 Pastoral: Successes and Achievements

- Year 8 Student Induction Days on 29th and 30th August 2023
- Year 8 Parent Induction delivered on September 20th 2023
- Gideons Bible visit – 18th September. Each student given own personal Bible
- Translink Safety Bus visit – 27th September 2023
- Halloween Fancy Dress and class dance competition with Year 9 – 6th October
- SVP Hampers and children's gift – Dec 2023
- Ready for Anything resilience programme – 18 Y8 students availed of this 1.5hours weekly for 5 weeks.
- Christmas Pantomime for all Y8 students – Lyric Theatre to see Hansel and Gretel on 12th Dec
- SVP Fundraising – Y8 raised £1175.54 through class fundraising events
- Smashed alcohol awareness workshop for all Y8 – 6th March
- PSNI Road Safety Talk for all Y9 delivered by Noel Teeney on 17th April
- All Y8 students assisted with P6 activity days on 6th and 7th June. 2024
- End of Year Mass for Year 8 Students and parents on 13th June 2024
- Y8 in-house rounders competition organised by PE dept – 14th June 2024
- Y8 Trip to Crawfordsburn Activity Centre – 25th June 2024





Year 10 Pastoral: Staff Development and Training

Catherine Cauley

- WJEC A Level Drama and Theatre Studies Examiners training
- CCEA GCSE Drama – Devised moderation standardisation
- CCEA GCSE Drama – Written paper standardisation
- Child Protection course – GAA
- Coaching training Foundation Level 1
- Chartered College of Teaching – Research module
- All Tooled UP

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Whole School

- M Kennedy SEN and Newcomer training and update August 2023
- Safeguarding training August 2023
- Take 5 Workshop August 2023
- West Belfast ALC *St Louise's* September 2023
- Be Well Doing Well Training March 2024
- Tooled up Training for HoYs March 2024



Year 10 Pastoral: Initiatives & developments

- Mentoring was an important part of supporting the Year 10s. The Head of School, Head of Year and Tutors all mentored a number of students throughout the year.
- We had a real focus on making assemblies more meaningful and working on presentation skills. We reduced the number of assemblies each class had, therefore they had more time to research and prepare for the assemblies.

Mrs Murphy

- Deeper learning workshops at Catalyst schools

The purpose of these workshops was to develop strategies to enhance deeper learning competences in the classroom. We were trained in the Co-Designing Schools Toolkit which gave details of 19 learning practices which, at the heart of these classroom strategies, promote equally high outcomes for all students. These workshops focused on how we could implement small experiments called 'hacks' in our classroom to begin shifting our teaching and learning culture.



Year 10 Pastoral: Successes and Achievements

Fundraising – Trocaire and Saint Vincent de Paul

- Trocaire – Each class organised an event to support Trocaire through a range of innovative activities. There was nearly £1000 raised by the Year 10 team. The activities organised were fun and boosted the moral of the form classes.
- SVdeP Hamper and Toy Appeal
- Assemblies continue to be delivered at every assembly, there was a real focus on presentation skills.
- Continual monitoring of attendance and punctuality. Pupils whose punctuality was causing concern were placed in detention, letters were sent home and regular phone calls. Parents also received letters informing them of our concerns in relation to pupils with poor attendance. EWO involvement when necessary.
- Year 10s were active participants in Open Day and other school events.
- Intervention Progress meetings were carried out after each report. Students were given targets and suggestions by YH or SLT. Support was given and follow ups were carried out.
- All Year 10s took part in the Shakespeare Festival which really saw them work together and boosted their confidence.



Other Achievements

10A won relay race at sports day

2nd place in mock magistrates

Madison Wardlow won 'Stars in Your Eyes' at Rainbow factory

Caitlin McKee part of the Antrim all Ireland winning Gaelic team (u14)

Biology challenge awards

Took part in Spring concert

Shakespeare festival- Anna McQuillan best actress in 10A

10 F won the Shakespeare Festival

Aoife Craig 10F - Cyclist

- *All Ireland National Crit Champion U13*
- *Ulster Cyclo Cross Champion U14*
- *Winner of the Ulster Cyclo Cross League*

Caitlin Barr 10D - Judo

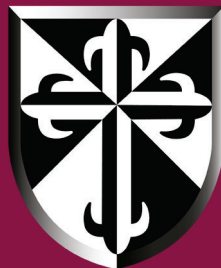
May - Irish Club Championship Silver

March - Irish Interprovincial Championship Gold

Caitlin Barr 10D -

Basketball U15 NI Team

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Year 11 Pastoral: Staff Development and Training

SEN Update August 2023 All staff

Safeguarding Training August 2023 All staff

Be Well Do Well February 2024 All staff

Tooled Up training March 2024 M. Cassidy

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Year 11 Pastoral: Initiatives & developments

September:

Transition: Settling in to KS4/Target setting and study skills.

January:

Y11 students acted as guides and helped in departments at Open Day

February:

Head Girl Team and Y12 students gave a presentation and support on study skills. Every student was provided with a study pack in March ahead of exams.

March:

Y11s organised a staff v students benchball tournament as part of Trócaire fundraising.

May:

Y11 students involved in volunteering for the Air Ambulance at Belfast City Marathon

June:

Y11 Fun Day- students engaged with a range of activities, including rounders, yoga and obstacle courses as part of a 'fun day' after their modules.

Sports Day-GCSE PE classes were involved in helping to organise and run KS3 Sports day.



Year 11 Pastoral: Successes and Achievements

National Scientific Thinking Challenge (9 students placed)

Youth Assembly NI: Paige Brennan Collins and Erin Magee

NI Awards Event (Belfast Castle): Roise Slavin, Eimear McCambridge

County/International Representation in sport:

Aoibheann Donnelly (Ireland Basketball)

Anna Rice, Aoibheann Donnelly, Amelie Annett (Netball NI)

Amelie Annett, Aoife Fitzsimons, Erin Kelly, Amy Gault (Antrim Camogie)

Amelie Annett, Aoife Fitzsimons, Anna Rice, Erin Stewart (Antrim LGFA)

C



Year 12 Pastoral: Staff Development and Training

M Kennedy SEN and Newcomer training and update August 2023

Safeguarding training August 2023

Take 5 Workshop August 2023

West Belfast ALC *St Louise's* September 2023

Be Well Doing Well Training March 2024

Tooled up Training for HoYs March 2024

C



Year 12 Pastoral: Initiatives & developments

Target setting – setting SMART targets for the year ahead – September/ October 2023

Yr 12 Career Convention in St Genevieve's – January 2024

Open Day guides – January 2024

The Rank Scholarship Programme March 2024

Albert Schweitzer Leadership for Life International Residential Conference - Maynooth in July March 2024

Danske Bank money matters – March 2024

Year 12 students provided study skills workshops during pastoral care to Year 11 classes – March 2024.

A booklet was shared on how to approach studying in different subjects by D Scott – March 2024

WBALC Easter School in St Mary's University – April 2024

Air Ambulance Volunteering for Belfast Marathon – May 2024

Exam Anxiety with Liz Welty yoga and wellbeing workshop – May 2024



Year 12 Pastoral: Successes and Achievements

Ava McGurk – BT young scientist award

Kaila Patterson – Highly Commended Equality Award at the Uberheroes 'Acts of Kindess' awards.

Kaila Patterson – University of Ulster awards certificates and pins. She completed an extra-curricular Study skills course with Ulster University's Discovery Academy.

Niamh McAllister, Meabh Devlin and Ciara Murray – QUB Future Stars in Camogie and Gaelic Football.

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Year 13 Pastoral: Staff Development and Training

- Tooled up Education training for Heads of Year and Heads of School.

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Year 13 Pastoral: Initiatives & developments

- Designed and implemented a new year 13 pastoral care scheme of work, influenced by feedback from students in the year group and tutors, including visiting speakers.
- Induction of new members to the year group.
- Induction program in August updated with more student voice.
- Representatives from every class involved in planning the whole year group Trocaire fundraiser.
- Trocaire teaparty fundraiser for the whole year group.
- Year 13 student involvement in assemblies developed through tutor group taking assemblies, giving announcements and promoting events.
- Continuation of pastoral care evaluations.
- Opportunities for involvement and volunteering posted on google classroom and announced at assemblies.



Year 13 Pastoral: Successes and Achievements

- Year 13 Trocaire fundraising – whole year group event and 13D Benchball £532.21
- Emily Rogan, Lucy Reynolds & Kerry Ferguson Marathon run (£2,636 raised for the NI Hospice)
- Jana Hassan (sharing resources)
- Eric McDonnell GAA sports volunteer
- Cara Kane youth group volunteer with children with disabilities (learning, visual and physical)

50 Hour Impact Award

- Emily Rogan - Youth club leadership / social action leader in school
- Kerry Ferguson - Youth club leadership / social action leader in school

100 Hour Impact Award

- Hana Hassan

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200 Hour Impact Award

- Anna Neal – Eco activities
- Eric McDonnell

Diana award Badges Yr13 (Free the Shoulders)

- Caitlin Crookes, Aoife Doherty, Caoimhe Ni Longsigh, Emily Rogan, Kerry Ferguson, Jenna Ferguson

BFI Film Institute extension programme

- Mia Clarke

University of Ulster Discovery Academy Extension Programme awardees

- Maria Morton, Jenna Ferguson

University of Cambridge Corpus Christi Modern Languages (French & Spanish) Pelican Programme

- Maria Morton



Year 13 Pastoral: Successes and Achievements

Clonard Volunteers

- Anna Neal Summer volunteer

Habitat for Humanity team

- Aingeall Lambatan, Eve McNamee, Eve Conlon, Maria Casey, Orla Rozanska, Cara Molloy, Anna Christy, Clodagh Mallon, Niamh Gettings, Erin Rice

SistersIN

- Eva Miliken, Maria Casey, Caitlin Crookes, Molly Lavery, Eimear Drain, Caitlin Brennan, Jenna Ferguson, Mia Clarke, Eireann Mc Alesse, Ella Fleming

Shared Education, Politics in Action

- Mia Clarke, Eva Trainor, Annabelle French, Cara McTaggart, Beth Aspin, Fiounnuala Cullen, Aisling O Donnell, Aoibhinn Clenaghan, Hannah Quinn, Siún McSherry, Evie Browning, Erin Rice

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Mock Bar competition

- Eva Milliken, Eireann McAleese, Eve Conlon, Eva McCausland , Aisling O Donnell

Soroptimist Public Speaking Competition

- Orla Rozanska (Highly Commended), Jenna Ferguson, Olivia Corr, Eve Conlon

Dominican Sisters' Scholarship 'Ever to Excel' program, Boston College July 2024

- Evie Browning, Enya Fitzsimons

Eco-Committee members

- Beth Aspin, Beth Doherty, Anna Neal

School representatives at COP28, City Hall

- Jenna Ferguson, Lauren Scott



Year 14 Pastoral: Staff Development and Training

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Year 14 Pastoral: Initiatives & developments

Weekly assemblies included celebration of achievements within the group and a Star pupil was awarded in each form class monthly. This created a lot of enthusiasm within the group and was very successful.

Tea and coffee facilities were provided in the Upper study (started by Dr Rainey the previous year) HOS and HOY provided supplies.

HOY encouraged pupils to drop in to the RE office at any time they were feeling overwhelmed. Tea and coffee and treats were readily available in the hope of creating a safe space for everyone. Sometimes they wanted to talk, others just wanted some quiet time. The girls were very appreciative of this throughout the year.

Yr14 pupils worked within departments to mentor and support younger students.

The Head girl and prefect team were active around the school in each year group supporting tutors and Year Haeds.



Year 14 Pastoral: Successes and Achievements

Olivia Napier volunteered to support the choir of SJB on a regular basis in St Michaels church Finaghy.

Belfast Good Community Relations Youth Award Nadia Broudham Maguire

Knights of St Columbanus 'Honouring the Faith' Award Anya Morgan

Period Dignity volunteers regularly stocked toilets with period products

The YR14 Prefect team worked solidly throughout the year with each year group, supporting tutors, HOY and SLT

The YR14 contributed to the Christmas Hampers collection, Trocaire fundraising and various other fundraising initiatives this year.

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