

# **Report to Governors 2019-20**

## **St. Dominic's Grammar School for Girls**

## **Board of Governors**

### ***Trustee Representatives***

Mr Rory Galway, Chair

Sr Brighde Vallely OP

Mrs Catherine Finnegan (Designated Safeguarding BOG member)

### ***Trustee Representative (Parent)***

Mr Damien O'Neill

### ***Department of Education Representatives***

Ms Libby Morgan

### ***Parent Representative***

Mrs Lisa Magennis

### ***Teacher Representative***

Ms Aine Fraser

### ***Co-opted Members***

Mrs Mary Lewis

Mrs Fiona Collins

Ms Imelda McDaid

### ***Correspondent to the Board of Governors***

Mrs Carol McCann

## Staffing

A number of new staff were appointed:

- Miss Maeve Cassidy was appointed for 2019-20 as a teacher of Maths and Physics
- Miss Emma McDonnell was appointed for 2019-20 as a teacher of Maths and KS3 science
- Mr Barry McIlwee was appointed to cover for Art to GCSE for the duration of 2019-20
- Mrs Róisín Connolly was appointed for two days in 2019-20 to provide numeracy support.
- Mr Daniel O'Reilly was appointed to cover a maternity post for the majority of the year in the area of Chemistry and junior science.
- Ms Caragh McNeill was appointed to cover a maternity post for the majority of the year in the area of Irish and Gaeilge
- Mrs Teresa Maguire was appointed to cover a maternity post for the majority of the year in the area of French.
- Ms Megan McWilliams was appointed to cover a maternity post for much of the year in the area of TD.
- Mrs Amanda Willoughby was appointed to the post of permanent Head of RE.
- Ms Lizzie McNicholl was appointed to the post of permanent Head of Year
- Ms Aine Braniff and Mrs Joanna Fitzsimons were appointed to the SLT. Ms Braniff took over the post of Head of School for Years 9 and 10 and Ms Fitzsimons took over the post of Head of Year 8 and induction. Both SLT members were also appointed Deputy Designated teacher as well as taking overall responsibility for other key areas of school life.
- Ms Leah Hunt covered the post of Co-ordinator of Social Media (maternity cover for majority of the year).
- Mr David Gibson covered the post of Assistant Internal Exams Officer (maternity cover for the majority to the year).

## Training and Development

### Governor Training/Development

Date	Course	Governor
November 19 2019	Effective Governance	Mrs Aine Frazer
December 3 2019	Managing Health and Safety in Schools	
October 3 2019	PRSD Antrim Board Centre	Mrs Lisa Magennis
December 2 2019	Handling Complaints	

## Training and Development – Staff

1. The Principal delivered training in safeguarding for the whole staff on **August 30**. There were catch-up sessions with the peripatetic music teachers, lunch-time supervisors and new teachers/subs as well as sport's coaches in early September.
2. The DDTs, A Braniff and J Fitzsimons attended training for Designated/Deputy Designated Teacher on **September 19**. They attended a further training event in November.
3. Mr McConville represented the Principal at a safeguarding event organised by the HSCNI on **September 23**.
4. Staff received training in online safety delivered by C2k – **August 28**. This was led by Damian Harvey from C2k.
5. Staff received awareness training in mental health and well-being and resilience at a personal level delivered by Emma Marshall from **Mensana** on August 29.
6. **SEN update and overview** – August 23 - Awareness of SEN issues – focus on greater awareness of the needs of specific pupils and how staff can best help them to meet those needs.
7. **Procedures, Briefing and Communication 2019-20** – **August 27** - annual update on general issues pertaining to staff and students.
8. **Friday 27 September** – Staff attended a talk entitled *“The Magic Weaving Business”* delivered by Sir John Jones. The event was held in De La Salle College and staff from all the post-primary schools in the ALC attended the event. Feedback on the talk was extremely positive.
9. **November 19** – Staff from across the curriculum participated in the Teachmeet Sharing of Best Practice workshop.
10. **January 6 – Ethos Morning** – The morning began with breakfast in Siena followed by a brief staff meeting, Mass in St. Paul's and a talk by **Pádraig Ó Tuama**.
11. **March onwards** - Collaborate Ultra Video Conference Platform – Led by C2k, Mrs Mulholland, Mr Parker and Mr Stitt

## Individual Whole-school issues training

- **Monday 14 – Friday 18 October** – EU conference on Teacher Education in Larnaca, Cyprus. Mrs McCann represented UK together with Mrs Faustina Graham, DE.
- **SEND training** – Continued training in the new legislative framework – Ms Kennedy
- **Deputy Designated teacher training** – Mrs A Braniff and Mrs J Fitzsimons
- **Pastoral Training** – Led by Familyworks Counselling Service - Mrs J. Fitzsimons ( January 24 2020)
- **BT and EPD development** - There was a focus on the induction of new staff and particularly, Beginning Teachers and teachers in the Early Professional Development cycle. This included a full day and subsequently scheduled weekly meetings with their HoD and regular meetings with the teacher with responsibility for newly appointed teachers. New staff and EPD teachers were observed teaching and were given feedback.
- **Middle Leadership Development** – There was continued focus on the work of the middle leadership/senior leadership team links.
- **Specifications and Agreement trials conferences** – **CEA**, etc. – Continued training for all staff in the new specifications and also attendance at agreement trials

- **Erasmus Development opportunity** - The Erasmus group visited Iasi, Romania in Term 1 and Erding, Munich in February 2020.

### SENCo Training

- **23rd August 2019** - Ms Kennedy met all staff and disseminated information on pupils with specific needs.
- **24th September 2019** - Ms Kennedy attended an access arrangements course.
- **20th January 2020** - Ms Kennedy attended 'The New SEND Framework Code of Practice' Day one of two.
- **2nd March 2020** - Ms Kennedy attended 'The New SEND Framework Code of Practice' Day two of two.

### Classroom Assistant Training

- **October 2019** - Laura McStravick attended a deaf awareness training course.
- **November 2019** - Ann McCotter, Jacqui McDonald and Rosemary Long attended a course named 'Self-Regulation in Post Primary Pupils with ASD'
- **2nd December 2019** - Rosemary Long attended a course entitled 'Autism and Positive Behaviour Support'
- **8th March 2020** - Rosemary Long attended a course entitled 'Autism-Multi-Topic Day'
- **22nd February 2020** - Rosemary Long attended a course on Mindfulness.
- **23rd April 2020** - Rosemary Long attended a Zoom course on promoting leisure, fun and happiness.
- **2nd April 2020** - Rosemary Long attended a Zoom course on Handling the new normal.
- **7th April 2020** - Rosemary Long attended a Zoom course on wellbeing and being well.
- **21st April 2020** - Rosemary Long attended a Zoom course on Play and leisure skills.
- **22nd June 2020** - All classroom assistants attended in-school training on Collaborate Ultra and Google Classroom

Intake 2019-20

Intake for 2019													
A		B1		B2		C1		C2		D		Total	
Applied	Accepted	App	Acc	App	Acc	App	Acc	App	Acc	App	Acc	App	Acc
161	161	33	5	23	0	2	0	10	0	5	0	234	166

Additionally, a number of pupils with a Statement of Entitlement were accepted.

## POLICY DEVELOPMENT

The following policies were reviewed and ratified by the BOG:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection - September 2019
- Curriculum – Proposed and Adopted – September 2019
- Positive Behaviour and Discipline – September 2019
- Admissions Criteria Year 8 2020-21 – September 2019
- Policy for suspension and Exclusion – September 2019
- Drugs Policy - December 2019
- Anti-bullying and Positive Behaviour Policy – June 2019

## Parental Links

### **Parenting Classes and Parent and Daughter classes**

#### **Maths Engagement Day 21<sup>st</sup> August 2019**

All Year 8 parents were invited to this workshop which was presented by Dr Andrea Rainey. It was well attended. The presentations included strategies to build confidence in maths, career paths in maths, information on the maths curriculum in St Dominic's and support when pupils are having difficulties.

#### **Parents' Workshops 2019-2020**

##### **Mental Health Workshop**

- On 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2020 all parents of KS3 pupils were invited to a workshop run by Action Mental Health called "A Mental and Emotional Health and Wellbeing Awareness Programme" presented by Hugh Roarty.
- A total of 24 parents attended the Provoking Thought Workshop and the feedback was very positive and the level of satisfaction was 100% (see audit sheet for further details). The workshop lasted approximately three hours and covered areas such as identifying stress, stress management techniques, challenging negative thinking and five ways to wellbeing. Hugh provided parents with booklets and worked from a PPT but allowed plenty of time for group work. Parents were very engaged in the interactive group work and spoke very positively about this experience after the session. Many parents stayed to speak to Hugh or each other after the workshop.

## **Study Skills Workshop**

A further parents' workshop on study skills was due to be organised towards the end of Term 2 but unfortunately due to Covid 19, this did not take place.

**Parent-Daughter Cookery workshops** - The HE department ran cookery workshops for parents and Year 8 pupils. As always, the workshops proved to be extremely popular.

## **Parents' Association/Parent Link**

- The Parents' Association (Parent Link) continued its sterling work. They organised two themed Fancy Dress Cinema nights (4th October and 6th December 2019). Pupils from across all year groups and local primary schools enjoyed Harry Potter and Elf.
- The annual Table Quiz on the 31st January was held in St Gall's Club and proved to be an excellent fundraiser for school projects.
- Parents helped out at the school Open Day in January.
- Parent Link began to organise another Raffle to New York . It was put back due to the pandemic.
- Some parents from Parent Link had planned to attend the 150th celebrations Gala in the Belfast City Hall but this unfortunately had to be cancelled.
- In response to the impact of the pandemic, Parent Link financed £4000 worth of computer equipment to help students with blended learning from September 2020.
- Parent Link had a number of other fundraising and wellbeing activities arranged for Term 2 and 3, along with a Parent-Teachers outing to Derry. Unfortunately, all were postponed due to the pandemic.

## **Parents' Meetings**

- Parent- Teacher meetings were held for Years 10, 11, 12,13 and 14. The Year 10 meeting focused on GCSE subject choices and was led by the SLT. Due to the pandemic, the Year 8 meeting did not take place.
- Additionally, three induction meetings were held for transition years- Years 8, 11 and 13.
- Careers Information and subject choices evenings were held for Years 10 and 12.
- Intervention meetings were held across all year groups following key assessment reports and the publication of external exam results. Individual meetings were held between SLT and Year 10 pupils and their parents in regards to their GCSE choices cf point 1.
- Due to the pandemic the annual advisory meetings which are normally held with a number of Year 10 pupils in relation to the appropriateness of their choice of science and level of Maths going forward did not take place but parents were contacted by mail and phone-call as required.

## Pastoral Care and Safeguarding Report

### Staff Development

- All staff and sport's coaches received training in safeguarding and child protection in August and September 2019
- Following on from the consultation in May 2019, the pastoral leaders were consulted on the Behaviour and Discipline Policy and on the review/revision of the pastoral proformas. These forms were successfully implemented.

### Inductions

- **August 2019** - Induction Days were held for all year groups. Prefect Induction for all Year 14 prefects.

### Preventative Curriculum

Date	Staff/Year Group	Duration	Details
29 <sup>th</sup> August 2019	All Staff	afternoon	Positive well-being. Emotional well-being and resilience.
23 <sup>rd</sup> September 2019	Yr 8	45 mins	50 pupils (max) in each session- 4 sessions. ( 1 Trainer)  Anti-bullying/positive friendships- Included the appropriate use of social media.
4 <sup>th</sup> October 2019	Year 12	1 hour	Tutor Groups – 6 sessions ( 2 Trainers) Building Resilience- ok to be ok/ coping with exam pressure.
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Year 10	1 hour	Tutor Groups – 5 sessions ( 2 Trainers) Introduction- Positive Mental Health, Building Resilience- looking after your mental health and appropriate use of social media.
9 <sup>th</sup> January 2020	Year 14	1 hour	Tutor Groups – 6 sessions ( 2 Trainers) Building Resilience/coping with exam pressure- ok to be ok.

### The following were delivered by Nexus

Year Group	Date	Time	
14	Wed 9 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2.30pm	Online behaviours sexting/cyberbullying-drugs /related to career prospects-anti-social behaviour-bullying
13	Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> Jan	2.30pm	Online behaviours sexting/cyberbullying-drugs /related to career prospects-anti-social behaviour-bullying
12	Wed 6 <sup>th</sup> Nov	2.30pm	Online behaviours sexting/cyberbullying-drugs /related to career prospects-anti-social behaviour-bullying
11	Wed 16 <sup>th</sup> Oct	2.30pm	Cyberbullying-drugs
10	Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	11.00am	Cyberbullying-anti-social behaviour-drugs
9	Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	10.00am	Cyberbullying and anti-social behaviour
8	Wed 11 <sup>th</sup> Dec	9.00am	Cyberbullying/misuse of mobile phone-anti-social behaviour.

### Fundraising - delivering talks leading to fundraising/development of social conscience and general fundraising activities

- SVdeP - all year groups
- Year 8 – Action MS - £3.054.80
- Year 8 and 9 – Halloween Fancy Dress



- Year 9 – Lepra Charity
- Year 10 – Clic Sergeant
- Year 13 – Habitat for Humanity
- All years – Christmas Hampers and Food banks
- Meningitis - £521.09 – All
- Trócaire – Fundraising for Trocaire was impeded due to Covid-19

#### **Student Voice**

- All students evaluated pastoral provision in the school via evaluative questionnaires.

#### **Review and Evaluation – Policies**

- Safeguarding Policy
- Drugs Policy
- Anti-bullying and Positive Behaviour Policy

#### **Outside Agencies**

- Gateway Team- Child Protection Referrals.
- Education Welfare Service- monthly meetings with EWO throughout the year to address attendance issues. A number of referrals were made, mainly in respect of attendance issues.
- Accredited Cognitive Behavioural Therapists worked with students from March. Unfortunately, this came to an abrupt end due to Covid 19
- Family Works Counsellor – Two days counselling were provided on a weekly basis for a number of students throughout the year. This continued post-lockdown albeit face-to-face sessions ceased. Pupils could choose to be counselled via Zoom or phone-call.

**CURRICULUM 2019-20**

**GCSE**

- 1. Art**
2. Biology
3. Business Studies
4. Chemistry
- 5. Drama**
6. Double Award Science
7. English Language
8. English Literature
9. French
10. Further Maths
11. Gaeilge
12. Geography
13. History
- 14. Health and Social Care**
- 15. ICT – Digital**
16. Irish
17. Mathematics
- 18. Media Studies**
- 19. Music**
20. Physics
21. RE
22. Spanish
- 23. Sport Studies**
- 24. Technology and Design**

**EF Compliant**

**Bold- applied subjects**

**A LEVEL**

- 1. Art**
2. Biology
3. Business Studies
4. Chemistry
5. Digital Technology
6. English Literature
- 7. Financial Studies**
8. French
9. Further Mathematics
10. Geography
11. Government and Politics
- 12. Health and Social Care**
13. History
- 14. ICT**
15. Irish
16. Mathematics
- 17. Media Studies**
- 18. Music**

- 19. Physics
  - 20. Sport Studies**
  - 21. Psychology
  - 22. Religious Education
  - 23. Sociology
  - 24. Spanish
  - 25. Technology and Design**
  - 26. Theatre Studies**
- Bold – Denotes Applied Subjects**  
**EF Compliant**

**Enrichment**

1. Gifted and Talented students participated in the HE+ programme outlined in collaborative links

**Shared Education Signature Project with Friends’ School, Lisburn Pilot Year 2019-20**

A variety of departments participated in the SESP collaboration with Friends’ School, Lisburn. This initiative led to educational and reconciliation impacts on the students. History was the core subject focus in Year 10 where students attended the Somme Heritage centre in their study of World War One. Skills workshops and visits were also facilitated by the Art and PE departments. SESP was the impetus for the extra-curricular initiative entitled ‘Politics in Action’ for Year 13 students (led by Mr Peter Weil and Therese Cullen). SESP facilitated collaborative learning and reconciliation experiences for over 200 students from Friends’ School, Lisburn and St. Dominic’s.

Students also enjoyed shared extra-curricular activities outside the school or in their respective schools. The ‘Politics in Action’ Year 13 group visited both Westminster and Stormont for a tour and ‘select committee’ experience with a member of the House of Lords, and a range of MLAs respectively. The PE departments also met to share experience of coaching across Camogie and Hockey and this helped Year 11 as well as Year 13 and 14 students to meet the requirements for their course, as well as involving year 8s in a showcase tournament to conclude the project.

There were planned visits to Glasnevin Cemetery, a 1916 Rising Walking tour of Dublin, Leinster House, Corrymeela and Microsoft but all had to be cancelled owing to Coronavirus.

Staff across many departments also participated in Shared Education meetings for planning, where there was an opportunity to share best practice. Several staff in the PE, Art, History and Politics departments gained from extra-curricular visits, skills work-shops and developing relationships with colleagues from Friends’ School, Lisburn. Shared Education Co-ordinators from both schools also met for planning every few weeks and also attended training on sharing best practice. There have been opportunities to observe others teach in their own schools as part of History and Politics in Action. Co-ordinators along with VPs and staff involved have all played a role in the planning and delivery aspect of SE. Pupils have undertaken surveys on Google Classroom as have staff to ensure future planning and delivery of most effective practice.

### **‘Politics In Action Initiative**

The Year 13 Shared Education project with Friends’ School Lisburn met every two to three weeks from September. The project was led by the students and was entitled *‘Making it Work: A Vision for a Post-Brexit Society’*. They took part in many activities across the year including a visit to Stormont to take part in ‘Select Committees’ on Brexit and the future of Northern Ireland. The ‘Politics in Action’ group met with representatives from Sinn Féin, DUP, UUP and Alliance to pose questions on elections, Brexit, a future United Ireland and a range of issues from mental health to our troubled past. The group also visited Westminster the day before the crucial Brexit vote was rejected. Here, they had a tour of the Chambers, and took part in a ‘select committee’ workshop and met MPs and members from the House of Lords.

### **Partnership feedback from EA**

Co-ordinators from both schools met with Deirdre McVeigh, a Teacher Developer from EA to review the partnership in March 2020. The following excerpts are summative evaluations from EA’s recent report on the impact of the partnership:

- The coordinators and leaders within this partnership have played a significant role in embedding a culture of Shared Education.
- The Partnership responds proactively to issues raised from their diverse community voices.
- External partners have helped build strong internal staff capacity to facilitate high quality sessions for students in the shared class.
- The collaboration with external partners, such as ‘Politics in Action’ can be demonstrated as having positive impact on students’ outcomes
- The Partnership has developed ways to engage parents/carers on the purpose, benefits and celebration of shared education.
- Residential trips were particularly valued by the pupils, who reported that the free time in the evenings provided opportunities for spontaneous discussion around aspects of identity, similarity and difference.
- Some teachers, from the partnership, reflected on their own identities and thinking about the impact of their ‘lived experience’ and what they felt comfortable discussing in the classroom.
- Participation in SESP has ensured ongoing community access to schools’ activities to promote shared education and community cohesion.
- Shared education outcomes are celebrated and shared with the local community.

### **Going Forward**

#### **2020/21 Shared Education Transition Year**

The Department of Education have recommended suspending pupil-to-pupil activity for partnerships formerly engaged in SESP. This means that there will be no sub cover for planning/evaluating and no transportation budget of pupils for shared activity.

The Department intends to use the 2020/21 academic year to

- complete the various ongoing evaluations to inform the long term delivery arrangements for Shared Education to resume in the 2021/22 academic year;
- provide a range of targeted Teacher Professional Learning; and
- continue to provide funding to support Shared Education leadership in schools. Funding has been made available to all former SESP Partnership Schools which will support a Leadership Allowance for 2020/21. Each school will be delegated £2,650

#### **Entitlement Framework and Collaborative Links**

- ✓ St Rose's students accessed a number of AS and A2 courses including English Literature, Drama, Art, French, Physics and Chemistry.
- ✓ CCC students accessed AS Spanish and A2 Media Studies

#### **Other collaborative links at post-primary level**

- ✓ Year 13 students participated in intensive classes as part of the HE + programme in conjunction with grammar schools across Belfast and Cambridge University. This initiative is aimed at widening access to Oxbridge to pupils in NI. The classes took place in Methodist College, and the other schools involved include Wellington College, St Malachy's and St Mary's. A number of students visited Cambridge University in July as part of the Corpus Christi Summer School. They also attended Cambridge as part of the Sutton Trust Widening Participation programme.
- ✓ **Carrickfergus Grammar School** – The school worked collaboratively with CGS as part of the Habitat for Humanity Programme. St. Dominic's pupils raised £575.90

#### **International Links**

##### **Erasmus Plus collaboration with Germany and Romania**

- St Dominic's received Erasmus+ funding from the European Union to collaborate with the Korbinian Aigner Gymnasium in Munich, Germany and Liceul Teoretic "Vasile Alecsandri", in Iasi, Romania. It was a 3 year fully funded STEAM/CEAIG Project focusing on problem-solving through Drones/Robotics whilst linking up with various local businesses and universities. This was the third and final year of the project.
- A Drones Club met weekly in St Dominic's involving KS3 and KS4 students. A 'Iasi, Romania Week' was arranged in October 2019 and a 'Munich Week' in February 2020.

Year 13 students from the three schools enjoyed various STEM workshops, activities and excursions. Eight of our students had an opportunity to travel, four to Romania and four to Germany.

- Visiting Romania and Germany were very positive learning experiences for the students and staff. They had opportunities to:
  - ✓ develop a range of skills in Drone technology;
  - ✓ have educational experiences and visits they would not normally have accessed;  
work with a range of local businesses;
  - ✓ develop a range of skills and a more positive outlook on shared learning in a local, European and Global context;
  - ✓ to embed learning and create positive relationships across Europe;
  - ✓ to improve personal connections with pupils from different religious/ethnic and national backgrounds.

The visit to Munich was an opportunity for all students to organise and deliver a final presentation about their learning in the project. This visit also brought the project to a close. The school will seek out further similar opportunities in the future despite the uncertainty for Erasmus post Brexit.

## DEPARTMENTS

### ART

**Staff Development** - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section

**Subject Specific Training** – GCSE, AS and A2 Agreement Trials, Sharing Best Practice visits to Friends’ School, Lisburn and Rathmore GS

#### **Development**

**TCN** - Deptmental members regularly visited each other’s classes. They exchanged verbal feedback with each other on *what worked well* and *even better if* within the lessons. Both teachers found this experience very worthwhile and approached this with a positive relaxed outlook.

#### **Weekly Meeting Time**

Members of the department met on a weekly basis for a double planning period focused on the new teacher’s GCSE class. They found this to be a very helpful and insightful exercise. M Davison feels this continual sharing of good practice, continual reviewing and refinement of work and open door policy between both teachers made the prediction of grades due to Covid 19 very straight forward.

**Data** - The department continued to work towards attaining well above the NI average, including raising the number of pupils achieving full marks at GCSE, AS and A2 Level. They will continue to use the data to inform professional discussions on leading improvement.

This will include the analysis of exam results in August and comparison with the NI GS girls’ average and use of the Chief Examiner’s and Moderators’ reports to identify areas for development.

#### **Books – Collegial Book discussion**

The department believes that C.B.D is the greatest tool they have for self-evaluation as it drives continuous improvement and hence is used as a vehicle for improvement.

#### **HOD Links with Universities**

M Davison continued to liaise with the Art College and expressed an interest in having a range of students from different disciplines complete a work placement in the department. Due to Covid 19 the students did not manage to deliver on the opportunity to work in a voluntary capacity to support the students.

#### **HOD Meetings and Visits regarding New Specification at GCSE and A-Level.**

M Davison met with the 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.

M Davison also met with the HOD of Art in Friends’ Grammar School after school regularly and discussed her approach to the New Spec at GCSE (Part B in particular) AS and A2.

M Davison continues to be in regular contact with the HODS who regularly share best practice and discuss approaches to the new spec at all levels.

#### **After School Workshops**

A week long Heat Transfer Workshop was held for Years 11-14 on the week of Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> February delivered by Katie Brown and M Davison

Robert Peters Workshops ran for 10 weeks every Monday commencing on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October across all of Year 11-14 Art classes. This offered invaluable printing experience for the pupils

#### **Early morning Supervision**

M Davison supervised the pupils every morning from 7.30 onwards from Monday 3<sup>rd</sup> September. This enabled senior pupils to use the facilities and gave the pupils in the department a time slot where they could discuss their work or concerns about their work with the HOD.

#### **After school Supervision**

Mr Mc Elwee supervised the pupils every evening Monday- Thursday inclusive from 3.30-5.30. This enabled senior pupils to use the Art department’s facilities. He also also ran a junior art club during this time which led to the department having many successes in different competitions. All senior school pupils who attended were given extra support and the *gifted and talented* had an opportunity to learn more advanced Art techniques. Attending pupils indicated that these sessions were an excellent way to gain extra guidance and access resources within the department.

### **Art Club**

Mr Mc Elwee ran a twice weekly after school Art Club for pupils in the junior school on Tuesdays and Thursdays between September and March. This Art Club allowed pupils to be creative and to expand their knowledge and explore Art and Design in an alternative context to the curriculum. Pupils were also given the option and opportunity to use artwork that they created in these extra-curricular sessions to enter relevant Art competitions.

### **Exhibition Visits**

Year 11-14 pupils attended the True Colours Exhibition during class time in January and February.

All pupils in Years 11-14 attended the RUA exhibition in their free time. Both teachers attended the exhibition together after hours in December.

Years 13 and 14 also attended current exhibitions and workshops in the Ulster Museum, local galleries, "Belfast Exposed", The Crescent Arts Centre and The Mac after school and on weekends.

### **Progress on promoting independent learning**

The department focused on effective questioning, target-setting and self-evaluation to maximise pupil participation. The independent research tasks set for Years 8 to 14 supported the promotion of resilient, self-reflective learners and encouraged ownership of, pride in, as well as passion for their work. Peer assessment and class critiques were key activities at all key stages. Developing this skill will be essential if pupils new normal will be one week in and one week at home.

Pupils from Years 11-14 had the opportunity to attend a range of after-school workshops. Attendance at these gave pupils an opportunity to show independence for, and ownership of, their work. All experiences enhanced their range of experimentation skills and A02 Creative processes.

Senior work from the department was entered into the Specialist Crafts cover competition and the Texaco Art competition.

### **Extra-curricular activities/competitions/successes**

- The department ran a very successful In-house Artist of the Month for Year 8-10 pupils.
- Ciara Black's GCSE work was selected for the very prestigious True Colours Exhibition in the Ulster Museum

**Credit Union Art Competition** - In October, the Art Club entered the very popular 36th Annual Art Competition. The theme was *Walk of Life* and two pupils won first and second place out of all entrants from post-primary schools in the West Belfast area.

**Trinity College Dublin - Book of Kells Competition** - Pupils from the Art club were entered into the Trinity College drawing competition which had many entrants and, last year saw over 1,600 entries from across Ireland, the UK, US, Europe and beyond. Year 10 pupil Breeya Quigg successfully achieved 2nd overall in the Secondary level with her digital art entry.

**Christmas Art Competition** - In December, the Credit Union hosted their annual inter-schools Festive Art competition, receiving entries from local schools within the community. Again, Art Club was very fortunate that one Year 10 pupil achieved first place and two of our Year 9 pupils also won runner-up prizes. The Credit Union marketing officer stated that she was very impressed with the standard of entries from St Dominic's.

**Herstory** - On Sunday 2nd February, Beth Doherty, Hollyrose Fairley and Ana Enrique Gascon were invited to Belfast City Hall where their chosen artworks of iconic Irish women were illuminated as part of **Herstory's 'Peace Heroines'** project. At the event, selected portraits created by professional artists, students from Belfast College of Art, and pupils from other schools were projected onto the building to celebrate females from mythology, remarkable women in sport, arts and science. Fiona Lowe, Artist and Organiser of the Herstory's 'Peace Heroines' project stated that their portraits are a 'real inspiration to the viewing public, media, schools and Art students.'



**Other initiatives led by the department in 2019/20 eg. Participation in the Shared Education Project/Erasmus Project ( For those departments involved only)**

Year 14 pupils from Friends' School, Lisburn and St. Dominic's went on a joint workshop to Seacourt Print Workshop on the 4<sup>th</sup> October. Pupils and teachers discussed and shared best practice and top tips for exam success.

<u>GCSE</u>	<u>A2</u>
<u>A*/A: 81.5%</u>	<u>A*/A: 85.7%</u>
<u>A*/B: 100%</u>	<u>A*/B: 100%</u>

**Biology**

**Development** - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section  
**Additional Training** - Exam Board events

**Development Work /Initiatives led in the Department**

**Year 13 and 14,**

- Year 13 and 14 exam booklets were updated with all questions from 2002 until 2020.
- Year 13 and 14 lab books were updated with past paper questions.
- Teaching notes and summaries were updated with change of Specification in CCEA A2 Biology 2019-2020.
- All Year 13 and 14 teaching Powerpoints were updated and provided to the pupils.
- All end-of-topic tests were updated – focus on essay questions and DIRT on each exam paper.
- Year 13 spoke to scientists online as part of 'I'm a Biologist – Get me out of here" project. The topic was behavioural psychology.
- Google Classroom was used to promote independent work and all workbooks and revision power points were uploaded to the online Classroom. It was also used as evidence for practical work and pictures of dissections.
- Booster classes were offered to Year 13 pupils after school before their mocks to help with exam technique.

**Year 11 and 12.**

- Super summaries and exam booklets were updated and uploaded on Google Classroom.
- New GCSE Biology practicals were introduced – Enzymes and photosynthesis.
- New GCSE DA practical were introduced - Enzymes.
- Booster Classes were delivered to Yr12 students who were repeating modules from September to November.
- The Year 10 SoW was updated to include more practical skill work and questioning skills – Bloom's taxonomy. There was a focus on oracy and group work with the pupils presenting their Powerpoints on genetic diseases whilst using Google Classroom.
- STEAM – pupils were encouraged to write an extended piece of writing on enzymes and to produce an artistic view of the digestive system.

**Progress on promoting independent learning.**

- Increased use of Google Classroom because of COVID.
- New investigation in Autumn for Year 10 – Similar to the previous year's GCSE.

### Progress on development of GAFE across the department

- Year 10 – New revision quizzes on cells, respiration, circulation and respiration were introduced. Pupils started GCSE work on cells.
- New triple Class Year 10 – Past paper booklets and notes on cells were provided for Year 10 pupils planning to commence Triple Award in Year 2020-21.
- Year 11 – All revision guides, past paper questions, teaching Powerpoints and YouTube videos were uploaded to the Google classroom. Multiple choice quizzes were produced for each topic and pupils started to learn about circulation – Topic 1 year 12 – circulation.
- Year 12 - All revision guides, past paper questions, teaching Powerpoints and YouTube videos were uploaded to the Google classroom.
- New Year 13 class set up for pupils proposing to do Biology at AS in 2020 – Cells and organelles.
- Year 13 and 14 - – All revision guides, past paper questions, teaching Powerpoints and essays were uploaded to the Google classroom. These year groups used them regularly especially during exam season. Pupils have done essays, notes and past paper questions and submitted them via the Google Classroom.

### Extra-curricular activities/competitions/successes

- Congratulations to Catherine Walsh 10D on being invited to interview for selection on the Broadcom Masters International Programme 2020. A Broadcom Masters Bursary is an all-expenses paid trip to attend the Broadcom Masters Programme which is part of the International Science and Engineering Fair taking place in Anaheim, California in May 2020. It was cancelled due to Covid-19 unfortunately.
- Pupils were entered for the Senior Biology Olympiad. Congratulations to the following girls: Confidence Nich (Highly commended) and Elen O Rawe (Highly commended),
- Pupils in Year 8 made model cells in Science to encourage them to think about cells in a creative way. Some pupils baked cakes and biscuits, other used sweets, jelly and an avocado. All pupils enjoyed the challenge and in particular the design aspect of the cells project.
- A number of Year 13 Biology students took part in a *I'm a Scientist, Get me out of Here!* - an online event where students get to meet and interact with real scientists. It's an X Factor-style competition between the scientists, where students are the judges.
- **ReelLIFE SCIENCE** challenges Irish schools and community groups to communicate science and technology via engaging and educational short videos. St Dominic's was one of only two schools in Northern Ireland who entered and Leah Young 9D, Sinead Casey 9D and Aoife O Sullivan were highly commended for their video on *Elements in the Periodic Table*.
- Sentinus Big Bang - Catherine Walsh, Sophie McGregor and Cara McFadden won the Northern Ireland Young Scientist Big Bang Award. Their project title was "Could nutraceuticals stop cancer" and involved investigating which type of nutraceuticals stopped yeast respiring and therefore may stop cancer cells from growing in your body. They won the overall award and should have represented Northern Ireland in Birmingham NEC on the 11th-14th March. Covid-19 unfortunately prohibited the event taking place.
- Congratulation to Aoife Morgan, Year 12, who was highly commended for her work on fungi in the recent MISAC competition.

<u>GCSE</u>	<u>A2</u>
<b>A*/A: 90%</b>	<b>A*/A: 62.5%</b>
<b>A*/B: 100%</b>	<b>A*/B: 91.7%</b>
	<b>A*/C:100%</b>

**Development** - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section

**Additional Training** - Financial capability continued professional training for teachers of Financial Studies - London Institute of Banking and Finance

**Development Work /Initiatives led in the Department**

Scholarships

Six students were awarded scholarships of £500 each towards a Banking and Finance degree.

Congratulations to the following Year 14 students eligible for this cash prize as a result of their top A grades in the Certificate in Financial Studies:

Sarah Campfield

Molly England

Chloe McCaffrey

Jade McCann

Elisha McNama

Fionnuala O'Connor

Banking and Finance degree programmes at the institute are developed to ensure students are highly employable. Our students would have the opportunity to undertake a professional qualification as part of their degree and would therefore graduate with two qualifications. Such a degree will lead to careers with organisations such as Barclays, HSBC, Deloitte, Thomas Reuters and Goldman Sachs.

**Business Studies and Arabic**

St Dominic's has been involved with the Arabic programme for the last four years now (A project funded by Qatar Foundation International) in partnership with Methodist College. In October 2019, students attended the Arabic Conference in Belfast and learned about the importance to our local business community of exports to Arabic speaking countries. They also gained an insight into the culture, music and dance as well as learning about the humanitarian work by local people in Syria and Sudan.

Year 8 Arabic Club took place every Monday led by four of our Arabic speaking students learning how to teach Arabic to other Year 8 students:

"My name is Renad Abusamra and I was born in Khartoum, Sudan. I came to Belfast in 2011 and I could speak basic English but spoke Arabic at home. I think Arabic club is really fun and I look forward to it every week. In Arabic club I have made new friends who also speak Arabic as well as other pupils who want to learn Arabic."

"My name is Saly Alissa and I was born in Greece. My Dad is from Syria and my Mum is from Tunisia. I came to Belfast when I was three years old and didn't speak English at that time. Arabic club is the highlight of my Monday. I get to learn more about my own language through the other Arabic speaking pupils and the new Arabic text books we have to teach our classmates with."

"My name is Talaa Ali and I was born in Sudan. I came to Belfast three years ago on my Mum's birthday and our accommodation was changed at the last minute so it took us a good while to get settled. I didn't mind because I love the rain! I love Arabic club because it makes me want to come to school on a Monday!"

“My name is Eilada Mohamad and I was born in Syria. We moved to Saudi Arabia and then decided to stay there because of the war in Syria. I came to Belfast in 2017 with very little English but I learnt quickly. I like going to Arabic club so I can remember how to read and write the language and meet friends who also speak Arabic.”

**Financial Studies Students’ Interview with Linda McAuley MBE for ‘On Your Behalf’ BBC Radio Ulster/Foyle 21<sup>st</sup> Nov**

After five years of financial education being in the national curriculum too many students still regularly worry about money and most want to learn more about money in school. According to the finding from the Young Persons’ Money Index, 84% of students in N.Ireland still say they are not getting enough access to a comprehensive financial education and that they worry about money. They want to learn more about the practicalities of managing money – budgeting, debt management, tax and how products work. And over half would like this to be a separate subject. This is not the case at St Dominic’s.

St Dominic’s has been delivering A-level Financial Studies since 2017. Not only do students gain an A-level in financial education, they learn how to become financial capable in the short and long term. With student loans on the horizon for many, our A-level students have learned how to manage their finances. They are versed in an array of financial products for borrowing, saving and investing. They learned about the impact the 2008 financial crisis has had on the UK and global market. They had the opportunity to discuss their learning experiences with Lynda McAuley during the ‘On Your Behalf’ broadcast on Radio Ulster on 21<sup>st</sup> November 2019.

**Financial Studies**

<u><a href="#">A2</a></u>
<u><a href="#">A*/A: 43.7%</a></u>
<u><a href="#">A*/B: 100%</a></u>

**Business Studies**

<u><a href="#">GCSE</a></u>	<u><a href="#">A2</a></u>
<u><a href="#">A*/A: 36.3%</a></u>	<u><a href="#">A*/A: 64.3%</a></u>
<u><a href="#">A*/B: 72.7%</a></u>	<u><a href="#">A*/B: 100%</a></u>
<u><a href="#">A*/C: 100%</a></u>	

**Development - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section**

**Additional Training** - Ongoing work as part of Examination Teams, Active learning in Chemistry(RSC), Teach meet, Cluster for HOD science(ASE),

**Development Work /Initiatives led in the Department****KS3 (Yr8/9)**

- Reviewed resources and updated schemes of work
- Monitored tracking results
- Prepared knowledge sheets with questions and answers prepared for revision purposes.

**GCSE**

- Updated booklets, topic tests including test for new specification Yr 12 DA and GCSE Chemistry
- Set up tracking for topic test scores in staff area.
- Set up support for a target group of pupils after Yr 11 examinations/Christmas tests
- Co-ordinated DA Yr 12 practical exams.
- Provided booster classes from September to November for repeat examinations.

**KS3 Yr10 Chemistry**

- Prepared forensic practical booklet and updated all notes to match new GCSE specification with emphasis on practical skills.
- Updated scheme of work and topic tests.

**A-Level**

- Collaborative approach to preparation for the delivery of A2.
- Introduction of retrieval calendar to help pupils revise previous material especially those repeating AS modules.
- Preparation of new topic tests to include material from other topics to enhance retrieval practice. .
- Updating of notes and homework questions for all modules.
- Preparation of past paper questions for all modules to include recent examination questions.

**Progress on promoting independent learning**

- Increased use of GCSE knowledge organisers in class
- Retrieval calendar used for AS/A2 pupils

**Progress on development of GAFE across the department**

- G-classroom used in Yr8-14 mainly for extra resources, revision materials and links to career before mid-March
- From mid-March, focus on setting weekly tasks using science booklets. This was followed by online assessment using google forms and scores recorded. U tube videos were used to support pupil learning by going through their booklets and worked examples.
- Investigative science tasks were used in June for KS3 classes to improve their literacy, numeracy, IT and presentation skills.
- An AS class was set up after Yr12 left school to allow pupils to experience AS Chemistry. There was a focus on skills which was used as a transition from GCSE to AS.
- A Triple award class was set up for Year 10 pupils to enable them to bridge the gap to GCSE.

- Yr 14 class began from mid-May to allow 3 topics involving calculations to be taught in advance of Year 14.

### **Extra-curricular activities/competitions/successes**

#### **January 2020**

Year 10: B Quigg, A Enrique Gascon, Year 11: L Tyrrell and Year 12: E Marken took part in the Royal Society of Chemistry Top of the Bench competition. They were placed 3rd against 12 other schools.

#### **Science Fair 12<sup>th</sup> February 2020**

75 pupils from Years 8 to 13 presented their own science projects in the inaugural Science Fair to celebrate St. Dominic's 150<sup>th</sup> year anniversary. There were 12 awards with a speech from past pupil Grace Murray from Thompson Feeds. Some past pupils and staff were involved in the judging panel.

#### **RSC Schools' Analyst Competition March 2020**

Yr 13 students took part in this event; Ciara Black, Hannah Gribben and Emma Madden.

#### **Chemistry Olympiad**

Congratulations to Year 1 pupils Sophie McAllister and Ciara Black and Year 14 Chemistry students Rachel McAreavey, Cara Clarke, Gina Craig and Confidence Nich who achieved Bronze/Silver certificates in the RSC Chemistry Olympiad.

#### **Nuffield, QUB Pathways and Sutton Trust Programmes**

Several AS Chemistry applied for Nuffield, QUB Pathways and Sutton Trust opportunities and were successful. They participated in the virtual online experience over July and August.

#### **Booster classes:**

Sep-Nov for Yr12 pupils who were repeating

Feb Mar-Yr 12 GCSE

A2 students who were repeating (those on C Grades) received targeted support from September to December 2019.

<u>GCSE</u>	<u>A2</u>
<b>A*/A: 70%</b>	<b>A*/A: 64.8%</b>
<b>A*/B: 100%</b>	<b>A*/B: 95.7%</b>
	<b>A*/C: 100%</b>

**Development : Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section****Department specific: CPD – AS and A2 Drama WJEC - Wyn Jones WJEC****Initiatives led in the Department****Theatre Workshops**

- The department invited Lisa May, the highly renowned theatre director from Bruiser Theatre Company to the school to work with the A Level students. In previous years, the students were brought to Drumalis for the weekend to write their scripts and in 2019-20, the Lisa May workshops replaced the Drumalis visit. The students gained a range of skills through working with Lisa who provided inspiration for their devised scripts.

**The National Theatre**

- Through the use of You Tube, the Drama Department gained access to the National Theatre productions which were uploaded for students on a weekly basis. While the students have been learning remotely they have been able to watch the live recorded performances and discuss them through the forum of the Google Classroom. This has been an invaluable teaching tool for the Drama department and has allowed access free of charge to high quality theatre.

**Key Stage Three**

- The annual Choral Speaking Festival took place for the Year 8 pupils on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2019 .

**Careers in Drama**

- In November, Aoibhinn Mc Cann the actress who played Widow Quinn in *Playboy of the Western World* and Blanche in *A Streetcar Named Desire* at the Lyric Theatre had a Q&A session with the A Level Drama and English students. Students had the opportunity to delve deeper into the understanding of the texts and to also ask career -based questions on the theatre industry.

**Extra-curricular activities****Theatre Visits**

The Drama Department visited the theatre 4 times in the course of the year to see a varied programme of Theatre:

- ❖ *Bouncers – The MAC*
- ❖ *The Playboy of the Western World – The Lyric Theatre*
- ❖ *A View from the Bridge – The Accidental Theatre*
- ❖ *Blood Brothers – Bord Gáis*

**The Drama club**

- The Drama Club took place on a Monday for Year 8 and Thursday for Year 9 and 10 students after school. It was led by the Sixth Year students to encourage leadership skills. This was a highly effective initiative for both the senior and junior students and created excellent working relationships and firm bonds with all the students involved. The KS3 students showcased their Drama performances on Open Day.

### Drama Practicals – AS, A2 and GCSE

- A series of after- school and weekend rehearsals took place in Term 2 to prepare the students for their practical exam. Students were given the opportunity to showcase their AS and A2 practicals for friends and family.
- The A2 showcase was on the 11<sup>th</sup> February
- The AS showcase was on the 14<sup>th</sup> February and the students performed extracts from *Shirley Valentine*, *Pygmalion*, *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* and *39 Steps*
- GCSE students showcased their work over two days and invited Year 11 GCSE pupils to their external moderation on the 25<sup>th</sup> February.

### Trip to London

- The annual Drama trip to London was organised for the 3<sup>rd</sup> to the 5<sup>th</sup> April. Unfortunately, it did not proceed due to the Coronavirus. The trip has been postponed until the same time next year.

### RESULTS

<u>GCSE</u>	<u>A2</u>
<u>A*/A: 91.7%</u>	<u>A*/A: 70%</u>
<u>A*/B:100%</u>	<u>A*/B:100%</u>

### English /Literacy

#### Development - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section

**Departmental Training/development** - Collaborate Ultra Video Conference Platform – several members of the English Department took part in training on this in April and May, A2 Coursework Agreement Trial attended by F McAuley, S McLaughlin and P McNulty as well as a follow up meeting regarding coursework deadlines and rubric attended by F McAuley, S McLaughlin, P McNulty and S Morgan, GCSE English Language CA Agreement Trial attended by S Morgan, GCSE English Language Speaking and Listening Agreement Trial attended by M Smyth, GCSE English Literature CA Agreement Trial attended by F McAuley, WBALC Heads of English meeting attended by F McAuley

#### Development Work / Initiatives led in the Department

##### 150 Years Celebration

- A writing competition was held for pupils of all key stages to celebrate 150 years of Dominican education. The theme was “St Dominic’s Past and Present”. F McAuley shared a selection of these with staff via email and some were posted on Facebook. It was the highlight of the week during the early days of lockdown.
- Over 50 entries were submitted to the writing competition organised during the first weeks of lockdown. The competition was judged by an independent adjudicator on the return to school. The prize categories were:



- Best Junior Poem
- Best Junior Prose
- Best Senior Poem
- Best Senior Prose

#### **Literacy:**

#### **Involvement in CCEA Pilot: CCEA Adaptive Assessments for Year 8 and Year 10 Literacy**

All Year 8 and Year 10 pupils took part in the CCEA pilot assessing literacy and numeracy skills. These assessments are taken on computers and the data generated has proven useful in informing evaluation and future planning. It is hoped that Year 8 and 10 pupils will sit these assessments in the 2020-21 academic year.

#### **Bridge Project Workshops**

Dr Sheena Wilkinson delivered a Sixth Form Literacy project, the Bridge, in St Dominic's on 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December 2019. This is fully funded by the Royal Literary Fund with a particular emphasis on students from non-traditional university backgrounds.

The learning objectives are:

- demystifying the notion of "academic" writing;
- introducing effective writing techniques;
- increasing student confidence in their writing ability;
- sharing tips for personal statement writing and other types of writing.

Pupil evaluations were very positive and these workshops targeted over 20 pupils across a range of essay-writing subjects. Pupils commented particularly on the benefits for Personal Statements and A Level Coursework.

The department aims to run this workshop again on 2020-21.

#### **Participation in The KPMG Children's Books Ireland Awards- Junior Juries for Shortlisting**

A group of pupils from 10E took part in a Junior Juries workshop at the MAC Theatre on 9th March 2020 with other schools from NI. They were given eight of the shortlisted books to read and vote on for the competition. The online ceremony was shared with the pupils.

#### **Literacy Support of selected pupils Years 8-12**

This was delivered, and the progress of individual pupils was assessed by D Kelly, M Smyth and C Crudden.

#### **Junior Book Group**

Year 9 pupils formed a Book Group led by D Kelly. The purchase of 6 novels for each member of the group was supported by Extended Schools' Funding.

#### **Oracy:**

Appointment of Oracy Co-ordinator S Morgan on 27<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

#### **National Bar Mock Competition**

Saturday 23rd November 2019: 17 students competed in the National Bar Mock Trial Competition. Although they did not win, the team achieved highly commendable scores and performed at an excellent standard. Students prepared for the competition by rehearsing twice a week, after school, assisted by professional barristers.

#### **Display Materials**

New corridor display boards were created for students to reinforce the importance of oracy. Clear instructions have been put in place to teach students why we need to consider the way that we speak/how we communicate.

#### **150 Years Celebration**

The plan was for the winning pupils to present 150th Anniversary poems. Students were to showcase their work and public speaking skills when reading poems at one of the

planned events . This will hopefully take place during the 2020-21 academic year.

**Extra-curricular:**

- Debating Society led by J Curry and taken over by D O'Reilly.
- Mock Magistrates led by Sinead Dickson.

**Extra-curricular activities/competitions/successes**

- A Debating Society was led by J Curry and taken over by D O'Reilly.
  - The Book group was led by D Kelly.
  - Creative Writing and Reading Poetry extra-curricular classes were held by M Boyle.
  - National Bar Mock Trial Competition led by S Morgan and M Smyth.
  - Joint English and Drama enrichment activity November 2019 – actress Aoibhinn McCann who played Blanche in a production of *A Streetcar Named Desire* (set text at A Level) and Widow Quinn in *Playboy of the Western World* (Drama text) spoke to Year 13 and 14 pupils.
  - Conference for all Year 13 and 14 English Literature students in UUC, November 2019.
  - Bridge Project Workshops were held for Year 14 pupils on 10<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> December – full day workshops on academic writing.
  - The annual Valentine’s Poetry Reading for Year 8 and 9 pupils was organised by F McAuley in February 2020.
  - The PPU Poetry Reading with Guest Poet Medbh McGuckian was organised by M Boyle February 2020. This was attended by staff and A Level students.
  - F McAuley and N Lundy took 10B to see *Frozen 2* in the cinema in November 2019.
  - M Boyle and B Magenis took 10A to see *Frozen 2* in the cinema in December 2019.
  - 140 pupils and staff attended a production of GCSE set text *Blood Brothers* in Dublin in February 2020.
  - F McAuley, S Morgan, L Hunt and C McNeill took Year 13 pupils to a production of *Shirley Valentine* in The Lyric Theatre in March 2020.
  - Eimear O’Kane, 8B, was a finalist in BBC Radio Ulster’s “**Two Minute Tales**” in December 2019. Eimear was chosen as one of ten winners from 1300 entries.
  - Kaila Patterson, 8B, had a poem published in the Sunday Business Post in April 2020. She had to write on the topic of ‘*A View From My Window*’ and she was one of eight young people whose work was chosen from throughout Ireland.
  - Rhianna McKenna, 10B, had an essay on lockdown published by BBC News and was interviewed by Radio Ulster.
- Over 50 pupils submitted entries for the 150 Year Celebration Writing Competition during lockdown.
- Pupils were given details of several writing competitions during lockdown – results pending.

GCSE Language	GCSE Literature	A2
A*/A: 81.1%	A*/A: 82%	A*/A: 48%
A*/B: 99.3%	A*/B: 98.6%	A*/B: 92%
A*/C : 100%	A*/C: 100%	A*/C: 100%

**Staff development - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section**

**Departmental** - GAFE and other related training, for new /returning staff, with refresher courses, Attending CCEA courses: for the new GCSE, AS, A2 French

**Development Work /Initiatives led in the Department**

**Projected French Trip for Junior Students**

- The French department discussed the possibilities of organising a departmental trip at the end of the 2019-20 academic year to a *château* location. Unfortunately this could not go ahead due to reasons of workload and the additional time required by the department to make sure that the venue and activities were as intended. The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic would have meant the cancellation of the trip. This should be reviewed in the coming academic year.

**Junior French Club and French Ciné Club (2019-20):**

- The *Junior French Club* was held on Friday for Year 8 students, and was run by the senior students. It was once more a success, with enjoyable activities and singing the order of the day. The *French Ciné Club* offered Y13 and Y14 students the opportunity to see French language films on a Monday after school. These activities were led by Miss Neary.

**QUB Ambassadors' scheme and QUB Language Survey (2019-20):**

- In 2018-19, the MFL departments applied for the QUB-OWRI Ambassadors scheme under which QUB students would mentor secondary school pupils and inspire their love of languages. This initiative was in response to the falling numbers of students studying languages at A-level and at university. All MFL departments completed the major QUB survey, initially with Y9 and Y11s, and then in 2019-20 with the A-level classes. Unfortunately, St Dominic's did not secure mentors for 2019-20. This scheme should also be applied for in future years, when available.

**Use of GAFÉ across the Department**

- As in previous years, the department actively and enthusiastically promoted the use of GAFÉ. Naturally, this work continued after the lockdown period, with students taught on-line using a variety of approaches. Apart from the normal daily work of all colleagues (Dr Patterson, Mrs T Maguire, Miss K Neary) on Google Classroom, Miss R Richards initiated the Google classroom for Y12s preparing for the move into AS level. Miss Neary spoke on the 11<sup>th</sup> June staff Zoom meeting to share best practice in delivering language learning online. All French staff have found GAFÉ to be a very valuable life-line for working with, and remaining in touch with our students during the period of lockdown.

GCSE	A2
A*/A: 54%	A*/A: 100%
A*/B: 86.4%	
A*/C: 100%	

## Geography

### **Development - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section**

**Additional Training-** Send my Friend to school Campaign(Ms Dickson)

### **Development Work/ Initiatives in the Department**

- KS3 units of work and assessments were reviewed and updated.
- Development of literacy skills/ examination technique at KS3 in relation to “ *resource based, describe, explain and evaluate*” questions
- AS/A2 pupils were encouraged to become more independent learners by focusing on the teaching of note-making/ summary writing skills and increased self/ peer assessment
- Planning for GCSE and AS fieldwork with FSC Tollymore
- Mentoring sessions to support exam students
- Use of Google Classroom/ Ultra Collaborate in response to Covid-19 pandemic for learning, teaching and assessment
- Teaching of the 2020-21 courses for Year 12 and 14 was initiated with Years 11 and 12 in Term 3
- Contact was made with students to support them with their remote learning via email and Google Classroom.
- Development of booklets for use by Geography students in all year groups for Term 1 2020/2021

### **Extracurricular Activities**

- Five Eco Club representatives were invited to attend DAERA’s consultation phase of their environment strategy in the Belfast Hills (18<sup>th</sup> September). David Small, the CEO of DAERA was there to listen to students’ opinions about how best to protect our environment.
- In October 2019, St Dominic’s Eco-Club installed their plastic recycling bins in three locations around the school. The Eco-Club fundraised last year to raise money to purchase these bins.
- Jo Boylan from the Belfast Hills Partnership delivered an Eco workshop to the Eco Club to discover the views of young people in N Ireland about their environment for ‘Our Bright Future’ initiative.
- Five St Dominic’s Students (Leah Dougan, Ciara Loughran, Maria Aaroy, Maeve McCormick and Anna Neal) participated in the Ocean Assembly organised by Green Schools in Dublin (15<sup>th</sup>-16<sup>th</sup> October). Students created their own display in school to raise awareness of marine pollution and to share possible strategies to tackle the problem.
- The Eco Club planted daffodil and crocus bulbs, provided by Belfast Hills Partnership, around the base of the trees at the entrance to the school. They have also been working on a willow weave around a tree to the left of the entrance - this will be planted with bulbs to encourage wildlife. Belfast City Council has led this project, providing the willow and expertise.
- The Eco Club rounded up 2019 by participating in a workshop facilitated by Michael McCrory from Belfast City Council. Students created Eco Christmas decorations using wooden slices, and decorated them with stamps and pens. These decorations were then hung by students on St. Dominic’s Christmas tree.
- The school Eco committee was appointed in January 2020. Students had to apply for a place on the committee and a working committee of 7 has been established with other roles for PR, recycling etc also being appointed.
- The Eco Club and Committee participated in a youth consultation (17<sup>th</sup> January) in Stormont about DAERA’s environment strategy. They also had a tour of the historic building and chambers. The event acted as an effective platform for new ideas and a gateway to involving more of the youth in politics and activism.
- The Eco Club participated in a tree planting event in Falls Park along with Feile (3<sup>rd</sup> March 2020), as part of their wider community event to create ‘Féile Forest’.

### Extracurricular Activities - Postponed due to Covid-19

- Geo Club Trip to Carlingford Adventure Centre
- Application to Board of Governors for proposed geography trip abroad

### Competitions/ Successes

- Send My Friend to School: Following an internal application process, two students applied to become *Send My Friend to School 2020 Campaign Champions*. Following a written application and video interview, Tierna Hoy and Mollaí Hughes (10B) were selected, only two of twenty young people from across the UK. A residential training weekend and Parliament day were cancelled due to lockdown. During May and June, the students participated in weekly Zoom training and thereafter had meetings with the wider UK team to plan their campaign which focuses on the of climate change on education. They have run their campaign using Google Classroom with students in Years 8 to 10. The campaign will continue into the new academic year with lobbying P. Maskey MP, as well as a Stormont.
- Young Reporter for the Environment (run by Eco Schools NI), 2020: Maria Aaroy, Year 13 came second in the articles section of the Young Reporter for the Environment Competition winning £118. Anna Neal, Year 9 received an honourable mention for her single photo campaign.

<u>GCSE</u>	<u>A2</u>
<u>A*/A: 65%</u>	<u>A*/A: 62.5%</u>
<u>A*/B: 95%</u>	<u>A*/B: 100%</u>
<u>A*/C: 100%</u>	

### Government and Politics

#### Staff Training other than whole-school – Subject Specific training -

##### Learning and Teaching:

Learning and Teaching in 2019-20 was greatly hampered by the school closure. However, all classes received remote teaching through a variety of methods centred around Google class features.

##### A2

The A2 students were able to make the transition to remote learning due to the strong base of knowledge and understanding they possessed. Remote learning continued up until the cut-off date designated by the exam boards and the school.

##### AS

Remote learning continued for AS students and they progressed to an A2 'building blocks' programme to familiarise them with the concepts that will be taught in detail in the next academic year. This decision was taken as trying to have detailed teaching of very theoretical concepts from scratch in a remote environment would have led to great confusion among the students and have a damaging effect on confidence and morale.

### **Departmental Developments**

1. The department held a CCEA style 'table marking' afternoon in December 2019. The purpose of this was to maintain the standard of marking and provide a culture of consistency across the department.
2. The grading and ranking process for AS and A2 was conducted via email communication and discussions via Zoom video conferencing post lockdown.
3. Enrichment activities were very strong in 2019-20:
  - The department played an active role in Politics in Action(PIA) with FSL which included a study visit to Westminster.
  - A group of girls attended Climate Change activities at Stormont as a consequence of PIA. This led to two students being selected to address a national seminar on the issue in Dublin Castle.
  - A student was selected to attend the TABU programme in Chicago but this was placed in flux by the crisis. This opportunity was accessed via the Rotary Club competition.
  - Students from both Year 13 and 14 attended an audience with John Bercow at Belfast Waterfront Hall in Term 2.
  - 10 AS students attended a political engagement event at Hazelwood College which included research and a question and answer session with politicians. This was arranged by the Féile Youth Engagement Committee.
  - A number of students had Government and Politics related work experience arranged via the Careers Department.

**A2**

**A\*/A: 61.1%**

**A\*/B: 97.2%**

**A\*/C: 100%**

**Development** - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section

**Development Work/Initiatives led by the Department 2019-2020**

- Cross moderation of assessments at Key Stage 4 and 5
- Continued development of resources for new specifications
- Mentoring and support for teachers teaching the revised specifications for the first time
- First teaching of revised Junior Specifications, designed to further provide *stretch and challenge* for Junior pupils and to hone new skills required for success in the Revised GCSE Specification.
- Weekly after school booster classes for Year 13 pupils to support and develop skills necessary for success at AS
- After and before school support held for Key Stage 4 pupils across the Department
- Post lockdown, teachers worked to develop online resources to teach pupils the remainder of their courses. Online resources were uploaded, google classrooms were developed, online discussions held weekly with Key stage 4 pupils
- The department worked collaboratively to ensure predicted grades for summer 2020 best reflected pupil work to date and potential.
- The department held Zoom and telephone meetings to ensure planning and departmental approach for this year and next was discussed and agreed.

**Extra Curricular Activities**

- Continued collaboration with Friends' School, Lisburn as part of the Shared Education Programme. Year 10 pupils worked together as part of this collaboration. They visited the Somme Centre as part of their World War 1 study.
- The History Department ran a 'Vintage Fashion' competition as part of the 150 year school anniversary. Year 8 pupils designed costumes based on 150 years of fashion.

<u>GCSE</u>	<u>A2</u>
<u>A*/A: 69.4%</u>	<u>A*/A: 68.4%</u>
<u>A*/B: 83.7%</u>	<u>A*/B: 89.5%</u>
<u>A*/C: 98%</u>	<u>A*/C: 100%</u>

**Development** - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section

**Additional Training:**

**Development Work /Initiatives led in the Department/Year Team**

- The Parent and Daughter cookery classes continued this year with thirty parents and their daughters attending. The feedback from both the parents and pupils was positive.
- The after -school cookery club continued at Christmas and again this proved popular with the Key Stage 3 pupils.
- An Easter themed cookery competition was organised on Google classroom for all pupils.
- The Livestock and Meat Commission delivered cookery demonstrations to all Year 10 pupils.
- A range of guest speakers were invited in to speak to the Year 12 and 14 pupils to assist with the completion of the controlled assessment task. This included a Social Worker (past pupil), two Dementia Navigators and the manager and clients of Suffolk Day Centre.
- Pupil mentoring continued this year with specific targeted pupils at GCSE and A Level to aid academic attainment.
- Booster classes were offered for additional support with coursework at GCSE and A Level to improve attainment.
- Google Classroom was deployed with all year groups for learning, teaching and assessment.
- Collaborate Ultra facilitated online lessons with all exam classes.
- The teaching of A2 and Year 12 units of work commenced for Year 11 and 13 students in Term 3
- Pupils were supported with remote learning via email and Google Classroom.
- Booklets were developed for blended learning in 2020-21.

**Progress on promoting independent learning**

- In Key Stage 4 and 5 the pupils continued to research various topics for their controlled assessment, under the guidance of staff to allow for independence and the top mark band to be awarded.
- Pupils had continued opportunities to self-evaluate their work using WWW/EBI. In Key Stage 3 more researched- based activities are included within the booklets, with pupils being given the opportunity to present their findings to the rest of the class.
- The Flip classroom initiative continued to be used with all exam classes.
- The Year 13 pupils attended a work placement from September until January; this assisted them with the completion of both pieces of coursework and greatly improved the standard of the work submitted. The pupils were able to provide more realistic examples based on what they have observed whilst in the setting.
- Links for further reading and information is now included in Google Classroom for Years 12, 13 and 14. The pupils can now spend time researching the topic before writing up their coursework task. It was noted that this has allowed more unique examples to be provided.



### Progress on development of GAFE across the department

- Google classroom was used with all exam classes and all relevant information/PowerPoints were accessible for the pupils.
- Use of Collaborate Ultra for online lessons.
- Research tasks to be carried out by exam classes were shared on Google Classroom.

### Progress on promoting Growth Mindset

- Chef of the day certificates were used during KS3 practicals.
- Posters are displayed in all of the classrooms, growth mind set language is used when providing feedback and mentoring students.
- Positive feedback is provided for all written tasks, showing the pupils how they can improve.

### Extra-curricular activities/competitions/successes

- The Parent and daughter cookery classes continued this year and again were very successful with positive feedback from all of the parents that participated.
- After school cookery classes took place in December for Key Stage 3 pupils - over thirty pupils attended each week.

<u>GCSE</u>	<u>A2</u>
A*/A: 75%	A*/A: 54.1%
A*/B: 87.5%	A*/B: 100%
A*/C: 100%	

### ICT

**Development** - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section

**Training for the department:** Geraldine Mulholland - A2 Digital Technology INSET Support Day (November 2019)

### Initiatives 2019-2020

#### **Collaborate Ultra Video Conferencing Training for Staff:**

C2k delivered the first session to 14 members of staff on 2<sup>nd</sup> April and Mrs Mulholland delivered a further three sessions during lock down to a further 18 members of staff. (April and May)

G Mulholland delivered and rolled out the training during “lock down” to 32 teachers in total. As a result of the training, the following departments were able to use **Collaborate Ultra** to deliver “live” lessons to pupils during the school closure:

- Business Studies/Finance
- Politics
- ICT
- Maths
- Health and Social Care
- English
- Drama

- French
- Geography

### **Collaborate Ultra ShowCase Webinar – Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

- Eamon McAteer from C2k/EA invited G Mulholland to present at the ShowCase Webinar on Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> June. The Webinar lasted for 1 hour and Mrs Mulholland presented on how St Dominic’s staff were using Collaborate Ultra.
- The 3 schools presenting at the webinar were: Glenlola Grammar School Bangor, St Dominic’s Grammar School, Belfast and St Paul’s High School, Bessbrook.
- **265 people** attended the “Showcase Webinar” on 9<sup>th</sup> June. Feedback has been very positive. The recording of the webinar can be found in the C2k Media Library under “*Learning from Home*”.

### **Sharing Good practice: TeachMeet Sessions – during lockdown**

Mrs Mulholland set up 3 sessions with **all staff** towards the end of Lockdown to enable them to share good practice in remote teaching. The sessions were on

- *Monday 8<sup>th</sup> June*
- *Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> June*
- *Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> June*

22 members of staff volunteered to share their ideas for “*Remote Teaching*” during the sessions – approximately 7 in each session. All ideas/powerpoints have been stored centrally on Google Drive for all staff to access. The sharing was all done via Video Conference.

### **Classroom Assistants: ICT Training: June 2020**

- Mrs Mulholland delivered training on **Collaborate Ultra Video Conferencing** to the 12 Classroom Assistants on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. (11am – 2pm)
- Mr Stitt and Mrs Mulholland delivered training on Google Classroom to the 12 Classroom Assistants on Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> June. (11am – 2pm)

### **August 2020: Staff ICT Training**

- Further training will be offered to staff in August 2020 for : Visualisers; Google Classroom; Collaborate Ultra Video Conferencing and Screencast Video Creator.

### **Surveys – Remote Teaching and Remote Learning**

- Mrs Mulholland created and carried out a “Staff Survey” for remote teaching.
- Mr Parker and Mrs Mulholland carried out a “pupil survey” of remote learning. The outcomes which were extremely positive were shared with staff and the BOG.

### **ICT Support During Lockdown**

- Mr Stitt, Mr Parker and Mrs Mulholland were all available to support staff and pupils during lockdown. This was in relation to : Google Classroom, Collaborate Ultra, resetting passwords etc. and lending out devices.

### **Open Day Video for January 2020**

Mrs Mulholland created the Open Day Promotional Video for January 2020.

**Year 14 Leavers Video for May 2020- YouTube** Mrs Mulholland and Dr Rainey created and edited the Year 14 Leavers' Video during lockdown– it had **6.500 views on Youtube** & lots of positive comments from Parents on the School Facebook page.

**Extra Curricular – 2019-2020**

- Cyber Security Competition – Year 9 pupils. The pupils were very successful and reached the final.
- A Coding Day was arranged in conjunction with Mr Aidan McGowan, QUB: It entailed a project with Queen's University for Year 9 pupils to promote Coding. This was organised by Mrs Mulholland and Aidan McGowan from Queen's.
- A 3D printing club was held every week after school. This was a huge success.
- Coursework support was provided after school for GCSE Digital Technology Year 12 pupils and GCE Digital Technology Year 14s.

**Uptake in the Subject:**

- **GCSE Digital Technology:** Uptake at GCSE is healthy as the department promotes Coding to Years 9 and 10 and the Carousel lessons encourage pupils to explore programming. The department organises lots of coding days and opportunities for the girls to visit Computing Companies etc in Years 9 and 10. They also enter them into Cyber Security Competitions. It is important to continue to do this.
- **GCE Digital Technology:** The department plans to promote the 'A' Level more this year as uptake is low. Many of the pupils choose to study four more traditional STEM subjects despite the many career opportunities available with IT qualifications.

<u>GCSE</u>	<u>A2</u>
A*/A: 66.7%	A*/A: 100%
A*/B: 88.9%	
A*/C: 100%	

- **Development** - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section
- **Additional Training:** GCSE Irish Specification Support – Clíodhna McNeill – GCSE Gaeilge Agreement Trial and A2 Irish Specification Support(Poetry), Caragh McNeill – Epi-pen training and Induction Core Day
- **Development Work/Initiatives led in the Department**
- The Irish Department welcomed Miss Caragh McNeill as a teacher and Miss Eimear McCotter as Language Assistant for A Level this year.
- PRSD and Induction were successfully carried out within the department. Feedback was given and best practice shared across the department.
- Ms Clíodhna McNeill and Ms Caragh McNeill were involved in TeachMeet throughout the year and participated in sharing best practice with other members of staff. Ideas suitable for Irish were then shared across the department.
- Book looks were conducted across KS3 and KS4. There is consistency across the department in relation to work tasks being completed by pupils, assessment tasks being carried out by pupils, assessment for learning strategies as well as constructive feedback. There is a culture of self and peer assessment evident and pupils are given advice on how to improve their work and the opportunity to set targets. Books are regularly marked and show evidence of stretch and challenge tasks specifically in relation to grammar and extended writing. The Homework and Marking Policies are being followed across the department. All teachers within the department have invested in personalised Irish stamps for assessment that are tailored for each Key Stage and that support Assessment for Learning.
- The third year of revised GCSE Specifications was delivered throughout this year. New materials for the revised GCSE Irish and GCSE Gaeilge were prepared to enable the successful delivery of those new specifications.

#### **Progress on promoting independent learning**

- Students in Years 8-10 worked independently to prepare for unseen / unprepared essay tasks at the end of each topic. This is in preparation for progress to GCSE level which now requires students to complete a written exam as opposed to a controlled assessment piece.
- The use of Google Drive with AS and A2 students has proven a great success and has continued to enhance independent learning within the department.
- The use of Google Classroom with all classes from Years 8- 14 has proven a great success and has also greatly enhanced independent learning from home in the current climate. Pupils are learning to be more responsible for their own learning as a result. This modern approach to teaching and learning has helped build both staff and pupils' organisational and time management skills.
- Students engaged with online lessons through the Collaborate Ultra platform. This approach has promoted independent learning within the department as pupils are learning to make their own independent notes at home whilst listening to, and engaging with the teacher via video cam/ mic. They also have to ensure to have their work completed and uploaded by the deadlines set by teachers. The use of these platforms will help all pupils, (particularly those in Years 10, 12 and 14) transition to new Key Stages or University.

### **Progress on development of GAFE across the department**

- GAFE has been used for the past 4 years for AS and A2 students, and as a result of Covid 19, it has also been introduced to students in Years 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. The Google Drive and The Google Classroom are used as tools to enable students to self-manage their notes, materials and work for class. Teachers upload the relevant documents and students are responsible for downloading these and coming to class prepared. In the context of Covid 19, students were responsible for engaging with Google Drive and Google Classroom from home, downloading the notes provided by the teachers, signing online prepared for Collaborate Ultra lessons, and uploading their homework by the deadlines set by teachers.
- Miss Clíodhna McNeill and Miss Caragh McNeill have used GAFE to assess KS3, 4 and 5 ICT tasks this year. Students had to upload their work to the relevant area on Google Classroom and this was used to assess the work and offer feedback.

### **Progress on promoting Growth Mindset**

- Students were given opportunities to participate in all lessons and teachers encouraged an atmosphere which makes students comfortable enough to speak out in class. Mutual respect is very much at the core of the classroom. Even if a student is unsure of some elements of a sentence or a grammatical concept, focus is placed on what they do know rather than what they don't and responses are scaffolded by peers or teacher.
- From Year 8 the students are encouraged to meet aspects of the GCSE writing criteria in their essays which includes idiomatic language, expression of their opinions and reasoning. When the students succeed in this, teachers use praise and reward to build their confidence and students feel accomplished as a result of achieving such high standards at Key Stage 3. This also helps to smooth the transition to Key Stage 4 in Year 11.
- The use of GCSE-style questions and mark schemes inspire and motivate students by developing their confidence and self-belief.
- The Poetry Support/ Revision Day for A2 students, hosted by University of Ulster- Derry, had a significantly positive impact on the A2 students' growth mind-set. The series of lectures highlighted for them how much they knew about the poems from class and it also provided them with some other unique ideas with regards to essay structure that they may not have considered beforehand. They left more confident in their own essay writing abilities and motivated to enrich their writing further for the summer paper.

### **Extra-curricular activities/competitions/successes**

- **Gaeltacht Residential** – The AS students completed a 3 day residential in Gaoth Dobhair in October 2019. A very enjoyable weekend was had by all and the weekend proved very beneficial in developing pupil confidence with spoken Irish and in developing pupil relationships. The residential is partially funded by Extended Schools and the department hopes to secure enough funding again next year to continue with this annual event.
- **An Cumann Gaelach** – Year 8, 9 and 10 students attended An Cumann Gaelach on a weekly basis. They had opportunities to participate in activities such as Irish dancing, music and drama. Students were also welcomed to drop in and get help or advice with homework as needed throughout the year. Year 10 students were given more of a leading role this year in An Cumann Gaelach. They were encouraged to think of ideas to help engage the younger pupils and they led games/ activities at lunch/ after school.

- **Gaeilgeoir na Míosa** (Irish Student of the Month) – This scheme has continued to be popular with staff and pupils. One pupil from each class in Years 8-10 was awarded a certificate at the end of each month throughout the year. The certificate doesn't award highest achievement and top marks but contribution in class, effort to speak Irish and effort to help teacher / other students with classwork etc. This scheme was cut short, like many others, as a result of Covid 19.
- **Feis Bhéal Feirste** – Students from Years 8-12 successfully competed in both conversation and poetry competitions. The pupils achieved top places in both categories and Emer O'Connor was the Overall Year 8 Winner.
- Poetry:
  - Year 8 - 1st Place- Emer O'Connor and 2nd Place- Ciara Murray
  - Year 9- 2nd Place- Enna McGreevy/ Aoibhinn Clenaghan and 3rd Place- Saorlaith Brennan
  - Year 10- 2nd Place- Blaithín Drain
  - Year 12 - 2nd Place- Sarah Duffy
- Conversation
  - Year 8 – 1st Place- Clodagh Holmes and 2nd Place- Catriona Fox
  - Year 9 – 1st Place- Gabrielle Lindsey and 2nd Place- Rachel McCambridge
  - Year 10- 1st Place- Saoirse Duffy and 2nd Place- Aoife Kennedy
  - Year 11- 1st Place- Ava Finnegan and 3rd Place- Carli Lowe
- **Scéim na bhFáinní** – The Fáinne Scheme took place in early September. Students from Years 8-12 were invited to participate in one of 4 categories to receive an award for proficiency in the spoken language. A total of 153 students took part and passed.
  - *Fáinne Óir* 18
  - *Bunteastas* 55
  - *Fáinne Airgid* 56
  - *Meánteastas* 24
- **Gaeltacht 2020** – A large number of students in Years 8-12 organised to go to the Gaeltacht this summer. Unlike previous years, a high number of parents have organised the relevant administration independently, therefore exact numbers are unknown. Unfortunately, due to Covid 19, they did not attend the summer colleges.
- **Comórtas Filíochta Padraic Fiacc**- Year 10 students and a number of Year 13 students took part in the Pádraic Fiacc Poetry Competition in February 2020. The students explored the world of creative writing in class and were given the opportunity to write their own poems for the contest. The famous Irish children's author Máire Sepf, alongside Frances Hesketh and Fionnuala Mallon judged the competition. Sian McManus achieved 1st Place and Eimear Devlin achieved 3rd place. Aisling O'Donnell, Siún McSherry and Clodagh Thompson's poems were also shortlisted. The award ceremony was held in Cultúrlann MacAdam O Fiaic.
- **Comórtas Gearrscéalta do Dhaoine óga**- Year 10 students took part in Cultúrlann Mhic Adam Ó Fiaic's first ever Short Story Competition for young people in April 2020. The students explored the world of creative writing and were given the opportunity to write their own short stories for the contest. The famous Irish children's author Máire Sepf,

alongside Áine Nic Géaráilt, Professor Fionntán de Brún and Gráinne Ní Ghilín judged the competition. Aisling O'Donnell achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> Place and Bláithín Drain achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place.

- **Abair** –Aoife Morgan, Riagain Crawford, Dúana Coleman and Aoife Murray represented the school at the annual public speaking competition.
- **Seachtain na Gaeilge Event**- Year 9 students attended the celebration event for Seachtain na Gaeilge in the City Hall. They listened to a talk delivered by a past pupil and language assistant of St Dominic's, Cuisle Wilson (Conradh na Gaeilge) entitled 'Ár dTeanga Chomhroinnte' that aims to depoliticise the Irish Language.

• <a href="#">GCSE</a>	• <a href="#">GCSE Gaeilge</a>	• <a href="#">A2</a>
• <a href="#">A*/A: 100%</a>	• <a href="#">A*/A: 100%</a>	• <a href="#">A*/A: 100%</a>

## Mathematics/Numeracy

**Development** - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section

### Additional Training:

- **Craig Barton ALC event** - In late August 2019, Dr A Rainey attended an event led by ALC. Over 140 teachers attended the event to hear Craig Barton discuss three key areas:
  - *Making the most of worked examples*
  - *Formative Assessment and Diagnostic Questions*
  - *Problem Solving*
 Dr Rainey ran a short workshop on 29<sup>th</sup> Aug with the Maths Dept summarising the learning from the course and highlighting areas of best practice we could trial (e.g. the silent teacher and diagnostic questions).
- **Mangahigh** – Miss Hunt and Dr Rainey promoted the Mangahigh Competition “Success & Using Mangahigh in the Classroom to Enhance Teaching and Learning “- Two members of staff from the promoters of Mangahigh flew over to present medals to the large number of students who performed highly during Maths Week Ireland.
- **CCEA GCE Maths and Further Maths Support** - Dr Rainey
- **CCEA GCSE Further Maths** – Miss Hunt
- **GAFE Training In-house** - Miss McDonnell
- **Collaborate Ultra - Guidance on how to run a lesson online using Collaborate Ultra** – Miss Hunt, Ms Magenis and Miss Cassidy
- **GCSE POD Online Training** – Miss Emma McDonnell additionally attended a Teaching and Learning at Post-primary Level Offline and Online Live webinar where members of the teaching council, teachers, principals and parents discussed:
  - ✓ *Teacher well-being*
  - ✓ *Reduced teaching methods*
  - ✓ *Effect on teaching when you cannot see your students*
  - ✓ *Sustainability of levels of education*
  - ✓ *Dealing with non-engaged students*
  - ✓ *Knock on effect for future teaching in light of Covid-19.*

- **Maths Chat Live – Blended Learning** - Maths Chat NI Podcasts – Jonathan English – Dr Rainey, Miss Hunt, Miss McNicholl and Miss McDonnell
- **Maths Chat Live –Lessons Using Visualisers - Maths Chat NI Podcasts – Jonathan English –** Miss Hunt
- **Sharing Best Practice re:Remote Teaching & Learning** – Miss McNicholl delivered a presentation.

#### Initiatives/developments

- Year 8 pupils attended a Numeracy Day in August. A hall vs classrooms was set up this year with more fun, engaging, problem solving, maths in action style tasks, as well as a data analysis corner. Prizes were awarded to winners of the two workshops; Mathematical Quiz and Engineering Straw Task.
- The HoD delivered a workshop in August to new Year 8 parents on:
  - *Barriers to Success*
  - *Why Mathematics is Important*
  - *Studying Mathematics in St Dominic's*
- In October, all pupils were entered for Maths Week Ireland (an online competition 'Mangahigh'). 22 pupils ranging from Years 8 to year 13 were acknowledged officially by Maths Week Ireland for their high achieving scores. L Hunt and A Rainey had the opportunity to observe the Mangahigh staff delivering a lesson to Year 10 pupils in the ICT suite using their software to enhance teaching and learning.
- Four Year 9 students were selected to compete at the 'Explore Learning' competition on 16<sup>th</sup> January 2020. Students completed a group problem-solving task against other NI schools for this regional round. Unfortunately, the girls did not make it through to the next level in Cambridge but received high praise from the organisers for their efforts.
- Four Year 14 pupils took part in the annual QUB Maths Competition. Despite the competition taking place during internal exams week, several Maths pupils had completed their exams by the date of the competition allowing them to celebrate with more maths!
- Four Year 13 pupils took part for the first time in the AILO Preliminary Round Competition in January 2020. The tasks presented were very thought provoking and challenged the students to think 'outside the box'. They worked on paper, supervised by maths staff. They then entered their solutions on the computer. Pupils involved this year will help train the Year 13s entering the competition next year.
- A group of Year 10 students attended the 'Maritime Roadshow for Girls' at the Belfast Harbour Office Belfast on 21<sup>st</sup> January 2020. This was a careers event where students worked through investigative STEM group tasks, participated in panel discussions in a 'speed-dating' format, where they were able to speak to females currently working in a STEM-related career and completed a growth mindset workshop. Also in attendance was MP Nusrat Ghani, whom St Dominic's students worked with in small groups to discuss various STEM and gender issues.
- Staff (A Rainey, L Hunt and L McNicholl) delivered a workshop to Year 13 pupils across several schools at the Higher Education Belfast Consortium, hosted in Methodist College. This course aims to enhance and support application to top Universities (March 2020).
- Maths staff led booster days in December to best prepare classes for January modules. They also provided weekly support at Maths Club – classes running in various venues for various strands on Mondays to Thursdays, September until school closure in March. In addition, a program of fully timed mocks ran after school each month from November for pupils at AS and A2 to best prepare them for May examinations.
- Senior A-level Maths pupils were selected to mentor junior pupils in need of support.



- During lockdown the Maths Department ran a 'Maths May Day Madness Competition' to encourage pupils to get creative and singing about Mathematical Pi. The response was impressive and many creative videos were submitted by pupils from Year 8 to Year 11. The winner overall was Hope Crawford from Year 11. The video shared on all social media pages, over 2.5K hits in the first 24 hours.

<u>GCSE</u>	<u>GCSE Further</u>	<u>A2</u>
A*/A: 82.3%	A*/A: 66.6%	A*/A: 81%
A*/B: 95.9%	A*/B: 87%	A*/B: 97.3%
A*/C: 100%	A*/C: 100%	A*/C: 100%

## Music

**Development** - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section

**Additional Training:**

- The Music Department continues to be very busy contributing to life both inside and outside the school. Prior to the pandemic the department was in full flow preparing for the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Concert in the Ulster Hall. Both staff and pupils were really looking forward to it and a tremendous amount of momentum had been created. All musical activities were to be featured as well as a variety of solo singers and instrumentalists. Some past pupils were also returning to join in the celebration. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic the event had to be cancelled.
- Prior to the pandemic the following initiatives were taking place:
  - ✓ The two year GCSE Music (Extra) Class continued and proved popular. Entry to the class is now by competitive audition and preference is given to students who have demonstrated commitment to the extra-curricular music activities.
  - ✓ Extra-curricular Music Theory classes were delivered again this year and proved to be popular and successful. This will continue next year. It is now compulsory for all GCSE music students to attend this class.
  - ✓ The Year 8 choir (consisting of all Year 8 students) was rehearsing and due to perform at the Spring Concert.
  - ✓ The Senior Choir took part in a concert held at Clonard Monastery to raise money for Trócaire. The concert also featured The Priests and Margaret Keys who the choir accompanied in several items.
  - ✓ FISCA School Choir Competition at Belfast City Hall - Winners of The George Quigley Award for the Most Accomplished Senior Choir (£500 prize) - This was a joint performance with Belfast Model School for Girls.
  - ✓ The Senior Choir sang at the Harbour Commission Christmas Lunch
  - ✓ The Senior Choir performed at *Christmas by Candlelight* in St. Patrick's Church, Donegall Street alongside The Belfast Pops Orchestra. The concert was in aid of St. Patrick's Soup Kitchen.
  - ✓ The Senior Choir performed at Candlelight Christmas at Clonard for the third year running, alongside Karl McGuckin, Niamh Perry, Malachy Cush and Fra Fee.
  - ✓ Students from St Dominic's performed at the 'Musical Moments' in the RVH Children's Hospital

**The Music Department continues to be committed to enhancing the extra-curricular life of the school.**

**Extra-curricular activities of the Department include:**

- *Senior Choir*
- *Junior Choir*
- *Chamber Choir*
- *Senior Orchestra*
- *Wind Band*
- *Junior Orchestra*
- *Senior Cumann Ceoil*
- *Junior Cumann Ceoil*
- *African Drums*
- *Instrumental Ensembles*
- *Music Theory Class*

**The Music Department contributed significantly to school events this year and provided music for the following:**

- *Opening Mass*
- *Carol Service*
- *School Assemblies*
- *Events/Masses for the PPU*
- *Award Ceremonies*
- *Staff Mass*

Students were prepared and entered for ABRSM/LCM Practical Examinations in the **November/March examination series**

- ✓ 8 students took ABRSM Practical examinations. 21 students had their examinations cancelled in April due to the pandemic.
- ✓ 4 students who were entered for Trinity College London practical examinations had their exams cancelled in March due to the pandemic.
- ✓ 8 students who were entered for the LCM music theatre examinations had their exams cancelled in March due to the pandemic.
- **NYCNI CHOIRS** - Following an audition, five students were offered places in NYCNI Junior Choir 2020, 4 were offered places in NYCNI Training Choir and 4 were offered places in NYCNI Senior Choir.
- **YOUNG MUSICIAN OF THE YEAR** - In February 2020 Year 13 flautist Hannah Gribben competed at the Young Musician of the Year Competition organised by Comber Rotary Club.

**Lockdown** - Since the closure of the school, the Music department has posted material and assignments on Google Classroom for GCSE, AS and A2 students. The early completion of the programme of study for 2019-2020 has facilitated the commencement of the programme of study for 2021. The predicted grades provided by the Music Department reflect outcome trends from previous years. Adopting the Music curriculum to deal with the current pandemic environment is the primary area for development for 2020-21

<u>GCSE</u>	<u>A2</u>
A*/A: 83.4%	A*/A: 50%
A*/B: 100%	A*/B: 100%

## Physical Education

## **Development - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section**

### **Development Work /Initiatives led in the Department**

- **KS3-** The PE department had a focus on introducing GCSE topics to KS3 groups. This issue was significant as pupils embark on GCSE with very little to no, GCSE theory. Consequently, in 2019-20, when the weather did not permit outdoor teaching and the halls were in use for Christmas exams, Year 8 classes focused on components of fitness, Yr 9 on heart rates and training intensities and the Yr10 on performance analysis. All three teachers used shared resources to deliver the lessons to the pupils. Each pupil then completed an end of topic test to show their understanding.
- Another area identified and set out in the departmental action plan was the area of mental health and well-being. The department dedicated an area on the PE notice-board to this. The teachers highlighted the many benefits of exercise on our mental health and often raised this within lessons to the pupils.
- **Shared Education-** The Yr 13 and 14 PE classes designed and delivered an inter-school sport's day for the Yr 8 pupils at St Dominic's and Friends'. The PE students used this towards their OCR in Sport. The Year 8 pupils were all transported to Friends' School, Lisburn where they took part in a range of sports including, hockey, camogie, and tug of war. A great experience was had by all.
- **Camogie development-** The department had access to free camogie coaching through the Gaelfast initiative. Damien McCallin attended the school every Wednesday and developed the U14 camogie squad.

### **Progress on promoting independent learning**

- One of the key areas of focus in 2019-20 was to increase the GCSE pupils' confidence and ability in the performance analysis component. This involves the girls individually delivering a critical reflection of their own performance in sport, whilst meeting the criteria as set out by CCEA. Pupils were given a range of opportunities to work on this and each pupil was assigned a time before or after school with Mrs Cassidy to work on the oral preparation. This worked well and developed the pupils' confidence in delivery. All pupils achieved very highly in this component of the GCSE course due to the thorough preparation and planning.
- The department focused more on the use of Google classroom throughout the year and all resources required by the pupils were posted to this platform. Power points and sample questions as well as revision documents were all made available to all pupils. Thankfully the pupils were already engaged in learning independently via this method and when the school closed, they were already well able and used to working using online platforms. This included Yr11 GCSE PE right up to Yr14 OCR PE.

### **Progress on development of GAFE across the department**

- Google Classroom is effectively and regularly used in the department by all students. The main development in 2019-20 was introducing it to KS3 pupils. Year group classrooms were set up in conjunction with the development of the GCSE topics. Helpful resources were posted on to these classrooms for the pupils to access.
- All Yr 11 and 12 GCSE pupils used Google Classroom to access resources and post the lockdown to receive and submit work. Years 13 and 14 continued the practice of submission of tasks and work via Google.

### **Progress on promoting Growth Mindset**

- The department continually strives to create a 'Can do' attitude in respect of PE. Much of what we do in sport requires this attitude and naturally all pupils, regardless of ability, understand this attitude and usually try to adopt it. Staff strive to create fun and engaging PE lessons for all pupils and set challenges at all levels. In doing this, the growth mindset occurs naturally.

- In terms of exam classes- pupils are given written and oral feedback from their teachers on all submitted pieces of work. This feedback is always constructive and direct so that the pupils understand very clearly what they need to do to improve, with a positive mindset.

### **Extra-curricular Activities/successes and competitions**

#### **Basketball**

- U16- Competed in the North East Basketball Competition
- Juniors - Competed in the North East Basketball and reached the Finals and won a place in the All Ireland Finals. (Play suspended)
- Minors -Competed in the North East Basketball Competition.
- Year 8-Won in the First Year Blitz in January in Queen's
- Roisín Quinn, Yr8, made the Basketball U14 NI team
- Eimear Summersgill, Yr11, made the Basketball U16 NI team.

#### **Netball**

- Year 8- Over 60 pupils attended training sessions on a weekly basis. This has created a great base for the department to build on going forward.
- Minor- Finished as runners up in their league and made it to the NI plate semi-final.
- Junior- Finished as league winners- however NI finals day was cancelled due to Coronavirus.
- Intermediate- Finished as League winners and again missed out on NI finals day. Joint winners of NI Shield with Regent House (final not played due to coronavirus).
- Senior- Runners-up to Glenlola Collegiate in the NI Shield Final. Again, the school qualified for the NI League Final but were unable to play due to Covid.

#### **International Success**

- Eva Ramsey, Meabh Bradley and Ana Mulholland were all selected onto the NI U17 Netball Squad who travelled to Wales to take part in the U17 European Championships. This was the first cap for Meabh and Ana and a great achievement for them all.
- The netball tradition continues in the school and numbers and success continue to increase year on year. In 2019-20, a lot of the finals were not played due to the Pandemic and this was very disappointing for the girls who put so much time into the club.

#### **Gaelic Football**

- Yr8- taken by Miss Hunt and Miss Cassidy- again very well attended with over 30 girls staying to train on a Friday afternoon. These girls played in a few development blitzes earlier in the year.
- U14- Miss Quinn/Miss Scannell and Mr McCormick all helped to take the U14 team and they took part in the U14 D league.
- U16- reached the Ulster final and were agonisingly beaten in the last few seconds of play in a thrilling game against St Mary's, Magherafelt.
- U19- played in the U19 league.

**Camogie** U14- Damien McCallin, from Gaelfast, attended school every Wednesday to coach and Miss Quinn and Miss Scannell also developed this squad and arranged a few *friendlies* for the girls.

**Cross Country-** Caitlin Carlisle and Aoife McGreevy attended the Ulster's and Aoife finished in second place in the senior race to qualify for the All-Irelands. Aoife went on to take the Silver medal in the All-Irelands.

**Swimming-** Ava McNamara continues to excel in the pool and again was Ulster champion for a range of events. The Grammar school competition was cancelled in March due to the pandemic.

**Waterpolo-** A large number of girls excelling in this sport- Eva Ramsey, Niamh O'Connor, Cara O'Kane and Maria McGuigan were all selected onto the Ireland U17 team and were due to travel to the Czech Republic, but again cancelled due to the virus.

**A-Level PE-** Pupils were all involved in a mountain biking and orienteering event at Belfast Activity Centre. They used the skills and knowledge obtained here as part of their outdoor and adventurous activities unit. These pupils also took part in a camogie and a hockey coaching session with senior pupils from Friends. Following this, they planned and delivered an inter-school sports day for Yr 8 pupils at both schools. The Yr 13 pupils also led 6 sports lessons with younger classes at the school as a requirement for their sports coaching unit.

Across the school, a large number of girls are representing their clubs, county, country in a variety of sports. The uptake for PE is increasing and this is testament to the dedication and commitment shown by the staff and pupils.

**At A-level-** pupils are completing the 2-year course in one year and are offered the opportunity to study a second further A-Level. This has also allowed girls to enter the class as a year 14 and complete the one-year course in their final year. Again, this was only possible due to the efforts made by both the staff and the pupils.

<u>GCSE</u>	<u>A2</u>
<u>A*/A: 66.6%</u> <u>A*/B: 95.5%</u> <u>A*/C: 100%</u>	<u>A*/A: 100%</u>

## Physics

**Development** - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section

**Additional Training:** Induction of, and support for new member of the department

**Development Work /Initiatives led in the Department**

### **Year 13 and 14,**

- Year 13 and 14 topic tests were updated with all questions from 2002 until 2020.
- Year 13 and 14 practical and data analysis were updated with past paper questions.
- Teaching notes and summaries were updated with change of Specification in CCEA A2 Physics 2019-2020.
- All Year 13 and 14 teaching Powerpoints were updated and provided to the pupils.
- All end of topic tests were updated – focus on synoptic and problem solving questions and self evaluation section of each exam paper.
- Google Classroom was used to promote independent work and all workbooks and revision power points were uploaded to the online Classroom. GC used as evidence for practical work and pictures of dissections.
- Booster classes were offered to Year 13 and 14 pupils after school before their mocks to help with exam technique.

### **Year 11 and 12.**

- Super summaries and topic tests were updated and uploaded on Google Classroom.
- New GCSE Physics practicals were introduced – Hooke's law and density of a liquid.
- New GCSE DA practical activities were introduced - Hooke's law.
- Booster Classes were provided for Yr12 pupils who were repeating a module from September to November Year 11 and Year 12 before and after school by B McArdle, D Gibson & M Cassidy.

### **Year 8, 9 and 10.**

- The Year 10 SoW was updated to include more problem-solving, practical skill work, and oral presentations by students. There was a focus on oracy and group work with the pupils presenting their PowerPoints on the Space exploration whilst using Google Classroom.

**STEAM** – The pupils were encouraged to write an extended piece on famous astronauts.

**Progress on promoting independent learning.**

- There was a significant improvement in the usage of Google Classroom because of COVID.
- A new investigation was introduced in the autumn for Year 10 – Similar to the previous year’s GCSE.

**Progress on development of GAFE across the department**

- Year 10 – New revision quizzes on Energy, Waves, Electricity and Radioactivity were introduced. Pupils started GCSE work on Energy.
- Next year’s Year 11 GCSE Triple Award class began the course in Year 10 – Past paper booklet and notes on cells were shared.
- Year 11 – All revision guides, past paper questions, teaching Powerpoints and YouTube videos were uploaded to the classroom. Multiple choice quizzes were produced for each topic and pupils started to learn about motion – topic 1 year 12 – motion.
- Year 12 - All revision guides, past paper questions, teaching Powerpoints and YouTube videos were uploaded to the classroom.
- New year 13 GC established for pupils proposing to do AS Physics beginning Sept 2020 –Scalars and Vectors topic commenced.
- **Year 13 and 14** – All revision guides, past paper questions, teaching Powerpoints and worked solutions were uploaded to GC. These year groups used these regularly especially during exam season. Pupils have completed mathematical solutions, notes and past paper questions and submitted them via Google classroom.

**Extra-curricular activities/competitions/successes**

- Year 14 pupils were entered for the Senior Physics Olympiad. Congratulations to the following girls: Gina Craig (Highly commended) and Rachael McAreavey (Highly commended),
- Year 13 Pupils entered the AS Physics Challenge. Commendations were awarded to Aoife McGreevy and Emma Louise Bonner.
- Pupils in Year 8 created model cells in Science to encourage them to think about cells in a creative way. Some pupils baked cakes and biscuits, others used sweets, jelly and an avocado. All pupils enjoyed the challenge and in particular the design aspect of the cells project.
- Emma Louise Bonner and Megan Turner attended the Irish Astronomical Association lecture.
- A number of AS students attended the Maths / Physics lectures delivered at Methodist College as part of the HE+ programme.

<u>GCSE</u>	<u>A2</u>
A*/A: 77%	A*/A: 77.7%
A*/B: 100%	A*/B: 100%
	A*-C:

**Psychology**

**Development** - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section

**Additional Training:** AQA A-Level new spec training, AS and A2 marker

**Development Work /Initiatives led in the Department/Year Team**

- In September 2019 the Careers Fair took place. Ms Kennedy invited a trainee educational psychologist and a trainee forensic psychologist to speak to pupils and parents who were interested in a career in psychology.
- In February 2020, information was shared with Year 12 pupils and their parents about what is involved in studying psychology at A-Level.
- In April 2020, attendance by Year 13 students at the Association for Psychology Teachers' Annual Student Conference was cancelled due to Corona Virus.

**Progress on promoting independent learning**

- There has been a more formal approach adopted to the use of the flip classroom. In every booklet at least one topic is taught using the flip classroom. The pupils read the notes and they are then asked questions to test their understanding of the topic.
- Pupils continued to improve at working through their 'Apply-it' questions in their workbooks independently.
- Pupils were taught revision techniques – writing the question on one side of the card and the answer on the other side. They have gained experience and skills at using this technique.
- Pupils were given a timed essay often from a small selection of topic areas. They therefore had to independently write the essay and learn a selection of them for class. Subsequently, they completed work under exam and timebound conditions.
- Since the introduction of remote learning, the pupils were required to work more independently. Ms Kennedy provided spoken notes and their booklets, but they had to watch many webinars to fully understand the topics.

**Progress on development of GAFE across the department**

- As a consequence of Covid-19, the pupils became more adept at submitting their work through google classroom. This has been very effective and will be a method deployed on the return to school.

**Progress on promoting Growth mind-set**

- Growth mind-set fits very well in psychology because the topic of brain plasticity is taught in year 14. The year 14 pupils prepared a presentation on growth mind-set for the junior pupils and delivered these presentations during pastoral care classes.
- After every test or assessment, the pupils were reminded about the importance of having a growth mind-set and encouraged to think positively about changes that they can make to improve their work.

**Extra-curricular activities/competitions/successes**

- The Year 13 students were due to attend the AS revision conference in QUB. Some pupils attended an open day in clinical psychology.

**A2**

**A\*/A: 65.4%**

**A\*/B: 100%**

**Religious Education**

**Development** - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section

**Development Work /Initiatives led in the Department/Year Team**

- Academic mentoring was carried out by department for pupils who required extra support.
- Booster class were held for Year 12 students who were repeating the Year 11 module.
- **St Vincent de Paul family appeal** - Coordination of Hampers which were distributed to Matt Talbot, Springfield charitable association, Church of the Nativity, Belfast.
- Various talks were arranged for the Faith in Action programme for Year 13 and 14 students including: Living Youth, L'Arche community, Clonard Youth Ministry, De La Salle Youth team, The Samaritans and Trócaire.
- A Thursday morning Rosary was led by B Wilson during October and November.
- Year 8 presented their Faith Boxes
- Launch of the Alpha Programme - a Year 13 Faith Development activity
- Clonard retreats were held for all Year 10 classes
- Launch of the school's Pope John Paul II award programme (Year 13s)
- November Prayers for the Dead, morning worship (open to all pupils)
- Year 8 pupils participated in the United Nations World's Largest Lesson (care for others pledges)
- Two Year 9 classes participated in the UN World's Largest Lesson (environment theme)
- Launch of 'Credible Catholics' a US online faith development programme (in conjunction with Living Youth & the Alpha team participants)
- Four Year 8 classes completed 'Advent Actions' (programme with certificates)
- The Year 14 PJP II Award team completed their Gold Awards
- Year 14 RE students attended an Ethics and Philosophy Conference in St. Patrick's, Donaghmore (speakers from Oxford & Cambridge universities)
- Open Day activities
- Year 9 Retreat days at Clonard (all classes)
- 'Love for Life' Presentations (KS3 & 4)
- Year 14 meditation session led by the De La Salle ministry
- Catholic Schools Week activities KS3 (& Year 9 Kindness certificates)
- Year 14 'Building Bridges' talk & reflection
- Living Youth support visit for the 2019/20 Pope John Paul II new team
- Diocesan Youth Programmes presentation (Year 14s)
- Holocaust Memorial Day activities (Year 9 pupils) booklets presented

**Progress on promoting independent learning**

- Advice on study skills was given in class.
- Students were encouraged to make use of the study facilities in school e.g. library, booster classes.
- Students were encouraged to take responsibility for their learning in class.
- A Growth Mindset was promoted in class. Posters are displayed in each classroom.
- A large variety of resources were provided for pupils online. These were emailed, uploaded onto Google classroom and were also available in the shared resources area.
- Flipped classroom tasks ensured that pupils were conducting some of their own research before a topic is covered in class.
- Pupils were encouraged to review and evaluate their own work and the work of their peers.

**Progress on development of GAFE across the department**

Google docs were used by department: teachers sent notes, support material, resources, homework etc. through google classroom.



### Extra-curricular activities/competitions/successes

In 2019-20, St Dominic's Key Stage 3 RE pupils completed activities linked to Human & Children's Rights and Global Goals, participating in the UNICEF Outright programme – led by A Connolly

<u>GCSE</u>	<u>A2</u>
A*/A: 51%	A*/A: 66.6%
A*/B: 84.8%	A*/B: 91.7%
A*/C: 100%	A*/C: 100%

### Sociology

**Development - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section**  
**Additional Training- A Level Sociology training – WJEC – November 27 2019**

#### Development Work /Initiatives led in the Department

- Resources were updated and produced in booklet form for the AS and A2 modules. Additional reading was also included within the booklets.
- Google Suite for Education use was extended with Year 13 and 14 classes, including Google Drive and Classroom. Collaborate Ultra was also used during remote teaching.
- Transition activities were developed for Year 13 and 14.
- There was a continued focus on developing A2 essay skills
- There was continued use of mentoring with Year 14 students
- Self and peer assessment mark sheets were used for each AS and A2 exam question. The continuation of the use of self-reflection time, self-reflection pro-forma and individual feedback discussion for key assessments proved successful.
- The introduction to the AS and A2 courses was updated to further promote independent learning and growth mindset.

A\*/A: 72%

A\*/B: 92%

A\*/C: 100%

### Spanish

**Development** - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section

**Additional Training:** Attendance at Examiners' conferences(GCSE, AS and A2)

### Development Work

Since September 2019, prior to the pandemic of COVID 19, the Spanish Department sought to incorporate a wider variety of activities and resources, including further use of ICT and Google Classroom, with a view to encouraging continued study at KS4 and KS5. The strategies employed to achieve these aims over the 3 key stages included:

- ✓ *Regular review of teaching materials.*
- ✓ *Display of helpful materials in the classroom such as grammar and vocabulary posters.*
- ✓ *Additional work for those students struggling with the subject.*
- ✓ *Spanish Club for KS3 students organised by A2 students at lunch time once per week.*
- ✓ *Use of booster lessons for extra support.*
- ✓ *Further use of ICT facilities to increase motivation.*
- ✓ *Interactive Spanish web-sites designed for the study and practice of the language provided to students to help them work more independently.*
- ✓ *Introduction of grammar at an earlier stage (commencing in Y.8) and with particular emphasis on verbs. In this way, the students would have a sounder understanding of grammar when they reach Y.11.*
- ✓ *Individual help provided by teachers and HoD.*
- ✓ *Creation of individual study plans for weaker students, including those identified as having SEN.*
- ✓ *Regular contact with Heads of Year with a view to liaising with parents where appropriate and to discuss the progress of students who were struggling, contacting home where appropriate.*

• Strategies employed to specifically target improvement at GCSE and A-level included:

- ✓ *Preparation of oral presentation and relevant conversation questions much earlier in the academic year to facilitate the opportunity of working on other areas.*
- ✓ *Further use of past papers to allow more examination practice throughout the year.*
- ✓ *Vocabulary lists compiled from G.C.S.E. listening and reading past papers.*
- ✓ *Introduction of booster classes at lunch time for Y.11 students twice per week carried out by A2 Spanish students.*
- ✓ *A Level students having a 2 period conversation class per week in groups of 2 with Miss C.Rice.*
- ✓ *For GCSE and ALevel students, the trip to Spain which took place in November 2019 seemed to be a key motivating factor.*
- ✓ *Teachers of Y12 GCSE Spanish classes interviewing those students struggling with the subject and together deciding the tier of entry in the four skills. This was done with a view to reducing or eradicating C grades and below, as stated in last year's report.*
- ✓ *Greater use of Google Classroom to develop alternative approaches to deliver programme of study.*

The latter has proven to be particularly relevant in recent times with the pandemic of the COVID-19 virus.

• Since the closure of the school, the Spanish department has been focusing on the following:

- ✓ *Material and assignments have been posted to Google Classroom for all classes every week.*
- ✓ *Contact has been maintained between teachers and learners through Google Classroom.*
- ✓ *Teachers monitored participation of students via Google Classroom data and provide Heads of Year with information flagging up lack of engagement.*
- ✓ *The early completion of the programme of study for 2019-2020 has facilitated the commencement of the programme of study for 2021.*
- ✓ *Predicted grades provided by the Spanish Department reflect outcome trends from previous years.*

[GCSE](#)

[A2](#)

<u>A*/A: 63.5%</u>	<u>A*/A: 54.6%</u>
<u>A*/B: 92.3%</u>	<u>A*/B: 100%</u>
<u>A*/C: 100%</u>	

## Technology and Design

**Development** - Whole School Training as outlined in Staff Development Section

**Additional Training:** Attendance at agreement trials and leadership role in Erasmus Drone project

**Development Work /Initiatives led in the Department including extra-curricular/enrichment activities**

### KS5

- AS & A2 controlled assessment manufacturing classes were held after-school (January to March, prior to closure).
- After school booster classes developed pupil skills and enhanced their work.
- Google Classroom was used for all KS4 & KS5 pupils as a submission method as well as a resource bank.
- AS & A2 exemplars and structure templates were generated in booklet form.
- AS & A2 Product Design resource booklets were updated with past paper questions constructed topic by topic.
- Clear and structured timelines were created for pupil progression of controlled assessment to monitor progress for both folder and project work.
- 9 Year 13 pupils were involved in the Sentinus Team R+D. A planned partnership with 2 engineering firms had to be postponed due to Covid-19.

### KS4

- A guidance booklet for the revised specification controlled assessment structuring was updated.
- New GCSE Specification folder templates were provided to clearly outline for pupils the structure and marking allocation for each section.
- Timelines were created for pupil progression of controlled assessment to monitor progress for both folder and project work.
- New assessment tasks were created for Year 11 to select for internal assessment task as part of their tracking.

### KS3

- The Schemes of Work for KS3 projects were updated.
- Continuation of the Drone Club for problem solving and programming skills, linking to Erasmus+ project
- After-school technology club for Year 10 pupils – the activities included 3D printing, making jewellery boxes and key rings.
- Links with the Science department continued to promote involvement in BT Young Scientists and Sentinus Young Innovators.

- All KS3 projects were updated, with booklets and assessments created for teaching beginning September 2020. These were specifically designed to meet the eventuality of remote learning.

#### **Erasmus+ Project**

- Preparation for trip to Iasi Trip (September to November) with 5 pupils from Year 13. Production of a presentation of all the work carried out by the Erasmus+ team, including videos, posters, quizzes and presentations.
- Trip to Iasi, November 2019. Staff and pupils experienced a range of educational activities, beneficial for both.
- Continuation of problem solving activities and challenges for the new Erasmus+ 5 for Year 3.

#### **Progress on promoting Independent Learning**

- Independent super summaries and keywords were provided for all pupils both in class and on google classroom.
- Departmental strategies for independent and responsible learners were produced, including multiple tasks throughout the year to support independent learning, particularly at KS4 & KS5
- Multiple discussions took place in departmental meetings on how to promote independent learners within the department.

#### **Progress on development of GAFE across the department**

- Google classroom was integrated into all KS4 & KS5 classes for both resource availability and coursework submissions.
- All resources including specifications, exemplar material, past papers, mark schemes, controlled assessment marking guides were available on google classroom.
- All controlled assessment classes using GAFE as a method of submission on a structured deadline schedule
- Regular marking and feedback on controlled assessment using google classroom. Each piece of submitted work was given a provisional mark with beneficial feedback in order to improve before final submission.
- Effective way of monitoring late submissions and those who regularly missed deadlines to allow follow-up actions to be carried out.

<b><u>GCSE</u></b>	<b><u>A2</u></b>
<b><u>A*/A: 60%</u></b>	<b><u>A*/A: 50%</u></b>
<b><u>A*/B: 90%</u></b>	<b><u>A*/B: 50%</u></b>
<b><u>A*/C: 100%</u></b>	

## Volunteering Work

The main volunteering activities and awards are promoted by Ms Connolly who has responsibility for this area across the school. She promotes and co-ordinates the work and over the years, has extended a wide range of opportunities to pupils of all ages.

### New initiatives

- The WE Schools CPD qualification was completed. WE Schools CPD is an interactive e-learning course for teachers, with the aim of creating meaningful social action within their schools (6 modules).
- First engagement with the Power of Youth 2020 Campaign (a new offshoot of the #iWill programme).
- A grant of £100 was awarded from the 'Get Set for Community Action' programme 2020.

### Team Meetings for volunteers

#### September

- #Iwill Campaign
- Pope John Paul II team – sign off 2019 team
- Presentation to NI School and Youth leaders MAC centre (St Dominic's as a Beacon of Good Practice)

#### October

- Millennium Volunteer team met
- Birmingham University (#iWill welcome event) NI school's representative
- Pope John Paul II Award (new programme 2020)
- Get Set for Community Action (new enrolment)

#### November

- Step up to Serve (Uk programme) webinar & GAFE
- Conference call with the WE team (UK based initiative)
- Youth Alpha Team meet
- Volunteer Now Stormont Award event planning
- #iWill Campaign 'Power of Youth' event & feedback

#### December

- Meeting with representatives of US and Irish Catholic bishops (sharing good Irish practice)
- 'Embedding personal development in your school' WE schools webinar

#### January

- Living Youth team review early progress of the PJP II team (during Faith in Action time)
- 'Get Set for Community Action' Skype session - planning the active school programme 2020
- The Call for Character WE schools webinar
- Power of Youth Challenge 2020 & enrolment – online training

#### February

- Volunteer Now – preparing for the 200 hour Millennium Volunteer Awards
- Social Action Go team (Lisburn)

#### May

- Webinar Youth Volunteering and the Covid Crisis Volunteer Now Ni
- Webinar End of year evaluation WE Schools programme

## **Pupil Achievements**

### **Diana Award winner August 2020**

- Hannah Kempton Year 14

### **Elected Leadership Roles**

- Lucy Flannery Year 11 was selected as a NICCY Youth Ambassador
- Danielle Aleria Year 11 & Elen O’Rawe Year 14 were selected as an #iWill Youth Ambassadors
- Nuala McNally was selected as a National Citizen Service National Leader
- Anna McCaffrey was selected onto the GAA National Youth Forum

### **Belfast Youth Forum leaders (2019/20)**

- Maria Aaroy
- Zara Conlon

### **Ultimate Volunteer Awards (Stormont award ceremony)**

- Kira McDonnell
- Elen O’Rawe

**MV 200 hour award** – Seven students between Years 12 and 14 completed the award

**MV 100 hour award** – Three pupils between Years 11 and 13 completed the award.

**MV 50 hour award** – Two pupils completed the award

**PRAmerica Spirit of Community Certificates of Merit** – Four pupils were awarded certificates

**New Alpha team members 2020 (Year 13)** – Twelve pupils signed up to complete the award

**New Pope John Paul II Gold Award enrolment (Year 13)** – Nine pupils signed up to complete the award

**Youth Alpha Programme (Year 14)** – Two Year 14 pupils completed the programme

**Habitat for Humanity team 2020** (all also completed the MV schools award)- ten Year 13 pupils participated in this project led by Mr Gibson

**NCS programme (all also have the 100 hour MV award)** – Thirteen Year 13 pupils completed the programme

### **Whole School Award**

St Dominic’s received an Award Plaque for being a Beacon School for the ‘Get Set for Community Action’ programme.

**Power of Change 2020** – Four pupils between Years 9 and 12 participated.

Three Year 10 pupils who were appointed Sport’s leaders by the GAA will commence the MV award.

## Fundraising 2019-20

During 2019-20, the St. Dominic's community continued to fundraise for worthy causes/charities both at home and abroad. The highlight of the fundraising events as always was the Teacher Talent Show which has become part of the Christmas story at St. Dominic's. Parentlink continued its sterling work and were pro-active during the school show. Once again, Mr Gibson led a team of Year 13 students in the Habitat for Humanity programme, working in close liaison with the Carrickfergus GS and raised funds in addition to working on a community building programme. As always, pupils led activities for charities of personal interest to themselves and their families. Concern was shown for families in need as Christmas approached. The RE staff and tutors led the pupils in making up hampers and contributing to the SVdeP Toy and Present Appeal with each class donating presents for families in need. Unfortunately, many fundraising activities including for Trócaire came to an abrupt end with the Covid Crisis.

Charity	Amount
CLIC Sargent	£2,800
LEPRA	£2,019.35
Rainbow Factory	£111
Coffee Morning	£1700
Women's Aid Bun Sale	£360
Hallowe'en Fancy Dress	£603
PPU Carol Service - SVdeP	£1218.05
Teacher Talent Show	£2400
Shoebox Appeal	Senior pupils made up shoeboxes as Christmas presents for the homeless – "Road to Hope Charity"
Food Hampers SVdePaul	Every form group made up a food hamper
Christmas present appeal SVdeP	Pupils from all form classes collected money and bought a present for a child assigned to them
Food bank appeal	Food was collected for the local food bank
Guide Dogs Appeal	£215.90
Year to remember Walk in May – fundraising for Food bank	£2553
Action MS	£3,054.80
Trócaire	£219.43 (A Doherty's class)
Meningitis now charity	£529.09
MS Charity	£3,054.80
SENCO	£201.72 – This was raised by a group of pupils to buy additional soft furnishings for their break and lunch area
Habitat for Humanity	£575.90

## **RESULTS 2020**

### **Performance - A LEVEL**

<b>2020</b>	
<b>A* - A</b>	<b>67%</b>
<b>A* - B</b>	<b>96%</b>
<b>A* - C</b>	<b>100 %</b>

**100% passes at Grades A\*-C**

### **Performance - GCSE**

<b>2020</b>	
<b>A*</b>	<b>25.22%</b>
<b>A* - A</b>	<b>69.49%</b>
<b>A* - B</b>	<b>90%</b>
<b>A* - C</b>	<b>96.59%</b>

**Seven passes including English and Maths – 99.31%**

**Five passes including English and Maths – 100%**

### **Fast-track Maths course – Year 11 results**

<b>Number of students</b>	<b>A*</b>	<b>A*/A</b>	<b>A*/B</b>
<b>59</b>	<b>37%</b>	<b>98.2%</b>	<b>100%</b>

### **Fast-track Irish course – Year 10 results**

<b>Number of students</b>	<b>A*</b>
<b>12</b>	<b>100%</b>



**Performance reported in percentages****A Level 2020**

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E
Biology	24	16.7	45.8	29.2	8.3	0.0	0.0
Chemistry	23	17.4	47.8	30.4	4.3	0.0	0.0
Physics	9	44.4	33.3	22.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mathematics	37	40.5	40.5	16.2	2.7	0.0	0.0
Business Studies	14	14.3	50.0	35.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Financial Studies	16	12.5	31.2	56.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Health & Social Care	24	8.3	45.8	45.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
Art & Design	7	42.9	42.9	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Geography	8	25.0	37.5	37.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
History	19	26.3	42.1	21.1	10.5	0.0	0.0
Religious Studies	12	8.3	58.3	25.0	8.3	0.0	0.0
Politics	36	27.8	33.3	36.1	2.8	0.0	0.0
Psychology	26	15.4	50.0	34.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sociology	25	12.0	60.0	20.0	8.0	0.0	0.0
English Literature	25	16.0	32.0	44.0	8.0	0.0	0.0
Drama	20	25.0	45.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Media Film & TV Studies	11	0.0	36.4	54.5	9.1	0.0	0.0
Irish	15	40.0	60.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
French	3	33.3	66.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spanish	11	9.1	45.5	45.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Music	6	16.7	33.3	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Design & Technology	4	25	25	50	0.0	0.0	0.0
Information Technology	5	60.0	20.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

## GCSE 2020

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C*	C	D
Biology	10	30.0	60.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemistry	10	30.0	40.0	30.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Physics	9	44.4	33.3	22.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mathematics	146	14.9	67.4	17.6	3.4	0.7	0.0
Mathematics Further	54	29.6	37.0	20.4	9.3	3.7	0.0
Information Technology	9	55.6	11.1	22.2	11.1	0.0	0.0
Business Studies	22	22.7	13.6	36.4	18.2	9.1	0.0
Health & Social Care	40	10.0	65.0	12.5	10.0	2.5	0.0
Art & Design	24	45.8	41.7	12.5	0.00	0.0	0.0
Geography	20	15.0	50.0	20.0	15.0	0.0	0.0
History	98	13.3	56.1	14.3	12.2	2.0	2.0
Religious Studies	145	17.2	33.8	33.8	11.0	2.8	1.4
English Lang	146	21.9	58.2	19.2	0.7	0.0	0.0
English Lit	145	31.7	50.3	16.6	1.4	0.0	0.0
Drama	54	33.3	57.4	9.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Irish	19	36.8	63.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Gaeilge	15	53	47	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
French	37	27.0	32.4	18.9	10.8	0.0	0.0
Spanish	52	38.5	25.0	28.8	5.8	1.9	0.0
Music	12	41.7	41.7	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sport/PE Studies	22	50.0	13.6	31.8	4.5	0.0	0.0
Design & Technology	10	20.0	40.0	30.0	0.0	10.0	0.0

**2020 – Double Award Science**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Entries</b>	<b>A* A*</b>	<b>A*A</b>	<b>AA</b>	<b>AB</b>	<b>BB</b>	<b>B1</b>	<b>C1</b>	<b>C2</b>	<b>CC</b>
<b>Double Award Science</b>	124	14.5	13.7	16.1	14.5	13.7	8.9	4.8	5.6	8.1