

ST. DOMINIC'S  
VERITAS  
FOUNDED 1870



GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
FOR GIRLS

# Annual Report of the Board of Governors

2024-2025

*A copy of this report may be obtained free of charge by contacting the School or it may be downloaded from [www.stdomnics.org](http://www.stdomnics.org)*



Dear Parents,

It is my privilege to present the Annual Report of the Board of Governors for the academic year 2024–2025. This report reflects the many accomplishments of our school community over the past year and demonstrates our continued dedication to delivering the highest standards of education, pastoral support, and personal development for every student in our care.

The year has been one of considerable success, highlighted by excellent examination results at GCSE, AS, and A-Level. Our students have shown remarkable determination, commitment, and aspiration, achieving results that reflect both their hard work and the expertise and dedication of our teaching staff. The encouragement and support provided by families have also played an important role in these achievements. Together, these successes strengthen our well-established reputation for academic excellence and our determination to ensure that each student is supported in reaching their full potential.

In addition to academic success, our students continue to benefit from a rich and balanced curriculum complemented by an extensive extra-curricular programme. Opportunities in sport, music, drama, and a wide range of clubs and societies allow students to develop their interests, build confidence, cultivate leadership skills, and foster a lifelong enthusiasm for learning.

The continued success of these activities is made possible through the generosity and commitment of our teaching and support staff, whose dedication extends well beyond the classroom.

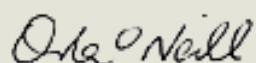
One of the greatest strengths of our school lies in the strong partnership that exists between staff, students, and parents. This collaboration creates a supportive and encouraging environment in which young people are empowered to achieve their best. The involvement and support of parents and guardians are greatly valued and contribute significantly to the sense of community and shared vision that characterises our school.

As a school that values reflection and development, we remain committed to ongoing self-evaluation and improvement. By regularly reviewing our practice, we aim to strengthen the educational, pastoral, spiritual, and extra-curricular experiences we offer. Each year provides an opportunity to build on previous successes while continuing to develop our provision for the benefit of all students.

We look forward with confidence to another year of achievement and progress, remaining fully committed to providing an educational environment where young people can flourish, grow, and realise their potential.

I hope that you find this report both informative and engaging as you reflect on the many accomplishments of the past year.

Yours Sincerely,



Principal



# Bookflix

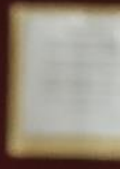


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# Our Vision

- Each one of us is unique, created by a unique God, for a unique purpose
- St. Dominic's is a community committed to mutual respect where every individual is valued, respected, encouraged and empowered to reach her/his potential in an atmosphere of love, forgiveness, honesty, openness and optimism.
- We are committed to celebrating difference, to promoting equality, self-belief and a culture of confidence where success is celebrated.
- We strive to unlock our individual and collective potential and to be prepared to meet the challenges and opportunities of the twenty-first century, reflecting our strong Dominican ethos.

# Our Aims

- To bring our students to a full understanding of our Catholic faith and to promote Christian values and attitudes in all members throughout the school community
- To awaken in students a sense of their dignity and self-worth and to promote self-confidence
- To promote the physical, emotional and mental well-being of all our students and staff
- To create warm, caring and positive relationships between all members of the school community and to inculcate in all members of the community respect for, and sensitivity to, the dignity, feelings, and rights of others
- To promote the values of good citizenship throughout the school community
- To build an effective partnership between parents, students, staff and the Board of Governors and to work together to fulfil the school's vision
- To be a learning community for the development of all
- To optimise the opportunities for our pupils through links with the wider community
- To ensure that our students and staff are prepared effectively for the changing world in the 21st century
- To ensure that our students have access to a wide range of learning opportunities
- To develop a culture of high achievement among all pupils with every pupil reaching their full potential



**BOARD OF GOVERNORS  
2024-2025**

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

**Finance Committee**

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

**Admissions Committee**

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



# Income Statement for the year ended 31 March 2025

	31.3.25	31.3.24
	£	£
<b>INCOME</b>		
Dept. of Education grants	7,069,492	6,808,886
Other Operating income	88,889	86,746
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,158,381	6,895,632
 <b>EXPENDITURE</b>		
Teaching staff costs	4,861,468	4,447,502
Non-Teaching staff costs	1,173,650	1,023,788
Other Operating costs	1,243,725	1,031,489
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	7,278,843	6,502,779
 <b>(DEFICIT)SURPLUS FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR</b>	   <hr/>	   <hr/>
	(120,462)	392,853



# Fundraising 2024-25

Corrymeela Community	£429.60
Habitat for Humanity	£227.00
Concern Worldwide	£290.00
Macmillan Cancer Support	£890.00
Trocaire	£4,225.00
Women's Aid Federation NI	£1,000.00
Northern Ireland Hospice	£1,000.00
The Welcome Organisation	£1,135.00
SVP	£4,060.00
One Pill Will Kill	£300.00
Total	£13,556.60



# Security

A security risk assessment has been completed. All security issues have been addressed and the monitoring of levels of security is continually assessed by the Principal and reported to the Board of Governors.

The school has door entry systems in place. Staff are provided with fobs which allow them to gain access to all doors which have security systems. These systems reduce the risk of visitors entering the school building without permission.

All visitors to the school must report to the reception and must sign the visitors' book.

CCTV provides monitoring of all main entry points to the school.

An intruder alarm is fitted. This is monitored externally, and instances of alarm are reported to the key holders.

There is security provided by Cobra Security after school from 3.30pm until 11pm every evening during the week with a reduced presence at the weekends.



# Staffing and Recruitment 2024-25

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

- Teacher of Chemistry – Miss Autumn McLaren
- Teacher of Geography – Mrs Hannah O’Neill (Career Break)
- Teacher of Maths – Mr Alex Cheshire(Career Break)
- Teacher of Maths – Miss Laura McCurdy (Career Break)
- Teacher of Irish – Miss Marie Claire Hughes (Career Break)
- Mrs Cassidy - Head of Year on a permanent basis
- Miss Tweed- Head of year on a temporary basis to cover a maternity leave.
- Miss McCartan -Teacher of music one year temporary to cover a Career break.
- Miss Horner- Teacher of Chemistry on a permanent basis.
- **Teacher in Charge of Identifying, Celebrating and Embedding Success (Temp for 2yrs) – Ms Clíodhna McNeill**
- **Assistant Head of CEAIG (Temp for 2yrs) – Mr Ciaran Crudden**
- **Assistant Examinations Officer (Temp for 2yrs) – Ms Catherine Cauley**
- **Temporary Head of Year 10 to cover a period of maternity leave – Miss Katy Tweed.**
- **Temporary coordinator of Oracy to cover a period of maternity leave – Miss Katy Tweed.**
- **Temporary coordinator of KS3 Science to cover a period of maternity leave – Miss Niamh Howell**



# Staff Training 2024-2025

Training	Date
Being Well Doing Well: S Clerkin (Education Authority)	21 <sup>st</sup> August 2024
SEN Training: Meeting the needs of our students Ms M Kennedy and Ms D Kelly	22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2024
QUB Research School Launch	28 <sup>th</sup> August 2024
Adaptive teaching: putting evidence into action in the classroom. Professor Daniel Muijs QUB	28 <sup>th</sup> August 2024
Introduction to Sourcing and Using Research Evidence in the Classroom Dr Caitlin Donnelly & QUB	28 <sup>th</sup> August 2024
Sharing Best Practice: Putting evidence into practice in the classroom. A) Digital Skills: promoting oracy ( C Waters) B) Adaptive Teaching: Dual Coding (A Doherty, C McNeill) C) Adaptive Teaching: Interleaving (M Cassidy, L Hunt) D) Digital Skills: Integrating AI into classroom practice 9 (A Rainey, H O'Neill)	
Safeguarding Training: P McNulty	10 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Promoting Positive Behaviour (Dr N Booth & Dr J Ferguson QUB)	25 <sup>th</sup> September 2024
Dyslexia: Classroom approaches and strategies in the secondary school	8 <sup>th</sup> October 2024
Trusted Colleague Network and Affirming Excellence in Learning and Teaching	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Adaptive Teaching: Dialogic Teaching	12 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Numeracy across the curriculum: Miss M Cassidy and Mr L Linden	15 <sup>th</sup> November 2024
Teacher Professional Reading & Collaborative Discussion: Adaptive Teaching	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Sharing Best Practice: Putting evidence into action in the classroom A) Effective Scaffolding: an evidence based approach (Miss MC Hughes) B) Revision Mats and Cognitive Load Theory (Miss N Howell)	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
GDPR training	17 <sup>th</sup> February 2025
Bereavement Training	18 <sup>th</sup> March 2025



# Curriculum 2024-25

## • Key Stage 3 Curriculum Plan 2024-25

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



# Curriculum 2024-25

## Key Stage 4 Curriculum Plan 2024-25

**Compulsory Subjects** (brackets indicate the number of periods)

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

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

### Final Y11 Blocks for 2024-25

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

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

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

**Y13 Blocks for 2024-25**

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



# A2 Results – Headline Figures

	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
3+ A*-C	88%	98%	93% (128)	96.2%	94.4%	93.3%
3+ A*-B	66%	84%	73% (101)	77.6%		72.3%
3+ A*-A	17%	49%	41% (56)	35%	22%	25.2%
4+ A*-A	3%	8%	8.7% (12)	6.7% (9)	4%	5.9%
%A*/A	47% (14% A*)	69%	64% (26.9% A*)	59% (22%)	49.7% (18.2%A*)	53.9% (20.1%)
%A*/B	85%	92%	89%	89%	82%	85.3%
%A*/C	96%	99%	98%	99%	97%	96.8%



# AS Results – Headline Figures

	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
3+ A-C	80.5%	99%	92%	88.8%	85.8%	90.6%
3+ A-B	55%	85%	76%	66.4%	67.2%	60%
3+ A	22%	45%	33%	28%	30.6%	17.5%
4+ A	6.5%	20%	17%	13.4%	12.7%	7.5%
%A/A	43.7%		56%	50%	50%	39%
%A/B	74%		86%	79%	79.5%	72%
%A/C	89%		96%	92.3%	92.9%	91.7%



# GCSE Results Headline Figures

	2019	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025
7+ A*- C Inc E&M	97%	100 %	100%	97.8%	98.8%	99.4%
7+ A*- B Inc E&M		85%	87%	81%	81.8%	84.6%
% A*		24.7 %	26.3%	26.2%	17.6%	26.8%
%A*/A		67%	71.8%	71.5%	64.3%	70.9%
%A*/B		88.8 %	89.7%	89.3%	87.5%	88.2%
%A*/C		99%	100%	98.8%	98.6%	98.9%



# GCSE Results Headline Figures

Pupils with	2019	2021 %	2022 %	2023 No and %	2024 No and %	2025 No and %
11 A's		4.9	5.44	8 (5.75%)	3 (1.8%)	5 (3.2%)
>=10A's		21.2	22.45	33 (23.74%)	36 (21.8%)	49 (31.4%)
>=9A's		34.7	37.41	55 (39.56%)	52 (31.5%)	68 (43.6%)
>=8A's		43.2	52.38	77 (55.39%)	70 (42.4%)	80 (51.3%)
>=7A's		53.1	58.50	86 (61.87%)	82 (49.7%)	95 (60.9%)
>=6A's		60.2	63.95	94 (67.62%)	98 (59.4%)	109 (69.9%)
>=5A's		70.2	68.03	100 (71.94%)	106 (64.2%)	115 (73.7%)



# A Level Achievement by Subject 2024-2025

Subject	Entries	% A*-A	% A*-B	% A*-C	% A*-E
Arabic	5	60%	80%	100%	100%
Art and Design	11	63.6%	90.9%	100.0%	100.0%
Biology	32	34.4%	78.1%	93.8%	100.0%
Business	6	16.7%	50.0%	66.7%	100.0%
Chemistry	20	65.0%	85.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Systems Software Development	5	60.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Design and Technology	5	60.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Drama and Theatre Studies	18	55.6%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
English Literature	20	55.0%	90.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Finance	19	52.6%	78.9%	100.0%	100.0%
French	2	0.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Geography	7	28.6%	85.7%	100.0%	100.0%
Government and Politics	31	38.7%	64.5%	87.1%	100.0%
Health and Social Care	25	32.0%	88.0%	100.0%	100.0%
History	19	57.9%	68.4%	89.5%	100.0%
ICT	2	50.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
ICT	11	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Irish	14	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Mathematics	34	70.6%	88.2%	100.0%	100.0%
Media	14	42.9%	71.4%	92.9%	100.0%
Music	3	33.3%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Physics	15	33.3%	86.7%	93.3%	100.0%
Psychology	16	12.5%	75.0%	93.8%	100.0%
Religious Studies	9	44.4%	77.8%	100.0%	100.0%
Sociology	16	56.3%	87.5%	100.0%	100.0%
Spanish	11	72.7%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Sport / P.E Studies	21	95.2%	95.2%	100.0%	100.0%
Sport / P.E Studies	1	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%



# GCSE Achievement by Subject 2024-2025

Subject	Entries	% A*-A	% A*-B	% A*-C	% A*-E
Arabic	1	100%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Art and Design	34	97.1%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Biology	19	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Business	18	44.4%	66.7%	88.9%	100.0%
Chemistry	19	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Design and Technology	20	65.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Drama and Theatre Studies	33	90.9%	97.0%	100.0%	100.0%
English Language	162	66.7%	91.4%	100.0%	100.0%
English Literature	159	71.1%	89.3%	99.4%	99.4%
French	39	66.7%	84.6%	100.0%	100.0%
Gaeilge	7	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Geography	19	73.7%	84.2%	100.0%	100.0%
Health and Social Care	39	35.9%	79.5%	100.0%	100.0%
History	110	61.8%	78.2%	96.4%	100.0%
ICT	15	93.3%	93.3%	93.3%	100.0%
Irish	49	91.8%	98.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Mathematics	162	74.7%	93.2%	100.0%	100.0%
Mathematics: Further	83	74.7%	88.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Media	23	65.2%	91.3%	100.0%	100.0%
Music	13	84.6%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Physics	19	89.5%	100.0%	100.0%	100.0%
Religious Studies	157	66.9%	81.5%	93.0%	99.4%
Science: Double Award	127	60.2%	79.5%	99.6%	100.0%
Spanish	47	80.9%	91.5%	100.0%	100.0%



# Admissions 2024-25 and Leavers Destinations 2024-25

- 2025 – Approved Admission – 141

Intake for 2025-26													
Band 1		Band 2		Band 3		Band 4		Band 5		Band 6		Total	
Applied	Accepted	App	Acc	App	Acc	App	Acc	App	Acc	App	Acc	App	Acc
91	91	35	35	13	13	12	2	9	0	11	0	171	141

- Leavers Destinations 2024

Higher Education	Further Education	Employment / Training	Higher Apprenticeship	Gap Year
118	1	2	0	Total = 121 students



# Parent Link 2024-2025

The Parents' Association (Parent Link) continued its sterling work.

- They organised a Fancy Dress Cinema night for Halloween in October and a St Patricks Day Disco in March
- A Christmas Wreath Workshop was enjoyed by parents and staff alike on 3rd December 2025. This raised £600 for local charity 'Pretty in Pink'.
- Parents helped as ambassadors at the school Open Day in January. One parent addressed the prospective parents.
- Parent Link raffled off a widescreen smart TV to raise £900 for the charities associated with the School Bazaar.
- Organised a Trip to London and sold tickets to raise funds.
- Parent Link financed a range of pupil projects and activities throughout the year including:
  - Breakfast Club students avail of every morning.
  - Hoodies for the IT trip and the Music trip.
  - A meal for the Mock Magistrates in London.
  - A contribution towards the Year 8 panto and Year 8 outdoor pursuits day.
  - New equipment for the Camogie and basketball team in All Ireland competitions.
  - Donation towards the Boston trip for our Dominican 'Sisters In' students.
  - Sports Awards - Donated prizes for Sports Awards Raffle and Bronze Sponsorship towards trophy's
  - Girls into Electronics Paid Entrance Fees
  - Pizza for group who travelled to Corrymeela
  - Lamps for SEN Room
  - Autism NI donation



# QUB Research School

**The QUB Research School Initiative- Launch August 2024**

## **A Pioneering Model of Evidence-Informed School Improvement**

St Dominic's was delighted to launch a pioneering partnership with Queen's University Belfast in August 2024. The QUB Research School Initiative, a strategic partnership with Queen's University Belfast is designed to embed research-informed practice at the heart of teaching, leadership, and school improvement.

The initiative aims to create a sustainable culture of evidence-informed practice by:

- Embedding research into school self-evaluation and development planning
- Aligning professional learning with high-quality educational research
- Supporting staff to critically engage with and conduct research
- Strengthening collaboration with higher education
- Structurally embedding research engagement across the school

The model includes:

- Formal designation as a Queen's Research School
- Expert-led professional learning aligned to School Development Plan priorities
- Staff research sabbaticals with academic mentoring
- Student research opportunities for Year 13 pupils

Overall, the initiative positions St Dominic's as a sector-leading model of sustainable, research-informed school improvement in Northern Ireland.



# Research Mark Plus Accreditation

**St Dominic's Grammar School for Girls has become the first school in NI to be awarded the prestigious Research Mark Plus Kitemark by the Chartered College of Teaching.**

This accreditation, following external inspection, recognises our whole-school commitment to embedding evidence-informed practice in all aspects of teaching, learning, and professional development.

The outcome report commended the “powerful impact” of this approach on both staff and students, and affirmed our role as a centre of excellence in research-led education.

This award is a clear reflection of the high-quality learning and teaching at St Dominic's, where research and evidence are not add-ons, but ingrained in everyday practice — shaping planning, pedagogy, and continuous improvement.

We welcome the assessors' challenge to extend our outreach and create opportunities for staff to share best practice with partner schools and organisations. Over the next two years, we will focus on making this a reality.

**Principal Mrs Orla O'Neill commented:**

***“This is a wonderful achievement for our school. I commend the dedication of our staff who have led this initiative with vision, professionalism, and a deep commitment to providing excellence in learning and teaching to ensure all of our students are able to achieve their very best.”***



# QUB Aspire Research Academy

In September 2024 St Dominic's was delighted to launch the first ever QUB Aspire Research Academy in collaboration with Queen's University Belfast.

The initiative provides Year 13 students with the opportunity to undertake authentic academic research under the guidance of university mentors.

The programme aims to develop independent research skills, critical thinking, and academic rigour while giving students meaningful insight into university-level study. Students work in research teams, design and conduct their own projects, and present their findings to an academic panel, receiving formal certification from Queen's University.

In 2024/25 academic year, projects explored issues such as social media and mental health, homework and achievement, curriculum preparation for life after school, and the impact of extracurricular sport. The Academy promotes high-level scholarship and supports progression to higher education.



# Developing Reflective Practitioners: Research Sabbatical Initiative

St Dominic's Grammar School for Girls launched its Research Sabbatical Programme in 2024–2025 in partnership with Queen's University Belfast as part of the Queen's Research School initiative. The programme enables teachers to undertake a four-week research placement at QUB, supported by an academic mentor, to design, implement, and evaluate evidence-based interventions aligned with School Development Plan priorities.

A key feature is the strong link between research and classroom practice: participants return to school to trial their intervention, analyse impact, and share findings with colleagues, governors, and university partners—strengthening whole-school professional learning.

Ms Shauna McLaughlin was the first teacher to complete the sabbatical. Her project focused on dialogic teaching and its impact on student engagement and understanding, particularly within English Language where speaking and listening form part of assessment. Drawing on university expertise and educational research, she embedded structured classroom dialogue into her teaching.

Reflecting on the experience, she highlighted the value of time for critical engagement with research, access to academic mentorship (including Dr Caitlin Donnelly), and the opportunity to translate theory into practice. One year on, her pupils demonstrated increased confidence and achievement beyond expectations.



# Art and Design: Staff Development and Training

CCEA GCSE (16th October), AS (6th November) and A2  
(14th November) Agreement Trial

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

Visit to the Art Department in Rathmore Grammar School and P Bell.  
(Particular focus on the Unit 2 project September 2024)  
Sharing of best practice for GCSE, AS and A2.

Head of Art from Fortwilliam visited St Dominic's December 2024, for sharing of best practice.

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

Moderation of other centres of work



# Art and Design: Initiatives & Developments

1. Cross-Curricular Collaboration Projects: Art teachers collaborate with other departments (Geography-Eco Club and English) to create interdisciplinary projects that reinforce concepts across subjects.

Impact: Encourages deeper understanding of core topics through visual expression and fosters teamwork among staff and students.

2. Digital Arts and Technology Integration Description: Incorporating digital tools like graphic design software into the curriculum for GCSE and A-Level.

Impact: Prepares students for contemporary art and design careers while developing digital literacy.

3. Student-Led Exhibitions for GCSE and A-level celebration of success: Organising student art exhibitions in school for public display.

Impact: Builds student confidence, promotes engagement, and strengthens school-community relationships.

4. Artist-in-Residence and Workshop : Inviting professional artists Robert Peters and Sarah Longley to lead workshops, talk about their careers, or collaborate on art projects with students.

Impact: Provides real-world context, inspiration, and mentorship for aspiring young artists.



# Art and Design: Initiatives & Developments

## Internal Standardisation and Assessment Practices in Art & Design

### 5. Ensuring Consistency in Marking and Judgements.

The Art & Design department is committed to the consistent and accurate assessment of learners' work. Regular departmental training meetings were held throughout the academic year to ensure shared understanding and application of assessment criteria across all key stages. These meetings provided a structured forum for both Art & Design teachers to discuss and resolve any differences in marking, leading to a unified and consistent interpretation of the assessment objectives. Teachers referred to a range of supporting evidence including centre-based archive material and exemplars from CCEA Agreement Trials. This approach supported the development of secure comparative judgements, contributing to the reliability of marking across all titles and components. As a result, the centre can demonstrate confidence in the accuracy of its internal standardisation processes and the integrity of the overall rank order submitted to CCEA.

### 6. Formative Assessment to Support Progress.

The department adopted a continuous assessment model, with candidates' work reviewed on a monthly basis. This allowed for timely identification of individual learning needs and ensured that all learners were supported to achieve their full creative and technical potential. Regular verbal and written feedback was provided, which was both formative and developmental, helping learners to refine and improve their work in response to clear, subject-specific guidance.



# Art and Design: Initiatives & Developments

7. Centre-Led Cross-Moderation Procedures .A thorough internal cross-moderation process was conducted in advance of mark submission to CCEA. This took place in January, February, and March, and involved the assessment of all units and components across GCSE, AS, and A2 Art & Design. One of the department's teachers, a trained CCEA Moderator, led the cross-moderation activities to further strengthen assessment reliability and accuracy

8. During cross-moderation, particular attention was given to ensuring that learners' work was presented in the most appropriate format for assessment and in a manner that best showcased their skills and responses to the learning outcomes. This internal verification process helped to quality assure the accuracy of marks submitted via ECRS in April and to confirm that all CCEA assessment standards were being met.

9. Impact on Learning and Teaching These structured and collaborative approaches to assessment and moderation have directly enhanced the quality of learning and teaching within the Art & Design department. They have ensured high levels of consistency, fairness, and transparency in assessment, and have empowered learners through regular, constructive feedback. The department continues to reflect on and refine these practices to maintain excellence in the delivery of Art & Design education.



# Art and Design: Initiatives & Developments

10. Data Analysis and Performance Monitoring The department is committed to consistently surpassing the Northern Ireland average in academic achievement. A key priority is to increase the proportion of pupils attaining full marks at GCSE, AS, and A2 levels. We adopt a data-driven approach, using quantitative outcomes to inform focused, professional discussions aimed at enhancing teaching and learning. Following the release of exam results each August, a detailed analysis will be undertaken. This includes comparison with the Northern Ireland GCSE girls' average and a breakdown of performance by individual assessment objectives to identify specific areas for improvement. The department will review the Chief Examiners' and Moderators' reports to identify further developmental opportunities to refine curriculum delivery and assessment practice.

11. Collegial Book Discussion (CBD) as a Self-Evaluation Tool The department values Collegial Book Discussion as its primary mechanism for self-evaluation and continuous professional development. Each CBD session is structured with a clear focus established by the Head of Department and agreed upon by participating teachers prior to the meeting. The process lasts 15 minutes, including 5 minutes of silent review, allowing evidence to 'speak for itself'. Discussions remain strictly evaluative, focusing exclusively on pupil learning and the quality of work presented. This reflective forum fosters professional dialogue that supports ongoing improvement in pedagogy and pupil progress



# Art and Design: Initiatives & Developments

12. Head of Department Links with Higher Education M. Davison has actively maintained engagement with the Art College to explore work placement opportunities. The aim is to facilitate placements for students from diverse disciplines, enhancing the department's educational provision and providing pupils with valuable experiential learning.

13. Engagement with Specification Development The Head of Department regularly attends meetings and visits concerning GCSE and A-Level specifications. This involvement ensures the department's curriculum remains aligned with current standards and best practice guidance.



# Art and Design: Initiatives & Developments

14. Supervision and Pupil Support Early Morning Supervision: M. Davison supervises pupils daily from 7:45 a.m., providing senior pupils with access to departmental facilities and offering a time for individual support and discussion.

After-School Supervision: B. McElwee supervises every Monday from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., enabling pupils to utilise facilities and discuss their progress and concerns in a supportive environment. J. Dornan offers supervision to AS and A2 art students in the art room every day from 3.10 to 5.10.

15. Exhibition Engagement and Enrichment, Years 11 to 14. While logistical constraints have limited school visits to the Royal Ulster Academy (RUA) exhibition during the school day, pupils have been encouraged to attend independently. Both M. Davison and B. McElwee visited the exhibition after hours in December to inform curriculum development. Senior pupils in Years 13 and 14 have actively engaged with exhibitions and workshops at the Ulster Museum, local galleries, Belfast Exposed, The Crescent Arts Centre, and The MAC, attending these events outside of school hours to enhance cultural and artistic development.



# Art and Design : Successes and Achievements

## **European Heritage Open Day Art Competition**

We are delighted to announce that one of our Year 13 art students, Karen O'Rourke, has been awarded 1st place in the age 12–18 category of the European Heritage Open Day (EHOD) Art Competition for her striking piece depicting *The Big Fish*.

As part of her prize, Karen has received a £175 voucher to spend on art supplies at Bradbury Art. Her winning artwork will be exhibited during the 2025 European Heritage Open Day celebrations and will be featured across EHOD's social media channels and promotional materials.

This year's competition invited students to submit original artworks inspired by their favourite building, monument, or heritage event. We are incredibly proud of Karen's achievement and look forward to seeing her work showcased alongside other talented young artists from across the region.

## **Clonard Credit Union Halloween Art Competition**

Congratulations to Aoibhinn McDonnell and Sophie Burns Year 11.

We are thrilled to congratulate two of our exceptionally talented students, Aoibhinn McDonnell and Sophie Burns, on receiving top awards in the Clonard Credit Union Halloween Art Competition.

Both students were recognised in the 14–17 age category for their outstanding entries based on the theme '*Joy of Life*.' Their creativity and artistic expression truly stood out, earning them well-deserved accolades.



# Art and Design : Successes and Achievements

## **Supporting Dementia Care at the Royal Victoria Hospital**

The Art Department at St. Dominic's was recently invited to contribute to a special initiative aimed at enhancing dementia care in the Respiratory Unit at the Royal Victoria Hospital. Ward Sisters Roseanna Christie and Niamh Clarke reached out to us as part of their ongoing project to create a more welcoming and comforting environment for patients living with dementia.

We were delighted to support this meaningful cause by providing over 30 pieces of locally inspired artwork to help transform the ward's 24 side rooms and family room into more homely, calming spaces.

It was a privilege to be involved in such a worthwhile and impactful project, and we look forward to the possibility of continuing this partnership in the years ahead.

## **Jenna Ferguson Wins in the Terry Bradley Art Competition**

We are thrilled to share the exciting news that Year 14 student Jenna Ferguson has been named a category winner in the prestigious Terry Bradley Art Competition.

Terry Bradley, a celebrated local artist, launched this competition with the aim of promoting art as a vital subject in schools. As part of her prize, Jenna secured a generous donation for the Art Department at St. Dominic's—an incredible recognition of her talent and a valuable contribution to our school's creative community.

Jenna's winning artwork was initially exhibited in the Titanic Gallery, then showcased in Victoria Square, and has now been selected for display in a gallery in Brussels—an extraordinary journey for a remarkable piece.

We are immensely proud of Jenna's achievement and look forward to seeing her continued success in the world of art.



# Art and Design : Successes and Achievements

## **GCSE Art Students Inspired by Visit to Seamus Heaney HomePlace**

Our GCSE Art students in October 2024 enjoyed an inspiring and enriching visit to the Seamus Heaney HomePlace, where they had the privilege of meeting renowned Belfast artist Sarah Longley.

Sarah shared a selection of her work and offered valuable insights into her creative process, influences, and techniques. Her art, deeply inspired by the natural beauty of her home in the north-west Highlands of Scotland, is widely celebrated and held in both public and private collections across Europe.

During the visit, students toured the centre's thought-provoking exhibitions and attended a captivating talk delivered by Sarah in the Helicon theatre space. It was a truly memorable and motivating experience for our young artists—one that will undoubtedly influence their own creative journeys.



# Art and Design : Successes and Achievements

## **Printmaking Workshops with Artist Robert Peters**

During Term 1, AS and A2 Art & Design students had the valuable opportunity to develop their practical and visual skills through a specialist printmaking workshops led by acclaimed artist Robert Peters.

Robert introduced students to the intaglio drypoint printmaking technique—a new process for many. It was a dynamic and productive day, as pupils prepared perspex plates, carefully etched their designs, and learned the intricate inking and printing process. The results were a series of striking, original prints that demonstrated both creativity and technical skill.

Robert was highly impressed with the students' focus and artistic flair. We are incredibly grateful to Extended Schools for their support in part-funding this enriching and memorable experience.

## **Supporting Dementia Care at the Royal Victoria Hospital.**



# Biology:

## Staff Development and Training

- Conor Waters - Certificate in Evidence-Informed Practice 2023-2024 and presented to the whole school August 2025.
- Rebecca Rowan and Julia Trowell – involved in CCEA marking GCSE and A level.
- Julia Trowell - TeachShare ran by South Belfast Area Learning Community Teaching and Learning Group, specific to using retrieval practice in Science.
- Conor Waters – attended webinar on plant biology in teaching.



# Biology:

## Initiatives & Developments

- Key stage 3
- Year 10 summer test – updated and made more robust.
- Year 10 booklets updated by RR, DNA and food and digestion to include more references to dual coding.
  
- Key stage 4
- All notes, past paper questions and assessments updated.
- New single Science course set up for teaching 2024/2025.
- Practical booklets for GCSE DA and TA updated.
- Google classrooms updated for all classes.
- Targeted group of pupils for revision classes prior to November exam using Google classroom.
- Booster lessons held for November repeats and online Boosters held before Year 11 and 12 Summer Exams.
- Single Science – course set up with notes, past paper questions and assessment and Boosters.
  
- Key stage 5
- All notes, past paper questions and assessments updated.
- All assessments updated.
- Google classrooms updated for all classes.
- Year 13 spoke to scientists online as part of ‘I’m a Biologist – Get me out of here’.
- Academic mentoring provided for pupils in years 13 and 14.
- Glossaries updated for all years.
- Booster sessions provided for by all staff members close to exams



# Biology: Successes and Achievements

- The British Biology Olympiad 2025 - Well done to Jo Jo He (Silver) Ava Armstrong (Bronze) and Anna Neal (Bronze), Mischa Hampshire (Bronze), Una McGowan (Commended), Laksha Singh (Commended) and Emma Meenan, Amparo Miralles Bravo, Ella Matthews, and Kaci Bracken Irvine who all participated.
- Intermediate British Biology Olympiad - 10 of our year 13 pupils completed it and are awaiting on results.
- Virtual work experience –Some pupils from all years are completing this over the summer. It is provided by the Sanger Institute in Cambridge.
- Biology – John Hooper Poster Competition – entries by Anna Neal ,Isha Deshpande and Annaya Rahate.
- Biology Week Spelling Bee Competition 2024 - Well done to Jane Umeh who came first in year 8 and both Anayaa Rahate and Akshara Rakesh both in year 12 who achieved full marks.
- Cambridge Biology Challenge -Well done to Aoibhinn Williams year 14 who recently entered the Cambridge Biology Challenge – *Does behaviour fossilise?*
- Sentinus Research Programme 2024 -Isha Deshpande, a Year 14 student, recently participated in the prestigious Sentinus Research Programme over the summer 2024.
- Jenna Ferguson – attended the Ulster Gene Editing Academy in Coleraine –August 2024.
- Grace Holbrook – work experience with Almac in W5.
- Civil Service Stem Competition - two of our Year 13 Biologists, Leah McNally and Una McGowan, took on the inspiring role of mentoring six Year 8 girls in the Civil Service STEM Challenge. The six young participants—Kelly McCorry, Kelsey McCrystal, Aoibhe Martin, Fiadh Kelly, Ria Conere, and Autumn Adeyemi





# Business Studies: Staff Development and Training

August 2024:

SEN training

Adaptive teaching training and sharing best practice

Evidence Based Practice training

Being Well Doing Well training

September 2024:

Curricular reform at KS4

Safeguarding training

Positive Behaviour Training

October 2024:

Dyslexia training

Agreement trial A-level PBS

Shared Education for Positive Innovation Training

November 2024:

Numeracy across the curriculum

Cyber first training

Integrating business links and industry across the curriculum

ETI's Empowering Improvement Framework

Trusted Colleague Network training

Adaptive Teaching in Action: Dialogic Teaching

February 2025:

Teacher Professional Reading & Collaborative Discussion: Adaptive Teaching

Sharing Best Practice: Impact of research-informed strategies being used to support Yr 11

School Development Plan Check Point

Using Staff Voice to Monitor, Evaluate and Review Progress.



# Business Studies: Initiatives & Developments

The department introduced a new A-level this academic year. CCEA professional business services has been taken by 20 AS students. One of the main reasons for the introduction of this course has been the growth in employment in PBS sector. 46,000 people are now employed in the financial and professional business services sector in NI and 11,000 new workers will be needed in the next decade. Degree/apprenticeship pathways are also growing. In addition to the traditional pathways associated with business studies, Ulster University are now offering BSc Finance and Investment Management specifically designed to meet the needs of the financial services sector in NI. In addition to this, BSc Financial Technology from can be taken as part of a Higher-Level Apprenticeship.

The department introduced a new GCSE this year. CCEA business and communication systems has been taken by 12 GCSE students. Due to the nature of the Year 11 cohort, this GCSE is a more practical course with a higher weighting given to controlled assessment. It is also compatible with the GCSE business studies course and there are a number of course content overlaps and pupils can opt for both subjects.

Planning is ongoing for the transition of the financial studies A-level from London Institute of Banking and Finance to WJEC. The department is still awaiting confirmation that the new A-level will be available in September 2025.

Planning has been taking place with Mr Scott for the introduction of a financial capability programme across all year groups in KS3 and KS4.

The department has undertaken a number of adaptive teaching initiatives as part of our 2024/25 action plan.



# Business Studies: Successes and Achievements

## Shared Education for Positive Innovation Competition:

Co-operation Ireland, in partnership with Catalyst, has launched the *Shared Education for Positive Innovation (SEPI)* programme and St Dominic's business studies department were delighted to be part of this groundbreaking initiative, aimed at uniting schools across Northern Ireland and the border counties. The programme encourages students to innovate for business climate solutions. In term one, alongside politics students and members of our school eco club, our students completed an intensive online course to study global climate issues. This enabled them to take part in a workshop on 16<sup>th</sup> January, hosted at St Dominic's, with several other schools and use this knowledge to find business solutions. They created a range of renewal products and services to benefit PA consulting, a global company employing over 4000 strategists, innovators, designers, consultants, digital experts, scientists, engineers and technologists in 19 locations across the UK, the US, Ireland, the Nordics, and Netherlands. Students developed this work and took part in the SEPI Impact Day, which was a virtual online master class enabling our students to finalise their innovations for PA consulting and will compete for a place at the final awards ceremony. These activities helped students develop skills in good relations, personal development, citizenship, and employability, with a focus on *innovation for climate action* and *peacebuilding*. They used a range of software application to further develop their sustainable product solutions and were very successful winning three different awards. In addition to this, one group pitched their solution (a hydropower pipe designed to replace gas heating with a more renewal solution) at the final on 3<sup>rd</sup> April at the Waterfront, Belfast.



# Business Studies: Successes and Achievements

## Cross Curricular Collaboration:

Coordinating business links for Year 14 mock interviews to act as interviewees  
Coordinating itinerary with representatives from the innovation factory and PE/HE departments as well as sourcing 'dragons' to judge Year 10 pitches at our Junior Dragons Den Event

## Guest Speakers:

Managing Director of Wood call NI (Year 12 GCSE)  
Financial Times Irish Correspondent and Programme Lead for FT Schools (Year 11 GCSE)  
HR Director of Henderson Group (A-Level)

## Trips:

GCSE Annual trip to the Innovation Factory  
A-level Trip to ASOS Tech Hub, Customs House, Belfast  
Planned Coco-Cola trip for 2026



# CEIAG: Staff Development and Training

## **New Members to Careers Department Training 5<sup>th</sup> June**

### **UCAS Training**

- Ciaran Crudden and Ciara Hoey (St Louise's) how to prepare UCAS site for the following year's cycle.
- New Personal Statement preparation

### **PeopleHawk Training**

Delivered by Fiona McStay (PH)

Ciaran Crudden, Ciara Hoey (St Louise's)

and Owen Murray work on Careers schemes and resources incorporating PeopleHawk.

Feedback with Fiona regarding changes to PH to help with the Work Experience database.

## **Pilot of new UCAS and PS with the Y13 Early Entry group Monday 9<sup>th</sup> June**

A training and pilot day session to introduce the new UCAS personal statement and UCAS instructions for the Y14 Induction in August 2025

### **West Belfast Area Learning Community**

Attending meetings each term and planning a careers convention

Monday 2<sup>nd</sup> June at 2.00pm in St Genevieve's High School CC and OM

- Review of Careers Convention.
- Action plan/ target for Jan 2025-June 2026 -Developing a Model of Work Experience across the ALC

Wednesday 27<sup>th</sup> November at 1.30pm in St Genevieve's High School.

- Careers Convention
- Action plan & revision of last years targets
- David Gore SERC- Apprenticeship Development Manager

## **Catalyst School Business Breakfast 8th October 2024**

Unlocking Opportunities: Catalyst created a networking event to strengthen connections between schools and businesses in the service of young people.

**Unifrog** – online and in-person training with Matthew Lawlor-Jones (Unifrog)

## **NISCA Careers teacher Conference**

Wed 21<sup>st</sup> May 2025 All day OM & CC

Thur 21<sup>st</sup> Nov 20235 All Day OM & CC



# CEIAG: Initiatives & developments

## **Y8-10 Careers Schemes updated**

All of the junior careers schemes were changed to make them more relevant and linked to Gatsby benchmarks using Unifrog software.

**Pilot -Y10 Careers lessons** delivered electronically using Unifrog and Google classroom  
MT McCartan and A Connolly

All Y10 lessons were delivered paper free in IT rooms with e-books used by pupils.

## **PeopleHawk**

### **Y13 Rollout**

All Y13 pupils registered with PeopleHawk and worked through EPIC tasks in a rollout of the previous year's planning.

### **PeopleHawk Work Experience database**

This automated database speeds up the work experience process by automatically emailing Employers and Parents to request that they complete the necessary paperwork. This saves a great deal of time and displays the information clearly.

### **Y10 Introduction to PeopleHawk software**

A five-period session to complete the Explore Section with an introduction to each of the Prepare, Inspire and Connect sections, (EPIC) of the platform.

### **Interview Preparation**

HIP Psychology "Nailing the Interview Game" workshop for the Y14 year group  
A workshop is designed to develop student's knowledge and understanding of good practice leading up to and during an interview. Students explore their personal strengths and link them to past experiences.

Mock Interview for the Y14 year group

An in-house mock interview which followed the HIP 'Nailing the Interview Game sessions

Early Entry courses Mock Interviews- MMI



# CEIAG: Successes and Achievements

Guided the Y13/14 through UCAS, CAO and St Mary's applications.  
UCAS- 120 Y14 pupils applied to university via UCAS

Increased number of Y14 pupils applying for and receiving Higher Level apprenticeships.

Increased the number of pupils receiving offers for high demand courses, Medicine, Veterinary, Pharmacy.

Experiences of work- work experience during June, subject specific open days, site visits, virtual work experience using the Speakers for Schools site, Y12 WBALC Careers convention, visiting speakers, job profiles using our software packages.

All Y12 pupils receive a guidance interview from

Curriculum subjects have developed and delivered careers objectives following the introduction of careers across the curriculum.



# Chemistry:

## Staff Development and Training

Miss A Doherty

Co-presented on staff day on dual coding in Chemistry August 2025

Attended ResearchEd Conference Carrickfergus-Lectures on Evidence based research  
September 2024

Collaborated with Queen's University Belfast on a research project "Identifying key factors influencing an A-Level Chemistry student's choice to pursue Chemistry at degree level." December 2024

Participated in RSC focus group on 'Skills in Chemistry'. January 2025

Attended Whole School Behaviour and Motivation (online webinar) June 2025

Attended ASE NI Post-Primary Teach Meet June 2025

Attended CCEA Standardisation GCE Chemistry and GCSE Double Award Chemistry Year 11/12 in June 2025

Completed online Carousel Learning's 'Retrieving Better' programme September 2024-June 2025

Miss N Howell

Co-ordinated Junior Science club September 2024 – June 2025

Attended RSC webinar Science (STEM) Club and Science Week Ideas September 2024

Presented on staff day on revision mats in Chemistry February 2025

Judged SisterIN Science Fair February 2025

Attended Whole School Behaviour and Motivation (online webinar) June 2025

Attended ASE NI Post-Primary Teach Meet June 2025

Attended Science Capital and STEM careers online event by RSC June 2025

Completed PRSD June 2025

Miss T Horder

Completed Induction portfolio May 2025

Attended webinars from How Teaching and Learning Happens on Retrieval, Scaffolding and Effective Questioning during academic year.

Completed CPD at the Salters Discovery Day about Materials Science and Engineering.

Attended sustainability event in conjunction with eco-club June 2025

Attended ASE NI Post-Primary Teach Meet June 2025

Miss Autumn McLaren

Completed EPD2 portfolio May 2025

Attended webinars from How Teaching and Learning Happens on Scaffolding and Effective Questioning during academic year.

Attended ASE NI Post-Primary Teach Meet June 2025



# Chemistry :

# Initiatives & Developments

## KS3 Year 10 Chemistry

Prepared activities on Carousel Learning to aid revision.  
Set up staff Google classroom with revision resources for KS3 Exam.  
Standardisation of KS3 Chemistry exam.  
Collated KS3 exam data and worked with Mr McArdle on suitability of Year10 pupils into GCSE Science subjects.

## GCSE Year 11 and 12 Chemistry / Double Award Chemistry

Supported new/non-specialist staff in delivery of subject.  
Standardisation of mock exams within department.  
Prepared with Miss McLaren integrated instructions for Chemistry practicals in Year11.  
Miss N Howell prepared revision mats for all Year 11 topics.  
Hosted booster classes with Miss McLaren for repeat examinations in November.  
Hosted clinics for Year 11/12 prior to study leave.  
Prepared activities on Carousel Learning to aid revision.  
Presented results analysis of November and February GCSE DA Biology, Chemistry and Physics results to Department/ SLT link.  
Co-ordinated all Double Award Science practical examinations for Unit 7.  
Held booster class prior to Year12 exams in May/June 2025.  
Prepared Chemistry booklets for delivery of new subject SA Science.

## AS/A2 Chemistry

Support staff in delivery of A2 Chemistry.  
Used CCEA Analytics to prepare mock examinations.  
Standardisation of mock exams within department.  
Held revision classes before all AS/A2 exams.  
Prepared digital retrospective revision timetables for A-Level classes. This allowed for space and interleaving retrieval.  
Prepared activities on Carousel Learning to aid revision.  
Prepared digital self-evaluation feedback forms for A-Level classes.



# Chemistry: Successes and Achievements

RSC Chemistry Olympiad (Year14)

Silver Award  
Molly Lavery

Bronze Award  
Maria Casey  
Niamh Captain  
Jenna Ferguson

Cambridge Challenge (Year 14)

Copper Award  
Molly Lavery and Caoimhe Ni Loingsigh

RSC Schools' Analyst Competition (Year 13)

Eilada Almohamad  
Blessing Nich  
Kaci Bracken Irvine

The National Science Thinking Challenge (Year 11)

Silver Award  
Noor Vandierendonck  
Molly McShane

Bronze Award  
Erin Crangle McLaughlin  
Aoife Clarke



# Chemistry Department: Successes and Achievements

The Chemistry department represented in the following:

Chemistry at Work-QUB November 2024

Miss Howell accompanied GCSE Year12 Chemistry class.

Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) Top of The Bench Competition January 2025

Year 10 pupils M McNamee and N Ryder, Year 11 pupil M McShane and Year 12 A Rakesh accompanied by Miss A Doherty

Chemistry Olympiad Ireland March 2025

Year 14 pupils Caoimhe Ni Loingsigh, Sarah Fox and Orla Rozanska competed in this competition.

SistersIN Cosmetic Club run by Year 13 pupils took part in February 2025

RSC Salters' Discovery Day May 2025

Yr 10 pupils G McElroy, N Clarke, L Hasnik, M McNamee, S Laughlin-Millen, M Tracey, S Notarantonio, L Marley, E McKeown and E Wallace accompanied by Miss T Horder

Counterfeit Cures Workshop, QUB June 2025

Two Year 10 classes took part in this workshop led by Dr. K Morgan QUB.



# Citizenship: Staff Development and Training

## **Ciarán Crudden**

### **'Joined Up' Professional Learning Day 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

This session was hosted jointly by Corrymeela and NICIE Office to review the 'Joined Up' strategy in schools and update the input from teachers.

Workshops included:

- Exploring Identity and Diversity – Skills and Confidence
- Creating 'Safe Enough/Brave Spaces'
- Exploring Identity Together
- Developing Dialogic Approaches

### **Catalyst School Business Breakfast 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

Unlocking Opportunities: Catalyst created a networking event to strengthen connections between schools and businesses in the service of young people.

### **Catalyst Leadership Programme 3 December 2024, 15 January 2025, 3 February 2025**

Catalyst supported schools this year in creating a culture of deeper learning, where every pupil thrives. Workshops included:

- Delving deeper into the practices that support deeper learning
- Being thought partners and critical friends to one another to support change at work
- Continuing to build and nurture relationships with businesses
- Using data to identify bright spots in your change work
- Bringing more staff along in your change work
- Crafting your change journey story.



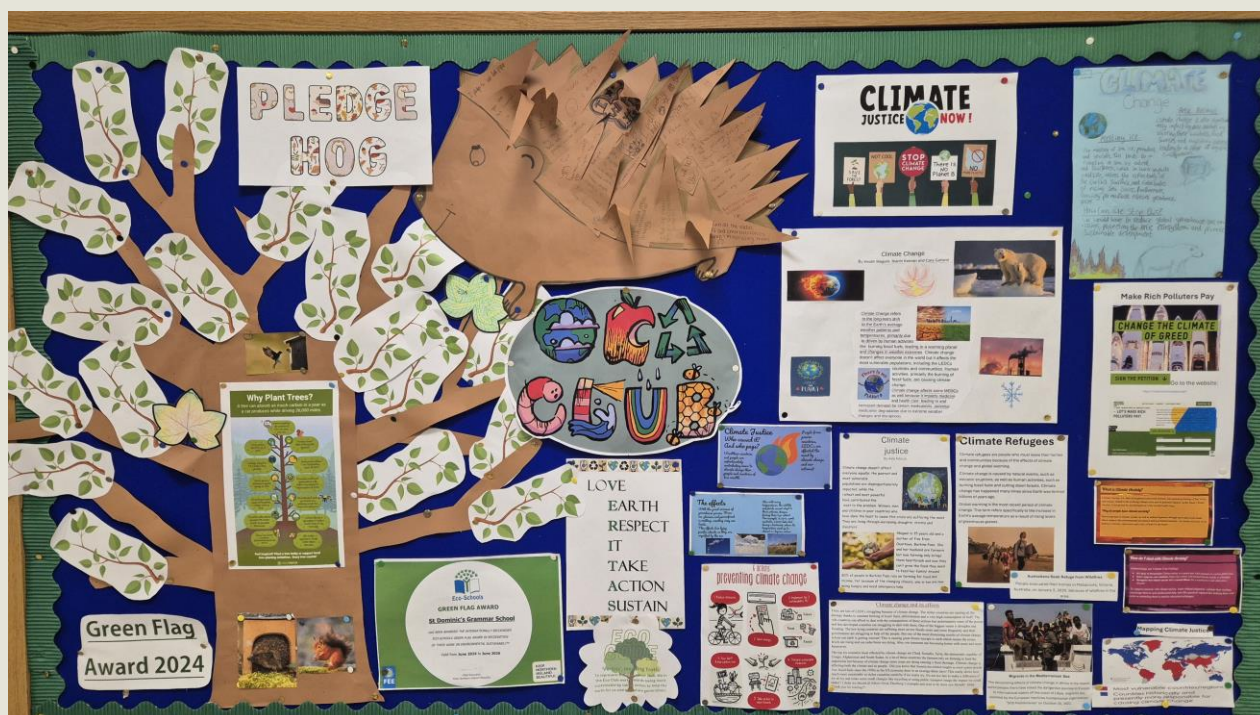
# Citizenship: Initiatives & Developments

## Year 9 Curriculum

The department implemented an increased provision on the year 9 timetable, with two periods a week for the whole year. The focus of the curriculum was the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and students engaged in creative, project-based work and were able to choose their own area of study within the UNCRC. Both teachers and pupils responded positively to this enhanced scheme.

## Oxfam – Send My Friend to School

This year we embedded Send My Friend to School as part of the year 9 curriculum and linked with the Eco Club to participate in the programme as an extracurricular project. Oxfam joined together with 'The Climate Coalition', 'Christian Aid' and 'Send My Friend to School' for Get Creative for Climate Justice!



# Citizenship: Initiatives & Developments

## Darkness Into Light

Our Year 13s welcomed Martin Fegan from Darkness Into Light to speak at assembly. Martin spoke about the annual 5k walk taking place at Hannahstown, Lámh Dhearg which symbolises hope, as communities come together to support mental health and prevent suicide. Over 150,000 participants take part in Darkness Into Light around the world each year. This year's event took place at 4:15 a.m. on Saturday, May 10, 2025, with many of our Year 13 students signed up.



# Citizenship: Initiatives & Developments

## Foodstock

Paul Doherty from Foodstock spoke to year 12 as part of their study of homelessness and poverty in their Citizenship and Health and Wellbeing programmes. Last year we reviewed overlap between Citizenship and Health and Wellbeing schemes and aligned the curriculum to complement provision of each in year 12. Foodstock were in the middle of their Christmas Appeal with an aim to reach people over the winter period with food, home heating, new Christmas toys and Christmas dinners for those who are vulnerable in the community. Paul was able to update students on their contributions from the previous year and highlight volunteering and work experience opportunities available through the centre, which one of our year 14 pupils has already taken part in.



# Citizenship: Initiatives & Developments

## Student Council

St. Dominic's has set up a new Student Council to give students a further voice to help us improve the school and our students with their learning. All year groups and staff were audited about the kind of Student Council they wanted and how it should be created. This meant that all students had the opportunity to put themselves forward for election – with some very creative election campaigns across the school. The highest votes in each year then went onto an interview, where Year 14 Head Prefect panels appointed the successful Student Councillors.



# Citizenship: Successes and Achievements

## Cooperation Ireland

This year St Dominic's participated in and hosted the inaugural Shared Education for Positive Innovation programme which brought together schools from across Ireland to build lasting relationships and tackle climate change through education, innovation, and collaboration. Over 700 students from 76 schools competed in the programme across the island, completing climate and peacebuilding courses on the SEPI Academy and creating solutions to real-world sustainability challenges. With 'design thinking sprints' and masterclasses with industry leaders, students refined their climate solutions and presented to business leaders, before reaching the final Climate Summit at the ICC, where top teams pitched solutions on the main stage. Two of our Year 13 students made the semi-finals of this event.



# Computing and ICT: Staff Development and Training

## CyberFirst Training

- Geraldine Mulholland – Introductory course 31/01/25
- Anna Keenan – Intermediate course with focus on curriculum  
24/02/25 –  
rescheduled
- Ian Parker – Advanced course – 14/03/25

## CCEA Agreement Trails

- A2 SSD – Ian Parker & Anna Keenan
- AS SSD – Ian Parker & Anna Keenan
- A2 Digital Technology – Ian Parker & Geraldine Mulholland
- GCSE Digital Technology – Ian Parker



# Computing and ICT: Initiatives & Developments

## Inspection Preparation:

Using the materials provided during staff training the department worked together to produce a document outlining the departments vision of the school, covering the 5 core questions and 9 areas. This document is sitting on Google Drive so if requested or asked about during an inspection it is to hand.

## Marty the robot

This involved receiving a set of robots from last year's funding for an extra-curricular club, but this has now evolved into a new S.O.W. for year 8 CP class depending on additional funding in terms of devices to connect to them.

## A2 SSD

This year saw our first ever class of A2 students finish the SSD course and while we have a better insight in to what is required, we still need to wait on results and coursework feedback as we were unable to get a meeting with the principal moderator as we had last year. We are aware of one small change that might need to happen in terms of controlled assessment mark otherwise we feel that they have been extremely successful. This one technical change has already been tested and is ready to implement

## CyberFirst School silver award

This year we were awarded straight to silver award level due to the level of computing the department does, with current goals to increase this to the gold level we would need the full input of the school as a cross-curricular skill as well as support in the department updating its schemes of work and resources.



# Computing and ICT: Initiatives & Developments

## BACS

This year the new GCSE was launched with Anna Keenan spear heading the subject, fully developing resources, assessments and organised the running of the exam. Ian Parker linked in and forwarded any relevant HoD emails about exam entries and deadlines that Anna would need to be aware of and was also able to offer support and guidance when leading a new subject.

## Trophy for SSD

With a new A-level being launched there was no awards for it during awards night. Ian Parker sourced two new trophies, one for Digital Technology and one for SSD from CyberFirst. There is also a 3D printed trophy that is commemorating the first year group to go through the course that will be reused each year as well as smaller individual ones for the pupils to keep. The trophies are lithophanes so if light shines through them the pupil's faces will be visible.

## Success/Knowledge Library

The department will also be launching its own knowledge library, with the idea of celebrating and recording success computing pupils have had after they have left the school as this is an area we feel is lacking. This idea has been voiced to Darren Scott and Clodhna McNeill as a whole school idea but both were informed, we would be launching this idea as a department if they decide not to do it as a whole school activity. The Library would involve any scientific papers, dissertations or projects St Dominic's pupils have been involved with since leaving school. The idea is to also have this resource to show to younger pupils as an inspiration as we have had a few pupils who feel they cannot achieve on a large scale.



# Computing and ICT: Successes and Achievements

## CyberFirst competition

We entered this again this year but only placed 8th in Northern Ireland this year which is lower than the norm. We will need to look at ways to increase this next year however it is difficult with C2K only devices. In the qualifying rounds we had 20 pupils enter which is slightly lower than previous years.

## London trip with feedback

This was the first year we ran a trip and while we have a few learning points to take away from it in terms of saving on the cost, it will be something we run again. We did feedback survey with the pupils and the vast majority had all positive feedback with only one student saying it was a little expensive for the experience.

## Erin in Liberty IT

One of our SSD students (Erin Wilkinson) achieved an apprenticeship with Liberty IT. Erin Wilkinson will be on a starting salary of £20,000 working in the office three days a week, remotely one day and then University the final day. Erin also is being provided private healthcare, life insurance and equipment as well as bonuses, raises and guaranteed job after four years as well as earning her degree.

## CyberFirst School silver award

See initiatives

## Trophy for SSD

See initiatives

Success/Knowledge Library

See initiatives

## NI Cyber work experience

This year Lucy McAloon, Karen O'Rourke & Emma Meenan we accepted for a weeklong work experience getting to work in cyber security with: Instil Vertical Structure, BT, PSNI, NIHON Cyber Defence and QUB.



# Digital Skills for the Future 2024-25

**Target 1:** Deliver whole school IT audit to identify current use of Ed Tech in the classroom and to baseline requirements for upskilling staff in a range of software.

- Whole School Audit delivered to capture IT/staff skills required.
- External and internal training delivered with a focus on Artificial Intelligence and eSafety/cyber-attacks.
- Classroom assistants training delivered using AI and VR to support children with special educational needs. In partnership with global research project by Queen's University.

**Target 2:** Trial the use of evidence informed best practice in Artificial Intelligence (AI) to enhance and support teaching and learning (T+L), leading to the development of a whole school policy and guidelines for both pupils and staff. Link learning across the curriculum to explore the moral compass and ethics of AI (linked to Farmington Staff Scholarship).

- AI focus group:
  - (i) delivered a range of tasks in the classroom to enhance L+T (e.g. joint KS3 IT and RE project, various AI apps in the maths classroom etc)
  - (ii) utilised technology to reduce staff workload/admin tasks (staff explored and evaluated the use of AI for report writing, UCAS comments, emails, lesson resources, solutions to questions, sample essays etc).
- Pupil and staff voice surveys delivered to help evaluate best practice and the ethical use of AI (discussions at classroom level, particularly during KS5 Cephass course).
- Dr Rainey presented outcomes to staff, BoG and conference in Oxford (June 2025)



# Digital Skills for the Future 2024-25

**Target 3:** Improve IT provisions to ensure they meet the needs of the wider school and enhance pupil experience in the classroom.

- New IT5 room operational from September 2024. Trolley of Applemacs to music department. This new facility allows smaller classes to be scheduled, improving access to larger IT rooms for whole school digital experience.
- New 'Marty' Robotics in use during After School club to upskill IT staff for embedding into Year 8 SOW 2025-26.
- Two new large IMEX projector screens installed in the Gym and Upper Study with sound systems to accommodate multiple school functions requiring large space (e.g. Pupil and Parent Induction Days, Staff Inset Training, pupil assemblies, Open Day etc)

**Target 4:** Become a CyberFirst School (Bronze Level 1).

- CyberFirst Bronze Award application submitted:
  - (i) Cyber Security Education strategy in place
  - (ii) Well defined core team comprising specialist staff established
  - (iii) Computing delivered at all Key Stages throughout the school
  - (iv) Evidence of 'Girls Into Electronics' event at QUB, Diversity in Computing at St Dominic's
  - (v) Teacher Professional Learning Opportunities – training delivered on eSafety/Cyber Safety in Nov 2024 to teaching staff and again in January 2025 to non-teaching staff, AI training delivered to teaching staff Inset Day Nov 2024 (Dr Rainey Farmington Scholarship), Ms Keenan appointed to deliver CyberFirst training in local Belfast Met (Summer part-time lecturer), CCEA agreement trials attended for Digital Technology and Software Systems Development etc.
  - (vi) Requirement for desired hours of teaching at KS3 computing met
  - (vii) Enrichment activities delivered: After School Micro:Bit Club, After School Programming support club etc



# Digital Skills for the Future 2024-25

## **Target 4:** Become a CyberFirst School (Bronze Level 1) continued...

- (viii) Primary School Engagement during the P6 Activity Days – P6 students take part in programming and computer building
  - (ix) External links: Kainos, CyberFirst, Queen's University Belfast, Allstate, Liberty IT, Sentinus and BringItOn
  - (x) St Dominic's engagement with CyberFirst: Year 9 Girls Competition, staff attended Cyberfirst Conference, Bronze Application submitted, CyberFirst Whole School Staff Training (over two days), End of Year review meeting (AR, IP, AK and CyberFirst representatives)
- Outcome: upgraded to Silver Award – certification received June 2025

## **Target 5:** Develop links with IT Businesses and Universities to support and strengthen the T+L experience for both staff and pupils (linked to the Catalyst project from last year and the Cyberfirst and Farmington programs this year).

- New links made with Kainos – Ms H Toner Senior AI Engineer acted as mentor to Dr A Rainey during Oxford Farmington Scholarship, providing insight to the ethical use of AI in Industry
- Luminai – Mr M Deighan was invited to deliver practical 'hands on' training session with all teaching staff (Nov 2024)
- BSI – Dr Shusma Balaji – outreach to past pupil, senior data scientist, specialist on the 'Ethical considerations of AI in Healthcare'.
- QUB – Dr Nichol Booth – delivered training to all classroom assistants on latest technology using AI and VR within a virtual classroom setting to help CAs deal with students with a range of SEN conditions (outcomes from this training will be published).
- Global Links to other schools using AI – Ms Higgins Sunmarks International School in Dubai, two teachers on sabbatical in Australia (gave a talk to senior pupils in Term 2), Ms Dickson and Mr Hughes International School of Geneva.



# Drama: Staff Development and Training

**Aine Braniff**

**Catherine Cauley**

## **PQL (Post Qualifying in Leadership)**

Post Qualifying Leadership (PQL)

Completed in April 2025

Unit 1: Developing Resilience and Supporting Wellbeing as a Leader

Unit 2: Coaching and Mentoring for Performance Improvement

Unit 3: Management Skills Training (Strategic Leadership)

Unit 4: Management Skills Training (Operational Leadership)

Unit 5: Building a Champion Team in School or College as a Learning Leader

Unit 6: Values and Governance: Ethical and Moral Leadership

## **A Braniff and C Cauley**

September 2024

WJEC Drama Course - A Level Specification

## **C Cauley**

February 2025

WJEC A Level Drama and Theatre Team Leaders Training



# Drama: Initiatives & Developments

## Drama Practicals – AS, A2 and GCSE

- ❖ The A2 showcase of 5 Devised performances and 9 duologues took place on the 13<sup>th</sup> March for the visiting examiner. The Drama department invited the parents to the evening performance, and it was hugely successful. The examiner discussed the excellent level of performances and WJEC will be using the exam pieces as exemplar material for other centres in Wales, England and Northern Ireland.
- ❖ The AS showcase took place on the 21st March and students performed extracts from *Blue Remembered Hills*, *39 Steps*, *Pygmalion*, *Decky does a Bronco* and *100*. The standard was extremely high with all students achieving in the top band.
- ❖ The GCSE students showcased their work over two days performing their Scripted performances. Year 10 pupils were invited to the moderation to encourage uptake at GCSE. The GCSE external moderation took place on the 14<sup>th</sup> March. The CCEA examiner commented on the high standard of performances and all students achieved in the top band.
- ❖ After school rehearsals took place in Term 2 to prepare the students for their practical exams and this resulted in the students achieving so highly in their practical exams.

## Bruiser Workshop

- ❖ Lisa May led a Physical Theatre workshop in Term 1 specifically to support the A2 Drama students in their understanding of the performance of *Wasted*. The session was highly beneficial, giving students the opportunity to work with a professional director and gain a deeper insight into the Bruiser style. This experience significantly enhanced both their practical performance and their written coursework.



# Drama: Initiatives & Developments

## Shakespeare's Women Workshop

- ❖ The AS drama students attended a workshop in Term 1 which was led by the playwright Clare Mc Mahon. The students developed their playwriting skills and gained an understanding of Shakespearean language through exploration and practical application.

## Theatre Visits

- ❖ Wasted – Bruiser Theatre Company ( The performance took place in the Little Theatre, and this enabled all senior students to attend.)
- ❖ Shakespeare's Women – Grand Opera House
- ❖ Matilda – London ( Year 10 Mockbar/Drama Students)
- ❖ Our New Girl – Lyric Theatre

## Drama Club

- ❖ The Year 8 Drama club took place every Thursday afternoon.
  - ❖ The year 9 Drama club took place on Wednesday afternoon.
  - ❖ The Year 10 Drama club took place on a Tuesday afternoon.
- The drama club was led by the A Level drama students and this was an excellent leadership opportunity for them. The students really enjoyed the club and the relationships created with the older students.



# Drama: Successes and Achievements

## Year 8 Choral Speaking

- ❖ The Year 8 choral speaking competition took place in the Study Hall on the 16th of December, offering students a valuable opportunity to develop a wide range of performance skills. Through weeks of preparation and performance, students improved their vocal projection, articulation and confidence. They also strengthened their teamwork and listening skills, as successful choral speaking requires precise coordination and cooperation. Overall, the event was a rewarding and enriching experience for all involved.

## Shakespeare Festival

- ❖ Year 10 pupils took part in *The Shakespeare Festival* on Thursday the 12<sup>th</sup> June in the Study Hall. (The timetable was collapsed on the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11th June to allow for collaboration with teachers of English, Drama, Art and Media) The festival was a huge success and the adjudicator for the Shakespeare Festival was the esteemed director and actor Wilfie Pyper. Wilfie Pyper has worked in the theatre industry for many years and is a very renowned director. He was the resident director of the Belfast Operatic Company for 37 years and has been the resident director of Lisnagarvey Operatic and Dramatic Society for 20 years. He was awarded an MBE in 2019 for services to Musical Theatre and Drama.



# Drama: Successes and Achievements

## School Musical – Oliver

- ❖ The school production of *Oliver!* was a tremendous success, offering all students the opportunity to perform in front of their peers, families, and the wider community. With 150 students in the cast and every student who auditioned receiving a role, the inclusive nature of the show greatly boosted self-confidence and stage presence. Three sold-out evening performances and two well-received primary school matinees showcased student talent while also strengthening community ties and promoting the school's vibrant arts culture.
- ❖ The production successfully involved the whole school, with meaningful roles given to students across both KS3 and the senior school. In addition to acting roles, students contributed creatively behind the scenes as choreographers, costume designers, and technical crew for lighting and sound. This hands-on involvement allowed students to explore new skills, express their creativity, and work collaboratively as part of a large-scale project, supported by a dedicated team of staff across multiple departments.
- ❖ Leadership opportunities were embedded throughout the process, with students taking on roles such as assistant directors, dance captains, and technical leads. These experiences nurtured responsibility and initiative, helping students grow in confidence. Numbers continue to be strong in the Drama department and especially retention from Year 13 to 14.



# Whole school initiatives led:

## SistersIN

For the second year, A Braniff led the *SistersIn* project at St. Dominic's. *SistersIn* is an initiative designed to empower and inspire young women by providing them with mentorship, leadership opportunities, and access to real-world skills through student-led projects. Since its launch, the programme has grown significantly, with this year seeing a rise to 15 enthusiastic participants. Their efforts have made a meaningful difference to school life—running First Aid workshops, raising funds and awareness for the local homeless Welcome Centre, and launching a range of engaging clubs such as Digital Literacy, Robotics, Science Fair, Ukulele, and Arts and Crafts sessions that have supported students who find it difficult to socially integrate. The girls have also been inspired by talks from women in leadership roles, giving them valuable insight into potential future pathways. They were introduced to their mentors at a coffee morning in September and proudly showcased their achievements during the *SistersIn* celebration event in May, where parents and mentors witnessed the incredible work and positive impact these young women have had across the school community.



## Ever to Excel

Now in its second year, the *Ever to Excel* programme was led by A. Braniff. This unique initiative gives two A Level students the chance to spend a week at Boston College, a prestigious Jesuit, Catholic university. It offers a truly transformative experience, allowing participants to explore new interests, strengthen their faith, and form lasting friendships with peers from around the globe. This year, Eve Kempston and Kaila Patterson were selected as the successful applicants.



# Eco Co-ordinator: Staff Development and Training

- **COP28 on-line Simulation Training**

J McCartan along with 4 senior students attended a training briefing for the COP28 simulation event facilitated by British Council and QUB prior to the event on November 2024

- **NGO contacts/meetings**

J McCartan met with Anna Green in first 2 terms regarding collaboration and workshops.

J McCartan met with Dawn Patterson, Ulster Wildlife (Bog Meadows) RE: Ongoing projects – Winter Solstice Project, Year 9 Field trip to Bog Meadows and Eco Club volunteering project in Bog Meadows Jun 2025.



# Eco Co-ordinator: Initiatives & developments

## Two St Dominic's Students attend Mock COP29 event run by QUB and the British Council 30<sup>th</sup> Nov 2024

About 100 pupils from 30 schools became world leaders for the day at the mock COP29 event in Belfast. Students from Eco Club represented the school. They had the opportunity of taking on the role of Secretariat and Press, whilst other students become world leaders, business representatives and environmental activists and lobbyists. The students linked up with others in Egypt while the United Nations climate summit took place in Dubai. They debated the same issues facing delegates in the United Arab Emirates.

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



# Eco Co-ordinator: Initiatives & developments

## Faiths Together For Climate Justice Conference Sept 2024

On Friday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2024, four Eco Club members participated in the **'Faiths Together for Climate Justice & Peace - 'Our Voices Matter' - Sixth Form Conference'** organised by **'Join the Dots'**. Students had the opportunity to hear from Professor Martin Palmer and Professor John Barry on how organised religions help with conservation around the world. Students had the opportunity to voice their opinions and come up with important questions to ask politicians at the event – Lesley Veronica from Green Party and Claire Hanna from the SDLP were on the panel.



# Eco Co-ordinator: Initiatives & developments

## **Eco Club Google Classroom**

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

## **Cross Curricular Work**

Eco Club liaised with Geography, History, TD, HE in the organisation and delivery of St Dominic's Bazaar including making items to be sold (decorations, crocheted toys), Dec 2024 to raise money for those less fortunate than ourselves (awareness of poverty in our community).

TD Sustainability instrument project in conjunction with Birmingham University.

## **Assemblies**

Eco Club students delivered a number of assemblies throughout the year on keeping our school environment clean.



# Eco Co-ordinator: Initiatives & developments



Student Leadership

## Senior Students Lead Year 8/9 Eco Club

Mon, p6



# Eco Co-ordinator: Initiatives & developments

**Ulster Wildlife – Bronze Certificate for  
Volunteering**

35 students received these certificates in Sept  
2024



**Litterpicking in School Grounds**  
9E, Eco Club and Members of 9C



# Eco Co-ordinator: Initiatives & developments



## Fast Fashion Workshop

Anna Green from Eco Schools delivered 'Fast Fashion Workshop' to our Year 8 and 9 Eco Club members in Feb 2025.

## Cultural Diversity

Best from 10E introduced us to one of Nigeria's staple dishes which was fried plantain, this was to enhance the classes experience of cultural diversity.



# Eco Co-ordinator : Successes and Achievements



## Eco Schools Climate Campaigning Workshop

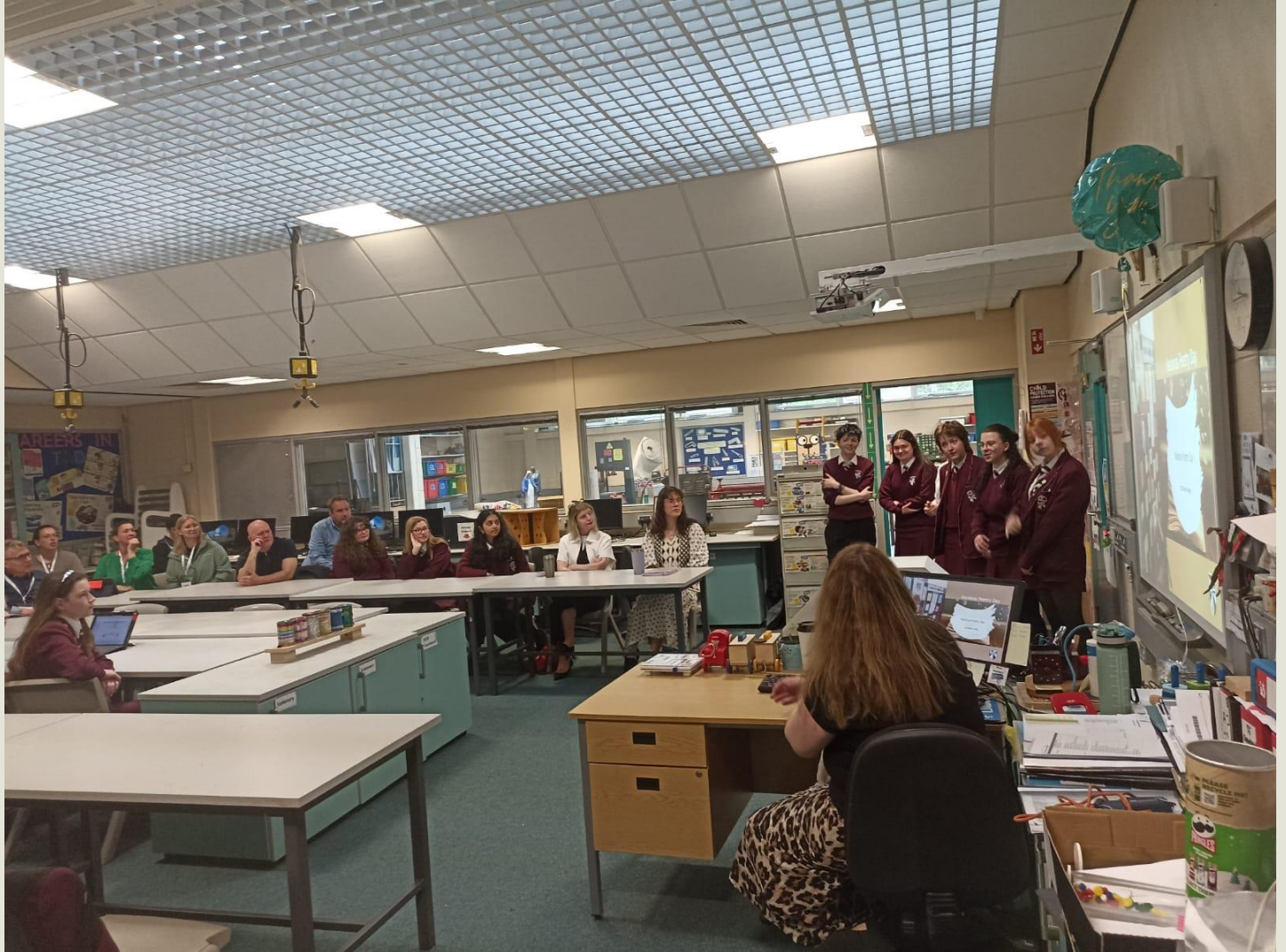
Anna Green returned to St Dominic's to deliver "Eco Schools Climate Campaigning Workshop" to our Eco Committee (Year 10-14) March 2025. Students had the opportunity to learn about climate change, how we can campaign to reduce emissions in our community and influence politicians and other important stake holders.

## Ulster Wildlife Bog Meadows Field Work and Volunteering

St Dominic's Year 9s carried out field work in May 2025/ Eco Club visited Bog Meadows to volunteer with Ulster Wildlife 17<sup>th</sup> June 2025



# Eco Co-ordinator : Successes and Achievements



## **German Connection Sustainability in Education**

Hosted 16 European teachers in St Dominic's to show case the work of our school (an Eco School). TD Dept (K Turner) showcased a sustainability project she was working on with Year 10s S McLaughlin English teacher presented her work on review and recommendations to EA, in making sustainability a key feature of the new curriculum.



# English: Staff Development and Training

D Kelly delivered Dyslexia Friendly Classroom and Provisional Mapping Training to teaching staff in October 2024.

D Kelly attended training on 'Study Skills for Pupils with Literacy Difficulties' CYPS EA Literacy Service in November 2024.

D Kelly attended Learn Spark Webinars – Post-Primary Disciplinary Literacy training in April 2025.

D Kelly attended Training on Autism and Communication delivered by AAIS and EA Connect and Learn in March, April and May 2025.

D Kelly attended Literacy Training at St Catherine's College in May 2025.

D Kelly attended WBALC English/Literacy meetings to share good practice.

D Kelly and F McAuley received training on SmartLab Literacy Platform in February 2025.

S McLaughlin was contracted by CCEA Regulation to carry out a piece of research analysing all the English Language/English Literature specifications at GCE and GCSE across the UK, writing a comparative report on findings and recommendations for the Regulations team in CCEA.

S McLaughlin was contracted to create a series of lessons and resources for both KS3 and KS4 on Sustainability - using literacy tasks and active methodologies to prepare pupils throughout NI for responding to DEARA's upcoming Citizen Space survey.

## **CCEA Examiner**

Four members of the English Department received training and were employed as a CCEA Examiner for the following GCSE exams:

- F McAuley, Unit 1 English Language
- K Tweed, Unit 1 English Language
- K Feenan, Unit 4 English Language
- M Smyth, Unit 1 English Literature



# English: Initiatives & Developments

Sixth Form Literacy Mentors worked with a group of selected students across KS3 and KS4. PTE, CAT and internal report data was used by D Kelly and F McAuley to identify pupils.

Increased use of evidence-based research to inform teaching and learning.

S McLaughlin secured funding to attend the English Association's conference in the Globe Theatre in September 2024 to represent NI English teachers at an outcome-focused meeting on GCSE reform in English Language and Literature.

## **World Book Day**

- Literacy/English prefects delivered assemblies to KS3 year groups about World Book Day theme (Adventure).
- D Kelly arranged a whole school display for World Book Day and promoted same across the school with information about activities and links.

M Boyle shared resources from Poetry in Motion and Translink Literacy Initiative which have been used with KS3 classes.

UU Lecturer Dr Kathryn White delivered a lecture to A Level students on their set text *A Streetcar Named Desire* in April 2025. She also spoke about studying English at university and career / employability prospects.

## **QUB Research Project**

S McLaughlin took part in a research project with Queen's University Belfast: Not Just 'Idle Chatter' – harnessing the power of talk to improve writing and reading scores in English Language. This study aims to explore the relationship between dialogic teaching and pupils' skills in reading and writing, examining how classroom talk can improve achievement in GCSE English Language.

S McLaughlin and R Higgins attended a Catalyst Schools Business Networking Breakfast. Consequently, S McLaughlin set up links with the Innovation Factory. 9A delivered their prepared Dragons' Den inspired business pitches to the Innovation Factory Team and received feedback on their presentation and communication skills.



# English: Successes and Achievements

Pupils entered a number of competitions, including Flash Fiction, Daunt Books fiction short story (winner: Angela Chen) and a National Literacy Trust *Wicked* writing competition.

Kaila Patterson entered Northeastern University London's Essay Competition for Lower Sixth students and was placed as a finalist in the competition. Kaila created her own title and wrote an impressive essay independently: "How important is it to be able to relate to literary characters, their values and their world?" She was invited to London for the ceremony.

## **Soroptimist Public Speaking Competition**

Year 13 students Brianna Bennett, Ciara Turkington and Blessing Niche participated in the Belfast heat in November 2024 in Stormont Senate chamber. The girls talked about Space, Poverty, Slavery and War.

## **Knights of Columbanus**

K Tweed assisted with the preparation for the Knights of Columbanus public speaking competition. Three Year 13 students, Aoife Brady, Cara Murphy and Brianna Bennett went through three separate heats to reach the All-Ireland Final. The girls displayed confidence, clarity and conviction throughout each round of the competition and deservedly achieved first place overall.

## **Mock Magistrates**

Year 10, Mock Magistrates team placed first in the Young Citizen's Mock Court Trial in Newry Courthouse in March, progressing to the national finals in London in June 2025. Here they competed against 15 other top schools from across the UK. They delivered confident and compelling prosecution and defence arguments, showcasing all the hard work they have put in throughout the year.



# French

## Department/Area of Responsibility: Staff Development and Training

C Patterson - a webinar entitled 'TPL Thursdays: Raising the profile of languages.

H Abraham - Carousel webinars (A Doherty) 16/09/24, 25/11/24, 20/01/25, 03/03/25.

H Abraham - EANI TPL – Series of webinars on language landscape.



# Department/Area of Responsibility: Initiatives & Developments

## **Cross moderation**

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

## **Booster classes**

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

Past paper revision booklets supplied to exam classes.

## **AS & A2 conversation classes**

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

## **Links between year groups within department**

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

In addition, Year 14 students provided peer mentoring to our Year 12 students ahead of their oral exam.

## **Continued revision of schemes**

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

## **QUB Mentoring Scheme**

R Richards applied to take part in the QUB languages mentoring scheme for year 12 students. Unfortunately QUB have decided to focus on the Spanish language (and St Dominic's have been selected) but we remain in the system for future years.



# Department/Area of Responsibility: Successes and Achievements

## **French Trip to Paris 2025**

A successful trip to Paris at the end of January 2025 took place. Students had a fabulous time exploring famous sites in the city and rounding the trip off with a visit to Disneyland. We have already seen the fruit of this trip in relation to enthusiasm for the subject in the classroom in addition to uptake at AS level.

## **French Club**

French club continues to go from strength to strength with numbers of year 8 and 9s in attendance being at an all-time high.

Year 13 students have been given an important role in leading this, with the support of H Abraham and C Patterson. The students have prepared activities and led with confidence. This is something we have been delighted to see grow – students taking ownership of their French department and fostering relationships through year groups – this year has been testament to this. Many French calendar events were celebrated and students had the privilege of learning more about the culture and language!

## **Uptake**

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

## **Open Day**

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

In June 2025 Mrs Hannah Abraham was appointed Acting Head of French for 2025-2026.







# Geography Department: Staff Development and Training

- Ms J Fell attended a Research Ed conference in September 2024.
- Mrs H O'Neill completed an online course entitled 'AI for Educators' in August 2024.
- Mrs H O'Neill completed 'Understanding Sensory Processing and Autism for Post Primary and Special School Staff', an online course provided by EA.
- Mrs H O'Neill completed 'AAIS Lego Based Club: Building Social Skills One Brick at a Time', an online course provided by EA.
- Mrs JM McCartan attended CCEA's Standardisation Meeting for the marking of the A2 2 geography examination.
- Mrs M Rodgers attended the Geographical Association's lecture series provided by Queen's University, Belfast which were devised to support the teaching of CCEA's A' Level Geography Specification.



# Geography Department: Initiatives & Developments

- Units of work and resources are reviewed and updated on an ongoing basis to address the ability range within classes and to take account of students' knowledge, interests and current world events.
- Assessments were reviewed and updated to cater for the range of abilities within each year group.
- Retrieval practice assisted learners, especially those in KS4 and KS5, to assess their strengths, identify areas for development and so prepare for their examinations.
- CCEA Analytics and Examiner's Reports for GCSE, AS and A2 examination units were used to inform learning, teaching and assessment throughout the year and in the final preparation for examinations.
- Tracking data was analysed at a departmental level to include achievement of SEN students and those receiving free school meals.
- Throughout the year, an open-door policy operated within the department to ensure that students received the support that they needed.
- In Term 2/3, booster classes were provided so that students at examination level were supported in their learning .
- Fieldwork was reintroduced at KS3. Year 9 students visited Bog Meadows, Belfast to complete an urban wetland study, with particular emphasis on the human impact on vulnerable ecosystems. This fieldwork was facilitated by Dawn Patterson of the Ulster Wildlife Trust and students completed a fieldwork report following this visit.
- As part of the topic 'World Development', students in 10E were treated to fried plantain, a staple food in many African countries. This was prepared by a fellow student in 10E.
- During the topic exploring the characteristics and formation of different types of rocks, Year 8 students showcased their creativity by making ammonites.



# Geography Department: Successes and Achievements

- Fourteen Year 9 geography students visited the Ulster Museum in February 2025 to watch the premiere of a documentary entitled, “The Heat Beneath Our Feet”. This documentary highlighted the geothermal potential in Northern Ireland. Students benefitted from the opportunity to speak to experts and enjoyed using VR headsets to explore the structure of Earth.
- A team of KS 3 geography students represented St. Dominic’s in the regional round of the Geographical Association's World Wise Quiz which was hosted by the Geography Department at Queen’s University, Belfast. Eighteen schools from across Northern Ireland entered this competition. Whilst not successful on this occasion, the students performed very well and thoroughly enjoyed the quiz and interacting with students from schools across Northern Ireland.
- The Eco Club, led by Mrs JM McCartan, continues to thrive with students making a huge difference with their environmental work within the school, the school grounds and in the wider environment/ community.
- 9E volunteered to complete a litter pick within the school grounds in Term 1, and in doing so, showed environmental awareness and appreciation of our lovely school grounds.
- Year 12 and 14 geography students, 24 in total, participated in a range of activities during the annual outing to Carlingford Adventure Centre in February 2025.



# Government and Politics: Staff Development and Training

- C Thomas presented a 'topic update' for all four modules
- Regular departmental discussions were held on how to improve delivery of A21 Comparative. This was in response to the CCEA Analytics in this area



# Government and Politics : Initiative Developments

- All mocks were followed by a rigorous table marking session. This mirrored CCEA marking procedures and standards.
- In response to the fact that students were not fulfilling their Current Affairs commitment, we decided to place articles in GClass. These were labelled as assignments so that we were able to track participation.
- Our booklets for all four modules were updated
- In response to a concern from C Thomas about the ability of his class to manage the A2 Comparative paper, a decision was taken to change the order of delivery of the Y14 modules. This appeared to work very well as by May the students were much more confident in both the knowledge, understanding and skills required for this paper.
- Initial induction for E Mitchell began in June 2025 with the sharing of C Thomas' resources and provision of textbooks and booklets for consultation.
- A mock US Presidential election was held in November 2024 in conjunction with the History Department. We had over 500 votes cast. The result was a 92.2% vote in favour of Kamala Harris.



# Government & Politics: Successes and Achievements

## Politics in Action

Twelve Y13 Government & Politics students were involved with Politics in Action. Alongside Friends' School, Lisburn they completed an investigation into 'Threats Against Democracy', including violence against women and girls, political representation and monetary influence. Pupils met with politicians and other key stakeholders to research their topic. They attended a wide range of events at QUB for their International Women's Day programme, and for a keynote address by Senator George Mitchell entitled 'Passing the Torch', as well as a programme finale at Girdwood Community Hub.

The entire Y13 cohort took part in the Threats to Democracy finale at Girdwood Community Hub



# Government & Politics: Successes and Achievements

## **Vermont Governor's Institute Youth Activist Initiative**

Matt McLean was selected for a place on the prestigious Vermont Governor's Institute Youth Activist leadership programme. Matt will be spending 10 days in Vermont this summer. Each year the Institute brings together 60 – 70 dynamic young leaders from across the world and challenges them to ask and answers difficult questions, by exploring different sides of issues and political perspectives.

The Department of Government and Politics were delighted that 12 students decided to apply and any one of the twelve would have made an excellent representative for the school.

We were assisted by Miss Tweed in her capacity as Coordinator of Oracy.



# HE/Health and Social Care: Staff Development and Training

- CCEA Online Agreement Trials (HSc - A2, AS & GCSE)
- CCEA Standardising Meetings (HSc - A2, AS & GCSE)
- CCEA Briefing Meetings (HSc – A2 & GCSE)
- Teaching of AS (Units 2&3) for Marie Claire Hughes
- Engaging with educational research and to develop confidence in 'adaptive teaching', as well as developing skills in the use of Canva - PRSD – Elaine Woods.



# HE/Health and Social Care: Initiatives & developments

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



# HE/Health and Social Care: Successes and Achievements

- Two Christmas cookery sessions & **two** Easter sessions took place during Terms 1 & 2, these proved to be very popular with our Year 8-10 pupils.
- Parent and Daughter cookery was also re-established in May 2025. This was 2 evening sessions and involved **12** Year 8 pupils and their parents/guardians.



# Photos of Departmental Success



# Photos of Departmental Success



# Photos of Departmental Success



GRAMMAR SCHOOL  
FOR GIRLS



# Irish Area of Responsibility: Staff Development and Training

- **CCEA – GCSE Irish**

A Clarke was trained and employed as an examiner for GCSE Irish Listening, Reading and Writing.

Clíodhna McNeill was trained and employed as an examiner for GCSE Irish Writing.

- **CCEA – GCSE Gaeilge**

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

- **CCEA – AS Irish**

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

- **Teacher in Charge of Identifying, Celebrating & Embedding Success**

Clíodhna McNeill was appointed as Teacher in Charge of Identifying, Celebrating and Embedding Success.

- **Catalyst**

Clíodhna McNeill completed 4 workshops as part of Catalyst's Community of Practice with school leaders.

- **Skill Up M.A Programme**

Clíodhna McNeill was successful in her application for the Skill-Up Programme for Teachers funded by the Department of Economies. She completed and passed two Master's Level Modules in education.



# Irish Area of Responsibility: Staff Development and Training

- **CCEA - Agreement Trial**

MC Hughes participated in a GCSE Gaeilge Reading and Writing Agreement Trial and was trained in delivery of these elements of the course.

- **CCEA - Agreement Trial**

MC Hughes participated in a GCSE Gaeilge Speaking & Listening Agreement Trial and was trained in delivery of these elements of the course.



# Irish Area of Responsibility: Initiatives & Developments

- **Oracy - Scéim na bhFáinní – The Fáinne Scheme**  
The Fáinne Scheme continued this academic year with students being entered for Bunteastas, Fáinne Airgid, Meánteastas and Fáinne Óir. Students showed high proficiency with their use of the spoken language.
- **Oracy - Abair**  
The Irish Department was delighted to participate in Abair – the Irish language Public Speaking competition again this year. One of our Year 13 students took part.
- **Praise and Reward - Gaeilgeoir na Míosa – Gaeilgeoir of the Month**  
Gaeilgeoir na Míosa certificates were distributed to all classes each month to celebrate students making an effort to use, or to improve, their Irish.
- **Literacy – Spelling Bee**  
Year 8 students took part in a Departmental Spelling Bee for the second year in a row. Students learned a list of words and had to recall their spelling in front of their peers.
- **Visit from Fulbright Representatives**  
The Irish Department hosted a visit from representatives from the Fulbright programme. They met with Irish teachers and observed a lesson delivered by Year 14 students.
- **Extra-Curricular – An Cumann Gaelach (Irish Club)**  
An Cumann Gaelach continued to be held weekly throughout the school year for Year 8 & 9 students. High numbers of students attended the club, and students remained committed all year. An Cumann Gaelach also provided Year 14 students with the opportunity to take a leadership role in delivering the programme of activities.



# Irish Area of Responsibility: Initiatives & Developments

- **Extra-Curricular – Feis Naomh Doiminic**  
Feis Naomh Doiminic was held for the third year this year. The Feis provided a lovely opportunity for students in Years 8-12 to take part in poetry recitals and to showcase their talents in other areas of Irish culture such as music, dance and art. The Feis also gave the A Level students an opportunity to host the event and to fulfil a judging role.
- **Extra-Curricular – Feis Bhéal Feirste**  
Students from Years 8-12 prepared conversation and poetry through the medium of Irish and performed in front of other schools in the Belfast area as part of Feis Bhéal Feirste. This was a great opportunity for students to use the spoken language outside of the classroom and to develop their confidence.
- **Extra-Curricular – Tráth na gCeist – Gael Linn**  
Students from Year 10 participated in Gael Linn’s annual Irish language quiz. They were able to use their understanding of the language to answer general knowledge questions and compete with students from other schools in the Belfast area.
- **Links with the community**  
Year 14 A Level students were fortunate enough to take part in a series of visits to places in An Cheathrú Ghaeltachta – The Gaeltacht Quarter to gain an insight into the area for their A2 oral discussion.
- **An Ghaeltacht**  
The Year 13 Gaeltacht Residential took place in September. Students and teachers spent the weekend in Donegal immersed in Irish language and culture. The weekend was successful in helping Year 13 students to bond with their new classmates too.

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



# Irish Area of Responsibility: Successes and Achievements

- **Scéim na bhFáinní – The Fáinne Scheme**

79 Year 8 students were awarded their Cúpla Focal badge.

82 Year 9 students were awarded their Fáinne Airgid badge.

23 Year 8/ 12 / 13 / 14 students were awarded their Fáinne Óir badge. This is the first year we have offered Year 12 to try for their Fáinne Óir badge. Their level of fluency and ability to communicate in 3 tenses was very impressive.

- **Feis Bhéal Feirste**

19 students from Years 8-12 were placed 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup> at Feis Bhéal Feirste for either poetry or conversation. Due to this success, the school was awarded 2 shields for Best Overall School for Poetry and Best Overall School for Conversation. Neasa O'Connor Year 9 was awarded a cup for Best Overall Student in the Year 9 category. Méabh Mac Elhatton, Year 12, was also awarded a cup for Best Overall Student in the Year 12 category.

- **Year 8 Irish Spelling Bee**

Year 8 Irish students took part in the Spelling Bee this year.

Erinn Rose Cauley was awarded 1<sup>st</sup> place, Erin Oregan achieved 2<sup>nd</sup> place and Róise Sterrett achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place.





# Junior Science: Staff Development and Training

- N Howell attended RSC webinar on Science (STEM) Club and Science Week Ideas in September 2024
- J Trowell attended a TeachShare event on dual coding in Science ran by South Belfast Area Learning Community group in October 2024
- N Howell co-ordinated Junior Science Club. A Doherty, T Horder, A McLaren and J Trowell helped with the running of the Club September 2024 – June 2025
- N Howell presented to Staff on Revision Mats and Cognitive overload Feb 2025
- T Horder and A McLaren attended online webinar on How Teaching and Learning Happens: Retrieval webinar March 2025
- T Horder and A McLaren attended online webinar on How Teaching and Learning Happens: Scaffolding webinar March 2025
- T Horder and A McLaren attended online webinar on How Teaching and Learning Happens: Effective Questioning March 2025
- N Howell attended a webinar on Whole School Behaviour and Motivation ran by ASE June 2025
- A Doherty, T Horder, N Howell and A McLaren attended the ASE NI primary and Post-Primary Teach Meet June 2025
- N Howell attended online webinar on Science Capital and STEM careers ran by RSC June 2025



# Junior Science: Initiatives & Developments

- Booklets for the have been redesigned and formatted to match the targets set out in the action plan.
- Appropriate GCSE past paper questions were added to all Year 8 and Year 9 booklets.
- End of topic tests for all topics this year were developed to provide a range of difficulty. Questions worth higher marks that required extended writing were included. Graph drawing and interpretation alongside at least one numeracy task were added to end of topics tests where possible.
- Recall of key knowledge questions were included at the beginning of each test.
- Practical questions were included in Year 8 and Year 9 topic tests where appropriate.
- Year 8 and Year 9 Summer tests incorporated the above and allowed pupils to face challenging questions which required their critical thought.
- Introduced Scientist of the Month for Year 8 and Year 9 classes.
- Target setting sheet was created for Year 8 and Year 9 pupils to add to Science workbooks.
- Pupil Evaluation sheet was created for the end of each topic test and allowed students consider areas for improvement.
- Revision booklet was created for Year 8 and Year 9 pupils based on revision mats and key knowledge questions.
- Set up staff Google classroom for teachers of Year 8 and Year 9 Junior Science students with revision resources for summer exams.
- Held booster class prior to Year 8 and Year 9 summer tests in May 2025.
- Standardisation of Year 8 and Year 9 Summer Tests May 2025



# Junior Science: Successes and Achievements

- SENTINUS Event - Faraday Challenge. A small group of Year 8 and Year 9 students worked as part of a team to research, design and make prototype solutions to real-world engineering problems.

## **Year 8**

Katie Cassidy  
Erinn-Rose Cauley  
Cadhla Elliot  
Darcy Gregory  
Summer Irvine  
Eimear Lunney  
Mary McCrea  
Niamh McVeigh  
Aoibhe Slane  
Orlaith Tracey  
Jane Umeh  
Blathnaid Wallace

## **Year 9**

Daire Fegan  
Aoife Glover  
Naomh Hanna  
Annie Hassett  
Lily Jones  
Nina McBride  
Maia McGuigan  
Aela Niblock  
Faith O'Rourke  
Broghan Savage  
Medb Turley  
Niamh Wallace



# Junior Science: Successes and Achievements

- National Science Week Investigation - students constructed an “Egg Zipline” and timed how long it took for the egg to successfully travel from one end to the other. Students change different variables during the investigation.

## **Year 8**

Katie Cassidy  
Orla Doherty  
Aoife Donnelly  
Cadhla Elliot  
Roisin Headley  
Sophie Irvine  
Aoife Jones  
Laura Lyons,  
Tegan McAllister  
Annie Owens  
Lucia Walsh

## **Year 9**

Mischia Abiona  
Ruby Courtney  
Ella Dornan  
Cora Easton  
Caila Flannery  
Sophia Fleming  
Cara Garland  
Serin Hanin  
Ite Isiteketo-Barker  
Lily Jones  
Bernice Llamas  
Aela Niblock  
Lily McAlea,  
Lucy McCann  
Cara McFall  
Hollie McKeavney  
Lucy Morris  
Lucia Murphy  
Mia Sullivan



# Junior Science: Successes and Achievements

- CREST Award April 2025 – June 2025

## **Year 8**

Zoe Adair  
Riona Brady  
Erinn-Rose Cauley  
Katie Crawford  
Catherine Kane  
Zuzanna Klimek  
Aoibheann McArdle  
Megan Peel  
Saanvi Sharma

## **Year 9**

Eva Connolly  
Jessica KIELTY  
Maria McCarron

## **Year 10**

Aya Askar  
Saorlaith Ni Chathail  
Clare Rooney  
Ruby Garland



# Literacy: Staff Development and Training

Detail any staff development and training within your department here. If you need to use more than one page then please copy this slide retaining the heading.

- DK and MK delivered Dyslexia Friendly Classroom and Provisional Mapping Training to all staff 10/10/2024
- DK attended Literacy Training St Catherine's College 5/5/2025
- DK attended Learn Spark Webinars – Post-Primary Disciplinary Literacy training 2/4/25 – twilight training.
- DK attended training on 'Study Skills for Pupils with Literacy Difficulties' CYPs EA Literacy Service 22/11/24 – twilight training.
- DK and FMA received Smart Lab Literacy Training 4/2/25.
- DK attended Training on Autism and Communication delivered by AAIS and EA Connect and Learn 2/4/25; 15/5/25; 19/3/25 - twilight training.



# Literacy: Initiatives & Developments

- DK led the WBALC purchase of Lexonik Vocabulary + Literacy programme. The introduction of this to staff will take place in September 2025.
- Appointment of Year 14 Literacy/English prefects.
- Prefect supervision of Library period 6 beginning of Term 1.
- Sixth Form Literacy Mentors working with selected KS3 and 4 pupils.
- Literacy/English prefects delivered assemblies to KS3 year groups about World Book Day theme (Adventure).
- DK arranged a whole school display for World Book Day and promoted same across the school with information about activities and links.
- The SEN classroom assistants created a whole school dyslexia display.
- DK and FMA attended WBALC English/Literacy meetings to share good practice.
- DK timetabled Literacy Support interventions and revised timetabling of same across the year.
- DK coordinated with MO'B to record and track Literacy Support pupil progress. All sessions detailed and recorded.
- DK surveyed English teacher assessment of impact of LS with pupils who received this intervention - June 2025.
- DK and FMA used data from PTE and CAT tests used to identify pupils with specific literacy difficulties. This was followed by intervention strategies including Literacy support.
- DK and MK created a whole school provision mapping document which was distributed to all staff and classrooms (Term 1) including Literacy provision at whole school level.
- DK used EEF and Dyslexia Ireland research-based evidence to support the development of Disciplinary Literacy as a target area for the Literacy AP and staff training in 2025-2026. (See also Lexonik above).
- A SEN dyslexia screening portfolio of tests was purchased by the school and used by MK to test selected pupils – leading to access arrangements and support as appropriate.
- DK met with Niamh Howell and Meabh Cassidy in Term 2 and 3 to discuss the delivery of Literacy as per science and maths APs.
- DK delivered the Book Buzz BookTrust Reading Programme - Year 8. Communication with parents via signed letters.
- M Boyle shared resources from the Poetry in Motion and Translink Literacy Initiative which is being used with KS3 classes in 2025-26.



# Literacy: Successes and Achievements

- Pupils entered for: Flash Fiction, National Literacy Trust Daunt Books fiction short story Term 1 (winner: Angela Chen), Wicked writing competition Term 2, Northeastern University London's Essay Competition for sixth form students April 2025 (winner: Kaila Patterson)

## Science:

- The Faraday Competition March 2025 required pupils to give a prepared written and oral presentation on the prototype they have made.
- The CREST Awards required students to complete a written report on their project that will be sent off and marked before students can receive their certificate.
- Biology Spelling Bee competition.

See also other departmental End of Year Reports for other success and competitions including Literacy.



# Mathematics: Staff Development and Training

- **CCEA Standardisation AS Pure Mathematics** - Brenda Magenis and Gary Sheehan  
**CCEA Standardisation AS Applied Mathematics** - Lizzie McNicholl
- **Interleaving Whole Staff Training**  
- Leah Hunt, Méabh Cassidy and Laura McCurdy
- **AI Whole Staff Training**  
- Andrea Rainey
- **West Belfast Numeracy Day Training**  
- All Maths staff
- **Participation in WBALC**  
- Leah Hunt and Méabh Cassidy
- **'Whole School Behaviour and Motivation'** Association for Science Education  
- Emma McDonnell
- **'How to Make your School Resilient'** InnerDrive  
- Emma McDonnell
- **'Autism and Emotional Regulation'** Middletown Centre for Autism  
- Emma McDonnell
- **'Selective Mutism'** Middletown Centre for Autism  
- Emma McDonnell
- **EPD 2**  
- Laura McCurdy
- **Induction**  
- Alex Cheshire



# Mathematics: Initiatives & Developments

- **Interleaving Presentation for whole staff training**  
- Leah Hunt, Méabh Cassidy and Laura McCurdy
- **Numeracy Across the Curriculum whole staff training**  
- Méabh Cassidy
- **Year 11 November Module**  
- For the first time ever, we put all Year 11's into a November module and it was very successful.
  - 93% of pupils in Year 11 Achieved A - C after 10 weeks of study.
  - 78% of pupils in Year 11 Achieved A – B after 10 weeks of study.
- **'I'm a Mathematician – Get Me out of Here' Experience**  
Year 10 pupils had the pleasure of having a question-and-answer session with several working 'mathematicians'.
- **'Thrive Live' with Ulster Bank**  
Year 10 pupils had the opportunity to visit Ulster Bank in Belfast city centre to participate in their 'Thrive Live' programme improve and build upon their Financial Literacy skills.
- **Girls in Electronics Event**  
In conjunction with the Science department and with funding from Parent Link, we took 5 Year 11 GCSE Further Mathematics pupils to the Girls in Electronics day at QUB.



# Mathematics: Successes and Achievements

- **Queen's University Mathematics Quiz – 2<sup>nd</sup> December**  
Top performing all female team.  
Accompanied by Brenda Magenis.
- **Maths Engagement Day**  
Over 100 over our new Year 8 pupils, and 40 parents, joined us for a Mathematics Engagement Day in August 2024. Staff involved- Andrea Rainey, Méabh Cassidy, Lizzie McNicholl, Alex Cheshire, Laura McCurdy and Leah Hunt
- **Year 11 November Module**
  - 93% of pupils in Year 11 Achieved A - C after 10 weeks of study.
  - 78% of pupils in Year 11 Achieved A – B after 10 weeks of study.
- **100% A\* - C in GCSE Mathematics in Summer 2024**
- **UKMT Summer School Scholarship**
  - Shirly Sherene Kirubasharan Year 12
- **UKMT Senior Winners**
  - Silver Winners - Eve McNamee, Molly Lavery, Erin Wilkinson, Kaci Bracken Irvine.
  - Bronze Winners - Jazmin Bellew, Niamh Ferrie, Amy Mulligan, Sarah Fox, Grace Holbrook, Gabrielle Lindsay, Caitlin Muldoon.



# Media Studies: Staff Development and Training

Online WJEC A level Media professional learning event attended by R Higgins and K Feenan on 2<sup>nd</sup> Oct 24

R Higgins attended Catalyst schools event at PWC 4<sup>th</sup> February 2025



# Media Studies: Initiatives & Developments

Developed and improved the St. Dominic's podcast: Good news today, The Final bell, Spring concert, 'Oliver', Starting St Dominic's.

Made a trailer for the school show, 'Oliver'

Film club on Thursdays- January- March

Shakespeare festival trailer competition



# Media Studies: Successes and Achievements

Film club collaborated with the eco club to make a film for the 'Global citizenship school campaign'

Contributed articles and photos to Veritas



# Music: Staff Development and Training

- MT McCartan completed Induction.
- MT McCartan attended CCEA GCSE Music Composition Agreement Trials in November 2024.
- S McNeill attended CCEA GCE AS/A2 Composition Agreement Trials in December 2024.
- S McNeill completed CCEA AS Examiner training in April 2025 and acted as a visiting examiner for AS Music Unit 1 in May 2025.



# Music: Initiatives & Developments

- The Music Department has been involved in the following events this year:
- 21/08/24 - Staff Mass
- 19/09/24 – **PPU Book Launch?**
- 14/10/24 – School Show – Oliver!
- 17/10/24 – Year 13/14 Visit to Ulster Orchestra Open Rehearsal
- 18/10/24 – Year 13/14 Trip to Ulster Orchestra Evening Concert
- 23/10/24 - Mass for Dedication of Studies
- 25/10/24 - NYCNI Choral Workshop/Auditions
- 08/11/24 - GCSE/A-Level trip to 'Breaking Into Music' event at the Oh Yeah Centre
- 12/11/24 – Official Opening of School Handball Wall
- 13/11/24 – GCSE Awards Ceremony
- 22/11/25 – Ulster Touring Opera Workshop
- 25/11/24 – PPU Mass of Remembrance
- 29/11/24 – O'Neill's Funeral Directors Memorial Mass at Clonard
- 09/12/24 – Ulster Orchestra Workshop – Year 8/9 Junior Choir
- 09/12/24 – Belfast Harbour Commission- Chamber Choir
- 10/12/24 – Belfast Harbour Commission – Chamber Choir
- 16/12/24– PPU Carol Service
- 18/12/24 – School Carol Service
- 29/12/25 – A-Level Awards Ceremony
- 11/01/25 – Open Day
- 14/03/25 – Senior Cumann Ceoil visit to Cathedral Nursery School
- 14/03/25 – Senior Cumann Ceoil at Belfast TradFest - 2 Royal Avenue
- 19/03/25 – Spring Concert – Ulster Hall
- 09/04/25 – PPU Poetry Evening
- 12/04/25 – Senior Choir Trip to Budapest
- **Continued on next slide.**



# Music: Initiatives & Developments 2

- The Music Department has been involved in the following events this year: (Continued from previous slide)
- 09/05/25 – Leavers' Mass – St. Paul's Church
- 12/06/25 – Year 8 Mass – St. Paul's Church
- 18/06/25 – Extra-curricular Awards Ceremony
- 24/06/25 – Being Well, Doing Well Event
- 25/06/25 – Solemn Novena – Clonard Monastery
- 30/06/25 – Staff Mass



# Music: Successes and Achievements

- Many of our singers and instrumentalists competed at music festivals throughout the year and several were awarded with 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> places in their categories.
- The festivals included: Hollywood Music Festival, Belfast Festival of Music Speech and Drama, Larne Music Festival, Ballymena Music Festival, Derry Feis, Carndonagh Feis, Ulster Fleadh.
- There were also special awards given to May Connolly (Year 11), Julia Hegarty (Year 12), at their respective competitions.
- The Music Department worked closely with the Drama Department in term 1, to produce the excellent school musical, Oliver!.
- The Music Department delivered another highly successful Spring Concert in the Ulster Hall, Belfast, and performed at many other high-profile events throughout the year.
- This year over 200 pupils have been receiving individual music lessons through the school system – this is a record number of pupils which has in turn contributed to larger numbers involved in the extra-curricular music groups.



# Numeracy: Staff Development and Training

## August 2024

Méabh Cassidy (Numeracy Coordinator) and Leah Hunt (Head of Maths) delivered whole staff training on interleaving.

Méabh Cassidy (Numeracy Coordinator) and Leah Hunt (Head of Maths) delivered training on interleaving to maths teachers from across the WBALC at the maths conference in August

## November 2024

Méabh Cassidy (Numeracy Coordinator) delivered whole staff training on Numeracy across the curriculum.

Liam Linden (RE) delivered whole staff training on numeracy within RE (Unexpected Carrier).



# Numeracy: Initiatives & Developments

Departments across the school were asked to focus on one cross curricular numeracy task per term to implement into their SOW. Within the next three years, we aim to be able to map numeracy across the curriculum across all years at KS3+4.

Mathematics staff focused on bringing numeracy from other subjects into the maths classroom- Y9 Booklet on Compound measure using PPQs from other subjects.

Maths Club has expanded over the course of 24-25 and significant numbers of KS3 students have regularly availed of support from staff and senior students.



# Numeracy: Successes and Achievements

St. Dominic's saw significant success in the UKMT Maths Competitions. Across all year groups, we had almost 100 entries into the competition, with many students achieving Gold, Silver and Bronze certificates in recognition of their success.

Shirley Sherene Kirubasharan was selected to attend the UKMT summer school in Bradford, following her excellent performance in the challenge. She is the first student from St. Dominic's to be selected to attend this programme.

The number of students attending maths club grew significantly over the course of 24-25. Students from across KS3 and 4 attended after school maths support weekly from September. Mr. A. Cheshire was assisted by student teachers and Y13 and 14 maths students.



# Oracy: Staff Development and Training

## **Katy Tweed**

- CCEA GCSE English Language – moderation standardisation
- Be Well Doing Well Training – March 2025
- All Tooled UP
- Selective Mutism training – NHS May 2025
- English Media Centre – oracy training March 2025
- Young Citizens – November 2024
- National Literacy Trust, supporting reluctant speakers– February 2025



# Oracy: Initiatives & Developments

- Multiple students were directed to KTweed for interview support.
- New *How to be a Tip-Top Tour Guide* for Open Day guides to be better engaged with visitors.
- New links were made with Rotary International Youth Development Scheme who are re-launching their Public Speaking competition next year.
- KTweed visited Year 14 assembly to deliver a session on *What a Good Assembly looks like* to support them in creating junior assemblies.
- Prefect led assemblies in junior school based on topics for H+W lessons.
- Year 10 TEDx ST Dominic's event.
- Development of the Year 9 Pupil voice SoW.



# Oracy: Successes and Achievements

- Mock Magistrates team placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Northern Ireland Final in Newry Courthouse in March 2025. They proceeded to the National Final in London in June 2025.
- Young Soroptimist – Ciara Turkington, Blessing Niche and Brianna Bennett competed at the Belfast heat for Young Soroptimists in Stormont in November 2025. They spoke about issues on War, Space and Slavery.
- The Knights of Saint Columbanus – Brianna Bennett, Aoife Brady and Cara Murphy, won the All-Ireland Championship for Public Speaking at the Carlton Hotel in Dublin.
- Matt MacClean (Yr13) got selected on the Vermont Governor’s Institute Youth Activist Leadership programme following a series of interviews.
- Faye Vernon (11E) went through the interview process for the Rcity International youth work. She was successful and will travel to Africa on the *Belfast to Blanco project*. Belfast 2 Blanco (B2B) is an international youth work project developed with in the RCITY programme. It's a year-long programme where participants build on personal growth around skills such as resilience , empathy, empowerment, all whilst providing vital supplies and education for developing communities.



# Oracy: Successes and Achievements



# Physical Education: Staff Development and Training

Name of Staff member	Name of Course/Training	Provider	Duration/Cost/Time	Benefit/Outcome
Yvonne Murphy	Examiners Agreement trial	CCEA	1 day	Shared information on the marking of GCSE papers.
Deirdre Cassidy Laura Bannon Yvonne Murphy	First Aid at work course		2 days	Increased knowledge and practice of first aid techniques.



# Physical Education: Initiatives & Developments

Cross Country/Athletics- This year we had an increased focus on building our cross country and athletics teams and our aim was to have pupils participate in the schools' competitions. Thanks to Aidan Doyle, Maeve Kennedy and Lizzie McNicholl, we were able to send teams to both events.

Rugby coaching- Dave Cave attended on a weekly basis and coached a variety of classes, introducing them to the sport of rugby.

Boxing- Similarly, Pdraig McCafferty from Ulster Boxing, attended the school and taught boxing to groups of yr12 pupils.

Adaptive teaching- all department members took on various adaptive teaching strategies and used these with their exam classes at yr11&12. The feedback from all department members was that they were all successful and pupils appeared to have a clearer understanding of the topics than in previous years.

Celebration of Sporting Excellence- Due to the phenomenal success of our sports teams this year, we felt that it was only fitting to organise an evening of celebration. This created excitement amongst the pupils and a lovely way to recognise and thank the pupils and their families for their commitment to sport in St Dominic's.



# Physical Education: Successes and Achievements

This year we have had a vast amount of success across a number of sporting activities. We have claimed **16** All Ireland/NI/Ulster/Antrim/District titles across camogie, netball, basketball, Gaelic football and athletics. The following teams played this year across their respective leagues:

## **Netball:**

Minor A League

Minor B League and Plate- NI League Winners

Junior A League and Cup- NI League Winners

Intermediate B League and Plate- NI League Winners

Intermediate A League and Cup- NI League and Cup Winners

Senior A League and Plate- NI League Winners

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

Anna Rice and Aoibheann Donnelly made the U17 NI team and played in the European Championships. Both players have also made the NI U21 Squad.

Many of our junior players have represented various regional teams this year at U13 and U15.

We have for the first time 2, Year 8 netball teams who have both won, their Yr8 leagues.

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



# Physical Education: Successes and Achievements

## Basketball

Competition entered:

All Ireland School Leagues beginning in the North-East Region

U16

Junior

Minors

Year 9&10:

Cleveland NI Competition

Year 8 entered.

Cleveland NI Blitz x2

Vince Halloran Cup

The minor and junior teams won the North region league and made it to the All-Ireland stages of the competition.

Year 8's

Unable to play in the school leagues have competed in the Cleveland Blitz- they finished first in one tournament and 2<sup>nd</sup> in the other and finished off the year by winning the Vince Halloran Cup.



# Physical Education: Successes and Achievements

Aoibheann Donnelly was selected to represent Ireland U16 and was also called up to the U18 team this year.

Sadhbh Drain, Eva McKeown, Katie Cassidy and Caitlyn Barr were all selected on to the NI U15 squad.

Nina McBride, Katie Cassidy, Lucia Walsh and Annie Owens were selected on to the U13 All-star Northern team who travelled to Murcia in Spain as an NI select team. For this summer, Nina, Katie, Lucia and Annie are also joined by Aoife Donnelly and they will travel to Malaga in September to compete.

## **Gaelic Football**

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

8 Gaelic teams representing 24/25 in schools' competitions.

150 pupils playing school Gaelic football.

Year 9 retained the Antrim schools' Cup.

7 x Year 9 Gaelfast All Stars

2 x Year 12 QUB Future Stars- Anna Rice, Aoife Fitzsimons

Antrim Representatives- 20

Anna Rice- Antrim Minor Vice-captain.

U14 and U19 teams both made it to the Ulster Final of the 'B' grade competition. The school are progressing in the right manner, and it is only a matter of time before we see success in Ulster and beyond.



# Physical Education: Successes and Achievements

## Camogie

This year has seen brilliant success for school camogie. Our U16s began the year by winning the Ulster 7s competition in early October and going on to reach the All-Ireland Final.

They built on this in November by winning the U16 Ulster Final-Corn Cunningham. They then went on to the All-Ireland competition and became the first Belfast school to ever win an All-Ireland Camogie Title.

Three members of this team, Amelie Annett, Amy Gault and Erin Stewart were deservedly recognised as QUB Future Stars. Named as part of a team of 15 which represents the best in Ulster at the u16 level.

The Y9s have followed up their Ulster Championship at the end of last year by winning the Gaelfast Camogie Championship. St Dominic's beat the traditional camogie strongholds of Cross and Passion College in the semi-final, before setting up a final with St. Louis', Ballymena.

The girls ran out deserving winners, and the class throughout the team was recognised when 5 students were awarded Gaelfast All Star Awards.

We also entered teams into the U19, U14 and Yr8 competitions this year.



# Physical Education: Successes and Achievements

## Antrim

We have numerous pupils representing Antrim in Camogie this year and one pupil representing Down at U14.

Maeve Devlin, Cara Lynch, Aoife Fitzsimons, Amelie Annett

Amy Gault, Keela McAllister, Aoibhinn McDonnell

Eliza McMullan

Chloe Irvine, Caragh Flynn, Niamh Keenan, Isla Smyth

## **Handball**

With the supply of a coach from Ulster Handball, we ran a successful handball club this year. 2 teams participated in the Ulster finals.

We also had two 'one walls' installed in the sports hall allowing this club to take off this year. Thanks to Sean McGowan for his work in this.



# Physical Education: Successes and Achievements

## Athletics

Cross Country- we sent a mini (yr8) and a minor (yr9) team to the cross-country district's competition this year. Both teams ran well. The minor team won silver medals, and Katie Cassidy won the overall mini girls event finishing in first place. Katie and the team qualified for the Ulster stage of the competition and Katie finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place. Unfortunately, this age group do not carry on to the All-Ireland stage of the competition.

## Track and Field.

We sent a team of 13 pupils to the district's track and field competition. This was a key focus for us this year to develop.

Aoife Conlon finished first in the Junior (yr10) 100m, Best Akinsehinde finished 3<sup>rd</sup> in the junior girls (Yr10) high jump and Katie Cassidy finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the mini girls (Yr8) 800m. All three pupils qualified for the Ulster's. Remi Sanni was also awarded a place in the Ulster's as she was tripped up in her race at the districts.

Aoife Conlon finished in 5<sup>th</sup> place in the Ulster 100m final, and Katie Cassidy finished 7<sup>th</sup> in the Ulster 800m.

The development in this cross-country and track and field this year has been great, and we hope to continue to build on this next year.



# Physical Education: Successes and Achievements

## **Soccer**

Holly Hilton and Sophie Glover-Monaghan were selected for the NI U16 team.

Soccer has grown this year in St Dominic's with thanks to Mr Linden. He established a junior and a senior team at the school and we managed to source funding through Bidvest Noonan to fund a new football kit. We hope to continue to see this grow next year and hopefully will have team playing in the schools' competitions.

## **Olympic Handball**

This year, Mrs Cauley established a new Olympic handball club. Mainly attended by yr8 students, an outside coach facilitated the lessons. The pupils took part in the All-Ireland competition. A great addition to the sports on offer at St Dominic's.

## **Daily Mile**

PE department led the daily mile for all pupils and staff throughout the month of June before school. This boosted the physical, mental and social well-being of all involved.

## **Sports Day**

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



# Physical Education: Successes and Achievements

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

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

Mrs Bannon Gaelic Football

Ms Murphy Basketball

Ms McAuley- Basketball

Mrs Cassidy Netball

Miss Cassidy- Camogie

Miss Woods- Camogie

Mr Doyle- Cross Country

Ms Kennedy- Cross Country

Ms McNicholl- Athletics

Mr Linden- Gaelic Football

Miss O'Neill- Gaelic Football

Miss McLaren- Gaelic Football

Mrs Cauley- Olympic Handball



# Physics: Staff Development and Training

PeopleHawk

First Aid Training

Safety in the Practical Classroom Training

Curriculum Management using Nova-T

NISCA Conferences

Numeracy Co-ordination Training

Leading Staff Training on Adaptive Teaching

CCEA Examiner GCSE Physics

CCEA Examiner GCSE Double Award Science

CCEA Examiner A-Level Physics



# Physics: Initiatives & Developments

Booster sessions are provided for the November module and the summer exam series, alongside ongoing academic mentoring for KS5 students throughout the year.

All major assessments are standardised and moderated, with particular attention given to the December-February mock exams and the Key Stage 3 exam in April. Following these assessments, pupils receive structured feedback and support in setting clear, targeted goals. CCEA Analytics used to structure targets for the department for improving assessment outcomes.

A more efficient process and timetable has been introduced for GCSE Double Award Science Unit 3: Practical Skills. This aims to minimize disruption to learning and ensure students are thoroughly prepared for the exam.

All GCSE and A-Level resources have been updated and enhanced to incorporate relevant past papers and align with the most current specifications. Google Classroom materials have also been improved to support independent learning and maintain effective communication between students and teachers. The department is continually trialling and improving the use of AI as a tool for teaching and learning.

Audit and analysis of current practical equipment. All equipment is ordered through the technician, who is responsible for managing orders, classroom setup, and ensuring availability.

Weekly meetings continue between the Science Heads of Department and the SLT link to monitor, evaluate, and review progress. Key Stage 3 results are analysed to guide students in selecting the most suitable GCSE pathway.

A unified revision list has been created for all Year 10 students to ensure they are confident and well-prepared for their exams. The revision list was shared to the whole year group via the year head and Google Classroom



# Physics: Initiatives & Developments

Assessment timetable for year 13 AS Physics was re-structured to provide maximum impact for pupils during an extremely busy year with a tight specification.

Improved and updated self-evaluation forms for KS4 and KS5 pupils following their mocks, with emphasis on reaching their target and maximising their potential.

Improved number of pupils taking part in Physics Olympiad Senior Challenge and collaborative work with the Technology department for KS3 extra-curricular competitions.

Improved physics careers links, including Work Experience programs, Summer schools, and IoP Physics Careers Paths Resources used within Schemes of Work.

Targeted use of CCEA analytics to identify the areas for improvement within the department for each specific module.

New exit survey used for GCSE pupils to identify topics which they find difficult, revision techniques that work for them and their attitude towards A-level physics

Preparation of resources and assessments for teaching of the physics module and practical module of Single Award Science in 2025 for the first time, with a focus on supporting staff delivering the content who are non-specialists.

Development of use of AI within the physics department as an essential tool for the modern student. Pupils working with staff to use AI as a method to aid their revision.

New succinct revision material provided to GCSE pupils in the weeks before their exams, which focuses on CCEA definitions and equations to ensure all pupils can achieve a level of success and build confidence going into Unit 2.



# Physics: Successes and Achievements

KS3 National Space Academy Junior Space Camp

KS3 Handmade with STEAM competition (in collaboration with T.D. department)

KS3 UK Space Education and Resource Office: Mars Day 2025

KS3 Institute of Physics 'The Eureka's' competition

KS4 National Space Academy Senior Space Camp

KS4 Science at Queen's: An event for prospective students and their parents

KS4 QUB Faculty of Engineering and Physical Science Parents' Evening

KS5 BPhO Physics Olympiad Senior Challenge – 8 Bronze and 6 Silver awards

KS5 University of Brighton Engineering Summer School

KS5 'Experience Physics @QUB' event

KS5 Sutton Trust Summer Schools

KS5 Sentinus Research Academy

KS5 Nuffield Research Placements

KS5 Visit to Thompson Aero

KS5 Visit to Spirit AeroSystems

KS5 CIVILisation Belfast

KS5 Destination STEM

KS5 Thales Engineering Work Experience

KS5 Arup Engineering Work Experience

KS5 Generation Innovation AI Upskilling Experience

KS5 SistersIN Science Fairs

Leaver Orlaith Rooney J.P. McManus All-Ireland Scholarship





# Psychology: Staff Development and Training

Association of Psychology Teachers Annual Conference -23<sup>rd</sup> June 2025

AQA Team Leader Standardisation Meeting -26<sup>th</sup> May 2025

AQA Webinar on the changes to the specification – 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2025



# Psychology : Initiatives & Developments

Delivered CPD training to other psychology teachers on the use of knowledge organisers at the APT Annual Conference at QUB-June 2025

Created Knowledge Organisers for all AS and A-Level students on every topic.

Some interested A-Level students attended QUB for a day outlining clinical psychology.



# Religious Studies: Staff Development and Training

A Connolly Holocaust Memorial Day Teams Meet - new 2025 resources Bosnia focus 4<sup>th</sup> Oct (4pm)

A Connolly Nua online training new KS3 option - The Way of St. James Nov. 2024

A Connolly Catalyst Breakfast (8.30-9.30am)

A Connolly 'Diversity Matters: Exploring cultural diversity in society' Stranmillis University College - evening event April 10<sup>th</sup>

B Wilson and A Willoughby – People Hawk for Careers

L Linden – CPR training and first aid.

A Willoughby – online training with Middletown centre for Autism on selective mutism.



# Religious Studies : Initiatives & Developments

- Islam & Hinduism Presentation (open to all teachers & classroom assistants)
- New introductory booklet designed for Year 8 pupils
- Series of Homework Booklets designed for Year 11s
- Series of Homework Booklets designed for Year 12s
- World Gratitude Day & World Values Day 2024 (activities shared)
- Weekly Morning Rosary
- Year 9 Creative Creations artwork showcased
- Interfaith Week awards all Year 11 Study of Hinduism
- Interfaith Week certificates all Year 10 Study of Islam
- Year 8 Friendship Certificates awarded (linked to CST)
- Design of new November Service for the Dead
- Oratory visit Nov. Prayers for the Dead, all KS3 pupils
- Numeracy & RE presentation to all staff
- Switch off Fortnight Mission (Year 8 classes)
- Switch off Fortnight award certificates
- Pupil Voice Disability Rights Paralympic Movement (4 pupils 10e)
- Disability Rights programme celebration all 10e
- Coordination of the Christmas Hamper Appeal
- Coordination of the SVP toy appeal – Foodbank
- Love for life workshops - years 9, 11 and 12



# Religious Studies : Initiatives & Developments

- Trocaire Game Changers workshop (30 Year 10 representatives)
- Year 11 'Superstar' awards for A\* in winter mocks
- New , pupil positivity notes – reward cards for students making good progress.
- RE trip to Krakow (Year 13 & 14 RE students)
- Positivity and Kindness Awards Year 11 & Year 12s
- 2025 the Year of Jubilee launch (posters & pledges)
- Catholic Schools week celebrated – '5 actions', CSW display (pupil/grandparents)
- CSW - Grandparent afternoon, making St Brigid's crosses
- GCSE weekly after school support classes - Ethics module
- GCSE weekly after school support classes - Philosophy module
- Ash Wednesday Liturgies (all Year groups)
- 'Superstar awards' for A\* Hindu tests Year 9s
- **Knights of St Columbanus KS5 public speaking debates – all Ireland Winners**
- Completion of the Year 13 and 14 Cephas award programme (2 modules)
- Period Dignity Assemblies
- New knowledge organisers (Year 11 Philosophy)
- Year 8 complete the Nua Easter series (tapes quizzes & workcards)
- Trocaire Lenten 2025 Talk, Year 10s.
- Launch of the Novena Design Competition KS3 classes
- Design & presentation of the school's Easter Liturgy
- Junior retreats – year 8, 9 and 10



# Religious Studies : Successes and Achievements

- ❑ Trocaire Game Changers workshop (30 Year 10 representatives) - winning team from year 10.
- ❑ Awarded Spirit of Catholic Education By Down and Connor Diocese.
- ❑ Winners of all Ireland, Knights of Columbanus public speaking competition.
- ❑ Cephas programme – 65 students received a distinction, 12 a high commendation and 4 received a commendation.
- ❑ Aya Askar – runner up in Diocesan art competition – won £100



# SEND: Staff Development and Training

Maeve Kennedy

EBSNA Training-2 sessions. One on general awareness and some strategies to help and the second more specifically on motivational interviewing

Readiness for commencement of the Graduated Response Framework

JCQ Access Arrangements Training

Two Master's Level Skill up Training modules on supporting autistic pupils

Epilepsy training

Maeve Kennedy and Donna Kelly

WBALC training by Jenny Nook on autism, ADHD and the trauma brain

Delivered dyslexia training to whole staff

Delivered SEN information training to whole staff

3 autism webinars (AAIS)

Classroom Assistants training

J McDonald

Articles read:

NHS: Selective Mutism

Selective Mutism Info and Research Assoc.: Selective Mutism and Autism

Recommended reading by AAIS; Reluctant Speaking and Selective Mutism resource pack, The Social Communication Bridge, Emotion Cards

Co Pilot Training

GDPR training

Sensory rooms AAIS Post Primary Recommendations

Dyslexia Classroom strategies and approaches

AAIS post primary Ausome Peer Training

Being Well Doing Well Training

Queens Research School Pilot

Sharing best practice: putting evidence into practice in the classroom



# SEND :

# Staff Development and Training

A McCotter

Ausome Peer Training Tier 1 ASD

Tier 2 Understanding me

Getting the environment right

Dyslexia-Dyslexia friendly school

Practical strategies to support pupils with Comprehension difficulties

Module 3 Socially speaking

First Aid Training(intense)

J O'Rawe

Data protection training GDPR

AI for education - An essential guide

SMARTe targets using copilot

SCOPE - Skills Recognition, Capacity Building, and Professional Education for the Third Sector.

DyslexiaData Protection Training & Awareness for Schools Module friendly school research. Set up a notice-board for Neurodiversity Week.

S McLaren

Copilot Training for Smarte goals

Used resources from <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/> to make a board on autism awareness

AAIS Post-Primary: - Tier 1 ASD Online Training for Post-Primary Professionals

R Apsley

Co Pilot Training

GDPR training

Training on SMARTe goals via Copilot

Data Protection Training

Study Skills for Post Primary Pupils Who Experience Literacy Difficulties

Manual Handling (EA)



# SEND:

## Staff Development and Training

B Grieve

Being Well, Doing Well

Education technology :Integrating AI into the classroom

Adaptive teaching : dual coding

Adaptive teaching : interleaving

Educational technology prompting oracy

Dyslexia awareness & presentation

AAIS lego based club : building social skills one brick at a time

Understanding sensory processing and autism

Data protection training GDPR

AI for education - An essential guide

Tooled up - Netflix's Adolescence : related resources, Dr Weston & Dr Elly Hanson

Tooled up : Talking to children and young people about social media

Autism research & neurodiversity : the changing culture with Sir Simon Baron Cohen

SMARTe targets using copilot

C McCambridge

Being Well, Doing Well

SEN training (SDP Area 2 targets 4&5)

School-wide Positive Behaviour Support: a multi-tiered framework

Adaptive Teaching: Dual coding

Adaptive Teaching: Interleaving

Adaptive teaching: putting evidence into action in the classroom.

Educational Technology: Integrating AI into classroom practice

Ausome Assembly Peer Training- Neurodivergent friendly School.

Tooled Up-A quick Guide to exam preparation for teens

Data protection training and awareness for schools

Peer training for post primary pupils

Co-pilot training

Level 1 Understanding Autism, Introductory Completed 70% of a 24 hour course



# SEND :

## Staff Development and Training

R O'Prey

Autism Spectrum:A typical mind in a stereotypical world.

Girls with autism and spectrum disorder:hiding in plain sight.

Autism research and neurodiversity::changing culture with Simon Baron Cohen.

Engaging parents.

Peer training for post-primary pupils.

Independent learning

Talk to learn

The erosion of empathy:Simon Baron Cohen.

Stepping Up:making college work.

The zones of regulation.

Sensory rooms:recommendations for post-primary.

Tier 1 ASD awareness for post-primary.

Tier 2 ASD

Module 3 socially speaking.

Co-Pilot training.

Resilience Curriculum

Working memory difficulty..

K Crickard-Ruddy

Copilot Training for Smarte goals

Data Protection Training

Girls and Autism book by Barry Carpenter

AAIS moving on up year 8 pupil

Supporting pupils- Dyslexia in secondary schools (Nasen)

Dyslexia - classroom approaches and strategies

AAIS Post Primary tier 2 Module 1 understanding me.



# SEND :

# Staff Development and Training

J Doran

AAIS Post-Primary Tier 1 ASD Online Training

AAIS Post-Primary Tier 2 Module 1 and Module 2

AAIS Post-Primary: Understanding Sensory Processing and autism for Post Primary

Dyslexia Awareness for Classroom Assistants

Skills for Post-Primary Pupils with Literacy Difficulties

AAIS Tier 2 Module 1 Understanding Me For Post Primary Professionals

AAIS Tier 2 Module 3 Socially Speaking For Post Primary Professionals

Mental Health First Aid

Co-Pilot Training for Smart-e goals

General research on Neurodiversity for Neurodiversity week display.

Data protection training and awareness for schools

Cyber Security Training

GDPR Training

Yearly Safeguarding Training

A Doyle

Access Arrangements for Post Primary Pupils with Literacy Difficulties

An Introduction to Microsoft Reading Progress

AAIS Tier 1 Autism Training for Post Primary Professionals

F Carville

Module 3 Socially Speaking

Dyslexia friendly school

Copilot Training for Smarte goals

AAIS Emotional Regulation based on the principles of zones of regulation



# SEND :

# Staff Development and Training

S Macklin

Copilot Training for Smarte goals

GDPR training

Introduction to Spellings for Classroom assistants

Safeguarding training

Mental health first aid

Cyber security training

L Sands

OCN Level 2 Managing Challenging Behaviour in Children and Young People

AAIS LEGO based club: Building social skills one Brick at a time.

AAIS Emotional Regulation based on the principles of Zones of Regulation

Using Co-Pilot to help generate SMARTER goals

AAIS Tier 2 Module 1 Understanding me for post primary professionals

M McQuade-Mallon

AAIS LEGO based club: Building social skills one Brick at a time.

Situational mutism and autism: a brief guide

Using Co-pilot to generate SMARTER goals

AAIS Emotional Regulation based on the principles of Zones of Regulation

AAIS Post-Primary: - Understanding Sensory Processing and Autism for Post-Primary

C Martin

Introduction to Spellings for Classroom assistants.

AAIS Tier 2 Module 2: Getting the Learning Environment Right! For Post Primary Professionals.

AAIS Tier 2 Module 3: Socially speaking for Post Primary Professionals.

AAIS Tier 2 Module 4: Emotionally speaking for Post Primary Professionals.

Using Co-Pilot to help generate SMARTER goals



# SEND :

## Staff Development and Training

N Gupta

1. AIAIS understanding sensory processing and Autism for Post -Primary school staff and for staff in special schools.
2. AAIS Tier 2 Module 2: getting the learning environment Right for Post Primary Professionals.
3. AAIS LEGO based club: Building social skills one Brick at a time.
4. AAIS Tier 1 Autism Training for Post Primary Professionals vol.1 tier 1
5. AAIS Post primary – stepping up: making college work online training for college staff and post.
6. AAIS Tier 2 module 2 socially speaking for post primary professional.
7. AAIS tier 2 module 1 understanding me for Post primary professionals.
8. AAIS Emotional Regulation based on the principles of zone regulation.
9. Practical strategies to support pupils with comprehension difficulties.
10. Strategies to support pupils with working memory difficulties.
11. Training on using a copilot .

R Rahate

Being well Doing well

Sharing best practice: Putting evidence into practice in the classroom

Educational Technology: Promoting Oracy

Adaptive Teaching: Dual coding

Adaptive Teaching: Interleaving

Educational Technology: Integrating AI into classroom practice

Training on SMARTER goal setting via Copilot

Data Protection Training & Awareness for Schools

Language and communication for Pupils with Severe Learning Difficulties

Strategies To Support Pupils with Working Memory Difficulties

Using Evidence Based Practice to Plan a Spelling Intervention Programme for Pupils with Literacy Difficulties.

AAIS Post-Primary: - AUSOME Peer Training - Pupils Registration

AAIS – Moving on up-Transfer Training for Primary professionals

Numeracy Toolkit to support pupils with Moderate Learning Difficulties

AAIS - Moving On Up- Transfer Training for Primary Professionals



# SEND :

## Staff Development and Training

L McDonagh

AAIS Emotional Regulation based on the principles of zones of regulation.

AAIS sensory room recommendation for post primary staff.

AAIS Tier 1 Autism training for post primary professionals.

AAIS Tier 2 Module 1- "Understanding Me" for post primary professionals.

AAIS Tier 2 Module2- Social speaking for post primary professionals.

AAIS Tier 2 Module 4- Emotional speaking for post primary professionals.

AAIS Understanding sensory processing and autism for post primary staff.

AAIS Session 3 Peer training for post primary professionals.

Practical strategies to support pupils with working memory difficulties.

Strategies to support pupils with comprehension difficulties.

Copilot Training for SMARTE goals.

An Overview of How Assistive Technology Can Help Pupils With Literacy Difficulties.

S Cullen

AAIS Tier 2 Module 1 Understanding Me For Post Primary Professionals

AAIS Tier 2 Module 3 Socially Speaking For Post Primary Professionals

AAIS Understanding Sensory Processing and Autism for Post-Primary School staff and for staff in Special Schools

Co-pilot training

C Sesay

AAIS TIER 1 AUTISM TRAINING FOR POST PRIMARY PROFESSIONALS.

SMARTE AI Training.

Strategies to support pupils with Comprehension difficulties.

Data Protection Training

Study Skills for Post Primary Pupils Who Experience Literacy Difficulties

R Black

Training on SMARTE goals via Copilot.

Completed the "Data Protection Training & Awareness for Schools' module.

Used the <https://www.twinkl.co.uk/> website to make a visual board on autism awareness.



# SEND : Initiatives & Developments

Three students from St. Mary's College were allocated to the SEN Department and they were all allocated one student. This was highly effective, and the students benefitted from their support.

We had three celebration/awareness weeks:

Dyslexia awareness

Neurodiversity Celebration

Autism awareness

Lunchrooms were allocated for the SEN pupils to keep the SEN rooms quieter and cleaner.



# Sociology: Staff Development and Training

Research Ed Belfast Conference attended by J Fell.  
September 2024

WJEC GCE Sociology: Summer assessment feedback conference attended by J Fell.  
October 2024

Catalyst Community of Practice four workshop between November 2024 and March 2025:

Focused on developing reward and recognition in our school through research, collaboration and actions. Attended by J Fell and three other colleagues.



# Sociology: Initiatives & Developments

- Updated Year 13 and 14 schemes of work to develop teaching and learning with focus on adaptive teaching ideas.
- Resources developed, including, personal learning checklists, skills audit, careers information and updated Year 12 option information.
- Held focused revision and booster classes for Year 13 and 14 students.
- Year 13 Sociology students attended the Queens University Belfast A-Level Sociology conference on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 2024 which updated us on recent relevant social research about various issues. We also heard details about opportunities for studying Sociology at QUB.
- Made a link and organised for Dr Kathy Weston, founder of Tooled Up Education, to have a Q&A Interview with Year 13 and Year 14 Sociology students on 5<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Dr Kathy Weston shared what led her to set up Tooled Up Education, why it is important and the key role of research today. She talked about the importance of studying Sociology and the skills it develops. As a past pupil she gave our sixth formers her invaluable advice as they look to the future beyond school.
- Made a link and organised for Dr Caitlin Donnelly, senior lecturer at QUB, to speak to some of our Sociology students about 'Researching Education in Northern Ireland' on 26<sup>th</sup> February 2025. Tailored to a section of the AS specification Dr Donnelly presented about a range of current educational issues and research areas including Shared Education, Integrated education, and academic selection. She talked about conducting research and shared her path to becoming an academic researcher and the process of doing a PhD.
- Sociology prefect's role was developed to include designing the Sociology noticeboard outside the Sociology room, speaking at the Year 12 Options event and giving advice to Year 13 Sociology students through the year.



# Sociology: Initiatives & Developments

- Two past students who left last year with A\* grades in A-Level Sociology visited St Dominic's to speak to Year 14 students. They shared their experiences of their final year at school, offered advice on how to be successful and talked about their university course and experience.



# STEAM: Initiatives & developments

We have had a lot of initiatives in extra-curricular STEM competitions.  
The main highlights of these include:

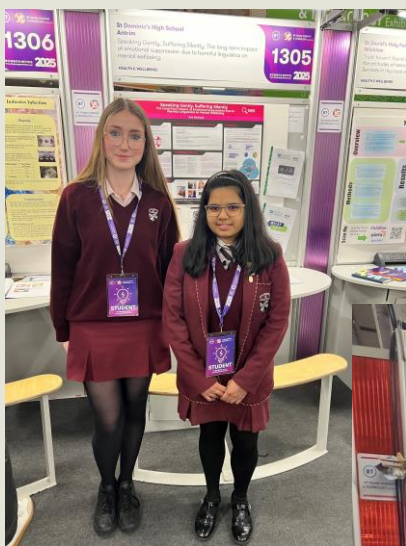
- BT Young Scientist, RDS Dublin
- Sentinus Young Innovators, Belfast MET
- Arkwright Engineering Scholarships
- CREST Awards
- Junior Science fair



# STEAM: Successes and Achievements

## BT Young Scientist Success:

Ava McGurk In Year 13 and Ananyaa Rahate Year 12, travelled to the RDS in Dublin at the beginning of January to compete in a 550 pupil event at the 61<sup>st</sup> Year of the exhibition. Ava carried out extensive research into the long term impact of mental wellbeing and emotional suppression due to harmful linguistics. Ananya's project focussed on how cloud microphysics could be used to predict future atmospheric turbulences to aircraft. During their research, carried out over a number of months, they liased with several individuals and organisations to help develop their understanding and gain valuable insights into their research. After a rigorous judging process over 3 days, Ava placed third in her individual age category of Health & Well-Being, whilst Ananya was awarded a presentation award for her project. A huge success from two pupils with a very bright future ahead of her



# STEAM: Successes and Achievements

## Sentinus Young Innovators

A number of pupils from Years 11-14 travelled to Belfast Met in October to participate in the Sentinus Young Innovators competition. In the group categories, Sian Morris and Orlaith Mussen (Year 14) carried out research into how colours can affect heart rates and blood pressure, whilst Emma Quinn and Shirley Sherene Kirubasharan (Year 12) investigated how reading affects the younger generation. In the individual categories, Eimear Turkington (Year 11) explored why Mental Illness is on the rise, whilst Ava McGurk (Year 13) investigated how Toxic Positivity affects our mental health. Special congratulations goes to Ava for winning 'Best in Overall Science'. A huge congratulations to all the pupils involved and were all highly commended by the judges!



# STEAM: Successes and Achievements

## Arkwright Engineering Scholarships

A huge congratulations to Katrina Villasfer 13A who travelled to Newcastle Upon Tyne in November to receive an Arkwright Engineering Scholarship at the networking day from her sponsor. Following a rigorous selection process including an aptitude test, a portfolio submission and an interview stage, Katrina was awarded the prestigious scholarship from the UK wide organisation. The scholarship will be a huge step forward for Katrina fulfilling her ambitions of studying engineering at university and pursuing a career in the field. Well done Katrina!



# Technology and Design: Staff Development and Training

- Centre lathe course through EA 19<sup>th</sup> May 2025 KT and JM.
- RSE policy awareness 6<sup>th</sup> May. All staff.
- CCEA Moderation meeting (work through CCEA for the benefit of standardizing within the department. KT
- Attending Health and Wellbeing of Technology and Design in St Mary's University 23<sup>rd</sup> June. KT and JM.



# Technology and Design: Initiatives & Developments

Collaborative Projects between Technology and Design and Physics:

- Handmade with STEAM Project with the University of Birmingham- (S Flynn, A Warren and M Bialek Year 10). Jan – June 25. K Turner and D Gibson.
- Eureka Institute of Physics Competition. K Turner and D Gibson.
  
- Arkwright scholarship application made and successful. (2 pupils). J Mulholland.
- Thompson Aero Seating – taster day. Year 13 pupils. Careers Engineering K Turner
- International Women in Engineering Day (INWED) with Design ID. Year 11 and 10 pupils. Careers Engineering. K Turner

Collaborative Project with Technology and Design and Eco – Hazel Khamanra (Queens’s University).

- Eco sustainability Project showcasing the Handmade with STEAM Musical instrument. K Turner and JM McCartan.
  
- Spirit Engineering Masterclass – Year 13
- BT Young Scientist – Ava McGurk and Ananya Rahate
- Year 14 ASOS trip to Custom House Square



# Technology and Design: Successes and Achievements

- Christmas bazaar. Variety of products handmade.
- Year 14 TD Club (Halloween and Christmas). Initiative run by Saly Alissa, Aimee Sloan and Grace Nugent-Year 14.
- Year 10 TD Club. Weekly club – crafts.
- Sentinus Young Innovators 2024 - Certificate of Achievement – Ava McGurk

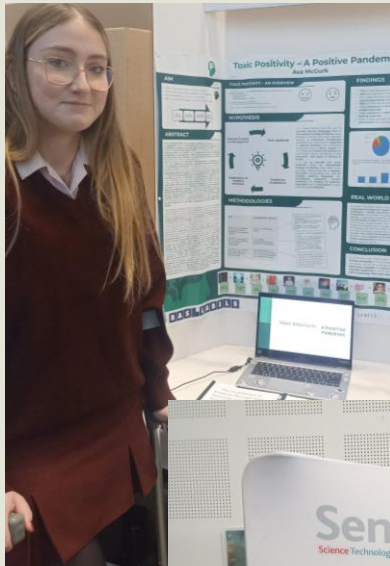


## Photos:

### Christmas Bazaar



### Sentinus Young Innovators 2024



Eco STEM collaboration with Queen's. Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> June. To be added.

### Handmade with STEAM Musical Instrument – University of Birmingham

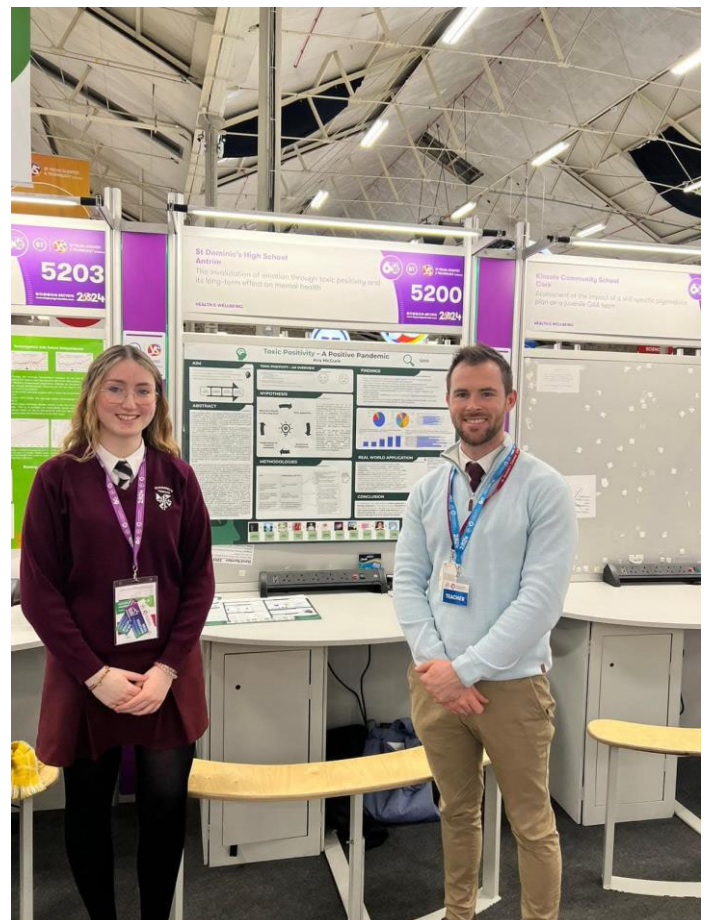


Women in Engineering. Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> June. To be added.

## Thompson Aero Seating



## BT Young Scientist



## ASOS





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# Pastoral Teams

2024-2025

# Year 8: Pastoral Staff Development and Training

- Successfully passed assessment (essay on instructional coaching) through the Chartered College of Teaching
- J Fitzsimons completed online course AAIS Post-Primary: - Moving On up: Supporting the Year 8 Pupil with ASD with the transfer process to Post-Primary School (Aug 2024)
- J Fitzsimons took part in the Catalyst Programme with 3 colleagues with a focus on praise and reward and how to ensure everyone's efforts and contributions are valued.
- J Fitzsimons completed last 2 modules of PQL course at Stranmillis University:  
Unit 1: Developing Resilience & Supporting Wellbeing as a Leader  
Unit 6: Values and Governance: Ethical and Moral Leadership
- J Fitzsimons: Young People's Relationships Online (Online webinar. Facilitator Ryan Shaw, Youth Action).
- J Fitzsimons: ETI Empowering Improvement Programme (March-April 2025)
- J Fitzsimons: EA TPL Thursdays: Empowering Pupil Voice. Fostering Pupil Participation and Engagement - Integrating Pupil Voices in Post-Primary School. (5<sup>th</sup> June)



# Year 8: Pastoral Initiatives & Developments

- Stronger connections with local Primary schools in ALC. Information offered at the ALC transition days were very informative and helped to provide extra pastoral care and support to our new Y8 students.
- Workshop for Year 8 students 8<sup>th</sup> April provided by Action Mental Health: Confidence, Self-Esteem and Managing Friendships proved very beneficial.
- Along with A. Connolly and the Religion Department, we organised for all Year 8 students to become involved in a Random Kindness Act agreement. All year 8 students signed a contract and was one of initiatives that led to St. Dominic's being awarded a "Kindness School Award."
- New template drawn up and used for student mentoring by Year Head.
- More involvement from Student Leadership Team: delivering assemblies and Health and Wellbeing classes on topics such as bullying / Catfishing / Student Council / Digital Literacy
- Further use of Tooled Up Resources used in H&W classes and have submitted requests for further resources next year
- Use of Google Forms to complete evaluation of H&W scheme – easier to analyse data and use feedback appropriately.
- Began an initiative in September whereby Y14 Head girl and deputies would be located in the Bistro during junior lunch and support Y8 students when needed about any worry/ question / concern.
- A number of certificates awarded at assembly, not only for pupil of the month, but also to acknowledge kindness through "cool to be kind" and "proud cloud" awards.



# Year 8: Pastoral Successes and Achievements

- Irish successes: : Feis Bhéal Feirste: 1st Poetry Neasa O'Connor / 2nd Conversation Cadhla Elliott /2nd Poetry Erinn Rose Cauley
- Music Awards: Hollywood Music Festival Piano Solo Grade 2 Class 1st Place/ Marie Graham Memorial Trophy Katie Cassidy. Piano Solo Grade 2 Class 3rd Place Erinn-Rose Cauley
- Netball awards for Minor B Netball NI League- Katie Cassidy & Darcy Gregory
- Districts Cross Country- athletics: Darcy Gregory, Eirin Rose Cauley, Erin O'Regan, Katie Cassidy, Aoife Donnelly & Siofra Kearns
- Districts Cross Country: 1st Place/ Ulster 5th Place- Katie Cassidy
- Athletics Districts 800m Silver Medalist -Katie Cassidy
- Year 8 Student Induction Days on 29th and 30th August
- Year 8 Parent Induction delivered on September
- Gideons Bible visit – 30<sup>th</sup> September. Each student given own personal Bible
- Translink Safety Bus visit – 18<sup>th</sup> September
- Halloween Fancy Dress and class dance competition with Year 9 – 24<sup>th</sup> October
- SVP Hampers and children's gift – Dec 2024
- Student council elections – Jan 2024. Council members: Kelly McCorry 8A, Roise Sterett 9B, Abigail Bowers 8C, Sibheal McGarry 8D & Sofia Crawford 8E.
- Christmas Pantomime for all Y8 students – Lyric Theatre to see Christmas Carol on 12th Dec
- SVP Fundraising – Y8 raised over £1400 through class Lenten fundraising events
- Smashed alcohol awareness workshop for all Y8 – 5<sup>th</sup> March
- Workshop for Year 8 students 8<sup>th</sup> April provided by Action Mental Health: Confidence, Self-Esteem and Managing Friendships proved very beneficial.
- End of Year Mass for Year 8 Students and parents on 12<sup>th</sup> June at 2pm
- Y8 in-house rounders competition organised by PE dept – 13<sup>th</sup> June
- Y8 Trip to Crawfordsburn Activity Centre – 24<sup>th</sup> June 2024
- All Y8 students assisted with P6 activity days on 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup> June
- Many Parent Link Movie Night events including Abba night 19<sup>th</sup> June



# Year 8: Pastoral Successes and Achievements



# Year 8: Grandparents' Afternoon

In February 2025, St Dominic's hosted its annual Grandparents' Afternoon to celebrate Catholic Schools' Week and St Brigid's Day. The event welcomed grandparents and special relatives into the school to share in the tradition of making St Brigid's Crosses, strengthening the bonds between school and family across generations.



# Year 9 Pastoral: Staff Development and Training

**Hannah O'Neill**

- Understanding Sensory Processing and Autism for Post Primary and Special Schools staff
- AAIS Lego Based Club: Building social skills one brick at a time.



# Year 9 Pastoral: Initiatives & Developments

## Health & Wellbeing Scheme

- Updating the Year 9 Health and Wellbeing scheme of work to make it both engaging and relevant was a priority this year. Central to this was the development of high-quality resources that were enjoyable for students to participate in and rewarding for staff to deliver. While traditional activities like circle time have their place in pastoral education, by Year 9 many students begin to perceive them as outdated, leading to disengagement and the risk of lessons being seen as “free periods” rather than valuable opportunities to explore important issues.
- The Head of Year developed creative, light-hearted activities that still conveyed meaningful messages relevant to teenagers. The selection of topics was guided by ongoing pastoral concerns and informed by suggestions from Form Tutors shared during pastoral meetings
- All resources were shared with next year’s Head of Year 9 to support a consistent, whole-school approach to pastoral care and to strengthen cross-year collaboration in addressing pupils’ well-being and personal development.
- Very positive feedback was received from students, Form Tutors, and Year Heads alike. Out of 96 Year 9 student evaluations, 91.3% agreed or strongly agreed that they enjoyed their Health and Wellbeing lessons this year. Additionally, 85.9% of students felt the lessons were useful.



# Year 9 Pastoral: Successes and Achievements

## Fundraising

- **Trocaire** – With the help of Form Tutors and class Prefects - each class organised an event to raise money for those in need.
  - **Saint Vincent de Paul** – Food Hamper and Toy Appeal.
- 
- Year 9 Halloween Dance
  - Year 9 Digital Detox Challenge
  - Concern Ambassador training

**Pupil of the Month** – Form Tutors nominated a students from their class based on their efforts and attitude demonstrated both inside and outside of the classroom. These awards were presented during weekly assembly.



# Year 9 Pastoral: Successes and Achievements



# Year 10: Staff Development and Training

## **Katy Tweed**

- CCEA GCSE English Language – moderation standardisation
- Be Well Doing Well Training – March 2025
- All Tooled UP
- Selective Mutism Training NHS

## **Emma McDonnell**

- 'Whole School Behaviour and Motivation' held by ASE on 22/5/25
- 'How to Make your School Resilient' run by InnerDrive



# Year 10: Initiatives & Developments

- Mentoring was an important part of supporting the Year 10s. The Head of School, Head of Year and Tutors all mentored a number of students throughout the year.
- We had a real focus on making assemblies more meaningful and working on presentation skills. We reduced the number of assemblies each class had; therefore, they had more time to research and prepare for the assemblies.
- Hipp Psychology delivered 'Transition talk' workshops, focused on supporting students choose GCSE choices and moving to year 11.
- Hipp Psychology also piloted a workshop on Vaping.
- Year 10 attended a Dragon's Den business event.
- Health and Wellbeing planning, went from weekly topics to monthly. This allowed greater focus and understanding of topics.
- Tutors supported intervention with Report card traffic light system.



# Year 10: Successes and Achievements

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



# Year 10: Successes and Achievements

## 10A

### **Childhood Museum- Ulster Museum**

Aimee McGuckin 10A

Olivia Hughes 10A

Aoife Flannigan 10A

### **Irish Dancing World Championships**

Eloise Bell

1<sup>st</sup> solo jig, 3<sup>rd</sup> heavy shoe jig, 5<sup>th</sup> overall in U14

### **All Ireland U16 Camogie Champion**

Aoibhinn Austin

### **Intermediate A and B NI League and Cup winner**

Eva Mc Keown

### **The Chief Commissioners Award for the Catholic Guides of Ireland**

Priya Thakur

### **U14 Gaelic Antrim**

Aoibhinn Austin

Isla Smyth

### **U14 Antrim Camogie**

Isla Smyth

### **Hollywood Festival 14 years and under Ensemble 1<sup>st</sup> place**

Emma Fitzsimmons



# Year 10: Successes and Achievements

## 10B

### **Camogie Ulster Final**

Jay Austin, Ella Clark, Ciara Christie, Grace Cunningham

### **Sports Day relay winners**

Sophie Crozier, Chloe Irvine, Holly Meenan, Siena Notarantonio

### **Feis Beil Feriste**

Sophie Lynch, Emily McAteer

### **Mock Magistrates**

Holly Perry, Sophia Murray, Ruby Gill, Emily McAteer, Fraya Kane, Conlaith Muldoon

### **Hollywood festival 14 years and under Ensemble 1<sup>st</sup> place**

Emily McAteer

### **Northern Ireland Basketball U15 Team**

Eva McKeown

### **Shakespeare festival**

10B won the Shakespeare Festival with their adaption of King Lear.



# Year 10: Successes and Achievements

## 10C

### **Rebecca Armstrong**

Grade 2 Piano Exam (Trinity)

### **Cara Brathwaite**

Selected for Student Council

### **Éabha Crowhen and Emily Tomasko**

Junior History Society vintage toy museum team

### **Aideen Maguire**

Grade 2 Guitar Exam (RSL)

### **Grace McElroy**

Grade 3 Musical Theatre Singing Exam, Irish Dancing Cup Winner at Feis 2025

### **Lucy Napier**

Grade 4 Musical Theatre Singing Exam

### **Doireann O'Connor**

Y10 selected to go on Music Trip to Budapest , Won 1<sup>st</sup> Place in Folk Singing at Hollywood Music Festival, Grade 4 Musical Theatre Exam

Appeared on TG4 documentary for Music School in County Kerry

### **Emma Rice**

Selected for Belfast U15 Netball Academy

Won NI League and shield Netball (School)

### **SWEENEY Erin**

Grade 1 Piano (Trinity)



# Year 10: Successes and Achievements

## 10D

### **Mock Magistrates Team**

Saorlaith Ni Chathail, Emily Rice, Mae McNamee, Megan Moss, Seana Jack, Maisie Jack

### **Trocaire game changers win**

Holly Rea, Nellie Ryder, Cara Caldwell, Sophie O'Hara

### **U14 camogie Final**

Seana Fryers, Aoibheann Rea, Niamh Duffy, Mia Baker, Siofra NiFhionnail



# Year 10: Successes and Achievements

## 10E

### **Aoife Conlon**

Won Gaynor Cup Shield (SBYL), NI Training Squad, Gaelic Ulster Final

### **Grace Kelly**

Grade 4 ballet, Volunteering award for teaching Ballet to younger students

### **Lucy Marley**

Captained school U14 team to Ulster Final, Multiple SBYL Finals with Crumlin United football team

### **Aoibheann Gallagher**

U16 minor and senior Gaelic football for Rossa, Won player of the year for Rossa, Gaelic Ulster Final

### **Eadoin McCarry**

Mezzo Cup Final for Gymnastics, Gymnastics level 6, Competed in Campsie and achieved 4<sup>th</sup> on floor routine

### **Finagh Rowlands**

Grade 4 Modern Jazz, 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> multiple times within Industry, 5,6,7,8 and Global Dance Open Competitions, Winning Ballet School Scholarship

### **Aya Askar**

Won Sacred Heart Competition and having work displayed on front cover of Novena Magazine Trocaire Board Games Final

### **Best Akinsehinde**

3<sup>rd</sup> in Districts High Jump

### **Mya Matthew**

Player of the Year for Lamh Dhearg

### **Maebh Tracey**

1<sup>st</sup> in Mock Magistrates Belfast Competition and competing in London



# Year 10: Successes and Achievements

## 10E

### **Clare Rooney**

Distinction in Grade 4 Violin, Endeavour award in Divertimenti Orchestra

### **Ruby Garland**

Merit in Grade 3 guitar

Achieved a main role in upcoming show for Avenue Arts Academy

### **Etain Murphy**

Distinction in Diploma and Grade 8 Flute, 2<sup>nd</sup> in U15 Flute, 3<sup>rd</sup> in U15 Flute Slow Air

Achieved Year 10 music award at Spring Concert

### **Aoife McStravick**

Drama school got to final stage of Connections and performing in National Theatre in London

### **Niamh Clarke**

Captained football team to win South Belfast Youth League Cup

### **Aoife O'Connor**

Achieved Grades 5+6 in Dance, Singing Grade 3

1<sup>st</sup> in Mock Magistrates Belfast Competition and competing in London

### **Aoibhe McCrory McCabe**

1<sup>st</sup> in Mock Magistrates Belfast Competition and competing in London







# Year 11: Staff Development and Training

## **Catherine Cauley**

- WJEC A Level Drama and Theatre Team Leaders Training
- Child Protection course – GAA
- Coaching training Foundation Level 1
- Professional Qualification in Leadership – Stranmillis University
- CCEA Special Circumstances

## **Ciaran Crudden**

***Joined Up' Professional Learning Day on Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024*** hosted jointly by Corrymeela and NICIE. It focused on diversity and inclusion.

## **Conrad Thomas**

The Science of Health and Happiness for Young People run by the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland.



# Year 11: Initiatives & Developments

- Mentoring was a key factor this year for supporting students who are struggling. We used the data at the end of each report card to identify students who were struggling academically. The Head of School and Head of Year mentored the students focusing on organisation, study plans, helping them catch up on notes and liaising with their subject teachers.
- Many students were also mentored for pastoral reasons, this was invaluable to many students who just needed some guidance, or someone share their problems with.
- Going on feedback from last year's evaluative questionnaire, some students felt that they were overlooked and never got recognition for their achievements. We created Reward and Recognition boards in every form room; this allowed the students and teachers to recognise and compliment students on small achievements. To ensure that no one was left out, we picked pairs anonymously so everyone would have something positive written about them
- Also, on the feedback from parents we recognised that parents wanted to be more involved with the school and to know what is expected of their children in Year 11. We therefore delivered an induction session at the beginning of the year in which we highlighted our expectations of the students and a number of study strategies that can be used.



# Year 11: Successes and Achievements

## Fundraising – Trocaire and Saint Vincent de Paul

- Trocaire – Each class organised an event to support Trocaire through a range of innovative activities. There was nearly £1000 raised by the Year 11 team. The activities organised were fun and boosted the moral of the form classes.
- SVdeP Hamper and Toy Appeal
- Assemblies continue to be delivered at every assembly, there was a real focus on presentation skills.
- Continual monitoring of attendance and punctuality. Pupils whose punctuality was causing concern were placed in detention, letters were sent home and regular phone calls. Parents also received letters informing them of our concerns in relation to pupils with poor attendance. EWO involvement when necessary.
- Year 11 were active participants in Open Day and other school events.
- Recognition boards
- Mock Magistrates Competition
- Intervention Progress meetings were carried out after each report. Students were given targets and suggestions by YH or SLT. Support was given and follow ups were carried out.
- Fun and Health and Wellbeing Day



Study Skills Workshop



# Praise and Recognition Boards



# Fun Activity Day



# Year 12 Health and Wellbeing: Staff Development and Training

## **SEN and Newcomer Training and Update**

All Staff

M Kennedy

August 2024

## **Being Well Doing Well**

All Staff

S Clerkin (EA)

August 24

## **Safeguarding Training**

All Staff

P McNulty

September 24

## **Positive Behaviour Support**

All Staff

Dr. Ferguson and Dr. Booth (QUB)

October 24

## **Emotionally Based School Non Attendance**

M Cassidy

M Kennedy

November 24



# Year 12 Health and Wellbeing: Initiatives & Developments

## Academic:

Target Setting and Reflection on Module Outcomes: Students were encouraged to set themselves academic and non-academic goals for the year ahead. Staff worked with students on setting SMART targets.

Y14 students led study skills workshops with Y12 students. These sessions dove-tailed D Scott's preparation for exams session.

Students received a study pack, including subject specific tips and tricks, whiteboards and flashcards, supported by Parent Link.

Y13 students delivered a talk alongside M Cassidy and D Scott around A Level subject choices. This fed into HOD's A Level convention for parents and pupils.

St. Dominic's hosted the Y12 WBALC careers convention in March 2025.

A small number of students attended Easter school in SMUCB as well as midterm support in Whiterock Library in February/April 25.

Y12 Trócaire fundraising took the form of a, 'sponsored study'. Students logged hours on Flora App.

## Health and Wellbeing:

Focus was placed on supporting students wellbeing- students took on Daily Mile and other mindfulness activities throughout the year.

Y14 students delivered a session on the extracurricular activities offered within school. Students were encouraged to engage with at least one activity.

A Connolly delivered a session on volunteering opportunities open to students. A number of students achieved recognition for the voluntary work.

E Welty delivered sessions on Exam Anxiety, and worked with a small group of students to combat exam stress.

St. Dominic's students organised a cheer station at the Belfast City Half Marathon in support of Air Ambulance NI



# Year 12 Health and Wellbeing: Successes and Achievements

## Super Curricular:

Annanya Rahate and Nadira Omar successfully obtained Arkwright Engineering Scholarships.

Emma Quinn and Shirly Sherene Kirubasharan competed in the Sentinus Young Innovators Programme.

Twenty Y12 students competed in the UKMT Maths Competition. Shirly Sherene Kirubasharan obtained a gold award and was selected to attend a maths summer school in Bradford. She is the first student from St. Dominic's selected onto this programme.

Ananya Rahate competed in the BT Young Scientist Competition, showcasing her project in the RDS in Dublin. She won a presentation award.

A number of students participated in Feis Bhéal Feirste. The following students: Róise McCourt, Sháina Brady, Méabh MacElhatton, Ríonach MacElhatton and Éirinn O'Reilly achieved top three finishes across various classes.



# Year 12 Health and Wellbeing: Successes and Achievements

Extra Curricular:

Members of the Eco Club received Bronze Wild Youth Certificates for their work in Bog Meadows

Y12 Students volunteered for Air Ambulance NI at the Belfast City Half Marathon

A significant number of Y12 students completed the SOAR leadership programme.

A significant number of Y12 students were involved in the school musical, Oliver, in October 2024.

A large proportion of Y12 students were involved in the Spring Concert.

Roise Slavin won the Chief Commissioners Award for the Catholic Guides of Ireland.

Julia Hegarty won various competitions across Hollywood, Belfast, Larne and Ballymena Music Festival.

Eight students gained entry to the Ignite Leadership Programme:

Ananyea Ratate, Emma Campbell, Lavanya Agarwal, Lucy Morgan, Rachel Duffy, Teagen Linden, Akshara Rakesh, Alice McCann, Amy Conliffe



# Year 12 Health and Wellbeing: Successes and Achievements

## Sport:

U16 Camogs won the Ulster and All Ireland Championship, as well as the Ulster 7s Competition.

U19 Footballers reach the Ulster Shield Final, and were narrowly defeated by St. Paul's.

Intermediate and Senior Netballers won their league and Cup competitions.

## QUB Future Stars:

Camogie: Amy Gault, Amelie Annett, Erin Stewart

LGFA: Anna Rice, Aoife Fitzsimons

## International Representation:

Netball NI- Anna Rice, Aoibheann Donnelly

Basketball Ireland- Aoibheann Donnelly

Soccer NI- Sophie Glover Monaghan



# Yr 13 :

# Staff Development and Training

## **SEN and Newcomer Training and Update**

All Staff

M Kennedy

August 2024

## **Being Well Doing Well**

All Staff

S Clerkin (EA)

August 24

## **Safeguarding Training**

All Staff

P McNulty

September 24

## **Positive Behaviour Support**

All Staff

Dr. Ferguson and Dr. Booth (QUB)

October 24



# Yr 13 :

## Initiatives & Developments

Detail any initiatives and developments (learning and teaching) within your department here. If you need to use more than one page then please copy this slide retaining the heading.

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

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

SIMS red flag monitoring system proved effective in identifying at-risk students early.

Weekly check-ins during registration allowed form tutors to provide prompt support.

Induction programme revised with input from previous year's staff and student feedback.

Revised programme launched in September based on student feedback.

Study skills workshops were integrated into the curriculum, supported by 'Tooled Up' and HIP resources.



# Yr 13 :

## Successes and Achievements

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

Period Dignity volunteers regularly stocked toilets with period products

The YR13 contributed to the Christmas Hampers collection, Trocaire fundraising and various other fundraising initiatives this year.

Greater coordination between teachers, FT, and HOY ensured timely interventions.

Improved attendance led to better classroom continuity and academic outcomes.

Students identified below 90% attendance were contacted and supported early.

Students more engaged in PC lessons and pastoral support.

Tutors reported stronger student understanding of wellbeing topics.

Students reported smoother academic transition and better understanding of A-level expectations.

Weekly feedback meetings with SLT enabled rapid response to emerging issues.

### **RE Awards**

#### **Spirit of Catholic Education Award**

Amparo Miralles Bravo

#### **Knights of St Columbanus Success**

Brianna Bennett

Aoife Brady

Cara Murphy

### **Outstanding Impact Awardees**

Lucy Diamond

Blessing Nich

Eve Kempston

Katie McNally Varela

Mia McIlkenny

Niamh Ferrie

Ella Matthews

Aoibheen Carlisle

Amparo Miralles Bravo

### **16 Years and Under Solo 1<sup>st</sup> Place Cup**

Orlaith Mussen

### **Ensemble Class 3rd Place**

Ella Mathews

Mollie Rodgers

### **18s Years and Under Solo 2nd Place**

Ella Mathews



# Year 14: Staff Development and Training

SEN training  
August 2024

PeopleHawk training attended by J Fell  
September 2024

Research Ed Belfast Conference attended by J Fell  
September 2024

Catalyst Community of Practice four workshop between November 2024 and March 2025.

Focused on developing reward and recognition in our school through research, collaboration and actions. Attended by J Fell and C McNeill along with two other colleagues.



# Year 14: Initiatives & Developments

- Developed and implemented a new Year 14 Health, Wellbeing and Safety program with two streams to cater for those who had Head Girl and Prefect duties.
- Year 14 Health, Wellbeing and Safety revised for the next academic year.
- Arranged and organised for HIP Psychology to deliver their 'Nailing the Interview Game' workshop in October 2024 in collaboration with the Head of Careers. Delivered over two weeks the workshop was positively received by Year 14s and coordinated to take place before the Year 14 Mock Interview Day.
- This year there was a focus to develop Student Voice in the year group. Thursday morning registrations were used during term 1 for focused Student Voice to inform future action, with feedback given during assemblies. There was also whole year group surveys and informal student voice in tutor groups.
- Induction of new member of staff to year team.
- Coffee and tea facilities introduced to the Year 14 study area.



Nailing the Interview Game  
HIP Psychology workshop



# Year 14: Successes and Achievements

- **Trocaire Year 14 fundraiser.** In April 2025 we had a whole year group tea party fundraiser. It was also arranged for a year group photograph to be taken. This event raised £457.20 for Trocaire.
- The Head Girl team had an active role in developing the new **Student Council**. Erin Rice, Sian McManus and Caoimhe Cahir taking a key role in designing, electing and coordinating the action and leadership of our Student Council.
- The Head Girl and Prefect team were commended for their leadership throughout the year.
- St Dominic's hosted the **Be Well Do Well Conference** in June 2025: Caitlin Crookes and Erin Rice made a speech about the activities led by the Wellbeing Prefects with younger people.
- **Acts of Kindness awards:** Orla Rozanska for Maths support, Aimee Sloan for the Harry Potter quiz, Eric McDonnell for the Harry Potter quiz and Caitlin Adams for Peer support in IT.
- **Circle of Life award 2024 - Diana Positivity / Award team :** Caitlin Crooks, Maria Louise Casey, Aoife Doherty, Cara Molloy, Jenna Ferguson, Caoimhe Ni Loinsigh, Lauren Smyth, Eve Conlon, Jana Hasan, Emily Rogan, Anna Lowry, Kerry Ferguson.
- **Knights of St Columbanus Honouring the Faith award:** presented to Anna Neal.
- **25 Hour Impact Award:** presented to  
Enya Fitzsimons for her volunteering as a School and YMCA Mentor.  
Annabelle French - Politics in Action Volunteer  
Cara Mc Taggart – Politics in Action Volunteer.  
Enna McGreevey for her volunteering as literacy mentors with younger pupils.  
  
Cara Linden for her volunteering as literacy mentors with younger pupils.



# Year 14: Successes and Achievements

- **Royal Society of Chemistry Olympiad:** Molly Casey (Bronze), Jenna Ferguson (Bronze) and Molly Lavery (Silver).
- **The British Biology Olympiad:** Sophie Murray-Kavanagh (Gold), Jenna Ferguson (Gold), Molly Lavery (Silver) and Aoibhinn Williams (Silver).
- **Senior Maths Challenge Bronze Certificate:** Sarah Fix, Grace Holbrook, Caitlin Muldoon and Gabrielle Lindsay.
- **Senior Maths Challenge Silver Certificate:** Molly Lavery, Eve McNamee and Erin Wilkinson.
- **Magnificat Monthly:** Ella Fleming, Caitlin Crookes, Eireann McAleese, Enya Fitzsimons and Demi-Lee Duff.
- **History Club's History of Childhood Ulster Museum Exhibition:** Annabelle French, Cara Devlin, Mia Clarke and Caitlin Crookes.
- **Hollywood Music Festival**
  - 18s Years and Under Solo 1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Cara Linden.
  - Ensemble Class 1<sup>st</sup> Place:** Cara Linden and Caileen Voyle.
- Winner of the **Terry Bradley Art Competition:** Jenna Ferguson.



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# Being Well Doing Well Programme

2024-2025

# Being Well Doing Well: Staff Development and Training

All staff received initial training in Student Emotional Health and Well Being from Sharon Clerkin of EA.

C Thomas completed a course in the Science of Young People's Health and Happiness with the Royal College of Surgeons Ireland.

EA session for all staff (3 hrs) delivered by Sharon Clerkin

'Hey Big School' booklet – used to help Y8 transition. C Thomas took Y8 Pastoral team through each of the lessons.

Staff Wellbeing Day to Newcastle organised by A Rainey

Conrad Thomas drew up instructions on how to use Curriculum support materials for each appropriate Pastoral team.



# Being Well Doing Well: Initiatives & Developments

Detail any initiatives and developments (learning and teaching) within your department here. If you need to use more than one page then please copy this slide retaining the heading.

## Curriculum -

C Thomas provided support materials on the curriculum grid in the following areas –

### Y8

- The 'Hey Big School' transition booklet for Y8 – ideas covered include:
  - What to do if you have a problem
  - Missing Your Old School
  - Being Nervous v Being Afraid
  - The Importance of Making Mistakes
  - Friendships old and new
  - Individuality and staying true to yourself
  - Positive Approach We are trialling the Little Book of Feelings for EA with the current Y8.

### Y9

- Self Esteem and Self Confidence
- Anxiety and How to deal with it
- Anti Bullying

### Y10

- Resilience
- Positive Relationships

C Thomas met with D Scott and the Year Heads to resource the new HWB curriculum. He provided a suite of 63 resources for the programme to select from.

C Thomas has also provided individual support documents for Year Heads on Self Esteem, Talking to autistic children about mental health, Emotionally Based School Avoidance and Friendship Issues.



# Being Well Doing Well: Successes and Achievements

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

## Parental Awareness of Emotional Health and Wellbeing

- Conrad Thomas communicated regularly with parents via the school app. This communication focussed on whichever topic the students were studying in HWB class, as indicated on the HWB grid for y8-11. This communication discussed the resources used, how to initiate a conversation with their child and links to further support.
- Parents received communication on the issue of Respect, which was being promoted during anti bullying week, aspects of their own self care and the importance of encouraging their child to talk about problems

## Accessing the School Counsellor

- In direct response to a BWDW survey question regarding knowledge on how to access the school counsellor, we created a QR code that generates a self-referral form that can be emailed directly to the VP Pastoral for consideration. Each student received a label containing this to put in their planner.
- A poster emphasising the idea of the 'Double Promise' was produced for each classroom and year group assemblies were addressed. The Well Being Prefects were heavily involved in this



# Being Well Doing Well: Successes and Achievements

- Conrad Thomas was invited to consult with the Prefect team that was examining the RSE policy
- Conrad Thomas organised a six week block of Yoga for the 6<sup>th</sup> form students.
- E Welty delivered talks to the Y11 and Y14 on managing anxiety as well as working with a smaller target group
- C Thomas delivered a session to the Y12 on exam stress
- A number of members of Staff expressed interest in forming part of the Being Well Doing Well team. This team will operate in Year 3
- An audit of external HWB agencies used by the school was completed and given to Year Heads and D Scott
- All students y8 – y11 surveyed along with Parents, Staff and BoG. Awaiting analysis from EA
- Raising awareness – All classes were given a ‘Respect’ poster that tied in with anti-bullying week. The Well Being prefects spoke at assemblies to promote this
- The Well Being Prefects spoke to assemblies on the topic of speaking to someone to address problems. The idea of the ‘Double Promise’ was presented and each class room now has a ‘Double Promise’ poster. The notion of St Dominic’s as a Being Well Doing Well school was emphasised at assemblies

## BWDW Celebration Event

On Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June, St Dominic’s hosted BWDW Celebration and Networking Event in conjunction with EA. 120 participants from schools in the y2 phase of the programme were in attendance and received their accreditation. Mr McMaster, Mr Thomas, Caitlin Crookes (y14) and Erin Rice (y14) all delivered addresses. The school was publicly praised by Sheila Gamble (EA) and Ronnie Armour (Permanent Secretary at DE)



# Staff Health and Wellbeing 2024-25

## Target 1: Organise a Staff Health and Well-Being Away Day (Term 1)

- Staff voice survey used to plan the day, chosen venue Newcastle, the first 'away day' for staff in ~15 years (Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> September)
- Optional Breakfast pre departure in Staff Room at 8.30am
- Wide range of Well-Being activities offered to staff in advance to suit everyone:
  - Granite Trail
  - Walk the Promenade (shop, library, art gallery, beach, cafes, tuppenny nudgers etc...)
  - Mini Golf and Driving Range
  - Slieve Donard Hotel and Spa or Newcastle Centre (Gym, Sauna and Steam Room)
  - YMCA Activity Centre (abseiling, archery, bouldering, canoeing, raft building, orienteering, wall climbing, outdoor cooking etc)
  - Hair and Beauty Salons
  - Pool/Snooker Competition and/or Axe Throwing
  - Bingo
- Staff Lunch in The Burrendale Hotel

## Target 2: Staff Well-Being and Team Building Activities

- Staff Yoga – 6 week sessions delivered throughout the year
- Staff Choir – Nov/Dec for Christmas Carol Service
- Staff Cookery Class - Ginger Bread Houses
- Staff Talent Show fundraising for St Vincent de Paul
- Staff Christmas Dinner – Sweet Afton, Belfast City Centre
  
- Staff Theatre Trip - Grand Opera House to see Les Miserables (teacher Ms K Tweed and recent past pupil, Cara Magennis, performing). Approximately 20 staff attended (Term 2)

## Target 3: Mental Health First Aiders

- Two members of staff attended a two-day training course (Term 3) to become 'Mental Health First Aiders (AR and CT) as part of the Be Well Do Well program. All staff made aware of this training and support if needed.

## Target 4: Staff Voice and Communications

- EA Well Being Hub newsletter reminders were circulated throughout the year, signposting staff to various resources and support networks for key themes, such as financial planning for the future, fitness classes, courses to upskill and mental well being / counselling pathways.
  
- Staff Well-Being Surveys distributed  
Section 1: internal questions used to follow-up on Staff Voice survey from two years ago (AR)  
Section 2: questions from the Be Well Do Well program (CT)
  
- Feedback on Staff Voice will be delivered to staff during INSET Day in August 2025 (AR)

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# Volunteering Programme

2024-2025

# Volunteering: Staff Development and Training

Trocaire Training 2 new programmes

- 1. New Ambassador Award** (I also held some 1 to 1 advisory meetings to provide details of what best suits end users)
  - 2 in person meetings & 1 zoom meeting for NI teachers.
- 2. Schools' Award** (offered for the first time)
  - in person meeting with Trocaire team

## **ABA research & training**

2 sessions Zoom training - how the Antibullying Alliance programme works & Teacher agreements (some of the sessions run with ChildLine and looking at sensitive issues such as online AI Nudity).

## **RAKtivist research & training**

We trialled this US led scheme for the first time & I've applied for the RAKtivist Schools Award (June 2025)

## **World Values Day (3 zoom sessions)**

Providing input into extending this programme with schools (UK) new resources produced for use 2025/6

## **Concern Ambassador Research**

Briefing before the pupil workshops & running the Concern Ambassador leadership scheme, a new initiative at St Dominic's.



# Volunteering: Initiatives & Developments

## New initiatives

- Soar Leadership Programme **Years 11 and 12**
- **Year 9** leadership programme Concern Ambassadors
- World Values Day **Year 10 Citizenship**
- Bath University Research Programme theme: Values (**Year 13 & 14**)
- RAKtivist programme (KS3 & citizenship pupils)

## Volunteering Programmes / Ongoing

Diana Award/Positivity Team Year 13

Diana Award/Positivity Team Year 14

Giving Nation Awards (open to all year groups)

Kindness Awards KS3

Dissemination of volunteering & leadership opportunities  
(#iWill Ambassadors, Belfast City Council support volunteers etc.)

Media & Volunteer Boards postings acknowledging pupil volunteering

## **Extension activities / Incoming funds**

I edited a new Disability Rights schools programme (UK Olympics) we  
piloted this with yr10s. **Payment of £150**

Payment for the Bath University Research Participation. Significant teacher  
input **Payment of £300**

Funds added to the Extended schools volunteer budget



# Volunteering: Successes and Achievements 1

## Knights of St Columbanus Honouring the Faith nomination & award

- Anna Neal Year 14

## 600 Hour Impact Awards

- Amparo Miralles Bravo Year 13 -
- Blessing Nich Year 13

## 400 + hours Impact Awards

- Katie McNally Varela 13
- Aoibheen Carlisle 13
- Mia McIlkenny 13

## 200 hour Impact Awards

- Naadira Oman
- Akshara Rakesh

## 25 Hour Impact Awards

- Enya Fitzsimons Year 14 -School and YMCA Mentor
- Annabelle French year 14 - Politics in Action Volunteer
- Cara Mc Taggart Year 14 - Politics in Action Volunteer
- Enna McGreevey and Cara Linden Yr 14 are literacy mentors with younger pupils.

## Anti-Bullying Alliance Youth Ambassadors selected (pupils attend 1 training day & 1 zoom training afternoon)

- Jaime Whelan 11c
- Yassmeen Abusamra 11A
- Eimear Turkington 11b



# Volunteering: Successes and Achievements 2

## **Year 9 Concern Ambassadors (attended training workshop & earned Concern's Ambassador awards)**

- Sophia McGrillen 9a
- Aoife Madden 9a
- Eva Maxwell 9a
- Ursula Mulholland 9a
- Phoebe Jordan 9a
- Hollie Mckeaveney 9b
- Lucia Murphy 9b
- Kuyla Young 9b
- Daire Fegan 9e
- Hannah Dolan 9e
- Eva Connolly 9e
- Faye Crawford 9c
- Casey Murphy 9c
- Aoife Glover 9d
- Ella O'Connor 9d
- Eabha Dennison 9d
- Wuraola Adeyemi 9d
- Niya Shabu 9d
- Jewel Johnson 9d
- Aoife Fields 9d



# Volunteering: Successes and Achievements 3

**Soar awardees 2024/5** (all received Stranmillis College University qualification)

**11**

- Sarah Duffy
- Abbie Williamson
- Cara Neeson
- Grace Ewings
- Casey Curran
- Holly Rose Milliken
- Margaret Morgan
- May Connolly



**12**

- Emma Campbell
- Ella Mc Alorum
- Lavanya Agarwal
- Sirishti Tallur
- Mahalla McCambridge.
- Ananyaa Rahate
- Zoe Griffins
- Paige Brennan Collins
- Roise Slavin
- Erin Magee
- Alice Mc Cann

Trocaire Champion Awards (Giving Nation certificates & bracelets)

- Eimear Fallon Yr 13
- Mia McConnell Yer13
- Maureen Kennedy 8b
- Laura Lyons 8b
- Carly Voyle 11a
- Aoibhinn McDonnell 11a



# Volunteering: Successes and Achievements 4

## **Bath Research Programme (key attenders – inhouse celebration & awards presented)**

- Imogen Bell (13F)
- Kaci Bracken Irvine, 13C.
- Rosemary Abi 13A
- Aleena Vellikara 13 B 4
- Eve Kempston 13C
- Eileen Wen 13D
- Phoebe Boyd 13c
- Alana Gouldie 13F
- Blessing Nich 13B
- Laksha Singh 13B
- Katrina Villasfer 13A
- Elida Almohomad 13B
- Úna McGowan 13C
- Niamh George 13F



## **Trocaire Ambassadors (Trocaire leadership awards & Giving Nation certificates)**

- Akshara Rakesh 12
- Ananyaa Rahate 12
- Julia Hegarty 12
- Srishti Tallur 12
- Lavanya Agarwal 12
- Shirly Sherene Kirbasharan 12
- Aleena Vellikara 13
- Anna Bittles 13
- Matt Mclean 13
- Grainne Neeson 13
- Isabella Fay 13
- Numa Kumanchi 13
- Emma Mccartney 13
- Mia McConnell 13
- Blessing Nich 13
- Katie Boyle 9c
- Angela Chen 9c
- Katie Keenan 9c
- Niamh Farren 9c



# Volunteering: Successes and Achievements 5

## **Diana award 13 teams (working on well being badges)**

- Matya McLean
- Leah Brooks
- Aoibheen Carlisle
- Emily McCusker
- Eve Kempston
- Blessed Nich
- Emer O'Connor
- Marianna Garvin
- Karen O'Rourke
- Eileen Wen
- Jasmin Belles
- Aoife Brady
- Katie O'Neill
- Caitlin Cox
- Lauren Early
- Alannah Reilly
- Numa Karnachi
- Ava McGurk
- Grace Mc Namee
- Maria de Meulemeester



## **Circle of Life Award 2024 –(Diana Positivity / Award team year 14)**

- Caitlin Crooks
- Maria Louise Casey
- Aoife Doherty
- Cara Molloy
- Jenna Ferguson
- Caoimhe Ni Loinsigh
- Lauren Smyth
- Eve Conlon
- Jana Hasan
- Emily Rogan
- Anna Lowry
- Kerry Ferguson



# Volunteering: Successes and Achievement 6

## NI Impact Awards Night (Europa Hotel)

- Katie McNally Varella,
- Aoibheen Carlisle,
- Blessing Nich,
- Mia McIlkenny,
- Lavanya Agarwal,
- Laksha Singh,
- Srishti Tallur
- Ananyaa Rahate,
- Erin Caballero,
- Ella Matthews,
- Niamh Ferrie,
- Eve Kempston,
- Kaila Patterson,
- Lucy Diamond ,
- Grainne Neeson
- Fiona Price.
- Amparo Miralles Bravo \*
- Priya Takur \*
- Erin Magee
- Paige Brennan Collins



*\*unable to attend on the night award still presented*



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# Shared Education

2024-2025

# Shared Education: Staff Development and Training

## **Ciarán Crudden**

### **‘Joined Up’ Professional Learning Day 24<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

This session was hosted jointly by Corrymeela and the NICIE Office to review the ‘Joined Up’ strategy in schools and update the input from teachers.

Workshops included:

- Exploring Identity and Diversity – Skills and Confidence
- Creating ‘Safe Enough/Brave Spaces’
- Exploring Identity Together
- Developing Dialogic Approaches

### **Catalyst School Business Breakfast 8<sup>th</sup> October 2024**

Unlocking Opportunities: Catalyst created a networking event to strengthen connections between schools and businesses in the service of young people.

### **Cooperation Ireland and Kinia.ie 5<sup>th</sup> November 2024**

Training for the online platform and overview of the programme.

### **Catalyst Leadership Programme 3 December 2024, 15 January 2025, 3 February 2025**

Catalyst supported schools this year in creating a culture of deeper learning, where every pupil thrives. Workshops included:

- Delving deeper into the practices that support deeper learning
- Being thought partners and critical friends to one another to support your change work
- Continuing to build and nurture relationships with businesses
- Using data to identify bright spots in your change work
- Bringing more staff along in your change work
- Crafting your change journey story.”



### **Shared Education Action Planning Session 13<sup>th</sup> May 2025**

Online workshop

# Shared Education: Initiatives & Developments

## History Project

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



# Shared Education: Initiatives & Developments

## Politics in Action

St. Dominic's Year 13s worked with Friends' School, Lisburn' in an investigation into 'Threats Against Democracy', including violence against women and girls, political representation and monetary influence. Pupils met with politicians and other key stakeholders to research their topic. They attended a wide range of events at QUB for their International Women's Day programme, and for a keynote address by Senator George Mitchell entitled 'Passing the Torch', as well as a programme finale at Girdwood Community Hub.



# Shared Education: Initiatives & Developments

## Cooperation Ireland SEPI Programme (Shared Education for Positive Innovation)

St Dominic's have enrolled in a four-year programme with Co-operation Ireland, a respected peacebuilding charity with a strong history of fostering cross-border collaboration, which is leading the delivery of the SEPI programme. SEPI empowers young people with the tools to tackle environmental challenges while promoting peace and understanding. The programme encourages both students and leaders to innovate for climate solutions, positioning them as future leaders in sustainability and peacebuilding and linking with the world of business to explore real world challenges and solutions.



# Shared Education: Successes and Achievements

## Cooperation Ireland

St Dominic's participated in the inaugural Shared Education for Positive Innovation programme and hosted the first 'Impact Day' working with Catalyst and PA Consulting. Over 700 students from 76 schools competed in the programme across the island, completing climate and peacebuilding courses on the SEPI Academy and creating solutions to real-world sustainability challenges. With 'design thinking sprints' and masterclasses with industry leaders, students refined their climate solutions and presented to business leaders, before reaching the final Climate Summit at the ICC, where top teams pitched solutions on the main stage. Two of our Year 13 students made the semi-finals of this event.



# Shared Education: Successes and Achievements

## Politics in Action Young Evaluators

Year 13 student Matt McLean was successful in applying for the Politics in Action Young Evaluators project. Matt will receive support and training including from two expert volunteers, Professor Tony Gallagher, and Anoosha Gehani, a data scientist who works for the National Museums. Matt will help design how Politics in Action evaluate their work, engage with young people and help analyse what they find out. There are also opportunities once trained to do paid evaluation work for other organisations.



## Passing the Torch – Senator George Mitchell at QUB

Several of our Year 13 Politics in Action Group were interviewed by national media for their response to Senator Mitchell's keynote address. In both Irish and English, across BBC and RTÉ, our students spoke eloquently about the challenges still facing Northern Ireland.



# Shared Education: Successes and Achievements

## Friends' School Lisburn 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Peace Conference

Our Year 13 Politics in Action group were invited to participate in a conference at Friends' School Lisburn entitled 'The Future Belongs to Peace'. This international Quakers event was opened by two of our students who reflected on peace in a post conflict society. They also featured in a Shared Future news article and were warmly received on the day.



## Young Journalist Ireland

For the first time as part of our Politics in Action project, students were encouraged to write an opinion or feature response based on their group's area of research and enter the Young Journalist Ireland programme. While two St Dominic's students delivered their speech at the FSL 250<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, another of this year's group from Friends came second in the overall national competition.



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