



# CHS MAGAZINE

2022/23

## CHARITY

YEAR 14 TAKE ON THE STAFF IN A CHARITY FOOTBALL MATCH FOR AIR AMBULANCE

## HOCKEY

CHS VICTORIOUS IN THE BANNISTER BOWL AND FERRIS CUP

## SKI TRIP

SAN VALENTINO: THIS ONE SURPASSED ALL EXPECTATIONS!

## MARY PETERS

WHAT AN EVENING TO REMEMBER WHEN THE FIRST NI OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST CAME TO CHS

# CONTENT

## 4. PRINCIPAL'S FOREWORD

I am very proud of the accomplishments and achievement of our young people

## 5. CHAIR OF BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Our school continues to provide a multitude of opportunities and activities.

## 6. STAFF - NEWCOMERS AND LEAVERS

After over 30 years of teaching, Mrs Daphney Gregg has decided to retire

## 12. EXAM RESULTS

Pupils at CHS have once again achieved an outstanding set of A level results

## 22-.73 DEPT NEWS

Art workshops, technology projects, fieldtrips, competitions and much more

## 76-113. SPORT

Badminton, athletics, hockey, football, netball, rugby

## 85.. HOCKEY

Boys win the Ferris Cup (U13) and Bannister Bowl (U14)

## 114. EXTRA CURRICULAR

Angus Youth Challenge, Dutch visit, Charity football match, SU, and more...

## 118. COLOUR RUN 2023

It's not every day the staff are allowed to throw paint at pupils!!!

## 124. EVENING WITH MARY PETERS

She really is a national treasure, and it was a real treat to interview her

## 138. SCHOOL TRIPS

Ski 2023, London 2022, Battlefields 2022

## 152. HEAD BOY/GIRL REPORTS

Claudia Hill and Nick Griggs reflect on their 7 years at CHS



## BANNISTER BOWL

This is the first time the school have won both the U13 Schools Cup and U14 Schools Cup in the same season

## DUTCH VISIT

We were delighted to host six pupils from Jacobus Fruytier School, in The Netherlands along with two of their teachers.







114

### ANGUS YOUTH CHALLENGE

Judges commented on his “can do attitude and maturity well beyond his years”.



116

### STAFF VS Y14

Training for the game, from a staff perspective, perhaps resembled Father Ted’s All-Priests 5-a-side .

### EVENING WITH MARY PETERS

There was something for everyone in the audience in terms of take away messages.



124

### NATIONAL STANDARD BEARER

I have been provided with amazing opportunities and memories which I will treasure forever.



150

*Designer:* Richard Brown

# PRINCIPAL'S FOREWORD



I am very pleased to be able to present to you our school magazine for 2022–2023.

This year has seen change with the passing of Her Majesty, The Queen in September and the subsequent succession and coronation of King Charles III in May. Millions across the nation- and indeed around the globe- were united in a deep sense of loss when the Queen passed away. There was an outpouring of respect and love and many voiced appreciation for her extraordinary example embodying grace, leadership, and service. The Queen's legacy and personal characteristics are exactly those that we aspire for our young people.

It has been wonderful to see our school community deepen their sense of belonging and identity as we participate in the variety of rich activities and opportunities on offer at Cookstown High School: London visit, Ski Trip, Spring Concert, Dame Mary Peters event, Coronation Garden Fete, charity events and so much more. The plethora of opportunities available serve to build community and provides a sense of purpose as we en-

gage, support, influence, share and connect with one another either as a pupil, member of staff, parent, governor, or wider community. I wish to express my sincere thanks to those who have embraced the High School spirit and have gone the extra mile to enhance the experiences for our pupils.

I am very proud of the accomplishments and achievement of our young people and as you read you will find out about various endeavours and experiences of those who have developed in confidence, love of learning, building a sense of community as well as developing their character. Our school motto: 'Character through knowledge' is very much alive and is reflected in this year's magazine.

Congratulations to everyone for another successful year.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "G.J. Evans".

**G.J.EVANS**  
PRINCIPAL



# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS



Welcome to this year's edition of our school magazine and a big thank you to the team who have compiled the content.

As Chair of Cookstown High School Board of Governors I am very proud to be associated with this school and as you look through this year's record of school life, I'm sure you will agree that we have much to celebrate. In a year which saw so much instability in our country and world, it is good to know that our school continues to provide a high standard of teaching along with a multitude of opportunities and activities.



We mourned the death of our beloved Queen Elizabeth and celebrated the coronation of King Charles. Dame Mary Peters opened the King Charles Trail constructed



for us by Hamilton Contractors and Bell Quarries. This was followed by a very successful evening organised by the PTFA, during which Dame Mary, Nick Griggs and Grace Carson were interviewed.

A school is often judged solely on academic results but giving pupils the opportunities to flourish and discover their gifts within a safe and supportive environment is equally important. Enjoy this proof of another fantastic year in our school.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "L. Driggs".

LYNNE DRIPPS

## PRINCIPAL

Miss G Evans BA PGCE NPQH

## VICE PRINCIPALS

Mrs C Allen BA PGCE PQH(NI)

Mr A McGeown BSc PGCE

## SENIOR TEACHERS

Mrs F Gormley BMus PGCE ATCL CertFSMus

Med FCIEA

Mr R Johnston BEd MSC PQH(NI)

## ART

Mrs N McCabe BDes PGCE

Mrs K Fields BA PGCE

Miss J Smith PGCE

## BUSINESS STUDIES

Mrs D Foster BEd

Mrs L Johnston BA QTS

Mr L Stewart BSc PGCE

## ENGLISH

Mrs G McDonnell BA PGCE

Mr L Forbes BA PGCE

Mr S Graham BA PGCE

Miss L Hanna BA PGCE

Mrs R Thompson BA PGCE

Mrs A Smyth BA PGCE

## GEOGRAPHY

Mrs N Hagan BSc PGCE

Dr H Kane BSc PhD PGCE

Mrs C Porte BSc PGCE

## HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE

Mrs T McElhatton BSc PGCE

Mrs N Cheevers BSc PGCE

Miss E Faulkner PGCE

Mrs L Johnston BA QTS

Dr H Kane BSc PhD PGCE

Mrs L Lee BSc PGCE

Mrs C McFlynn BSc PGCE Dip German

Mrs R McMurray BSc PGCE

Miss M Hughes BSc PGCE

## HISTORY

Mrs R Sloan BA, PGCE

Mr J Henderson BA PGCE

Mrs C Porte BSc PGCE

Miss E Fleming

## HOME ECONOMICS

Mrs A Halliday BA MSc PGCE Cert.Ind.St Cert.RE Cert.HP

Miss B Gallagher PGCE

Mrs L Lee BSc PGCE

## INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

Mr R Johnston BEd MSC PQH(NI)

Mr M Lynch BSc PGCE

Mrs K McKenna BSc PGDFHE

Mrs J White BSc MSc PGCE

## LEARNING for LIFE and WORK

Mrs N Cheevers BSc PGCE

## LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE

Mrs K Fields BA PGCE

Mrs L Stewart Murray BSc Hons PGCE

Mr J Hastings BSc PGCE PAPAA

## MATHEMATICS

Dr K Davidson BSc PhD PGCE

Mr G Cuddy BEng PGCE

Mrs H Graham BSc PGCE

Mrs C Hall BSc PGCE

Mrs Z Johnston BSc PGCE

Mr B Lowe BEd QTS

Mrs J McMullan BSc PGCE

Miss Sarah Sinclair BEd PGCE

Mr C Wilson BSc PGCE PG Cert Careers Ed and Guidance

## MODERN LANGUAGES

Dr A Ranchoux BA MA PhD PGCTHE PGCE MCP CIW

Mrs C Allen BA PGCE PQH(NI)

Mrs C McFlynn BSc PGCE Dip German

Mrs E Murphy BA PGCE





## MUSIC

**Mrs F Gormley BMus PGCE ATCL CertFSMus MEd FCIEA**  
Mrs H Blackwood MBE MSc BMus PGCE Dip RS MCGI MInstLM

## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

**Mr M Haycock BSc MSc PGCE Dip Sports Psy**  
Mrs N Cheevers BSc PGCE  
Mrs L Johnston BA QTS  
Miss R Kerr BSc PGCE

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

**Mrs H Hamilton BEd**  
Mrs H Blackwood MBE MSc BMus PGCE Dip RS MCGI  
MInstLM  
Mrs L Lee BSc PGCE  
Mrs R Montgomery B Ed

## SCIENCE

**Mr N Agnew MSc PGCE**  
Dr A Morgan MSc PhD PGCE  
Mrs R McMurray BSc PGCE  
Mr P Williamson BSc PGCE  
Mrs H Brooks BEd  
Mrs J Freeburn BA PGCE Cert RE  
Mr N Graham BSc PGCE  
Mr N Hastings BSc PGCE

## TECHNOLOGY

**Mr P Carson BEd PGCTE PGDTE**  
Mr G Cuddy BEng PGCE  
Mr S Donnelly BSc PGCE  
Mrs R Harpur BSc PGCE  
Mr D McKenna BEd  
Mr James McMullan

## SENCo

**Mrs J Crawford BEd PGCE**

## HEADS OF YEAR

Year 8  
Dr H Kane BSc PhD PGCE  
Year 9  
Mrs J Freeburn BA PGCE Cert RE  
Year 10  
Mrs H Blackwood MBE MSc BMus PGCE Dip RS MCGI  
MInstLM  
Year 11  
Mr D McKenna BEd  
Year 12  
Mr J Henderson BA PGCE  
Year 13 & 14  
Mrs L. Johnston BA QTS

## ADMINISTRATIVE & SUPPORT STAFF

Mrs K Anderson BA  
Mrs S Brimage  
Mr R Brown  
Mrs L Brown  
Mrs A Currie  
Mrs E Donaldson SEN  
Mrs C Donnelly  
Mrs D Duffin  
Miss K Duffin  
Mr A Forrest  
Mrs C Gilmour BA  
Mr B Gourley  
Mrs L Harkness  
Mrs D Hayes Adv Dip  
Mrs D Hepburn BA DIS MSC  
Mrs S Holmes Dip PCDP  
Mrs J Hunter  
Mrs C Johnston  
Mrs L Johnston  
Mrs M McGaughey  
Miss R Moffett  
Mrs L Morrison PGCFFE  
Mrs L Morton BEd PGCE  
Mrs C Robinson  
Miss E Simpson  
Mrs C Taylor  
Mrs E Weir  
Miss L Wilson

## BUILDINGS SUPERVISORS

Mr K Rollins  
Mr N Anderson

## CLEANING STAFF

Mrs M McLaughlin  
Mrs D Duffin

## GROUNDSMEN

Mr P Cross  
Mr A Davidson

## LUNCHTIME SUPERVISORS

Mrs N Anderson  
Mrs C Evans  
Mrs K Kelly  
Mrs L Reid  
Mrs R Smyton  
Mrs M Speirs  
Mrs M Thompson

**Names in Bold –Head of Department**

# STAFF NEWS

## NEW STAFF

### MRS CRAWFORD SEN CO-ORDINATOR



I grew up in the Mid-Ulster area and started my education in Coagh Primary School before moving to

Cookstown High School. I studied Biology, French and Music to A-Level and was heavily involved in the Music Department and School Productions.

I went on to complete a Bachelor of Music at Cardiff University. During this time, I was involved with the Welsh National Youth Opera and continued my love of singing and playing piano by tutoring and performing with the Northern Ireland Youth Opera, taking part in competitions and singing with choirs around the province on my return home.

After a five-year break, I decided to rekindle my love of learning and studied a PGCE at Ulster University in Music, Drama and Media Studies. I went

straight into a job in the South-East of England, as Curriculum Leader of Music and teacher of Performing Arts. This is where my love of Special Educational Needs began and was nurtured. After this, I decided to teach part-time and complete a Master of Education in Inclusive and Special Education. From this, I have been working with SEN pupils in several different schools, in Primary, Post-Primary and in Learning Support Classes. I am enjoying the rewarding nature of the SENCo role, supporting and co-ordinating provision for our SEN community here at Cookstown High School.

Outside of school, my little family enjoys spending time at the North Coast and being outside with nature.

### MISS FAULKNER HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE



Having grown up in Cookstown and attended Cookstown High School, it's good to be back teaching here. I studied Home Economics, ICT and Geography at A-Level. I was involved in the extra-curricular life of the school through hockey and Duke of Edinburgh.

After completing my A-Levels, I studied Consumer Studies at Ulster University. I then completed my PGCE in Worcester, England. I have since worked in various schools throughout England and Northern Ireland. Outside of school I enjoy spending time with my family and friends.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year teaching in Cookstown

High School, getting to know each of the students and helping to coach the junior hockey teams. I look forward to continuing my career in Cookstown High School and the new opportunities it brings.







Growing up and living just outside Belfast I attended Ballyclare High School for 7 years and studied PE, History and Biology for A Level.

Loving everything and anything to do with science, anatomy and physiology I couldn't decide whether to choose a career in PE teaching or Physiotherapy. So, I did what any responsible 17year old would do and flipped a coin... and here we are. I got accepted into Ulster University to study Sport and Exercise Science. It was there that I fell in love with teaching and realised fate really was on my side that day when I flipped that coin. I completed my placement year in Strathearn School, Belfast and knew teaching was for me, enjoying every lesson, extra-curricular activity, and school production. On receiving my undergraduate degree my next step was to undoubtedly complete my PGCE in PE.

I loved every single second of my university experience and got involved with various groups and sports teams. As my PGCE year came to a close I got the opportunity to travel to Boston with my hockey team, Ulster University Elks. This was an incredible experience and gave me the opportunity to play hockey against top end universities such as Harvard and UConn. Alongside hockey I love football, the gym and running.

I have loved my first-year teaching at Cookstown High School and can't wait to continue to teach in a warm and welcoming environment that has so much to offer to both staff and pupils. Cookstown High School is definitely one of a kind and has excellent academic and sporting opportunities for all pupils and I'm excited to be a part of that for many years to come.



# STAFF NEWS

LEAVERS

MR KERR PHYSICAL EDUCATION



Mr Richard Kerr has been a highly valued member of the Physical Education Department since 1998.

After completing his degree at Borough Road University, Richard was appointed to a temporary role in CHS in 1998 and made such an impression that he was made permanent in 1999. During his years as the High School, Richard was not only a teacher of Physical Education, but he was also

Head of Year, Teacher in Charge of Athletics as well as Assistant SEN-Co. Richard undertook all his roles with passion and enthusiasm, but where Richard truly excelled was at inspiring many of our students over the years. So many pupils have mentioned his name when they are asked what inspired them in their sporting career and is a very fitting attribute for him to be remembered this way.

Richard has had many memorable achievements during his time at the High School, including producing a sprint double win with Stephen Thompson in Athletics in 2001, winning the Richardson Cup in Hockey in 2011, achieving many successful Football seasons in the Coleraine and District Leagues and being instrumental in the running careers of both Nick Griggs and Grace Carson.

In 2018, Richard was offered the opportunity to follow one of his other passions and took a career break to take up a post with the IRFU and Ulster Rugby. Here, Richard undertook the role of Referee Development Manager and has excelled greatly in the position. He made the tough decision to leave his beloved Cookstown High School to take up a permanent role with the IRFU.

We want to take this opportunity to wish Richard every success in his career with the IRFU and thank him for all his years of service and dedication to Cookstown High School.







MRS GREGG

HOME ECONOMICS



After over 30 years of teaching at Cookstown High School, Mrs Daphney Gregg has decided to retire. Having previously been a pupil at CHS, Mrs Gregg joined the school staff in 1992. She has been a much-valued member of the Home Economics Department for over three decades and was also Head of Department for a couple of years. On several occasions, she has taught the top Home Economics/Nutrition & Food Science student in Northern Ireland, twice resulting in accompanying them to receive their National Education Awards in London, presented by the British Nutrition Foundation.

Over the years, Mrs Gregg has devoted time to extra-curricular involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions and skills assessments. She has also worked in the Careers Department, where her expertise has guided hundreds (if not thousands!) of pupils in their subject choices and helped them to navigate their UCAS applications, in addition to accompanying pupils to the Summer School in Corpus Christi College in the University of Cambridge.

We wish her every blessing, as she enjoys her well-earned early retirement!

# EXAMS A LEVEL

Pupils at Cookstown High School, have once again achieved an outstanding set of A level results, securing the future for our young people as they continue their journey to university, apprenticeships, further education, or the world of work.

We believe that in addition to academic excellence, to give our pupils the edge, we offer a range of pupil leadership opportunities, extracurricular societies, competitive sports and we have fostered relationships with businesses as well as local and national universities.

Governors and staff are delighted that 48% of all grades achieved by pupils in school were A\* or A while across Northern Ireland 37.5% of all grades were in this category. This again has kept Cookstown High pupils significantly above the Northern Ireland average for top grades. We are delighted that most pupils have secured their first-choice university place.

The percentage of A\*-B grades is excellent at 70%, demonstrating the very strong work ethic of pupils and an application of very high standards by staff, has ensured that Cookstown High School has a sustained reputation for academic excellence. The number of pupils attaining A\*-C grades is 92%, while the overall A Level pass rate was 99%.

The success across subject areas is testament to the hard work and dedication of pupils and staff with over 50% of grades in Art, Engineering, Health and Social care, ICT, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Physics and Sport being an A\* or A grade.

We have had the pleasure of seeing each individual grow in their character, embrace opportunities and realise their talent and potential.

14 pupils achieved a sweep of A\* and A grades including:

Aimee Bennett	A*AA
Louise Bowden	A*AA
Katie Bowman	AAA
Kate Brown	A*A*A*A*A
Zoe Carson	A*AA
Christine Dallas	A*AA
Rhys Greaves	A*A*A*A*
Nicholas Griggs	A*A*A
Reuben Hamilton	A*AA
Naomi McLean	A*A*A
Ewan Mitchell	A*A*A*A
Holly Purvis	AAA
Keeva Smith	AAA
Charlie Whitten	A*A*A



CHS pupils were significantly above the Northern Ireland average for top grades







# EXAMS A LEVEL





# EXAMS GCSE

Pupils and staff at Cookstown High School, are celebrating another superb set of GCSE results. We are delighted that 36% of all grades achieved were A\*/A grades and a very impressive 61% of all grades achieved were A\*-B. The proportion of A\*-B grades has increased from 2022.

Cookstown High School has a proven track record of securing outstanding GCSE results for our pupils, with much of the year group choosing to study A levels or BTEC qualifications in our high performing Sixth Form. We were delighted that 89% of pupils achieved 5A\*-C grades and 74% of pupils achieving 5A\*-C grades including English and Maths. As a Combined Grammar and Secondary School, we encourage all pupils to perform to the very best of their ability supported by a caring and dedicated staff.

These results reflect the hard work and commitment of pupils, the support of parents and very high expectations of our staff. Departmental results are excellent, seven departments achieved 100% A\*-C grades including Art and Design, English Literature, Home Economics, Further Maths, French, Health and Social Care and OCN Personal Success. In addition, five departments achieved in excess of 90% A\*-C grades including, Biology, Chemistry, Geography, Physics and Spanish.

The Principal of the High School, Miss Gwyneth Evans acknowledged the achievement of all concerned saying, 'We are immensely proud of our GCSE pupils who have proven that attributes such as resilience, aspiration, dedication to academic excellence and the nurture of their character during their time at Cookstown High School are integral to their holistic development as an individual. I would like to express my thanks to the dedication and commitment of teachers who have supported and encouraged our students to achieve their personal best. We look forward to welcoming back the large majority of our pupils into the Sixth Form at CHS.'

Fourteen pupils achieved a combination of top grades across their subjects.

Katie Abernethy 4A\* and 5 A's  
Holly Brown 2A\*, 6A's and 1 B  
Rachel Brown 3A\* and 6 A's  
Sarah Brown 1A\* and 8 A's

Leah Caskey 4A\*, 4A's and 1 B  
Jasmine Chan 2A\*, 6A's and 1 B  
Sophia Clarke 1A\*, 6A's and 1 B  
Louis Donnelly 8A\* and 1A  
Sophie Dornan 7A\* and 2 A's  
Grace Harkness 4A\*, 4A's and 1 B  
Rowan Hobson 3A\*, 5A's and 3 B's  
Sam Purvis 2A\* and 6 A's and 1B  
2 / 2  
Ben Sweetnam 8 A's and 1 B  
Theo Thompson 3A\*, 6 A's and 1B

"At Cookstown High School, we strive for excellence, offer a myriad of opportunities for our pupils to develop their character and support pupils every step of the way." Cookstown High School is the school of choice for our local community, and this is reflected in the increasing number parents who chose to send their children to the school."

Some pupils may be missing from photos.







A very impressive 61% of all grades achieved were A\*-B.





# EXAMS GCSE











Pupils got the chance  
to visit the Van Gogh  
Immersive Experience  
Exhibition in Belfast

# ART

IT HAS BEEN AN ACTIVE AND CREATIVE YEAR IN THE ART DEPARTMENT WITH LOTS OF EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS HAPPENING ALONG WITH THE DAY-TO-DAY TEACHING OF ART AND DESIGN WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT.

September started on a positive note with Year 9 pupil Emma Patrick receiving a special certificate of commendation for her entry to the Texaco 2022 Art Competition earlier in the year. There were over 20,000 entries so Emma did extremely well to get her artwork down to the final selection.

In October, A-Level Art pupils visited a number of art galleries in Belfast. The pupils first viewed the work of punk artist Jamie Reid in the new Ulster University campus on York Street. Then we visited the annual RUA art exhibition at the Ulster Museum and finally Cookstown's 'Gallery One' new venue on the Lisburn Road. It was a great opportunity for our pupils to view live contemporary artwork and collate contextual information for their coursework.

In November past pupil Shalanda Shannon completed a five-week work experience in the department where she delivered a



talk about the textile degree course she is completing at the University of Ulster and she demonstrated her technical skills and experience by doing a contemporary textile workshop with Year 11 GCSE pupils. It was wonderful to have a past pupil back to CHS discussing with the pupils her experience at art college and sharing what she has learnt at university.

Before Covid the Art department applied to the Arts Council Northern Ireland's art loan programme and we were lucky this year to be selected to exhibit in the school five pieces of original paintings from their collection which can be viewed in the Art department and the reception area. The work on display is by well-known artists from Northern Ireland such as Kyle Barnes who is a portrait artist originally from Cookstown. We also have on display the work of Helen McMullan, Lisa Ballard, Elizabeth Magill and Francis Ryan. We are lucky to have the work on display for two years and the paintings have been a valuable contextual resource for GCSE and A-Level pupils.

Through the Shared Education Programme GCSE pupils from Cookstown High School and Holy Trinity College got the chance to visit the Van Gogh Immersive Experience Exhibition at the Carlisle Methodist Church in Belfast in January. It was a colourful exhibition documenting the life and works of the artist. Pupils from both schools enjoyed the event especially the VR experience where they visually travelled through the world of Van Gogh's paintings.

Thursday 9th February 2023 was the launch of Cookstown High School and Holy Trinity College Shared Education Art Exhibition in the Burnavon Arts Centre. On display in the





upper gallery was a selection of GCSE and A-Level pupil's work. This was a great occasion to showcasing the work of pupils from both schools to the community. The exhibition was on for the month of February.

In March GCSE and A-Level pupils took part in another Shared Education event which was a paint workshop in Holy Trinity College. The workshop was taught by the artist Ellen from Ellen Illustrations who specialises in murals and community paint workshops. The pupils got to develop their paint skills using acrylic paint and created a piece of work for their coursework portfolio.

Many junior school pupils entered the Texaco Art competition 2023 and congratulations goes to Catherine Harkness from the LSC who came third in her category. Her work can currently be viewed on the competition website and will be exhibited in different museums and galleries around Ireland over the next year.

After Easter we had a few in house Art competitions. The first one was a photography competition and the theme was simply 'Easter holidays' and it was won in order of merit by Scott McAllister, Diana Pastare, Luke Johnston, Molly Robinson and Sophie Brodi-





son. Runners up were Phoebe Steele and Molly Robinson.

The next competition was the Coronation Garden Fete Art competition where pupils and other children from other schools were invited to submit a drawing based on the Coronation of Prince Charles. Joint first were Ellie English and Rachel McQueen. Joint second were Diane Pastare and Jamie Ferguson and joint third were Kathryn Harkness and Molly Robinson. Well done to all entries.



In June we had our final Art Shared Education Art trip to Belleek pottery in County Fermanagh. This was an educational visit where year 11 pupils got to see the process of designing and making a ceramic product during the factory tour.

We ended the year with the GCSE and A-Level Art exhibition of pupil's examination work for pupils and parents in the Art department and it was a fitting conclusion to a very active and positive year in the Art department.



Many junior school pupils entered the Texaco Art competition 2023 and congratulations goes to Catherine Harkness from the LSC who came third in her category.













## FIELDTRIP

In March the AS Biologists travelled to Magilligan Field Centre to complete one of their assessed practicals. We were blessed with a beautiful and sunny day on the sand dunes to carry out our sampling. Lots of new skills were learnt and a great day enjoyed by all. We even managed a stop for ice-cream on the way home!



*a beautiful and sunny day on the sand dunes*





# ENGLISH

## HEANEY TRIP IN FEBRUARY 2023

GCSE English Literature students had the opportunity to visit the esteemed Seamus Heaney Homeplace in Bellaghy. Mrs McDonnell brought a group of pupils to the Centre, where they were given the opportunity to learn about Heaney's background, listen to poetry, and take part in interactive creative activities. The highlight of the event was a lecture delivered to them on two of the poems they study at GCSE Literature. The trip was a huge success and pupils enjoyed the experience.



## HAIKU POETRY

### **FIREFLY**

A giant firefly  
That way, this way, that way,  
this!  
And it passes by..!

### **JACK FROST**

Come mister Jack Frost  
Sprinkle all your icy dust  
Freeze the world again!

### **WEEKEND**

I love the weekend.  
The weekend is the best time.  
I sleep the whole time...!!

by Jack Wylie 8HA

### **FAMILY**

Family is great!  
They love me very much!  
I love them too....!

### **WEEKEND**

Free from boring school....  
Weekends always make me happy..  
It is amazing.....!!

by Lydia Blemmings 8HA

# ACROSTIC POEMS

## TIGER

BY AMIE GRAHAM SHA

T rying to survive  
I n the rain forest  
G oes out day and night to hunt  
E ager to attack its prey  
R unning in the rain forest to find food

## SCHOOL

BY HARRY ANDERSON SHA

S ix cruel hours of our lives!  
C an I go home?  
H omework is terrible!  
O ne period to the next  
O nly boring lessons...  
L onely, sitting by myself.

## THE BEACH

by: Daniel Rutcovschi, 8CA

Rest my mind and body,  
I'm not sad on the shore  
Wherever you are,  
Whatever you do,  
In the heart of the sea shore!  
Lying carefree on the beach  
A wave caresses my feet  
And it seems that life is more beautiful.  
Finally a dream come true!

The sea whispers to me not to be sad,  
Please come visit.  
I'll give you a shell it  
Gently whispers in my ear.  
I will even bathe you in foam,  
Lie with me on the beach,  
Smile at the clouds  
And come back to us.

## THE BEAUTY OF HOCKEY

By Isla McLean 8CA

On the pitch the players take their stand,  
Sticks in hand, ready to command,  
The pitch is green and the goals are tall,  
Players run and give it their all.

The ball is hit with a mighty force,  
Travelling down the pitch like a galloping horse,  
Players pass and shoot with great skill  
and talent,  
Coaches shouting encouragement, never silent.

Forwards are monsters ready to attack,  
Defenders can strike the ball with a  
powerful whack,  
The joy of winning is hard to hide,  
Everyone leaves the pitch, content and satisfied.



## THE CHERRY BLOSSOM TREE

by: Amie Kennedy, 8CA

She's growing up every day,  
Helping her every step of the way,  
Sitting just beside the driveway,

The sun stares at the buds making them explode,  
Transforming her from dull to bright,  
Her pretty pink petals protecting me from the sun,

Her precious petals fall as Spring goes by,  
There on the ground the petals lie,  
Every second, another one dies,

Don't be devastated, Spring will come near,  
It'll soon be clear that each year,  
Will be better than the last,  
She will flourish more than the past!



## MY FAVOURITE PLACE

by: Luke Johnston

Before I start, I would like to ask you - where is your favourite place? Could it be the beach? Or a holiday you have been on? Maybe it is your grandparents' house? I see some of you are nodding your heads.

I love going to the beach especially if the waves are good. I also love being somewhere different on holidays, and who doesn't like getting spoilt by their grandparents. But none of these are my favourite place to be. My favourite place to be is HOME. Why? You may ask. Surely there are more exciting places!! I do agree there are more exciting places to be, but HOME is MY FAVOURITE PLACE. Have you ever heard the saying "home is where the heart is". No matter where I have been, or how much fun I have had while I was there, I am always happy to get home.

Maybe it's the memories that have been created there. Birthdays, BBQ's and bouncy castles, are all good memories shared with family and friends. Christmas seems to last for days with family staying. People everywhere catching up on each other lives and more food than we could possibly eat, but the food always disappears. Board games can become very compet-

itive, and one game in particular shows my extended families true colours! Let's just say the more members you have in your family the better the prizes you will have at the end.

I don't know about you, but I do have a variety of pets. My pets don't come on holidays with me, and other than the dogs none of them are trained to walk on a lead. Have you ever seen a hen, a cat or even a sheep on a lead? Well, I have seen a cat and a sheep on a lead, but that's another story! Before you ask, neither belonged to me. Mine aren't that well trained. I loved spending time with my dog and cat, taking them on walks and training my dog on how to work sheep. The cat normally turns up.... I love where I live because I am able to own a variety of animals.

Another reason why I love being at home is the peace and quiet. The tranquil feeling that you get when you are somewhere far away from the bustling crowds and the ever-present noise that goes hand in hand with busy seaside resorts, towns and even beaches. For me being at home is an escape. It's a chance to slow down and unwind from the busyness of everyday life.

I appreciate where I live. Isn't that

a strange thing to say?! If it hadn't been for lockdown I may never have realised how much! Unlike a lot of other people and maybe some of my fellow classmates, I wasn't restricted to only venturing out to my garden, or the possibility of a walk once a day. Living in the countryside definitely had its advantages. I never realised how many exciting places there were to explore. From old houses that still have their contents in them, to following the river beside my house up to its source in the mountain beside us. One piece of advice I have for you is, if you ever decide to try this make sure your wellies have no holes!!!!

Lastly but definitely not least – food; the most important part of any day. I love knowing where my food comes from, and the fact that I have my own hens means that the eggs that I have are always fresh. Like a lot of people during the first lockdown we started a vegetable patch; my favourite was the peas that we grew. If you were to ask some of our sheep, they would say all of vegetables particularly the strawberries, carrots and beetroot. Thankfully I was delighted that I didn't have to try the beetroot!

HOME is definitely my favourite place to be. I never get a chance to be bored there as there is always something to do. It's a great place to unwind and it's where my pets and family are. What's not to love!!

## MY FAVOURITE PLACE

by: Louise Fulton

What better feeling is there than being greeted by a loving, heart-warming face? Well, every time I step foot on this place, I feel that, I feel amazing, I feel happy, I feel relaxed; everything just floats away. You are probably thinking it's somewhere like Spain or France or something like that, but it's not. This place is simple, this place is just down the road, the place I would like to talk to you about today is Rosehill stables. Rosehill stables is very, very special to me.

Why is this my favourite place I hear you ask. Well, it is the home to eighteen of my favourite animals HORSES! Do you sometimes feel like there's something missing in your life, it leaves a hole in you? Well, Rosehill fills that hole for me, horses fill that hole for me. I have always loved horses since no age. Their nature, their smell, their personalities give me a sense of peace and happiness.

To be able to put your trust in an animal and for that animal to put their trust in you, I think it's quite extraordinary. Now Rosehill isn't a normal yard, where you go and your horse is already tacked up all you have to do is ride then go home. Rosehill teaches you how to look after, how to bond and how to make and help you and your horse trust each other.

Rosehill challenges me to care, to love, to go out of my comfort zone and when I'm out of my comfort zone there is always someone to support me. I have made friendships at Rosehill like no other. You get to know these people by going on hacks, pony games, jumping days, fun days, riding without tack and in the summer, we get to have a water fight and paint the ponies. There will always and I mean always be something fun to do at Rosehill, you never get bored. But there's one thing we all share, the

love of horses.

At Rosehill I'm learning new skills, reaching and achieving new goals. I feel motivated and have a sense of personal achievement. Now, I have one person to thank for all this. One amazing lady, Carrie. Carrie has taught me everything. She is the wonderful lady that owns Rosehill. Not only has she taught me to ride, she has taught me to care for others and most importantly, she has taught me patience. Competency and skills don't happen overnight, it takes perseverance and determination. Carrie is an inspirational role model of that. She is always happy and as Anne Frank said, "whoever is happy will make others happy," this is what Carrie does for me.

Rosehill will always be my favourite place. It will always be my, home away from home.

## MY FAVOURITE PLACE

by: Joseph Davidson

I am here today to bore you to tears about... Just joking, I'm not going to start like that! Instead, I want to transport you to a place beyond your wildest dreams... My very own... treehouse.

You can find my treehouse concealed in a beautiful part of the woods with a river nearby. My treehouse is a place where I can think, relax, and just have fun. I enjoy the symphony of birds singing in the green canopy above me with the sun's rays peeking through the branches. It is exciting to have a place of adventure of my own deep in the shadowy forest.

The treehouse always brings a wealth of adventures just waiting to erupt. I always dreamt about having a treehouse, and during the covid pandemic in 2020 my wish finally came true. It is situated high up in the leafy trees and can only be accessed through a trap door. We are even thinking of adding a roof, green waterproof bean-

bags and maybe if I'm lucky a bridge. Our treehouse is covered in camouflage, so it is hard to find. The best thing about my family's treehouse is that it was built by all of us. My dad ensured it all was built securely and each of us played our part; carrying wood, hammering nails, sawing planks, painting things green until we looked like camouflage ourselves!

So far this year we haven't got to go to the treehouse as much as we would like to. It has been busy with me starting high school and my sister going to university. However, I am looking forward to the spring when I will be able to spend more evenings at the treehouse. My dad and I went two weeks ago and you wouldn't believe how many dead leaves there were there, all different colours brown, yellow, purple, orange, it was unreal!

The reason my treehouse is my favourite place is because it is a quiet place. Other than birds chirping, and branches creaking, there isn't a sound. It is a place where you can

read peacefully, imagine anything you want, and have as much adventure as your imagination will allow. I also love the rope swing that we have beside our treehouse. It takes me right across the river. The sensation of flying through the air is breath taking. You must hold on tight though! I will never forget the day my mum let go of the rope. Oh dear, there was an almighty splash straight into the river. It gave us all such a laugh!

To conclude, I just want to say we all have a favourite place even though it may be hard to find. Some of them may be different, it may be the beach, a hockey pitch or even your own bedroom, but they all mean something special to us. I love the treehouse because it's my place, and it's a place I can take my friends and family; a place where I can go and create special memories.



## The Tale of Smokie the Dragon with No Flame

A dragon is a fearsome beast  
He rules the North, South, West and East  
He growls and snarls and grunts and drools  
These dragons rock, the dragon rules

The man who says he's not afraid  
That man would bow if he was made  
The Dragon King could make him kneel  
Or crush that man beneath his heel

But then there is a thought so dire  
The dragon who can breathe with fire  
For few will challenge such a foe  
Or dare, to him, their face to show

Those fiery beasts breathed fire and smoke  
They frightened all the peasant folk  
The kings and queens in days of old  
Even did what they were told

Their loyal subjects hid away  
Afraid to go out in the day  
They moved at night through dark and gloom  
Because the day was filled with doom ...

... And every day would bring the news  
Through purple skies with yellow hues  
The dragons came and with their breath  
They'd breathe the fire, the Fire of Death

Oh, what to do the townsfolk said  
Their hearts were sore, their nerves were frayed  
The soldiers that they had were gone  
Picked off by dragons one by one

The dragons laughed because they knew  
No humankind could beat their few  
For only one could end their game  
But they had mocked him off in shame

This dragon slumbers in his cave  
He hides away his face to save  
This dragon sadly has found fame  
He is the dragon with no flame

This dragon was a gently type  
And could not understand the hype  
That dragons could so evil be  
For this dragon was nice you see

But big, oh boy, he sure was big  
In modern speak, ten thousand gig

A quiet type and sensitive  
To cause no harm, live and let live

Those nasty dragons had been rude  
They hurt my feelings, made me brood  
So now I'm hiding in this cave  
I'd love to see some folks, to wave

Then all at once, out of the blue  
A child walked in, no, there were two  
There was a girl and then a boy  
The dragon smiled, a smile of joy

The children did not smile, in fact  
Joy seemed to be the thing they lacked  
Oh children, why, you look so sad  
The children cried, oh things are bad

Jake said the reason that we came  
Joanna Clarke then said the same  
Those dragons rule the world with fear  
Kill everyone that we hold dear

Our world is in an awful state  
So full of misery and hate  
Those dragons flying everywhere  
They bring us fear, they cause a scare

And since you left, they've gotten worse  
Our life is bad and it's a curse  
Come back with us or say goodbye  
And we will go back home to die

And then the dragon grew quite sad  
But then the dragon grew quite mad  
That was their plan, me to annoy  
So, I would leave, that was their ploy

Who cares if all I breathe is smoke  
That is alright, I am no joke  
But I must go, go back to fight  
Come now children, we must take flight

And as he flew the sky grew dark  
His wingspan big as Noah's Ark  
His shadow on the ground caused fear  
The dragons knew that he was near

They knew that mocking was no good  
For Smokie was in raging mood  
With children nestled in his breast  
He billowed smoke and fought his best

He bit and slashed with tail and wing  
Like boxing fighters in the ring  
Those fiery dragons all stood down  
And Smokie held the victor's crown

Now with the dragons  
all exiled  
The King and Queen  
and people smiled  
The hailed Joanna,  
they hailed Jake  
'Sir Smokie' had a  
bow to take

By R Clarke





# FRENCH

## CINEMA TRIP

Some pupils from Mrs McFlynn's French Club and GCSE French class enjoyed a trip to the cinema to see Mrs Harris Goes To Paris. Pupils enjoyed hearing French phrases and words used in lessons as well as the popcorn and goodies.

Dr Ranchoux and Mrs McFlynn would like to congratulate pupils on being so well-behaved and staff at The Ritz Cinema also commented on this.

Bravo, tout le monde!



# MODEL TOWN COMPETITION

Pupils in Mrs McFlynn's French Club were very busy with the recent competition which involved creating a model town based on the French town that Cookstown is twinned with, Plérin-Sur-Mer.

Thanks to Mrs McCabe for casting her artistic eye over the model towns and for choosing the winners. Bravo, tout le monde!

1st Place  
 Lewis Ferguson 9CB  
 Andrew Lennox 9CC  
 Joshua Black 9CC

2nd Place  
 Louise Fulton 8CA  
 Phebe Davidson 8CA  
 Sophie Forsythe 8CA  
 Amie Kennedy 8CA  
 Courtney Montgomery 8CA  
 Farrah Graham 8CC

3rd Place  
 Alanda Deeney 8CB  
 Keeva McElhennon 8CB  
 Rebekah Walker 8CB





# GEOGRAPHY





# It's all about fieldwork!

During our year we always look forward to taking our GCSE and A Level classes on fieldwork to further develop the skills and techniques which are integral to developing their learning. It doesn't matter if it is a bit wet or windy, once they are kitted out in the waterproofs the weather doesn't matter. At GCSE we go to Magilligan Point to study coastal erosion processes and also carry out a river study along the Curly Burn River, just outside Limavady. Pupils plan the fieldwork process, carry out a risk assessment, plan how to collect the data and then head out to carry out the tasks. This is all essential to complete the third paper in their GCSE series, which tests their knowledge and understanding of the skills and techniques they have developed. These skills are really useful in terms of helping support other subjects they might be taking at GCSE level and skills employers also look for in candidates. Being able to present data in different forms, analyse and interpret results and make judgements based on these results are fantastic transferable skills which are then built on when pupils reach A Level. Umbra sees our AS pupils carry out a sand dune study at Umbra Nature Reserve and at A2 we visit Ballintoy Harbour to look at coastal erosion processes, landforms and the issues of coastal management.











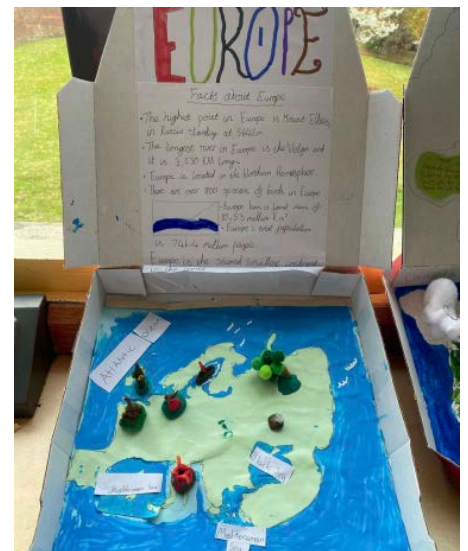
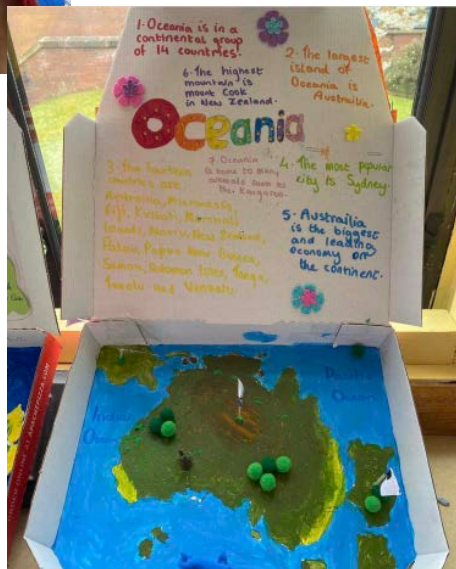
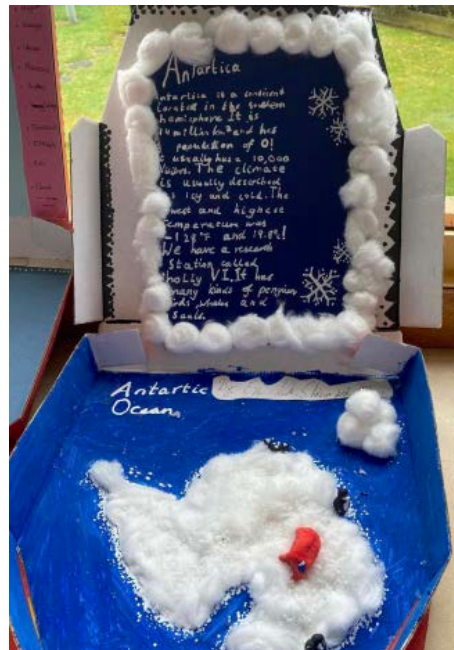
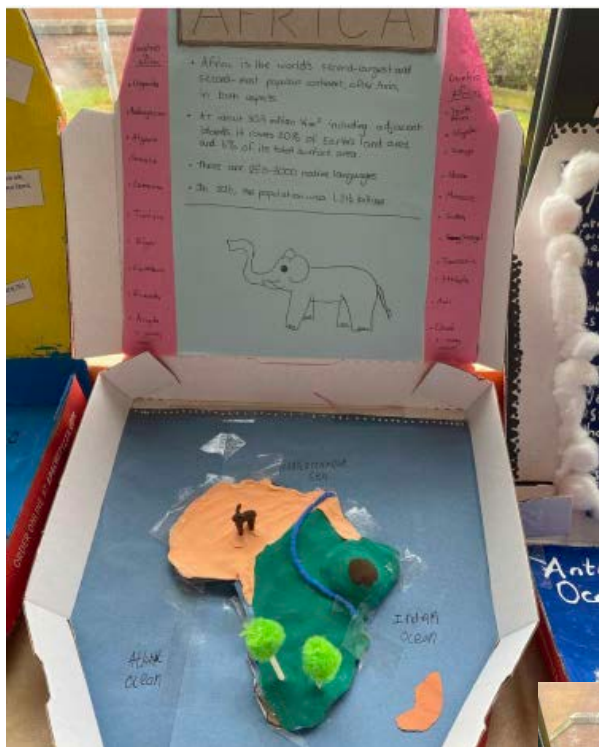
# THE A2 CLASS OF 2023

The department would like to thank our amazing A2 class for all their hard work and commitment over the last two years. We wish you all the best with everything you do and we are delighted to welcome our new Geography mascot 'Atlas' to the department!



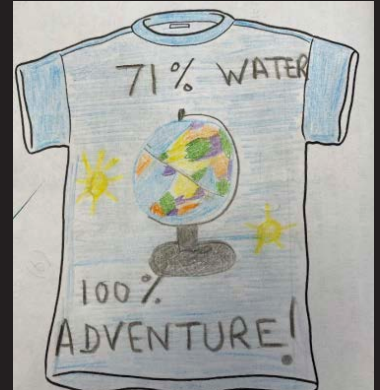
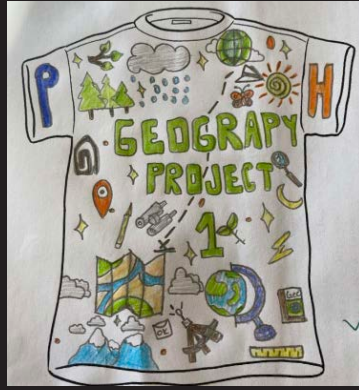
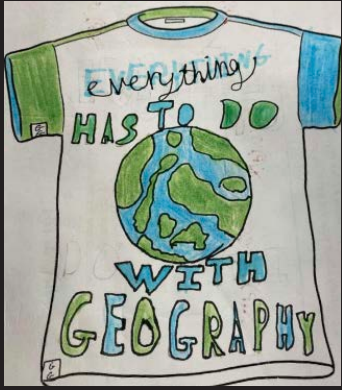
## What else can you put in a pizza box?

Well, Year 8 decided that they could fit a whole continent into theirs!





# Design a Geography T-shirt



## EARTH CAKES - YEAR 9



## FAIRTRADE





# SUPPORTING DEC TURKEY-SYRIAN EARTHQUAKE APPEAL

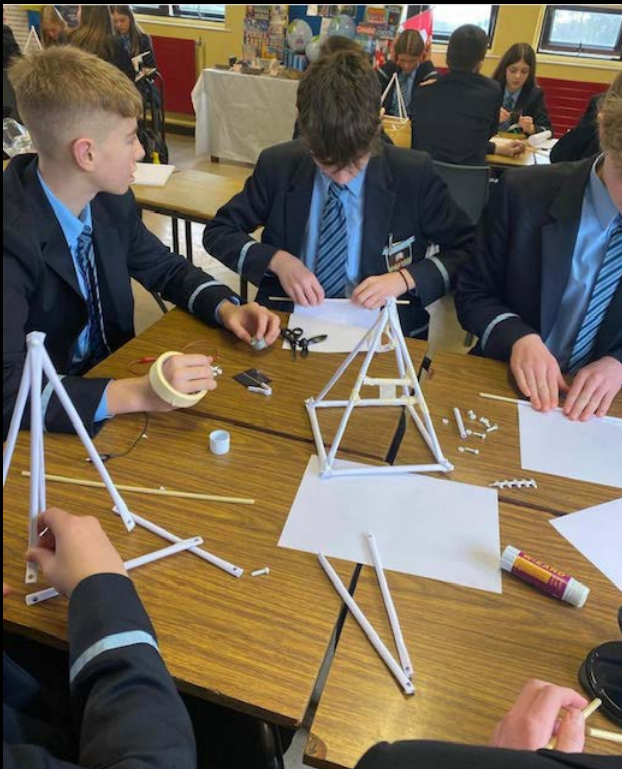
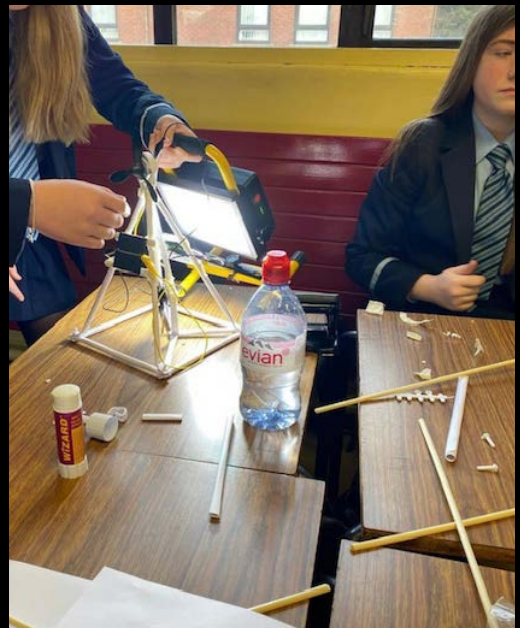
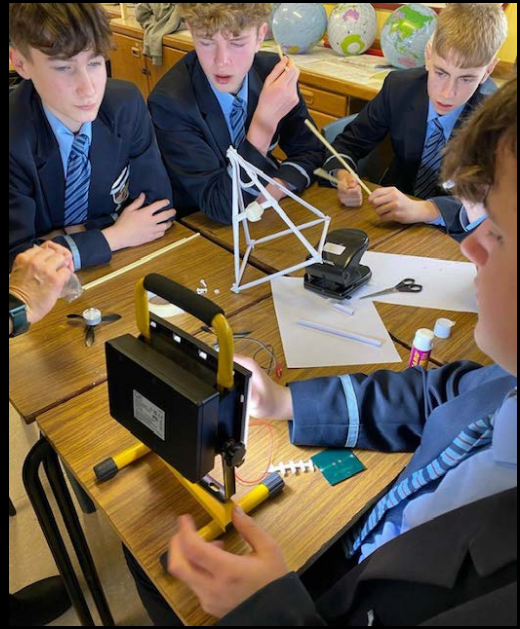
On the 6th of February two large earthquakes rocked south east Turkey and Syria affecting over 18 million people and destroying over 214,000 buildings and killing over 50,000 people. The pupils in our class wanted to help in some way so we decided to raise money to send to the Disaster Emergency Appeal. We organised a guess the name of the bear (named after a capital city) and raised £319.50 which would go towards buying emergency supplies for people affected by the devastating earthquake. The winner was Oran Kennedy in Year 12, who correctly guessed the name Bern. Bern is the capital of Switzerland, which has kept bears in the capital since 1513.





# QUB SUSTAINABLE SETTLEMENT CHALLENGE

Our class was involved in a project run by QUB to design a sustainable settlement. Sustainability is about meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. The idea was that we should include things like renewable energy, recycling, green transportation and design buildings that would have a low impact on the environment. We divided up into groups which focused on areas like education, housing, health, transport and energy. Each group then has to come up with ideas and then build their section of the settlement. Finally every part will then come together to create our new sustainable city.





## A LEVEL HISTORY CONFERENCE

# HISTORY



In March Year 14 historians attended an A Level History Conference in Omagh. A series of lectures were delivered by Dr Russell Rees (pictured), the author of the main text used during the study of the 'Partition of Ireland 1900-1925' module at A2. Dr Rees provided a considerable amount of valuable and fasci-

nating information relating to the A2 course and the inclusion of relevant historiography from a variety of other prominent historians was highly beneficial, as well as the detailed evaluation of a set of sources. This opportunity to hear from Dr Rees will have proved very useful as preparation for the pupils' A2 History examination.







# HOME ECONOMICS

## GCSE Home Economics practical examinations

Congratulations to Year 12 GCSE Home Economics: Food and Nutrition students who completed their practical exams in November.

Their task title was “The Eatwell Guide advises that we should eat at least five portions of a variety of fruit and vegetables every day”. Pupils had to plan, justify and cook their choice of three dishes and accompaniments, incorporating a wide variety of fruit and vegetables.

Pupils were assessed on their organisation, management, skills and final outcomes. Look at these delicious results!









# ICT SUBJECT AMBASSADORS AND CODE CLUB

# ICT



A joint project with Sentinus and Queens University, Cookstown High School allowed us to offer six of our A'Level digital Technology Students the opportunity to attend coding workshops and become our IT subject ambassadors for our school.

“It was a fun experience both with learning to code and teaching as it’s not something we get the opportunity to do often.” – Teagan Carson, Sixth Form Mentor.

Courtney Cahoon, Teagan Carson, Glenn Gillis, Adam Espie, Ben Murray and Jakob Gourley attended a series of Queens University led coding workshops, where they were taught how to code in Micropython and from that initial training planned, scheduled and delivered a 9-week coding club for year 8 pupils.

“I enjoyed experimenting with Python code and then gaining new skillsets by teaching it to the Year 8 pupils.” – Ben Murray, Sixth Form Mentor.

The club initially was planned for only 4 weeks but due to the popularity and interest of pupils involved, the decision was made to extend to 9 weeks.



“It was an opportunity for me to hone my ICT skills and to give me a wider look of the possibilities in the future.” – Glenn Gillis, Sixth Form Mentor.

The coding club was attended faithfully by a small group of students who were provided opportunities to:

- Code and develop games for use on the BBC Micro:bit using Block Editor and Micropython
- Remotely control robots through coding and transmitting signals between Micro:bits, to use in obstacle courses and races.
- Plan and construct Coolnafranky House in MinecraftEdu

The team of mentors were highly commended for their work on the project and all pupils attending learnt a lot and enjoyed the experience.

“The ICT coding club was a fantastic experience for both the students and instructors.” – Adam Espie, Sixth Form Mentor.

We gathered some quotes from the pupils that attended the coding club:

“Great to build up my computing skills and knowledge.” - Daniel Brownlee, participant.

“I especially enjoyed coding the Micro:bit robots and the battle arena.” – Luke Johnson, participant.

“Very good fun, I really enjoyed coding my own game on to the Micro:bit.” – Nathaniel Kelso, participant.

“I had fun building the school in Minecraft and I would enjoy doing it again.” – Amy Graham, participant.

Mr Johnston commended both the mentors on their work and commitment to the project and the coders who all showed ingenuity in creating software solutions throughout the project.

#### Coding club participants:

Amy Graham  
 Christopher Allen  
 Courtney Adams  
 Daniel Brownlee  
 Jake Nelson  
 Karla Kasperavicuite  
 Luke Johnston  
 Nathanael Kelso  
 Ryan Cahoon

#### Coding club mentors:

Adam Espie  
 Ben Murray  
 Courtney Cahoon  
 Glenn Gillis  
 Jakob Gourley  
 Teagan Carson

Report compiled by Ben Murray and Glenn Gillis





# CYBER SECURITY UNIT EVENT

The Royal Air Force and the Joint Cyber Unit delivered a combined 'Capture the Flag' event on Tuesday 11th October. The event was held at the CESIT Cyber Centre in Belfast and was attended by 7 CHS students currently studying A'level Digital Technology.

The aim of this event was to allow students to compete in a hacking event, as well as gaining an insight into possible careers within the cyber security industry. Speakers at the event included:

- Prof Marie O'Neill from Queens who highlighted the possible degree and Masters courses available in

Computing and Cyber Security.

- Ms Rachel Heron from BT Security who explained some of the available roles within BT and other global corporations in the Cyber security industry and the skill set required to succeed in this area.

- There were also numerous representatives from the RAF, highlighting Cyber Security opportunities within the Air Force in both full time and reservist posts.

The students attended a lock picking demonstration delivered by BT, before completing multiple 'Capture the Flag' challenges in Computing categories such as Web, Forensics, Crypto and Binary. The students were fully immersed in the challenging activities and thoroughly enjoyed the day.

CHS achieved a very commendable runner up position in the competition, with Michael Vinkesteyn achieving recognition for the best performing student at the event.



In Sports the pupils enjoyed learning new swimming skills at the local Leisure Centre, games and participated in the IFA Football Competition.

Among pupil success, Katherine Harkness won 3rd place in the Texaco Art Competition in her age category.

The pupils in the Senior class won 3rd Place in the Coronation horticulture competition at Balmoral Show in their age category.

One of the highlights of the year was the Christmas coffee morning. The pupils helped plan and organise the event by making crafts to sell, baking traybakes and developing life skills.

Pupils in the Learning Support Centre had the opportunity to take part in school trips. We took

# LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE

---

THE LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE HAS HAD A WONDERFUL, FULFILLING YEAR ENGAGING IN A VARIETY OF ACTIVITIES, CELEBRATING PUPIL SUCCESS AND LEARNING. THE PUPILS HAVE DEVELOPED SKILLS IN A WIDE VARIETY OF SUBJECTS.

---





Bushcraft skills and smores ended a fun filled 3 days which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone





a visit to the Millennium Forum to attend a Pantomime as part of the Drama Curriculum. They have enjoyed trips to Balmoral Show, Southwest College, Northern Regional College and Drum Manor Forest Park.

This year the pupils enjoyed the Fit Minds programme, developing awareness of Heathy minds, food and body. The pupils developed their communication and team working skills while having lots of fun.



tasks, an adventure walk and archery. Bushcraft skills and smores ended a fun filled 3 days which was thoroughly enjoyed by everyone. All pupils who participated should be commended on their excellent behaviour and team work – they were fantastic ambassadors for Cookstown High School.

In June, nine pupils from the Learning Support Centre embarked on a 3 day residential at Delamont Outdoor Education Centre in Killyleagh, Downpatrick. A full itinerary of activities had been planned at the centre and out on Strangford Lough. A nightline



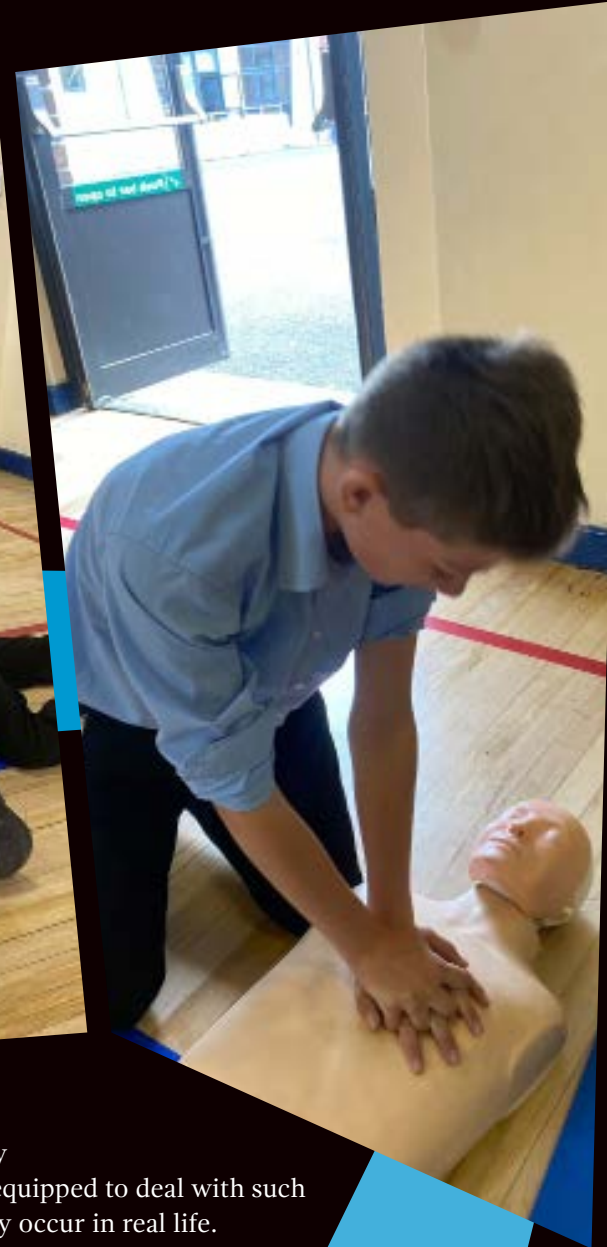
challenged everyone to trust their partners to guide them over an obstacle course whilst blind folded. The water activities included canoeing in double canoes and the Sea Safari, which was a speed boat trip to see the whirlpools and lighthouse and spot seals in Strangford Lough. Evening activities included problem solving







**LLW**  
**CPR TRAINING**



The Department of Education has made it compulsory for all schools, from September of this academic year, to deliver CPR training at Key Stage 3. This forms part of the delivery of Learning for Life and Work (LLW) where it is a statutory learning outcome that all pupils should develop an awareness of emergency first aid procedures.

In the Biology Department, Year 9's also study the topic of the heart, so in a joint venture between LLW and Biology, CPR was delivered to all pupils in Year 9 as well as all Key Stage 3 pupils from the Learning Support Centre.

All pupils took an active part and learnt many skills and knowledge focusing on the area of CPR. Pupils increased their awareness of how to respond to both conscious and unconscious casualties, how to place someone in the recovery position as well as how to administer CPR.

All pupils had the opportunity to put their knowledge into practice on the resuscitation mannequins. The pupils really enjoyed their

session and hopefully now feel more fully equipped to deal with such situations should they occur in real life.

We feel that this is a very valuable life skill for all pupils to have and will continue to roll this out to pupils over the coming years. Next year, pupils will get the opportunity to advance these skills during a refresher course which will include the use of AED's (automated external defibrillators) in Year 10. Many thanks must go to the PTFA who kindly contributed towards our quest to provide this training and bought us two training defibrillators. Thanks also to Mrs Morrison for assisting with the event.

Mrs Cheevers  
and  
Miss Stewart





# MATHS UK MATHS CHALLENGE

## Senior UKMT Maths Challenge

Year 13 and year 14 pupils studying A level Maths took the Senior Maths Challenge on Tuesday 4th October 2022.

Over 80,000 pupils from across the UK returned scripts with the top 10% receiving a gold certificate, the next 20% silver and the next 30% bronze. You start with 25 points and gain 4 for a correct answer but lose 1 mark for a wrong answer.

Best in the year was closely fought between Kate Brown and Rhys Greaves. There was only one mark separating their scores and both were only one question away from being

awarded a GOLD (76 points).

Kate has retained her title of Best in School/Year for the second year running!

There were another 3 pupils in Year 13 and 14 who achieved a Bronze Award: Katie Bowman, Alan Brooks and Molly Graham, the only Year 13 pupil to achieve a certificate this year. Again there were another three pupils who were only one question away from being awarded a Bronze which required 48 points.

Well done to these pupils on what was quite a tricky challenge this year and hopefully the Year 13 will have another go in Year 14!

## Junior Maths Challenge

The Junior Maths Challenge was held on Thursday 27th April and everyone in 9CA, CB and CC had a go at the questions in the exam hall. The results this year are extremely encouraging – 30 pupils out of the 75 who were present on the day have been awarded a Bronze or Silver Certificate.

Silver awards also went to Luke Bovill, Matthew Compton, Matthew Donnelly, James Gourley, Ellie Lyle, Darcey McIlmoyle and particularly Lauren Harkness who was awarded Best in School with a score of 79. She was only one correct answer away from achieving a Gold which is commendable.

Bronze awards were achieved by Ben Barbour, Olive Brown, Adam Brownlee, Katie Campbell, Naomi Carson, Charlie Costelloe, Ellie Costelloe, Matthew Cunningham, Sophie Curry, Lewis Ferguson, Reanna Gillis, Libby-Mae Gillis, Abbie Harkness, Olivia Harris, Cain Keetley, Rebecca McGeown, Skye McNickle, Sophie McNickle, David Nelson, Emma Patrick, Abbie Simpson, Seth Thompson and Ella Watters. 23 pupils achieving Bronze – must be a new record !

3. The record for travelling 100m on a skateboard by a dog is 19.65 seconds. This was achieved by Jumpy in 2013. What was Jumpy's approximate average speed ?
- A 0.2 m/s      B 0.5 m/s  
 C 2 m/s        D 2.5 m/s  
 E 5 m/s

Here are examples of some of the Junior Maths Challenge Questions for you to have a try.....

1. What is the value of  $3202 - 3023$ ?
- A 821      B 1001  
 C 1179     D 1221      E 1279
2. How many of the following five options are factors of 30?
- A 1      B 2      C 3      D 4      E 5





# MODERN LANGUAGES



## A word from Modern Languages...

After two long years of the COVID-19 Pandemic and several lockdowns, this year we felt, finally, pupils and teachers alike that we could return to experiencing a whole range of activities throughout the year. We set off the new academic year by celebrating the European Day of Languages using chatter boxes, quizzes, and this year was no different in that throughout the year celebrations in French and Spanish helped us mark important dates on our calendar which were thoroughly enjoyed by all: Mardi gras, El día de los Muertos, GCHQ translation competition, Open day, P6 & P7 Taster Days and finally, our June Poster competitions during which our Dutch visitors joined us for a final video translation activity on June 27th which Nathanael won! Well done! Goed gedann!

This year marks a new turn also as pupils experienced a KS3 French Club at breaktime and benefited from our weekly after school club in both French and Spanish at GCSE level every Tuesday and Thursday to help them prepare for their CCEA summer examinations.



For too long, we were not able to go on a school trip and this year we are delighted as over 60 pupils will set off on a formidable experience of a lifetime in Barcelona in October 2023 and Paris in March 2024! Unforgettable, the excitement surrounding the preparations can already be felt amongst our pupils, all that we are going to see and let us not forget to mention the ‘will we ever get there, sir?’

Finally, our Best Linguist award in Modern Languages this year highlights yet again the skills of resilience our pupils demonstrated throughout the year whilst practising their skills and acquiring new topical knowledge. We must commend them for their strength of character, truly a Cookstown high School trait!

Well done to everyone!  
 Bravo à tous! Enhorabuena!  
*Dr Ranchoux*

## BEST LINGUIST AWARDS

<b>Year 8</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>
French	Ellen May B. (8CB)	Sophie McN. (8CA)	Lewis F. (8CB)
<b>Year 9</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>
French	Ella W. (9CA)	Ellie C. (9CB) & Lewis F. (9CB)	Sophie McN. (9CA) & Olive B. (9CA)
Spanish	Lewis F. (9CB)	Ella W. (9CA)	Darcey McI. (9CA) & Sophie McN. (9CA)
<b>Year 10</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>
French	Nikola T. (10CA)	Rachel McQ. (10CA) & Zara B. (10CA)	Matthew H. (10CA)
Spanish	Zara B. (10CB)	Nikola T (10CA) & Emma C. (10CC)	Matthew H. (10CA)
<b>Year 11</b>	<b>1st</b>	<b>2nd</b>	<b>3rd</b>
Spanish	Katie F.	Charlie M.	Matt B & Jake McA.



# EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

## Year 10, House Competition.

To celebrate EDL, Mrs McFlynn launched a quiz competition for Year 10 pupils. Money generated from the sale of the quiz sheets was divided and went back to the prize winning pupils.

Pupils were delighted to hear that each entry also received 2 House Points. Pupils had to return their quiz sheet by 29th September 2022 with the correct answers to the quiz questions in order to be considered for a prize.

Well done to all pupils who entered the competition and the lucky prize winners were:  
1st Kaitlyn Hood (10CC)  
2nd Alex McKenna (10CC)  
3rd Caleb Caskey (10CA)





# MARDI GRAS MASKS

Year 9 House Competition

Mrs McFlynn would like to congratulate the Year 9 pupils on their very creative entries for the French House Competition for Mardi Gras Masks. Pupils put great effort into designing their masks and thanks to Mrs McCabe who had the difficult task of judging the entries as the standard was very high. Pupils enjoyed their prizes of sweet treats as well as earning points for their House.

Bravo!

Mrs McFlynn.



## Highly Commended

Mia Murphy 9S

Grace Creighton 9CB

Ella Williamson 9CC

Scarlett McKeown 9CA

Ellie Costelloe 9CB

## 3rd Place

Jessica Ferguson 9CB

Rhea O'Donnell 9CB

## 2nd Place

Miah Donnelly 9CC

Andrew Lennox 9CC

## 1st Place

Emma Patrick 9CC

Lewis Ferguson 9CB





## Life in the Music Department

by Katie Bowman (Year 14)

The Music Department is a fun and lively place where there is always something going on. In my seven years at Cookstown High School I have been involved with Junior Choir, Senior Choir, String Group and Orchestra, and there are even more ways to be involved such as Concert Band, the School Production and making music with your friends in the practice rooms.

The biggest time of year for the Music Department is the Spring Concert. It's a time when many young musicians can show off their hard work throughout the year, and even perform for the very first time. The day of the concert is one of the best days of the year, due to the excitement and the hustle and bustle of final preparations and rehearsals as well as the adrenaline for the night ahead. Between solos, groups and choir performances, it's a time when pupils from various year groups can come together and have a good time supporting each other through their shared love for music.



# MUSIC



Another exciting time is Christmas with preparations being made for the Carol Service which will have begun in October. This is once again a time for pupils to come together, not only in choir and as soloists, but as a school singing carols. In recent years, as the number of instrumentalists in the school has increased, there has been an addition of the Orchestra or String Group to the carols. The Carol Service always takes place on the final day of term and is a lovely way for the school to join together one last time before the holidays.

Throughout the year there is hardly ever silence in the Music Department. Senior Choir meets twice a week at break times or before school with girls from Years 10 to 14 gathering in Mrs Gormley's room, with a total of nearly 40 girls participating last year! The two practices each week give everyone the chance to attend when they can, meaning no one was missing out of the opportunity to be in choir.



music exams to our UCAS personal statements! I know that without the Music Department, I wouldn't have developed the confidence I have today that will help me in my transition to university, along with my musical background which will present me with opportunities to meet new friends.

Katie Bowman (Year 14)



String Group is now entering its third year and meets on a Thursday morning at 9am until 9:25am. Out of everything in the Music Department, String Group will be one of the things I will miss the most. When everything comes together it is amazing to listen to each other playing together on everything from violin, cello and even viola! We had a great time last year learning to play 'Toss the Feathers', a piece of traditional music that is played very fast – it took a long time to get right, but

once it was, it was pure class! We also brought in a flute, drum kit and bass guitar for 'Toss the Feathers', and played together with Mrs Gormley at the Spring Concert, and all in all, it was an unforgettable experience.

Music was a place my friends and I could always go to have a good time together, and Mrs Gormley has been there for us all, helping us through the highs and lows of everything that comes along with school, from academic work and

*Throughout the year there is hardly ever silence in the Music Department*



# SPRING CONCERT 2023

The annual Spring Concert took place on the evening of Thursday 20th April. There was a packed programme of various styles of music, featuring soloists, groups and ensembles from across all year groups. For those pupils in Year 14 who have been in every Spring Concert since they were in Year 8, this was an evening they looked forward to and planned along with Mrs Gormley.

## Soloists

An important part of any Spring Concert is the opportunity given to musicians and singers to perform a solo or take part in a small group. This can be nerve-wrecking and having to deal with tummy flutters and shaking hands is all part of the experience. This year's soloists all performed brilliantly, and if they were nervous, it was not known by anyone else. The concert was opened by Casey Burns in Year 10, singing 'This is the life' by Amy MacDonald. This performance set the tone for the evening and a very high standard for those who followed! Soloists from Year 8 this year were Emily Glasgow on violin, playing 'Where did you sleep last night little bird?' and Louise Fulton who sang 'I could have danced all night'. Both girls performed like seasoned professionals, and the older pupils were very impressed with their talent and assurance.



*This evoked an atmosphere of stillness and contemplation, with complex runs and figurations that tantalised the listeners.*

Representing Year 9, Diana Pastare performed 'Bourée' on flute; she did a great job. Leah Thom in Year 10 and Erika Gourley, also from Year 10 performed very different piano pieces: Leah sat down to play without music and her performance of Nuvole Bianche by Einaudi stilled the whole hall. Erika performed a jazz piece called 'Settle Down', that perfectly suits her bubbly character – it was a fun performance to listen to.

A group of Year 10 girls had asked if they could perform together at the Spring Concert and they rehearsed diligently every day, without any teacher input at all. Rachel McQueen (piano), Annabelle Davidson (violin), Kaitlyn Hood, Emma Cahoon and Caitlin Kelly (all singers) performed their version of 'A thousand years', and seemed to be thoroughly enjoying the experience while doing it too! An essential part of GCSE Music is performing music.

The Year 11 GCSE class was represented by Megan McKay and Rebecca McAllister. Megan sang the classic 'I dreamed a dream' from Les Misérables. Her performance was captivating, and she had the whole audience hanging on every note. Rebecca played 'Dandelions' on piano: this piece is great fun and Rebecca delivered a perfect performance.

Senior pupils who have performed solos at the Spring Concert before may seem like experienced old hands, who never get nervous. But that is not the case, often because the music they are performing is complex and especially for Year 14s it is the last chance they will have to perform at a CHS Spring Concert.





Emma Caskey in Year 13 will play the role of Maria in 'The Sound of Music' in October 2023 in the CHS school production, and she showed why she got the part when she sang 'Don't cry for me, Argentina'. This dramatic song was full of the energy and passion needed and Emma did a great job. The Year 14 performers have indeed been there, done that...but they wanted to do another solo before they leave CHS. Kate Brown performed 'Chanson de nuit', one of her Grade 6 viola pieces... she achieved a distinction in this examination in June 2023. Louise Boden sang 'My house' from Matilda and this has rounded off a lengthy series of solos Louise has presented at Prize Days, Carol Services and Spring Concerts over the years. Katie Bowman is working for her diploma in piano, and she performed a Nocturne by Chopin, perfect for a beautiful spring evening. Along with Christine Dallas, Lauren Brimage and Emily Millar, these three girls performed a CHS arrangement of 'He will hold me fast', a song they have enjoyed performing in the wider community at different events. This song includes the words 'He'll not let my soul be lost, His promises shall last, Bought by Him at such a cost, He will hold me fast'. I know that these words mean a lot to these girls, especially as they head off to university next year.

It is not usual for a pupil to perform solos on two separate instruments, but Emily Millar is

not a usual musician. She is very talented on both piano and violin, accompanying Senior Choir and leading String Group. Emily wanted to do the two solos, one on piano and one on violin, and as she has performed at every school event since Year 8, it seemed fitting. She had recently completed her diploma in piano, so she performed one of the pieces for this exam, a piece called 'Consolation'. This evoked an atmosphere of stillness and contemplation, with complex runs and figurations that tantalised the listeners. After accompanying the choir, Emily then took up her violin to perform a piece she had chosen, an arrangement of 'Amazing Grace' for violin and piano. Accompanied by Mrs Gormley, Emily took the audience on a journey that began with the familiar melody of 'Amazing Grace' and then moved into new levels, with complicated runs and ideas shared with the piano. As the last piece of the evening before the Finale, it served as a benediction to the whole evening.



*This year's soloists all performed brilliantly, and if they were nervous, it was not known by anyone else.*





## String Group and Senior String Trio

String Group meets on Thursday mornings before school in Mrs Gormley's room, and is for orchestral string players (violin, viola, cello, double bass). The String Group were the featured musicians at the school's Remembrance Commemoration in November, where they had performed 'Benedictus' by Karl Jenkins (arranged by Mrs Gormley). This piece allows Katie Bowman and Emily Millar, two solo violins, to have a musical conversation over a background created by the other musicians. It was performed again at the Spring Concert and was sublime. In total contrast to this, the group also performed an arrangement of the 'Londonderry Air', putting a classical spin on the famous traditional song. Caitlin Kelly on piano, Theo Thompson on drum kit, Seth Thompson on bass guitar and Lois Cunningham on flute joined the String Group to play a highlight of the evening, 'Toss the Feathers', a fast and furious reel with a drum solo in the middle. Mrs Gormley played violin along with the group and had lots of fun joining in! The three senior members of String Group, Emily, Katie and Kate wanted something special to perform, so Mrs Gormley arranged 'Jesu, joy of man's desiring' for the girls to play. This performance was when the only mishap of the evening took

place: when Mrs Gormley began to accompany the trio, the stage piano started to play on its own!! It took a few moments for Mrs Gormley to figure out what had happened and get it sorted out, but it is one of those things that we will never forget!!! The trio started again, and all went very well on the second go.

## Junior Choir

Junior Choir meets on Mondays at break-time and is usually taken by Mrs Blackwood. This year Mrs Gormley was taking Junior Choir, ably assisted by Katie Bowman at the piano. The choir chose to learn 'A million dreams' for the concert. They did a great job, and all have earned their Junior Choir badge for performances through the year.

## Ulster Scots

We are very fortunate at CHS to have pupils who perform with local pipe bands and enjoy gathering together to form the Cookstown High School Pipe Band. Even though they may be from competing bands outside of school, they play very well together, under the direction of Ewan Mitchell in Year 14 and Megan Bell in Year 13. The pipe band is always a highlight of the Spring Concert and the work Ewan and Megan put into preparing for the evening was evident. The tenor drummers (Megan Bell and Hannah Martin) performed a choreographed display which was

breath-taking! And William McFarland provided the solo lament in the middle of the set of pieces.

Along with the Pipe Band, the Spring Concert provides an opportunity for Highland Dancers from the Solus School of Dance to perform on the CHS stage. Pupils from the school community performed in pairs and small groups, even including swords at one point! Their elegance and poise were wonderful.

## Senior Choir

Girls in Years 10-14 are welcome to join Senior Choir. Choir rehearses on Wednesday and Fridays at break-time in Mrs Gormley's room. This year, the focus was on a song that Mrs Gormley had been hoping to work on for several years, but the song was too hard...until this year. Finally, Senior Choir was big enough and good enough to try 'Mr Blue Sky'. This song is perfect for the time of year of the Spring Concert and the complex weaving in and out of the parts revealed the ability of the choir. Accompanied by Emily Millar, the choir did a fantastic job on this, and will perform it again at Prize Day in September. In addition to this and in complete contrast, the choir also sang 'Fly me to the moon'. This song was also difficult and complex in the arrangement of the parts, with each section of the choir encountering tricky sections at some point. With every eye on Mrs Gormley, the choir mastered it and made it sound easy. The Senior Choir also took part in the Finale,

which featured a lead from Casey, Emma and Louise, as the concert closed with 'Don't stop me now/ You can't stop the beat'. Accompanied by Mrs Gormley on piano and the house band, it was a fitting round-off to a spectacular evening of music, enjoyed by all who took part and participated as audience.

## Thank-you

If you were fortunate enough to take part in the Spring Concert, you know what a brilliant night we had. If you were in the audience, you know how fortunate CHS is to have such an array of talent, across a wide range of ages and styles. If you helped in any way on the evening or beforehand, I am very fortunate to have had your support and contribution. Thank-you to you all. Also, thanks to Cookstown Leisure Centre for the staging and West Church in Ballymena for the lighting.

I always say to the pupils involved that the Spring Concert is my favourite part of the school year. And this year was one of the best. To those pupils leaving and moving on, I wish you every success in your future, and encourage you to keep up your participation in music, wherever you go.

And finally, plans are already formulating in the mind of Mrs Gormley for the Spring Concert 2024...it is going to be another great night!!

*Mrs F Gormley*

## NYCNI Choir Workshop

*by: Annabelle Davidson (Year 10)*

This year some member of Senior Choir had the chance to be part of a National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland workshop. It was an amazing opportunity where everyone was able to take something away.

The Artistic Director of NYCNI, Andrew Nunn, visited CHS on Friday 24th March and worked with Year 10 and Year 11 girls from Senior Choir during periods 1 and 2.

We started with vocal exercises and learned how to make notes last longer. It was very easy-going, and no one was put under stress to perform. These exercises have improved our all-round singing and were beneficial to the Spring Concert. We were then taught two simple songs. We were surprised when we realised how much we could accomplish. The leaders from NYCNI were so helpful and instructive. We all knew what we had to do, and we thoroughly enjoyed it.

At the end of the workshop, we were asked if anyone would like to audition for NYCNI. All of Cookstown High School's pupils who auditioned were accepted and have gone on to join the choir. This was a new experience, and we all came away having learned new techniques and skills. We are very thankful for the opportunity to be part of the workshop, which started this new journey for us.

Emma Caskey:  
NYCNI Training Choir 2023

Megan McKay:  
NYCNI Training Choir 2023 and Easter Girls' Choir

Casey Burns:  
NYCNI Junior Choir 2023 and Easter Girls' Choir

Pippa Coulter:  
NYCNI Junior Choir 2023 and Easter Girls' Choir

Erika Gourley:  
NYCNI Junior Choir 2023 and Easter Girls' Choir

Kaitlyn Hood:  
NYCNI Junior Choir 2023 and Easter Girls' Choir

Caitlin Kelly:  
NYCNI Junior Choir 2023 and Easter Girls' Choir

Annabelle Davidson:  
NYCNI Junior Choir 2023 and Easter Girls' Choir





# EMILY MILLAR ATCL



In October 2016, I was asked by the principal at the time, Mr G. Montgomery, to put together a musical programme for the naming ceremony of the McClay Hall in the lower building. This event would be attended by Lady McClay, wife of Sir Allen McClay, after whom the hall was being named. He had been a pupil of Cookstown High School, and in 1968 had started the pharmaceutical manufacturing company called Almac. This was a very special event and the music needed to match the importance of the occasion. I already had a senior pupil in mind to sing, but Mr Montgomery had thought of a junior pupil who played violin. This was a Year 8 pupil, just new to Cookstown High School, called Emily Millar. As I didn't teach Emily's class for Music, I didn't know who she was, or anything about her. I assured Mr Montgomery I would meet

with her and listen to her playing, but if she wasn't good enough, I would find someone else.

It would be fair to say that the first time I heard Emily playing violin, I was astounded. She did not sound like a Year 8 pupil but played with the confidence and flair of a much older pupil. Her tone and tuning were impeccable, and she chose to play 'Black Eyes', a famous Russian gypsy melody. The gathered audience for the event were equally astounded by Emily...and so began Emily's journey in Music at Cookstown High School. Over the seven years that Emily has been a pupil at CHS, she has performed at every event: Prize Days, Remembrance

Commemorations, Carol Services, Open Nights, Spring Concerts, Key Stage 3 Celebrations. She has been part of special events, such as the naming of the McClay Hall, the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations, the Mary Peters evening, and events in the community which the Music Department has participated in. She has even stood in for Mrs Gormley in her absence, co-ordinating younger pupils and encouraging them when they are nervous.

Emily has been a huge asset to the Music Department through her violin playing as a soloist and in String Group, which she led under the direction of Mrs Gormley. Her piano playing has been valuable as an accompanist to choirs, as a soloist and musician for some of the events listed above. She has also been part of Senior Choir, attending rehearsals and singing with altos for lots of school events.

Emily leaves Cookstown High School having achieved grade 8 in violin (she is currently working towards a diploma in violin), and with a diploma in piano achieved in Year 14. She can now call herself Emily Millar ATCL, with the award of Associate of Trinity College London as a post-nominal. To complete this level of examination while preparing for A2 exams, is no small feat. Emily worked incredibly hard and responded diligently to the help and direction given to her. Hurdles were overcome and the achievement was richly deserved.

The list of pieces of music Emily and I have performed together is lengthy, but there are some highlights. Together, we presented several versions of 'O come, O come Emmanuel' at Carol Services, including virtual versions, recorded in the staff room in school beside the Christmas tree. We always enjoyed playing this piece of music, as it perfectly showcased Emily's tone and technique. Playing it for the last time at the Carol Service in Molesworth Church in December 2022 was a poignant reminder of the musical journey we had been on together.

Another piece we enjoyed playing involved other pupils: 'He will hold me fast' has been a favourite in the Music Department for years, and it is often performed with a solo violin introduction, as the violinist plays Finlandia by the Finnish composer, Sibelius. This section is very exposed and draws all the attention to Emily, but she never wavered and always delivered a splendid performance, every time we did this song. Along with a trio of singers (Louise, Christine and Lauren) and Katie on violin and Kate on viola, this became a favourite.

This year in String Group, I thought we would try something very ambitious and learn to play the reel 'Toss the Feathers'. This music is fast and string musicians need to get

their left-hand fingers moving quickly and accurately to be able to play it. We began it very slowly and gradually over three months got it going faster. Emily was a great role model and encouragement to the younger, less-experienced members of String Group and the way she played out and showed them what to do on Thursday mornings really helped us to make progress.

Emily often sourced music online and then the hunt would begin to find the sheet music, so we could begin learning it together. These pieces were frequently the solo she would perform at the Spring Concert or other events. And in 2023, Emily found an arrangement of 'Amazing Grace'. I listened to it, and after considering it for about three seconds, decided 'Let's do it!'. It was very demanding for both the violin and piano, but we worked

together on it and by the evening of the Spring Concert, we were able to perform it really well. It was a great piece to play at the end of seven years of school, and perfectly summed up the cross-over between Emily's playing and her faith.

Providing background music for the 'Meet and Greet' part of the Mary Peters evening was our last time to play together at a school event. We played a range of pieces of music, some for the first time, others old favourites. It was so much fun and at one point we were even joined in song by Mary Peters, Miss Evans and Mrs Allen. But Emily and I knew it was the end of an era.

While working on the music has often been the reason I got to

know Emily so well, the extra support she has given to the Music Department through her leadership of others and organisational skills has also been very much appreciated. Emily always wants every Music Department activity to go well, and whatever she can do to help make that happen becomes her primary objective. Her input into the life of the Music Department, along with her friends in Year 14 (Katie, Louise, Kate, Christine and Lauren) will be hugely missed next year. But I know that she has inspired younger pupils to follow in her footsteps and fill the void. I will miss my musical partner for so many events and occasions in school but look forward to playing together in the future.

Mrs F Gormley (Head of Music)

## NYCNI EASTER SCHOOL

After a NYCNI workshop at the school, Andrew Nunn (the Artistic Director) and Christina (the Choir Manager) offered an audition to any Senior Choir members who wanted to give it a try. Eight members of Senior Choir from Years 10 and 11 auditioned and soon acceptance letters came back. All eight pupils had been accepted and we were able to sign up for a four-day non-residential at Campbell College in Belfast at Easter.

In those four days, the Girls' Choir had section practices, full choir practices, a tuck shop, and games lead by the amazing pastoral care team. We got to meet up with other singers from across Northern Ireland and this was really good fun too.

Each girl had a one-to-one half hour session with a professional to practice and perfect any song the choir member had sheet music for. This was a professional tuition session and it even inspired Kaitlyn to take up singing lessons at school. On the fourth day the full Senior

Girls' Choir and the Junior Boys' Choir shared the stage at the National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland (NYCNI) annual concert conducted by Andrew with the girls singing 5 songs:  
1st – A Choral Flourish  
2nd - As She Goes.  
3rd - The Seal Lullaby.  
4th - Kusi Mama  
5th - combined with the Junior Boys' Choir for the final song of the night – Why We Sing.

Overall, our time there was amazing. We learned many tricks of the trade, made new friends, and had lots of fun. And we are fully intending to go again next year, given the opportunity.

*Caitlin Kelly and Kaitlyn Hood  
(both Year 10)*

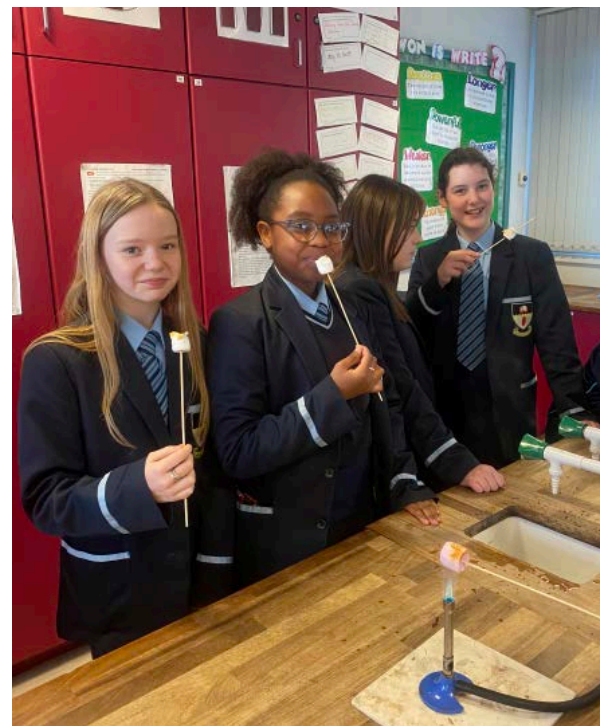




# SCIENCE CLUB



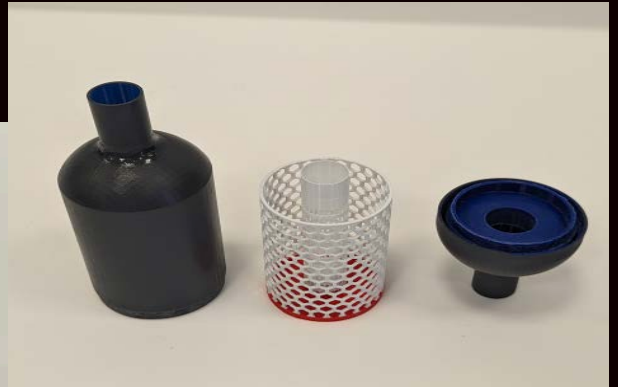
Science Club continues to be a popular lunchtime extra-curricular activity. Due to demand we continued to run Science Club sessions for both Year 8 and Year 9 pupils. Year 8 pupils carried out lots of fun and exciting experiments including dissections, making slime, building stomp rockets and building a Chemistree at Christmas time! Whereas Year 9 focused on lots of STEM challenges. For example, building a tower that would support a basketball out of just newspaper and constructing a structure that would allow a raw egg to be dropped from a second story window without breaking. Lots of fun and enjoyment had by all!

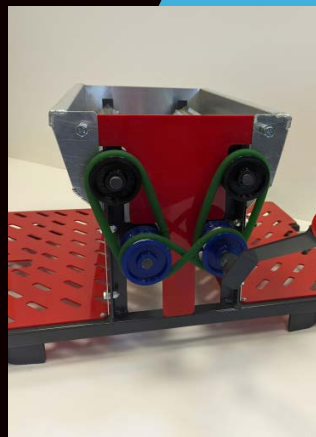






# TECHNOLOGY A2 PROJECTS







# TECHNOLOGY AS PROJECTS









# ATHLETICS

2023 Athletics kicked off once again straight after Easter. The District competitions were looming so we only had a few short weeks to prepare our Athletes. This was further hindered with the number of bank holiday Mondays in May this year but we were not to be deterred.

Thankfully the weather was kind to us and were able to get out twice a week to help prepare our athletes. By the time the 'E' District Athletics Championship came around on Friday 5th May, we had 26 finely tuned athletes. We headed off bright and

early that morning to Antrim Forum to compete in a variety of events and unfortunately for us, the weather wasn't proving to be as favourable to us as it had at training. But despite the weather and only having a few weeks to prepare, all our pupils did us proud.

Everyone competed well and not only did we bring home a number of medals, we also had 4 pupils who qualified for the Ulster Athletics Championships. The pupils who qualified are listed below.

## ULSTER QUALIFIERS

### MINI GIRLS (Year 8)

Shot Put: Yara Lopes (3rd)

### MINOR GIRLS (Year 9)

High Jump: Sophie McNickle (1st)  
Skye McNickle (2nd)

### JUNIOR GIRLS

Shot: Leah Allen (2nd)

## Ulster Schools Athletic Championships

On Saturday 21st May, our successful athletes from the Districts competed in the Ulster Schools Athletics Championship held in Antrim Forum once again.

Year 9 pupils, Sophie and Skye McNickle, competed in the Minor girls high jump along with 13 other pupils from across the province. Competition was tough and the girls had their work cut out for them. Sophie struggled to get her run up exact on the day, which resulted in her not meeting her usual standard, despite a good week at training where she was jumping 1m 40. This was even more frustrating for her when the competition was won with a jump of 1m 45. Despite neither of the girls finishing in medal position, Skye can take heart in the fact that she was able to produce a competition PB of 1m 30.

In the Mini Girls shot, Year 8 pupil Yara Lopes produced a great result.

With a fantastic opening throw of 7m 19, Yara secured a place in the final 6. After all 5 throws, Yara was unfortunate to finish just outside of the medal position in 4th place. This is still an amazing achievement to finish 4th in Ulster and it was great to see her hard work at training paying off.

Well done to all 3 of our girls who represented our school with pride. We are very proud of you all for reaching the Ulster stage of the Athletics competition.





## County Sports Results

Finally, the last of our Athletics event was the County Sports competition held in Campsie, Omagh. It's always a very relaxing and fun day and the weather was amazing. A very enjoyable day was had by our 20 pupils and we even managed to bring home a few medals as well as a suntan. We returned with a total of 4 Gold, 4 Silver and 4 Bronze Medals. Medals were won by the pupils mentioned below.

### Year 8

Yara Lopes 1st Shot Put

### Year 9

Matthew Cunningham 1st Shot Put

Matthew Buchanan 2nd Long Jump

Sophie McNickle 2nd 100m & 3rd Long Jump

Skye McNickle 2nd High Jump

### Year 10

Leah Allen 1st Shot & 2nd Javelin

Erika Gourley 1st 200m

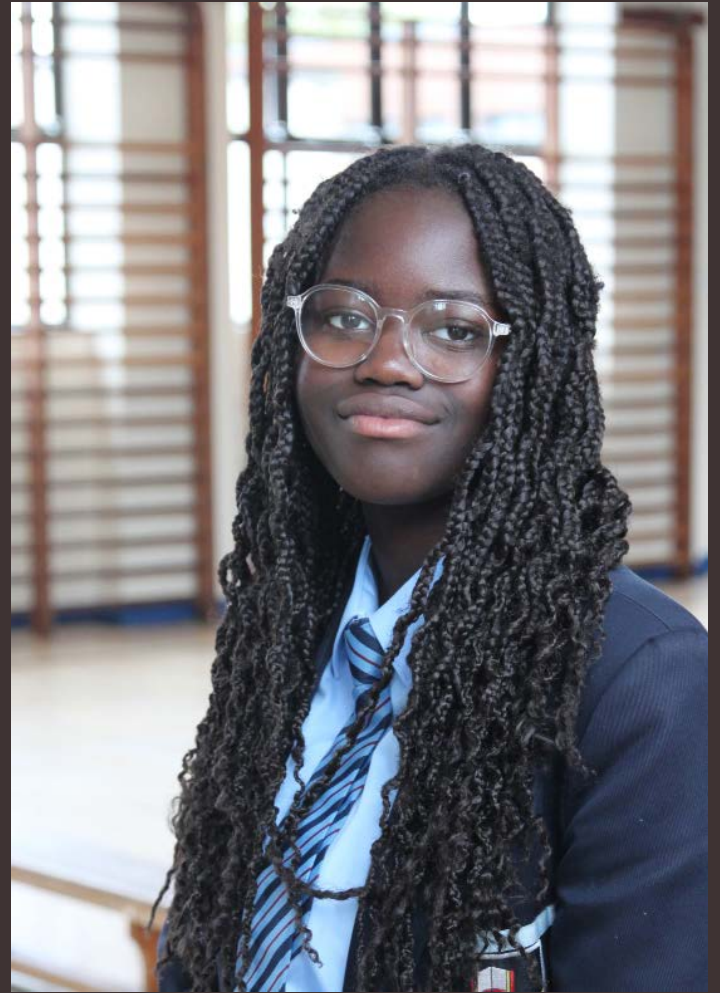
Leah Allen 3rd Relay

Erika Gourley 3rd Relay

Cailtin Kelly 3rd Relay

Pippa Coulter 3rd Relay

Congratulations to all the athletes who have represented Cookstown High School so well throughout the season. Special thanks goes to Mr Donnelly, Mrs Hall, Miss Sinclair, Mrs Johnston, Miss Kerr and Mrs Cheevers who helped ensure Athletics continued in Cookstown High School this season.







# BADMINTON

## End of Season Party

The end of our badminton 2022-23 Season was ended with a party in the Millar Hall. Miss Sinclair organised fun games. Prizes for the year were given out by Mrs Hall. The season was then drawn to a close with pizza from the Fairhill :)

## Christmas Doubles Tournament

Runners up

Alan Brooks and Luke Johnston (8CA)

Winners

Gareth Lennox and Kyle Lennox

## Easter Singles Tournament

A great wee tournament. Totally manic as this year we played the group stages and finals in one afternoon. You voted for singles after playing doubles in the Christmas Tournament.

After the group stages we split the tournament up into division 1 and 2. In Div 2 Alan Brooks played Dylan Hughes in the final, with Dylan winning.

In Div 1, Mark Glendinning played Ben Murray in a very tight game. Ben came out the winner in a very closely fought battle.



## Annual Prize Giving:

The Endeavour Award goes to Thomas Crooks for coming back after an injury to his foot. It is great to have you back with us again after missing the first half of the season.

The Most Improved Boy and Girl Awards:

Most improved girl is Teagan Carson.

Most improved boy is Daniel Hughes.

Now to some fun awards:

- The First Spillage of the year – Rory Harkness
- The Big Brother award – Alan Brooks
- The Cheer Leader award – Mrs Montgomery
- Top Tutor – Mr Gourley
- Hungry Hippos – Luke Johnston (8CB) and Daniel Hughes
- The Big Question award – Benjamin Murray
- The Robocop award – Teagan Carson





## THANK-YOU

To my colleagues, your teachers. We have expanded! Miss Sinclair, Mr Lowe and Mr Gourley all came back to help again this year and Mrs Montgomery and Mrs Harpur joined the team. I am truly thankful and blessed. Thank you for turning up, playing and being encouraging to all our members. Thank you to Miss Sinclair for the games, Mr Gourley for the treats, Mr Lowe for the juice and Pizzeria for our dinner/snack. (Make sure you clear up and put rubbish in the bins!)

Thank you all for making our club so enjoyable this year. Enjoy your Easter. All the best with exams, and we'll be seeing most of you back next year on Thursday afterschool in the Leisure Centre!!!  
*Mrs Hall*



# FOOTBALL

## YEAR 8 BOYS



Overall this was a slightly disappointing season for the Year 8's as they did not progress through their Coleraine and District League group they were in. However, it was great to see over 25 Year 8 pupils regularly out for the practice sessions which started in late September.

In mid-October we had a first league match against Cross and Passion. Having got two goals up inside the first twenty minutes, courtesy of captain Isaac McCann, the players must have thought this league was going to be easy! Unfortunately they were pegged back to two all before the break- this was a real see-saw match. Having then taken the lead early in the second

half through Olly Newell, Cross and Passion equalised. Then Cross and Passion got a penalty which was brilliantly saved by Adam Browne (he was actually airborne for a couple of seconds to tip the ball around the post!) Then the hammerblow- Cookstown conceded another goal in the last couple of minutes and what started to look like a good win ended with defeat. A valuable lesson.

Nevertheless the boys regrouped and took on Loreto College at Coleraine in their next league match. Playing uphill in the first half, the boys were too open at the back and conceded 3 goals in the first half. Although the team got two back in the second half through

Will Redford and Andrew Keane the damage was done. The team lost 3-2.

Our final match against Limavady was never played as Limavady forfeited the match. So what was the takeaway for the season: There is no doubt there is plenty of talent within this squad (spearheaded by the McCann twins) and if the defence of the team can be improved the team will progress.

Finally I would urge all the squad to return next year with fresh impetus and ready to go again.

*Mr Williamson*



# FOOTBALL GIRLS



A beautiful day at Musa for the NIWFA regional tournament. CHS has had an amazing turn out of girls this year which led to 40 of them being selected and 4 teams picked.

The Year 11/10 teams faced some tough physical battles. The B team were superb, their work rate, motivation and enthusiasm could not be questioned and I just wish I could bottle that and spread it around. YoYo made some cracking saves in her new role with Leah W showing a new side to her. The A team started well but couldn't get a goal in the first couple of games winning the next and conceding two goals in the last finishing 3rd in their league. Nicole and Phoebe worked

tirelessly throughout the tournament but unfortunately they could not get the goals needed to secure wins instead of draws despite several chances.

The Year 8/9 B team worked tirelessly against some experienced teams a lot of these girls have never played competitive football and coach Hannah was impressed by their ability to do what was asked even getting a strong victory against one of the teams. The A team were the team to watch as they romped through to the semi final having scored lots of goals. Tired legs showed in the semi against Rainey and several chances to break and shoot were squandered. This led to the game going

to penalties, then sudden death penalties. The girls were so unlucky to lose in sudden death. Fair play to those players who took the penalties and to Yara in nets who made some amazing saves throughout the day.

Well done girls we are all so proud of you. A big thanks to Mr Hastings and Mid Ulster Ladies coaches and players Hannah and Lilie. We couldn't have taken all these girls without them.

Girls football is going from strength to strength in CHS and we look forward to what next year brings.







# BOYS HOCKEY

## 1ST XI ALL IRELANDS

This year saw the boys make the long journey to Cork to play in the prestigious All Ireland tournament which they qualified for by making the McCullough Cup semi-finals last season.

The All Irelands is a four group tournament with the top 16 1st XI teams in Ireland competing.

This was a great opportunity for our young squad to experience hockey at this level and they knew they'd be in for a tough challenge.

The results were as follows:

CHS vs St Andrews (Leinster)	Lost 2-0
CHS vs Wallace (Ulster)	Lost 5-1
CHS vs Newton (Munster)	Lost 2-0
CHS vs Ashton (Munster)	Drew 1-1

Whilst the boys didn't manage to get a win, they had some excellent performances and gained valuable experience for the future. It was one of the youngest squads there and it bodes well for the future.





## BURNEY PLATE FINAL

### Cookstown High School 1st XI...1 Sullivan Upper 1st XI...3

It was a wet one at Havelock Park as CHS took on Sullivan Upper 1XI in the Burney Cup plate final.

The nerves of the final showed as both teams started slowly which led to a cagey first quarter with not many chances coming for either side as they went into quarter time at 0-0

As the 2nd quarter started both teams began to come into the game more and impose their style of play. Both teams winning penalty corners throughout this quarter but none of them being converted. Going into half time the game remained 0-0.

Cookstown took the lead early into the 3rd quarter as Issac Kelso had a burst of pace down the right hand side, cutting in and finding a Sullivan foot inside the circle. Cookstown forced a strong save from the Sullivan keeper that then fell to captain Mark Cuddy as he calmly slotted away the ball from second phase. Sullivan then won a penalty corner of their own and found themselves level with a well worked passing move. The teams went into the final

quarter level at 1-1.

With a big final quarter ahead Sullivan reacted early on by winning a penalty corner which they also converted. With 10 minutes to go Sullivan were winning 2-1. Cookstown began to pile the pressure onto Sullivan in search of a last ditch equaliser. While committing the majority of their men forward Cookstown were susceptible to a counter attack, Sullivan then took advantage of this with 5 minutes left the final quarter they found a free player on the back post who converted the deflection after a break away.

Final score- 3-1

As the lads season comes to an end this was an unfortunate result to finish on but they should keep their heads held high as the commitment and effort throughout the season was immense

*Squad- Callum Black, Hugo Cleary-McGuffin, Gary Simpson, Euan Anderson, Luke Haycock, Edward Irwin, Ben Smyton, Mark Cuddy (Captain), Issac Kelso, Max Wyile, Lewis Farquhar, Iain Cruickshank, Ethan Redford, James Barbour, Matt Barrett, Charlie Smyton, John-Mark McCrea, Caleb Gates*

## U13 WIN BANNISTER BOWL

### Cookstown High School u13...2 (Stanley Jackson & Noah Cuddy) Banbridge Academy u13...2 (Daniel McKee & Owen Dobson) (Cookstown won on Penalty Runs)

Cookstown High School won their second Ulster Schools Cup in a week when they defeated Banbridge Academy in a hotly contested final at Havelock Park. This was a brilliant cup run by the High School defeating Killiscomaine Junior High School, Friends School Lisburn, Campbell College and RBAI on the way to the final.

The High School went into the game as underdogs having previously lost to the Banbridge school earlier in the season, but the locals started well immediately putting the Banbridge keeper under pressure. Joshua Ferguson who is improving every game was causing Banbridge real problems down the right-hand side. Cookstown took the lead in the 14th minute when year 8 Stanley Jackson scrambled the ball home after





confusion in the Banbridge defence. Cookstown then scored a second after a well worked penalty corner routine paid off. The goal was scored by Noah Cuddy who had a fantastic week scoring the winner in the Ferris Cup and another in the Bannister Bowl. Cookstown forced some further opportunities but just couldn't get the third. Banbridge had some sporadic attacks, but the back four of Ben Barbour, Charlie Costelloe, David Cuddy, and Will Redford were all having brilliant games. In the 24th minute Banbridge got their first penalty corner of the game, and the ball was flicked home well by Daniel McKee.

Marcus Gillis and Joshua Ferguson were the heroes in Penalty Runs, Marcus saving every penalty and Joshua scoring the all-important winner. When Gillis saved Banbridge's last Penalty he was surrounded during the pitch invasion of jubilant High School supporters who had witnessed another important piece of silverware being returned to the Coolnafranky school.

This is the first time the school have won both the U13 Schools Cup and U14 Schools Cup in the same season, and it illustrates the work that is being done to put the High School hockey back where it belongs as one of the main forces in Schools Hockey.

#### THE ROAD TO THE FINAL

Killicomaine Junior High School...0

Cookstown High School...8

(Noah Cuddy 3, Stanley Jackson 3 & Charlie Costelloe 2)

Cookstown High School...6

(Callum Hewitt 3, Charlie Costelloe, Joshua Ferguson and Noah Cuddy)

Friends School Lisburn...0



After the break, Banbridge started to bring a lot more pressure to the Cookstown Defence, but Captain Charlie Costelloe continued to be the mainstay in keeping the score line the same. Bobbi Robinson was doing a good job at keeping Daniel McKee quiet and TJ Kelly was providing a good outlet down the left-hand side.

Banbridge forced their third penalty corner of the game in the 41st minute and this was expertly charged down by Costelloe, unfortunately the skipper had received an injury to his knee and had to leave the field. During this time Banbridge got their equaliser through another flick from a corner and it was backs against the wall defending to force the game into penalties.





Cookstown High School...1  
(Noah Cuddy)  
Campbell College...0

Cookstown High School...2  
(Charlie Costelloe and Stanley Jackson)  
Royal Belfast Academical Institute...0

Banbridge Academy...2  
Cookstown High School...2  
(Stanley Jackson and Noah Cuddy)

Cookstown Squad  
1. Noah Cuddy (Vice Captain), 2. TJ Kelly, 3. David Cuddy, 4. Ben Barbour, 5. Charlie Costelloe (Captain), 6. Mathew Cunningham, 7. Will Redford, 8. Bobbi Robinson, 9. Callum Hewitt, 10. Joshua Ferguson, 11. Stanley Jackson, 12. Harry Jordan, 13. Ross Taylor, 14. Luke Johnston, 15. Caleb Crooks, 16. Matthew Buchannon, 17. Marcus Gillis (GK) & 18. David Nelson (GK)

#### CAPTAIN: CHARLIE COSTELLOE

“What a brilliant day we had lifting the Bannister Bowl against Banbridge Academy in Banbridge. Our team has really improved from the start of the season and we knew we were underdogs going into the final, but we have quality in our team that will cause any opposition problems. It was a good game and Marcus was class in goals during the penalty runs.”

#### HEAD OF SPORT: MICHAEL HAYCOCK

“The thing that stands out to me about the U13 team is that they all work together to play hockey the right way. They are an excellent passing team, and they have scored some brilliant goals this season, in particular the winner versus R.B.A.I. in the semi-final. Charlie Costelloe has been a very good captain and had an excellent game in the final. The boys have worked hard all year and considering that the starting XI contained six year eight pupils it shows that we have real strength and character coming through the school.

#### PRINCIPAL: MISS G EVANS

“What a fantastic week for Hockey for our School. We had three boys’ teams in finals with two of them bringing home School Cups. It was fabulous to see such enthusiasm, hard work and character from our pupils. At our school we pride ourselves in promoting “team-work” and all three squads exemplified that ethos. Well done to all the squads and their respective coaches.”



# U13 PEN PORTRAITS

NOAH CUDDY (VICE CAPTAIN)



Year 8, Noah Cuddy is an exciting prospect and can play anywhere on the pitch. He was the top scorer in the cup run and scored in both the Ferris Cup and Bannister Bowl in the same week.

TJ KELLY



Year 8, TJ Kelly is a very skilful midfielder who works very hard at his game.

DAVID CUDDY



Year 9, David is an excellent man to man marker and has really improved this season. He is very athletic and is an important defender for the team.

BEN BARBOUR



Year 9, Ben has improved so much this season and is an excellent right back. He is a very good tackler can read the game well and is a good athlete.

CHARLIE COSTELLOE (CAPTAIN)



Year 9, Charlie is a superb player who critical to the success of the team, he is a very calm tackler, never loses out on a 1v1 battle and controls the pace of the game. Charlie had excellent back to back finals in both the Ferris Cup and Bannister Bowls.

MATTHEW CUNNINGHAM



Year 8, Matthew is a very good defender and can play anywhere across the back four.

WILL REDFORD



Year 8, Will is the teams left back and is a very good tackler and distributor of the ball. He was important in the CHS outlet during the final.

BOBBI ROBINSON



Year 9, Bobbi is the teams centre midfielder and is very good at retaining the ball. He had an excellent final keeping their main player quiet for large periods.

CALLUM HEWITT



Year 9, Callum is a neat and tidy midfielder / forward and has some nice skills. He score a hattrick in the quarter final.



## JOSHUA FERGUSON



Year 8, Joshua is the teams flying winger and has really improved this season. He is a smart player who has setup loads of goals this season.

## STANLEY JACKSON



Year 8, Stanley is an important goal scorer for the team and scored a hat trick in the first round and the first goal in the final.

## HARRY JORDAN



Year 8, Harry is a fast forward who knows how to score, will be a very important player in next year's Bannister Bowl team.

## ROSS TAYLOR



Ross is a very strong defender or midfielder and has really improved this season.

## LUKE JOHNSTON



Year 8, Luke Johnston is a very good defender and is improving every session.

## CALEB CROOKS



Year 9, Caleb is a very smart player who can read the game well. Has scored some important goals this season.

## MARCUS GILLIS



Year 8, Marcus was the hero in final saving every penalty run. Marcus has worked very hard this season to improve his goal keeping and has a big future in the game.

## DAVID NELSON



Year 9, David is an excellent shot stopper hardly conceding a goal all season. He is very calm and an important member of the squad.

# FERRIS CUP FINAL

16 March 2023

Stormont Estate, Belfast

Umpires: George Redpath & Julie Fisher

Cookstown High School U14...1 (Noah Cuddy)

Royal Belfast Academical Institute...0

Cookstown High School won the U14 Schools Cup for the 6th time after defeating old rivals RBAI by the odd goal at the Stormont Estate. This was a dominant cup run with the school scoring 31 goals and only conceding one. Jack Patterson ended up the top scorer with 9 goals during the campaign. The team was captained by Edward Irwin.

## First Half

The game started tensely with both teams 'sounding' each other out in the opening exchanges. In the 6th minute, it was Cookstown who won the game's first penalty corner after a great run by midfielder Ethan Redford. This corner was well defended by RBAI. Shortly after this, RBAI then had a great chance of their own, but CHS Goalkeeper Benji Patterson pulled off a fantastic save low down to his right-hand side. Cookstown were having a lot of success attacking down the right-hand side with Isaac Kelso and Bobbi Robinson linking well. Cookstown forced some further corners and chances but couldn't break the deadlock. RBAI looked dangerous on the counterattack, but Charlie Costelloe and team captain Edward Irwin were superb at the heart of the defence. After some prolonged pressure Cookstown finally broke the deadlock when Noah Cuddy deflected home an Edward Irwin reverse stick pass. Cookstown had another chance just

before half time with Jack Patterson's effort being well saved.

## Second Half

The second half followed a very similar pattern to the first with Kelso and Redford running things in mid-field and Irwin, Costelloe, Robinson, and Brisbane being solid at the back. RBAI had their best spell of the game midway through the half when they forced several penalty corners. Cookstown defended the corners superbly with Benji Patterson starring as goalkeeper. Cookstown just couldn't get the second goal that would have killed the game off, Patterson went close again after some tidy baseline work by Noah Cuddy, but his shot just slipped past the post. Cookstown managed the closing stages of the game well with Irwin and Costelloe constantly absorbing and relieving pressure. Aaron Brown had a great run down the left-hand side near the end that took the game away from Inst. The game finished with jubilant scenes as the many travelling fans celebrated with their team on the pitch, a great day for the school and town.

## Team Captain Edward Irwin

I was just so happy to lift our first schools cup together as a team. We have worked hard with our coaches, and I am happy that we have brought the Ferris back to our school. I would like to thank everyone that came down to support, it was a great day. We don't have long to celebrate as we need to get back on the training pitch as we have the All Ireland U14 John Waring trophy to prepare for.





## THE ROAD TO FINAL:

### LAST 16

Cookstown High School...15 (Noah Cuddy (3), Jack Patterson (3) Edward Irwin (2) Ethan Redford (2), Scott Ashfield (2), Aaron Brown, Bobbi Robinson & Isaac Kelso

Regent House School...0

### QUARTER FINAL

Cookstown High School...10 (Isaac Kelso (2) Jack Patterson (2), Aaron Abernerthy, Noah Cuddy, Scott Ashfield, Edward Irwin, Bobbi Robinson & Ethan Redford

Kilkeel High School...0

### SEMI FINAL

Banbridge Academy...1

Cookstown High School...6 (Jack Patterson (4), Noah Cuddy & Edward Irwin



## SQUAD

Cookstown High School: 1 Noah Cuddy, 2 Bobbi Robinson, 3 Edward Irwin (Captain), 4 Sam Hamill, 5 Charlie Costelloe, 6 Caleb Caskey, 7 Isaac Kelso (Vice Captain), 8 Aaron Brown, 9 Jack Patterson, 10 Ethan Redford (Vice Captain), 11 Lee Brisbane, 12 Joshua Bell, 14 Scott Ashfield, 15 Calum Hewitt, 16 Aaron Abernethy, 17 Benji Patterson (GK) & 18 Jake Wilson (GK)

Coaches: Godfrey Irwin, Julian Costelloe, Michael Haycock & Stephen Cuddy

### Head of Sport: Mr M Haycock

I am delighted for the boys and it's great to have another school's cup back in the trophy cabinet. Our school has a rich history of being able to compete with the large grammar schools throughout the province, we targeted this cup at the start of the year and Julian Costelloe, Godfrey Irwin and Stephen Cuddy have worked hard with the boys every week. This is a very strong group of players, and I am hopeful that several of them can go on to represent Ulster u16s next season. Can I thank all the pupils, staff, and parents for their support for the boys, it is very much appreciated.

### Principal: Miss G J Evans

The boys have brought the Ferris Cup back to CHS and it is thoroughly well deserved. We are very proud of the boys for their passion, teamwork, commitment; they have played very well all season. The team were supported by their coaches - sincere thanks to Mr M Haycock, Mr J Costelloe, Mr G Irwin and Mr S Cuddy for their dedication and commitment.



# U14 PEN PORTRAITS

NOAH CUDDY



Noah is the youngest player on the team and is still only in Year 8. Noah is an excellent goal scorer and has an excellent hockey brain. Noah scored in every round of the Ferris Cup including the winner in the final.

BOBBI ROBINSON



Bobbi is another player that is playing up a year from year 9, Bobbi had a fantastic final at right back linking with Isaac Kelso during the whole match. Bobbi gained an Ulster U16 trial due to his performance in the final.

EDWARD IRWIN (CAPTAIN)



Edward is a natural leader and is the mainstay of the U14s defence. Edward has superb tackling and passing skills coupled with organising those players in front of him. Edward setup the goal in the final and earned an Irish U16 after the game.

SAM HAMIL



Sam is an excellent defender, primarily playing left back but can play anywhere across the back four. Sam had an excellent semi final performance against Banbridge Academy.

CHARLIE COSTELLOE



Charlie is playing a year up from year 9 and is one of the most exciting players in his own age group. Charlie never missed a tackle or a trap in the final controlling things at the heart of the back four with captain Edward Irwin. A brilliant player.

CALEB CASKEY



Caleb is another excellent defender and had excellent performances throughout the competition. Caleb is a very good tackler and has got a good passing range.

ISSAC KELSO (VICE CAPTAIN)



Isaac Kelso is a superb midfielder and was one of the best players in the final. He is constant threat with his running ability and skill. Isaac is the teams main attacking force and has scored and setup loads of goals this season.

AARON BROWN



Aaron is a very composed and talented left midfielder, who had a great performance in the final. Aaron is very good at tackling and relieving pressure.

JACK PATTERSON



Jack is the teams natural goal scorer who has a knack of always being in the right place at the right time. He has scored very important goals all season including an amazing four goals in 14 minutes in the semi-final against Banbridge.



### ETHAN REDFORD (VICE CAPTAIN)



Ethan is an amazing athlete and has skill to match and is one of the best u14 Centre midfielders in Ulster. Had a superb final winning penalty corner and always being a constant threat. Ethan has a big future in the game.

### LEE BRISBANE



Lee has an excellent sporting brain and had an excellent final at left back in the final. He along with the other back four kept the RBAI opportunities to a minimum and was always an option for a pass.

### JOSHUA BELL



Joshua has had a very good season in the u14s front line. He is a very hard worker, is fast and athletic and scores his fair share of goals.

### SCOTT ASHFIELD



Scott is another player who has had a good season in the forward line, scoring some cracking goals during the cup run including a couple of braces. Scott is a hard worker who is always in the right place in the attacking circle.

### CALLUM HEWITT



Callum is a skilful year 9 playing up a year in the u14 team. He played very well during the final, being composed and setting up a couple of scoring opportunities.

### AARON ABERNETHY



Aaron is a very hard-working right winger and the ultimate team player. He had an excellent final constantly putting pressure on the RBAI left back.

### BENJI PATTERSON



Benji had a superb final keeping a clean sheet against a very good RBAI side. Benji made some very important stops from open play and at set pieces.

### JACK WILSON



Jake is a very accomplished goal-keeper who has backed Benji up throughout the Ferris Cup run. Jake is a very good shot stopper and is very good in one v one situations.

# GIRLS HOCKEY

## 1ST XI

THIS YEAR THE TEAM CONSISTED OF A LARGE AGE RANGE BUT DESPITE THIS, THE GIRLS BONDED TOGETHER AS A TEAM



Within the year of the 1XI, the team experienced some high and low points. Throughout the year the team encountered numerous games either bright and early on Saturday mornings, or throughout the school day. Some of these teams included Belfast High, Cambridge House and Kilkeel High School.

At the start of the season the girls were very rough and ready and the score line was a reflection of this. Despite this, the girls were willing to put in the hard work and dedication during practices on Mondays and Wednesdays. →, working together to make a difference in the score line from the start of the season. This can be seen through the cup game. At the beginning of the season the girls played Dromore High School in the Superleague resulting in a heavy 8-0 loss. However, the team met Dromore once again in the Schools' Cup but with plenty

of practice and dedication from each player this was a much tougher game with the girls narrowly losing 1-0. A true reflection of how the girls worked endlessly throughout the year, with the help of the amazing coaches- Miss Kerr, Mr Stewart, Miss Rea and Mrs Johnston. CHS played Hunterhouse resulting in a 2-0 win, with a quick shoutout to Leah Caskey for being our very own brick wall!

I have thoroughly enjoyed my 7 years playing hockey (even though it consisted of many injuries) and I want to wish the girls all the best for their next season, and welcome Miss Kerr back for another season of coaching the girls.

*Claudia Hill (1XI Girls' Hockey Captain)*



# 1ST XI PEN PORTRAITS

CLAUDIA HILL (CAPTAIN)



Claudia is our driving force both on and off the pitch. Her cool, calm and collected nature in defence helps to keep the team under control in sticky situations. Claudia will literally do anything to keep a clean sheet... including breaking her thumb to stop the other team scoring. Claudia will be a massive loss to the squad but everyone on the team wishes her all the best for the future and hopefully we'll have a new cheerleader on the sidelines next season!

EVITA BAUFALE



Evita is our top goal scorer for the season. She works tirelessly up front leaving nothing on the pitch. She isn't afraid to get stuck in and has progressed massively from the beginning of the season. Evita is our 'class clown' and never fails to make everyone laugh, even in serious situations. Evita has another year left of senior hockey and we can't wait to see how many goals she scores next season.

FAYE ANDERSON



This is only Faye's second year in the keeper kit but it's her second nature. With Ninja like skills, she can make saves left, right and centre and has made outstanding saves all season. The 1XI cup match against Dromore High School will always be a game to remember with Faye creating a force field in goals to deny Dromore an easy game. Notably, the most determined and agile player on the pitch we know Faye will continue to improve in her final school year next season.

FAYE HUNTER



This is Faye's first year at senior hockey and what a season she's had. Starting on the 2XI squad Faye has worked exceptionally hard to progress to the 1XI and now plays a key role in the squad. She is a versatile player who can make an impact on the game in midfield and forward. With another 3 years at senior hockey the future is bright for Faye, and we know she'll continue to develop every game.

KYM MOORE



Kym is our youngest goalkeeper on the squad but hasn't let this stop her from performing unbelievably all season. Her dedication and hard-working nature is infectious. She keeps control from the very back of the pitch and has made phenomenal saves, especially against Irish U18 players during the Sligo match. The future is bright for Kym, and we can't wait to see what she accomplishes in the next 3 years.

LEAH CASKEY



Leah is our very own 'brick wall' in defence. She makes it extremely hard for the other team to get past her and will stop at nothing to make a tackle. Leah has progressed massively throughout this season and is now an integral part of the 1XI squad. She comes to every training session with a smile on her face and a great attitude. Leah has another two years of senior hockey, and we know she'll continue to scare the opposition next season.

## LEAH KENNY (VICE CAPTAIN)



Leah has been the driving force in defence all season. Leah works seamlessly with the other defenders and is the voice of the team. She will motivate the squad and ensure every player is doing their job in matches. Leah will give 100% effort, 100% of the time and has picked up her fair share of injuries this season to protect the goal. She has been the heart of the team all season and is a true role model for younger players to look up to. Leah has one more year with the 1XI and she'll bring her talent and experience to the squad again next season.

## LOIS CUNNINGHAM



Lois is one of our highly skilled midfielders. She keeps control of the game in centre midfield and uses her quick skills to beat defenders. Lois's signature move is her 'flick' which has allowed her to score multiple goals this season, including a stunning goal against a touring team from across the water. Although Lois may look calm on the outside, she has a feisty side and occasionally mixes up her hockey skills for rugby tackles. Another one of our younger players on the squad we know Lois will do a fantastic job in future.

## MEGAN MCKAY



New to the squad and new to the school, Megan has made a major impact on the 1XI squad this season. Our solid left back who has helped us out on multiple occasions using quick reactions and skill to clear the ball from the circle. Her dedication, hard work and positive attitude has not gone unnoticed throughout the season. Megan has developed so much confidence this season and has another 3 years of senior hockey to continue to make a major impact on the squad.

## NAOMI MCLEAN



Naomi is our one-handed wonder. She can dribble the entire length of the pitch using only one-hand whilst waving to her fans with her other hand. Another one of our hard-working and skilled forwards she's a major threat in the circle. Moving from the Rainey for sixth form we have shown Naomi what it truly means to be a part of Cookstown High School. This is Naomi's final year at CHS, and we wish her the best for the future, but she's already promised to come back and help coach next year and inspire the next generation of hockey players with her superb attitude.

## NICOLE BADGER



Nicole is another one of our hard-working forwards. She puts in serious miles on the pitch and always puts in 100% effort. She runs rings around the opposition and has an excellent attitude at training. Nicole is one of the very few players on the squad who enjoys fitness and sprint sessions. Nicole has one more year left of hockey at CHS and we know she will bring her hard-working attitude to her final year of school hockey.

## OLIVIA THOMPSON



Olivia is our utility player and can play any position on the pitch. She has shone in right back, centre back and right midfield all season. Olivia brings so much to the squad including the weekly bag of sweets for game days. She is the politest player on and off the pitch and is the 'angel' of the group. She is a true role model for younger players and we are extremely sad to be losing her this season, but we know she will achieve great things at University next year!



PHOEBE GALLAGHER



Phoebe is another one of our younger players who is new to the squad and new to the school and what an impact she has made. Phoebe has worked exceptionally hard all season to gain a starting spot on the 1XI and makes a massive contribution every game. She is a highly skilled player in midfield who can easily beat defenders and distribute the ball calmly and smoothly. With another 3years at senior hockey we know Phoebe will continue to make a big impact on the squad.

RACHEL BROWN



Our very own Usain Bolt, Rachel has speed to burn. Rachel outruns the opposition for fun, leaving them striding behind her. She utilises her speed in both midfield and forward positions to create plenty of scoring opportunities. A very hard-working player with a great attitude she is an asset to the team. Rachel has two more years of senior hockey to continue to grow and develop into the fantastic hockey player she is.

SOPHIE DORNAN



One of the fittest players on the team, Sophie puts in the miles in midfield. A solid and competitive player who uses quick thinking and skills to outsmart the opposition makes her invaluable on the pitch. Sophie has had outstanding performances against Dromore high School, Raphoe and Cambridge House. Thankfully Sophie has two more years of senior hockey and can pass her knowledge and expertise onto the younger players.

HANNAH KENNY



Hannah makes an impact in both defence and midfield. She links up perfectly with the players around her and communicates well. Part of the famous 'Kenny Castle' she plays an essential part in short corners and converting these into goals. Her high work rate and ability makes her a critical player on the pitch. Hannah has one more season of senior hockey and will continue to grow and make a lasting impression on the team.

ELLIE COSTELLOE



Ellie is only in Year 9, making her the youngest member of the squad but she doesn't let this stop her. She has the confidence and ability to take on players who are five years older than her and twice her size. She is one of our starting midfielders and keeps control in the middle of the pitch, working tirelessly to attack and defend at every opportunity. Ellie has the rest of her school career to play hockey and we know she is going to achieve great things.

# 2ND XI GIRLS

WE IMPROVED WITH EVERY GAME WE PLAYED, AND ALTHOUGH WE WEREN'T AS SUCCESSFUL AS WE WISHED, WE CAME CLOSE



This year's 2XI team have been determined and hard-working. Although we were all fairly new to each other and our new coach Miss Kerr we all quickly got to know each other and became a driven team and worked well together.

In training we all had great fun with Miss Kerr and Mr Stewart and they developed our skills even more, helping us become the team we are now. We improved with every game we played, and although we weren't as successful as we wished, we came close, and next season we will continue to pick up where we left off and have high hopes that we will be more successful.

We ended the season with a great night at the hockey and netball awards dinner, where we all had a good few laughs and gave us an opportunity to get together outside of the hockey pitch.

I would like to say a massive thank you to both Miss Kerr and Mr Stewart for coaching us this season. Also, to Miss Rea who came and supported us in all the matches we played this season and we all can't wait to see where we go next season.

Holly Brown



# U14 GIRLS

This year the under 14 squad came back to the new season as strong as ever, this was shown by winning our first match back, along with winning another five more, drawing one and losing a couple along the way. The girls gave it their all in every match, supporting and guiding each-other through every obstacle we faced, showing perseverance and strength, this year has been filled with fantastic memories and new friendships. The under 14s have developed tremendously throughout the year with so much improvement all around and we wish them the best in the season to come.



Thank you to all the girls for their enthusiastic attitude throughout the year from Captain Nicole Thom and Vice Captain Ruby McCormick

# U13 GIRLS

We've had a great season in our U13 team with only a loss or two which ultimately we should've won, but unfortunately we could not convert our chances, and narrowly missed out on winning our league. We had a few new additions to the team halfway through the year consisting of some Year 8's, who played brilliantly and helped strengthen our left side, they slotted right into the team and gave us some depth.. We lost our first league match against Omagh which led us to a wobbly start, but we didn't let that bother us and came back stronger and more determined, only to lose one more match against Foyle, who were great competition, but ended in quite an unfortunate loss overall. Our team has been amazing this year and we can't wait to get back out next year and hopefully win our league and perhaps a cup.  
Sophie McNickle (captain)



# YEAR 8 GIRLS



The Year 8's came into CHS already a very talented bunch of individuals. A lot of these girls had some experience of hockey already which made the teaching and development very smooth. The group of girls started with around 30 pupils all very keen and eager to learn, coming out rain and shine on a Thursday after school.

The girls played in both the west of ulster league, an ulster hockey blitz and the henderson trophy. It was a season of success for these girls as they listened to their instructions and worked hard to do their best.

Their first taste of hockey for CHS was in the Ulster Hockey Blitz, these were 8 a side matches and it was a great opportunity to see where these students worked positionally. They scored lots of goals and had quite a few wins, instilling in the girls a confidence that they could do well. The next matches to follow were against Strabane, Castlederg and Enniskillen in the west of Ulster league. The girls again played well together as a team, having many linking movements and lots of

attacks. All the matches were won with plenty of goals scored. This was an excellent result which led to them winning the Year 8 league.

The next challenge was in the shape of the Henderson trophy, this saw them face some stiff competition and was a test of their defensive skills in some instances, the girls were narrowly beaten in the group stages forcing themselves into second place, totally against the run of play. This meant they played the winners of the other group, which was Raphoe. A year older than them and physically stronger put CHS to the test, but the girls skill was to win this match 3-0 leading them straight to the final against Sligo, the team that put them into second place with a run-away goal. This was again a match where CHS dominated, and we couldn't find the back of the net, leading to run ins. CHS stepped up and executed their run ins successfully winning the Henderson Trophy. An excellent accomplishment for a great team performance. The girls deserved this accolade and are ones to watch in the future.



# AWARDS DINNER 2022/23

114 Girls attended the annual hockey and netball dinner at the royal Hotel. This is the highlight of the girls year and there was lots of preparation carried out before the big event by the girls.

Team	Most Improved Player	Players Player	Most Enthusiastic
1st XI	Evita Bau fale	Leah Kenny	Leah Caskey
2ndXI	Sarah Cuddy	Faye Hunter	Anna Millar
U15	Anna McKeown	Lois Cunningham	Lois Simpson
U14	Annabelle Davidson	Aimee Thom	Caitlin Kelly
U13	Skye McNickle	Sophie McNickle	Abbie Simpson
Yr 8	Macey Wilson and Isla McLean	Hannah Ross	Yara Lopes
Senior	Christine Dallas	Leah Kenny	Danielle Ferguson
Intermediate	Leah Caskey	Ella Halliday	Rachel Brown
Junior	Freya Mills	Annabelle Davidson	Rihanna Harkness
B Netballers	Darcey McIlmoyle	Leah Parks	Alexandra Farquhar
Minor	Lily Frank	Miah Donnelly	Rebecca McGeown
Yr 8	Eva Curry	Sarah McKenzie	Lauren Campbell

The Johnston Cup. Senior Club Player of the Year 22-23

Junior Club Player of the Year 22-23

The Cheevers Cup. Netball – Senior Club Player of the Year 22-23

Netball – Junior Club School Player of the Year 22-23

Leah Kenny

Nicole Thom

Claudia Hill

Emma Reed

## Cup Name

NFU Mutual Cookstown

The Donnelly Cup

The Charles Cup

The Bowman Cup

Primacy Farm Butchers Cup

The Hughes Cup

## Award Name

1st XI Player of the Year

2nd XI Player of the Year

U15 XI Player of the Year

U14 XI Player of the Year

U13 XI Player of the Year

Yr8 XI Player of the Year

Senior Player of the Year

Intermediate Player of the Year

Junior Player of the Year

Minor Player of the Year

Year 8 Player of the Year

Netball B Squad Player of the Year

Goalkeeper of the Year

Megan McKay

Holly Brown

Phoebe Gallagher

Leah Allen

Ellie Costelloe

Lucy Black

Holly Purvis

Katy Hutchison

Lexi Fox

Reanna Gillis

Rebekah Walker

Aimee Davidson

Faye Anderson









# NETBALL



## SENIOR GIRLS

The Senior girls have played many well recognised Netball schools this year within the NI Senior A league. These included Mount Lourdes, Loreto Omagh, Lumen Christi, Thornhill College and Enniskillen Royal. The girls played some of these teams at home and some of these teams away, with a few bumps along the way (literally as a bus broke down lol), the girls always worked tirelessly with each other.

This year the squad consisted of Year 14 girls, Year 13 girls and some year 12 netballers who have kindly helped when numbers were low due to injury. Even though all of the girls weren't in the same year, this didn't matter as they still worked as a team and always tried their best no matter what.

Within the NI plate, CHS played St. Ronans where we lost 21-8. Despite the score line the girls worked hard and gave it their all but sadly it wasn't meant to be. Due to losing, this resulted in the girls getting into the NI Shield where they had to face St Dominic's, Belfast, another well renowned Netball school. The girls had an early set back, losing GK Lucy McClenaghan to a serious knock to the knee where she tore her ACL. Despite the girls making a promising start, losing Lucy knocked their confidence and they couldn't regain their rhythm. We lost 23-13 which meant the end of our season and the last competitive match for our 4 Year 14 girls.

One of my highlights this year was playing the boys (yes the boys did

put on the netball dresses). This is when we really got to see 'Cross Christine' in action as she was against Rhys! The boys thought they knew all but in fact didn't realise that it wasn't Basketball we were playing but Netball, so they didn't realise you couldn't run with the ball. Even after a second attempt at victory, the boys couldn't take the win. Hugo thought he could finally shoot, but yet again thinking and doing is two completely different things!

I have enjoyed my 7 years at CHS playing netball which has sadly come to an end, and a special thank you Mrs Cheevers and all the coaches who give up their time after school for practice to make Netball happen!



# PEN PORTRAITS

CLAUDIA HILL (CAPTAIN)



Claudia has been a very dedicated player to Netball during her 7 years at CHS. Even in her demanding role as Head Girl, Claudia always made time for her Netball training and matches. She has been a very strong player in our defensive circle over the years and always leads by example. Her relaxed demeanour makes her a key player on court and helps to calm the rest of the squad when under pressure. We will greatly miss Claudia next season both as a player and a captain. Who else will distract me from doing a warm-up with all their chats??

HOLLY PURVIS (VICE CAPTAIN)



Holly has been an excellent Vice Captain this year, supporting Claudia in her role. She had to step up for a period of time this season to the role of Captain when we lost Claudia to. This didn't phase Holly in the slightest and she carried out the role with ease. Holly has been an asset to the squad, both on and off the court. She is very organised and was a great instigator in arranging our matches against the boys. We will definitely miss Holly and her versatility. I think she has nearly played on every position on the court over the years!!

CHRISTINE DALLAS



Christine has also been a very key player for the seniors over the last couple of years and has been very dedicated to Netball since Year 8. Her confidence has come on leaps and bounds over the years and it's been great to see Christine excel during her final year on the squad. We will miss all the drama unfold between Christine and her WA battling their way up the court. Cross Christine was quite the entertainment - must be all the side effects from those energy drinks!!!





## DANIELLE FERGUSON



Danielle has been a very quiet and unassuming team player for us over the years. She has been very accommodating and always happy to take to the court in any position that would help the team. Danielle was often placed in GS against many a tall defenders but she never let this phase her and played her own game without complaint. We will miss her chilled out attitude and her gentle playing style next year when she leaves us for pastures new.

## LEAH KENNY



Leah stepped up to the mark and was a great asset to the Senior squad this year. Not only was Leah a great shooter under pressure, but she was a real all-round team player on and off the court providing tactics and a run-down of nearly every team before each match. I really hope she continues playing netball next year and in years to come, and I have high hopes for her journey.

## LEANDRA FRANK



This was also Leandra's first year on the squad and she has come on leaps and bounds from the start of the year. Leandra took to the court with a positive attitude and surprised herself each time with what she could achieve. Although she had an injury towards the end of the season, Leandra has great potential and I hope she reaches it on the squad next year.

## EMMA HARKNESS



This was Emma's first year playing for the senior squad and she did not disappoint. Emma was always capable of playing in a range of positions on court when it was needed. She was always working hard to intercept passes and her quick movements along the circle edge were really helpful to the shooters. I hope Emma continues her netball journey and continues to improve next year within the squad.

## LUCY MCCLLENAGHAN



This was Lucy's first year stepping up to the Senior squad and she transitioned effortlessly from Inter to Senior Squad. Lucy gave it her all every match and never once let the team down. She could play in any position and would do it to the best of her ability each time. Her circle defence was essential for the team this year, with her speed she could run onto any ball and intercept it with ease then quickly help to bring the ball up the court. Although the season didn't end as Lucy would have hoped after suffering a major knee injury, we hope that Lucy can recover and hopefully step back out onto the netball court next season.

## ALEX DAVIDSON



Alex is a great asset to the team with both her circle rotation skills and precise shooting helping secure many goals for the team. Alex is a very strong communicator on court and never fails to show her competitive side. She is always there to support her squad on and off the court. I wish Alex all the best for her netball journey and I hope she continues as she has great potential.

## ALEX NEILL



Not only is Alex new to senior netball this year, she is new to Cookstown High School altogether; however, she has fitted in perfectly like she has been here the whole time. Alex is a very determined player who's speed and defensive skills have benefited the squad massively this year. Her quick thinking in the defensive circle helped the squad gain back possession many times, with her quick intercepts and rebounds under the post. Alex has been a great asset to the team this year and I hope she continues her netball journey in the future.

# INTERMEDIATE NETBALL

This year the intermediate squad competed in the NI Inter A League. We played matches against Mount Lourdes, Loreto Omagh, Lumen Christi and Thornhill College. All these teams were very strong and, although we may not have got the results we wanted, every player learnt and grew in these matches, which helped us later on in the season.

In the NI Shield we played Antrim Grammar. This match was very tight with good play from every player. Unfortunately we couldn't pull through in the final quarter and the match ended 14-10 to Antrim.

We then were knocked into the NI Bowl where we played Shimna in the quarter finals. This was a great game and a well-deserved win for us. The final score was 16-11.

We made it to the NI Bowl final held in Lisburn Racquets Club. This was a great day starting with a well deserved breakfast in Bob and Berts. We played Lagan College in the final but unfortunately they just proved to be too strong for us and the final score ended 17-6. However, that still secured us the NI Bowl silver medals that we brought back to CHS. This



DHS 2022/23



was a great ending to the season and a good way for some of us to move into the Senior squad next season.

On behalf of the whole squad, I'd like to say a big thank you to Mrs Cheevers for coaching us every Tuesday afternoon and taking us to every match. We would be lost without you!

*Rachel Brown (Captain)*





# JUNIOR NETBALL

This year our Junior Netball squad stepped into our first proper netball season. Due to the recent pandemic, our team did not get to play in proper league matches with other schools in the previous two years. However, this year we embraced a chance to play and learned many new skills. These include learning to play as a team, not giving up and good sportsmanship.

This season, we played in the Northern Ireland League. Our area had a total of six teams. In all the matches we took to the court, and we did our best. We had two wins this year against Fivemiletown and St. Mary's. In both matches, the team played enthusiastically and to the best of our ability. Sadly we lost the rest of our matches to Loreto Omagh, Lumen Christle, Thornhill College

and Drumglass. During these matches, we applied ourselves and worked hard. Some matches we came close to a win, but it was just slightly out of reach. However, we can't wait for our next season and will strive for those wins next year.

We then went on to compete in the Cross Community Tournament that we got the privilege of hosting this year in the Cookstown Leisure Centre. There were five teams involved in the tournament and they were Holy Trinity College, Drumglass High, Integrated College, Dungannon and Cookstown High school A and B Squads. We went into this tournament with high spirits and hopeful attitudes. Despite amazing efforts, CHS B didn't place but they still played tremendously. CHS A won all their matches in the play

offs and went on to the final match where we played against Drumglass. Despite having beaten Drumglass earlier in the day, we unfortunately lost 10-7 but we still came second and got silver medal.

On behalf of everyone on the Junior Netball team, we would like to say a big thank you to Mrs Cheevers for everything she put into our training and constantly helping us all to improve in our skills in such an enjoyable way. We all love training and look forward to it every week. Thank you for another amazing season, it is greatly appreciated.

*Annabelle Davidson and Emma Reed  
(Co-Captains)*





# MINOR NETBALL



The Minor Netball A team had a very difficult and challenging season this year in their first year in the NI league. They faced Lumen Christie, Loreto, and Thornhill. Although we didn't have many successful games, and more losses than wins, we feel as a team we have gained so much more knowledge and experience which will set us up for a more promising outcome next season when we return to the league. In the Cross Community Tournament, we came close to winning the bronze medals but we lost to Holy Trinity by 1 goal (5-4) in the play offs. Although it was a tough tournament for the team, we are all extremely grateful to have been a part of the Cross Community Tournament with Holy Trinity College, Drumglass High School, Drumragh Integrated College and The Integrated College, Dungannon.

As a team, we feel so privileged to have Mrs Cheevers as our coach. With her dedication and guidance, we hope to excel next year and perform with much more confidence. We would also like to take this opportunity to thank her for all her hard work, time, and effort this season.

Thanks also goes to Miss Maneely & Mrs McMullan for coaching at the 'B' practice and helping to prepare the girls for the Tournament.

Rhea O'Donnell



FOLLOWING A SUCCESSFUL SEASON FOR THE BOYS, IT WAS NOW THE TURN OF THE GIRLS TO TAKE TO THE RUGBY PITCH! TACKLING ISN'T JUST FOR BOYS, AS THE GIRLS EXPRESSED A STRONG INTEREST TO GET INVOLVED IN THE CONTACT SIDE OF THE GAME.

# RUGBY



This year has seen rugby continue to go from strength to strength at Cookstown High School! In September 2022, rugby training began for Year 8, 9, 11 and 12 boys after school every Wednesday, and we consistently had around 40-50 players in total turning out each week. Of these, many of the boys had never played rugby before but weren't afraid to get stuck in!

At this stage, the Year 9s had already a year of training under their belt and they acted as great mentors in showing the Year 8s the ropes and encouraging such skills as catching and passing the rugby ball. The boys really enjoyed the tackling and contact aspect of the game and it was great to see them foster a love for the sport! Their hard work and dedication to skills practice through the autumn and winter elements all contributed to getting them match ready and fired up to play another team! Our first match of the season saw the Under-13s travel to Larne and take on Larne Grammar School for a very competitive fixture. The boys, as usual, played extremely well and it was great to see their hard work at training starting to pay off! Both teams were stuck in a deadlock at 17-17 until two minutes were left on the clock when Larne scored a penalty kick to take the win 20-17. While it was disappointing not to bring back a win, we were deeply encouraged by an extremely positive performance and a special shoutout to Eli Hill as our well-deserving player of the match!







On Thursday 23rd March, the Under-13 CHS Rugby team took on Edmund Rice College in an eagerly anticipated 'friendly' fixture. They played some excellent Rugby and represented the school fantastically. Cookstown came out victorious, winning 26-15, in a closely contested match. Well done to all boys involved for their teamwork and effort, and a special mention to Thomas Fields and Luke Bovill who were our players of the match!

Following a successful season for the boys, it was now the turn of the girls to take to the Rugby pitch! Tackling isn't just for boys, as the girls expressed a strong interest to get involved in the contact side of the game. From the end of the Easter holidays, over 20 girls have been attending skills practice faithfully and really enjoying learning a new sport with new skills. We look forward to organising a few fixtures for them in the near future!

Special recognition must be given to a few of our more experienced senior players, Matthew Pitts and Oran Kennedy who were both involved in the Ulster U18's Clubs team that took on Munster U18's Clubs on Saturday 15th April. Both players put in a fantastic shift with Matthew scoring a try in the second half! Unfortunately, it just wasn't enough as Munster ran out winners in the end.

A huge thank you must be given to Mr Dean Talbot (Rainey Old Boys RFC) and to Miss Hanna and Mr McMullan for all their help in everything we have achieved this season. We are looking forward to another exciting year of CHS rugby next year!

Mr N Hastings (Head Coach)







# ANGUS YOUTH CHALLENGE



Friday 28th October saw the ABP Angus Youth Challenge final for both the Winter 2021 and Summer 2021 finalists. CHS had a team in both finals. The teams were awarded five calves over a year ago and they have reared the calves themselves alongside working on a research project. The calves will be sold back to ABP Food Group next month.

CHS were delighted when John-Mark McCrea, Ben Smyton and William Hamilton were announced the overall winners in their competition.

The judges comments were as follows: "Farming and food production are in good hands. They demonstrated maturity and leadership skills well beyond their years. In their project and through a very successful use of social media they were able to express how their passion for agriculture is combined with a genuine respect for the environmental concerns of society."

Although the second CHS team (Jonathan Burrows, Luke Hamilton and Nathan Blair) didn't place, Jonathan from that team was awarded for his Individual Achievement throughout the competition and the judges commented on his "can do attitude and his maturity well beyond his years". Despite not placing in the final top two teams the boys should still be commended on their excellent work and dedication throughout the competition and the judges commented that choosing between this exceptional group was extremely difficult.





# DUTCH VISIT



During the last week of June, we were delighted to host six pupils from Jacobus Fruytier School, in The Netherlands along with two of their teachers.

On the first day, they arrived to the cheers of the CHS fans watching the Sixth Form Football match, then in the evening, they got to put their own football skills to the test, by taking part in the 'Pizza and Games Evening' organised by the Senior Scripture Union. At this, the Dutch pupils seamlessly integrated with our CHS pupils, playing volleyball, football and rounders and teaching our pupils some Dutch phrases.

They also got treated with a new delicacy- beans on pizza- some were more keen on this than others...

On Tuesday, they joined our Year 10 classes, where they learnt about genetics in Biology, the use of spoken language in English and radioactive materials in Physics! The next day, they enjoyed going on the CHS Sponsored Walk (despite the weather) with our Year 8 to 10 pupils, before getting stuck back into their lessons on their return.

For their final full day, the Dutch pupils, along with five of our Year 10 pupils, went on a trip to the North Coast. Here, some of our pupils showed them the sights of The Giant's Causeway and they even got to see their first ever dolphins! The trip ended with a game of rounders on the beach, a quick dip in the sea and a Morellis ice cream on the way home. It was a pleasure to host such well-mannered pupils and throughout the week, our pupils made them feel extremely welcome- they integrated seamlessly, and we hope to see them again sometime soon.





# STAFF VS YEAR 14 FOOTBALL MATCH

In May, our Deputy Head Boy, Jay, approached staff with a proposal to play a staff vs Year 14 leavers football match in aid of the NI Air Ambulance.

The staff, determined to maintain their 100% record from such games (P1 W1), quickly set about assembling a squad and getting whipped into shape. Whilst training for the game, from a staff perspective, perhaps resembled Father Ted's All-Priests 5-a-side Over 75's Indoor Football Challenge, the staff were eventually able to bring a squad

of staff together from right across the school; each showing different amounts of enthusiasm and ability.

Meanwhile, rumour has it that between A-Level examinations the main preparation being made on the student side was what various ways they were going to celebrate all of the goals they expected to score against their more experienced opponents.

On the day itself, the staff were able to call upon a few experienced players, including former Irish League defender, Mr Craig and a goalkeeper

who has been selected for Northern Ireland ladies, former student Lillie Crooks.

The match itself proved to be a tight affair with chances created at both ends. In the second half with the staff side losing their shape a little, the Year 14s began to put on more pressure and created more chances. Finally the break-through was made halfway through the second half when Jordan scored what would prove to be the decisive goal for the Year 14s as they went 1-0 up; a lead they would not relinquish.



The staff continued to press as much as they could and whilst some chances were created late on, they were all successfully repelled by the student team.

Thanks to Jay, our Deputy Head Boy, for making the suggestion to play a game for charity; to the boys in Year 14 for playing the game in the right spirit and also to our two Year 10 volunteers, Ethan and Isaac, who stepped into the role of referees with great confidence, each of them taking the whistle for one half.

The students who watched from the sidelines were also brilliant, cheering for both sides and making the occasion memorable

for all the right reasons.

Thanks to the kind donations of spectators and participants, NI Air Ambulance was presented with a cheque for £1350 at our end of term assembly in June.





# COLOUR RUN 2023





Cookstown High School hosted another 'Colour Run' on Wednesday 21st June. The Colour run saw 250 pupils and staff walk, run, jog and dance their way around the playing fields while being doused in a rainbow of vibrant colours.

The event started with a dance warm up before the participants set off in their pearly white colour run t-shirts. The t-shirts didn't remain like this for long as they were soon covered in a variety of different colours from super eager staff and sixth form as well as being misted with water to make sure it stuck.

All pupils and staff had a fantastic time. It's not every day the staff are allowed to throw paint at pupils!!! And as well as having fun, a fantastic amount was raised for our school funds and our chosen charity - The Niamh Louise Foundation. This is a local charity which provides one-to-one care for anyone in crisis with thoughts of suicide and or self-harm.

We would like to thank everyone who took part in the Colour Run and to all parents and friends for sponsoring our pupils. Thanks also to our staff for their assistance to ensure the event ran smoothly.







It's not every day  
allowed to throw







ay the staff are  
7 paint at pupils!!!





It was so encouraging to see the great turn out at Junior Scripture Union each Thursday at breaktime. Our newly refurbished Lecture Theatre was full to capacity most weeks with a mixture of Year 8, 9 and 10 pupils enjoying the activities and fellowship together.

A large number of staff volunteered to take turns speaking each week (too many to mention them all!), which gave a lovely variety of thoughts and styles. It really is a blessing to see so many staff, from across so many subject areas, willing to contribute to Junior SU. It is certain that our pupils will benefit from this encouragement.

A special mention must be given to Mr R Johnston and Mrs H Hamilton, who continue to lead from the front with their love and enthusiasm for Junior SU. Their organisation and care has not gone unnoticed.

The pupils themselves are more than willing to get involved with interactive activities, quizzes, Bible Kahoot and competitions. Some groups of Year 10 pupils even took the step to deliver Junior SU and the whole school assembly. I'm sure you can understand that this is not an easy task, but they spoke extremely well, they didn't even look nervous.

There were also several external speakers invited, and in June, we were able to host the Journey2Where Bible exhibition. Every Year 10 pupil was given the opportunity to have a guided tour to see



# JUNIOR SCRIPTURE UNION

*The pupils themselves are more than willing to get involved with interactive activities, quizzes, Bible Kahoot and competitions*

the origins of evidence for and message of the Bible.

No matter who was speaking, or what enjoyment was had, the focus remained the same:

**“Thy word is a lamp unto my feet, and a light unto my path.”**

**Psalm 119v105.**

What a privilege to have the Word of God as our guide, whether as a pupil, parent or staff member. We have been thankful for a ‘word in season’ during times of stress or difficulty. It’s great to know that our God cares. He directs our path in life, if we let Him. Firstly to His Son as the Saviour we need, and then to His word as the guide to sustain us and encourage us.

We will be sad to see our Year 10’s moving into SSU next year, but look forward with faith to meeting the incoming Year 8. God willing, we trust Junior SU will continue to be a blessing to the whole community of CHS next year.



# SENIOR SCRIPTURE UNION



Here at Senior Scripture Union. We have been thrilled to have completed a full year of Senior Scripture Union after the past few years of covid restrictions!

To round off our busy school week, SSU meets every Friday from 4 – 5 in the drama room. Brought together not only for fun, food and fellowship, we also focus on celebrating the good news of Jesus Christ, praising Him for all He has done for us and coming to Him and His word for wisdom and guidance.

Everyone at SSU is extremely thankful for the hard work that our Year 14 committee (Louise Boden, Lauren Brimage, Christine Dallas, Emily Millar, Claudia Hill) put into making the first half of this past year so fantastic. It is not surprising then that after their display of stellar leadership, we had such an influx of Year 13 pupils wanting to



takeover and dedicate their time to serving God on the new committee in the second half of the year!

Together, both committees worked incredibly hard to pull-off a fantastic first 'Celebration of Christmas' carol service. It was a real school community effort, with teachers, pupils, support staff and local ministers giving up their free time to serve during this busy time of year. It really was a true celebration of Jesus' birth, with carols, musical performances and readings keeping us focused on the true meaning of Christmas.

Not only that, but both committees have dedicated time and effort to ensure that each Friday meeting has been properly prepared and perfect for all of our pupils. We've had speakers from all across Northern Ireland! From famous farming Tik-Tokers, local ministers and Youth Organisations such as Logos Ministries, our young people have been blessed to hear God's words of encouragement in a multitude of ways (and may even grab a slice of pizza or two when they're at it!)

With pupil-led testimonies, worship and games, no Friday is ever the same! The pupils' hard-work and effort is reflected in the fellowship we share together during this time.



At times, food does play a significant role within SSU! Teachers and staff were given the opportunity to share their testimonies during 'Prayer and Pancake' mission week, where different year groups were invited to enjoy some tasty pancakes whilst hearing about how God has made a difference in their lives. Both pupils and staff felt really encouraged to be able to hear such open and honest stories of the impact God can have on our lives! As well as pancakes, SSU hosted a bun sale over Valentines Day to raise funds and spread God's love by providing 'love heart' sweets and bible verses with every purchase. With an unbelievable array of tasty treats provided by staff and pupils enjoyed by all in school, we were delighted and thankful for the support we received.

We cannot imagine life at Cookstown High School without Senior Scripture Union! A welcome retreat on a Friday afternoon, all pupils and staff are welcome to join for fun, food and fellowship.

Staff involved throughout the year: Miss L Hanna, Miss S Sinclair, Mr L Stewart, Miss M Maneely, Mr R Brown, Mrs R Montgomery.





# FPA EVENING WITH

it's amazing how tall the lady is; no wonder she can do the high jump! she really is a national treasure, and it was a real treat to be able to interview her

What an evening to remember when the first NI Olympic gold medallist came to Cookstown High School for a Meet & Greet with the school community!

The afternoon got off to an energetic start when our very own Nick Griggs and former pupil Grace Carson assisted Lady Mary Peters to officially open the new CHS cross county track, in honour of the coronation of King Charles III. A small crowd gathered to applaud the official cutting of the ribbon and local press snapped Lady Mary in action with the scissors and Nick and Grace in action on the track!

The FPA, under direction of Mr McGeown, had organised a reception buffet evening and it was so well-attended that Coolnafranky House was awash with friends of CHS, music and laughter right up until the stage event began at 7.30pm. There can't be many events where Lady Mary is engaged in a

little impromptu sing-song!

The Millar Hall soon filled up with eager sport fans and those who came to hear from our local sporting heroes Nick and Grace. The video footage prepared by Mr R Brown was very poignant and fitting to start off the evening and lent a real gravitas or reality to the 1972 Munich games gold medal win. Lady Mary was a delight to talk to and was extremely open and entertaining in her wit and repartee. She was reflective about her youth and training regimen and reality in 1970s Belfast; there were certainly many contrasts drawn between the methodologies then and now.

Nick Griggs' achievements to date were also broadcast in a fitting video montage and Nick joined Lady Mary, or Mary P as she asked to be addressed, in chatting about the work of the Mary Peters Foundation. The legacy of which will continue to promote sport in Northern Ire-



land and nurture local talent and aspiration. Nick was his usual affable and modest self on stage and everyone in attendance was in awe of his talent and humble (yet humorous!) recollection of tales from his athletic career thus far! It was very special to see Nick's ever supportive parents in the front row.

Grace Carson, former pupil, was also very candid and understated when she took to the stage alongside Mary P. Her video medley charted Grace's running journey from school to current European Championship competitions. Grace, supported by her very proud dad, was utterly self-effacing in describing her own achievements but effusive in her praise for CHS

'Grace, supported by her very proud dad, was utterly self-effacing in describing her own achievements'

# H MARY PETERS



PE colleagues, particularly Mr Richard Kerr (who leaves CHS summer 2023 to continue employment with Ulster Rugby). The ladies shared accounts of their experiences as women in the world of sport and overcoming challenges. There was something for everyone in the audience in terms of take away messages or simply a bit of entertainment.

As for me, my overriding memories of the evening will remain twofold. Firstly, it's amazing how tall the lady is; no wonder she can do the high jump! Secondly, how significant Mary Peters' achievements were and remain in terms of the sporting history of our

wee country; she really is a national treasure, and it was a real treat to be able to interview her! Lastly (I know that's more than two, but I can't resist!), it's such a privilege to represent Cookstown High School and bring local and national talent to our hearts.

*Mrs Allen AKA Michael Aspel (for those of a certain age and for those less than that age, just Google him!!)*



Nick was his usual affable and modest self on stage and everyone in attendance was in awe of his talent and humble (yet humorous!) recollection of tales





# PRIMARY SCHOOL TASTER DAYS

May and June 2023 gave CHS the opportunity to welcome 200 primary 6 pupils for two days of fun based school activities, representative of what moving to big school means. Primary schools represented at this year's taster days included Orritor, Cookstown, Ballytrea, Queen Elizabeth II, Donaghey, Stewartstown, Moneymore, Churchtown, Newmills, Coagh and Wood Primary Schools, along with a few pupils attending from other schools both near and far.

The two days provided pupils with the opportunity to experience a broad

range of school subjects along with an opportunity to get involved in life at Cookstown High School.

Day 1 workshops held on 25th and 26th May provided pupils with the opportunity to experience three lessons from ten subjects available on the day. Departments providing lessons on day 1 and some again on day 2 included Science, ICT, Mathematics, Technology and Design, Literacy (Library), Drama, History, Art, Music and Modern Languages.

- In Science pupils had the opportuni-

ty to carry out experiments

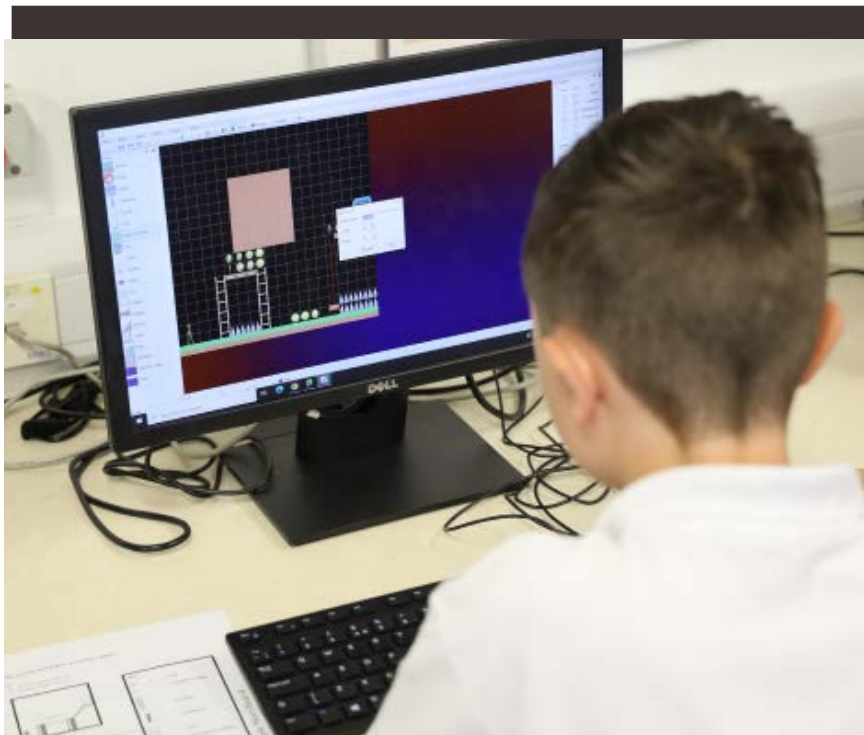
- In Mathematics pupils conducted an investigation
- Pupils developed their acting skills through a Drama Lesson
- Made an electronic Keyring in the Technology Workshop
- Developed a fully working computer game in ICT
- Creative in Art using printing techniques
- Considered evidence in History
- Learned to play new instruments in Music
- Developed new languages skills in Modern Languages

Pupils all experienced and enjoy the sixth form common room facilities for break time with refreshments. Lunch was provided in our junior canteen with all pupils enjoying the menu laid on for their visit during both days.

Day 2 workshops were delivered on 22nd and 23rd June and along with a single subject-based activity p6 pupils had 2 hours of PE and extra-curricular activities. Pupils were coached in and experienced Rugby, Football, Hockey, Netball and Dance including time spend in our fitness suite and using our modern sports facilities.

The days were made possible through the support of a massive number of our school staff and a team of tour guides from year 10 who made the day memorable and enjoyable for all.

Visiting pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed their two days and many are excited at having the opportunity to attend Cookstown High School and avail of all it has to offer in the future.





# STEM OUTREACH PROJECT



## The Sky's the Limit STEM Outreach Project 2022 in association with Cookstown Enterprise Centre.

Cookstown Enterprise kindly sponsored our 2022 STEM outreach project providing project kits, prizes and funding for staffing. The project developed by Rebekah Harpur entitled "The Sky's the Limit" was based around the thematic unit of Flight and provided pupils with activity-based learning.

Throughout the 2022 Summer term each school involved in the project received two guided lessons to design and manufacture a flight model. Pupils were taught the theoretical elements of flight such as lift, thrust, drag and weight.

After learning about the theory and design associated with flight the

pupils got a chance of their own to build advanced British Model Flying Association (BMFA) models.

Throughout this project the Primary 6 pupils developed a range of skills in: design; following technical drawings and instructions; accurate measuring; testing and refinement; problem solving and working as part of a team.

Pupils from the primary schools were delighted with the flight-based



models created and took pride in the opportunities provided to test their models on flight day. When testing the models some managed the length of the sports field and even over the school building!

Photo of Mr Joyce's P6 day showcasing their work to Mr Jim Eastwood (General Manager of Cookstown Enterprise Centre).

Through a new three-year support package from September 2023 Mrs Harpur will work with one school





Pupils got a chance of their own to build advanced British Model Flying Association (BMFA) models.



each month during the entire year providing and opportunity for additional opportunities for primary schools.

Thanks go to pupils and staff in Moneymore, Donaghey, Churchtown and Pheonix Primary Schools for their support and involvement in the 2022 project. Special thanks go to Cookstown Enterprise Centre and their General manager Jim Eastwood for support of the project both financially and though some school visits.

Mr Johnston project organiser would like to thank Mrs Harpur for her design of all project materials and delivery of the project within Primary Schools.





# SUPER CURRICULUM



At Cookstown High School, pupils have opportunities to experience subjects outside of the classroom through events, visits and competitions. These are all useful chances to see learning in action and to see how future skills and career paths are informed by learning in the classroom.

Super-curriculum opportunities take subjects further, with detailed and deep learning beyond the scope and requirements of the GCSE or A level specifications. These experiences help to equip our pupils for applications to the top universities, apprenticeships and career pathways possible.

## Cambridge Masterclasses

This year, work with Corpus Christ College, Cambridge continued, with nine Year 13 pupils accepted to take part in subject masterclasses via Zoom. This taster provides pupils with insight into how third level education is different from school, how the subjects are taught and how to think about subject content at this level. The pupils are:

Leandra Frank	Human, Social and Political Science (HSPS)
Emma Caskey	Philosophy
Amarah Donnelly	English

Teagan Carson	English
Benjamin Murray	English
Gareth Lennox	History
Molly Graham	Mathematics
Hannah Kenny	Mathematics
Leah Kenny	Law

The experience of taking part in the masterclass day for their chosen subject was really interesting for each pupil and gave a snapshot of what life will be like at university, particularly at Cambridge or Oxford.

## Corpus Christi, College Cambridge visit

On Monday 27th February, James Davies-Warner from Corpus Christ College, Cambridge paid a visit to Cookstown High School, to meet with pupils from Years 12 and 13. The pupils had the opportunity to ask questions about student life at Cambridge, the application process and what grades and subjects are essential.

Year 12 pupils:  
Katie Abernethy, Rachel Brown, Sarah Brown, Leah Caskey, Louis Donnelly, Sophie Dornan, Rachel Farr, Jamie Kerrigan, Sam Purvis, Theo Thompson

Year 13 pupils:  
Nicole Badger, Megan Bell, Teagan Carson, Emma Caskey, Amarah Donnelly, Leandra Frank, Molly Graham, Katie Kennedy, Hannah Kenny, Leah Kenny, Gareth Lennox, Emma McAdoo, Abbie McKirgan, Benjamin Murray, Ben Smyton, Lois Weir, Tom Wright

## TED talks

TED talks were made popular in the United States in the 1990s. TED stands for Technology, Entertainment, Design and originally, these were the areas talked about, under the heading 'Ideas worth spreading'.

We have run TED talks for Year 13 pupils to deliver for two years now, and the standard is very high indeed. Topics as diverse as 'Numbers were created by humans and therefore do not really exist' and 'The past has nothing to teach us about the future' were researched, presentations created and talks prepared. On the afternoon of Monday 13th March, thirteen Year 13 pupils presented their TED talks in the Lecture Theatre to members of staff and SLT. One pupil, Leah Kenny delivered her entire TED talk in Spanish!!





The talks and pupils were:  
 Abbie McKirgan: Tourism has done LEDCs more harm than good  
 Emma McAdoo: Good art should always have a message  
 Amarah Donnelly: We should study modern writers rather than Shakespeare  
 Gareth Lennox: The past has nothing to teach us about the future  
 Leah Kenny: “Esta casa cree que internet debe estar censurado”  
 (The internet should be censored)  
 Hannah Kenny: Numbers were created by humans and therefore do not really exist  
 Katie Kennedy: Scientists should be ethically responsible for the consequences of their work  
 Benjamin Murray: Books are always better than their film adaptations  
 Molly Graham: Parents should be allowed to choose the genetic characteristics of children  
 Nicole Badger: We should stop using fossil fuels by this time next year  
 Leandra Frank: We should only eat food produced in Britain  
 Emma Caskey: Theatre is a dying art  
 Teagan Carson: The spectacle of theatre is as important as the acting

Standing in front of peers and staff is a nerve-wrecking experience, but each of the participants carried themselves with assurance and authority.

First prize: Gareth Lennox (History)  
 Second prize: Leah Kenny (Modern Languages)  
 Third prize: Leandra Frank (Geography) and Molly Graham (Biology)

## Kate Brown at Cambridge

Kate Brown in Year 14 has applied to study Mathematics at Cambridge University. She has an excellent background in Mathematics in CHS, achieving excellent scores throughout her seven years, the highest grades in GCSEs and additional Mathematics Challenges and competitions. With such a fine pedigree in Mathematics, Kate was keen to explore the possibility of studying her favourite subject at Cambridge. In Year 13, when James Davies-Warner visited to talk with some of the pupils, Kate’s interest was piqued, and this was confirmed when she participated in one of the Corpus Christi subject masterclasses. Ironically, this was not in Mathematics, but in Engineering. At this point of Kate’s journey, she wanted to explore areas that used Mathematics, rather than study it was a pure subject. The subject masterclass settled for Kate, that pure Mathematics was the route she wanted to pursue.

Kate achieved excellent AS grades, and combined with her excellent GCSE profile, she was in an excellent position to begin her application to Cambridge in Term 1 of Year 14. Supported by Miss Evans, Mrs Johnston and Mrs Gorm-

ley, Kate’s application process began. It is different from the usual UCAS applications and needs to be completed earlier than UCAS. There were additional application statements to complete and if successful at this point, Kate would be invited for interview and more Maths tests.

Between the written application and the interview stage, Kate and Mrs Gormley went to Cambridge for a day to see around the university, meet with some undergraduates and to see if the reality of Cambridge was what Kate wanted. They flew over to London on Saturday 26th November and after exploring some amazing bookshops on Piccadilly, they took the train up to Cambridge.

Cambridge is a small town, with most of the colleges within close distance of each other. Most of the colleges are very old, and Corpus Christi College is one of the oldest, dating back to 1352. Walking the short distance from the train station to the college gave Kate an idea of what it would be like to study and live there.

On arrival at the college, two undergrad students met Kate and showed her around the college, answering questions and sharing their own personal



experience. After a quick lunch enjoyed sitting on the wall of St John's College, Kate and Mrs Gormley made the return journey home. The day had been full of new experiences for Kate, and it had whet her appetite for the future. She was now determined to do whatever she could to get to Cambridge University to study Mathematics.

The interviews took place, and Kate had to carry out a series of maths questions and solve problems before a panel of experts. If she got through this part, she would be made an offer. After a few weeks of tense waiting, the information we had been waiting for arrived: Kate had been made an offer to study Mathematics at Cambridge. Part of the offer was the requirement to take STEP 2 and STEP 3 Maths papers in June, alongside her existing A level subjects. These tests include questions like the level studied at university, and each paper lasts for 3 hours! She is quietly confident about how she has got on in these difficult tests.

At this point, the wait is on again. August results will reveal whether Kate has got into Cambridge or not. We all wish her the very best for the future.

*Mrs Gormley  
(Super-Curriculum Co-ordinator)*





Cookstown High School is renowned for its charitable efforts in raising money for those less fortunate, at home and further afield. The Charity Committee is led by the deputy head girls and boys and this academic year, our school has raised thousands of pounds for several charities and raised awareness on many different issues such as poverty and mental health.

As a school, we have raised money for The Hope and Glory Choir from Eswatini, Marie Curie and The British Heart Foundation. Furthermore, we collected non – perishable food items, toys, clothing, and toiletries for Women’s Aid and The Shoebox Appeal. The efforts by staff, pupils and the wider community in our charity efforts has not gone unnoticed, and we are delighted that as a community we have the opportunity to make such a vital difference in the lives of others.



# CHARITY







# FINNISH SCHOOL VISIT

Pupils and staff from Espoonlahti Upper Secondary School in Helsinki, visited Cookstown High School for five days in April.

Our first visit was to Killymoon Castle, where Mrs Coulter gave the group a tour of the castle and explained its history. We also took a walk out to the bridge, where we all enjoyed great views of the castle and grounds.

The group also spend a day visiting

sons. The pupils were particularly interested in English Literature and Further Maths and enjoyed comparing how our school system works in comparison to their own. The pupils really enjoyed their lessons and thanked staff and the wider community for their very warm welcome.

We also spent a day visiting the north coast and were very fortunate to have great weather as we explored the Giants Causeway, Carrick-a-rede rope bridge, Dunluce Castle, the Dark Hedges and Portrush. Pupils from

both schools enjoyed getting to know one another as they explored the various attractions.

We now prepare for a return visit to Helsinki, where our A Level pupils will get a similar experience in the Finnish school, exploring the attractions in the city of Helsinki, including the Finnish Sauna and a day trip to the city of Tallinn in Estonia.







# CORONATION GARDEN FETE



Cookstown High School were delighted to celebrate the Coronation of King Charles III on Saturday 20th May 2023. We were able to make the occasion by hosting the coronation Garden Fete. This was a wonderful community occasion, where we welcomed people from the local area and further afield.

The large number of people were entertained by Tam-laghtmore Silver Band and Tullylagan Pipe Band, we were also really impressed with Solus Highland Dancers, who

put on a thoroughly enjoyable performance, entertaining the crowds.

This event had many activities including bouncy castles, face painting, a mobile zoo, balloon modelling and a craft area where children could make crowns and bookmarks celebrating the occasion. Guests also participated in team games organised by the Young Farmers including the Tug of War.

We were also impressed to see the wide array of pupils from our feeder primary schools who took part in the football tournament. In addition to this we held a fancy-dress pageant, art competition, flower arranging competition and a cake competition, all of which followed the Coronation theme. MUVE and associated volunteers helped children pot a takeaway flower to plant at home to mark the occasion.

The community also had the opportunity to have afternoon tea or a burger from our food stand. This was a thoroughly enjoyable day and we were also delighted that King







Charles and Queen Camilla made an appearance and mingled and interacted with the crowd.

This event was only made possible with the help and support of our local community, thank you to all those who helped organise or run a stand or to those who came along on the day to support the school. We would also like to thank the Ulster Scots Agency for their financial support to ensure that this event could be organised.





A student wearing a black ski jacket, black pants, a black helmet, and goggles stands on a snowy mountain slope. The student is holding ski poles and has skis on their feet. The background shows a vast, snow-covered mountain range under a clear blue sky with some light clouds. The text 'SCHOOL TRIPS' is overlaid on the right side of the image.

# SCHOOL TRIPS



# SKI TRIP

The highlight and culmination of the lessons came on the last day when every pupil managed a short, timed slalom course

It was always going to be a popular trip; however, the first CHS ski trip post-pandemic proved to be extraordinarily popular, to the point of attracting 74 skiers! From novice to know-all we had an amazing group of pupils from Year 9-14 and for those staff who have accompanied ski trips in the past, this one surpassed all expectations!

This year we travelled to a new venue for CHS called San Valentino. This resort is in the picturesque Dolomites mountains of northern Italy. Despite minimal snowfall in the lead-up to our departure, we awoke on Day 1 to lovely blue skies and pristine slopes. After a long but mostly uneventful journey (if you don't count an escaped passport!!!) we all were united with our ski equipment on the evening of our arrival. On that first morning, after struggling with and into ski boots, we met the various ski coaches for the week, and all 74 students headed to the slopes for 6 days of fantastic skiing and fun times.



The resort was full of exciting trails ranging from the nursery slopes right through to a long black run for the experts. We enjoyed beautiful weather conditions for the duration of our week and skied in lovely sunny conditions without so much as a flake of fresh snow. As always, the ski coaches in San Valentino were fabulous. They were friendly, encouraging, and great fun to be around. They even managed to get everyone off the nursery slopes and onto the mountain at some point through the week!! The highlight and culmination of the lessons came on the last day when every pupil managed a short, timed slalom course and the presentation of the ski certificates and winners.

In the evenings pupils were kept busy with a variety of activities. We had unlimited use of a large sports hall nearby where we played football, volleyball and some



chair football. The staff vs pupils volleyball match became especially competitive! One of the more challenging activities was the evening when we went snowshoeing to the top of the mountain, where fortunately we were rewarded with drinks and a well earned sit down! It's fair to say that the descent was a more popular part of the evening. School staff had organised variety of other evening activities,



including a quiz, bingo, pizza night, table tennis to name but a few. Mr Haycock is certainly a man of hidden talents, when it comes to bingo calling! On the last evening, once all the skiing was finished, we went ice skating on the nearby rink. Abilities varied greatly from those who fell continu-



ally (before we made it to the rink!) to those who felt, and looked, at home on the ice. We were all grateful to make it through without injuries. The finale for everyone was the torch-lit night ski demonstration by the instructors and fireworks extravaganza; what



an amazing way to complete an amazing trip!

This was a fantastic trip, probably the best trip ever! The conduct and camaraderie amongst the pupils (and the staff!) was excellent and the pupils themselves were a credit to the school and all returned having either learned a new sport, made new friends or improved on their skiing ability.

Thanks to Mr M Haycock, Mrs C Allen, Mrs L Johnston, Mr N Graham, Mrs N Cheevers, Mr L Stewart and Mr G Cuddy for organising and taking such a large group on the trip.”









Pupils developed an understanding of the sacrifices made during World War 1 and have made memories that they will carry for life.



# BATTLEFIELDS TRIP

## YEAR 11 PUPILS EMBARKED ON OUR VISIT TO THE FIRST WORLD WAR BATTLEFIELDS IN FRANCE AND BELGIUM.

Year 11 pupils embarked on our visit to the First World War battlefields in France and Belgium. When we arrived in Belgium we made our way to Ypres. This small town occupied a strategic position during the First World War because it stood in the path of Germany's planned sweep across the rest of Belgium and into France. There were three battles of Ypres, the largest, best-known, and most costly in human suffering was the Third Battle of Ypres (31 July to 10 November 1917, also known as the Battle of Passchendaele, in which the British, Canadian, ANZAC and French forces recaptured the ridge east of the city at a terrible cost of lives.

Our first stop was to visit the In Flanders Fields Museum, this museum is set in the magnificent Cloth Hall built in 1304 and was left in ruins during World War I, pupils received a different soldier's identity upon arrival and followed his story throughout the war. Unfortunately, many of these young men did not survive or returned with life changing injuries. We also visited the Passchendaele Museum, this museum is set in an area where around 600,000 men lost their lives, and it gives a vivid interactive experience. Pupils spent their evening at leisure exploring the Belgian chocolate and waffle shops in the town square.

The evening ended with our pupils participating in the Last Post Ceremony at the Menin Gate, where four of our pupils laid a wreath on behalf of the Governors, staff, pupils and parents of Cookstown High School. Our piper William McFarland was the sole piper and had the privilege of playing the lament. This was a deeply moving, solemn and respectful service and our pupils appreciated the opportunity to pay their individual respects.

On day two we visited Tyne Cot cemetery, it is the largest cemetery for Commonwealth forces anywhere in the world. We held a short service of reflection at Tynecot Cemetery for Rifleman William Dunne, a relative of Emilie, one of our pupils on the trip. William served in the Royal Irish Rifles and died on 16th August 1917 aged 23. Our pupils read a reflection, poem and Psalm 20 was read by Mrs Currie. Our service concluded with William play-









ing Highland Cathedral. This was a very moving visit and our young people were staggered at the scale of the losses and also how young many of those buried in this cemetery.

We also visited Langemark German Cemetery, where over 44000 German soldiers are buried, pupils contrasted this cemetery which included a mass grave containing the bodies of 24917 German soldiers, to Tyne Cot. We also visited Sanctuary Wood and Essex Farm dressing station, where pupils were exposed to the huge scale of this war and the colossal losses on both sides.

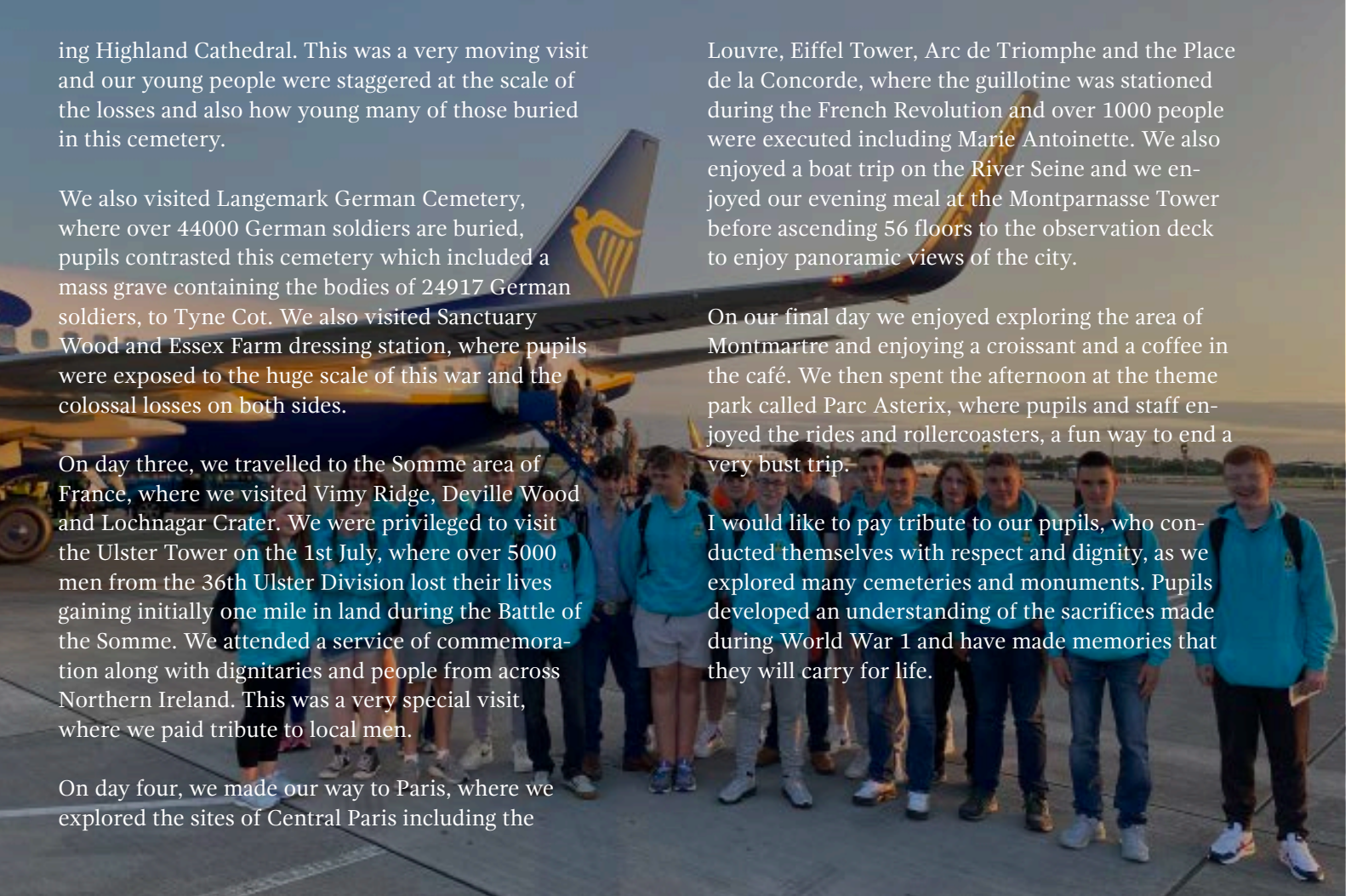
On day three, we travelled to the Somme area of France, where we visited Vimy Ridge, Deville Wood and Lochnagar Crater. We were privileged to visit the Ulster Tower on the 1st July, where over 5000 men from the 36th Ulster Division lost their lives gaining initially one mile in land during the Battle of the Somme. We attended a service of commemoration along with dignitaries and people from across Northern Ireland. This was a very special visit, where we paid tribute to local men.

On day four, we made our way to Paris, where we explored the sites of Central Paris including the

Louvre, Eiffel Tower, Arc de Triomphe and the Place de la Concorde, where the guillotine was stationed during the French Revolution and over 1000 people were executed including Marie Antoinette. We also enjoyed a boat trip on the River Seine and we enjoyed our evening meal at the Montparnasse Tower before ascending 56 floors to the observation deck to enjoy panoramic views of the city.

On our final day we enjoyed exploring the area of Montmartre and enjoying a croissant and a coffee in the café. We then spent the afternoon at the theme park called Parc Asterix, where pupils and staff enjoyed the rides and rollercoasters, a fun way to end a very bust trip.

I would like to pay tribute to our pupils, who conducted themselves with respect and dignity, as we explored many cemeteries and monuments. Pupils developed an understanding of the sacrifices made during World War 1 and have made memories that they will carry for life.





# LONDON 2022



We finished off our evening with a performance of Wicked at the Apollo Theatre.



Year 10 pupils travelled to London at the beginning of October half term to explore the History of London. We had a very early start and met at the turning circle at 3.30am to begin our journey, when we arrived in London, we were met by our tour guide, who gave us an in-depth tour of the key sites in central London. When we arrived on the Mall, we were able to mingle amongst the crowds to watch the changing of the guard. We also visited the Palace of Westminster, Horse Guards Parade, St James Palace and we ended with a walk around St James Park. Once we checked into our hotel we then spend some time shopping and exploring Covent Garden.

High School and their helpfulness was commented on several times by members of the public. A huge thank you to the staff, who gave up their time to make this visit possible - Mr McGeown, Mrs Gormley, Mrs McElhatton and Mr McKenna.

Our second day was very busy with 48 pupils and 5 staff, we became experts at navigating the underground, ably assisted by Mrs Gormley. We started our day by exploring the Tower of London which was founded in 1066 during the Norman conquest and viewing the Crown Jewels, which was spectacular. We then boarded the Thames River Cruise to take us to the London Dungeons, where we were able to walk through and experience some of the most important events in London's history. We finished off our evening with a performance of Wicked at the Apollo Theatre.

On our last day we spent the morning getting up close to nature in the Natural History Museum, we were able to travel through our plants history and learnt some valuable lessons to help protect its future.

Overall, we had a really enjoyable time, we were accompanied by 48 outstanding pupils who were great ambassadors for Cookstown

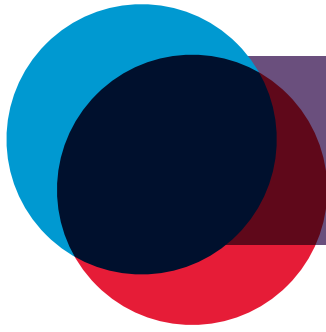






WISCONSIN TOWN HIGH SCHOOL





THE DAY WE WENT TO SEE THE

# KING

On the 13th of September, fourteen Year 8 went in a minibus to Belfast accompanied by Dr Kane and Mr Williamson. We arrived early, so we went to sign the Book of Condolence for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II – we got to have a group photo together. The City Hall was beautiful and over 100 years old! It wasn't time yet to see the King, so we laid flowers at the Cenotaph around the side of the City Hall.

After lunch, some of us started feeding and naming the pigeons – there were so many! Mr Williamson then popped off to the shop to get us mini-Union Jack flags.

We all waited behind the barrier on Donegall Square North, there were so many people waiting to see King Charles III. While we were waiting, a press photographer took a few photographs of our group, and a Canadian tourist also came by and



gave us Canadian pinhole badges. We finally saw the entourage. King Charles III drove past waving out the window to the cheering crowds and waving flags. After the procession passed, one of our pupils, Emily Graham, was interviewed by the BBC. Then we walked back to our minibus to make our journey back to Cookstown High School.

What a fantastic memorable day which all of us will never forget!

*By: Phebe Davidson*





# CODY COWDEN - MY EXPERIENCE AS A NATIONAL STANDARD BEARER



in the world. There was 100 of us in total participating in this funeral procession. As soon as we all got to the hotel we were briefed by the National Parade Marshall on what we would have to do, where we would be placed and our itinerary for the week. We were then told that we had to do overnight rehearsals. I did not expect it to be as intense as what it was... I was waiting from roughly 9 o'clock at night to 3 o'clock in the morning in the MOD building waiting until we had to march out. Once I was out, we were standing in one place for numerous hours rehearsing every in and out of how the funeral would go. This included watching all the horses, the army, navy and each band walk past as if it were the real thing, it even included a mimic coffin as if it was real. I was exhausted after such a long and cold night but it gave me much more anticipation for the real thing. The day had finally come and I was a bundle of nerves, although it made me so immensely proud to be there representing the Royal British Legion. It felt like it had happened so fast but every minute was more and more special. It became real as the Royal family marched in front of me and I was standing in front of the navy sailors who transported the coffin. The Queen's funeral was definitely a moment I will never forget.

My training sessions took place locally in the Cookstown Royal British Legion branch, and at these training session I was taught how to perform the drill movements, how to march and how to act in competitions or events.

## Youth Standard Bearer competition

On the 9th of April, I flew to Stockport, England to compete against four other individuals for the title of 'National Youth Standard Bearer'. This competition scored me out of ten on twelve different movements and being scored out of ten on three different sections of my uniform, the total amount in which I could have scored out of was 150. The final result was close between me and the runner up.

## The Queen's funeral

Due to winning this competition, I was made aware that if Queen Elizabeth II was to pass away within the year I was the national youth standard bearer I would be given the honour and privilege of being apart of the funeral procession. On the 7th of September it had been confirmed that Queen Elizabeth II had passed away. This came as a massive shock to me, and it felt physically impossible that I would be apart of the funeral at all. The initial email was called 'RBL OPERATION LONDON BRIDGE' and it stated I was not allowed to tell anyone about the funeral.

The day had come when I would be flying out to London, and it still did not feel real at all. This was an exciting yet nerve wrecking experience as I knew any mistake or facial expression made would be documented live and broadcasted to every country

## Festival of remembrance

On the 10th of November 2022 I flew back to London to be a part of the Festival of Remembrance in the Albert Hall. This is a celebration of service which reflects the nations admiration of the Armed Forces. This gave me an opportunity to show my respect and honour to the armed forces too. This opportunity required training and rehearsals as the programme would be broadcast live on television. This made me further excited as this was my goal when I initially started as a standard bearer, to make it to the Albert Hall. I was also able to witness the soon to be King Charles III standing in the royal box observing the whole show.

## The King's coronation

On the 2nd of May I flew out to London to take part in the King's Coronation. This was a difficult time as I was getting ready to sit my A levels and I had to understand that I would miss out on things such as sixth form leavers day. As much as I wanted to be involved in these activities I knew my opportunity was too good to pass up, so I accepted immediately. Again there were limited numbers of people invited and yet again, we were briefed on how there would be another overnight rehearsal. This time around the rehearsal seemed more intense due to the cold weather and levels of tiredness I was feeling as I had rehearsals the same day I landed. I was able to see the Royal gold carriage and the carriages which William and Kate would be in on the day.

Over the course of the couple of days we had rehearsals in the hotel, practising drill and we even practiced marching around Hyde Park to ensure it was up to a high standard. The 6th of May had come around and we got a bus to where we would march off from Horse Guards. When we got to Horse Guards the streets were packed and excitement had filled the group. We were given orders to line up and get ready to march to Westminster Abbey where King Charles would have his coronation. When we had got there it was only a short time until the parade had started. As the carriage neared we did a royal dip for the king, He had a good gaze on every single one of us as he had passed. When he went into Westminster



Abbey we were provided with a short break until he was ready to leave. This meant we had to march back to Horse Guards. It was only a short while until we had to make our way back up to Westminster Abbey and Charles had been made the official King. As I had participated in the coronation I will be presented a King Charles III Coronation Medal. It was unbelievable to see the Royal family go past in the Gold State Coach. This was yet again another moment I will definitely not forget.

## Mid Ulster Civic award

Additionally I was privileged to be recommended to receive an award from the Mid Ulster council. This showed me that I was being recognised for my efforts within the Royal British Legion by all. It was an amazing experience to be acknowledged for my hobbies

which gave me the opportunity to be a part of so many important milestones in history.

My overall experience through the Royal British Legion has been amazing and I have been provided with amazing opportunities and memories which I will treasure forever. I would like to give a special thank you to my uncle Norman Espie who has been training me alongside Susan Parke. Without them I would not be able to have done so many unforgettable things. Cookstown High School has been amazing in supporting me on my journey. The teachers have been so understanding if I had to take a couple of days off school or if I have had to miss a tracking test to complete events for the RBL.





I can genuinely say if it wasn't for the support, encouragement and opportunities given by the school, I wouldn't be in the position that I am today in my main sports of cross country and athletics.



# HEAD BOY

## REPORT 2022/23

As always, it's been a very busy year here at Cookstown High School. Typically, the glaring sun which shone so brightly during the months of exam season appears to have deserted us as I write this report today.

I'm still struggling to comprehend that it's been 7 years since I arrived as a nervous, quiet 11-year-old who knew nobody but, I wouldn't change any of my school experience here at Cookstown High School, despite the many bumps in the road there have been along the way. This year has been a real adventure and I have to say I couldn't have done it without the help and support of Claudia, the Head Girl who was always so organised, approachable and easy to work with throughout the entire year which made my experience as head boy an enjoyable one. I must also mention the rest of the Senior Prefect team - Deputy Head Boys,

Reuben and Jay and Deputy Head Girls, Emily and Louise. They were all instrumental in the smooth running of the many events we organised and at this point I've lost count of the amount of meetings we've had in that small room in the office!

I would just like to wish Head Boy, Luke Haycock and Head Girl, Leandra Frank as well as the rest of the Senior Prefect team all the best in their new roles for next year. I have full confidence that they will do a great job in everything asked of them.

It has been a pleasure to work with the Principal, Miss Evans as well as the Head of Sixth Form, Mrs Johnston who have encouraged and supported Claudia and myself so brilliantly in our roles this year. I must say I'm glad I won't have to organise any more tuck shops with Mr Mc-



Geown or attend any more School Council meetings with Mrs Allen although, I will miss the craic we had together and never complained about the opportunity to miss class when it appeared! This year wasn't so badly affected by covid however, I cannot say the same about my GCSE and AS level years at school. Despite such a challenge, the teachers

here at the High School always went above and beyond to ensure our needs were catered for at all times and always provided a helping hand, whether that be extra classes or additional sheets to help us understand the subject.

I cannot express enough gratitude to all of the teachers who've taught me throughout the years and, being a teacher herself, my mum wouldn't let me forget how difficult a job being a teacher is! On behalf of everyone in our year group I'd like to say thank you as, without you going the extra mile, we wouldn't be at this point today.

From a personal perspective, my proudest achievement during my years at school has to be being given the honour of being Head Boy and it's been a real privilege to fulfil this position over the past year. Sport is such a huge part of my life, and I am indebted to Cookstown High School for this. I've been able to play football, basketball, rugby, hockey as well as cross country and athletics due to the willingness of the school to take us to events and competitions and I can genuinely say if it wasn't for the support, encouragement and opportunities given by the school, I wouldn't be in the position that I am today in my main sports of cross country and athletics. Aside from this, I've been given the chance to develop my skills in a range of different areas such as public speaking, languages and music, even though my ability in music and languages is limited to say the least! There are so many opportunities on offer for everyone in school and I would strongly encourage the younger kids as well as older year groups to get involved in any way they can to widen their horizons and allow Cookstown high school to mould their "character through knowledge" and, I know Miss Evans would agree with me on this!

Overall, this past year as Head Boy of Cookstown High School has been an eventful and, I'd like to say suc-



cessful one. I wish the school all the best in the future and I'm sad to have come to the end of my 7 years here but, no longer having coffee, scones and a gossip with the senior teachers at break time on a Tuesday is definitely the end of an era!

*Nick Griggs*



If I had one piece of advice for the younger pupils is to get involved whether that be music, sports or languages- give it a go!

# HEAD GIRL REPORT 2022/23

With my last remaining exams approaching, I cannot believe my time at Cookstown High school and being head girl 2022/2023 has come to an end. From first year science classes, to GCSE's when we all realise the hard work begins. As my year was hit with COVID- 19 pandemic, this resulted in our GCSE's being predicted therefore, our first examinations were our AS levels in lower sixth. However, our excellent teachers were willing to put in the hard work and dedication to help us mentally prepare for these exams, from creating extra classes for those who wanted it, and providing each of their students with amazing resources to help each student with their revision. I cannot thank them enough!

Within my time at Cookstown high school, I have always loved sport and I got involved in both hockey and netball. I'm definitely not like our head boy Nick going to the Olympics anytime soon, but getting involved in sports was a de-stresser to clear my head from all of the school work and an opportunity to meet different pupils within different year groups- as well as representing the school

during matches. When joining Cookstown High school I was a very nervous pupil but sports gave me the opportunity to meet new people who weren't in my class, helping me to form different friendships from all year groups. If I had one piece of advice for the younger pupils is to get involved whether that be music, sports or languages- give it a go!

One of my biggest honours at Cookstown High School was being appointed head girl alongside Nick Griggs who was head boy. I just want to thank Nick, for all of his hard work and dedication that he put in when being head boy, I couldn't have asked for a better head boy to work alongside. I would also like to thank the deputies, Jay Morton, Reuben Hamilton, Louise Boden and Emily Millar who have always been hands on when planning events such as the formal- they really have gone above and beyond!

As Nick's my time of being head boy and head girl have come to an end, I would just like to wish the new head boy Luke Haycock and head girl Leandra Frank all the best as they now take on this role. It's a great duo



and I have no doubt that you will be amazing! However, if I did have one piece of advice to give you, I would say to try and make your year join together to buy a new toaster for the kitchen, I'll say nothing else:)

*Claudia Hill*







# LEAVERS DESTINATIONS 2023

Kate Brown	Applied Mathematics and Physics
Lydia Badger	Information Technologies
Naomi McLean	Communication, Advertising and Marketing
Leah Reid	Religious Studies with Education
Ella Thom	Professional Nursing (Adult)
Cody Cowden	Nursing (Adult)
Mark Cuddy	Gap Year
Ben McAdoo	Sport and Exercise Sciences
Lucy Purvis	Social Work
Anna Megaw	Primary Education with QTS
Ryan Glendinning	Physiotherapy
Matthew Bloomer	Environmental Science with optional placement year
Hanna Gillis	Psychology
Nicholas Griggs	Sport and Exercise Sciences
Danielle Ferguson	Sport and Exercise Sciences
Zoe Carson	Nursing (Adult)
Reuben Hamilton	Building Surveying
Ellen Harkness	Criminology and Criminal Justice
Rebecca Compton	Professional Nursing (Adult) (September)
Aimee Bennett	Criminology and Criminal Justice
Olivia Thompson	Nursing (Adult)
Natalie Johnston	Geography
Nathan Pitts	Environmental Health with DPP
Rachel Reed	Gap Year
Samuel McAllister	Environmental Geography
Lauren Brimage	Professional Nursing (Adult)
Abbie Wylie	Health Physiology
Joshua Steenson	Futher Education
Nicole Skinner	Business Apprenticeship
Charlie Whitten	Gap Year
Andrew Wylie	Software Engineering
Christine Dallas	Dale Farm Apprenticeship
Andrea Cotton	Art and Design (Foundation Year for Specialist Degrees)
Louise Boden	Environmental Health with DPP
Julianne Hardy	Nursing (Adult)
Emily Millar	Occupational Therapy
Katie Bowman	Business Economics
Rhys Greaves	Electrical and Electronic Engineering
Ulster University	Sport and Exercise Nutrition
Kevin Taylor	Apprenticeship
Jay Morton	Apprenticeship
Claudia Hill	Professional Nursing (Children and Young People's)
Keeva Smith	Professional Nursing (Adult)
Lucy Jeffers	Health & Social Care
Holly Purvis	Diagnostic Radiography and Imaging
Jay Singh Basra	History and Politics
Antons Bogdanovs	Software Engineering
Nicole Hamchevici	Landscape Architecture
Alan Brooks	Energy
Jordan Young	Architecture
Jodi O'Neill	English
Nicole Hagan	Early Childhood Studies
Kirsty Beattie	English Literature
Hugo Cleary-McGuffin	Marine Science
Kaitlyn Anderson	English Studies, Religion and Professional Education
Nathan McAdoo	Sport and Exercise Sciences
Jake Watterson	Building Surveying
Matthew Steenson	Accountancy Technician
Harry Irwin	Science & Computing Higher Level Apprenticeship





