



# COOKSTOWN HIGH SCHOOL MAGAZINE 2020/21





The success of our GCSE pupils is a testament to their hard work and also the commitment of staff and the support of parents.

22

'I think it is safe to say that the past year has thrown quite a few curve balls for us all!

SENIOR SU

CHS 2020-21



During his 32 years of teaching Biology at CHS, he was not only inspirational to many students but also undertook various roles and responsibilities

9

Mrs Fields established the 'Photography Club' which grabbed the attention of over 80 pupils



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Over the past seven years, we have had an amazing time and have many happy memories which we will cherish for the rest of our lives.



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The pupils had to think of an example of agape in their life and to submit a photo or drawing depicting it.

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Nick competed in the European U20 championships held in Estonia, where he won the gold medal

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Pupils of the LSC partook in a sponsored walk in May where they raised funds toward the "Paul's Legacy," charity.



54

Pupils enjoyed participating in an interactive, activity base day hosted by the Army and RAF



80



The boys were successful in their interview and were awarded five six-month old Angus Cross calves

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# Principal's Foreword

Welcome to the latest edition of the Cookstown High School magazine.

This has been another tumultuous year with the pandemic, and certainly we have been tested repeatedly with the physical and mental impact of the virus as well as enduring the accompanying restrictions and lockdowns. I have a great admiration for the terrific courage and resilience that all members of our community have demonstrated. We have moved forward together emerging in an even stronger position; whether that is valuing and appreciating one another more deeply or the further navigation of the digital world and acquisition of skills, or simply enjoying the things around us. There is so much to be grateful for.

I am immeasurably proud of the staff and pupils at The High School and I never cease to be amazed at the unified spirit, creativity, compassion, and solicitude as well as the lengths that people are prepared to go to support one another. During the second lock down, we had a seamless and impressive transition with live lessons and

pastoral care continuing and indeed we were literally kept 'on our toes' with the fitness and reading challenges! It is thrilling to see young people continue to give of their personal best at so many levels so that they can achieve their potential. Our school motto: 'Character through Knowledge' is very much alive, which is reflected again in this year's magazine.

We have long standing traditions at the High School of team activities, sports days, final assemblies and the rites of passage for pupils who are leaving. Whilst we have not been able to have all of the activities we would have wished; nevertheless, our young people leave with fond memories, well-educated and equipped for the next stage of their lives.

My sincerest thanks to Mrs Johnston who has edited the latest edition of our school magazine. I am sure, as you read, you will be proud of the achievements of our pupils during this very unusual year, and hopefully, it will inspire all our young people to even greater things.



I have a great admiration for the terrific courage and resilience that all members of our community have demonstrated

MISS G EVANS, PRINCIPAL

# Message from the Chair of the Board of Governors

Welcome to the 2020/21 edition of Cookstown High School's annual magazine and what a year it has been for all the wrong reasons. However, it is a year that we have much to celebrate as a school community.

As Chair of the Board of Governors, I want to acknowledge the extreme hard work that has been put in by all staff during the year, both in school teaching face to face and during lockdown when teaching has been conducted remotely. I know that our young people have benefited from the best blended learning available and although it was far from being an ideal scenario for the exam classes, teachers have ensured that our children had all the information they needed.

All staff had to adapt their teaching methods and resources and that has brought additional pressures for them and I want to thank them for the efforts they put in to using and learning about new technology.

The pastoral support that was offered to the pupils and which continues to be provided was exemplary and I commend that team for their care and concern. It has been a trying and exhausting year for all.

I also want to thank all the support staff who kept everything going in the background in very difficult circumstances and who play a vital role in the day to day operation of Cookstown High School.

I must also thank Mrs Johnston and her team who have put this edition of the magazine together in such unusual times. We may not have the multitude of pictures from sporting events or social gatherings but I hope you will enjoy reading the record of what has been an extraordinary year in the history of our school.

Lynne Dripps  
Chair of the Board of Governors



# Staff

## 2020-21

### 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 P McCausland BA PGCE

Mrs K Fields BA PGCE

### BUSINESS STUDIES

**Mrs D Foster BEd**

Mrs L Johnston BA QTS

Mr L Stewart BSc PGCE

### ENGLISH

**Mrs G McDonnell BA PGCE**

Mrs A Smyth BA PGCE

Mr L Forbes BA PGCE

Miss L Hanna BA PGCE

Mr S Collins BA MA PGCE

Mrs C Rushe 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

Mrs L Johnston BA QTS

Dr H Kane BSc PhD PGCE

Mrs L Lee BSc PGCE

Mrs C McFlynn BSc PGCE Dip German, Cert Health & Social Care

Miss R Stewart BSc PGCE

Mrs C Rushe BA PGCE

Miss L Young BEd QTS

### HISTORY

**Mrs S Allen BA PGCE**

Mr J Henderson BA PGCE

Mrs C Porte BSc PGCE

Mr M Thompson BTh PGCE

Miss R Drennan BA, MA, PGCE

### HOME ECONOMICS

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

Mrs D Gregg BA Cert Ed Cert RE, Cert Careers Ed & Guidance

Mrs L Lee BSc PGCE

Miss L Young BEd PGCE

### INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY

**Mr R Johnston BEd MSC PQH(NI)**

Mr M Lynch BSc PGCE

Mrs J White BSc MSc PGCE

### LEARNING for LIFE and WORK

**Mrs N Cheevers BSc PGCE**

### LEARNING SUPPORT CENTRE

**Mrs L Stewart Murray BSc Hons PGCE.**

Mr J Hastings BSc PGCE PAPAA

Mrs K Fields BA PGCE

### MATHEMATICS

**Dr K Davidson BSc PhD PGCE**

Mrs B Anderson BEd

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

Mr C Wilson BSc PGCE PG Cert Careers Ed and Guidance

Mrs G Ferguson BSc PGCE

### 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, Cert Health & Social Care

### 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

Mr A Drury BA QTS

**RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Mrs H Hamilton B Ed**

Mrs H Blackwood MBE MSc BMus PGCE Dip RS MCGI MInstLM  
Mrs L Lee BSc PGCE  
Mr M Thompson BTh  
M Ed PGCE  
Miss L Young B Ed QTS

**SCIENCE**

**Mr N Agnew MSc PGCE**

**Miss R Stewart BSc PGCE**

**Mr P Williamson BSc PGCE**

**Dr A Morgan MSc PhD 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 Carleton BEd  
Mr G Cuddy BEng PGCE  
Mr D McKenna BEd  
Mr S Donnelly BSc PGCE

**SENCo**

Mr G Hamilton  
Assistant SENCo  
Mr L Forbes BA PGCE

**HEADS OF YEAR**

**Year 8**

Dr H Kane BSc PhD PGCE

**Year 9**

Mr J Henderson BA PGCE

**Year 10**

Mrs J Freeburn BA PGCE Cert RE

**Year 11**

Mrs H Blackwood MBE MSc BMus PGCE Dip RS MCGI MInstLM

**Year 12**

Mrs C Porte BSc PGCE

**Year 13 & 14**

Mrs L. Johnston BA QTS

**ADMINISTRATIVE & SUPPORT STAFF**

Mrs K Anderson BA  
Mr N Bell  
*Mrs R Black*  
Mr R Brown

Miss J Brown DipLCM(TD)

Mrs L Brown  
Mrs E Carleton  
Mrs J Corey  
Mrs A Currie  
Mrs E Donaldson SEN  
Mrs C Donnelly  
Mrs C Evans  
Mr A Forrest  
Mr B Gourley  
Mrs C Gilmour BA  
Mrs L Harkness  
Mrs D Hayes Adv Dip  
Mrs D Hepburn BA DIS MSC  
Mrs S Holmes Dip PCDP  
Mrs C Johnston  
Mrs L Johnston  
Mrs M McGaughey  
Mrs L Morrison PGCFHE  
Miss R Moffett  
Mrs L Morton Bed PGCE  
Mrs L Pinkerton  
Mrs C Taylor  
Miss L Whiteside BSc  
Miss L Wilson  
Mrs E Weir  
Mrs J Wensley

**BUILDINGS SUPERVISORS**

Mr K Rollins  
Mr N Anderson

**GROUNDSMEN**

Mr L Jordan

**LUNCHTIME SUPERVISORS**

Mrs L Crooks  
Mrs K Cullen  
Mrs D Duffin  
Mrs E Eastwood-Devlin  
Mrs K Kelly  
Mrs G McMenemy  
Mrs M McLaughlin  
Mrs L Reid  
Mrs R Smyton  
Mrs M Speirs

*Names in Bold –Head of Department,  
Italics -Temporary Staff*

# Staff updates

Incoming and outgoing faces for 2020/21

## LEAVERS

### **Mr Ian Matthews** Vice Principal

Mr Ian Matthews joined Cookstown High School in 2018 as Curriculum and Assessment Vice Principal. During his tenure, Ian led various aspects of Learning and Teaching, tracking, reports, examination analysis, school app, school calendar and staff development. He has driven change with a clear awareness of purpose and objective thinking, aiming to improve processes and outcomes for both staff and pupils. Ian's work is the bedrock of the assessment and tracking procedures that the High School now uses. The hallmark of Ian's time in Cookstown was not changing things for the sake of it, but tweaking what was already there, and making the most of the best of practice and fine-tuning to make it even better.

Ian played a key role on the Senior Leadership Team particularly in the ETI inspection, Shared Education inspection, presentations to external agencies with meticulous preparation, secure delivery, and positive impact.

He certainly enjoyed his memorable time in Paris with Dr Ranchoux, Mrs Allen and a troupe of enthusiastic CHS Francophiles! The outing may not have got off exactly on the right foot as Mr Matthews and one pupil had an unexpected delay in Dublin airport and Mr Matthews then had to put his superior knowledge of Paris to the test and navigate the Parisian transport system before meeting up with the whole group again, just in time for tea! His patient, kind and considerate manner was valued by the pupils and colleagues during the outing but his supreme Disney prowess was second to none!

Ian will be remembered for his dry sense of humour, thoughtful and measured approach and conversation, and wide array of interests.

We wish Ian every blessing as Principal of Rathfriland High School.





## Mr Colin Hogg Head of Biology

Mr Colin Hogg began his teaching career in Portora Royal School, Enniskillen, before joining the staff of Cookstown High School in September 1988. He wasn't sure what kind of establishment he was arriving to when he read 'Coolnafranky Estate' – not realising it was actually an estate due to the extensive grounds and beautiful old house.

During his 32 years of teaching Biology at CHS, he was not only inspirational to many students, but also undertook various roles and responsibilities within the school: Head of Year, Head of Biology and Head of Science, in addition to, Teacher in charge of Personal Development and Sixth Form Enrichment. Colin was also involved in many extracurricular activities and supported and encouraged many young people throughout his time at Cookstown High School.

Colin has a great love of football, especially of Manchester United, and one of his proudest achievements was to win a record 14 Coleraine and District Football league titles, not only a record for the school but an even greater tally than, his great hero, Sir Alex Ferguson. Many young footballers also enjoyed the Football and Rugby trips organised by Colin and Mr Richard Kerr. Colin is a keen Bowler and as a founder member of Cookstown High School Bowling club he helped guide them to 3 Irish Club Championships as well as representing Ireland at both Indoor and Outdoor bowls. Colin was an integral member of the back stage crew for many of the school plays and musicals staged at the school and at the Burnavon Theatre.

Each academic year Colin, along with other Biology colleagues, accompanied Year 13 Biology students on their Field Trip where all types of weather, on rocky shores and in woodland studies, were experienced. Colin's nighttime supervision of the Biology students was always undertaken with great enthusiasm.

Despite Colin having retired from teaching, his interest in Biology has not diminished as he, at present, is Chief Examiner for GCSE Biology at CCEA.

We all wish Colin a long, happy and healthy retirement and wish him, Mary and Stephen well for the future.



## Mrs Barbara Anderson Maths



In August 2020 Mrs Anderson told me that she had made a decision to retire in a few months' time. I knew it was going to be such a big change for the Maths department and for all her classes but I knew she had made the right decision for her and her family. I suppose I was hoping that we would never have to try and replace her.

Mrs Anderson started teaching in Cookstown High School back in March 1985 having previously taught in Larne High School. She completed her university training at Stranmillis College in Belfast, then after a few

months in Larne she came to Cookstown High where she has stayed ever since. During her time with us she got married, had a daughter and a son, both of whom studied medicine at Queen's. Mrs Anderson has given an incredible 35 and a half years of her life to this school. She has taught thousands of pupils over the years and is now teaching their children too. She did say that teaching the grandchildren of some of her former pupils had made her realise it was time to put the calculator and red pen in the drawer and move on to do something new.

She has been a faithful and dedicated teacher and a truly great friend. Lots of you will know how much effort she went to, in order to get you extra help when you were finding something difficult. She would hand-write you out questions in extra workbooks just to go over any topics you couldn't quite master. She just wanted everyone to do their very best and she didn't give up on you. She has a genuine and honest nature, always putting others before herself.

She taught mainly Maths and Further Maths during her time here but also taught RE and Physics too. Many of you had her as a form teacher and

she always took the time to get to know you and help you with your form assemblies. She also helped to run Scripture Union and I know that we all have been influenced for the better by her knowledge of the Bible and her faithful testimony. She always gave 'wise counsel' or advice at just the right time to both staff and pupils.

The last few months that Mrs Anderson was with us at Cookstown High School were difficult and I know she really missed teaching in her own classroom. It wasn't possible to have a celebratory farewell either because of the restrictions but hopefully that is still a possibility in the near future.

I just want to finish by saying a heartfelt thank you to Mrs Anderson for all her years of service to the pupils of this school. Many of you have a GCSE in Maths thanks to her additional help and support. I hope that as things open up in the next few months that she will be able to get out and about to enjoy her retirement and spend a lot more time with her own grandchildren.

Mrs Anderson has given an incredible 35 and a half years of her life to this school. She has taught thousands of pupils over the years and is now teaching their children too.

## Mrs Mary Hogg ICT

Mary Joined the ICT department in September 2002, she took on the role of Examination Officer in 2006 and later roles as Data Manager and NASUWT teacher representative.

Her passion was always for others which is evident through her dedicated work and commitment to our School Aid Romania project which through her leadership and direction provided opportunities for an extensive number of our young people to visit and provide support to both children and the elderly in Romania. Through the pupils involved, our school community and through Mary's own efforts well over £100,000 has been raised for this very worthwhile cause.

During her time in the school Mary helped organise several school wide events including a highly successful Strictly Come Dancing competition for our staff community as a charity fundraiser. This event is a fond and marked memory for many current and past staff.

The high expectations Mrs Hogg set both of herself and her pupils was a significant and contributing factor to the levels of success pupils achieved in her classroom. Her efforts contributed to the growth of the ICT department, the introduction of BTEC courses and the high levels of success we now achieve.

Examination entries were built on her meticulous attention to detail including organisation of entries, assessments and examination scheduling. She provided a streamlined and structured system that provided access to a wide range of courses from multiple examination boards. The support she provided was highly appreciated by both staff and pupils.

The ICT Department, the School Community and all who have had the opportunity to join in Cookstown High School Aid Romania projects and trips, wish Mary and Colin a long and happy retirement.



# NEW FACES

## Mr Martin Lynch ICT

I grew up in a small village called Park at the bottom of the Sperrins. I studied ICT, Geography and PE at A-Level. In addition to my studies at school, I participated in sports teams including football, rugby and golf. While at school, I gained a very enjoyable and challenging work placement on the Sentinus Project at Magee where I was involved in a team creating a program to help monitor brain activity. This reinforced my decision and determination to study Computing and Information Technology at Queens University, Belfast.

I completed the Duke of Edinburgh Award where I volunteered to organise youth events including creative workshops, summer schemes and fundraising within my local community. Through assisting at these events, I developed a passion for working with young people and seeing them develop and progress in life. This led me to pursue a career in post primary teaching.

After graduating I returned to Queens University to complete a PGCE in ICT. During my PGCE I completed placements in Thornhill College and St. Mary's College. Both these placements provided me with the necessary knowledge and skills to become a competent teacher.

I have enjoyed teaching ICT at Cookstown High School which has led me to develop both personally and professionally through experiences here and I look forward to another year playing my part in the Cookstown High School community. Hopefully post COVID, I hope to have an after-school's ICT club where we can enjoy different aspects of ICT including gaming.



## Mr Brian Lowe Maths

After completing my A Levels and then a gap year in Australia, I went to study at Stranmillis University College in Belfast. My four-year degree consisted of modules in Education, Mathematics and Science. Since then, I have taught Mathematics in several different schools.

I attended many Youth Groups when I was growing up. As soon as I was allowed, I quickly became a Junior leader and then a Senior leader for most of the groups attended. I've always enjoyed working with young

people and seeing people reach their full potential - whether Mathematically or otherwise! This felt like it naturally led onto teaching Mathematics which is a subject I have always been passionate about.

When I'm not with my wife and three young children, I enjoy playing badminton, going for long walks or reading books. I love spending time with my family and prioritise this as much as possible!



## Mr Neal Hastings Biology

I grew up just down the dual carriage way, in the bright lights of Magherafelt, really not too far from Cookstown High School. I attended Rainey Endowed School and studied Biology, Chemistry and PE for A-level. While I took my studies seriously, I was also very involved in sport. I was particularly involved in rugby, but also competed in squash, tennis, swimming, athletics and golf. Getting away from competition I enjoyed "choir", skiing, snowboarding, and hill walking.

After completing upper sixth I stayed quite local, moving up to Belfast to study Biological Sciences at Queen's University. My course gave me an opportunity to study plenty of Biology theory, but more excitingly, I got to dissect plenty of animals such as squids, rats and grasshoppers and carry out many investigations.

After graduating with my degree I went on to complete a PGCE in Science (Biology), again at Queen's. During this year I undertook placements at Cambridge House Grammar School and Magherafelt High School.

Outside of school I spend most of my time playing plenty of sports, taking my 3 pugs for walks, and looking after my 16 backyard chickens.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year at Cookstown High School. There is such a welcoming community spirit which can be felt through the corridors. I am looking forward to getting stuck into another year here at the High School, but first a well needed relaxing summer!



## Mr Shane Donnelly Technology



Growing up in a rallying family I always had a keen interest in wanting to understand how machines worked and what was involved in designing and building them. My desire to understand how things functioned had me dismantling old games consoles and stripping and rebuilding my bikes to name a few. It should then come as no surprise the fact that Technology and Design was my favourite subject in school. As a result, when it came to deciding on my university course I chose to move to Wales where I studied Motorsport Engineering at Swansea Metropolitan University.

Since completing my course, I have worked as an Engineer and Technician for Motorsport teams competing in the BTCC, the British GT and the Irish Rally Championship. I have worked on projects that have designed and built bespoke racing car as well as working with high end car manufactures. I have also taken on roles in electrical and manufacturing engineering.

As time progressed, I discovered that the part that I enjoyed the most was working with people and teaching the new staff and apprentices. It was this realisation that led me to go back to university and complete my PGCE in Design and Technology at the University of Ulster Coleraine.

My first experience teaching in Cookstown High School was during my placement and I was very impressed by the school and felt welcomed by the pupils and staff. I was delighted when I got the opportunity to come back to the school to teach and have thoroughly enjoyed my time here, getting to know the pupils and working with the staff.

Outside of school I fill my time with a mixture of running, hiking, surfing and skiing. I am part of a running club, I also volunteer with the mountain rescue and if the weather is right, I can also be found helping set up and retrieve some of the local hot air balloons.

## Mrs Catherine Rushe English

Hello everyone.

I am from Belfast but have lived in the local Cookstown area for the past four years.

I completed my BA Joint Honours Degree in English Literature and Media and Communication at Newcastle Upon Tyne University. After University I ventured off to warmer climates in Thailand to study and attain my TEFL qualification, further becoming a Teacher of English as a foreign language in a local High School in the town of Chaiyaphum. However, I couldn't resist the call from home; there is only so much sun, sea and sand a person can take....right? I returned to Belfast to complete my PGCE in English with Drama at Queen's University.

I have always enjoyed being a part of a school environment, fully immersing myself in my own school experience by involving myself in as much as possible, from choirs, orchestras, drama productions, athletics society, music and year 8 prefect; to name a few. It is no surprise then that teaching was a strong passion of mine from a relatively early age, starting with teaching a range of musical instruments from the age of fourteen, with my main instrument being the violin. This experience strengthened my love of teaching and cemented it as my choice of career.

Outside of school I like to keep as active as possible, enjoying dancing, running, yoga and family walks with our very energetic dog. I am known to relax, on occasion, and can be found reading a good book, socialising in a coffee shop or restaurant, or singing as part of Sperrin Choir.

I began my journey at Cookstown High School for one term during the academic year 2019/20, further returning this year, in its entirety, to teach English and Health and Social Care. My eyes have been opened to a school that is warm, welcoming, and pleasurable to work in. The holistic environment within Cookstown High School, offers more than being part of a school; it is a community for both staff and pupils and one I am proud to be a part of. Thankfully, the feeling is mutual, and I am delighted to become a permanent member in the English department of Cookstown High School.

I look forward to strengthening my contribution at Cookstown High School, for the overall benefit of our pupils and the local community for many years to come.



# Exams A level

Pupils once again achieved excellent A level results with 50% achieving A\* and A grades. The number of pupils attaining top grades increased again this year while the overall A Level pass rate was 100%.

The success across subject areas with over 50% of grades in Geography, Home Economics, IT, Mathematics, Chemistry, French, Health & Social care, Sport, Engineering and Physics being an A\* or A grade. In the vast majority of other subjects every grade was a C or better.

Ten pupils achieved a sweep of A\* and A grades include:

Alex Cooke	AAA*
Sophie Crawford	AADist*
Eloise Dallas	AAA*
Joshua Griggs	3 Distinction*
Leah Hamilton	A,Dist*Dist*
Hannah Haycock	AADist*
Holly McReynolds	A Dist*Dist*
Lauren Mitchell	AA*A
Paul Reid	A*A*A
Andrew Shaw	AA*Dist*







This year saw a difficult time for the Cookstown High School community, pupils and staff alike, due to the passing of Joshua Griggs who had just left in 2020 to study sport at Ulster University.

The entire school community was deeply shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden and untimely death of our past pupil. Joshua was a student who was liked and respected by everyone, peers and staff alike. He was popular, friendly, modest and nothing was ever

too much for him. He involved himself, and excelled, in all sports and house activities with enthusiasm and motivation. His passion for sport was amazing, and he never left a room without a smile, a thanks, or a bye. He was a likeable young man with the loveliest smile.

Joshua will be greatly missed by his many friends at the school and our thoughts and prayers continue to be with the Griggs family.



# A level

CHS 2020-21





AS level

# Exams GCSE

GCSE pupils again achieved a wonderful set of examination results despite all of the challenges of the last academic year.

Overall the percentage of pupils achieving grades A\* - C in five or more GCSE exams including English and Maths has gone up by 5%.

The success of our GCSE pupils is a testament to their hard work and also the commitment of staff and the support of parents.







# GCSE results day



CHS 2020-21





CHS 2020-21

# Art



This school year has been a challenging experience for the Art department as key stage three pupils were restricted from using many different types of Art media in school; however, despite this many pupils produced creative and technically skilful Art. The most difficult time was when we had to go into Lockdown and teaching Art through a computer screen certainly challenged all the Art teachers in the department. We wanted to continue teaching the curriculum as best we could but still maintain contact with the pupils, so we concentrated on creating demonstration videos for the pupils to help them with their remote learning work. The result and response from the pupils was super, and lots of amazing and creative work was completed. Year 8 focused on watercolour painting, year 9 on product design, and year 10 on figurative sculpture. We also did some extra-curricular Artwork. The year 8 Easter egg craft competition required pupils to use their imagination to create decorative Easter eggs. As Year 9 could not work with clay they made papier mache Toby jugs and year 10 made three-dimensional figurative sculptures.

Along with this Mrs Fields established the 'Photography Club' which grabbed the attention of over 80 pupils. It encouraged pupils to go outside and explore life by looking through the lens of a camera. Not everyone enjoys drawing, so it was a fantastic opportunity for all pupils to get involved and create some digital Art. Pupils learnt new techniques, such as how to edit software and how to compose a perfect photograph.

Mrs McCausland organised the CHS Art Lock-down Competition for key stage three pupils. The theme was nature and there was a great response from many pupils. The winning entries not only received prizes, but their work was framed and is now on permanent display in the new pupil seating area in the upper building.

Art is all about thinking outside of the box, problem solving and independent learning. This school year has certainly helped our pupils to develop these skills within Art and Design. We focused mainly on the fundamentals of drawing and Art history and we are looking forward to having the pupils back in the Art rooms in the next school academic year to explore different artistic disciplines and media.

*Mrs McCabe – Curriculum Leader for Art and Design*





NICOLE HAMCHEVICI YEAR 12 GCSE ART



ELLA THOM YEAR 12 GCSE ART

2020-21 CHS

THEO THOMPSON 10C1



EMMA HARKNESS YEAR 11 GCSE ART



BENJAMIN PATTERSON 8P4



JAC MCKNIGHT 10CB



AOWYN GIRDWOOD

ETHAN REDFORD



LEAH ALLEN



RAFAEL VINKESTEIJN



LEAH GLENDINNING



JACK SUITOR





KATIE FERGUSON

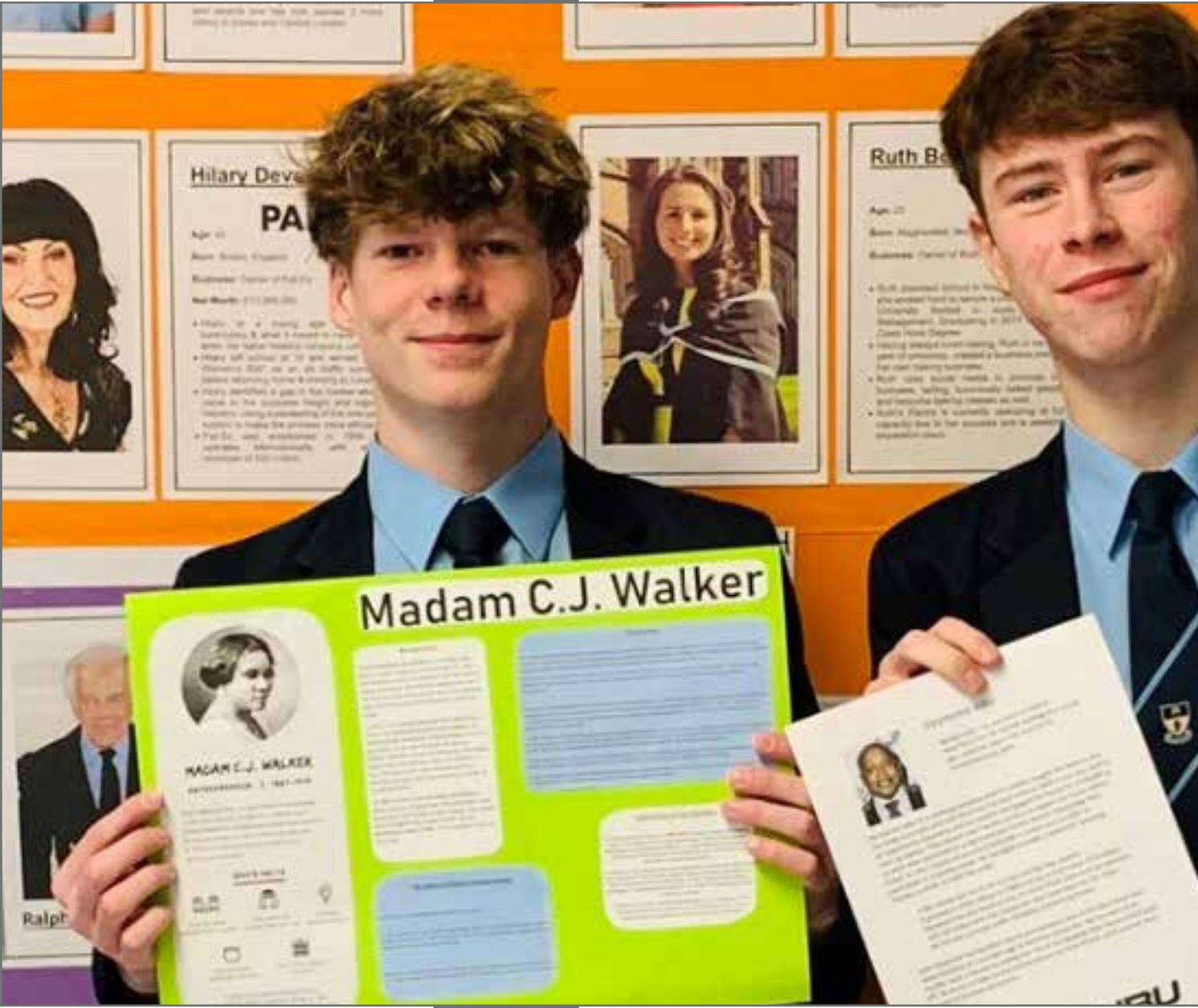


ZOE WEIR 8P6



KELLY HARKNESS 8P1





# A level Business Studies

This year, to mark and celebrate Black History Month, Year 13 Business Studies students were tasked to research and explore a variety of successful business people and entrepreneurs. Students were asked to create an information profile on an entrepreneur, their story and road to success. Specifically, they were asked to look beyond the typical suspects of Bill Gates, Elon Musk and Jeff Bezos in order to discover and add to their bank of knowledge, a more diverse and inclusive array of entrepreneurs from a variety of backgrounds.



# Business Studies

This task was met with enthusiasm and purpose which resulted in excellent profiles being produced. Examples of those researched included Andre Young, Shaquille O'Neal, Oprah Winfrey, Beyoncé, Kanye West and Madame C.J. Walker. Each of these entrepreneurs faced hardship, however they also had the determination to become successful. With passion, perseverance and hard work, they achieved this - an important lesson we could all learn from.

# Black History Month

## Beauty Bakerie

### Journey to Success



Cashmere had a number of setbacks when starting her business. But then she remembered the commitment she had made to herself to stick with Beauty Bakerie for five years before giving up. With six months left to reaching that milestone, she decided to try again. In fall 2015, she ran a video ad on Instagram advertising the smudge-free benefits of her lipsticks. Soon after, Beauty Bakerie began to grow "out of control," she said

### Before Beauty Bakerie

Before Cashmere Nicole founded Beauty Bakerie, she was a single parent, struggling to make ends meet. She grew up in Indiana and put herself through college and became a nurse to support her daughter. In 2012 she was diagnosed with cancer. After her surgery she dedicated her time to her 5-year plan to get started

### Advice to Aspiring Entrepreneurs

- 1- Set a goal, give it a deadline and a date so you don't waste your time
- 2- Do not quit during that time under any circumstance
- 3- Don't compare yourself to others
- 4- Don't discredit yourself

### Achievements

Beauty Bakerie now has an estimated \$15 million brand. Beauty Bakerie raises awareness on cancer and during October she gives customers 15% off and gives 15% of her proceeds to Cancer research

CHS 2020-21

# Madam C.J. Walker



**MADAM C.J. WALKER**  
ENTREPRENEUR | 1867-1919

After suffering from a scalp ailment that resulted in her own hair loss, Madam C.J. Walker, born Sarah Breedlove, created specialized hair products for African American hair in 1905 and was one of the first American women to become a self-made millionaire.

#### QUICK FACTS

- Parents were recently freed slaves
- Scalp disorder caused her hair loss
- Opened beauty school
- Created own pomade formula
- Built Vido Lewis mansion

"I want the great masses of my people to take a greater pride in their personal appearance and to give their hair proper attention."

#### Background:

Sarah Breedlove aka Madam C. J. Walker was born in Delta, Louisiana on December 23, 1867. Her mother's name was Minerva and her father's name was Owen. She had five siblings and was the first member of her family born into freedom after the Emancipation Proclamation freed the slaves.

In 1872, her mother died and from what those around her believed to have been cholera. Her father quickly remarried. Unfortunately, he died a year later. At the age of seven, she was an orphan. She then moved to Vickitburg, Mississippi where she lived with her sister and brother-in-law. This was a time when she worked as a domestic servant. She only had three months of formal education.

In 1882, Walker married Moses McWilliams when she was 14 years old. This was done to get away from her brother-in-law's abuse. The couple had a daughter they called A'elia. Moses McWilliams died in 1887. Their daughter was two years old.

#### Her Business

"She wanted the great masses of her people to take a greater pride in their personal appearance and to give their hair proper attention. There would be no hair growing business today had she not started it, you might say that she was the first and second woman to awaken to the sense of their duty in helping themselves (and for the benefit of the race).

"I am a woman who came from the cotton fields of the South, from there I was prompted to the suburbs, from there I was prompted to the back kitchen. And from there I prompted myself into the business of manufacturing hair goods and preparations."

Sarah was not satisfied in being a widow, but wanted to create jobs for other African Americans. She promoted her products by traveling around the country giving lectures-demonstrations and eventually established Madam C.J. Walker Laboratories to manufacture pomades and hair care preparations, her business advanced her to the rank of the first African American woman to become a self-made millionaire.

In 1888, Walker and Charles Johnson, and they traveled throughout Latin America and the Caribbean promoting her business and recruiting others to teach her hair care methods. While her mother resided, A'elia helped to obtain the purchase of property in Harlem, New York, recognizing that the area would be an important base for future business operations.

In 1905, upon returning from her travels, Walker moved to her new business in Harlem, from there, she would continue to operate her business, while leaving the day-to-day operations of her factory in Indianapolis to her daughter.

In 1925, the Madam C. J. Walker Manufacturing Company closed operations. A line of pomades and hair care products bearing the name Madam C.J. Walker Beauty Culture is available in Sephora stores.

#### Exploration of her business

As profits continued to grow, in 1908 Walker opened a factory and a beauty school in Pittsburgh, and by 1915, when Walker transferred her business operations to Indianapolis, the Madam C.J. Walker Manufacturing Company had become wildly successful, with profits that were the modern-day equivalent of several million dollars.

In Indianapolis, the company not only manufactured cosmetics but also trained sales beauticians. These "Walker Agents" became well known throughout the Black communities of the United States. In turn, they promoted Walker's philosophy of "business-as-usual" as a means of advancing the status of African Americans.

A tireless investor, Walker organized clubs and conventions for her representatives, which emphasized not only successful sales, but also philanthropic and educational efforts among African Americans.

#### Her Advice to Future Entrepreneurs

Perseverance is my motto and it should be yours too!

Do not scorn of your humble beginnings, there is no royal flower strewn path to success. And if there is, I have not found it for I have accomplished anything in life if it has led to I have been able to walk with.

I got my start by giving myself a start, I had to make my own living and my own opportunity. But I made it! Don't let down what you have the opportunity to have. Get up and make them.



During lockdown, Year 11 Business Studies students were tasked with researching a product of their choice and presenting it, taking into account the 4P's of the Marketing Mix. As you can see, great effort and thought went into these. We obviously have a number of budding entrepreneurs in this year group who can look beyond the aesthetic/physical arrangement of a product and see the goods on behind a successful product.

# GCSE Business Studies

### Product

**Ingredients:** Beans (51%), Tomatoes (34%), Water, Sugar, Spirit Vinegar, Modified Corn Flour, Salt, Spice Extracts, Herb Extract.

Heinz Baked Beans are a brand of baked beans produced by the H. J. and sold in the United Kingdom and other countries. They have been sold as Heinz Beanz since 2008. The beans are produced by sealing raw beans and sauce in cans, which are then placed in large pressure cookers, thickening the sauce and ensuring a long shelf life. The distinctive turquoise tin with the 57 varieties logo has remained largely unchanged since it was introduced.

### Price

Heinz Beanz (single can) £1.00

Heinz Beanz (3 Can Pack) £1.50

Heinz Beanz (4 Can Pack) £2.50

Heinz Beanz (6 Can Pack) £3.50

### Place

Heinz manufactures thousands of food products in plants on six continents, and markets these products in more than 200 countries and territories. The company claims to have 150 number-one or number-two brands worldwide.

Can be bought in any supermarket. E.g., Tesco, Asda, Sainsbury's, Home Bargains, Vending machines and online.

### Promotion

Can be promoted on:

- TV
- Newspapers/Magazines
- Coupons
- Radio
- Posters

For flavour that's full of beanz

# English

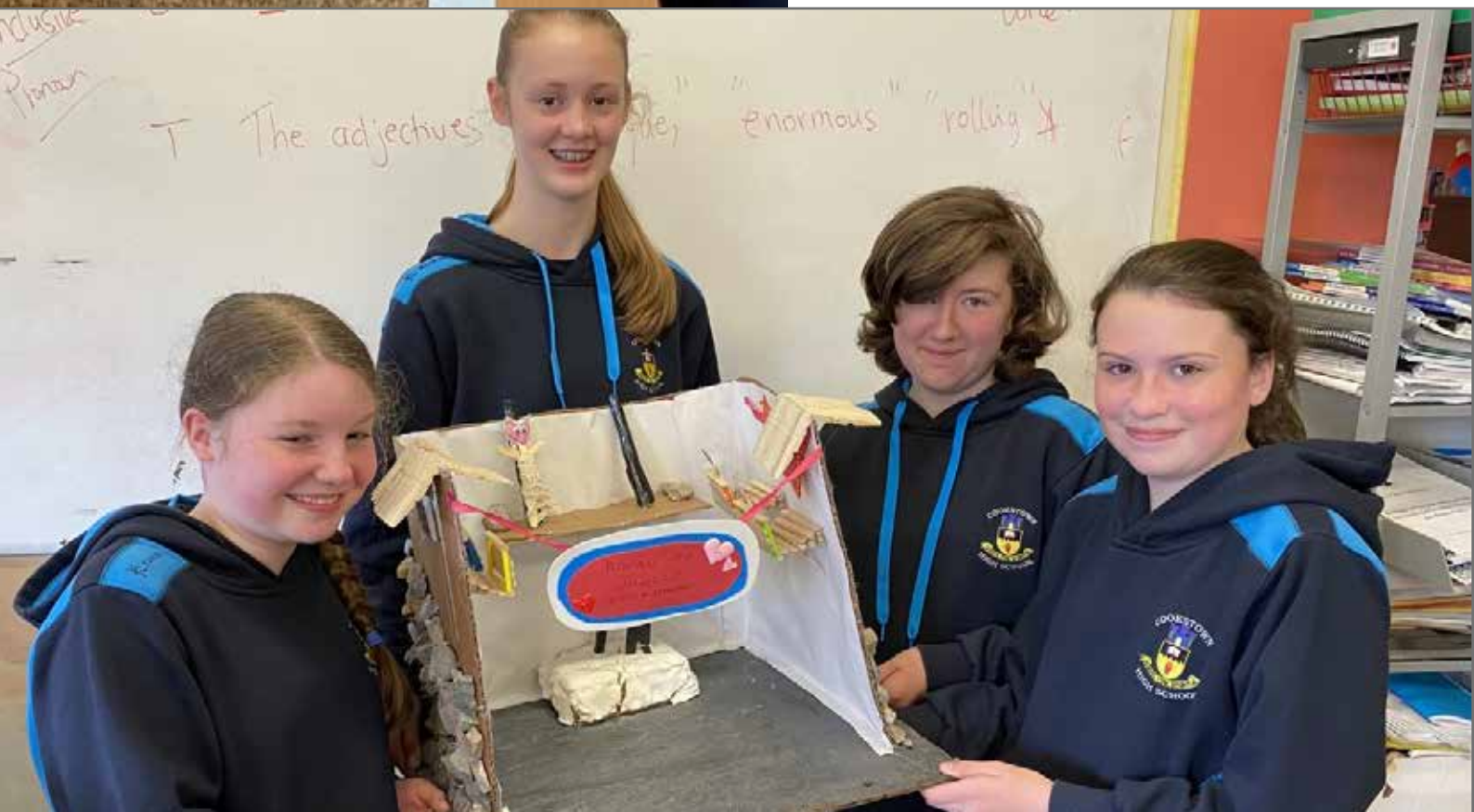


## 9CA Globe Theatres

This year was a difficult year for all, as very little creative work was able to be carried out. Traditionally, when year 9 studied the Shakespeare Unit in English, pupils were given the opportunity to build their own Globe Theatres. There was an opportunity for pupils to be able to do this in 9CA and I managed to keep the same 'bubble' whilst allowing them the chance to be creative.

The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the activity and there was great competition as to who would be 'the best.' Below you will find some pictures of the class at work. One picture shows boys busy at work building their Globe Theatre, whilst the other of the girls shows the 'finished product.' The class all received a small prize for their efforts.

G McDonnell



## Book Review Theo Thompson

James Bond 007: Forever and a Day

Every adventure has a beginning. This one starts with the death of 007. I know what you are thinking...must be a short book if he dies in the first chapter? But it is the original 007 not the Bond, James Bond that we all know.

The adventure story begins...

The original 007 has been found dead in the South of France and James Bond has been sent to find out the mystery behind the mystery, but can he stop the evil behind the death of his friend before it's too late?

Set in the 1950's, James Bond earns his licence to kill and a promotion to the double-0 section of MI6 after completing his first two assassinations.

Not long after the original 007 is killed, Bond now takes up this 007 rank and is sent to the South of France. The intrigue of the investigation is into the sudden drop in heroin production at a local and industrial level. Now you would think this is a good thing but because of the vast drop in heroin production in such a short time, there has been a huge outbreak in violence and murder as dealer's and user's supplies are exhausted. Bond has not only been sent out to find who killed the original 007 but also to find out about the heroin situation, who is behind it, and why?

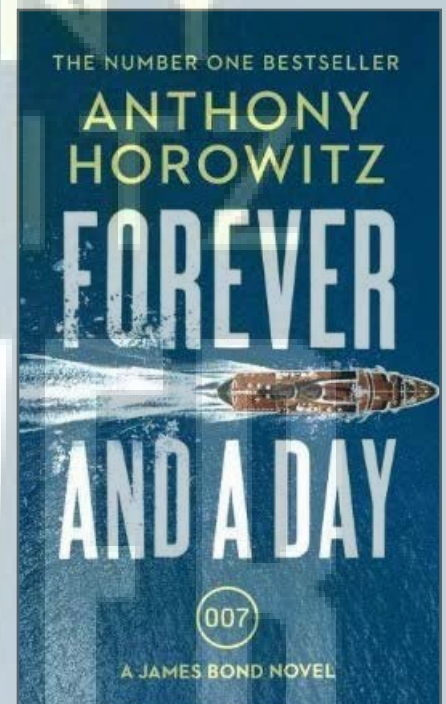
On arrival in the South of France he goes to the hotel where the original 007 had been staying and breaks into his room. After searching round, and finding nothing, he is attacked by a mysterious figure. He later finds out that this figure is a CIA agent called Reade Griffith who was sent by the CIA to investigate the drug downfall too. They then team up to find out the true mystery behind the mystery.

His first lead sent him to the Monte Carlo casino where he was to try and find a woman called Joanne Brochet AKA Madame Sixtine. Madame Sixtine, a spy who trades international secrets and works for whoever can pay her the most money! It is believed that she is somehow involved in the death of the

original 007. She was photographed with Jean-Paul Scipio, one of the most powerful leaders in the Corsican underworld, and a huge supplier in the drugs industry. His plump nature is due to the fact that when he was ten his throat was sliced open. Surprisingly, he survived but his lymphatic vessels were ruptured which was directly responsible for his weight gain. Upon entering Monte Carlo, he finds Madame Sixtine playing a card game called 'vingt-et-un', a French version of Blackjack. After winning 100,000 francs from Madame Sixtine, Bond invites her for a drink to find out more about her, but unfortunately gets no information at all!

Next Bond and Griffith infiltrate the Ferrix Chimiques head office, they are a company that sells chemicals of all sorts. It was believed that this chemical company is somehow involved with the organized underworld crime and drug usage situation. Unfortunately, Bond is captured again when he is looking around for evidence to lead him to information connected to these criminal gangs and the death of the original 007. Only seen in a photo, now finally meeting in real life, Scipio tells Bond very descriptively about how he is going to torture him, but after Scipio left the room Bond only gets boiling water thrown over him, but due to Scipio's description of the pain and suffering it made Bond think that he actually had acid on his skin. In fact, it was just boiling water. (The power of descriptive language! But I'm sure it was still painful!)

Later on in the book, Bond ends up 'bonding' an alliance with Sixtine when he has gotten to know her, to beat Scipio. It was believed that the CEO of Wolfe Enterprises (Irwin Wolfe) was also working with Scipio. This is proven to be true when Bond and Sixtine enter the Wolfe Enterprises factory disguised as delivery drivers bringing supplies to the workers kitchen, only to find that heroin is being mass produced in the factory. This then leads to a high adrenaline and intense car chase through the South of France. They know that Wolfe Enterprises is in cahoots with Scipio, but Bond believes that there was something else, because Irwin Wolfe's massive yacht was making



its maiden voyage that week to go to America and he just had a feeling they were somehow connected. The chase ends when Bond and Sixtine drive off the end of a cliff and into the ocean. They swim to shore only to be captured by Scipio's men, AGAIN!

Bond and Sixtine are imprisoned in a cabin aboard Irwin Wolfe's giant yacht. Bond is beaten up and tortured after the ship sets sail. Irwin Wolfe explains that his plan, believing Bond won't make it, is to smuggle tonnes of heroin aboard the ship to America and then sell it all to lowlifes. This would not only make quite a profit for Scipio but also to turn America into a heroin addicted country and when the heroin runs out, violence and murder would spread across America like it did in France. All of that because Irwin Wolfe wants to avenge his sons. A long-time hunger within him for revenge on America after his two sons died in WWII when America joined the war effort. Not long after, Bond and Sixtine find a way to break out by blowing a hole in the ship using fireworks that are on board. Whilst they are doing this, they find out that the heroin is being carried inside the many fire extinguishers onboard so that everything

would look normal without raising any suspicion if searched. Scipio dies when the ship sinks because he gets stuck onboard in trying a narrow escape route but due to his overweight figure he is taken down to watery grave!

Irwin Wolfe escaped and got away to a house in Spain where he has lawyered up and seems like his ties with Scipio and the heroin deal have completely vanished - still a loose end needing sorted for Bond! Bond only finds this out on his return back home. He takes a visit to Irwin's home only to find him laying dead in his bedroom with a gun in his hand. Bond had known Irwin had an illness that would eventually kill him, so he thought Irwin just wanted to get it over with before getting worse! He turns round to see CIA agent Reade Griffith who had actually killed Irwin Wolfe but left it to make it look like suicide. The two exchange a few words and Bond discovers that Griffith was a double agent not only working

for the CIA, but also for Scipio! Bond realises that it was Scipio who had killed the original 007. Upon realising Griffith had been in on everything, even his friend's death...

Bond shot him dead on the spot.

No remorse!

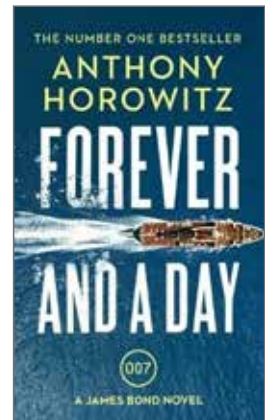
Avenged for his dead friend!

He watched as Griffith fell to the floor and before the blood started making a mess, he lay him beside Irwin Wolfe. Placing a gun in both their hands making it look like Griffith killed Irwin but got shot by Irwin at the very same moment Griffith pulled the trigger. Bond then left.

James Bond 007...

I love this novel because there were many plots, that were all different, twisting and turning and by the end...all connecting back into the main storyline. My favourite character in the story was James Bond because of his daring, bold and courageous escapes, and smart way

that he did his job and worked out all the different villain's plans, just another everyday job for 007, the life of a spy. My favourite moment in the story was the car chase because it was very high action and intense and also because of the words used to conjure up fantastic scenes in my mind as if I were there too. I think overall this is a fantastic book and I would recommend this book for older teenagers or adults that love action novels with a brilliantly twisted adventure story to tell.



## 10HA were asked to write a speech about their hero. This is a speech written by: Matthew Mitchell, 10HA.

When I sat down to consider who my hero was, my first thought was, what is a hero? The first definition I found of a hero is a person noted for courageous acts or nobility of character, I wasn't really sure I knew any of those personally so I looked again. The second definition I found said a hero was a person who in the opinion of others, has special achievements, abilities, or personal qualities and is regarded as a role model or ideal. When I read this definition I thought of all the nurses, doctors, teachers, etc who had helped us through the pandemic. Whilst my mum and aunt are teachers and super heroes in their classrooms they didn't fit my criteria. (sorry mum and Auntie Valerie.) I then started my shortlist of who my hero might be, in the end I couldn't decide between my top two so you're getting a two for one deal.

My heroes are my big brothers Stefan and Joshua. Firstly, I should explain my brothers are a lot older than me Joshua

is 23 and Stefan is 25. They both look quite alike, tall, slim, brown hair, blue eyes, fit, charming and stunningly handsome. (they made me write the last bit. Maybe I should include modest.) That is where the similarity ends and why they both contribute very different qualities as my heroes.

Stefan is the oldest of the two of them and the task master. He went to school hated it and couldn't wait for it to be over, his world is all about drive, ambition and success. He owns his own business works 16 hour days, 7 days a week and is always looking for the next big opportunity. He has boundless energy and his phone is always glued to his hand. Stefan doesn't believe in failure, it's all about learning from the experience. He has a low tolerance for people without common sense and people who waste his time i.e. wheel kickers. Would you want him as your boss? The jury is out on that one. So why is he my hero, you ask?

First, to watch him in action would take your breath away, literally, he never stops, it's exhausting to watch. He demonstrates great management and organisation skills on a daily basis. He's impatient so that means that you never have to wait till your old enough, big enough. Stefan bought me my first car when I was 10 years old, my feet

barely reached the pedals, personalised registration and all. He taught me to drive round the fields and up and down the lane. There was method in his time spent cause now he knows that I have the skills needed to drive a digger, a dumper anything else he might need me to drive. Stefan takes me with him to price and look at jobs, showing me what to consider and how it's done. I go to work with him setting screeds, taking levels, driving plant, pouring concrete, putting up fences all giving me more tools for my skills toolbox. He has taught me that the secret to success is to be ready for the opportunity when it comes. To summarise Stefan as my role model he has taught me to take every opportunity, keep learning, be ambitious and work hard.

My mum says that Chinese philosophy teaches us that Yin and Yang are needed to create balance. The contrary forces are complementary, interconnected and interdependent. She says Stefan and Joshua are Yin and Yang and I am both.

Joshua, laidback, easy going, social, known as "Wisdom". He went to school because, "the craic was good, and ma says I need the pieces of paper." Left school, went to FE College did NVQ 3 in Heavy Vehicle Maintenance (Apprentice of the Year) and

## Jodie Bayne 10Ha My Hero

A hero is a person who is admired or idealized for courage, outstanding achievements, or noble qualities. Most if not everyone has their own hero. My hero is caring, considerate, unique and has helped me become the person I am today. Imagine every time you are upset or hurt; they are the first to notice. Or if you need to talk about something, which is bothering you, I know they are always there! Let me tell you about the time I was worried about moving school, my hero helped me, and I was no longer scared. Or when I need help with work, they are always there. Does your hero help you in this way?

Can you think of who my hero is...? Well let me give you some more clues. They have been with me since day one and are always there when I need them. Yes, my hero is my Mum. I know she isn't a sports player; she

isn't an actress or a celebrity, but she is the most heroic person in my life! As she is my hero, my idol, my model figure and my everything really! She cares for me and my brothers everyday along with her job with no complaining as she is always as busy as a bee. She is short, and has short brown hair, with amazing hazel eyes and has a smile as bright as the sun. I could write a list of words to describe her but ill only say a few. My mum is incredible, gleeful, marvelous and all round the BEST!!

My mum goes the extra mile to make sure I am happy and satisfied. I enjoy when we go out shopping or even just for a drive. Her and my dad take us on a holiday nearly every year with my cousins and we always have the best time thanks to her. She pays for any school trips I have and does what's best for me. Although we are not alike in some ways for example, she is good at math's and I am not and we both have different music tastes but, we get along very well and enjoy each other's company. She has been with me since day one, so she knows me better than anyone and has dealt with all my disasters and has watched me grow through my mistakes.

I am not a very outgoing person and hate big crowds as I normally keep my opinions to myself, but my mum has helped me by pushing me to be more sociable and gets me out of my comfort zone. How does your hero help you? I think she would inspire many

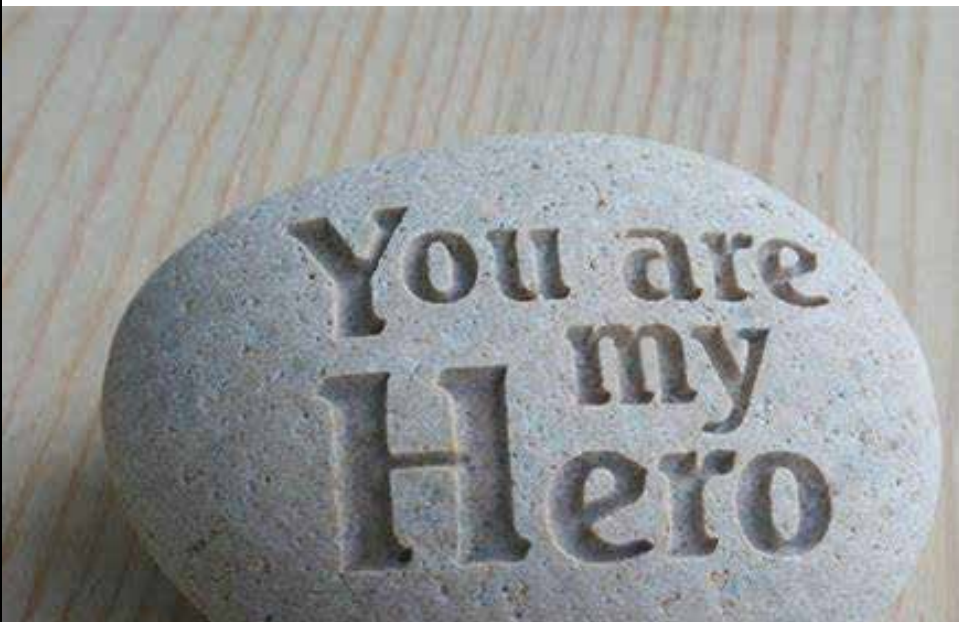
others as well. Wouldn't you agree? It is when I am ill or upset that I really see how much my mum cares for me as she worries and is there as quick as a wink. My mum supports me in all I do and as this year I have had to pick my subjects for GCSE, she helped me decide and agreed with all I suggested, which I always like, having a second opinion before making big decisions. She enjoys hearing about all my achievements and never puts pressure on me and tells me to just do my best. Since we are the only two girls in the house it means we can do activities together and I get to join her when she goes away for the day with her friends. We very rarely argue but when we do, we always make up as I couldn't go a single day without her. My mum is my rock! Is your hero yours?

I hope that I have been able to show you all the incredible qualities of my hero, my mum. I am so lucky to have her in my life and don't know what I would do without her. A hero doesn't have to be heroic to everyone and certainly doesn't have to be globally known. Like me, it can simply be someone you see every day or even just a friend who is always there. Could you even be a hero to someone day?

Welding, decided he didn't like them much ( too cold and dirty) so did his lorry test and drives lorries. Joshua brings a whole different set of skills to the table. He loves to play music and socialize with friends, play Xbox, watch movies, loves debating about faith and conspiracy theories. Joshua has time to play Xbox with me, talk to me about how things are going, offers me advice – "The what not to do guide to life." He's all about following your dreams, using the talents and brains that you have, but take your time "Life is a marathon not a sprint." Joshua taught me to ride a bike, change a tyre, weld metal and numerous other skills. Just as important he has taught me the value of time spent with others, listening as well as talking, looking after your mental and physical health, patience and pride in a job well done, always do a job you love.

To summarise Joshua as my role model has taught me patience, empathy, pride in my work, reflection and how to relax and enjoy life.

So, on reflection I'm sure you can understand why you got a two for one deal when it came to my heroes. I'm lucky they have my back and that they have shown me that, " You are the hero of your own story"- Joseph Campbell.



# The Big Read

In March 2021, a House competition called 'The Big Read' was launched on Teams to inspire reading and promote a bit of friendly competition!

Each day, pupils had to log how many pages they had read on a form on their House Team. There were regular updates posted on Teams throughout the weeks to keep the pupils (and the very competitive staff) up to date on how their house was progressing in the competition. It was a very hard-fought competition with lots of messages of encouragement and support in each House team to spur their House onto victory! In the end; however, there can only be one winner and the victory went to Coolnafranky with an impressive 34,272 pages read in a month! Overall, between all four houses over 100,000 pages were read in March- a fantastic and very impressive achievement! A huge well done to Coolnafranky who were very worthy winners and also to everyone who took part in the 'Big Read' reading challenge: an incredible effort and brilliant display of teamwork!



# World Book Day

World Book Day took place this year on the Thursday 4th March and to mark the occasion there was a competition for all pupils in which they had to guess which teacher was hiding behind their books.

It was a very tough challenge and there were a lot of entries with a wide-ranging spectrum of guesses! But in the end, there was only 1 winner who got all the teachers correct! Alfie Frost was our well-deserved winner and won himself a £10 Waterstones book voucher alongside a selection of stationery. Leah Allen and Alexandra Farquhar were our two fantastic runners up and both received a selection of stationery each!

Well done to our winners and to all who took part in the competition!





SARAH BROWN 10CA

# Geography



## YEAR 10 LOCKDOWN PHOTOGRAPHY COM- PETITION

Our annual photography competition is always something we look forward to. This year we decided to use the lockdown as our inspiration. The idea was to share our experiences of lockdown, both positive and negative.

We always emphasise to our Geography students that we are not only citizens of Cookstown High School but also that we are global citizens.

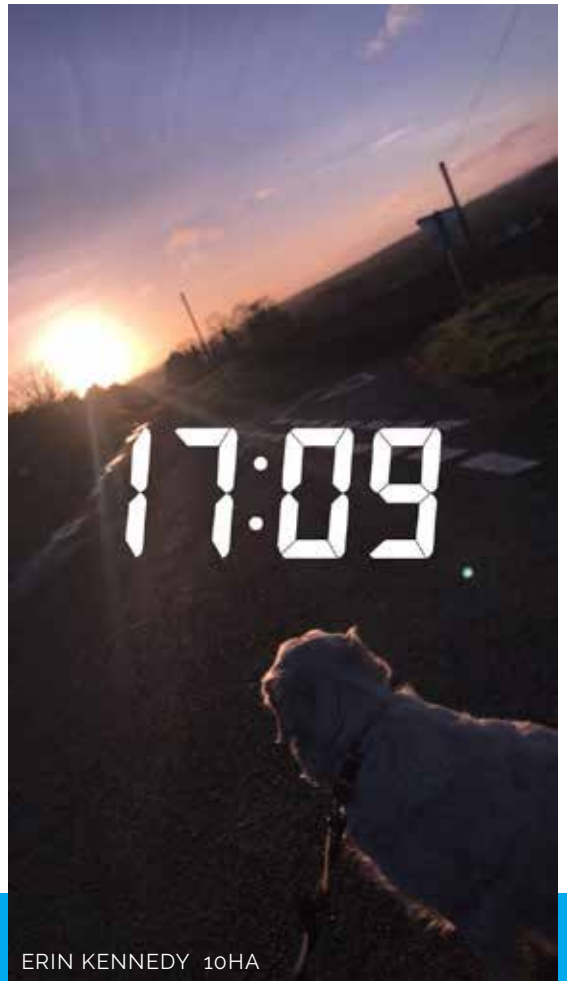
This year has shown us more than ever that we are part of something much bigger. Children all around the world have had their education and their lives changed through the Covid Pandemic.

Our pupils in CHS have shared their thoughts and experiences by capturing an image that illustrates what lockdown has meant to them. Enjoy!





LEE HARKNESS 10HB



ERIN KENNEDY 10HA

This year has shown us more than ever that we are part of something much bigger.



KATIE ABERNETHY 10CB



SOPHIE BRODISON 10CB

SOPHIE DORNAN 10CA



HARVEY SIMPSON 10HB

Even snowmen have to follow COVID guidelines

JODIE BAYNE 10HA



# EARTH CAKES

YEAR 9

CHS 2020-21



KATI



MEGAN GREENE 9CA

As part of our unit on Earth Processes and Tectonics we asked our year 9 students to get their aprons on and have a go at creating a cake inspired by volcanoes, earthquakes and plate tectonics.

The outcomes looked amazing, and we would have loved to have had the opportunity to taste the amazing cakes.



E FERGUSON 9CA



NATHAN BLOOMER 9CA



KYM MOORE 9CA



TRISTAN HAMILTON 9CA



LOIS CUNNINGHAM 9CA



WILLOW CROOKS 9CA

# DESIGN A RENEWABLE SHOPPING BAG

## YEAR 8

Plastic pollution has become one of the most pressing environmental issues as rapidly increasing production of disposable plastic products overwhelms the world's ability to deal with them. The convenience plastics offer, leads to a throw-away culture that reveals the material's dark side: today, single-use plastics accounts for 40 percent of the plastic produced every year.

Plastic is polluting every corner of the planet. It has found its way to the depths of our oceans, to remote forest paths, to the ice of the Arctic, and onto the island beaches where turtles nest. We don't know exactly how long oil-based plastic will take to degrade (or even if it ever will), but we do know that once it's in our soil, rivers, and oceans, it is impossible to clean up. The plastic we see washing up on shores and floating on the water's surface is only the tip of the trash-berg. Over two-thirds of the plastic in our oceans ends up on the sea floor, creating an ever-growing wasteland beneath the waves. To make matters worse, bottles, bags, and other plastic rubbish gradually break into smaller and smaller pieces known as microplastics, which further damage ecosystems as they are invisible to the naked eye.

Where do we go from here? Short-term goals could include eliminating

unnecessary packaging that is difficult or impossible to recycle and expanding the use of reusable and refillable systems for transporting and storing goods. In the long term, we'll need to change our consumption habits.

Year 8 have designed reusable shopping bags to encourage people to ditch the plastic bags. Some even went the extra mile and got the sewing machines out to make their design. They are all brilliant!





Before



JACK JOHNSTON 8HB



After

KAITLYN HOOD 8CC



ALICE GRAHAM 8CB



LEAH WHINNERY 8CB



After



Denim reusable shopping bag!

By Anna Harkness 8CC

PIC-COLLAGES

PIC-COLLAGES



# Home Economics

## KEY STAGE 3

Pupils in Years 8-10 have been busy doing practical work at home this year, as Covid-19 health and safety issues have restricted practical work in school.

Many thanks to parents, guardians and responsible older siblings for safely supervising them in their home kitchens! Here's a selection of their products.







# GCSE: FOOD & NUTRITION

GCSE pupils have been busy developing their practical food preparation and presentation skills at home. They have submitted a number of 'Cooking at home photo portfolios' this year via MS Teams to enable their teachers to monitor their effort and progress.



A Level:  
NUTRITION & FOOD SCIENCE

YEAR 13

Pupils study a 'Diet, Lifestyle and Health' module in AS Nutrition & Food Science. In this unit, students explore current research on diet, lifestyle and health and investigate conditions such as cardiovascular disease, obesity, type 2 diabetes and cancer. Pupils have used ICT to present their research on the development of cancer and factors which influence an individual's cancer risk.

### 3 FACTORS THAT PROMOTE CANCER RISK



Salt



Meat



Fat

### 3 FACTORS WHICH PROTECT AGAINST CANCER



Antioxidants



Fruit and Veg



Wholegrain  
Plant Foods



**FACTORS THAT PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CANCER**

**Dietary fat**

- Fatty foods can contribute to carcinogens such as acrylamides, and are commonly generated in the cooking process. It is known that although it doesn't cause cancer it does promote the growth and progression when cancers have begun.
- It's vital that we ensure our ratio of omega 3 to omega 6 is correct. Often if we have a low ratio of omega 3 to omega 6 it is often linked to breast, colon and prostate cancer.
- Fat stimulates the production of bile salts in the gut. The bile salts are fermented by anaerobic bacteria in the colon to form mutagenic compounds. This leads to an increased risk of breast, colon and prostate cancer.



**FACTORS THAT PROMOTE THE DEVELOPMENT OF CANCER**

**Salt**

- Having high levels of salt in your diet may increase the risk of damage to the stomach lining and increase the sensitivity of the stomach to carcinogens, such as nitrates, which can then increase the risk of stomach cancer.
- The majority of the salt that we consume although we don't realise it, is already in the food that we eat as it is added during manufacturing. Therefore, it is vitally important that we don't add salt to the food we eat not only for our general health but also to reduce the risk of cancer.



**FACTORS THAT PROMOTE CANCER**

**Meat**

Nitrates and nitrites are added to processed meats such as:

- Ham
- Bacon
- Sausages

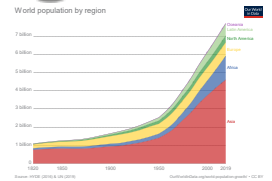
This is often linked to colon and rectum cancer and individuals consuming MORE THAN 60 grams are at a HIGHER RISK.

YEAR 14

The A2 Nutrition & Food Science qualification involves studying a 'Food Security and Sustainability' module. In this unit, students examine consumer behaviour when making food purchasing decisions and consider the issues and implications of consumer food choice. Through inves-

tigating these issues, they should be able to outline the challenges to achieving food security such as climate change and severe weather, land degradation through intensive farming and population growth. Pupils have used ICT to present their research findings on these topics.

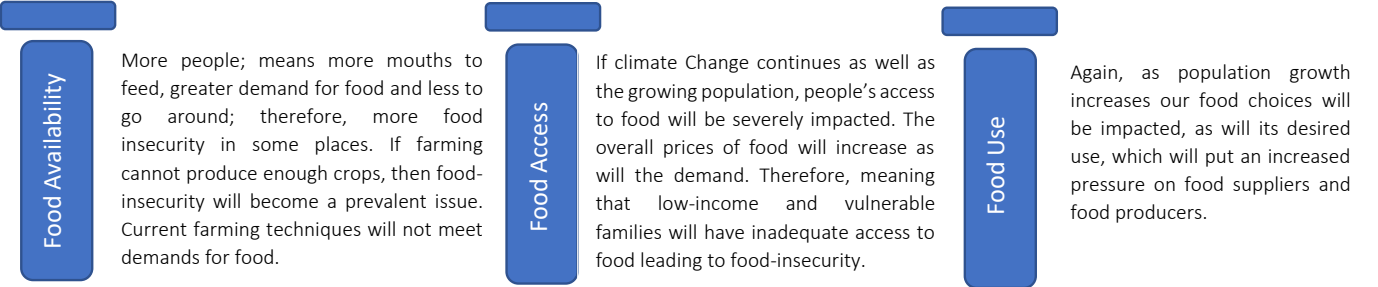
# Impact of Intensive farming and Population Growth



## Challenges to food security – due to Population Growth

The global population is rising – by 2050 it is estimated that there will be 9.2 billion people in the world. Therefore, it is estimated that we need to increase our food production by 70%.

Another global issue which can lead to food-insecurity is the food price spike. A convergence of factors has made food security one of the most important global issues. An increasing population want more varied diets, but is trying to grow more food on less land with limited access to water, all the time facing increased costs for fertilisers, fuel, for storage and transport.



**Food Availability**  
More people; means more mouths to feed, greater demand for food and less to go around; therefore, more food insecurity in some places. If farming cannot produce enough crops, then food-insecurity will become a prevalent issue. Current farming techniques will not meet demands for food.

**Food Access**  
If climate Change continues as well as the growing population, people's access to food will be severely impacted. The overall prices of food will increase as will the demand. Therefore, meaning that low-income and vulnerable families will have inadequate access to food leading to food-insecurity.

**Food Use**  
Again, as population growth increases our food choices will be impacted, as will its desired use, which will put an increased pressure on food suppliers and food producers.

In 2050 the population will have increased by 2.7 billion. Most of this increase will be in Asia & Africa. They will face increased strain on already insufficient resources. Sustained population growth, aggressive economic competition and increased consumption will result in intensive exploitation and pressure on resources.

Sub-Sahara Africa have the highest population growth rate in the world. 1 in 4 people are undernourished leading to the country having the highest levels of food-insecurity and the lowest levels of agricultural productivity.

- How population growth affects food sustainability:**
- More people need more food
  - Less land is available for agriculture
  - Increased demand for other resources e.g. fresh water, means less for agriculture
  - Increased wealth increases demand for more costly food commodities e.g. meat and dairy
  - Human activity is increasing global warming and climate change which is reducing food security
  - Urbanisation, means fewer people involved in food production
  - Changes in population demographics and migration



# Learning Support Centre

This year the pupils of the LSC partook in a sponsored walk in May where they raised funds towards the "Paul's Legacy," charity.

The LSC pupils have worked well during this academic year while adapting to the new rules and procedures of the pandemic.

They have adapted to the new normal and have progressed across all of their core subjects while enhancing skills across other subjects. They have continued with developing their skills in Technology, where they were taught how to create a piece of Art from nails and string hammered into wood.

In Art and Design, the pupils have continued developing their skills focusing on the elements of Art and working towards their Entry Level Qualification.

In Gardening they have worked hard cleaning the Greenhouse. They have been planting aloe vera, strawberries, pumpkins, flowers, daffodils, radishes herbs, sunflowers and onions. They also created some lovely bunting to decorate the greenhouse.

During remote teaching the pupils got engaged in lots of baking activities and took part in the online photography club.

This year the pupils of the LSC partook in a sponsored walk in May where they raised funds towards the "Paul's Legacy," charity.











Cookstown High School

# Maths

## Junior Maths Challenge

**It certainly did prove to be a 'challenge' to hold the Junior Maths Challenge in lockdown.**

The pencil and paper test normally takes place around the 28th of April for year 9 pupils, but it took a few weeks for the organisation to change the format of the test to an online event. The teachers of year 9 were pleased that almost 40 pupils from mostly 9Ca and 9Cb took the time to log in and take the online test. We were trusting their honesty to only use pencil and paper and keep the calculators away.

Sophie McAdoo received a Silver Award and was also commended as Best in School for her excellent score of 96. Congratulations also go to Jac McKnight who also received a Silver Award with a score of 87.

Another eight pupils achieved a Bronze award and they were Sophie Brodison, Daniel Dallas, Sophie Dornan, Rachel Farr, Sarah Fulton, Jack McClure, Ben Sweetnam and Theo Thompson.

A huge congratulations to not only those who received an award but to all those who took part in what were unusual circumstances.



# Music

Life in the Music Department was very different during the past school year, and the Morrison building became much quieter. With strict regulations for extra-curricular music activities, particularly singing, it felt like music had disappeared. Our main public events in school often feature music: Prize Day, Remembrance Day and the Carol Service during Term 1 had to become virtual and the lack of musical opportunities was very noticeable. By December, and with Christmas quickly approaching,



Mrs Gormley and Mrs Blackwood agreed to use social media to bring some Christmas music to the school community, and further afield. Pupils and staff from across the school were asked to record a video of them singing or playing Christmas music



and each day a different performance was uploaded for everyone to enjoy. Bobbi and Jolie Kane performed a piano duet of O come all ye faithful, Emma Ferguson played the carols 'In the bleak mid-winter' and 'See amid the winter's snow' on the bagpipes and Eloise Ruddell sang a solo version of Silent Night in Coolnafranky House. Dr Morgan from the Chemistry department also sang (Mary, did you know) and he was not the only member of staff to get involved as Mrs Blackwood, Mr Forrest, Aaron Gillis and Lewis Farquhar performed The Little Drummer Boy, assisted by Mr Blackwood. Megan Bell performed 'In the bleak mid-winter' on piano, and Ewan Brown and David Boyd provided a Christmas jam on piano and guitar. A small brass ensemble featuring



Connor Reid, Harriet Reid and Mrs and Mr Blackwood played 'Joy to the World' and Emily Millar played 'O come, O come, Emmanuel' on violin with Mrs Gormley on piano. Every year Mrs Gormley composes a new carol for the school Carol Service, and this year was no different. Alice Boden sang a carol inspired by the unusual circumstances of 2020 called 'In the dark (There's a hope)'. With lockdown in Term 2, it was not

going to be possible to have our annual Spring Concert, but Emily Davidson, Eloise Ruddell and Emily Millar provided special music for the Easter Service.

On returning to school in April, pupils were able to resume music tuition and soon the Morrison building was once again ringing with music at break-time and lunch-time. Emily Millar dazzled the pupils and staff during each of the year group Celebration of Achievement events in June, not playing violin this time, but piano! And of course congratulations goes to all those musicians and singers who took part in CHS's Got Talent...such a lot of promise and potential on display!

We all hope that soon we will be able to fully start up the extra-curricular programme in the Music Department, but we will be looking for any opportunity at all to perform, even if it is just a jam session at break-time! If you are interested in receiving music lessons or joining an extra-curricular activity, listen for announcements in Form Class or during assembly, or speak to Mrs Gormley.

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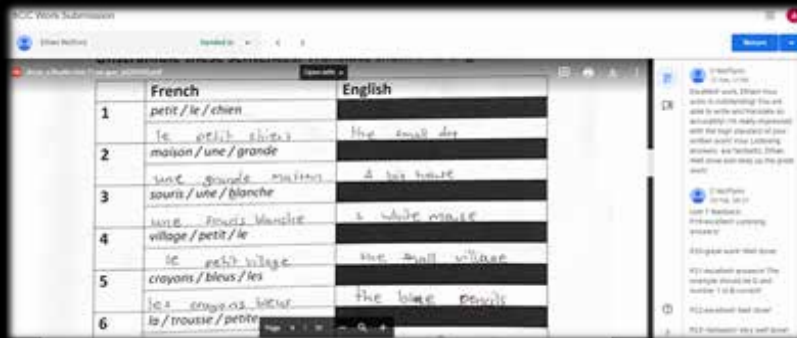


# Modern Languages

We have received positive feedback from pupils who joined in the Live Lessons and Live Quizzes during Lockdown. Engagement has been excellent, and pupils are to be commended for their work online. Here are some exemplary submissions from outstanding pupils!

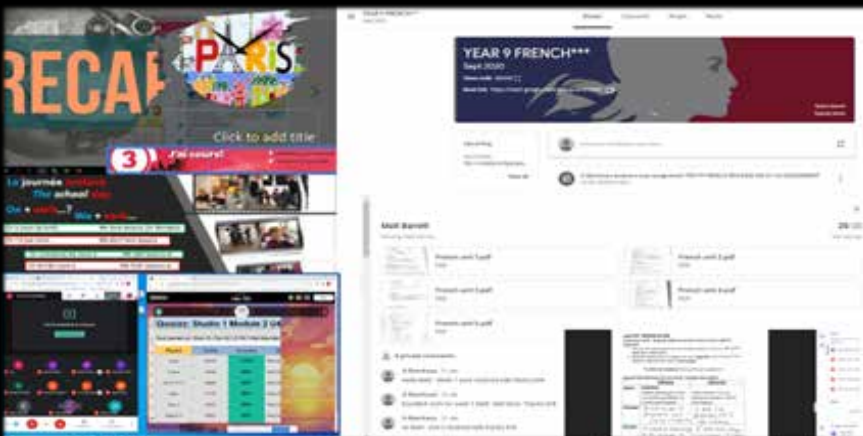
## Year 8 French, Ethan

What an excellent Translation from a very competent Year 8 pupil. Bravo Ethan!



## Year 9 French, Matt

Matt's work captured here is a good example this week as it shows how much work really is going on in the background. Outstanding work Matt!



## Year 10 French, Leah

Leah's work showcased here is a good example which demonstrates how much work really has been going on in the background. Outstanding work Leah!



## Year 12 French, Christine

Congratulations to Christine who received a commendation from NICILT for her outstanding translation in a competition which was open to all GCSE French pupils in Northern Ireland.

## Year 9 Spanish, Tristan

Tristan's work shows a snapshot of some of the great work year 9's have been doing during online learning. ¡Buen trabajo, Tristan!

Match the drawings 1-14 with the subjects (a-e)  
The first one has been done for you.

SPANISH	ENGLISH	SPANISH	ENGLISH
1 b inglés	English	8 C educación física	Sports
2 a español	Spain	9 e francés	French
3 d japonés	Japan	10 e francés	French
4 a dibujo	Art	11 h teatro	Theatre
5 h geografía	Geography	12 d música	Music
6 i historia	History	13 g religión	Religion
7 f ciencias	Science	14 j tecnología	Technology

Empareja los dibujos con las asignaturas.  
Match the drawings with the subjects.

¡Qué estudias? Estudio.

Look for cognates and near-cognates first. Reading the words about can also help you to work out the meanings.

Dialogue C

ENGLISH	SPANISH
1 Do you visit your friends every day?	¿Vienes a visitarnos todos los días?
= No, I chat with my friends every day.	= No, pero yo me comunico todos los días.
2 Do you watch videos or films twice a week?	¿Ves vídeos o películas dos veces por semana?
= Yes, I watch videos sometimes.	= Sí, pero sólo a veces.
3 Do you download ringtones from the internet?	¿Descargas tonos de móvil de Internet?
= I haven't downloaded ringtones.	= No, no he descargado tonos de móvil.

## Year 10 Spanish, Nathan

Nathan's work is an example of the dedication year 10 pupils demonstrated to practise their Spanish at home. ¡Excelente Nathan!

## Year 11 Spanish, Emma

Year 11s exhibited great commitment to their Spanish studies at home. Emma's work shown opposite is only one example. ¡Genial, Emma!

## Year 12 Spanish, Jodi

Jodi's work presented here is an example of the dedication demonstrated by year 12s online. Their hard-work and enthusiasm will reap its reward! ¡Estupendo, Jodi!

2 Escribe tres frases para cada persona. Inventa los otros detalles.  
Ejemplo: 1 Soy cocinera y trabajo en un restaurante italiano. Todos los días preparo... Me gusta mi trabajo porque...

1 Soy cocinera. 2 Soy enfermero. 3 Soy azafata. 4 Soy periodista.

Jodi O'Neill

A Curran.pdf

Ex2

- Soy cocinera y trabajo en un restaurante italiano. He trabajado allí durante casi tres años. Me gusta mi trabajo porque es muy alegre y divertido.
- Soy enfermera y trabajo en un hospital en Irlanda del Norte. Todos los días vengo a trabajar a las ocho de la mañana. Adoro mi trabajo como me encanta ayudar a la gente.
- Soy azafata trabajo en un aeropuerto en España. Soy responsable de la seguridad y el bienestar de los pasajeros. Creo que soy buena en mi trabajo ya que soy sociable y amigable.
- Soy periodista y escribo artículos. A menudo entiendo a personas y escribo artículos basados en ellos. Me gusta mi trabajo porque conozco y hablo con mucha gente.

## QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY BELFAST TUTORING IN SCHOOLS PROGRAMME

The Modern Languages Department welcomed Ms Sarah Bolton for a her PGCE placement in a Grammar School during March, April and May. She worked alongside MFL teachers, and pupils online in March observing online lessons. Sarah worked with Key Stage 3 French and Spanish pupils, delivering enthusiastic and interesting online classes and quizzes during the Easter week which the pupils clearly enjoyed.

¡Muchísimas gracias! Un grand merci!

Dr Ranchoux

### A word from Sarah

While completing my PGCE in French and Spanish at Queen's University, I have been privileged to teach French to year 8 and 9, and Spanish to year 11, 12 and 13.

Helping these pupils further develop their language skills has been a very positive and enjoyable experience for me. I have been very impressed with pupils' enthusiasm for languages and their dedication to learning online.

Hopefully they have enjoyed our lessons together and been encouraged to continue learning the language!

Sarah Bolton





# Lockdown legends

During lockdown, pupils continued with their learning remotely completing their active learn answer sheet booklet, joining weekly live lessons using Google classroom and completing a weekly quiz! Emails, posts, online work submissions were also used to engage our pupils with learning and support their home learning experience!

Watching the work completed, it is clear that both pupils and colleagues put in a great deal of effort in the pursuit of teaching and learning. Resilience and dedication helped us redraw a new normal while not being able to go to school.



## Achievement

- Zara Booth
- Iain Cruickshank
- Lois Cunningham
- Anna Millar
- Grace Harkness
- Nicole Badger
- Andrea Cotton
- Nicole Hamchevici
- Jolie Kane

## Effort

- Leah Allen
- Hannah Brownlow
- Timothy Crawford
- Jac McKnight
- Jamie Kerrigan
- Molly Graham
- Samuel McAllister
- Serena Burton
- Bruna Russo

- Y8 French
- Y9 French
- Y9 Spanish
- Y10 French
- Y10 Spanish
- Y11 Spanish
- Y12 French
- Y12 Spanish
- Y13 Spanish



As well as our Lockdown Legends, Zoe Weir from 8HA must be commended for her commitment to the subject as well as her determination to get her work completed ahead of schedule. We are highly impressed by Zoe's diligence. Bravo!



# Religious Education

## YEAR 8 CREATIVE WRITING

In Year 8 Religious Education, the pupils learned about the physical and social impact of leprosy upon those who contracted the illness in biblical times. For

their creative writing piece, they had to imagine that they were a leper at this time and write a letter to a friend outlining the impact of leprosy upon their

life and how that changed after they encountered Jesus. There were some brilliant responses from Year 8!

ALEX MCKENNA 8CC

20th April 28 AD  
21, Sandylake Road,  
Jerusalem,  
Palestine.

Dear Kaitlyn,

My life before I met Jesus was full of misery, pain and loneliness. I felt like an island in the middle of the ocean, alone and cut off from the world. Everywhere I went people stared at me in disgust and as if that wasn't bad enough, I had to ring a bell to let people know I was coming. I can remember my heart sinking like a shipwreck to the ocean floor at the sight of people running away from me as I sounded the bell. I felt like such an outcast that no one wanted around. I had dark patches of skin all over my body like a leopard covered in spots. I couldn't feel physical pain, so I got burnt a lot, but emotional pain was the most unbearable. The people, I could tell hated me and never wanted to be around me. My friends and family thought I was contagious. No one wanted to talk to me, see me or hear me. I had to leave my home, cast out like a broken water jar, damaged, useless and beyond repair.

On the day I met Jesus I can remember the sun shining brightly like a jewel in

the sky. I took shelter under a palm tree at the side of the road, and I could see large crowds travelling along the road to the River Jordan. I shouted to the travellers "Where is everyone going?" A man replied and said that Jesus was in town and had healed 10 people with leprosy and everyone was rushing to meet him. When I heard about Jesus healing the 10 people with leprosy like me, I knew I had to find Jesus and ask him to please help me.

When I finally met him, it was by the River Jordan with at least 30 others. Everyone was muttering to each other saying "What are they doing here?" I felt like an unwanted puppy walking the streets with no home to go to. Then suddenly everyone stopped talking and turned and stared. Above the silence and stares I heard a voice saying "Come." It was the voice of Jesus speaking to me over the crowd. I couldn't believe that Jesus had noticed me and was speaking to me. I walked to him slowly not knowing what would happen next. He reached out to me and touched me on the shoulder. I was surprised as no one had touched me in months. Then he lifted his hand off me and, in a few seconds, my dark patches had gone, and I was cured from leprosy! I felt as though I was a spring hatchling

hatching for the first time. Then Jesus said, "You are clean." All I thought about was thanking him for helping me it was my dream come to life. I could see everyone's faces as they saw what Jesus did for me. He changed my life and made me feel wanted and appreciated. Something I never felt for ages and something no one else had ever made me feel before.

Since meeting Jesus my life has changed in so many ways. I have been able to go back to my family and home that I never thought I'd see again. Jesus healing me has given me a new sense of belonging and purpose and I plan to tell others how he made me feel and changed my life forever. I'm so excited to play games, bake with my mum and hug the people that I love again. I just had to share my miraculous story with you and look forward to seeing you soon.

Yours sincerely,

Alex

ANNABELLE DAVIDSON 8CA

42 Oakward Street,  
Jerusalem.

April 2nd A.D 27.

Dear Ruth,

I am writing to tell you of the most wonderful news - I have been healed from my leprosy. I am no longer unclean! People don't run away from me anymore and my life has changed. Having leprosy was awful. It all began when I lifted a pot from the fire. It was hot, but I didn't feel it burning me. We soon realised I was losing the feeling in my fingers and my toes. People were very cautious and wary of me. Nobody was sure it was leprosy until dark patches appeared on my face. Then people didn't even want to be in the same room as me. I felt as if I was cursed. My mother and father threw me out as soon as they saw the patches. I know they only did it because they didn't want to catch leprosy, but I still felt betrayed. I went to a camp outside of town to live. Other people with leprosy lived there too. It was a very sad and lonely place to live. When I went out I had to ring a bell and shout

unclean to warn people I was coming. It was humiliating. I couldn't even wash or comb my hair! My hair was falling out and as time went on my hands became numb and were deformed looking. I was wasting away. My eyes were dim, I don't know what was wrong with them but they were dry and sore and I couldn't see things like I did before. I was miserable. Living with the other lepers in the leper colony has made me realise how I had not even thought or cared about them before now. It makes me feel horrible just thinking about it. I was so lonely. I was like a ghost so separate from the rest of the world. I wasn't even allowed to go to the temple to worship God.

The man that healed me was called Jesus. I heard about him going to different towns and villages and people were being healed. Then one day our town was really full of excitement and I knew Jesus was passing by. There was a crowd following him. I ran as best as I could. I was running like a square wheel but I didn't care. When I got to Jesus I fell at his feet begging to be healed. Jesus looked at me with such love and compassion. He reached down and touched me and said the words "Be clean". It was a miracle! Some believe this man is the son of God, the promised Messiah. I believe

he is too. I have never met someone so kind and caring like him. The crowd following him had scattered when I came running. They were standing far back and when they saw Jesus touch me they were astonished. They would never have touched me, they looked at me as if I was dirty. I was a leper. Jesus was different. He made me feel loved. I was overjoyed just by him touching me. I cannot describe how I felt when I realised I was healed. It was thrilling. I was overwhelmed with joy.

My life has changed so much already. I have been allowed back into the town and my parents have let me live with them again. It is like I never even had leprosy. I am able to buy things now and worship in the temple. I sing as I carry out my chores now. I am happy I have met Jesus. Mother bought me a new dress and threw out my rags. It feels so good to be able to brush my hair. I can see and my hands and feet are normal. Having leprosy has made me appreciate the small things more and to be more considerate of other people's feelings.

Yours sincerely,

Annabelle

## Year 8 – Love in Action

The pupils have been learning about Agape or Christian love.

They learned about how this is the kind of love that cares for other people and their needs. The pupils had to think of an example of agape in their life and to submit a photo or drawing depicting it. Here are some of their ideas.



This is me saving a lamb  
that couldn't find it's  
mother



Delivering  
goods  
to local  
nursing  
homes from  
CYFC  
during  
lockdown  
shows AGAPE  
Love.



PIC•COLLAGE

**AGAPE**  
EDWARD IRWIN.



**ACT OF LOVE**

PROSPERITY IS VERY  
GOOD TO ME AND THIS  
IS ONE WAY THAT I CAN  
HELP HER OUT



**PUTTING OTHERS BEFORE OURSELVES**

*I cut my grannies lawn every week  
over the summer months.*

During lockdown,  
Aaron wrote to the  
residents of Fairfields  
Nursing Home and  
sent them puzzle  
books to cheer them  
up.



Something that I did to  
show Agape is that I  
baked cookies for my  
grandparents.



## FAITH IN ACTION by gCA

In Year 9 Religious Education, the students have been learning about faith in action. They looked at Abraham as a biblical character of faith, before learning about William Wilberforce, and how he used his position as a Christian politician to bring an end to slavery across the British Empire. As part of this

topic the students completed a piece of research into a person of faith. They were free to choose someone who showed religious faith, faith in an invention or idea or faith in science. We hope that you enjoy reading the sample below of their excellent work.

### Martin Luther King

In Hebrews Chapter 11 there is a list of bible characters who showed great faith. I want to write about someone in the 20th Century who showed great faith and his name was Martin Luther King. Articles and books written about him all say that he was one of America's most influential civil right activists. He was able to hold protests but these were peaceful in order to raise awareness of racial inequalities in America, something which was very close to his heart.

King was born in Atlanta on 15th January 1929. His father and grandfather were both Baptist pastors. He left school and went to study at Crozer Theological Seminary in Pennsylvania. At university he saw that there was great inequality and injustice faced by black Americans. He was hugely influenced by Gandhi who believed in getting results through non-violent protests.

At 24 he married Coretta Scott and soon after became a pastor in Alabama.

The Montgomery Bus Boycott was a turning point in his life because it became a turning point in the civil rights fight. He attracted much media attention at this time because he had a deep conviction about what was happening

to black people at this time. The boycott came about because a lady named Rosa Parks sat in a white area of the bus and refused to move. It is quite hard to believe that something like this would be tolerated in our modern world but in 1960'S America it was. In response King helped to organise a strike where coloured people refused to use any of the city buses. It lasted for several months and finally ended in the Supreme Court with a ruling that there was to be no more segregation on the buses.



Riding on this success, King and other ministers founded the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. However, some black groups around him did not share the same faith as King who continued to believe that non-violent protests were the answer, not force and violence. King was an outstanding speaker and was able to move his audience by the tone of his voice. He reg-

ularly shared about his own faith and the need to move forward peacefully. In 1963 he was named Man of the Year. It followed his famous "I have a dream Speech" during a Civil Rights March.

In 1964 he was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize and gave his prize money to the Civil Rights Movement.

Whenever the war in Vietnam broke out in 1955, King opposed it and this led to many politicians being worried about the influence he could have on the American people. They were not happy. King was harassed regularly by the FBI.

On 4 April 1968, Martin Luther King was fatally shot by James Earl Ray an American fugitive. King's family believed however that Ray was set up and they did not trust the findings of the FBI.

I believe Martin Luther King to have shown great faith in God, trusting him to use his words to speak to people and through these words changing the course of history for black people.

Zach Currie  
gCA

# Learning about Islam

As part of their study into Islam, Year 10 students learned about the mosque, the Muslim place of worship. They built some great 3-D mosques featuring the minaret and domed roof.







CHS 2020-21

# Science



# ANGUS YOUTH CHALLENGE



Cookstown High School are throwing their farmer's hat in the ring again for the ABP Angus Youth Challenge!

This year two teams entered and have made it through to the semi-finals. John-Mark, Ben and William looked at promoting agriculture in youth while Kendra, Zara and Nicole investigated reducing the stigma surrounding women in agriculture.

The first round of the competition involved entering a video outlining the

group's ideas and knowledge on angus beef and ABP. Both groups made it through this stage and competed in the semi-final in April 2021. The groups were interviewed by a panel of judges including representatives from ABP and the Northern Ireland Angus Producer Group. The interview took place via video due to public health restrictions. Both groups conducted themselves incredibly well and were an asset to CHS during the tough interview process. All six pupils should be commended on their effort as much of the planning had to take place

via video calls and messages due to our extended period of Online Learning.

The next stage of the competition involved being awarded five six-month old Angus Cross calves. The boys were successful in their interview and John-Mark has kindly agreed to keep these beautiful calves. Congratulations in this great achievement. The pupils will now rear the calves for two years and benefit from the financial gain derived from the production of the cattle.

The boys were successful in their interview and were awarded five six-month old Angus Cross calves



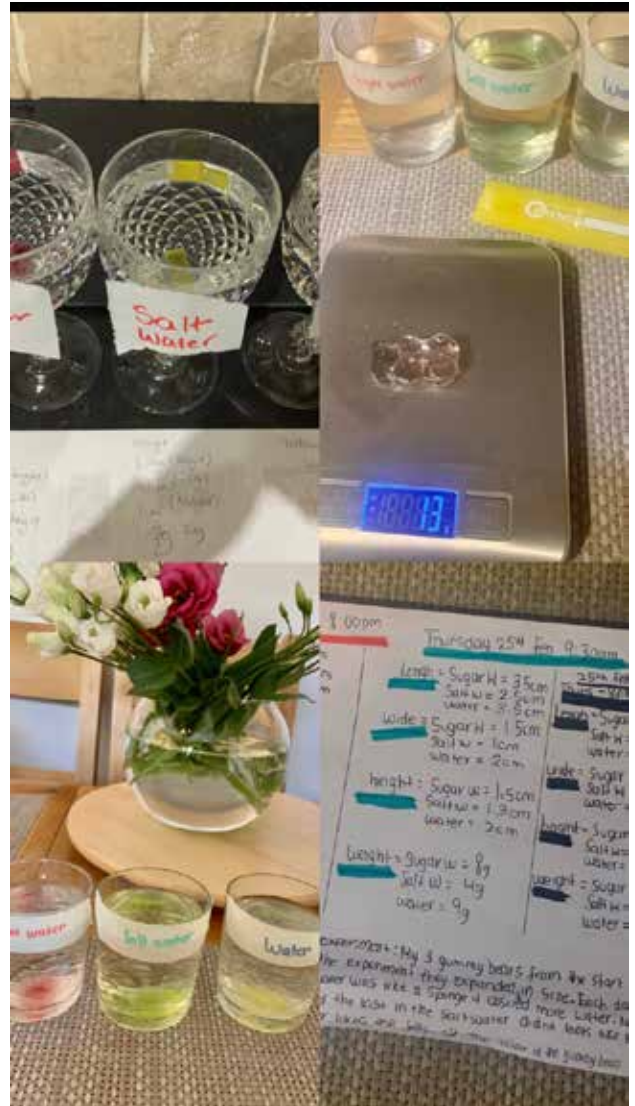
# Virtual Science Club



This year Science Club had to go virtual!

During our period of Online Learning a large number of pupils opted into the Virtual Science Club Microsoft Team. Pupils then had the option to take part in science experiments that they could do from home with household objects. These included creating a density tower from lots of different liquids and investigating what happened to gummy bears when placed into different solutions. Pupils photographed their experiments and uploaded their write-ups.

The Science Department were very impressed with some of the science being carried out!



CHS 2020-21



# BAD MIN TON



## Player Profile Mr B Lowe

### ***When did you start playing badminton?***

I started playing badminton when I was in P6/P7 – My friend invited me along to his church badminton club which I played at for a number of years. I've been playing the sport since and love it.

### ***Why badminton?***

It's certainly not a sport that I knew a lot about before starting to play. I've kept playing because I love the fast pace of the game, and the technical side as well. I also found that I was reasonably good at it, so that always helps!

### ***What clubs have you played for?***

I have played for a number of different clubs in Belfast (Newtownbreda, Knock Presbyterian, Saintfield Road) which has mainly been based in churches. I also played for North Down in my younger years for a short while.

### ***Have you entered (or won) any tournaments?***

I've entered quite a few tournaments over the years, but not sure I can remember the name of them now!

### ***What is your most memorable moment?***

Probably playing in the North Down league against the Number 2 player in Ireland. Needless to say I was out-classed that day!

### ***Any other appropriate information?!***

Come along and try out a new sport. If you haven't played badminton before, it's worth giving it a go!



Badminton Club  
Thursday 4-5pm  
Leisure Centre

## Player Profile Mrs C Hall

### **When did you start playing badminton?**

When I was about 8 years old. I have always been a sporty girl who played any sport available. I started going to the local badminton club on a Saturday and I loved the buzz. We played 'subs' and 'challenges' for two hours solid, the tuck shop was good too!

### **Why badminton?**

My mum played badminton and squash so I guess it was her that encouraged me to go and see what I thought of it. I also had a cousin from Bushmills who played for Ulster and he would stay at our house in Lisburn when he was training.

### **What clubs have you played for?**

As I mentioned above I joined 'Alpha' in P6 and played there right up into my early 20's. I played squash and tennis there too and absolutely loved it. I ended up working there, taking the badminton club on Friday nights and manning the tuck shop during the summer months.

I then played for school (Wallace High) where we won many Ulster Schools' Leagues and Cups. On moving up to Cookstown, I played for Pomeroy with Mrs Allen. Now, this was an eye opener!! I was introduced to how the rest of the country played badminton in church leagues. It lasted all night and was played on one court! And if it hit the roof it was a point, not a let! Silly rules!! And the 'match tea' was amazing.

### **Have you entered (or won) any tournaments?**

I entered the Christmas Tournament in Alpha every year. It was brilliant. Also played in the Ulster Schools' cup and league tournaments with school. My highlight was being part of the team which won the Irish Schools' Senior Girls Cup. An achievement and memory I will never forget.

### **What is your most memorable moment?**

There are so many, so many. But playing up here for Pomeroy and having a mixed doubles partner that would literally run into a wall rather than let the shuttle fall to the ground will always be in my memory!

I also will hold dear the time Mrs Allen and I took our own CHS Senior Girls Team to the Irish Schools finals where we narrowly lost out to a southern team in Division 2. It was such a special trip.

### **Any other appropriate information?!**

Come along any Thursday and give it a go!



## Player Profile Mrs C Allen

### **When did you start playing badminton?**

I was definitely LATE to the party when it comes to badminton! Having been a pupil at Cookstown High School, naturally I played hockey during my time in school. When I left school, I was at a bit of a loose end on a Friday evening and a friend invited me to play in a church club. I wouldn't say it was a successful first game or two, but I was quickly hooked and could often be found saying the phrase "ok, just one more game" right into the wee small hours in Pomeroy Presbyterian Church hall!

### **Why badminton?**

Badminton was a game which could be played indoors!!!! Having had my fair share of wet pitch early mornings it was lovely to play a sport where you were guaranteed to be dry (well at least when you start playing!!!!). Besides, anyone who has ever played in church badminton tournaments and teams will know that the tea in between games is LEGENDARY. There's nothing better than a few friendly (but still madly competitive!) games and then a cuppa and a nice piece of pavlova in the evenings.

### **What clubs have you played for?**

I may have had my first game or two in Desertcreat but anyone who knows me knows that I've always been a Pomeranian – personal reference to the great nation of Pomeroy! Strangely enough the talent scouts never spotted my amazing talent – always knowing where to hit the shuttle whilst watching the game but never quite managing that whilst on the court ...

### **Have you entered (or won) any tournaments?**

It's been such fun taking part in lots of church leagues and although I am competitive and enjoy the wins when they come, it is the taking part which has meant so much to me. I know that my work in the past with school badminton – every Thursday 4-5.30 with my trusty side-kick Mrs Hall, we have had some of my most fond memories in terms of school successes. The camaraderie in the group of players, whether for recreational or competitive reasons, is always fantastic. The pride of seeing some of our young and really talented players progress and even get to development squads AND even Ulster Champions has been AMAZING!

### **What is your most memorable moment?**

As I mentioned, the opportunity to travel to Dublin with a team for Irish Championships was one of my (by proxy!) badminton highlights! As they say in all good sporting trips out; what goes on tour stays on tour! If you're intrigued, maybe you might like to get involved in the school club or your local church club. I couldn't recommend it more!



# Children in Need

£887.67 raised for BBC Children in Need

There was a wide array of Pudsey treats for sale in November 2020 to raise money for BBC Children in Need. Mrs Cathy Johnston and Mrs McFlynn put together treat bags and cones and sold these over two weeks in November 2020 to pupils in Key Stage 3. Pupils remained in their bubbles and in their designated areas and were very eager to support this worthy cause during their break time. Mrs Cathy Johnston offered a huge menu of cupcake flavours for staff to choose from and these proved to be very popular indeed.

Due to the Covid-19 restrictions, this was the first year where a Just Giving page was set up and online donations amounted to £150.

We would like to thank staff and pupils for their support in helping us to raise a grand total of £887.67.



PUDSEY CONES



PUDSEY TREAT BAGS



**This year has been a tough year for our students with limited movement around school and class bubbles, students have not got to taste all that is available to them.**

As a result of this for the month of June we ran with a creative curriculum. During lockdown teachers had already

## Cookstown High School

developed their creativity with Technology; now was the chance to develop this even more by using our local community and indeed our vast campus.

Students enjoyed some visits, sporting activities, house games, and many more. This curriculum was a great way of getting the students out of the classroom and exploring their surroundings while still learning and developing as young individuals.



### Hockey Blitz

The PE Department were able to give the students a taste for hockey by having a hockey blitz.

This was an opportunity for all Year groups to pick up a stick regardless of ability and have some fun. It was extremely competitive with lots of support being provided by the BTEC Sport students and the sixth form.

We were delighted to welcome Jackie Burns into school to present the medals. Jackie is a past pupil and Northern Ireland women's Gk, so it was lovely to introduce her to the students and for them to have a chat. The PE Department also ran a Year 13 Games Day, due to covid restrictions and bubbles the Year 13's have not had the opportunity to participate in Games. So many students turned up to play a variety of games, things got very competitive and lots of fun was had particularly in trying to beat the staff.





# Careers

WITHIN THE CAREERS DEPARTMENT STUDENTS HAD GREAT FUN AT AN ARMY AND RAF CAREERS ACTIVITY DAY

Within careers the sixth form had many opportunities throughout the year to attend virtual open days and events. This culminated in a final visit to the University Roadshow albeit virtually as part of this creative curriculum. It was an opportunity to chat to universities, apprenticeships and visit different stands in the hope that they can finalise their decisions for next year.

Their final creative curriculum event took the shape of a fun day, in a year where their exams were on again off again these students have been extremely resilient. They have worked tirelessly throughout the year and they are a credit to the school and excellent role models to the younger pupils. This was once again a success

with the students enjoying the inflatables and the BBQ.

Also within the careers department students had great fun at an Army and RAF Careers Activity Day. Pupils enjoyed participating in an interactive, activity based day hosted by the Army and RAF involving tasks such as:

- Forensics- Finger Printing
- Camouflage and Concealment
- Cooking in the Field
- Carrying Military Kit
- Elite Skills Academy
- RAF Team Building Activities







This year's house event took place on a lovely day out on our grass pitches.

The students had a timed obstacle course, BATAK, BB Guns, Bungee Run, archery and penalties to compete against each other's houses.

Competition was high as they battled to see who would become victorious.

The year 8's competition was won by Lissan with Killymoon claiming overall winners of Year 9 and 10.

# House Event



CHS 2020-21



# Languages

On Wednesday 9th and Friday 11th June, no less than 8 treasure hunts took place with the Modern Languages department.

The directions were written in the target language, and, of course, the reading passages lent themselves to further discussion amongst pupils. The competition was fierce, and pupils had to make swift decisions to find their way to the next treasure box around our site. Once found, each treasure box contained a series of words to help them work out their secret sentence.

Helped by our Year 10 and Year 13, pupils followed a trail of clues and deciphered reading passages on the topic of "Family" in French and "My school" in Spanish!

It has been an engaging, rewarding and most enjoyable MFL lesson for our Year 8 and Year 9 pupils.





Another Creative Challenge initiative took place for Year 9 and Year 10 in both French and Spanish using Active Learn based activities from mid-June onwards. Rich in content, support and learning, our pupils practised their skills online further revisiting KS3 topics. Well done to all!



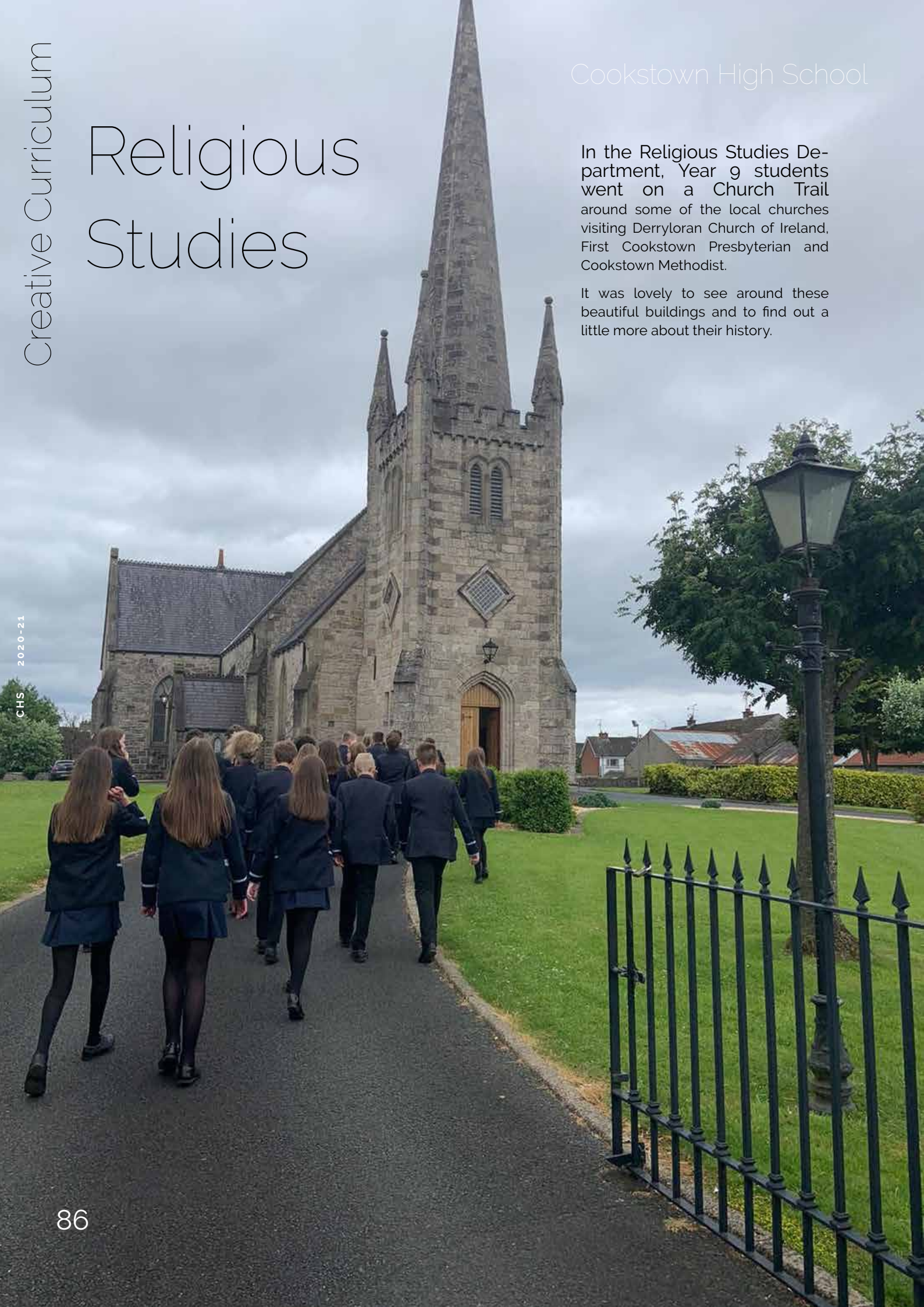
# Religious Studies

Cookstown High School

In the Religious Studies Department, Year 9 students went on a Church Trail around some of the local churches visiting Derryloran Church of Ireland, First Cookstown Presbyterian and Cookstown Methodist.

It was lovely to see around these beautiful buildings and to find out a little more about their history.

CHS 2020-21





# Made for more

The youth organisation 'Made for More' visited our Year 8 and 10 students. Year 8 pupils enjoyed a fun session, which focused on the importance of having a positive self-image. The message for Year 10 was about the danger of alcohol misuse. Both year groups had lots of opportunities to take part in fun quizzes and games. It was a great morning which we all enjoyed!





# History



As part of the Creative Curriculum in the History Department, Year 8 pupils visited Killymoon Castle. Upon arrival, pupils listened to a talk from the current owner Mrs Coulter on the history of the castle and its use by the US Army during World War Two. Pupils then took a tour of the grounds of the castle, taking pictures and asking questions as part of their research project on the history of Killymoon Castle. Back in the classroom, pupils then created their own poster presentations on the history of the castle. Pupils really enjoyed the opportunity to visit the castle and find out many interesting facts about the local history of Cookstown.



Cookstown High School



Cookstown from Clifton Hill 1918

CHS 2020-21



HOLDSWORTH STREET, COOKSTOWN, CO. TYRONE.

# Rugby Taster Day

On Wednesday 23rd of June, as part of the Creative Curriculum, the High School held a Rugby Taster Day. During the day, boys and girls from Year 8 and Year 9 participated on the new 'state of the art' rugby pitch on site at the High School. It was hard to believe that this was the first time many of the pupils had played rugby, as the skills put on display were fantastic! Each session started with a few different drills allowing pupils to learn and practice a few fundamental skills of rugby such as running with a ball, scoring a try, catching and passing. Once pupils had their full arsenal of skills they were put to the test during a tag-rugby tournament. Tag-rugby is slightly different from full contact rugby: each pupil wears a belt with a tag attached to each side of the hip. If a player is carrying the ball and gets a tag removed from an opposing player this stimulates a tackle and a pass must be made. Pupils were split into

teams and battled with each other until there was one winning team. Each team had to quickly learn to work together effectively as they tried to score more tries than their opposing team. There were some exceptional individual performances during the tournament. Emilija Gribbin and Erika Gourley both put on the after burners, running down the wings to score a number of great tries. Calum Creighton and Adam Ferguson demonstrated that the best form of offence is a good defence! They both worked very hard to put in a number of crucial tackles for their teams.

Many thanks to Ryan Ross (Dungannon RFC), Timothy Clarke (Year 11), Joseph Davidson (Year 11), Mr Lynch, Mr Williamson and Mr Donnelly for all their help in running a fantastic day's activity.

Mr N Hastings

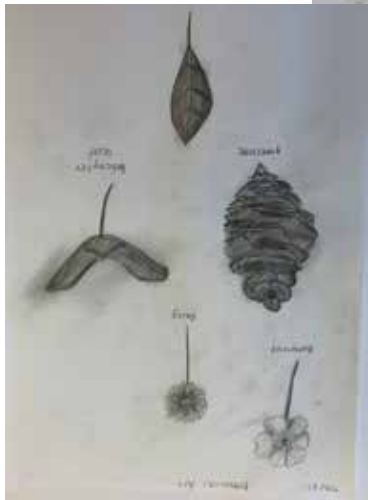


# Art

The Art department organised the following activities for the Creative Curriculum month for key stage three pupils.



Year 8 did some outside landscape sketching of Coolnafranky house and its surroundings. Pupils got to learn about Landscape Art and the opportunity to do 'en plein air' direct observation drawing. The pupils enjoyed being out of their bubble rooms and experiencing this genre of Art.



Year 9 got the opportunity to do some drawing outside and they learnt all about Botanical Art and the type of illustrations that Botanical artists create. They then got the chance to do some monoprints of their drawings in the Art room.



Year 10 did a Photoshop activity in the computer rooms. Pupils learnt to combine photographic images, text, and artwork to create a drinks label design.





Pupils enjoyed experimenting with alternative Art media and techniques and it gave them a break from their class projects. It was also a lovely and relaxing way to finish this year's Art lessons.



# English

English year 9 pupils were able to enjoy the sunshine on the last week as they availed of the Creative Curriculum.

Pupils were escorted by their teacher to various venues around the school grounds. Their task was to use their senses of sight, sound and smell to create an A-Z of descriptive techniques such as alliteration, adjectives, list of three, etc.

The sun shone and it was a lovely way to end the school year!



The main aim of the Student Council is to involve pupils in the decisions that will affect them during their time at CHS.

# SCHOOL COUNCIL

CHS 2020-21

Cookstown High School's Student Council is an important aspect of school life. It ensures that pupils have a say in exactly what matters to them the most. The main aim of the Student Council is to involve pupils in the decisions that will affect them during their time at CHS.

The Student Council is run by the pupils and is supported by our Pastoral Vice Principal, Mrs Allen. It consists of two pupils from each year group, two from the LSC and the Senior Prefect team. At the beginning of October, pupils were introduced by their form tutors to the importance of and what is involved in being part of the School Council. All form classes nominated two class reps for the elections. The Millar Hall was set up as a Polling Station and was manned by Year 13 pupils. The Polling Station concept was introduced to all pupils to provide a more realistic voting experience. Results were collated and the successful candidates were informed. All pupils were presented with School Council badges at their first meeting which took place on Friday 27th November.

The successful candidates for Cookstown High's new School Council for 2020– 2021 are as follows:

Year 8 Connie-Mei McGarvey and Ethan Redford

Year 9 Charles Acheson and William Charles

Year 12 Robert Lewis and Jordan Young

Year 13 Rebecca Hamilton and Olivia Donnelly

LSC Norman Wilson and Callum Kelly

The following pupils are previous council members who remained on the School Council for 2020/2021.

Year 10 Adam Creevy and Lee Harkness

Year 11 Alex Davidson and Lucy McClenaghan

The Year 14 Senior Prefect team also sat on School Council. They are:

Year 14 Kathryn Carson

Joshua Glendinning

Alice Boden

Calvin Davidson

Bobbi Kane

James Gilmour.



SCHOOL COUNCIL 2020/21







# SCRIPTURE UNION

I think it is safe to say that the past year has thrown quite a few curve balls for us all! There have been many challenges, but isn't it wonderful to know that the LORD our God never changes?! He is the same yesterday, today and forever!

At the end of November 2020 the new SU committee was elected, with Emily Davidson selected as President along with her two very capable vice presidents: Andrew Greer and Neil McKay. We were also glad to have Jolie Kane, Matthew Chambers, Ellie Simpson, Cerys Cahoon and James Taylor on the team as well. Our first SU committee meeting ended up being on zoom due

to all the committee being asked to self-isolate one week after they were elected. This was actually a great blessing as it allowed us to work on our SU Christmas video. We really enjoyed putting this together and had great fun on our many zoom calls planning it. Occasionally our zoom meetings lasted for a few hours due to us having a good chat! The two-week isolation gave us the time we needed to put the video together, as well as revise for Christmas mocks. This video was posted on the school Facebook page and reached over 8900 views with the message of the gospel!

Since the school went online from January until Easter, the SU committee needed to find another way to share the

good news of the gospel of Jesus Christ. We decided to create an Instagram page, which Mr Stewart kindly supervises and edits. We have a rota for each week which involves four people creating a post for the day they are assigned to. Each day has a name, which suggests what the post will be about - Motivational Monday, Testimony Tuesday, Worship Wednesday and Fellowship Friday. In this way, each one of us has the opportunity to write a post about something the LORD has laid on our hearts, whether that be through a verse or a song. It has been so wonderful to read what the LORD has shown my fellow committee members and I love opening up Instagram to read their posts!

As I have mentioned before, due to Covid-19 restrictions we needed to adapt the SU, as we were not able to meet for our usual meetings after



school on Fridays. To overcome this, the committee organised a wide array of speakers to film a video that could be posted each Friday to the Instagram page. The Friday messages are prepared by committee members themselves, as well as local ministers, past pupils, Crown Jesus Ministries, and others from the community! Our aim is for these videos is to encourage young believers to read the Bible more and pray, so that they might know the lovely Lord Jesus. Many people have found them to be insightful, relatable, and thought-provoking. We have received great feedback and are pleased that the LORD has blessed these Instagram posts.



CHS 2020-21



which thou knowest not."

Whilst this year has been different, we have much to thank the LORD for. The SU committee are very thankful for such a supportive band of teachers within the school. We are grateful to be given such an opportunity to share God's precious Word with so many through the Instagram page. It has been amazing to see people being reached not only within Cookstown High School, but further away as well!

John 3 v 16-18 - "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life. For God sent not his Son into the world to condemn the world; but that the world through him might be saved. He that believeth on him is not condemned: but he that believeth not is condemned already, because he hath not believed in the name of the only begotten Son of God. "

The SU Committee filmed another video at Easter time to share the gospel message again. We also held an Easter hamper giveaway competition on our Instagram page. The hamper was packed with Easter eggs, chocolates, and devotional books. We were delighted when it was won by our very own Mrs Cheevers!

Despite not being able to meet on

Fridays, those that attended SU in sixth form were able to meet each Thursday at break time for a prayer meeting. This is a vital part of the week for the SU, since it is a fact that there is real power in prayer. It is also so encouraging to hear fellow Christians praying for one another, for the school and for our land. Jeremiah 33:3 - "Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and shew thee great and mighty things,



# HOCKEY

Congratulations to three of our boy's hockey players who gained representative honours this season.

Mark Cuddy was selected for the Ulster U16 squad which played in a series against Scotland in Glasgow and also in a series at home against Wales.

Max Anderson and Ewan Cruickshank were both selected for the Ulster U18 squad which played against Wales and Scotland over the summer holidays.

This was a great achievement and the result of a lot of hard work and commitment on behalf of the boys.



EWAN CRUICKSHANK

MARK CUDDY



MAX ANDERSON



# ATHLETICS

## Nick Griggs



Athletics, once again, has been greatly impacted by the COVID pandemic with no school's competitions taking place this year.

Despite this, I feel it would be very remiss of us here at CHS not to recognise the success of one of our athletes who has had fantastic success.

Year 12 pupil, Nick Griggs, our star track runner has been producing incredible results in his club races. He has not let a little old pandemic deter him from his desire to succeed and he has been very self-disciplined in keeping up his training during lockdown.

The last event that Nick was able to complete for Cookstown High School was the 'E' District Schools Cross Country Championships which were held in Necarne, Irvinestown. Nick won the Inter boys race convincingly and qualified for the Ulster Schools competition. Unfortunately, they were unable to hold the Ulster Schools competition due to the Pandemic.

Since then, Nick has only been able to take part in club competitions where he has had some great success. At the N.I./Ulster Indoor Track and Field Championships held in Dublin during the weekend of the 9th & 10th February 2020, Nick won the Under 17 800m in a time of 2mins 01secs. This meant he qualified for the All Ireland Championships which, unfortunately, were cancelled due to COVID.

On Sunday 16 March 2020, Nick won the Brackaville 5k road race over a hilly course in a time of 15mins 39secs - a fantastic time for a 15-year-old.

At the Mary Peter's Track on Saturday 15th August 2020, Nick came 2nd in the N.I./Ulster under 17 800m with a new Personal Best time of 2mins 0.05sec just losing out on the tape for the gold medal.

On Friday 12th September 2020, Nick competed again at the Mary Peters Track, this time in the Under 17 1500m race and once again won, with a new P.B. of 4mins 12.96sec, running his last 200m in an amazing 27 seconds.

On Saturday 8th May 2021, Nick competed in the North Belfast Harriers promotional event 'An Afternoon of 5k's' at the Mary Peters Track. Nick was running against a senior field and managed to finish in an incredible 6th position in a time of 14mins 15.98secs. This is over 20 seconds inside the Irish Under 20 qualifying time for the European Under 20 Championships.

Nick then went on to win a silver medal in the U20's 1500m race in Santry, Dublin on 20th June. Not only did he win silver, he also achieved a new PB of 3:53.54.

Not content with this, Nick competed in the U20 Irish Senior Championships in Santry, Dublin again the following weekend, this time winning the gold. He set a new Irish youth record of 8.11.15 for the 3000m. This breaks the Irish U18 record and the British U17 record for the 3K. This was also almost 12 secs inside the qualifying time for the European championships which will take place in Tallin, Estonia in July.

This has been an incredible season for Nick despite the pandemic and he should be immensely proud of his achievement. Hopefully next year, the COVID restrictions will have eased and we will be able to get all of our athletes back out on the track and field.

With any luck, the Districts, Ulster's and Irish School's competitions will all be in place again and we get to showcase more of our talented pupils on the Athletics field.



## U20 European Champion

Since this article was written Nick has competed in the European U20 championships held in Estonia, where he won the gold medal in the 3000m. Nick was over a year younger than the next youngest competitor in the field but showed race management beyond his years to beat the best U20 athletes in Europe. He unlocked a final 2:31 km to run away from the field crossing the line in 8:17. We, at Cookstown High School, are delighted to have such a talented athlete in our school and we are so proud of his astonishing achievements this season.



# Head Boy & Head Girl Report



As this academic year draws to a close, we are honoured to leave a final message and relay the many fond memories of our time as Head Boy and Head Girl of Cookstown High School. This year was certainly a year of change for us all. It has been a very difficult and challenging year for both pupils and staff as our normal school life was altered and changed in every way. As a school; lessons were interrupted on numerous occasions and we soon had to adapt to online learning. Our prestigious roles were somewhat different this year as we had to adapt to Covid-19 guidelines when organising and planning events. 'Virtual' soon became reality for our roles as Head

Boy and Head Girl.

It's hard to believe that our time as Head Boy and Head Girl is nearly over, but what a time it has been! Over the past seven years, we have had an amazing time and have many happy memories which we will cherish for the rest of our lives. These years at Cookstown High School have helped to shape our character and develop us into competent young adults ready for university and the world of work. This year in particular has been extraordinary as we have had the honour of representing the school courtesy of our role. We view this honour as our way of saying thank you to the school for the great experiences and opportunities

we have received in the past seven years.

Towards the end of our Lower sixth year in May 2020, elections for Head Boy and Head Girl took place. The pupils in our year along with the teachers were asked to vote for the new senior prefects. The six pupils with the highest number of votes were chosen to go forward for zoom interviews. The interviewing panel consisted of our principal Miss Evans along with senior management, who took it in turns to ask a number of challenging and thought-provoking questions. Following the interview process, we, Kathryn Carson and Joshua Glendinning, were appointed to the roles of Head Girl and

Head Boy. We were both delighted to have earned such a prestigious role, but more importantly, we were honoured to represent Cookstown High School for the next school year alongside a great team of deputies. The deputy Head Girls were chosen to be Alice Boden and Bobbi Kane and the deputy Head Boys were Calvin Davidson and James Gilmour.

Our year as Head Boy and Head Girl commenced immediately after the appointment of our roles. The senior prefects put together a virtual tour of the school to help the new Year 8 pupils familiarise themselves with the location and feel more confident in navigating their way round the grounds as their annual visit was cancelled due to the pandemic. Speaking to a screen soon became the norm for us as the Head Boy and Head Girl as we recorded another welcome video for the Year 8 pupils. While we also got to work creating welcome banners to create a warm and friendly environment around the school.

After a few months off duty over the summer, we returned in anticipation of the new school year beginning. Although we knew this year would be somewhat different with face coverings and social distancing, we knew our roles would be very important during prefect duties. Prefects were



appointed in September and rotas and duties were drawn up. They were even more advantageous as year groups had to stay in their bubbles in their designated areas.

During the latter stages of September our school had the privilege of welcoming Minister Peter Weir (The Education Minister for Northern Ireland). Peter Weir came to visit our school to discuss the impact the pandemic was having on pupils and also to tour the school seeking out funding to enhance the school grounds.

Moving onto Remembrance Sunday, it was a great honour as Head Girl to lay

the wreath on Remembrance Sunday at the cenotaph in Cookstown along with the Head Boy on behalf of the school. As part of our remembrance in school, a special act of remembrance took place at the school war memorial in the Morrison building attended by pupils, governors and staff on Wednesday 11th November. At this remembrance service, Kathryn read a poem entitled 'Taking a Stand' by John Bailey followed by Joshua who said the Exhortation taken from those famous words of Laurence Binyon which begin, "They shall grow not old as we that are left grow old."

In November school council elections took place. As part of our role as Head Boy and Head Girl alongside the deputies we have the honour of sitting on the school council, which allows us to influence decisions within school from a pupil perspective. This is an excellent opportunity to collaborate with younger students and establish what their vision for the school is.

As 2021 began we had hoped for a relaxation of restrictions and a return to school. But that was not the case and another lockdown had begun. We quickly had to adapt to online lessons as they soon became the new norm. During the month of January our year head Mrs Johnston set herself an amazing goal of running, walking or





cycling 3 miles every day in January to raise money for The Olive Branch in Magherafelt. As a year group we decided to get behind and support Mrs Johnston in this challenge. We ran, walked or cycled 3 miles and a lot of us donated £3 to the charity.

In January preparation for open night began in a unique style. Another virtual video was recorded and some of the senior prefects had the opportunity to share their experiences at the high school. It was a joy to welcome prospective students and their parents to our school even if it was through an online promotional video.

Before the Easter break, a special Easter service was recorded in First Cookstown Presbyterian Church. This service was a special moment of reflection of the hope of Easter and was enjoyed by all members of our school community. Kathryn introduced the service speaking on the theme of hope followed by Joshua who read a passage from Scripture.

To end the school year, we felt it was our duty to thank the teachers and staff at Cookstown High School for all their hard work and so we held a party in the staffroom with cake and balloons. This was coupled with hand-made thank you cards to which we distributed to the teachers before the Easter break. This was just a small token of gratitude to thank the teachers for all the hard work they put into adapting to online lessons.

We were able to build a stronger relationship with our principal as well as the entire senior leadership team and Mrs Johnston during our bi-monthly coffee mornings. This was a great opportunity to discuss our ideas and the upcoming events in a casual setting with senior members of staff (or maybe it was just an excuse to have coffee and scones!). These meetings allowed us to convey our ideas to the senior leadership team as well as report on

life as a student, which in turn helped the senior leadership team to build a stronger connection between the school and its pupils.

The constant closure of school has been devastating, particularly for all of Upper Sixth as the past two years of sixth form have been so interrupted. We never expected to leave Cookstown High School, the place we loved for seven years, with two years of interrupted learning. But on behalf of all Year 14 students, we would like to say a BIG thank you to all the staff for all their hard work and advice throughout the pandemic and also during the seven years of study here at Cookstown High School. Thank you!

As our time as Head Boy and Head Girl draws to a close, we are reminded of the many fond memories we created during our time at Cookstown High School. We feel incredibly honoured to have been bestowed with this role and to represent the students of such an amazing school in this manner. We count it a privilege to give something back to the school which has given so much to us over the past seven years. We will most definitely look back on our final year with happy memories and our congratulations go to Jolie Kane and Max Anderson on being appointed the Head Girl and Head Boy for the 2021/22 school year. We wish them every success in carrying out the role next year.









SOPHIE DORNAN 10CA  
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