

Assumption Grammar School Ballynahinch

*SPECIALIST SCHOOL FOR MUSIC WITH
PHYSICAL EDUCATION*



BOARD OF GOVERNORS' REPORT

2014/2015

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1 MEMBERSHIP

Very Reverend G Canon McCrory, Chairman	Trustees Representative
Miss Mairead O'Halloran, Vice Chair	Trustees Representative
Sr Maureen Carville, Correspondent	Trustees Representative
Mr John McGarrity	Trustees Representative
Mrs Sheila Crea	Department of Education Representative
Mrs Marian McGreevy	Department of Education Representative
Mr Seamus Magee	Department of Education Representative
Mr Michael Wilson	Parent Governor (elected)
Mr Peter McCann	Teacher Governor (elected)
Mr Peter Dobbin	Principal/Non-Voting member

Members' term of office (excluding the Principal) expires on 29 December 2017.

It is our pleasure to fulfil the role of the Governors of Assumption Grammar School and to assist in supporting its continued development in these challenging times for education. We value the confidence that you, as parents, express by selecting our school and entrusting your children's education to us. Our vision is one of partnership, where all parts of the school community work together to promote the growth and development of our pupils in every aspect of their lives.

2 RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Governors are ultimately responsible for the overall management of the school. They are required to meet a minimum of three times a year. Matters dealt with by the Board in the past year included:

- Audit and School Improvement
- Admissions Policy and Enrolment
- Appointment and promotion of staff
- Child Protection
- Collaboration within Area Learning Community
- Collaboration with Primary Schools
- Completion of New Building Programme
- Continuing Professional Development
- Curriculum
- Finance and the LMS Budget
- Fostering Links with the Local Community
- Managing Attendance
- Provision of information to parents
- School Development Planning
- Specialist Status

To facilitate them in the fulfilment of their duties the governors have established the following Sub-Committees:

- Admissions
- Appointments
- Audit and School Improvement
- Finance
- Pastoral/Disciplinary
- Managing Attendance
- Salary
- Salary Appeals

STAFFING – September 2014 - August 2015

We welcomed the following members of staff:

- Mr Peter Dobbin as Principal.

Teaching Posts

- Mrs Deirdre Keary was appointed Head of Art.
- Miss Emma Rose McCloskey was appointed as Full Time Teacher of Religious Education and English.
- Mrs Jenny Hughes and Mr Peter McCann worked as a Job Share (Art).
- Mr David Campbell continued as Teacher of Technology on a part time basis.
- Miss Aileen McLernan covered Mrs Hawes' maternity leave (Psychology).

These appointments brought the total teaching staff to 48 full time and 10 part time.

Non Teaching Posts

- Miss Susan Hughes was appointed as Creative and Expressive Technician on a one year contract.

Internal Appointments

- Mrs Marcelle Orsi was appointed as Senior Teacher for Senior School.
- Miss Susan Ivery was appointed as Head of Geography.
- Mrs Shirley McVeigh was appointed as Year 8 Year Head.
- In November 2014, Mrs Linda McMenamin was appointed as Senior Teacher with Responsibility for A School Connected to its Community
- In November 2014, Mrs Anita McGinn was appointed as Senior Teacher with Responsibility Learning and Teaching

DEPARTURES

The following members of staff left the school on 31 August 2015:

Mrs Monica Lewis retired as Senior Teacher and Teacher of Spanish.

Mr Paul Maginn retired as Teacher of Latin and Politics.

Mrs Mary Wells retired as Head/Teacher of Geography.

Mrs Mary McCafferty retired as Head of Careers and Teacher of Geography.

Mr Peter McCann retired as Head/Teacher of Art.

Dr Anne O'Neill retired as Head of Biology.

Mrs Jenny Hughes left the school after 11 years as Teacher of Art.

Mr Aidan Brown left his post of Estates and Premises Assistant.

ADMISSIONS

The school's enrolment for the academic year 2014-2015 was 843. This number included a Year 8 enrolment of 121. The popularity of the school is witnessed by the number of parents who give it as first preference. Members of the Board of Governors regret that they had to disappoint some parents.

The vast majority of Year 12 pupils returned to school after GCSE. The Department of Education permitted us to accept applicants from neighbouring secondary schools and we welcomed 3 new students.

SCHOOL BUDGET

FINANCIAL STATEMENT FOR THE YEAR 1 APRIL 2014-31 MARCH 2015

Local Management of Schools

Since the introduction of LMS each school has been given a budget to cover its running expenses. Finances in this area do not cover the academic year, September to June, but the financial year, April to March.

It is the responsibility of the Board of Governors to oversee the management of the school's delegated budget. The Finance Committee assisted in administering the school's budget of £3,896,117 for the year. Due to the good administration of this, the school continues to be very well equipped and resourced.

The financial statement for the period April 2014 to March 2015 was presented to the Board by our Auditor in June 2014. A summary of the Auditor's report is given below.

Income:

DENI Grants &	£3,834,844
Other Income	£60,098
Bank Interest	£1,175

Operating Deficit	£66,012
	£3,962,129

Expenditure:

Salaries	£3,425,456
Class Requisites	£84,133
Examination Fees	£73,671
Equipment	£5,726
Maintenance/Utility Costs	£192,283

Other Operational Costs	£180,860
	£3,962,129

Voluntary Contributions and Donations

Voluntary contributions and donations received during the year amounted to £15,728. This income was used to offset the additional expenditure which the school has approved to provide enhanced facilities and equipment within the new development.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

- The school remains committed to the tradition of ensuring that all pupils with special educational needs have full access to the National Curriculum. Where possible, support has been provided within the ordinary classroom setting.
- We had 3 statemented pupils and 2 classroom assistants during the academic year 2014/15.
- The Maths and English Departments continued to provide additional numeracy and literacy support outside the regular school timetable for pupils with particular difficulties.
- Dr Murphy oversaw the development of ASPIRE (A Personalised Self Study Module and Resource File for schools which, through an Action Research methodology, supports children with SEN). The following teachers participated successfully in cohort 2.
 1. Miss Mary Jo McKenna
 2. Mrs Ciara Hanna

- PRSD/ Senior Teacher links were organised to address the new ASPIRE cohort and to encourage staff to use the school's VLE (Virtual Learning Environment) to enhance this programme. The following staff have expressed interest in being part of cohort 3:
 1. Miss Emma Rose McCloskey
 2. Mrs Joan Kelly
 3. Mrs Shirley McVeigh

- Year Heads have continued to enhance their pastoral role by developing Pupil Voice interviews with SEN pupils in their respective Year Groups.

- Dr Murphy observed a number of classes that were designed to assist SEN pupils.

- In November 2014, Dr Murphy attended a two day training session. The overall programme's objectives were as follows:
 1. To define the responsibility for the management of Special Educational Needs (SEN) within the school;
 2. To define the role of the SENCo in relation to the management structure of the school and in the context of the school's SEN policy;
 3. To enable the SENCo, with the support of the Principal and Board of Governors, to take responsibility for the day to day provision made by the school for pupils with SEN within the context of the SEN Policy, the Code of Practice and the supplement to the Code of Practice;
 4. To further enhance the professional knowledge, understanding, competence and confidence of the SENCo in order to ensure high quality teaching and learning in an inclusive environment;
 5. To promote good practice in the efficient and effective use of resources to improve outcomes for pupils with SEN.

- SEN was a key component of the ETI Inspection. The following observation was made:
'The provision for pupils who require additional support with their learning is a strength of the school. The pupils are well integrated, contribute fully to school life and achieve highly.'

GIFTED AND TALENTED

Assumption's provision for Gifted and Talented students is flexible and offers real learning opportunities beyond the statutory curriculum. In 2014/2015, 3 departments (Mathematics, Music and Latin) gave Gifted and Talented students opportunities to extend their academic qualifications and enrich their experience of the subjects. In Mathematics, for the **fourth** year, Statistics was offered as an extra GCSE and the provision of early morning Music classes continued in 2014-15.

Students from a Bunscoil background took GCSE and AS Irish in Years 10 and 12 respectively. The Technology Department continued early morning Technology as an extra GCSE. During third term, plans were made for the establishment of a Psychology for Learning Centre (PLC) to enhance the learning of all our pupils including Gifted and Talented (G&T) students. It was agreed that a G&T register will be collated in subsequent years. Provision is being made for a departmental audit of G&T students so that individual departments will report on their specific provision.

CURRICULUM

The school offers a range of subjects over and above the statutory requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum and lays particular emphasis on the pastoral dimension in the curriculum.

Key Stage 3 (Years 8, 9 and 10)

Year 10 revised Schemes of Work continued to be delivered in the academic year 2014/2015 to include explicit assessment of the cross-curricular and wider skills. The school will continue to endeavour both at whole school and departmental levels to fulfil the 3 main curriculum objectives. These are to develop each of our pupils as

- Individuals
- Contributors to society
- Contributors to the economy and the environment

AREAS OF STUDY

The Arts	Art and Design Drama (in English) Music
Language & Literacy	English
Mathematics & Numeracy	Mathematics
Modern Languages	French Irish Spanish
Environment & Society	History Geography
Science & Technology	Technology and Design Science
Learning for Life & Work	Home Economics Relationships & Sexuality Education (RSE) Citizenship Employability
Physical Education	Physical Education
Religious Education	Religious Education

ICT and Latin continue to be delivered as part of our KS3 provision. Latin is being removed from the curriculum in September 2015.

Language provision at Key Stage 3 has been retained from 2013/14. Year 10 students chose two of the three languages they had opted for in Year 9 and had 5 timetabled periods for each of their two languages. This will be reviewed again for 2016/17.

ICT continued as a discrete subject for pupils in Years 8 - 10. Year 8 pupils had two periods per week to develop ICT skills including training in the use of the school VLE (Fronter) which they can employ in the Learning Areas. Year 9 and 10 pupils had one period per week.

Key Stage 4 (Years 11 and 12)

Through its Key Stage 4 curriculum, the school offers pupils a very wide choice of 27 subjects (Entitlement Framework specifies 21 courses in 2014/15) for GCSE, thus keeping open to them a varied range of career options. Additionally, the school must ensure that at least one third of the courses offered are classified as "applied" (A).

The subjects offered at Key Stage 4 are:

Core Subjects	Religious Education English Language English Literature Mathematics
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All students study these Core Subjects. In addition, they are obliged to study:

Science:	<i>Either</i>	Double Science Award (2 GCSEs)
	<i>or all 3 of</i>	Physics Chemistry Biology
	<i>or</i>	1 or more Single Sciences

Environment & Society:	<i>Either</i>	History
	<i>or</i>	Geography

Languages:	<i>Either</i>	Irish
	<i>or</i>	Spanish
	<i>or</i>	French

Students may study both History and Geography and more than one language.

Most students study 10 GCSE subjects, composed of the requirements listed above and a choice of 1 or 2 from the following optional list:

- Additional Maths
- Art and Design (A)
- Business Studies
- Drama (A)
- Home Economics (A)
- Information and Communications Technology (A)
- Journalism (A)
- Music (A)
- PE (A)
- Technology and Design (A)
- Latin – completed at end of Year 11 (last cohort in 2014/15)
- Health & Social Care (A)
- Statistics is offered as an additional after-school GCSE option to G&T pupils

Assessment at the end of Key Stage 4 is through GCSE examinations. All students take non-examination courses in Relationships and Sexuality Education, Citizenship and Careers.

Sixth Form (Years 13 and 14)

A range of 28 subjects (Entitlement Framework specifies 24 courses for 2014/15) is available for A2 level. Additionally, 5 new “applied” (A) subjects in St Colman’s High School were offered to Year 12 pupils selecting AS options in March 2015 – Travel and Tourism, Production Arts, Media Studies, OCR Level 3 Diploma in Business Studies and ICT. This was possible due to the improved timetabling collaboration with St Colman’s in 2014/15.

AS/A2 Subjects Offered

Art & Design (A)	Biology	Business Studies	Applied Business (A)
Chemistry	Computing (A)	English Literature	French
Geography	Health & Social Care (A)	History	History and Appreciation of Art
Home Economics	ICT (A)	Irish	Journalism (A)
Mathematics	Music (A)	Further Maths	Physical Education (A)
Physics	Psychology	Government & Politics	Religious Studies
Spanish	Sociology	Technology & Design (A)	Theatre Studies (A)

Many students choose to study 4 AS levels in Year 13. The majority of Year 14 students discontinue one AS level and continue with 3 at A2 level.

In keeping with the school's commitment to providing a broad and relevant academic experience for Sixth Form students, we continued to offer an Enrichment Programme in Year 13. In 2014/2015, students could choose from the following options: Survival Cookery, Leisure Studies, Young Enterprise, COPE, First Aid and ASPIRE. Additional Maths was offered in the Enrichment Programme. It was designed to support those students who opted for AS Maths and had not taken Additional Maths at GCSE.

Leadership training included talks from representatives of many organisations which catered for the varied interests of the pupils: The College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise (with emphasis on the career opportunities in the Food Sector), Employment opportunities in the European Union, Entrepreneurship and Tertiary Education. In addition, pupils were trained for leadership roles in the school.

A range of activities is offered by the PE Department to Year 13 pupils opting for Leisure Studies Enrichment including aerobics, bowling, fitness training, horse riding, ice skating, squash and swimming.

As part of the Ballynahinch Learning Community Programme, Ms Donaghy from St. Colman's High School continued to deliver A Level Health and Social Care to pupils in Assumption. A total of 20 St. Colman's pupils took Post 16 courses in Assumption in 2014/15.

From September 2015, 1 Assumption Grammar pupil is availing of an applied A Level in Travel and Tourism in St Colman's. This is the first time we have had Assumption pupils attending classes in our BLC link school. 16 St Colman's pupils - boys and girls - will avail of 10 GCSE/A Level subjects in Assumption (History, Politics, Mathematics, Physics, Music, Journalism, Psychology, Home Economics, Technology and French).

We are confident of meeting the DENI statutory requirements for the Entitlement Framework of 24 Key Stage 4 courses and 27 Post 16 courses from September 2015.

CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE

All pupils from Years 8-14 have timetabled Careers/ Education for Employability classes in which emphasis is placed on the development of personal awareness and skills related to occupational opportunities. Pupils are encouraged to make well informed decisions and choices in relation to Personal Career Planning.

WORK EXPERIENCE 19-23 January 2015

Assumption students embarked on a varied array of placements during the week set aside in the annual school calendar. The following occupational fields were much in evidence:

- Law
- Education
- Medicine
- Nursing
- Residential Care
- Childcare
- Pharmacy
- Physiotherapy
- Radiography
- Accountancy
- Midwifery
- Veterinary Science
- Administration
- IT
- Journalism
- Engineering
- Interior Design
- Marketing
- Leisure & Tourism
- Dentistry
- Optometry
- Manufacturing
- Construction / Quantity Surveying
- Political activism
- Mental Health services
- Public Service
- Media
- Retail

The students prepared Powerpoint presentations upon their return, and a selection has now been uploaded into the Work Experience section of **Frontier**. There was whole staff involvement as every Teacher made at least one phone call or visit to a student on placement. Records of these contacts were then stored electronically. Quality assurance was provided through staff/pupil and parent online feedback which was analysed and reported back to the Principal by the Work Experience Co-ordinator. The Co-ordinator attended the launch of the SEHSCT's 'New Medical Work Experience programme' in the Ulster Hospital, Dundonald on 23 June, 2015.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS OVERSEAS

The Board of Governors is grateful to those members of staff who gave of their time to organise and lead valuable educational and humanitarian trips during the year. Their contribution to the educational experience of our pupils and to the development of their understanding of other societies is indeed great.

AFRICAN ADVENTURE 11: 20th JULY – 21ST AUGUST 2014

For the fifteen incredibly fortunate students who accompanied Mr Hackney to South Africa for four weeks, July 20th would become a date they would never be able to forget. "Why?" I hear you ask? Well – this would be the date on which we would embark on a trip which would change our lives forever.

Following a few emotional goodbyes at Dublin International Airport, an eternal check in line and a total of fourteen hours travelling, we arrived in Johannesburg. While some had waited fourteen hours to arrive, I had waited five years. As a pupil of Mr Hackney's since my first year at Assumption Grammar, I too was one of many who had only dreamed of being a part of the famous, "Africa Trip" and had since then longed to go there myself someday. Fortunately for me that day had come.

Prior to this, however, there had been months of work in order to fund such an adventure. My quest to find a part time job (in order to relieve some of my parents' payment strain, considering this would be a trip only I would be going on) began and I was fortunate to have found three: singing on Friday nights in a local bar, waitressing in my local pub on weekends and working at Ulster Rugby. This, along with various fundraisers throughout the summer, including an abseil and numerous collections, enabled me to raise all the money in time, as well as some extra money for the orphanages we would be visiting. I was incredibly fortunate to have been provided with a complete football strip of a local club, (now too small for use) from a family friend, which would also be given to the children of the Rose of Hope Orphanage.

At this point, we were all so oblivious to the experiences we would have over the next four weeks. Our time spent between Monateng, Sondella, Ukatula, Sun City, Cape Town, Durban and Krugar would be packed with stunning game drives, breath taking views and the most exhilarating activities ever. Riding elephants, zip lining through canyons and holding lion cubs – all of which (plus much, much more) were ticked off my bucket list! It's safe to say that little frightens me. Not even being up close and personal with a four metre Great White Shark in the Atlantic Ocean, an experience which can only be described as incredible!

While in Monateng, we had the privilege of meeting Mariam and Allister – a couple who had over time adopted the role of leading the Rose of Hope Orphanage we were scheduled to be visiting that same week. At this meeting we were taught some Zulu and soon all became "totally fluent," – or so we thought! I was able to take advantage of my Junior and Senior Choir training by kicking off some singing, which, in the space of ten minutes, everyone had joined, regardless of whether they knew the lyrics or not!

The main highlight for all of us was our visit to the Rose of Hope Orphanage in Johannesburg. Being able to see at first hand the unbelievable impact all our money and effort made us not only incredibly emotional, but very humbled. The reactions to the stickers and sweets which followed can only be compared to those similar to being given bars of gold. However, the reaction to the football strip is one that cannot satisfactorily be described in words alone. After giving the strip to the children to wear, we were informed that this had enabled the orphanage to start up its first ever football team – something the leaders had wanted to do for quite some time. The three hours which followed felt like three minutes, as the children, fascinated by our phones and cameras, crowded around us, showering us with hugs and high fives. It goes without saying that emotions inevitably ran high when the time came for us to leave. The dedication and love provided by the Pastor, as well as those who support the orphanage, was truly inspirational and an experience which we will cherish and remember forever.

Overall, I don't think there are words which can adequately or accurately describe the African Adventure. 'Incredible', 'phenomenal', 'life-changing', are but a few words which begin to describe our time spent in South Africa. We will be eternally thankful is grateful a better word? to Mr Hackney for giving us the opportunity to experience such a life changing four week period. We have all learnt so much and have been able to see the most incredible things this world has to offer – something on which no price can be put. Henry Millar once said, "One's destination is never a place, but a new way of seeing things." It is safe to say that South Africa has been the most perfectly incredible destination in more ways than I could have ever imagined.

Karen Mullan, 13A.

TRIP 2

SAPHARA INDIA TRIP 15th- 30th July, 2014

On 15th July, twenty young people and five leaders, from Assumption Grammar, Down High and St. Patrick's Grammar, travelled to the North of India with the intention of working with children in a number of schools and in the hope of making a real difference. We arrived, with much excitement, in one of the busiest cities in the world but were also shocked with the extreme poverty we witnessed from the very start. The first school we visited was Anurag in the centre of Delhi, where we were welcomed by lots of smiling faces and entertained by a lovely array of Indian culture through dance and music. We had the opportunity to teach small groups and help the children with their English. We also brought with us a scrapbook for the pupils in Anurag which primary school children in Northern Ireland had put together about their daily life. We helped the Indian children put together pieces of their own work about themselves in a scrapbook which we brought back home for the local primary school.

Getting to visit The Taj Mahal and Agra Fort was a once in a lifetime experience but what was to come was even more exciting. We headed by train to Dehradun and then travelled up in the foothills of the Himalayas to a place called Mussoorie. Here we would work with two schools that Saphara have been working with for several years. Saphara works through MGVS an NGO that helps communities in Mussoorie and the surrounding areas. We travelled to Kaplani, a school of 86 pupils where we got the opportunity to plan and teach lessons in English, Art and Personal Development to students from 11-18. Morning Assembly, which we were fortunate to attend, was led by pupils and included singing the national anthem. All of the pupils were so bright, clever, grateful and enthusiastic. They value education as the most important thing in their life, evidence of which is their willingness to learn and the pride with which they wear their uniforms.

We then trekked to Donk Primary School, a small two classroom school completely funded by Saphara. Donk is the primary school that a lot of the Kaplani students had previously attended and is very important to the local community. We had a lot of fun teaching the children in English about emotions, teaching them songs and playing with them. We also got to watch their assemblies, which are so perfectly organised by the pupils despite some of them only been as young as 5. We also were privileged to provide some resources for each of the pupils such as pencil cases and stationery.

The group participated in a Global Awareness Weekend led by Surender Singh, a truly inspirational man and an important member of MGVS. Together we learnt about injustice in the world and how best to make a difference, no matter how small. Surender helped us understand and deal with the poverty and hardship we were witnessing.

We returned to Dehradun, where we worked in SNEHA School. This school provides education for over 1000 pupils from nursery up to class 12. The school is led by the founder Dr. Reeta Rao. Everyone made us feel so welcome, in particular, one teacher named Nadesh who had excellent English and has been working with the Saphara students for quite a while. We had the opportunity to teach classes 1-3 who,

although young and not quite at a high level of English, were so full of enthusiasm. We taught lessons on the time, emotions, prepositions and body parts. It was wonderful to see the pupils English improve so noticeably in the 4 days we spent there. We also had conversation class with the equivalent of GCSE students during which we learnt about each other through speaking English. Conversation classes like these help build the pupils' fluency in speaking English. SNEHA also have assembly every morning in which we were privileged to partake and even lead on the second day. Saphara helps pay for teacher salaries in SNEHA and, as well as getting to see and use the brand new bleachers funded by Saphara, we also had an opportunity to help open two new classrooms also funded by Saphara.

While we were at SNEHA we got the opportunity to visit the marginalised communities. Some of the pupils brought us to their homes there, and we even got to meet some families. Although difficult emotionally, Dr Reeta talked to us afterwards and helped us to realise that by helping teach these pupils, we are helping some of those families escape poverty. Dr Reeta's words helped put the whole trip in perspective, that all the teaching that we did, that was contributing towards the pupils education, was giving them the knowledge and confidence to grow and learn and hopefully escape the poverty cycle.

Not only does Saphara help the pupils in India, but it has had a profound impact on each one of the Down Teams pupils. Witnessing the smiles, enthusiasm and energy of each child, teacher, principal and individual we met was break taking. Saphara without a doubt is definitely not a complete team when here in Ireland, but is completed when in India with the other half. They taught us that education, family, friends and being loving and kind are the most important things. Unfortunately, injustice still exists in India due to corrupt Government, as 456 million individuals live below the poverty line today. To think that people with so little have taught us so much in such a short space of time is nothing short of incredible. Saphara has opened our eyes and hearts and I know all of us are willing to continue to help Saphara.

I feel this quote from Mother Teresa sums up what Saphara is really about:

"I can do things you cannot, you can do things I cannot; together we can do great things."

Aileen Gallagher 14C

TRIP 4

SKI TRIP TO ITALY – March 2015

On Saturday 14th March 2015, 49 students and 6 members of staff set off from Ballynahinch bound for the Italian ski resort of Folgaria. Most students travelled via Dublin and Milan-Bergamo with a smaller group travelling via Belfast and Verona. Folgaria is an attractive town situated in the Trentino region of the Trento province. The students stayed in the excellent Park Hotel Miramonti. Students received four hours of skiing lessons each day and the standard of skiing achieved by the end of the week was very impressive. The snow and weather conditions were perfect. Evening activities included Mass on Sunday, snow-tubing, swimming, ice-skating, cinema and Disco. The students and staff really enjoyed the experience and were very sad to leave it all behind on Saturday 21st March.

Dr T Cunningham

TRIP 5

FRENCH TRIP - JUNE 2015

At the end of a busy year, 47 pupils from Years 8 to 12, accompanied by Mrs McCormick, Mrs McMenamin, Mrs Madine, Mr Leonard and myself set off for Paris.

After an eventful and tiring journey to France, with road works prolonging the normally speedy journey to Dublin, we all arrived safely in the sunny capital. First, a guided coach tour introduced the group to the main sites: Notre Dame, Opera Garnier, Arc de Triomphe, Concorde and le Louvre. A quick stop for lunch and another activity followed: a boat trip on the Seine, where we met up with my dad who had managed

to get us tickets to the top of the Eiffel Tower (NST had not been able to secure our booking)???. Our next activity consisted of travelling to the very top of the Tour Eiffel (by lift)! It was a bit scary for some of our pupils but they were all assured it was an opportunity not to miss; so the whole group went up to the 3rd level! An ice cream back at the bottom in order to recover from all the emotions and excitement was most welcome and enabled everyone to try a bit of French! After an evening meal in Pizza Hut, we finally arrived at our hotel where everyone could get some rest after a long and eventful day.

Day 2 was equally busy: we started early with a tour of Notre Dame and missed all the queuing. How lucky! The girls were well impressed with the beautiful stained glass and the special atmosphere inside. After a short walk across the Seine, we arrived at the Louvre Museum where we started with a few group photos in front of the beautiful pyramid. Next was some cultural time with the discovery of numerous well-known masterpieces. We all got to see Mona Lisa, of course. We then grabbed a sandwich and walked to the Jardin des Tuileries, where we lay in the sunshine for a while, before going to the ice cream van! More photos, chats and laughs and we walked to Place de la Concorde where our coach was picking us up and off we went to visit Montmartre and Le Sacré Coeur. Our pupils enjoyed the Basilica as well as the arty Place du Tertre behind the Basilica. More French was spoken: our girls were getting good at shopping vocabulary! On our way down, we stopped for a ride on a beautiful traditional roundabout and then it was dinner time in Flunch.

Day 3: The well awaited trip to Disneyland. So much excitement and fun for all, even the teachers! Most impressive was the dependability of the girls re meeting up at regular intervals and the way in which they looked after each other. What a fun and mature group we had! The teachers also tried a few rides and had a great laugh, particularly on Thunder Mountain, which Mr Leonard and Mrs McMenamain will remember for a long time! The day flew but all were delighted with it and after watching the parade and having a meal in Planet Hollywood, we travelled back to our hotel.

Day 4 - the final day: We checked out of the hotel without any problem. Deposits were refunded as our pupils made us proud again: no noise at night and bedrooms left in perfect condition. Before travelling to the airport, we stopped at the Parinor Shopping Centre where plenty of presents were bought. Our pupils were refunded with money from the unused emergency fund and were so thankful for this extra unexpected cash! The journey back went as planned and everyone was returned safely to their families, ready to start their summer holidays.

We had a fantastic time and our pupils made us extremely proud with their impeccable behaviour.

I was extremely lucky to be assisted by an exceptional group of colleagues who proved so full of initiative, energy and fun throughout our stay.

Mrs C Martin

MUSIC

This has been another immensely productive and rewarding year for the Music Department. In August we learned that of 38 girls entered for GCSE/AS/A2 examinations in May and June 2013, all had received A* - C grades with 50% achieving either an A* or an A. These results were reviewed with the SLT link during September and the first meeting of the Music Department staff took place, in which plans for the year were agreed along with arrangements for the resumption of extra-curricular activities. We were sorry to lose our colleague Sinead McErlane who took up a new post at Our Lady & St. Patrick's College at Knock. In June, our team of 15 peripatetic staff attended a meeting to renew Child Protection training and to consider any issues relating to the year ahead. This report sets out the events and achievements of the department during the year.

We currently enter pupils for instrumental and vocal exams through three examining boards, the Associated Board (ABRSM) for voice, piano and orchestral instruments, the London College of Music

(LCM) for Musical Theatre Singing and Irish traditional instruments and 'Rockschool' for drum-kit. These exams took place during three sessions in November 2014, March and June 2015 and the results from June 2014 – March 2015 are appended to this report.

Our students continued their run of success at the Ballymena Music Festival in February where 13 prizes in all were awarded to Assumption ensembles or soloists. Among these, over 60% of the girls entered won their classes and the Senior Orchestra received the award for the 'Best Ensemble' at the festival. Of the soloists, Year 12 student, Laura McAllister, was placed in two different instruments and Lara McKenna, also Year 12, was awarded the overall prize as the 'Most Promising Player of a Brass Instrument'. Full details of the results are set out in the table below.

Last year, we expanded our curricular provision for Music Technology by introducing a programme of lessons in which Year 10 students use the iMac computers for creative work which involves using Apple's 'Garageband' music software to compose by mixing and editing a wide range of musical textures. We have continued to extend this application into Years 8 and 9 where students are introduced to concepts of melody and harmony using appropriate software. iPads are increasingly used in class to record performances which are then reviewed for peer-assessment using the newly-installed Apple TV.

We have been ably assisted this year by Mr. James Leonard and Mrs. Lynsey Patton who have taught some Year 10 and Year 8 'Choral Singing' classes. The Music Department staff attended courses run by 'Musical Futures', an organisation who develop new initiatives for classroom practice at Key Stage 3 and these were incorporated into the schemes of work.

We continue to provide opportunities for shared education within the Ballynahinch Learning Community as we welcome GCSE and A-level Music students from other secondary schools who join us for fast-track courses before school and in the regular timetable.

The table below sets out the concerts, recitals and other activities that Assumption Grammar School musicians took part in during the year in school and throughout the wider community. Highlights of this year included the visit by the Jazz Group and String Quartet to the NI Cancer Fund for Children's 'Daisy Lodge' centre in Newcastle for the official opening ceremony attended by golfer Rory McIlroy. The Christmas period was also very busy, starting with the Chamber Choir carol-singing in Victoria Square. This raised over £200 for Action Cancer, in advance of the choir appearing at the 'Sound of Action' concert in St Anne's Cathedral in Belfast later in the week. The Junior Choir made their second appearance at the 'Community Carol Service' in Ballynahinch and, for the first time in recent years, the Assumption Grammar School Christmas Concert took place in the beautiful and acoustically superb surroundings of St. Patrick's Church in Ballynahinch involving students from both the English and Drama Departments giving a variety of readings around the Christmas theme interspersed with musical items. In March, we had the Annual Concert in the Ulster Hall in which all the main ensembles participated. The concert concluded with a spectacular performance of songs from the musical 'The Lion King' involving all the girls from Years 8 and 9 accompanied by the Senior Orchestra. Later in the year, another highlight was the visit of the Junior Choir to Armagh Cathedral where they joined the choir from Victoria College. The choirs performed alongside the international stars 'The Priests' in a concert celebrating the 25th anniversary of 'Habitat For Humanity'. As the year came to a close, we worked alongside the Drama Department, holding auditions for the school production of 'Oklahoma' which will take place in October 2015.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES 2014-15

AUGUST
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Four Year 13 and 14 students perform in the 'Ravara' production of 'Little Shop of Horrors' in Stranmillis College, Belfast.
SEPTEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Junior & Senior Masses to celebrate the start of the school year.Mass for Year 8 students and their parents.
OCTOBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Jazz Group and String Quartet perform at the Official Opening Ceremony of NI Cancer Fund for Children 'Daisy Lodge' facility in Newcastle with golfer Rory McIlroy.Year 11 Music class performs at the Year 11 Presentation Evening.Musicians from junior classes involved in the Drama Festival.
NOVEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Twelve Assumption students perform in a production of 'Grease' by St. Patrick's Choral Society in the Downshire Hospital in Downpatrick with several in principle roles.Year 13 Music class performs at the Year 13 Presentation Evening.Two string quartets perform for 'NI Cancer Fund for Children' at the Slieve Donard Hotel in Newcastle
DECEMBER
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Chamber Choir carol-singing in Victoria Square to raise funds for 'Action Cancer'.String Quartet performs at a wedding in the Ulster Hall in Belfast.Chamber Choir perform in Ballynahinch town centre for the switch-on of the Christmas lights.Chamber Choir perform for 'Action Cancer' at the 'Sound of Action' concert in St. Anne's Cathedral in Belfast.Junior Choir performs at the Ballynahinch Community Carol Service.Assumption Grammar School Christmas Concert in St. Patrick's Church in Ballynahinch.Chamber Choir perform for mentally disabled adults at Downshire Hospital in Downpatrick.Musicians perform at the Senior Citizens Christmas Party.Assumption Grammar School Carol Service.
JANUARY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Jazz Group, Traditional Group, String Quartets and soloists perform at the Assumption Grammar School Open Day.
FEBRUARY
<ul style="list-style-type: none">Assumption Grammar School hosts the Co. Down heat of the BBC Radio Ulster 'School Choir of the Year' competition. Senior Choir performs in the competition.Ballymena Music Festival (see attached results).African Drum Group and String Quartet perform at NICS Award Ceremony in Slieve Donard Hotel, Newcastle.
MARCH
<ul style="list-style-type: none">String Quartet performs at event in Riddel Hall in Stranmillis for the Department of Employment and Learning.Two Assumption Grammar School Year 14 music students win the Belfast Telegraph 'Busker of the Year' competition.Assumption Grammar School singers involved in St. Patrick's Choral Society production of 'The King And I' in the Downshire Hospital, Downpatrick.Annual Concert in the Ulster Hall in Belfast.

MAY
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Traditional musicians perform in Riddel Hall (QUB) for the 'Apprentice of the Year' awards organised by the Department of Employment & Learning. ▪ String Quartet performs on the 'Nomadic' ship in Belfast harbour for 'Pop-Up Film Club'. ▪ Junior Choir performs in Armagh Cathedral with 'The Priests' as part of the 25th Anniversary of 'Habitat For Humanity'.
JUNE
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ AGS Junior Concert. ▪ Mass for the end of the school year ▪ Auditions for AGS production of 'Oklahoma' in October 2015.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The school has 2 full time and 1 part time specialist PE teachers. Teachers from other departments give invaluable help with extra-curricular activities. Mrs Collins, assisted by Dr Cunningham, is an enthusiastic promoter and coach of Camogie in the school while Mrs Murray and Mr Maginn offer Gaelic training for pupils in Years 8-12.

The school is indebted to these members of staff and to Mrs McCambridge and the staff in the PE Department for their constant interest and dedication in encouraging pupils to participate in a wide variety of sports and games.

Pupils from Years 8-12 receive a broad and balanced PE Curriculum. As well as following a general PE programme, pupils in Year 8 have time allocated to games. In Year 9, the general PE programme is supplemented by swimming. Over the 3 years of Key Stage 3, pupils participate in a wide range of games including netball, camogie, gymnastics, dance, athletics, tennis and swimming. Key Stage 4 pupils are offered activities such as volleyball, dance, badminton, netball and health-related fitness. PE is now a very popular choice for GCSE. The results in this practical and theoretical course have been exceptional (see Public Examination Results). The Department promotes a large number of extra-curricular activities available after school and at lunchtimes. These include camogie, netball, cross country, and dance.

Pupils were guided and encouraged by a team of very enthusiastic Sports Prefects: **Clodagh McCambridge, Ciara Gibson, Claren Owens, Kayleigh Doran, Amy McGivern, Aimee McAleenan, Mairead Kavanagh, Sinead Early, Ciara Gormley, Chloe Shields and Amy Jo Reagan.**

INITIATIVES

- There was enhanced involvement of parents in extra-curricular activities. Two Year 8 parents were involved in Cross-Country and Athletics and the parent of a Year 8 pupil helped Mrs McCambridge with Soccer coaching. All have agreed to continue assisting in the 2015/2016 season. One Year 12 parent assisted with the Swimming team and one Year 9 parent assisted with Showjumping. There was continued support from 1 past pupil/parent in the coaching of Camogie.
- There was continued and enhanced support from James Rogan at Newcastle Bus Hire in terms of Sponsorship.
- All members of the PE Department completed iPad training which was facilitated by iTeach.
- Mrs Lundy set up a Fronter Room for A level Physical Education to share resources and enhance learning and teaching.
- Google surveys were used by A level student to give the pupil voice on the quality of internal examinations.
- A PE Department Twitter account was set up during the year and the PE staff made regular contributions.

COMPETITIONS / ACHIEVEMENTS/ EVENTS

SPORTS PRESENTATION

Noleen Lennon, a Northern Ireland Netball Player, was guest speaker at the Sports Presentation in September.

NETBALL

Pupils were entered into 11 different Netball competitions in 5 age groups. Best for Assumption was the Senior Team who won the SE Area Final, NI League and NI Cup. An outstanding achievement!

EAST DOWN LEAGUE

The Year 8 A team won the East Down Tournament held in June.

NETBALL SQUADS.

THE UNDER 13 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

Susie Hyland, Anna Quinn and Niamh Meehan were selected on the under 13 Regional Development Netball Squad.

THE UNDER 15 REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

In May, Courtney Anderson, Niamh Napier and Orla Boyle were selected on the Under 15 SE Area Team, which won the Regional Youth Sport Games.

THE NI UNDER 21 SQUAD

Ciara Gibson and Clodagh McCambridge were selected on the NI Under 21 team.

SHOW-JUMPING

In September, one team was entered into the annual Schools' Show Jumping Competition in Balmoral. Lucy Savage (8A) came 2nd in the Schools' Show Jumping event in the Meadows in December. A Show Jumping team was also entered into the Schools' competition in Gransha Equestrian Centre.

CAMOGIE - Senior Camogie

Senior Camogie (23 players)

In December, the senior team won the Corn an Athar o Daibhis Ulster Final but, unfortunately, were defeated by Holy Rosary College, Mountbellew Co Galway in the All Ireland semi-final in February.

Two members of the team, Aimee Mc Aleenan (3rd award) and Anna Rogan (2nd award) received Ulster Colleges All Star awards.

Under 16 (16 players)

The U-16's were defeated by St Columba's, Portaferry in the quarter-final of the County Cup competition.

Under 14 (30) players)

This team participated in County and Ulster competitions.

They won all their matches in 1st county blitz to secure a place in the County Cup finals.

In the Ulster competition they were defeated by St Killian's College, Garron Tower and Loreto College, Coleraine.

Year 8 (16 players)

This team participated in both the County and Ulster competitions and reached the finals but were defeated in both.

Primary 7 Tournament

In June, Assumption hosted a Primary School Camogie Shield competition for local Primary Schools. 5 teams took part with Cedar Integrated, St Malachy's, Kilcoo and St Mary's, Portaferry winning each of the sections.

SWIMMING

In November and in February, Assumption pupils were entered into 2 Swimming Galas which were held in Ballymena.

The relay team came in 4th place.

GAELIC FOOTBALL

ALL-STAR AWARDS

Caitriona Caldwell was awarded an All-Star Award in Gaelic in recognition of her outstanding performances.

The Under 14 team won the Ulster A final beating Knock after extra time. This was the first time a Gaelic team has achieved this victory.

CROSS-COUNTRY

DISTRICTS

The Mini team (Year 8's) – came first in the district Championships in Delamont while the Intermediate team came in 3rd place.

Both the Mini and the Intermediate teams qualified for the Ulster finals in Mallusk. Best for Assumption was Libby Maloney (Year 8) who was placed 6th.

SOCCER

The Junior (Year 8 and 9) team won the District Soccer competition which was held in June at Assumption.

The Senior (Year 10 and 11) team also won the District Soccer competition.

The Year 10 and 11 Soccer team won the IFA organised Schools' Soccer competition held in Mallusk. Forty four teams took part.

NETBALL DAYS

Yet again, these have proved to be very successful. The supporters made a great effort in terms of their dress, chants and general support of their House.

Winning Houses - Year 8 – Faughart
 Year 9 – Iona

Winning Class - Year 10 - 10C

SPORTS DAY

The introduction of the Sports' House System has had a positive effect on the participation rate of the pupils. It was noted that there was an increase in the number of pupils taking part and participating in each event.

The winning house was – IONA

YEAR 8 GAELIC BLITZ

In late June, approximately 30 Year 8 pupils took part in a Gaelic Blitz which was organised by Mr Paul Maginn and Mrs Priscilla Murray.

LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

- The annual primary 7 Camogie tournament was held on Wednesday 17th June. Five primary schools took part in the competition; St Michael's, Finnis, St Malachy's, Kilcoo, Cedar Integrated, St Mary's, Portaferry and St Patrick's, Ballynahinch.
- Assumption hosted the RDA Under 13 Netball Trials which involved pupils from 10 South Eastern Schools.
- Assumption hosted the Year 8 East Down Netball Tournament.
- PE staff participated in Sampler Day.
- The Department promoted clubs and events which are happening in the local community.

USE OF ICT IN DEPARTMENT

- Google surveys were used by A level student to give the pupil voice on the quality of internal examinations.
- The A2 students were shown how to upload their performances from the iPads to the computer to produce a DVD for practical coursework evidence.
- The A level pupils can access work from Fronter.
- A level and GCSE pupils are asked to research websites and videos, for eg utube and this facilitates theory lessons, useful for their coursework and helps independent learning.
- The iPad is used for Component 3A of the GCSE syllabus to video coaching for self-evaluation purposes to enhance their performances.

FUTURE PLANS

- The GCSE PE uptake was very high this year and efforts are being made to maintain the numbers.
- The Department is aiming to increase the numbers for A/S PE.
- Mrs McAfee is to take on the role of Head of Department.
- Tennis will be offered as an extra-curricular activity.
- A Sports Tour has been organised for the Senior Netball Team and members of the PE staff in October.
- The Department is planning to establish a Sports Council consisting of Sports Prefects and PE staff.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Mrs McCambridge attended the GCSE PE Agreement Trials in November.
- Mrs Lundy attended the GCSE Journalism Agreement Trials.
- Mrs McAfee was involved in the Mentoring Scheme.
- Both Mrs McAfee and Mrs Lundy were involved in the TCN Lesson Observations.
- Mrs McCambridge attended the NI School's Netball AGM in May.
- Mrs Lundy attended Safe and Effective Use of Social Media Training.
- All PE staff were involved in Iteach Ipad training.
- Mrs Lundy attended advanced Fronter training.
- Mrs Lundy attended Discover Sims training.

ART AND DESIGN

INITIATIVES

Art Technicians

In October, Susan Hughes was appointed Art Technician on a temporary contract. She was replaced by Mr Conor Maguire. Both technicians, who are successful artists in their own right, have made a very effective contribution to the Art Department.

Library Books

In liaison with Mrs Walker, a substantial number of relevant books has been purchased which have enhanced students' learning in both Art and Art History.

Careers Convention

The Art Department was pleased with its contribution to the success of the Careers Convention in February. Cormac Artt (Interior Designer) Clare Boyd (Art Therapist) and David Henderson (Multi-Media Designer) attended the evening; pupils were delighted to talk to these professionals and some students made tentative arrangements for possible work experience.

After school Art club

Mrs Keary led an Art Club for Year 12 students every Wednesday after school. This gave pupils an opportunity to get extra support with their GCSE coursework and proved to be a successful strategy to improve examination results.

COMPETITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS

Ceramics

In October, pupils in Year 12 and 14 participated in a day long ceramics workshop led by artist, Anne-Marie Robinson. The work they produced was included in their coursework portfolios.

Competitions

- In September, Year 8 pupil, Emma McDowell, was awarded 2nd prize in an Art Competition which is organised by The Hans Sloane Chocolate & Fine Food Festival in Killyleagh.
- In October, the Art teachers assisted the Drama Department in choosing the best Drama Festival poster in an internal school competition.
- In November, Year 11 pupil Caoimhe Leneghan won first prize in the annual NI Anti-Bullying Forum Art competition.
- Megan McAlinden (Year 13) and Aishline Attasseril (Year 11) won joint first prize in the SEELB Christmas Card Competition. They were presented with a framed copy of their work by representatives from SEELB.
- Orlagh Cultra (Year 14) and Meabh Kennedy (Year 9) were awarded prizes in the School's internal Christmas card competition. Orlagh's card was professionally printed and distributed to parents and staff.
- Year 8 pupils participated in an internal competition to design the front cover of the Year 8 booklet for 2015/16. Elizabeth Gwynne (8E) won first prize and her design was printed for the front cover of the book.
- In June, Key Stage 3 pupils were entered for ARC (Arboretum Regeneration, Castlewellan) Art competition. WE await news of results.

School Show

In February and March, the Year 11 and 14 students, directed by staff and assisted by the Art Technician, made animal head pieces/masks for the 'Lion King' performance which took place at the Spring Concert. Students from Year 11-14 worked back stage on the afternoon of the concert to apply make-up and style hair. The contribution of the Art Department to making the Annual Concert such a success was acknowledged and appreciated.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

In September, Year 14 pupils attended an illustrated talk by textile designer and artist, Pat McLaughlin, in Castle Espie.

During the Halloween mid-term holidays, Year 13 & 14 Art students were accompanied by Mrs Keary to the Seacourt Print Studio. Pupils watched printing demonstrations and experimented with a range of printmaking techniques. This provided a basis for some of their examination coursework.

On 11th February, Year 11- 14 Art and History of Art pupils visited the Ulster Museum to see the True Colours exhibition. The girls were given a guided tour of the 'Age of Innocence' fashion exhibition. Yet again, this was inspirational for examination preparation.

LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The annual exhibition of students' work took place in June. This is a celebration of our AS and A2 students' work and is an opportunity to meet their parents and friends.

The Year 8 pupils researched paintings of Madonna and Child as part of our Catholic Schools' Week project. The work was mounted by Year 11 pupils and displayed in St. Patrick's Church.

The Department has used Twitter regularly throughout the year to showcase Artwork and highlight events.

In June, local P6 pupils participated in a Taster Day Art session led by Mr McCann, Mrs Keary and Mr Maguire (Technician). Pupils enjoyed creating paintings of ice-creams and desserts using various techniques.

AS and A Level work was exhibited in the Downpatrick Arts Centre during the month of July.

USE OF ICT IN DEPARTMENT

The Art Department is delighted with the new colour printer that has been installed in the exhibition area. This allows students quick access to excellent quality printing and photocopying.

Art staff and students have been delighted to make use of the three new Mac computers provided for Art pupils to use in the ICT suite.

FUTURE PLANS:

The possibility of purchasing a Photoshop package for the Mac computers will be investigated.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Staff Development

- Mrs Hughes attended CCEA GCSE Agreement Trial for Art and Design.
- Mrs Keary attended CCEA AS Agreement Trial for Art and Design.
- In May, Mrs Hughes was employed by CCEA to work as an external moderator for A2 Art and Design and Mrs Keary was employed by CCEA to work as an external moderator for GCSE Art and Design.
- A sincere expression of appreciation is owed to the former Head of Department, Mr Peter McCann, for his unstinting support throughout the year and his valued contribution to the Department over his long teaching career. We offer him best wishes in his retirement.
- The Department would also like to acknowledge the work of Mrs Jenny Hughes and wish her every blessing in her return to her home territory of Co. Fermanagh.
- Mr Tristan Barry is welcomed to the Art Department.

BUSINESS STUDIES & ECONOMICS

COMPETITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS

A new Young Enterprise Northern Ireland (YENI) Digital programme was run for Year 8, 11 and 12 GCSE Business Studies and ICT students. This programme incorporated a "Digital Interactive Roadshow" for the Year 8s and a "Digital Masterclass" for the GCSE Business Studies and ICT pupils.

Young Enterprise Company Programme

The YE Company Programme was made available to Year 13 pupils as part of their Enrichment Studies. The girls set up their own company by raising capital and developed, produced and marketed a product.

Five girls formed BIG Events Management, a social enterprise with the aim of showcasing and promoting talented young artists in music and dance. True to the real world of entertainment, the company experienced many highs and lows. However, a combination of teamwork, dedication and resourcefulness, ensured 'BIG' performed extremely well. Not only were they rewarded with two awards at the Trade Fair in Bangor, but they received two further awards at the prestigious YE Gala Event at Titanic Belfast.

More importantly, 'BIG' posted a healthy profit which the girls generously donated to the Saphara team. Word of the company's service has spread and they have been asked to assist in a YE Volunteer Event to be held in the Mac this year.

Global Enterprise Week (GEW) November 2014

The following enterprise events were run during GEW:

- Year 10 Invest NI "Step N Zone" Enterprise Challenge, Belfast
- YE "Digital Roadshow & Masterclass"
- Q & A session for Year 13 and 14 Business Studies students with local entrepreneur Jill Crawford from "Just Live a Little" granola cereal in Portaferry

EMU AND EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Year 12 GCSE Business Studies pupils went on an industrial visit to the Coca-Cola plant in Lisburn.

London Business Studies & Economics Trip

A total of 22 pupils from Years 11-14 went on the 3 day trip to London in February, along with 3 staff. This proved a great success, with the right mixture of educational and recreational visits on the busy agenda. These included:

- The Warner Brothers "Harry Potter" studios
- A West End musical
- A walking tour of the City/financial district (including the Bank of England)
- The Museum of Brands and Advertising
- "The Business of Football" Tour of Chelsea FC
- Covent Garden shopping

LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Mrs Sara Velasquez, a local entrepreneur and past pupil, acted as Business Mentor to BIG Events Management, proving a great source of advice and encouragement. Similarly, Mr Morrison from Vivoxtra and a number of local companies assisted with sponsorship and technical assistance for the venture.

In November, BIG organised and held "The BIG GIG" in school. A large audience comprising of family, friends and members of the local community attended.

USE OF ICT IN DEPARTMENT

Extensive use was made of the internet and digital resources in the teaching of Business Studies and Economics.

Digital resources on Fronter are being updated and revised.

The use of appropriate Apps will be incorporated into teaching and learning following iPad training and practice.

FUTURE PLANS

Year 11 Business Studies students will be entered into Traidcraft's "Snack Attack" marketing competition.

Global Enterprise Week will be held in November with a new range of enterprise activities and event.

CAREERS

INITIATIVES

In line with the Careers Department's policy to introduce interested members of staff, Mrs McCafferty nominated two teachers –Mrs Fiona Kane and Mrs Louise Hawes to attend the following courses focusing on CEIAG:

- A two day course on leadership and management of CEIAG at SEELB
- Mrs Kane, Mrs Andersson and Dr Henry attended a Speed Networking event on STEM Careers with local STEM businesses in the Clandeboye Lodge Hotel. They had the opportunity to find out about STEM careers directly from employers and the local universities. The day involved a local factory visit.
- Mrs Kane attended the Ulster University Open Day at Jordanstown

COMPETITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS

The annual Year 14 Interview Night took place in November. This event was very well attended by pupils and proved a great success. We are indebted to the interviewers who give up their time to help out at this event and one which is very much appreciated by the pupils and their parents.

In February, the School hosted another very successful Careers Convention. Students from the Ballynahinch Learning Community were invited to attend. The event continues to go from strength to strength with even greater numbers of career representatives and pupils attending. We were delighted to welcome a number of new representatives as well as representatives from a number of universities including Irish and Scottish establishments. We were also very pleased to welcome back many past pupils and we hope that these links will be further strengthened in the future.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Year 14 pupils visited the Open Days at Queen's University, Belfast and the University of Ulster. Year 14 students also attended the Higher Education Conference held at Methodist College Belfast.

LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Careers Department continues to forge links with schools in the BLC. We are deeply indebted to members of the local community who continue to support the Department at our Interview night and Careers Convention.

FUTURE PLANS

Further departmental involvement in the delivery of high quality CEIAG will be promoted.

CITIZENSHIP/LEARNING FOR LIFE AND WORK

Inspection Process

The Department participated fully in the recent ETi inspection. It was an excellent opportunity to focus on areas to celebrate and areas for improvement and development. Mrs McCafferty worked extremely hard to ensure that the Employability area of the Department was seen at its best. The inspectors were most impressed with the documentation and the lessons observed.

Completing the Review of Junior School Citizenship

This year, through cross curricular mapping, there has been a thorough review of the delivery of Citizenship to our Year 10 pupils. The revised Year 8 Programme has been taught and after initial evaluation, amendments have been made to make it more user-friendly and to allow for the fact that the taught programme of Citizenship has been increased from 10 lessons within RE time to 1 discrete lesson per week throughout the year. The revised Year 9 programme has been taught for the first time this year and evaluations are in place to allow for further amendments to be made for the next academic year. The new scheme of work will be in place for first teaching in the autumn term of next year. This will bring to a conclusion the three year plan proposed by the ETi during their visit in 2012.

Outside Agencies

The expertise of a range of outside agencies is much appreciated with speakers invited into school to deliver presentations on a range of relevant issues. The organisations include the Welcome Organisation for the Homeless in Belfast, the Children in Crossfire Charity, Trocaire and the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme.

CRED Programme for Year 8 Pupils

The strong links already built with the Citizenship Department of Regent House Grammar School were further developed through running the second year of the CRED Programme, funded through the CRED (Community Relations Education) Service of the South Eastern Education and Library Board.

The planning for this programme was undertaken in October by Mr Wilson and Mrs Trimble (Regent House). In the spring term, the programme was delivered to all pupils in Year 8 over a series of 5 days. Each form class in Assumption travelled to the Ards Arena and met with Year 8 pupils from Regent House. On the day itself they were given opportunities to consider their own identity, the identity of others in Northern Ireland and the diversity which exists here. They enjoyed the active learning strategies which were employed and participated fully in the workshops on Irish Dancing, Place & Family Names, Pipes & Drums and Sport. Very positive feedback was received in the pupil evaluations and it is hoped that this link will be continued next year, despite the cessation of CRED funding. Mrs Trimble and Mr Wilson have put forward a proposal for the continuation of this important work scheme. The programme is designed to dovetail with the existing Year 8 taught Citizenship programme and allows for greater depth and an appreciation of the syllabus.

Simon Community/Habitat/Saphara

In the summer term we were delighted to host the Simon Community. Representatives spoke to the Year 11 pupils on the problem of homelessness in our society and helped them to break down some of the prejudices which exist around homelessness today. A presentation was also made to the Year 11 pupils by staff on the benefits of the Habitat for Humanity and Saphara Programmes which will be open to them in Year 13/14.

Christmas Charities

This year we there was a very real sense of the true meaning of Christmas as a time of sharing and caring for others. Pupils responded very willingly to the great variety of events organised within school. These included cake sales and raffles, a disco, quiz sheets and collecting some 35 hampers of food which were distributed to the local St Vincent de Paul societies in Ballynahinch and Drumaness and also to the

Welcome Organisation which works with homeless people in Belfast and further afield. Our Carol Service gave us an opportunity to acknowledge and thank the pupils for their wonderful response. Particular mention should be made of Mrs Lewis and Mr Owens who gave much time and energy to leading the charities and also to the staff of the school who every year give unstinting support through encouragement and personal giving.

DRAMA

INITIATIVES:

Shared Education: Anti-Bullying play to mark National Anti-Bullying Week. Year 14 student, Sarah King, was awarded a performing arts bursary from the Thomas Devlin Foundation to fund the devising and production of a Theatre in Education play in collaboration with Bruiser Theatre Company. Sarah worked with Artistic Director, Lisa May, and both GCSE Drama classes to devise 'Complicity' which was performed in November to an audience of students from our own school and post-primary partners including St Louise's Comprehensive College, Our Lady and St Patrick's, Knock and Victoria College. This shared education initiative was endorsed by the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum and Regional Co-ordinator, Lee Kane, facilitated a post-performance workshop which fostered collaboration between all the schools involved. The devised play incorporated key features of the practitioner's work (Bruiser Theatre Company) and introduced Drama students from the other schools to Bruiser's working methods and the Thomas Devlin Foundation, to which they might apply in future for their own creative projects. Penny Holloway, Trustee of the Thomas Devlin Foundation (and mother of Thomas), was the keynote speaker at the event, outlining the Fund's mission statement and encouraging other schools/students to apply. This initiative is strategic as the work (script/ filmed performance) can be used in future to support the pastoral schemes as Anti-Bullying Week is an annual event.

Marketing Working Party: Mrs Feron and Ms Heaney joined this working party where their focus was to strengthen external links for pastoral provision in the school.

Employability skills/CEIAG: Mrs Feron participated in a Teacher Think Tank Consultation scheme co-ordinated by Bruiser Theatre Company to develop practitioner support. One significant initiative which emerged from this consultation was the introduction of an Investigating Performing Arts Organisations workshop to develop CEIAG. Company Manager, Carly McConnell, led a session at SERC, Lisburn which explored areas of finance, branding and advertising. This pilot scheme was very successful and will be incorporated into schemes of work.

iPad training initiative: Mrs Feron was involved in the iPad training programme, as outlined in the School Development Plan. She created resources using the iMovie app and shared examples of good practice with members of the ICT cohort at staff training sessions. She also attended the iTech training offered this year by the school.

Use of ICT: Year 12 students used the new iPads to mark Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Week. They used the iMovie app to create movie trailers to explore their theme.

Project 500 (Shared Education): The English and Drama Departments collaborated with the Science Department and Library in this exciting new initiative to promote literacy and the reading of science books. Mrs Feron contributed to the Project 500 consultation conference and engaged in research interviews with QUB School of Education to drive this initiative forward next year. Assumption's launch and literacy project were identified as best/next practice and we were asked to submit an article outlining our work to the Queen's University School of Education Newsletter.

COMPETITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS/EMU

- **Motor Sport Association (MSA) Competition:** Year 11 students won £1000 in this global competition. Their task was to film an advertisement to promote road safety. The group, imaginatively entitled The Speedometers, created an advert which challenged the traditional 'boy racer' mentality regarding speeding, warning that females are also guilty of exceeding the national speed limit and causing accidents on the road. F1 racing driver Lewis Hamilton announced the winners live at the Hungarian Grand Prix on Sky Sports. The money was used to buy stage furniture.
- **Thomas Devlin Award:** Year 14 student, Sarah King, having been identified as a gifted student, won this award and bursary to help her achieve her career goals. Sarah used the bursary to collaborate with a theatre director, learning the practitioner's methods and enhancing her CV and practical skills and experience to strengthen her application to prestigious performing arts courses. Sarah attended a launch event and prize-giving at the MAC where she received her award from theatre and television actor, Dan Gordon and was congratulated by Tony McCusker, Chairman of the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland. Sarah's father and Mrs Feron accompanied her to the event.
- **SEELB Awards:** The Motor Sport Association winners won the Outstanding Achievement in the Arts Award for their road safety film. Orla McGarrity represented the group at the Island Arts Centre, Lisburn for a special ceremony hosted by presenter Donna Trainor. She was accompanied by her parents and Mrs Feron, HOD. Sarah King (Year 14) was also highly commended for Outstanding Achievement in the Arts and Caitlin Ferris (Year 10) was runner up in the Cultural Ambassador category for winning the Marlisco marine litter competition and raising awareness of environmental issues.
- **Cinemagic Young Filmmaker 2014:** Four students from Year 11 were shortlisted for the final of this annual competition. Their entry was commended for its 'unique and gripping interpretation of the gothic thriller'.
- **'Education Works' media campaign:** Year 12 students were chosen for the Department of Education's Anti-Bullying campaign which featured in The Sun newspaper. Kirsten Jennings, one of the 'Complicity' performers, was interviewed for the article.
- **Titanic INSPIRE International Women's Day conference:** Mrs Feron and Ms Heaney accompanied school delegates to a special conference at Titanic, Belfast to promote careers for women. At this event, students from across a range of curricular areas had access to a number of motivational female speakers and mentors. A level Theatre Studies student, Emily King, was celebrated at the event for staging a still image of a 'literary trailblazer', Nora Helmer, protagonist from Ibsen's 'A Doll's House'. Emily and two students from her class represented Nora and two other characters from the play in the still image which was on display at Andrews Gallery, Titanic for the month of March. Students made pledges at this event to 'Make It Happen' (the theme of International Women's Day 2015) for them in terms of achieving their career goals.
- **'Make it Happen': Inspire event. Collaboration with BLC:** At Titanic, our students pledged their commitment to the 'Make it Happen' campaign and expressed an interest in sharing this message with students from the Ballynahinch Learning Community. The AS Theatre Studies class incorporated the theme into their AS practical and invited students from the BLC to attend the performance. The students co-ordinated a follow up 'pledge' workshop, inviting students from the BLC to identify targets which would help them achieve their own individual career goals in the future, particularly targeting the STEM subjects which are traditionally under-represented by women.
- **Reel Politics:** The Drama Department nominated Tara Connolly, one of the students from last year's GCSE class, to take part in this film to mark International Women's Day. The film was co-ordinated by Stormont and Cinemagic to raise the profile of women in politics.
- **Beat Carnival:** Year 12 student, Chamanow Rafferty, was chosen to partake in the St Patrick's Day parade this year.

- **'Lion King' at the Ulster Hall:** The Drama Department once again joined forces with the Music Department to produce sequences from the musical 'Lion King' which was the finale at this year's annual musical concert. Year 9 students were chosen to perform and dance to accompany several musical numbers from the West End show. Year 14 students, Sarah King and Kerri Fitzsimons, used their expertise and specialist skills to devise the choreography.
- **Audition skills:** Georgia Simpson, Casting Director of BAFTA winning film 'Good Vibrations', offered a screen audition workshop.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

- GCSE and A level Drama students attended a performance of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' at Down Arts Centre. Director, Mr Arthur Webb, visited the school for a post-show Q and A session.
- Theatre Studies students attended a performance of 'Cabaret' at MAC Belfast which was directed by Bruiser Theatre Company.
- AS students attended a performance of 'The Shadow of A Gunman' the AS set text.
- GCSE and A level students partook in a series of workshops on the 'A Day with Bruiser' programme at SERC, Lisburn. These workshops included sessions on theatrical styles and genres, practical improvisation using Bruiser's key features and employability skills.

LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

- **'Complicity' play:** Links with post-primary schools for the drama performance and anti-bullying workshop: Knock, Victoria College, St Louise's Comprehensive College.
- **Project 500:** Links were developed with Queen's University, Belfast and Spa Primary School for this Literacy/Science/Drama initiative to promote the reading of science books (STEM).
- **INSPIRE partnership with St Colman's High School:** BLC collaboration for our in-house drama event to encourage more females to aim for the top jobs including STEM careers.
- **'A Day with Bruiser' workshops:** Collaboration with SERC, Lisburn and Down High School.
- **P6 Sampler Day:** Children from local Primary Schools were invited to visit the Drama Department for 'taster' drama workshops.
- **Feeder schools:** attended Drama Festival performances.
- **Education Works:** Department of Education article in a national newspaper featuring our initiative to use drama to tackle bullying by devising a hard-hitting Theatre in Education play.
- **Partnership with Ballynahinch High School:** Casting workshop with Casting Director, Georgia Simpson.

USE OF ICT IN DEPARTMENT

- Mrs Feron provided training for department colleagues on the iMovie app to make movie trailers. Year 8 students used iPads to create their own movie trailers.
- Mrs Feron attended Film for Literacy training at Nerve Centre, Ulidia. The INTO FILM resources were piloted with Year 8 and Year 10 students and, on review, will be incorporated into Junior English Schemes of Work next year.
- Mrs Feron attended iTeach iPad training this year.

FUTURE PLANS

Mrs Feron assumed the role of Casting Director for the forthcoming production of 'Oklahoma!' in the autumn term. Cast members were notified of their parts and learnt their lines over the summer.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

A new appointment was made and Miss Rosanna Gibson took up the post of Head of Drama in September 2015. Mrs Feron was appointed Head of English. Mrs Feron would like to thank the Board of Governors for their support in the seven years she has been Head of Drama. She wishes Miss Gibson every happiness and success in her new role.

ENGLISH

INITIATIVES

A major initiative was Project 500, which involved collaboration with the Science Department and the School Librarian. Project 500, organized by Queen's University, Belfast, aims to get young people enthused about science and passionate about reading. The pupils accessed a range of science books. The programme had three elements: a launch event, a book based activity and a reading challenge. The launch event was a great success and involved collaborating with Spa Primary School. Participation in this project reinforced our commitment to promoting reading and raising literacy standards across the curriculum.

A Literacy Link was established in school to provide literacy support to St. Patrick's Primary, Ballynahinch. Year 13 English students visited the school once a week and worked with pupils in nursery, KS1 and KS2. The experience was rewarding for all and gave the Assumption girls a real insight into teaching and learning support.

A new essay writing competition was launched to celebrate International Women's Day. The competition produced some inspirational pieces of writing. The two winners, Year 13 student, Carla O'Connor and Rebecca Johnston, Year 14, were rewarded at a prize giving ceremony with School Librarian, Mrs Walker, adjudicating.

COMPETITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS and LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Drama Festival 2014

The Drama Festival remains at the heart of school life in Assumption. It is highly effective as an induction process for our Year 8 pupils and plays a key role in helping the pupils form relationships with teachers and peers. The Festival is an integral part of the KS3 curriculum developing essential Thinking Skills & Personal Capabilities, providing opportunities to be creative, work with others, self-manage and make decisions. Moreover, drama in performance helps develop confidence and raises self-esteem. The Drama Festival ensures real and meaningful collaboration between departments with the English and Drama departments working together to give the pupils a rich and stimulating experience.

It also offers the school the opportunity to showcase the talents and skills of our pupils to the wider community. On the Thursday morning, over 200 primary pupils attended a special performance and on the final night the Year 8 pupils performed for parents. What did become clear this year is that the Drama Festival is much more than Drama - the pupils are given the opportunity to use all their skills, be it music, song, dance, movement, gymnastics or art.

This year the standard of the plays was exceptionally high. The audience were dazzled by a range of wonderful plays including a dark version of the Snow White tale, a colourful rendition of Lewis Carroll's 'The Walrus and the Carpenter' and a mystical rendition of W.B. Yeats' 'The Stolen Child'. Year 8 classes provided a diverse range of comedy, farce and fairy-tale, and Year 10 rose to the challenge of Shakespeare with innovative adaptations. The overall winner was 10C with their magical production of 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' which incorporated song, music and traditional Indian dance. The outstanding actresses in the Festival were Lucia Orsi, Lia Mullan and Lucia Paolinelli. The external adjudicator, actor and director, Syd Ralph, applauded the impressive array of talent and the maturity of the performances. She commended the Department on their commitment to Drama and promoting creativity. AS and A2 Theatre Studies pupils were a wonderful resource during rehearsal and in every aspect of the staging process. Without their contribution the Drama Festival would not be possible.

We strengthened our links with St. Patrick's Primary School by participating in a Literacy Link programme. The aim of the programme was to support literacy in the wider community by utilising the skills of our pupils. On a weekly basis, four of our Year 13 English students offered literacy support to the primary pupils. This work will continue in the next school year as part of the broader Community Link.

The Project 500 programme enabled the Department to establish a community link with Spa Primary, one on which we hope to build next year. Our Year 9 pupils had the opportunity to share knowledge and understanding with the Primary 7 pupils from Spa.

We participated in the annual World Book Day celebrations with St. Patrick's Primary School. Year 13 pupils volunteered to take part in the celebrations, reading to groups of KS1 and KS2 pupils using a range of props. The experience developed their communication skills, confidence and sensitivity to younger readers. This is the third year that Assumption has participated in this event and it is an important link with our community.

Poetry Success in Assumption

In September 2014 a number of Assumption girls from Year 10 were rewarded for their success in poetry composition. The NAS/UWT 'Arts and Minds' competition raises awareness of cultural diversity. A number of girls were highly commended in this competition.

In October, the English Department launched the new National Poetry Day competition to mark International Poetry Day. The winners, Ellie Foley 8C, Ayeitia Mack 10B and Abaigeal Mullan 11E, were commended at a prize-giving ceremony and Mrs Walker, Librarian, adjudicated.

Writer's Visits

The highlight of the English Department's calendar was the visit of award winning novelist and screen writer, Dr Glenn Patterson, in December 2014. The English Department organised the event as part of the enrichment programme for A Level English students. Dr Patterson, who teaches creative writing at Queen's University, Belfast, read from his work and talked about the craft of writing and the books which inspired him. The event was attended by AS and A2 English students.

Public speaking

The Year 13 pupils had the opportunity to participate in the annual Soroptimist Public Speaking Competition. Three Year 13 students, Helen Jennings, Rachel Martin and Yasmin Kpakra Doran, participated. Helen Jennings was runner-up. In December the Assumption team, Leona King, Tara Connolly and Maria McAteer, won the Down Heat of the Knights of St. Columbanus Public Speaking event. The event marked the centenary year of the organisation. Junior school pupils participated in the Irish Federation of Women's Graduates Public Speaking Competition. The team representing Assumption was made up of Year 9 students, Meabh Kennedy, Lia Mullan and Cliona Shields, who were awarded second place at the Northern Ireland Heat in Queen's University, Belfast.

English Mentoring

The English Mentoring Programme continued this year, supporting Year 8 and 9 pupils with literacy. The programme has real benefits for all involved and supports personal and educational development. This year the programme offered support to 13 pupils. The Year 13 pupils enjoyed the experience of assisting younger pupils with their learning and it gave them insight into potential careers in teaching and learning support. The Year 8 and 9 pupils had the benefit of one-to-one support in areas such as spelling, grammar and reading.

Reading Week

This was the second year of The Reading Week, an event enjoyed by all. The aim of the event is to promote reading and raise literacy standards across the school. As part of our commitment to raising

literacy standards, it is important to instil in our pupils the value of reading. Pupils are encouraged to use the school library and the event is supported by Mrs Walker.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

In April a group of Year 13 and 14 pupils attended the Inspire event at the Titanic building to celebrate International Women's Day. Year 13 student, Helen Jennings, was invited to read a poem to mark the event. This was a very special event which recognised the Assumption girls as Inspirational Women. The girls had the opportunity to meet other inspirational women from all walks of life including media, sport and business.

USE OF ICT IN DEPARTMENT

The Department continues to use ICT when and where appropriate. The department is developing elearning and its use of Fronter with all administration in the English Room. Literacy resources for whole staff are also available here.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Staffing

Ms McLernan was a welcome addition to the English Department; having taught for many years in Assumption she brought skill and expertise. We welcomed new teacher Miss McCloskey who taught English at Key Stage 3. Mrs McCormick taught A Level Journalism in its first Year in Assumption. The Department hosted PGCE student teacher, Lauren Hall, from Queen's University, Belfast, in the second term. She was a real asset to the Department.

FRENCH

INITIATIVES:

The Departmental focus this year was to ensure uniformity of regular homework tasks within the Department. These tasks all contain an element of self-assessment, enabling pupils to focus on prescribed essential aspects of their work. They are now uploaded on Fronter, for ease of access for staff and to ensure a more streamlined approach at KS3 and KS4.

The French Department used the new Studio resources with Years 8 and 9. This change of resources stemmed from a need to have a less dense course at KS3, due to the reduction of teaching periods from 3 to 2 in Year 8 this academic year. Additionally, the Studio course offers up-to-date, attractive resources and has been particularly appealing to pupils.

COMPETITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS:

European Languages Week

In early October, all language pupils had the opportunity to engage in fun cultural activities during this week. We co-operated closely with the Spanish and Irish Departments to draw up a schedule of events which included quizzes, films and games. It was a great success. A new event was added this year: the Year 10 International Fashion Show which proved to be one of the highlights of the week for all.

Theatre Visit

The Onatti Theatre Company once again came to school and performed "Erreur d'Identité in October. This production was very much enjoyed by a large audience of Junior and Middle School pupils. A play review competition took place afterwards, with a winner from each class and an overall winner.

French Club

During second term, Katie Magee, past pupil and Languages student from the University of Ulster, led the French Club for Year 8 pupils. Katie was on placement as part of the Tutoring in Schools Project.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS:

See Page 11 for details of the Paris Trip.

LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY:

Two BBC personalities, Noel Thompson and Karen Kirby, visited the school during Languages week and talked to students about the influence Languages have had in their work and lives. This was both a very interesting and informative session.

USE OF ICT IN DEPARTMENT:

As well as continuing to use many online resources at all levels and encouraging pupils to use them at home, we have started using "front of class" resources from the Acces Studio and Studio1 courses, with online access to the textbook. These include audio recordings, videos, activities and games.

The Department has added numerous resources on Fronter both for staff and pupils' use. At KS3, pupils are able to access audio versions of all the vocabulary introduced in class, in order to facilitate pronunciation and memorisation. Separate rooms have been set up for GCSE and A Level pupils, with useful material and links.

FUTURE PLANS:

Due to examination changes taking place in England, we will be moving from AQA to CCEA examination Board at GCSE. This will take effect for first teaching in September 2015 and first examination in June 2016.

GEOGRAPHY

INITIATIVES

The department have continued the implementation of the Geography Department's 2013-16 3 year Development Plan. Areas for development included Key Stage 3, Key Stage 4, Post 16, Subject Uptake, SEN, ICT, Literacy and Numeracy, Curriculum Initiatives, Department Budget, Leadership and Management and Staff Development.

The Departmental Focus for this year was "Marking for improvement at Key Stage 3 including standardising the marking of homework in the department and the implementation of book looks." Some of the strategies used included:

- The creation of standardised notebook rules for Key Stage 3.
- The development of standardised marking annotations for the marking of Key Stage 3 notebooks to be used by all staff.
- The creation of procedures to carry out 'book looks', including notebook assessment and departmental monitoring forms.
- A pilot book look was carried out with Year 8 students. The Department intends to extend this next year.

Standardised resources for GCSE Coursework were developed. This was intended to improve consistency and fairness for all pupils.

E-moderation was used for the recording of GCSE coursework.

COMPETITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS

A level lectures

The Geography Department has a long tradition of A Level enrichment through providing the opportunity to attend university lectures designed for the A Level curriculum. These lectures are run by the Geographical Association and hosted by the Geography Department at Queen's University, Belfast.

- On 30th September, Year 13 students were introduced to their first experience of University life in the lecture theatre in the School of Geosciences, at Queen's University, Belfast. After an enjoyable dinner at Villa Italia, we assembled with about 200 students from schools across Northern Ireland to hear Dr Ro Charlton from NUI Maynooth give a lecture on *"The causes, beneficial and detrimental effects of flooding in the Ganges-Brahmaputra Basin."*
- On 14th October, Year 13 and 14 students attended a lecture given by Chris Robinson from The Peak District National Park entitled *"Reflections on Sustainable Management of the Peak District National Park."*
- On 18th November, Year 14 students attended a lecture entitled *"The epidemiological transition: models and examples"* given by Professor Peter Atkins of Durham University. This was a very relevant lecture, which focused on a difficult part of the A2 course.
- On Tuesday 2nd December, AS and A2 students attended useful lectures on *"Skills and Techniques at AS level"* and *"Decision Making in A2 Geography"*. These were especially significant lectures as all pupils will be examined on these skills in the modular exams this summer.

Geography Action Week: 13th – 17th October 2014.

- Year 8 students participated in team Geography quizzes.
- Year 9 students watched the movie "Dante's Peak" which illustrates effectively the impacts of volcanic eruptions. This concluded the Year 9 study of "Natural Hazards".
- Year 10 students participated in a Fair Trade Workshop operated by Dave Thomas from Christian Aid. This is an annual event. The students, through engaging activities, learn about the imbalance of trade between More Economically Developed Countries and Less Economically Developed Countries.
- On 14th October 2014, The Geography Department hosted an Earth Science Event in collaboration with Earth Science Ireland for A Level students from schools within the BLC and beyond. 250 pupils from 10 local schools attended lectures from local geoscience experts:
 - o "A Tale of 3 Earthquakes": Hazards and Mitigation in Haiti, Japan & New Zealand: *Professor Sandy Steacy, Ulster University.*
 - o Geographical Information Systems and Mapping in Northern Ireland: *Professor Paul McKenzie, Ulster University.*
 - o Flood Risk Management & GIS: *Mr Malcolm Calvert, Rivers Agency*
 The event was a great success and helped to establish links with Geography Departments from local schools. Feedback from the event was extremely positive and it is hoped that the event will become an annual one, hosted by alternating schools in the area.
- On 10th October, two A2 Geography students (Katelyn Denvir and Megan Doyle) were selected to take part in a workshop entitled "Dawn 'til Dusk: Understanding How Belfast Works". This was an action packed day hosted by Queen's University School of Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering, which highlighted the core elements of the Sustainable Settlement unit from the CCEA A Level Geography syllabus.

Geography Department Trip to Iceland

The Geography Department travelled with 27 students to Iceland from 30th October to 2nd November 2014. This highly-anticipated trip was a resounding success.

On Open Day, the Geography Department rose to the occasion with new activities and displays, including an investigation of where potential pupils were travelling from. Other points of interest included an erupting volcano and a Tornado demonstration, a craft where children made Rock People, a Geography quiz, iPad lessons hosted by Year 8 pupils and photograph displays. The Department was supported by our Geography Prefect, Megan McKenry and some eager Year 8 pupils.

Fieldwork

- i. Year 11 and 12 students carried out fieldwork for their GCSE coursework in September 2014. This was a study of the changing characteristics of the River Shimna. The students travelled the length of the river, collecting information on changing width, depth, velocity, bedload and gradient. On each of the 3 days, the weather was fine and our Assumption girls were, as always, excellent in the field.
- ii. On 22nd September, 20 Year 13 and 14 Geography students attended a GIS event at the Geological Survey for Northern Ireland. The purpose of this event was to provide pupils with advanced GIS mapping skills and educate them about potential careers in this area. The girls involved in this trip found it very informative.
- iii. Year 13 students carried out their AS fieldwork at Murlough Nature Reserve on the 10th and 11th November. This is a Biogeographical study essential for AS Module 1. After a morning collecting data in the field, the students returned to school to carry out analysis of soil samples in the Biology laboratories. As always, we are very grateful for the support of the Science Department in this venture.
- iv. Year 10 students enjoyed a Tropical Rainforest Adventure workshop on 8th June when they had the opportunity to handle rainforest animals including a giant millipede, a giant African land snail, a tarantula, a corn snake, cockroaches and a white tree frog. This is now an annual venture run by an organisation called "ZooLab".

LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

- See above for details of the Earth Science Event held in October.
- Decision Making Conference at Stranmillis College. On 11th March 2014, Mrs Kane escorted a small group of Year 14 Geography students to a Decision Making Conference at Stranmillis College, Belfast. The students took part in a modelled Decision Making exercise with students from 10 other schools on the topic, 'Should Fracking be allowed in County Fermanagh'. Representatives from Queen's University, Ulster University and the Oil industry were in attendance to give detailed information on the opportunities and problems related to the Fracking of shale gas. Our pupils worked in teams with students from other schools to research the Fracking debate before presenting their findings and opinions to the conference delegates. All students benefited from the event; their research and team work allowed them to develop the skills required for the Decision Making section of the A2:2 Geography examination.

USE OF ICT IN THE DEPARTMENT

- NINIS website: GCSE students explored the NINIS website, another example of GIS. Year 12 students investigated migration into Northern Ireland.
- Year 11 and 12 GCSE students made use of Google Maps, Microsoft Excel and Microsoft Word to complete their GCSE Controlled Assessment, worth 25% of their Geography grade.
- The Geography Department was involved in iPad training with iTeach this year. Staff familiarised themselves with iPad apps and operations and investigated apps to be incorporated into the Department's schemes of work. The Department is eagerly anticipating the introduction of Apple TV next year.
- **Development of GIS in the Geography Department.** Mrs Kane attended a CPD course for Geography Teachers at the University of Ulster, Coleraine on Friday 27th February 2015. The topics related to the study of rivers, coasts and Geographical Information Systems. There was very useful a workshop on the practical application of GIS in Geography. Teachers were given the latest CEIAG information relating to degree courses for Geography, GIS, Environmental Science and Marine Science offered by the University of Ulster as well as the subsequent opportunities for employment.
- A number of Geographical iPad apps have been introduced to broaden students' understanding and engagement. An example is the use of the "QuakeWatch" app with the A2 Geography students which

allowed them to manipulate earthquake and topographical maps. This assisted their knowledge of the variation of the type and causes of earthquake activity.

Other uses of the iPads included internet research in the classroom and use of basic GIS software. Further development of iPad lessons and apps is planned for the 2015-16 school year.

- Miss Ivery implemented the Idoceo Teacher Planner app this school year. It proved to be an excellent app and Miss Ivery will support the rest of the Department with its use next year. It should be particularly useful for pupil tracking.

FUTURE PLANS

Dr Pat Walsh will join the Geography Department next year.

We hope to finalise the installation of the school seismometer. This is a joint venture with the Physics Department

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mrs Mary Wells' phased retirement will conclude this year with her retirement from Assumption Grammar School. Mrs Mary McCafferty announced her plans to retire at the end of this year. Both Mrs Wells and Mrs McCafferty will be sorely missed.

HISTORY

INITIATIVES

The History Department was delighted to welcome Student Teacher, Mr Stephen Glennon from Queen's School of Education. Mr Glennon's placement was such a success during the Winter Term that he was permitted by Queen's to return to us in the Spring Term. In addition to teaching Key Stage 3 & 4 History, Mr Glennon performed a number of very useful tasks for the History Department, one of which was the preparation of resources for the new Year 10 course, 'Causes and Consequences of Partition'.

The History Department was pleased to facilitate past pupil, Claire McHugh, who requested a week's observation within the Department as preparation for her PGCE application in due course. Clare spent time in the Junior classrooms as well as sitting down with experienced Teachers discussing aspects of the profession.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

The History Department took up Co-operation Ireland's invitation to be involved in its 'Entwined Histories' programme for the fourth year in succession. This year, 15 Year 11 students worked on aspects of World War 1 focusing on the reasons why many young Irishmen, north, south, east and west, chose to volunteer to fight. Sessions were scheduled in the Ulster Museum and in Carlingford where the students stayed overnight working on their showcase event which took place in November in the Ulster Museum.

LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Year 8 Local History projects once again established strong links between our school, the pupils' families and localities. Their fine work was richly appreciated by all those who spent time in the History Department during the School's Open Day in January.

USE OF ICT IN DEPARTMENT

The History Department makes significant use of Fronter as a storage and information area. The Department has also been developing its iPad usage and welcomes the installation of Apple TV into all parts of the school.

FUTURE PLANS

The History Department wishes to place on record its gratitude to departing member of staff, Mr Paul Maginn, who retires in the summer term of 2015. Mr Maginn has taught History in the Junior School with great enthusiasm and expertise on many occasions throughout his career. We wish him health and happiness in his retirement.

The History Department wishes to express its gratitude to Dr Pat Walsh who will be moving out of History and into the Geography Department commencing 2015/16. Dr Walsh has been teaching KS3 & 4 History with great assuredness for most of his career in Assumption. We wish him every success in this new direction.

The History Department would like to pass on to colleague, Mrs Louise Hawes, currently on maternity leave, its best wishes.

The History Department is delighted to welcome back Ms Aileen McLernan who will be substituting for Mrs Louise Hawes who is on maternity leave.

The History Department wishes to place on record its gratitude to Mr Stephen Glennon for all of his fine work and assistance this year. We wish him every success in his future career.

HOME ECONOMICS

INITIATIVES

As part of the whole school objective relating to Quality Assurance, the Department has implemented the following:

- Reviewed the Home Economics Assessment and Marking Policy
- Implemented 'book looks' at Key Stage 3 level
- Formalised methods of gaining 'pupil voice' following the internal examinations
- Participated in lesson observations including:
 - o Lesson starters and plenaries (Dr Murphy) – Miss McKenna and Mrs Morton
 - o Effective questioning and plenaries at A level (TCN – Mrs McGinn) – Miss McKenna and Mrs Morton
 - o TLNI learning walks with other schools – Miss McKenna
 - o Lesson observations undertaken by Mr Dobbin
- This year focus has also been given to the use of iPads and Fronter (*refer to Use of ICT below*)

COMPETITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS

Year 14 pupil, Victoria Byrne, achieved top marks (100%) in Northern Ireland in the A2 Consumer Issues written paper (Summer 2014). Victoria received a certificate and cheque from the Consumer Council for Northern Ireland.

Pupils from Years 9 and 11 submitted entries to the Dairy Council's Young Cook of the Year competition. Isobel Harris (Year 11) reached the final of this competition, receiving a £50 gift voucher and £100 for the school.

In November, Year 12 pupils participated in a Video Conference organised by NEELB.TV in partnership with C2k and the Food in Schools Forum. The conference covered the topic of food allergy and intolerance. The Home Economics Department has joined the Food@myschool Fronter room with the intention of participating in any future video conferences which are organised.

Year 11 Home Economics students and the Year 13 Survival Cookery Class completed an online examination for the CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering. This qualification supports the GCSE specification but is also designed for anyone working in a catering, manufacturing or retail setting where

food is prepared, cooked and handled. As such, it should prove beneficial when students are seeking part-time employment or in their future careers.

In November, Patricia McClean from the Livestock and Meat Commission, returned to the school to provide a cookery demonstration for Year 11 Home Economics students with particular focus on the nutritional value of red meat in their diet. Patricia also provided a demonstration for the Year 13 Survival Cookery class providing the pupils with tips for cooking on a budget and recipes to take to university.

In June, Year 8, 9 and 10 pupils participated in the British Nutrition Foundation's Healthy Eating week, completing one of 3 challenges; 'Have Breakfast', '5 a day' and 'Drink plenty'. These were followed up with related practical lessons.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

In March, Year 13 pupils visited Loughry College to study for the nationally recognised Level 2 Award in Healthier Foods and Special Diets awarded by The Royal Society for Public Health (RSPH). All students successfully completed the related examination which complements the AS Home Economics specification.

In June, Year 11 students attended a 'Feed Your Mind' event in Loughry College. This event was designed to provide students with an informative look at the use of Science and Technology in the Food Industry and as such support their study of GCSE Home Economics.

LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Department has set up a Twitter account, helping students keep up-to-date with current developments in food and health through following organisations such as the Public Health Agency, Safefood and the FSA. In turn, the Home Economics Department is now followed by a wide range of individuals, other schools and Home Economics organisations both local and global.

In June, the Department was involved in the sampler day for feeder primary schools.

Focus has been given to maintaining links with past pupils working in the field, with two past pupils representing the Department at the school's Careers Convention.

USE OF ICT IN DEPARTMENT

Increased use has been made of Fronter, facilitating internal sharing. A Home Economics admin room has been created as well as rooms for pupils in Years 11 - 14 which include all handouts, PowerPoint presentations and past paper questions. Use has also been made of the 'hand-in' facility and has proved particularly useful for pupil presentations and sharing exemplary pupil work.

Teachers have continued to develop their skills in using iPads both as a planner and for use in the classroom. In preparation for pupil iPad use, one Year 13 pupil used her personal iPad to download all handouts from Fronter instead of receiving paper copies. She was able to annotate those using Adobe Reader and didn't encounter any difficulties. As such, it is hoped that when iPads are issued to pupils this practice could be implemented with all A level students.

Web design tasks for pupils in Years 8, 9 and 10 have continued to be implemented.

FUTURE PLANS

We are delighted with the number of pupils selecting to study Home Economics next year, particularly at A level, and will strive to maintain this level of uptake.

We plan to continue to develop the use of Fronter for admin, to share resources and for the submission of pupil work.

To coincide with the new GCE specification in Nutrition and Food Science (September 2016), we are considering introducing the Food Standards Agency's Food Allergy Online Training and related examination with Year 13 students.

An after school cookery club will be trialled with Year 9 pupils.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Miss McKenna has successfully completed the ASPIRE programme.

ICT

INITIATIVES

The ICT Department continued to lead the way with the use of Fronter as a learning and teaching resource. All ICT pupils can access lesson materials outside of class, submit assessments and receive feedback on assessed work via the VLE. This has led to significant reductions in printer consumables. Absent pupils can continue to make progress and members of the Department can review pupil assessments across the year group. Mrs McGinn provided staff training for all HODs in September and Subject Teachers in January. Targets were set throughout the year to ensure Fronter is used extensively across all key stages. Unavoidable absences, e.g. snow days, ensured pupils could continue to engage in lessons from home.

ICT teachers continued to embed the use of iPads in KS3, GCSE and A Level lessons this year. Pupils were involved in active, independent learning opportunities and produced some innovative movies using iMovie and iLego. They also engaged in online learning assessments, e.g. Socrative Student Response System. This ensured pupils received immediate feedback on progress and areas for improvement.

OCR AS Computing was introduced in September, with four pupils following the course. This has been offered to all current Year 12 pupils and 5 pupils are currently studying Computing as one of their AS options.

COMPETITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS

The iPad development team received iDoceo app training in August 2014 and 11 members agreed to pilot use of the digital planner for the academic year. This proved very successful. All remaining staff received a personal iPad in November 2014 and staff cluster training was delivered in-house in January.

In November, the ICT Department collaborated with the Business Studies Department, participating in a Young Enterprise Digital Masterclass workshop. GCSE pupils worked in groups to plan and present a proposal for developing a new app. Each group also had to plan costings and marketing strategies and deliver plans to all the other groups. This was an excellent session and pupils thoroughly enjoyed it.

Mrs McGinn liaised with iTeach to provide staff training in the use of iPads. 6 sessions were delivered from January to June, covering a range of essential educational apps. All teaching and administration/support staff were given the opportunity to develop a range of skills to facilitate the flipped classroom and lessons built on active learning.

In January, Mr Murphy, along with Year 11 GCSE ICT pupils attended the BringITOn workshop in University of Ulster, Jordanstown. This was an excellent STEM event and pupils enjoyed experimenting with drones and Google glasses.

eSafety week ran from 9th – 13th February, coinciding with International Safer Internet Day on 10th February. Our Head Girl Team once again delivered assemblies to all year groups on the theme of “making the internet a better place for all”.

In February, past pupil Gemma Austin, now studying Software Development in UJJ, began a 12-week work experience program in Assumption. Gemma worked with a number of departments to help them set up/develop their Fronter rooms. This was a great opportunity for Gemma and also for Assumption, to avail of voluntary work experience as part of the Tutoring in Schools project.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

In November, the Department engaged in an online and face-to-face project with Primary 7 pupils from St Patrick’s PS, Ballynahinch. Pupils interacted digitally via forums in Fronter and engaged in a video conference to discuss their movie plans. A one-day workshop was hosted in Assumption where P7 pupils worked with pupils in 8E to produce anti-bullying movies in iLego. This was a very enjoyable experience for all involved.

LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

In February, staff from St Colmcille’s High School, Crossgar visited Assumption as part of a sharing good practice initiative. Mrs McGinn demonstrated the new online Cover system that was introduced in September including the use of Google Docs for absence requests. In May, staff from Victoria College, Belfast visited Assumption for sharing good practice. Mrs McGinn demonstrated a range of rooms currently being used in Fronter. Our school has been identified by C2k as a flagship school in Fronter use.

In November, we invited Constable Ian Young to deliver a hard-hitting presentation to all Year 8 pupils in the Ballynahinch Learning Community about the benefits and the dangers of social networking sites, mobile phone use and other technology-related issues. This event was organised to coincide with the national anti-bullying week and it was a great success.

Pupils from St Colman’s High School were added to virtual rooms in Fronter ensuring that they had access to all the necessary teaching and learning resources for AS/A2 courses they are following this year.

FUTURE PLANS

- We hope to continue participating in the Tutoring in Schools project, with a focus on developing iPads for learning and teaching in 2015/16.
- AS Computing is continuing to be offered.
- Paper planners will not be provided in September 2015. Staff will be given training in the use of iDoceo for lesson planning and recording class details.

IRISH

INITIATIVES

Curriculum: the Irish Department participated in **2** projects this year, which formed the basis of the departmental focus and PRSD work:

- **ASPIRE module – focussing on SEN provision** – Mrs Hanna, continuing on from the work started by Dr Scullion in 2013/2014.
- **iPad training** – Mrs Hanna & Dr Scullion
- **Dr Scullion** has been asked to prepare for the teaching of **GCSE Gaeilge** (the equivalent of GCSE English), in September to students from an Irish Medium (IM) background who select this option at GCSE.

COMPETITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS

A number of students were successful in **Feis an Dúin** in March in the poetry recitation and scholarship competitions.

Irish Medium (IM) students

KS3 IM

- Amy Nolan (8D) is preparing for GCSE Irish. She will sit GCSE Irish by the end of Year 10.
- Ciara Rooney & Niamh Mateer (9B) and Caitlin Ferris (10C) will complete GCSE Irish in June. Ciara and Niamh achieved Grade A* and Caitlin Grade A.

KS4 IM

- Nicole Roberts, Antonia O'Goan and Lucy Bell (Year 11) have completed the first half of fast-track AS and will complete the qualification in 2015/2016.
- Annie Fitzsimmons and Eliza Murdock (Year 12) completed AS Irish in June. They received their AS Irish result in August 2015. Annie achieved Grade A and Eliza Grade C.

Events

Seachtain na Gaeilge/ Irish Week activities in March included:

- Year 8 Irish Art competition based on an Irish 'Seanfhocal' / 'Proverb.'
- The in-school Year 9 Irish Poetry recitation competition
- The annual Year 9 St. Patrick's Assembly & Céilí (also attended by pupils from 3 local primary schools and an Etnic Inspector).
- The Year 10 Irish Trip to the Irish Linen Centre in Lisburn for the 'Flax to Fabric' tour & lunch in the Cultúrlann in Belfast.
- The Year 11s learnt and performed the famous TG Lurgan YouTube 'Amhrán na gCupán' 'Cup' song in Irish from the Hollywood film 'Pitch Perfect'.
- The Year 12 'Gearrscannán Gaeilge/Irish short-film' class.

KS3 Fun Day in January 2015: the Irish Department put together an hour-long session of fun, games, dance and singing in Irish for Year 8, 9 and 10 students. The event was enjoyed by staff and pupils alike.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

- In March, over 2 days, Year 10 students participated in the annual Irish trip to the Irish Linen Centre, Lisburn for the 'Flax to Fabric' tour and friendship- bracelet making workshop. The girls also visited the Cultúrlann centre in Belfast for an Irish lunch.
- Accompanied by Dr Scullion, A2 Irish students attended the annual Irish Language Careers & University Fair in Meanscoil Feirste in West Belfast in February, followed by our Lón Gaelach/Irish Lunch in the Cultúrlann.
- AS Irish students attended a Study Day in University of Ulster, Jordanstown, accompanied by Mrs Hanna.

LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

- In March, students attended **Feis an Dúin** in Newcastle.
- Pupils from 3 local primary schools (boys and girls and teachers) participated in the annual Irish Week St. Patrick's Céilí & Assembly with Year 9 students in school.

USE OF ICT IN DEPARTMENT

- Members of the Department participated in iPad training.
- There was on-going use of the www.quizlet.com and www.abair.ie software with students in the Department.

- Fronter was used to store teaching and learning resources and departmental administration documents.

FUTURE PLANS

- We plan to continue to develop & exploit iPad and Fronter technology to enhance learning and attainment for our students in the Irish Department.
- As part of our Staff Development target in the 3-year Departmental Development Plan, Mrs Hanna will be teaching the A2 Irish class in September 2015. Dr Scullion will play a supportive role and will be upskilling Mrs Hanna (translation & literature) over 2 days in June in preparation for A2 teaching in September 2015.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- An IM policy has been drafted and parents have been informed of IM provision in the school.
- We will be welcoming back Mrs Joyce Gibson as our language assistant in 2015/2016. We very much appreciate all the work she has done this year and over the last couple of years as our assistant.
- We are due to take our bi-annual Intensive Study Trip to Bunbeg in the Donegal Gaeltacht with our AS & A2 Irish students in October 2015.

JOURNALISM

INITIATIVES

Mrs McCormick attended workshops with the BBC; this provided training and support for the coursework component in A Level Journalism.

EMU AND EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Noel Thompson came to Assumption to talk to the girls about his career in Journalism and life at the BBC. He gave the pupils practical advice on broadcast media and how to hone their skills in Journalism. The students felt that this was an extremely worthwhile experience and one which helped develop their analytical and investigative skills. This visit was particularly successful in that it was very focused on Journalism as a career.

At the Careers Convention in February, we had representatives from The Ulster Tatler and The Irish Times. This provided the girls with the opportunity to speak to "real life" journalists about the everyday life of a reporter, what it takes to be a journalist and career opportunities.

These events were very successful, giving students invaluable insight into the world of the media and the chance to learn about the **core skills of interviewing, writing and reporting.**

USE OF ICT IN DEPARTMENT

The pupils have developed skills in using iPad technology as a tool for creating media texts and broadcasting.

FUTURE PLANS

The Department aims to develop the pupils' opportunities in Journalism in the next school year with the development of A Level Journalism for Year 14 pupils.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Staffing

Mrs Lundy taught GCSE Journalism in Year 12. In September 2015, Mrs McCormick will teach Journalism classes from Year 11 to Year 14, giving her sole responsibility for the delivery of this subject at GCSE and A Level.

LATIN

USE OF ICT IN DEPARTMENT

Mr Maginn continued to make use of two very important on-line resources to which classics teachers throughout the UK contribute viz. Theclassicslibrary.com and OCR communities' member's documents and resources. These sites have proved most useful for GCSE unseen language papers and set text work. Mr Maginn is also in the process of transferring information from learning resources to Fronter. Pupils are regularly e-mailed resources for home study and work to be handed in.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mr Paul Maginn has retired after 37 years of dedicated service. He has been a very active and much appreciated member of a number of departments, as well as Head of the Latin Department and Examinations Officer for several years. He will be missed very much by his colleagues and pupils alike. We wish him a happy retirement.

LIBRARY

INITIATIVES

In the academic year 2014/2015 the Library has been extensively involved in organizing activities to promote reading and literacy in the school. Events were held to mark National Poetry Day in October, World Book Day in March and International Women's Day in March. Memorable events included the visit of award-winning local author Glenn Patterson, who spoke to our senior pupils about his love of literature and writing career and the return of Dr Joy Alexander who spoke to our pupils about C.S Lewis.

The Library was fortunate to be selected for involvement in Project 500 at Queen's University Department of Education. This is a literacy based project to promote junior science books in schools. Our launch activities with Spa Primary School proved very worthwhile and were praised by the Queen's lecturers who were involved. Our school has been selected as an example of best practice by the Education Authority in promoting literacy/science collaboration with primary schools.

COMPETITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS

The Library began the Academic Year by rewarding our junior pupils for library usage and literacy. At our annual presentation ceremony in September, Mrs Devlin awarded certificates to approximately 150 pupils. We selected a Best Reader in each Year Group and Mr Dobbin presented the awards to Beth McDowell (Year 8), Courtney Braniff (Year 9) and Cailin McCrickard (Year 10).

We celebrated National Poetry Day in October and in conjunction with the English Department held a successful poetry competition. Mrs Walker judged the competition which was won by Ellie Foley 8C.

In November, Dr Joy Alexander visited the Library to speak to junior pupils about C.S Lewis. She enthused about her subject and encouraged those present to read the wonderful books written by the author.

In December, we were fortunate to welcome the local award winning novelist Glenn Patterson. He was an entertaining and witty guest and spoke about his career to date and the reality of being a full-time writer.

The Junior Book Club Christmas party was well attended and entertaining. The Christmas quiz was very much enjoyed by the pupils. The winners: Kate Fitzsimons, Beth McDowell and Eimear Rice were presented with their awards by Mrs Devlin and Dr Murphy.

We were delighted to welcome so many people to Open Day in January 2015. Visitors commented favourably on the Library and particularly enjoyed looking through photographs from our archive.

World Book Day and International Women's Day were celebrated in school. The English Department organized an essay competition on "Inspirational Women" which was judged by the Librarian. The

winners were Year 13 and 14 pupils Rebecca Johnson and Carla O' Connor. Pupils were encouraged to write about their favourite book in a competition to celebrate World Book Day. Prize winners were Year 10 students: Blathnaid Evans, Clodagh Bogues and Cara Taggart.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

The Library was fortunate to be involved in the cross-curricular literacy science programme Project 500. This project was organized by the Education Department at Queen's University, Belfast and involved the Assumption Grammar Library, the Junior Science Club, the English Department and Spa Primary School. The project entailed promoting literacy through science books. We organized a successful launch and invited Spa Primary school to participate in a Science Fun Day. Pupils took part in experiments and browsed through our extensive selection of science books. Dr Joy Alexander from Queen's University Department of Education attended the event. Dr Jarman and Dr Alexander attended a ceremony in June and presented certificates to our successful pupils.

LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Librarian is a member of the C2K Belfast and South Eastern Library support group and attends termly meetings. We work closely with the Past Pupils' Association to foster close links between current and past pupils actively promoting our school archive through Twitter.

USE OF ICT IN DEPARTMENT

We have enthusiastically promoted the use of iPads in the Library for individual and class use. The Library computer system is being upgraded; we have replaced our ALICE system with a new system called Eclipse which will provide a more advanced service for our users.

FUTURE PLANS

We plan to extend our use of Fronter and continue to add to our Library book stock. We look forward to organizing visits from a range of speakers to enhance the cultural experience of the pupils.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The Library plays a pivotal role in school life both culturally and pastorally. We intend to continue to promote reading and literacy, develop independent information skills and encourage a love of learning.

MATHEMATICS

INITIATIVES

The Department undertook a significant review of the administrative procedures, aligning these more closely with the principles contained in ESaGS and TTI documentation. This is the beginning of a process which will continue for the next few years. We also received further training in the self-evaluation process and have begun to implement the learning from this training.

Members of the department met with CCEA representatives regarding the new proposed format for GCSE Mathematics and we continue to watch developments in this area very closely.

COMPETITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS

Pupils part in the Mathematical challenges at Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels, organised by the UK Mathematics trust at the University of Leeds. These events continue to be very popular and achievement by our pupils in them remains very high. Following on last year's success, we had two pupils invited to participate in a follow-up event called the Senior Kangaroo. Again, the standard was excellent with both pupils achieving certificates for their endeavour.

LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

The Department continues to offer AS and A-Level Mathematics to pupils in the Ballynahinch Learning Community and we have had participation in both courses by pupils from St Colman's High School. One teacher from St Colman's High School offered GCSE Further Mathematics for the first time this year and the department happily provided assistance to our neighbour school through guidance and resources.

In the Learning Community, Heads of Mathematics have grouped together to form a small committee to share ideas, practice, etc. This year, the meeting focused on sharing ideas for GCSE Mathematics and we investigated the usefulness of a large number of electronic resources, including apps, websites and other software. We also considered the main points raised in the Second Follow-Up to Better Mathematics report, published by ETI, and agreed that this would be our focus at the next meeting.

RELIGION EDUCATION

FAITH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Alongside our academic programme the Religious Education team of Ms Daly, Mr Wilson and Miss McCloskey, together with four non specialists, have been involved in a wide range of activities to encourage and nurture our pupils in their faith.

- The Opening **Staff Service**
- **Morning Prayer** during Ordinary Time
- The **Opening Masses** for Senior and Junior School in September
- The **Inaugural Mass** for **Year 8** students
- **Parents' Prayer Group** (*monthly*)
- **Cross community presentation** of New Testaments by the **Gideon Society**
- The Religious Education **Notice-Board**
- November **Service for the Holy Souls**
- Advent **Wreath**
- Advent **Penitential Service**
- The Christmas **Crib**
- **Christmas Charities Collection**
- The **Carol Service** in December
- **Eucharistic Adoration** (*weekly*)
- The **Trócaire** Collection
- **Year Assemblies** (*weekly*)
- Ash Wednesday & **distribution of Ashes**
- **Lenten Penitential Services**
- Daily **Morning Prayer** during **Advent/Lent**
- **Marian Consecration Mass**
- **Holy Week** Service
- The **Graduation Mass** for Year 14 pupils
- **Closing Prayer Service** for **Parents' Prayer Group**
- The **Mass of Thanksgiving** for the end of the academic year.
- **Summer Prayer Service**
- Year group **Retreats**

CHARITABLE APPEALS

- **Children in Crossfire Advent Appeal:** This year the students raised £825.40, almost double the amount collected last December. This appeal was launched by Richard Moore who visited the school to give a talk to Year 13 students as part of their General Religion programme.

- **Trocaire:** This year for our Lenten campaign we continued to raise money for Trocaire. The students responded enthusiastically to this collection and over £1539.17 was donated to the charity.
- **Christmas Charities:** The RE Department, under the leadership of Mr Wilson, continues to be instrumental in organising and co-ordinating the Christmas Charities appeal. This year, as well as encouraging the students to raise money, we invited them to donate food and clothing items for organisations such as St Vincent De Paul and the Welcome Centre.

CURRICULUM CHANGES

Fully Alive Series

- Co-ordinating the Catechetical programme within the Junior school has taken more time with the advent of non-specialist teachers delivering the Fully Alive series.
- This year we have continued to use the stream lined version of the Catechetical programme to allow one teaching class per week be dedicated specifically to Faith Formation. We have designed a programme and developed activities which teachers can use in promoting faith. This is proving very fruitful in the Junior school. The students are responding positively and there is an obvious ongoing faith enrichment.

Change of Syllabus

- Last year we applied to the Board of Governors to grant permission for a change to our GCSE syllabus. The current Year 11 students will be sitting their RE exam with CCEA in May 2016. We look forward to comparing the outcome between the two examination boards.

QUALITY POLICY

We have continued to use strategies implemented from our participation in the pilot scheme for helping to improve the quality and delivery of the material used in the RE Department. We intend this to be an ongoing process throughout the forthcoming academic year.

EVENTS

The RE Department collaborated once again with St Colman's and Ballynahinch High School for the annual presentation of Gideon New Testaments. We have built on relations that were established in the last academic year when Assumption hosted the two post primary schools from the Ballynahinch Learning Community.

We intend to continue to develop the links we have made with the other schools in the area.

Children in Crossfire: Richard Moore from '*Children in Crossfire*' visited the school. He addressed the sixth form students about his work with the charity and his experience of being blinded from the age of 10. The student feedback was most positive.

As part of our **General Religion programme** for Year 13 & 14 students, we invited into school a range of guests who spoke about their faith journey. We find this enriches the RE programme for this age group.

Eucharistic Adoration was a new faith initiative which began two years ago and continued within the school this year. Over 70 students volunteered to give up one free class each Thursday. This has proved a most rewarding faith initiative which we hope to continue next year. The uptake has demonstrated a great commitment shown by all the girls involved.

Catholic Education Week: This year we introduced the faith initiative '*Drop everything and Pray*'. The bells rang at 12.00 and the whole school stopped and said *the Angelus*. This was a most positive initiative and one we hope can continue each year during Catholic Education Week. As a school community we also participated in the Dromore Diocese celebration for Catholic Schools Week. The student council represented the school.

John Paul 11 Award: In February eight Year 14 students were presented with their *John Paul 11 Awards* at a ceremony in the diocese of Down and Connor. This year Bishop Farquhar presented certificates and medals to our students in St Peter's Cathedral.

Our **Parents' Prayer Group** has continued to enrich the prayer life of the school. We have completed the Catholicism DVD and look forward to beginning a new study programme in September which has also been produced by Bishop Robert Barron. Each meeting follows the same format: 30 minutes of the DVD followed by a short period of Adoration and prayer. Tea and coffee was offered at the end of each meeting. The parents who attend are most positive with their feedback and have welcomed the initiative.

Rosary Club: This was a new initiative which began in September 2014 and was very well attended throughout the year. Each Tuesday break time around 25 students gathered in the Oratory. Each week a different student from Year 8-14 led the prayers. We hope to continue this club next year.

Marian Consecration: This was also a new faith initiative this year and one that is most significant for the faith life of the school. In March, around 40 Year 14 students who had undertaken a retreat in preparation for their Consecration, participated in a Mass held in the Oratory. It was celebrated by the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Charles Brown. At the end of the Mass, a stained glass window from Cardinal Daly's private Oratory was blessed and rededicated. The RE Department were delighted with the success of the whole occasion.

SACRISTY

We were very happy to have the Sacristy finished before the visit of the Papal Nuncio. It complements the furnishings in the Oratory.

RETREATS

Junior Retreats were delivered by the members of the RE Department throughout the year

Year 8	The Spirituality of St Therese	June
Years 9	The Spirituality of the Focolare	June
Year 10	Justice in Action	June
Year 12	Living Faith	September
Year 13	The Spirituality of Jean Vanier and the L'Arche Community	November
Year 14	The Meaning of Life (Residential retreat in Drumalis)	September

During the Year 9 Retreat we invited members from the *Focolare* into school to share their faith with the students.

For the Year 10 Retreat, members of the *Welcome Centre* for the homeless addressed the students. Using the contributions of others helped to enrich the retreat experience. The junior retreats this year were particularly successful and rewarding for the students and the RE Department.

Members of the L'Arche community addressed the Year 13 students on retreat. This too was a very positive and enriching experience for the students.

Year 14 Retreat

Our Year 14 Retreat continues to be a great success. In September 2014, 41 students volunteered for the retreat in Drumalis. The feedback from the girls was most encouraging and continues to have a positive influence on the students in the years below. The Retreat was supported by Meabh Carlin.

INSPECTION: The RE Department worked hard to prepare for the Inspection in April. We were happy with the outcome and feedback we received.

New Member of Staff

The Department welcomed our new member of staff, Miss McCloskey. She has been a great asset to the life of the Department.

RSE

INITIATIVES

Mrs Kelly (RSE Co-ordinator) introduced some new aspects into the RSE Programme which is delivered to KS3 and KS4 pupils through the school's modular system. Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) aims to provide young people with the opportunities to develop the skills necessary to form and maintain fulfilling relationships and to make informed choices and responsible decisions regarding their health and well-being. Changes to the timetable resulted in Year 8s have one period of RSE per week throughout the whole year as opposed to a 12 week block.

The 'Love Matters' DENI/CCEA Programme is used as the primary resource and will be integrated into lessons as a means of assisting the delivery of the subject.

COMPETITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS

On 15th September, the RSE Department, in conjunction with the Business Studies Department, hosted an event for Year 8 pupils run by Young Enterprise. The theme was 'Your School, Your Business'.

The follow up to this programme, 'Moving On', was delivered on 9th June. Essentially this half-day programme involves Year 8 considering the move from Year 8 to Year 9. It looks back over the past year and forward to the next.

In November 2014, the 'Love for Life' team made presentations to Years 9, 11 and 13. The feedback from pupils and staff was very positive.

USE OF ICT IN DEPARTMENT

The 'Love Matters' programme is available for the RSE team to access on the school system. The school has introduced FRONTER as the new VLE and all RSE resources will be available through this vehicle.

YouTube clips are used to enhance lessons on various relevant topics. There are a number of DVDs available for use with the Department.

SCIENCE

INITIATIVES

For Year 12 pupils we continued with the opportunity to re-sit one GCSE module in November which was, again, a great success.

Mrs McVeigh was involved in the TLNI initiative and ideas gleaned were shared, and will continue to be shared, with the whole Science Department. Miss Charlotte Orr was appointed on a temporary basis to replace Dr Bankhead who retired due to ill health. The Biology Department welcomed a Queen's University PGCE student in the second term.

Biology completed the second year of the CEA specification for AS and A2. Chemistry and Physics completed the AS CEA specification.

COMPETITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS

This year we hosted a presentation for our Year 10 pupils entitled 'A Case of Conspiracy' and invited pupils from Ballynahinch High School and St. Colman's High School. This involved the details of a crime scene being presented to the pupils along with evidence gathered from forensic science analysis. Procedures such as fingerprinting, DNA profiling, ballistics, microscopy, trace evidence transfer and gas chromatography were all used to help identify the murderer.

Year 9 pupils attended an interactive Science demonstration called 'Learn Differently'. This exciting show encouraged the pupils to ask questions and to figure out the science behind the tricks.

Year 13 and 14 Chemistry pupils took part in a Spectroscopy in a Suitcase workshop. This was delivered by three PhD Chemistry students from Queen's University, Belfast.

Year 13 Biology pupils took part in THE Biology Olympiad in Queen's University, Belfast.

Mrs Madine attended a BLC meeting which focused on women and STEM related subjects.

In July, Year 13 Biology student, Catherine Braniff, was awarded a place on the Nuffield Research Project in the School of Pharmacy, Queen's University, Belfast .

Mrs Morrow, Dr Henry and Mrs Smyth attended the ASE conference in June.

The Science Club

The Science Club, for Year 8 – 10 pupils is very popular. Assisted by six Science Prefects, the girls took part in a number of activities and events including Project 500 - a cross curricular project with English, Drama and Library Studies to promote the use of reading through Science. Spa Primary School was also involved.

Members of the club visited W5 to partake in the 'Guinness World Record' attempt for the largest practical class.

A team from the Science Club won 3rd place in the "University Challenge" event in Salters' Festival of Chemistry. held in Queens University Belfast.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

In November, twenty Year 12 pupils visited the 'Chemistry at Work' Exhibition in Queen's University. This exhibition gave pupils the opportunity to see presentations from chemical based companies.

Year 13 Biology students attended a workshop at W5 on DNA technology and its application.

USE OF ICT IN DEPARTMENT

All aspects of ICT continue to increase including the use of data loggers in a variety of experiments throughout the year.

Staff used the IEP Writer to complete IEPs for their pupils.

There was increased use of Fronter both for use with class groups and for departmental administration.

This was helped by the availability of external support.

Several members of the Department attended iPad Training.

FUTURE PLANS

The changes introduced last year regarding Year 10 individual Science classes have been revoked and in the next academic year the junior pupils will study General Science.

Some Year 11 pupils will be able to study one or two single Science subjects.

The Forensic Science Presentation will take place with pupils from St. Colmcille's High School, Crossgar as well as Ballynahinch and St. Colman's High Schools. The BLC has agreed our application for funding for this event.

We also hope to take part in a BLC Careers Convention focusing on women in STEM related careers.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

It was with great regret that we received the news, in October, of Dr Bankhead's resignation. He was a valued member of the Physics Department and is greatly missed. We wish him well for the future. We were pleased to welcome his replacement, Miss Charlotte Orr.

It was also with great regret that we received the news of Dr O'Neill's early retirement. She is a valued and pivotal member of the Biology Department and will be greatly missed. We wish her well for the future.

SPANISH

INITIATIVES

Curricular

The Spanish Department has focus on areas for improvement including self-assessment. New standardised homework tasks for Juniors have also been devised.

We have spent some time investigating the possibility of changing examination boards at GCSE and A Level. Mrs Patton and Mr Leonard attended a course given by CCEA and we invited Mrs Eileen Lisk from CCEA into school to brief the Department.

COMPETITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS

European Languages Week

All pupils of languages had the opportunity to enjoy some fun cultural activities during this week. We co-operated closely with the French and Irish Departments to draw up a schedule of events which included quizzes, films and games. It was a great success.

Theatre Visit

In November, The Onatti Theatre Company came to school and performed 'Fuera'. This production was very much enjoyed by a large audience of Junior and Middle School pupils.

Spanish Club

The Spanish Club for all Year 8 pupils ran throughout the Autumn Term. A fun schedule of events and certification for all participants ensured a good attendance. The year 13 Spanish pupils assisted at the club as did the Spanish *Auxiliar*, Francisca Diaz Santana.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

In October 2015, 22 pupils and 3 accompanying staff spent 3 full days visiting our partner school, the IES Alto Conquero, the city and surrounding area and meeting our Spanish counterparts.

The link with Huelva has been very fruitful since it was established in 1992 with many visits organised by Mrs Lewis. It is our intention to return to Huelva in October 2017.

Year 13 and 14 pupils attended a film day at QFT in January.

LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Mr Leonard invited Mr Noel Thompson from BBC Northern Ireland and past language graduate of the University of Oxford to the school to talk to our Year 11-14 pupils about the importance of language learning today. Our pupils really appreciated Mr Thompson's talk and his availability afterwards to answer many queries. We invited Media Studies pupils from St Colman's High School to join us for the talk and they enjoyed the opportunity to meet Mr Thompson.

We intend to invite Mrs Isabel Torres from QUB to school in the autumn term.

USE OF ICT IN DEPARTMENT

We completed our speaking assessment tasks in Year 10 (Autumn term) using Audacity. This task has been streamlined to provide a more positive experience for the learner.

We continue to use many online resources (with links from our own website) and pupils are encouraged to make use of online resources from *Nelson Thornes* in Spanish at AS & A2 levels.

A significant amount of departmental work and vocabulary for Years 8-10 have been uploaded to Fronter. In December, the Department's presence was established on the Twitter social network.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The decision to change examination boards at A Level and GCSE will require changes to schemes of work and may necessitate some new resources to facilitate good teaching and learning.

We intend to strengthen our links with local schools and to facilitate sharing of best practice through hosting conferences etc. We intend to create stronger links with the Spanish Embassy so as to avail of their advice and excellent resources, as well as increasing the profile of the Department within the school. We are delighted that for the second year in a row, Spanish is the first language choice for pupils at GCSE. Next year 67 pupils will begin GCSE Spanish.

TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN

INITIATIVES

Curricular

The current Year 11 'Fast Track' class will continue for Year 12s in the incoming academic year.

At AS level, Technology continued to be offered to other schools in the BLC.

COMPETITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS

October 2014 - April 2015

Sentinus Team R+D

Three Year 13 students worked in conjunction with Thales, Belfast. They were presented with the problem of extending the range of the FFLMM. The team made calculations to assess the optimum wingspan and area of the missile and investigated the possibility of having the wings deploy automatically via inflation.

Upon successful completion, the students received Crest Gold awards at a presentation ceremony held at The Braid Centre, Ballymena.

November 2014

INSIGHT INTO ENGINEERING

One Year 13 student, Catherine Dynes, participated in this scheme, which affords pupils the opportunity to visit the campus at Queen's University and Ulster University to experience the engineering provision there. The scheme also involved a two day placement with an engineering company.

January 2015

STEM EVENT

The Technology Department held a STEM/Careers event for Year 10s. This consisted of a talk on electronic and electrical engineering and some practical activities including the construction of a solar powered fan.

October 2014-May 2015

FORESTSIDE SCHOOLS' GRAND PRIX

The Technology Department took part in the Forestside Schools' Grand Prix. This involved teams of students building and decorating a remote controlled car which they then raced at the event in May. Due to pupil interest in the scheme, we purchased a second car and ran two teams. One of the teams won the Best Bodywork award on the day.

June 2015

SENTINUS YOUNG INNOVATORS 2015

Assumption Grammar School was highly successful at this year's Young Innovators Competition, held in the Odyssey Arena, Belfast. This prestigious event celebrates the achievements of students in STEM ventures. Six Senior students and six GCSE students showcased their work. All of the participating students received a CREST Silver or Gold award depending on their age category.

GCSE student Cora Timoney was runner up in the Northern Ireland Young Engineers Intermediate section. She showcased her GCSE project, an automatic light for a music stand. Cora was awarded a certificate and a cheque for £75.

GCSE student Chloe McAllister won the Northern Ireland Young Engineers Award. She showcased her GCSE project which was a plant tutor. Chloe was awarded a trophy and has been invited to attend The Big Bang Fair 2016 in the NEC Arena, Birmingham in May.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

As part of Sentinus Team R+D, the students visited their partner engineering company, Thales, Belfast.

LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

January 2015

Mrs Andersson visited St Ita's Primary School and St Bernard's Primary School to present the 3D printed characters to the winners of the Open Day Technology Department quiz.

March 2015

Sharing of resources occurred between Assumption and The High School, Ballynahinch. Our students had access to their CNC router and their students had access to our lasercutter.

USE OF ICT IN DEPARTMENT

ICT is firmly integrated within Technology and Design at all levels, due to the use of Circuit Wizard, Solidworks and our CAD/CAM facilities.

Despite the fact that the ICT Accreditation scheme did not officially run, Year 10 students drew their nightlight designs using Solidworks.

The use of the 3D printer is now well embedded at AS level and has even been used at GCSE. It proved to be a huge hit on Open Day, with many primary pupils visiting the department for their chance to win a 3D printed Minion or Olaf character.

Mrs Andersson has created courses for Year 13 and Year 14 on Fronter. These enable students to access resources such as notes, sample coursework, circuits and past papers from home. Other Junior resources are gradually being added and a staff administration area has also been added.

Mrs Andersson was involved in the iPad pilot. She has been using the iDoceo planner throughout the year.

FUTURE PLANS

We are revamping our Junior school schemes of work in an effort to increase uptake of the subject.

Both Mrs Andersson and Mr Campbell have volunteered to pilot SiMs Gateway. Mr Campbell has volunteered to join the school's Health and Safety Committee.

We will continue to allow students who have not previously studied the subject at GCSE to take the subject on at AS level provided their grades in Mathematics and Science are sufficient to show they will be able to cope with the theoretical demands of the subject.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

BLC COLLABORATION 2013-14

KS4

Assumption collaborates with BLC schools to enable KS4 students to avail of Music GCSE.

- 1 student studied Music in Year 11 (St Colmcille's High School)
- 6 students in Year 12 in Assumption (St Colmcille's High School)

POST 16

AS Level:

- 23 Assumption students were taught Health & Social Care in Assumption Grammar and delivered by Mrs Rachel Donaghy (a St Colman's teacher)
- 1 St Colman's High School student took Spanish
- 2 St Colman's High School student took Psychology
- 2 St Colman's High School student took History
- 4 St Colman's High School student took Journalism

A2 Level:

- 2 St Colman's High School student took Psychology
- 6 St Colman's High School student took History
- 3 St Colman's High School student took Politics

Each of the 5 participating schools (Assumption Grammar School, The High School, Ballynahinch, St Colman's High School, St Colmcille's High School, Crossgar) were awarded £3000 each on completion of an Implementation Plan for collaboration between the schools.

BLC was successful in application for STEM funding to the total value of £3200.

BLC Principals meet on a monthly basis and are frequently joined by their VPs. The Chair of the group is rotated in a 2 yearly basis. Finances are centralised through the Bursar of Assumption Grammar School,

Mr McQuade, who presents a monthly report. Meetings are coordinated by Mrs Crea who also meets Principals on an individual basis and coordinates specialist groups within BL such as the Careers group (CEAIG / STEM / VP Meeting / Timetabling Meetings)

Collaboration in Sharing Best Practice: TLNI

In our endeavour to raise standards in teaching and learning, Assumption has become a member of the Teaching and Learning NI programme. 5 teachers have completed the programme, having the opportunity to share best practice with a number of schools in Northern Ireland. Assumption collaborates with Ashfield Girls, St. Louise's, Aquinas Grammar and, in this this school year, St. Joseph's Grammar, Donaghmore. The TLNI programme is designed around a framework of collaboration. The school-to-school support is led by teachers for teachers, with the aim to enhance teaching and learning. It promotes outstanding classroom practice and inspires teachers to aspire to achieve their very best. The focus is on active learning strategies, classroom management and practice, assessment and leadership. The programme is not led but rather facilitated by other outstanding practitioners and pedagogy is shared among teachers. It provides us with the opportunity to see outstanding in other schools and to share our own outstanding practice with visiting schools. Our involvement in the programme will drive up standards in the quality of teaching in Assumption and create a successful teaching and learning culture. In the spirit of ESaGS, participation in this programme will play a part in sustained improvement in Assumption.

POLITICS AND PHILOSOPHY SOCIETY

INITIATIVES

- We invited Margaret Ritchie (SDLP), Jim Wells (DUP, Minister for Health) and Chris Hazzard (SF) to the School to talk about political issues relevant to young people. These events were attended by Year 12, 13 and 14 pupils.
- The Year 13 pupils established a Debating Society which had a number of well-attended, lively debates at lunchtimes on subjects such as animal testing and global warming.

COMPETITIONS/ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS

- A team participated in the British Council's European Youth Parliament at Stormont in a debate on financial institutions where the School represented Finland.
- We sent a team to Dublin Castle to participate in the Republic's Euro Mock Council. The pupils played the part of EU ministers in a debate on energy security. We were awarded Second Place out of the 28 schools competing across Ireland.
- The Politics group visited Government Buildings in Stormont and met 6 MLAs.
- Helen Jennings, one of our Year 13 team, was appointed UK representative for the Girls G20 to be held in Istanbul.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

Year 14 pupils attended a revision day organised by QUB Politics Department.

LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Local representatives Margaret Ritchie (SDLP), Jim Wells (DUP, Minister for Health) and Chris Hazzard (SF) talked to students about political issues relevant to young people.

USE OF ICT IN DEPARTMENT

Along with use of Fronter, the Politics Department began using Showme Flipped Classroom Video lessons as a trial, using the Year 14 Class. This was demonstrated during the inspection.

FUTURE PLANS

Dr Walsh is investigating the possibility of an educational visit to New York/Washington with the Geography Department.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Dr Walsh gave lectures at Ataturk University, Erzurum, Turkey and the Turkish Historical Association in Ankara during academic symposiums/conferences on the events of 1915 during May 2015.

CONTINUING PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

The following teachers improve their experience of the examination syllabuses and gain greater insight into examination technique by serving as Moderators and Assistant Examiners for CEA and AQA: Dr Henry, Miss McCloskey, Mrs McGinn, Mrs McMenam, Dr Walsh, Mrs Morrow, Miss McKenna, Dr O'Neill, Mrs Lundy, Dr Scullion, Mrs Carson, Ms Heaney, Mrs Murphy, Mrs Keary and Mr Owens.

(See Appendix for further details – Page 68)

SPONSORED WALK

Friday 19th September 2014

The Sponsored Walk was launched by Mr Wilson after the Opening Masses of the School year in early September. He used a short video clip from YouTube depicting the simple generosity of a man and how it transformed the life of a young girl, allowing her to access education and change her life for the better. The video complemented the scripture reading, helping to focus on the harsh reality of poverty in our world and the difference a little effort can make. Many of the pupils were obviously moved by what they experienced and prayers were said asking for the generosity of spirit to respond fully to all aspects of the Sponsored Walk.

The fundraising began in earnest and by the end of October the pupils had raised the grand total of £10,643.

We were very blessed with fine weather on the day of the Sponsored Walk itself. Pupils and staff walked in 4 venues, Castlewellan Forest Park - Years 8 & 10, Castleward - Years 9 & 11, Delamont - Year 12 and Mount Stewart – Year 13. At each venue pupils were able to complete a good walk and enjoy the natural beauty of the venue.

At the Carol Service on the final day of the first term, we took the opportunity to present the cheque to the Sisters and the Dan Fitzpatrick Memorial Cup to the pupil who individually excelled in raising funds. We were delighted to welcome Sr Rita and Sr Maureen. Sr Rita, who had recently returned from living in South Africa, addressed the pupils and warmly thanked them for their efforts, reassuring the girls that their fundraising would go a long way to change the lives of many less fortunate people in South Africa.

The 'Dan Fitzpatrick Memorial Cup' was this year awarded to Emma Rice (Year 12), her fifth consecutive year receiving the cup. Emma raised £400 towards the work of the Sisters. 10 other pupils were presented with book tokens to mark their individual contribution of over £75.

The Walk and its Assemblies help to build a strong spirit of community in the School and lead us to respond generously with our time and resources. It is also a valuable opportunity to appreciate the plenty which we have the privilege to enjoy and identify our responsibility towards our neighbour who has less. This contributes to our overall aims as a school 'to stimulate the growth of our pupils into caring, competent and responsible citizens' and 'to assist pupils to live out their Christian calling in their daily lives.'

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council provides a forum for pupils' voices to be heard in matters pertaining to school life. A team of ten girls consisting of the Head Girl or Deputy Head Girl, Head Girls of the Junior, Middle and Senior School, and representatives from Years 8-14 continue to meet monthly to discuss issues raised by

the school population. This year, we were fortunate to have two representatives from St Colman's High School attending the monthly meetings. The two boys brought valuable contributions to the table. Among issues which were addressed this year were extra-curricular provision, transport and healthy eating. Representatives from the School Council attended a NICCY event in the Stormont Hotel, Belfast, where they shared ideas with students from other schools. We are grateful to the committed team of students who took on their responsibilities with energy and enthusiasm. A new School Council will be elected in the incoming school year.

STUDENT TEACHERS

The school provided placements for PGCE and student teachers in History, Politics, Religious Education, English, Geography, Business Studies and Science. Staff were pleased with their professional approach to planning and teaching.

COUNSELLING 4 YOUTH/FAMILY WORKS

During first term, we availed of the support offered by the Independent Counselling Service, Counselling 4 Youth and Mrs Lillian Neill served as our Counsellor. Familyworks obtained the tender for school counselling and commenced their contract in January. Mrs Sandra Corr worked closely with the Pastoral Vice Principal, Senior Teachers and Year Heads providing brief to long term support for a large number of students on issues such as family, self-esteem, bereavement and relationships. She met with parents to help resolve family conflict issues. An addition to the service was a fifteen minutes 'drop-in' for students. The counselling service will be provided in the incoming year by Familyworks with a newly appointed counsellor. We are indebted to Mrs Neill and Mrs Corr for their professional support and advice for staff and pupils alike.

YEAR GROUP REPORTS

YEAR 8 REPORT INITIATIVES

- The Year 8 Information Booklet was produced and utilised to welcome the new pupils into the school. The booklet was designed to help with the transition between Primary and Secondary School
- The Year 8 pupils engaged in a personal hygiene initiative in conjunction with the RSE Programme.
- The PSNI organised and delivered an Internet/Cyber Bullying talk. BLC schools also took part.
- Mrs McVeigh reviewed and updated the Year 8 Pastoral Scheme of Work.
- Mrs McVeigh analysed the GL results of incoming Year 8 pupils which included their raw Maths and English scores. These results were passed onto the HoD Maths and HoD English. This new initiative has proved to be very beneficial in relation to the Identification of Need process.
- Mrs McVeigh created a Year 8 Pastoral Frontier page to share resources with the Year 8 Pastoral Team.

EVENTS

September 2014

- Year 8 pupils took part in the Young Enterprise RSE programme to discuss the transition from Primary School to Secondary School.
- The Year 8 pupils enjoyed the annual Sponsored Walk at Castlewellan Forest Park.

October 2014

- The Student Council Representative was chosen from each Form Class and the overall Year 8 representative elected. The pupil elected was Lucia Orsi 8C.
- Pupils prepared, auditioned and performed during the Drama Festival.

November 2014

- The Safety Bus visited the school and all Year 8 pupils attended a lesson on the bus.

- Pupils produced “Internet Safety” posters and the overall Year 8 winner was awarded at assembly. The winner was Sarah Murray 8C.
- All Year 8 pupils attended Study Skills “Amazing Brains” workshop.
- Internet safety/Cyber bullying talk delivered by Ian Young from the PSNI. Year 8 pupils from other secondary schools in the BLC also attended.

December 2014

- Pupils raised money for their local charities during the Christmas Charity Week.
- The Year 8 cinema trip took place in Downpatrick.
- Each Year 8 Form Class produced an act for the Christmas Concert.

January 2015

- Year 8 Well-Being Day, which included a special service in the Oratory, Zumba and a Ceili. Pupil evaluation of the day was very positive.
- Year 8, 11 and 13 pupils accompanied Staff to Primary Schools.

February 2015

- Year 8 Mentoring implemented.

March 2015

- During Lent, the Year 8 pupils took part in a number of activities to raise money for Trocaire.

April 2015

- Pupils completed an evaluation of the Year 8 Pastoral Programme. The response was very positive.
- Extra revision and study techniques were provided during Form Class in preparation for May examinations.

June 2015

- Year 8 pupils attended a “Moving on” event, as part of their RSE course.
- Year 8 Retreat organised by the RE Department.
- Pupils completed a questionnaire evaluating Year 8.
- Identification of Need was completed and analysed by Year Head and Section Head.
- Primary School visits regarding new Year 8 pupils took place.
- Year 8 Celebration Day. Pupils and teachers celebrated the end of Year 8, by having a special service in the Oratory, an Assembly in Multihall 2, bowling and lunch in Dundonald and ending with a disco in school.

Pupils and class achievements

- Student Council Representative Year 8: Lucia Orsi 8C.
- Emma McDowell 8C won Art competition with Mrs Keary.
- Winner of “Internet Safety” poster: Sarah Murray 8C.
- Year 8 Science Club members took part and achieved a Guinness World Record for successfully completing the largest practical.
 - Evy Kane 8C received first place in the World Karate championship.
 - There was great success in the World Irish Dancing championship for a number of Year 8 pupils, including Shanna Mulhern 8E, Orla Brown 8B and Kerrie Madine 8B.
 - There was tremendous success in Cross-Country Running for Libby Maloney 8B and Sara O’Rourke 8B.
 - Niamh Keeney 8E was the overall winner of the Positive reward Scheme and was presented with the Bob Leonard Cup at the end of year Mass.

- Elizabeth Gwynne 8E designed the cover page for the Year 8 booklet.

YEAR 9 REPORT

Events/Visiting Speakers/ Pupil and Class Achievements/ Positive Reward Scheme Recipients/Educational Visits

- Children's Hospice Assembly
- The Michaela Fund Camp Talk
- Sponsored Walk
- Christmas Charities
- History Trip
- Geography Trip
- Annual Concert
- Ski Trip
- Drama Festival
- Science club came 3rd in the QUB Chemistry Psalter's challenge.
- Science club - World record for largest science practical!
- School U-14 Gaelic Team got into the Ulster Final
- Zoo Trip
- Positive Reward Scheme– Year 9 Winner- Shauna Graham 9A, Saul House – 36 points.

YEAR 10 REPORT

INITIATIVES

The focus this year was to build upon developing a cohesive Year Group through the introduction of a Well-Being Day and a Celebration Day of Achievement following the January and May examinations respectively. Both initiatives proved highly successful, enabling pupils to take stock of the importance of work/life balance and relationships within their peer group and affording them some valuable relaxation time at the end of the year.

A Pastoral Room was created on Fronter to share administration and information amongst the Year 10 Year Head and Form Teachers. This has engendered a more streamlined approach to imparting details and sharing resources.

ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS/LINKS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY

Positive Reward Scheme

The Positive Reward Scheme, which was introduced in Year 9, has become more firmly embedded and pupils are not only aspiring to achieving individual recognition for their accumulation of points but also developing a stronger sense of identification with the House System. The restoration of the latter is very gratifying as it has resuscitated a former, much valued tradition in Assumption Grammar School and reinforces a sense of community.

Sponsored Walk/Christmas Charities/Nepal Appeal

Our pupils, as always, exceed all expectations in their generosity of spirit and practical efforts to support others who are less well off. These attributes will serve them well as they develop into adulthood. The range of charities and causes they have embraced to date are, notably, both local and international in nature, which also broadens their horizons.

As part of Internet Safety Week, Year 10 pupils attended a dramatic production, based on Cyberbullying. Feedback from the students indicated that they found this experience salutary. They generally agreed that the performance had made a strong impact on them. Similar and other social issues were also discussed as part of the Year 10 Form Class programme. We used the INSYNC / SHAHRP resources to support learning.

Year 10 pupils continued to develop their personal skills and qualities through extracurricular activities. Individual achievements are recognised at general assemblies and through Twitter, particularly where pupils have won awards at national/international levels.

FUTURE PLANS

We will continue to support our Year Group, both academically and pastorally, as they move into Middle School. We are extremely proud of them thus far and are confident that they will build on the very solid foundation of their Junior School years.

YEAR 11 REPORT

INITIATIVES

- An Induction Day was introduced for Year 11 students which involved a trio of activities including meditation, RAF leadership activities and a Mental Health Workshop delivered by MENSANA.
- Pupils in Year 11 were involved in many extra-curricular activities including Netball, Gaelic Football, Cross-Country, Swimming, Camogie, and Showjumping, Choir, Orchestra and Science Club
- Mrs McCambridge facilitated a number of Year 11 students who are completing their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award in the Fitness suite twice a week.
- Mrs Lundy piloted the use of Communication Log in SIMS with a number of Year 11 students.
- Year 11 Form teachers were trained in the use of GoogleDocs and used these to complete key administration tasks including Pupil/Teacher pastoral interviews
- Mrs Lundy set up a Fronter Room for Year 11 Pastoral Care
- Mrs Lundy researched the use of Sims Learning Gateway for pastoral purposes and arranged for a presentation from a representative from Capita to SLT.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

- Mrs Lundy and Mrs Hanna accompanied 20 Year 11 students to an Action Mental Health initiative in Ballynahinch Market House.
- Year 11s enjoyed an end of year celebration at 'We are Vertigo' Adventure Centre.
- Year 11 students took part in Geography Fieldwork at Murlough Nature Reserve.
- 8 year 11 students travelled to Folgoria in Italy on the Annual Ski Trip
- 15 Year 11 students took part in the Co-Operation Ireland Entwined Histories Showcase Event.

EVENTS

- Year 11 took part in a Study Skills seminar delivered by Amazing Brains
- The Year 11 group enjoyed their annual retreat
- Many year 11 students attended the school Careers Convention
- 25 Home Economics students attend a 'Feed your Mind' Open Day at Loughrey College
- Year 11 attended a Love for Life event in school in November 2014.

LINKS WITH THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

- Orla Boyle, Niamh Napier and Courtney Anderson took part in the Netball Youth Sport Games, representing the South Eastern Area.

FUTURE PLAN

- Mrs Lundy would like to carry out a review of the Year 12 Pastoral Programme.
- The introduction of Pastoral Spreadsheets to track the prevalence of particular pastoral issues within the group
- A Year 12 Pastoral Portal on the website
- Building leadership capacity within the Form Teacher team

- Creating more opportunities for the CPD of Form Teachers

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Mrs Lundy attended the following training courses:

- Iteach Ipad training
- Safe and Effective Use of Social Media
- Advanced Fronter Training
- Discover SIMS training

Erin-Fitzsimmons West won the Year 11 Positive Reward Scheme for Year 11 in 2014/2015.

YEAR 12 REPORT

INITIATIVES

The focus this year was on:

- Mentoring and getting the best out of those of our students who found 10 GCSE subjects very challenging. The Year 11 module results were used as a baseline and several of these pupils dropped 1-3 subjects. They were given extra support in their other subjects and a Library/Study Hall timetable was drawn up for them and monitored.
- Pupil well-being as some showed signs of stress and anxiety due to pressures of GCSE examinations, on-going Controlled Assessments, deadlines and other personal issues. The teacher/pupil interviews were particularly beneficial and revealing, which led to the introduction of further study skills during the Form Period programme and to further use of the school counsellor.

ACHIEVEMENTS/EVENTS/LINKS WITH LOCAL COMMUNITY

Sponsored walk:

The Year 12s had a great day in Delamont on Friday 19th September 2014. After completing the walk around the perimeter and down by the shore, we all had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon in the play park and in the sunshine. The total amount of sponsorship money raised by the Year 12s was £1832.60 and the Dan Fitzpatrick cup for the most amount of money collected by a pupil, was awarded to Emma Rice, 12E, for the fifth year in a row. She alone raised £400!

House Point System:

The House Point System, which was introduced in Year 9, has been very successful and the girls have enjoyed it. It has also helped to instil in them the good practice of wearing their uniforms correctly and with pride, the importance of punctuality and attendance, prompt return of absence and late notes, participation in school events, healthy competition with regard to academic achievement and a willingness to help others.

The presentation of House Points took place at the end of each term in a special Year Assembly that was delivered by the Year Head and attended by Form teachers and Section Head and also vice principal and principal on occasions.

The Assembly on 5 May was a particularly memorable one as it was the girls' last day and they were shown a slideshow of their "Yesteryears".

It was also announced on that day that the winning house for Year 12s in 2014-2015 was IONA and the overall winning pupil was Ciara Hunt. There will be a celebration for Iona pupils during Christmas week 2015.

Last year's winning house, when these pupils were in Year 11, was DROGHEDA. We all enjoyed a lovely lunch, as a reward, on Tuesday 16th Dec 2014 in Fish City, Ballynahinch. It was a nice way to support a local business.

Christmas Charities:

Our pupils brought in non-perishable items and made up Christmas hampers. On Monday 15th December 2014, Roisin Poland from Ballynahinch SVP and Frances Browne from Drumaness SVP were each delighted to receive 13 hampers, which were bursting with Christmas goodies.

Student Council:

The Year 12 pupil voted onto the student council was Ellen Hayes, who proved herself to be a very worthy and representative, giving more volume to the pupil voice.

Anti-Bullying Drama:

Our Year 12 Drama students took part in a dramatic production highlighting the dangers of Cyberbullying. It was a very powerful and moving production which was performed for the rest of the Year 12 students and the whole of the junior school.

Pastoral Programme:

The pastoral programme delivered this year was "Mind Out", Study Skills and Citizenship.

YEAR 13 REPORT

Year 13s began the year with a very enjoyable **Sponsored Walk** at Mount Stewart raising a large amount of money for the Sisters of the Assumption.

Year 13 Retreat, which was held in early November with members of the **L'Arche Community** based in Belfast, afforded the pupils the opportunity to appreciate the gifts which people with disabilities can bring to life and to develop further a sense of respect for all people.

A talk from **Children in Crossfire** founder Mr Richard Moore took place in November. This spurred the girls on to choose the charity as their Christmas Charity. They participated in Coffee Mornings and took home the Advent boxes to collect funds for the Charity, raising £825.46.

Our Pastoral Programme for Year 13 included many notable speakers. We opened the new year with a presentation by pupils who were involved in last year's **Saphara** Project. This was clearly an inspirational talk about the very worthwhile work they did in India as the project was over-subscribed again this year and interviews were held in the first term to choose volunteers for this year's scheme. Some of our Year 13 girls July to join the Saphara team in India, a project that is jointly organised by Mr Breen.

The success of the students at GCSE was recognised in the first term with a memorable presentation night. Past-pupil, Colette McMullan who provides legal services for **First Derivatives**, was our guest speaker and Sheron Blair was awarded the Alison McGrath memorial cup for her excellent achievements at GCSE.

Being unfamiliar to the independent approach to A Level s and studying, Year 13 students were assisted in their new A Level courses with a seminar on Study Skills, hosted by an external agency **Amazing Brains**. These skills have also been shared with Junior classes, as some of our Year 13 pupils are involved in **Literacy and Numeracy mentoring** with younger students. The girls assist Junior pupils and pupils from local primary schools, acting as both academic and pastoral mentors in helping to develop and improve the skills of students who have been identified by both subject teachers and Year Heads.

The Year 13 students have had several speakers in to deliver talks on a variety of topics and issues. These have included a series of **SHARHP** presentations which focus on raising awareness of the effects and consequences of Alcohol and Drugs. We also had speakers coming in to talk to the girls about volunteering and community/youth work. These schemes have been a great success this year with many of our students being awarded their **Bronze and Silver Millennium** awards for Voluntary work and six Year 13s reaching Level 2 in Youth Work.

The **Enrichment** classes have also provided examples of Value Added Activities with eighteen students receiving BTEC Level 2 in **Paediatric First Aid**. **Mandarin** was also introduced to the school this year, with twelve girls sitting an examination in June. Twenty Year 13 students are currently completing their Level 3 in **Aspire** (Leadership) with many of these students demonstrating great leadership qualities in their interviews for the Head Girl Team.

Towards the end of the year we had speakers in from the **Samaritans** talking to the students about mental health issues. This was a very insightful and helpful presentation and relevant to the module the students cover on Mental Health and Well Being as part of their Pastoral Programme. Davy Wilson also visited the school and spoke to the Year Group about the **Duke of Edinburgh** scheme. Since this talk, several of the girls have become involved and are hoping to work with Junior classes next year in establishing a group in school.

The **Pope John Paul II Award** scheme is also continuing in school and encourages both a culture of volunteering and sharing of skills and talents.

Helen Jennings, selected as our new Head Girl, has recently been elected for the UK Youth Parliament, representing the UK in a European conference in Turkey in September 2015.

YEAR 14 REPORT

Over the course of the year, as part of the pastoral programme, visiting speakers presented to the Year 14 pupils on a range of topics. In the first term Constable Helen Black from the **PSNI** spoke to pupils about road safety and presented a number of hard hitting examples from her own experience as a road traffic officer. Pupils were fully engaged in these presentations and were frequently called upon by Constable Black to participate. During the first term pupils also participated in the **Widening Horizons** personal development portfolio facilitated by Year 14 Form Teachers. Pupils worked on resources to help them take control of their learning and development as they planned and prepared for the future. To complement this programme and to assist with UCAS preparation pupils also attended university **Open Days** at Queen's University Belfast, St Mary's and Ulster University.

In the second term pupils attended presentations from Translink during which they were able to set up an account for a student travel card. The pupils also attended a presentation given by representatives from the Samaritans who spoke to pupils about mental health, counselling and identified a number of support systems for people in crisis.

Just before the Year 14 pupils went on study leave, two past pupils spoke to them about university life. The pupils enjoyed this candid description of the highs and lows of life as a 'fresher' and provided pupils with relevant and specific advice for next year.

Pupils were given the opportunity to evaluate the visiting speakers and the pastoral programme on a number of occasions throughout the year.

In December of 2014 Year 14, pupils organised and hosted the annual **Senior Citizens Christmas** Dinner. Pupils collected money within their year group to provide dinner, decorations and presents for all guests.

Year 14 pupils provided the entertainment and many offered their waitressing skills for the event which was a huge success.

In the new year, pupils visited their local primary schools in order to make links with the community and promote Open Day.

Year 14 pupils have been involved in many charitable endeavours including **Saphara, Habitat for Humanity and Marie Curie**. A number of pupils are actively volunteering in their local community as part of the John Paul II award.

Sporting achievements include GAA All Star status and Amy McGivern continued in her role on the Northern Ireland Ladies Football Team.

Year 14 pupil Sarah King was awarded the **Thomas Devlin Prize** which provided her with funding to enable Year 12 Drama students to perform 'Complicity' during Anti-Bullying.

GCSE RESULTS ANALYSIS - SUMMER 2015

Analysis by Pupil Numbers

Number of Pupils in Year 12: **117**

	All Subjects		Including English & Mathematics	
	5 +	7 +	5 +	7 +
A* – C	116	111	113	111
	99.1%	94.9%	96.6%	94.9%
A* – E	117	117	117	117
	100%	100%	100%	100%

Analysis by Subject

Number of Subjects Available: **26**

	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E
Additional Maths	39	9	15	14	1		
Art	16		5	9	2		
Biology	43	5	14	11	10	3	
Business Studies	19	1	4	10	3	1	
Chemistry	26	4	13	8	1		
Drama	27		4	11	11	1	
English	117	8	70	36	3		
English Literature	117	25	50	38	4		
French	41	5	17	10	8	1	
Geography	61	8	23	23	4	2	1
Health & Social Care	16		5	5	6		
History	54	8	14	19	9	4	
Home Economics	27	6	14	5		2	
ICT	13		8	3	1	1	
Irish	51	2	18	16	12	2	1
Latin	7				5	2	
Mathematics	117	25	43	25	21	3	
Music	21	7	11	3			
PE	18	9	7		2		
Physics	26	2	11	9	4		
RE	117	25	51	26	10	3	2
Science 1	71	12	27	23	7	2	
Science 2	71	1	25	27	14	4	
Spanish	26	11	9	5	1		
Statistics	10	1	4	5			
Technology	17		2	14	1		

Analysis by Grade

Number of Examinations Taken: **1168**

A*	A	B	C	D	E
174	464	355	140	31	4
14.9%	39.7%	30.4%	12.0%	2.7%	0.3%

A-LEVEL RESULTS ANALYSIS - SUMMER 2015

Analysis by Pupil Numbers

Number of Pupils in Year 14: **113**

A* – C	4	3	2	1
	9	86	106	113
	8.0%	76.1%	93.8%	100%

A* – E	4	3	2	1
	9	111	113	113
	8.0%	98.2%	100%	100%

Analysis by Subject

Number of Subjects Available: **27**

	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E
Applied Business	5		1	1	1	1	1
Art	4			3	1		
Art History	11			8		3	
Biology	29	5	6	16	2		
Business Studies	9			1	3	3	2
Chemistry	15	1	5	4	3	2	
Economics	2			1	1		
English Lit	27	3	8	13	2	1	
French	4		1	2		1	
Further Mathematics	2		1	1			
Geography	21	3	8	5	2	2	
Health & Social Care	30		5	21	4		
History	11		2	6	2		1
Home Economics	7	1	2	3	1		
ICT	7		1	1	3	2	
Irish	14		9	5			
Mathematics	31	7	14	6	2	2	
Music	7	1	1	2	3		
PE	9		4	2	3		
Physics	6			4	2		
Politics	8		2	1	5		
Psychology	27		5	7	10	5	
Religious Studies	21			11	8	2	
Sociology	21		3	9	4	4	1
Spanish	9		1	3	5		
Technology	5		1		2	1	
Theatre Studies	6		4	2			

Analysis by Grade

Number of Examinations Taken: **346**

A*	A	B	C	D	E
21	84	138	69	29	5
5.9%	23.6%	38.8%	19.4%	8.2%	1.4%

PERFORMANCE IN PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS 2012/13 TO 2014/15 – Grammar Schools

ASSUMPTION GRAMMAR SCHOOL

Performance Indicator	2012/2013		2013/2014		2014/2015	
	School	N.I.	School	N.I.	School	N.I.
% achieving 5+ GCSEs at Grades A*-C (or equivalent)	98.3	97.3	100	97.2	99.1	n/a
% achieving 5+ GCSEs at Grades A*-C (or equivalent) inc English Language & Maths	97.5	94	95.8	94.5	96.6	n/a
% Achieving 7+ GCSEs at Grades A*-C (or equivalent)	96.6	93.6	100	93.0	94.9	n/a
% Achieving 7+ GCSEs at Grades A*-C (or equivalent) inc English Language & Maths	95.8	91.6	95.8	91.6	94.9	n/a
% Achieving 3+ A Levels at Grades A*-C (or equivalent)	78.4	77.2	71.9	75.7	76.1	n/a
% Achieving 2+ A Levels at Grades A-E (or equivalent)	100	99.6	100	99.6	100	n/a

OTHER RESULTS 2014 - 2015

Ciara Rooney came 3rd in Northern Ireland in GCSE Irish. Ciara completed this examination in Year 9.
Niamh Doyle came 3rd in Northern Ireland in GCSE Physical Education.

ASPIRE

15 Year 13 pupils received certificates for completing Aspire ILM level 3 in Leadership and Management Skills. This course was delivered in conjunction with Belfast Metropolitan College.

FIRST AID

12 Year 13 pupils received certificates in First Aid, having completed a course delivered by South Eastern Regional College.

Mandarin

Mandarin was offered for the first time in school and seven of our students graduated with a HSK Level 1.

OTHER ENRICHMENT COURSES

Over seventy other Year 13 pupils successfully completed Enrichment Courses in Home Cooking, Leisure Activities, Additional Maths, and COPE (the Certificate in Personal Effectiveness).

MUSIC

Ballymena Festival Winners

February 2015

Name	Class	Place
Senior Orchestra	Orchestra	1 st
Senior Chamber Ensemble	String Orchestra	1 st
McGarrity Quartet	String Quartet 15-16	1 st
Sweeney Quartet	String Quartet 17-18	1 st
Orla McGarrity	Violin Solo 15-16	1 st
Hannah McGeown	Double Bass Solo	1 st
Laura McAllister	Saxophone Solo	1 st

Lara McKenna	Trumpet Solo	1 st
Senior Chamber Ensemble	Chamber Orchestra	2 nd
Cora Timoney	Violin Solo 15-16	2 nd
Cora McCartan	Saxophone Solo	2 nd
Laura McAllister	Flute Solo	2 nd
Niamh Bloomer	Violin Solo	3 rd

ABRSM Practical Examinations

June 2014

Name	Grade	Instrument	Pieces	Scales	SR	Aural	Mark
Lidia Balocchi	4	Piano	27/23/19	11	12	15	107
Emily Blaney	8	Viola	23/20/28	18	19	16	124
Niamh Bloomer	7	Violin	29/29/28	17	19	15	137
Vanessa Boyd	8	Singing	22/23/21/19	19	16	15	135
Aislinn Byrne	4	Trumpet	21/20/19	12	12	11	95
Fidelma Carson	3	Singing	23/25/23	18	18	16	123
Orlagh Carson	3	Singing	25/28/25	18	13	15	124
Alanna Crane	3	Violin	28/24/26	17	17	14	126
Eloise Crane	6	Violin	26/27/27	13	20	12	125
Amanda Dobbin-Rodriguez	5	Violin	19/20/24	14	17	12	106
Kate Fitzsimons	3	Violin	25/20/21	14	17	18	115
Orlaith Forsythe	3	Singing	29/25/25	19	14	18	130
Orlaith Gormley	6	Violin	22/20/23	13	19	16	113
Sara Gowdy	6	Piano	18/20/18	16	12	11	95
Sophie Harris	6	Singing	22/21/21/18	18	19	16	135
Kirsten Jennings	5	Singing	30/27/27	20	13	16	133
Emily Kerr	3	Flute	24/23/24	14	13	15	113
Ruth Kerr	4	Violin	24/23/24	13	17	15	116
Gina Lonergan	3	Violin	29/26/23	18	18	16	130
Ciara Maguire	6	Violin	26/28/28	18	20	16	136
Sarah McCann	3	Violin	25/27/28	15	15	15	125
Lucy McCartan	7	Saxophone	27/28/26	13	17	14	125
Connlaodh McDonagh	5	Singing	25/25/24	19	15	16	124
Cara McEvoy	1	Violin	25/24/23	18	21	16	127
Orla McGarrity	7	Violin	29/28/28	18	18	16	137
Orla McGarrity	3	Piano	19/21/22	18	18	18	116
Ellen McGeown	5	Violin	20/22/23	15	16	10	106
Tara McKay	5	Violin	24/25/23	18	17	13	120
Erin McKibben	5	Violin	23/22/23	17	13	17	115
Eithne McQuade	4	Piano	24/24/24	17	17	15	121
Laoise McWilliams	5	Trumpet	23/20/22	11	10	14	100
Katie Miskelly	3	Cello	23/23/26	17	17	17	123
Ciara Morgan	8	Violin	22/22/22	14	18	12	110
Helena Morgan	7	Violin	27/26/23	14	18	16	124
Caroline O'Hare	6	Violin	23/22/21	16	18	11	111
Stephanie O'Hare	3	Piano	24/22/20	18	13	16	113
Chamanow Rafferty	4	Cello	ABS				
Anna Quinn	4	Trumpet	23/23/23	12	11	15	107
Helen Quinn	6	Violin	ABS				

Erin Roddy	1	Double Bass	22/24/24	16	19	16	121
Emma Roseingrave	4	Violin	25/26/25	16	15	18	125
Fiona Savage	3	Singing	23/23/23	18	13	15	115
Cora Timoney	7	Violin	25/27/26	19	18	16	131

In June 2014, 43 pupils entered ABRSM Practical examinations in their instrument or voice with a 98% pass rate – 21% Distinction, 35% Merit, 42% Pass

ABRSM Practical Examinations

November 2014

Name	Grade	Instrument	Pieces	Scales	S/R	Aural	Mark
Maria Downard	3	Piano	24/25/27	17	16	18	127
Erin McAllister	3	Violin	28/26/27	19	19	18	137
Ellen O'Hare	3	Violin	22/21/23	15	16	15	112
Iseult McGrory	3	Violin	24/25/24	17	17	15	122
Sara O'Rourke	3	Violin	25/23/25	16	17	16	122
Clare Rice	4	Violin	23/19/23	16	17	14	112
Orlaith Brennan	4	Violin	24/22/23	16	14	14	113
Cara Taggart	4	Violin	23/21/22	16	17	15	114
Maria Downard	4	Violin	26/28/26	18	16	13	127
Brona Starkey	5	Violin	22/24/24	12	16	12	110
Emma Braniff	6	Violin	26/26/28	18	17	16	131
Laura McCann	5	Viola	26/26/27	17	13	16	125
Katy Fitzpatrick	5	Viola	25/26/24	13	13	15	116
Laura McAllister	6	Flute	28/29/26	17	16	14	130
Emma Noble	3	Clarinet	26/27/25	16	14	15	123
Rebecca McKeown	2	Bassoon	24/26/25	17	16	13	121
Clara Rogan	1	Horn	25/26/24	17	15	16	123
Susie Hyland	4	Trumpet	25/18/24	13	16	12	108
Louise O'Hare	2	Alto Sax	25/24/23	17	16	12	117
Hannah McKeown	5	Alto Sax	24/23/23	13	14	15	112
Rachel McPeake	8	Alto Sax	27/28/28	18	18	10	128
Rebecca Hampton	6	Singing	22/22/20/19	19	15	13	130
Claire Keenan	7	Piano	23/22/21	11	11	15	103

In November 2014, 23 pupils entered ABRSM examinations in their instrument/voice with a 100% pass rate – 43% Pass, 39% Merit, 18% Distinction.

ABRSM Practical Examinations

March 2015

Name	Grade	Instrument	Pieces	Scales	S/R	Aural	Mark
Beth Collins	4	Violin	22/22/21	15	17	14	111
Aine Doherty	4	Violin	28/26/26	19	19	12	130
Kate Fitzsimons	4	Violin	27/26/27	19	18	15	132
Ciara Gillespie	4	Violin	25/26/25	17	17	16	126
Caitlin Hale	3	Piano	21/23/26	15	12	16	113
Lucy Hillen	3	Piano	28/25/26	16	12	15	122
Shauna King	5	Violin	25/23/26	16	18	12	120
Erin McAllister	3	Violin	28/28/26	18	18	15	133
Sarah McCann	4	Violin	26/25/23	15	17	11	117
Cara McEvoy	2	Violin	27/26/26	17	19	15	130
Emma McDowell	2	Violin	25/23/26	18	16	12	120

Laura McEvoy	3	Violin	28/27/26	15	19	15	130
Mollie McGinn	6	Violin	25/25/25	16	17	15	123
Anna Miskelly	5	Cello	26/27/28	17	18	14	130
Laura Murphy	4	Clarinet	22/22/20	12	15	14	105
Helen Quinn	6	Violin	23/24/24	14	16	12	113
Emma Rudd	1	Cello	26/26/26	19	18	15	130
Goergia Stanley	6	Violin	23/25/25	16	14	10	113

In March 2015, 18 pupils entered ABRSM examinations in their instrument/voice with a 100% pass rate – 33.5% Pass 27.5% Merit, 39% Distinction

THEORY

Name	Grade	Mark	Level
June 2014			
Georgia Stanley	5	79	Pass
Katy Keaveney	5	90	Distinction
November 2014			
Emma Roseingrave	5	91	Distinction
Iseult McGrory	5	68	Pass
Erin McKibben	5	82	Merit
Ellen McGeown	5	85	Merit
February 2015			
Katy Fitzpatrick	5	92	Distinction
Ciara McCullagh	5	74	Pass
Tara McKay	5	84	Merit

In 2014-15, 9 pupils entered ABRSM Theory examinations with a 100% pass rate, 33.3% Distinction, 33.3% Merit, 33.3% Pass.

LCM Music Theatre Examinations

Name	Grade	Mark	Level
Summer 2014			
Aoife Barnes	4	82	Merit
Katy Fitzpatrick	4	82	Merit
Anna McMullan	4	86	Distinction
Alice Magorrian	5	87	Distinction
Connlaodh McDonagh	5	82	Merit
Erin McGrattan	5	81	Merit
Eimear Doherty	6	85	Distinction
Aisling Murphy	6	80	Merit
Lucy Connor	8	81	Merit
Claire Keenan	8	89	Distinction
Emilie McEvoy	8	87	Distinction
Spring 2015			
Aoife Barnes	5	89	Distinction
Anna McMullan	5	91	Distinction

In 2014-15, 13 pupils entered London College of Music examinations in Music Theatre with a 100% pass rate, 46% achieved merit and 54% achieved distinction.

DESTINATION OF LEAVERS
1 SEPTEMBER 2014 - 31 AUGUST 2015

Year Group	No of Leavers in Year Group	% to Higher Education	% to Further Education	% to Another School	% to Gap Year	% to Employment
Year 14	113	75	9		16	
Year 13	6		67	33		
Year 9-12	16		13	81		6

Record of days attended by all pupils on roll – 2014 / 2015: 95%

APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS 2013-2015

	Applications			Admissions		
	2013	2014	2015	2013	2014	2015
Grade A	72	61	79	71 * ^	61	79
Grade B1	24	22	31	23 * ^	22	21
Grade B2	26	21	24	26 *	21	10
Grade C1	18	13	10	0	13	0
Grade C2	16	9	15	1	3	0
Grade D	8	12	6	0	0	0
Other	1	2	0	0	1	0
On Appeal				1 (Grade C2)	0	0
Total	165	140	165	121	121	120

* *inc upgrades under Special Circumstances*

^ *inc upgrades under Special Provision*

SCHOOL CALENDAR 2015/2016

<p>1st Term 26 August School Opens 26 – 30 October Mid Term break 18 December School closes</p> <p>2nd Term 4 January Staff Day 5 January School re-opens for pupils 25 January School holiday 15 – 19 February Mid Term break 17 March St Patrick's Day Holiday 24 March – 1 April School closes for pupils for Easter</p>	<p>3rd Term 4 April School re-opens for pupils 19 & 20 April Staff Days 2 May May Day Holiday 30 & 31 May Staff Days 27 – 30 June End of Year Celebrations</p>
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**APPENDIX
Staff Training**

Mrs K.Andersson					
Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
SENIOR LEADERSHIP PATHWAYS	04/06/2015	04/06/2015		N	STRANMILLIS
SENIOR LEADERSHIP PATHWAYS	21/05/2015	21/05/2015		N	STRANMILLIS
SENIOR LEADERSHIP PATHWAYS	23/04/2015	23/04/2015		N	STRANMILLIS
SENIOR LEADERSHIP PATHWAYS	11/03/2015	11/03/2015		N	DUNGANNON
H&S BANDSAW AND CIRCULAR SAW	04/03/2015	04/03/2015		N	FORTWILLIAM
SENIOR LEADERSHIP PATHWAYS	12/02/2015	12/02/2015		N	STRANMILLIS
SENIOR LEADERSHIP PATHWAYS	15/01/2015	15/01/2015		N	STRANMILLIS
SENIOR LEADERSHIP PATHWAYS	04/12/2014	04/12/2014		N	STRANMILLIS
STEM CEAIG CONFERENCE	19/11/2014	19/11/2014		N	CLANDEBOYE LODGE BANGOR
SENIOR LEADERSHIP PATHWAYS INTRO	06/11/2014	06/11/2014		N	STRANMILLIS
A2 TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT TRIAL	22/10/2014	22/10/2014		N	STRANMILLIS
GCSE TECHNOLOGY AGREEMENT TRIAL	17/10/2014	17/10/2014		N	CCEA HQ
Mr D.Campbell					
Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
STEPS INTO LEADERSHIP	14/05/2015	14/05/2015		N	PARKGATE ANTRIM
STEPS INTO LEADERSHIP	16/04/2015	16/04/2015		N	PARKGATE ANTRIM
STEPS INTO LEADERSHIP	12/03/2015	12/03/2015		N	PARKHALL, ANTRIM
H&S CIRCULAR SAW AND BANDSAW	05/03/2015	05/03/2015		N	FORTWILLIAM
STEPS INTO LEADERSHIP	19/02/2015	19/02/2015		N	PARKHALL ANTRIM
INTO LEADERSHIP					STEPS 15/01/2015
					15/01/2015
					N
					PARKHALL, ANTRIM
STEPS INTO LEADERSHIP	11/12/2014	11/12/2014		N	PARKHALL, ANTRIM
STEPS INTO LEADERSHIP	14/11/2014	14/11/2014		N	PARKHALL, ANTRIM

Dr T.Cunningham

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
STANDARDISING MEETING AS UNIT 2	25/06/2015	26/06/2015		N	CCEA HQ
STANDARDISING MEETING AS UNIT 3	04/06/2015	04/06/2015		N	CCEA HQ
QPEC	12/02/2015	12/02/2015		N	CCEA HQ
DEVELOPMENT OF NEW SPECIFICATION	08/12/2014	08/12/2014		N	CCEA HQ
QPEC A LEVEL	12/09/2014	12/09/2014		N	CCEA HQ

Mrs M.Devlin

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
TRAINING FOR SCHOOL COUNCILS	26/03/2015	26/03/2015		N	STORMONT HOTEL
COUNSELLING	01/12/2014	01/12/2014		N	CANAL COURT NEWRY
ATTENDANCE COURSE	03/10/2014	03/10/2014		N	LOUGH NEAGH CENTRE
LEADERSHIP	01/10/2014	01/10/2014		N	ASHFIELD BOYS' BELFAST

Mr P.Dobbin

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
ASSOCIATE INSPECTOR	01/05/2015	01/05/2015		N	Lagan Valley, Lisburn
Associate Inspector Visit Passion	30/04/2015	30/04/2015		N	Cross and High School DUNDONALD
WIDER KEY SKILLS SEMINAR	19/03/2015	19/03/2015		N	DUNDONALD
PRSD MANAGEMENT CLASS	03/02/2015	03/02/2015		N	ANTRIM
ASSOCIATE INSPECTOR	30/01/2015	30/01/2015		N	CLOTWORTHY HOUSE,
ANTRIM ASSOCIATE INSPECTOR	26/01/2015	26/01/2015		N	CLOTWORTHY HOUSE,
ANTRIM SEN, H&S,CHILD PROTECTION,ENROLMENT	21/01/2015	21/01/2015		N	SEELB HQ
ISSUE WORKSHOP	03/12/2014	03/12/2014		N	DUNGANNON
LEADERSHIP MASTERCLASS	19/11/2014	19/11/2014		N	DUNGANNON
SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT TRAINING	01/10/2014	01/10/2014		N	ETI
DEVELOPMENT FOR NEW PRINCIPALS	24/09/2014	24/09/2014		N	SEELB HQ

Mrs F.Feron

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
EXCELLENCE IN ENGLISH LITERACY	03/06/2015	03/06/2015		N	DUNDONALD

Mrs L.Hawes

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
CEAIG COURSE	01/12/2014	01/12/2014		N	SEELB HQ

EUROPEAN STUDIES TRAINING DAY Dr B.Henry	07/10/2014	07/10/2014	N	ANTRIM BOARD CENTRE
Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed Venue
SCIENCE CONFERENCE	05/06/2015	05/06/2015	N	ST MARY'S COLLEGE
GCSE SCIENCE SPECIFICATION	29/05/2015	29/05/2015	N	STORMONT HOTEL
STEM CEAIG CONFERENCE	19/11/2014	19/11/2014	N	CLANDEBOYE LODGE BANGOR
Mrs J.Hughes				
Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed Venue
GCSE ART AGREEMENT TRIAL	08/10/2014	08/10/2014	N	CCEA HQ
Miss S.Ivery				
Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed Venue
ITEACH NEWTOWNABBE	25/02/2015	25/02/2015	N	
				Y
A2 GEOGRAPHY SPECIFICATION REVISION	23/02/2015	23/02/2015	N	CCEA HQ
Mrs F.Kane				
Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed Venue
GEOGRAPHY AND GIS	27/02/2015	27/02/2015	N	UUC COLERAINE
STEM CEAIG CONFERENCE	19/11/2014	19/11/2014	N	CLANDEBOYE LODGE BANGOR
Mrs D.Keary				
Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed Venue
MODERATORS' MEETING	30/04/2015	30/04/2015	N	CCEA HQ
AS ART AGREEMENT TRIAL	23/10/2014	23/10/2014	N	CCEA HQ
Mrs A.Kerr				
Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed Venue
SHAHRP TRAINING	10/06/2015	10/06/2015	N	ASSUMPTION
Mr J.Leonard				
Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed Venue
SPECIFICATION REVISION AS SPANISH	14/11/2014	14/11/2014	N	CCEA HQ
Mrs M.Lewis				
Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed Venue
CHILD PROTECTION	20/01/2015	20/01/2015	N	SEELB HQ
PROGRESS FILES	19/01/2015	19/01/2015	N	NEELB HQ
TLSNI	25/11/2014	25/11/2014	N	ST LOUISE'S, BELFAST
TLSNI	07/11/2014	07/11/2014	N	ST LOUISE'S BELFAST
SAFER SOCIAL NETWORKING	30/09/2014	30/09/2014	N	ARMAGH
Mrs G.Lundy				
Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed Venue
DISCOVER SIMS	11/05/2015	11/05/2015	N	C2K HQ ASHFIELD
ITEACH	25/02/2015	25/02/2015		NEWTOWNABBEY

ADVANCED FRONTER TRAINING	05/02/2015	05/02/2015	N	Y	ASHFIELD BOYS' SCHOOL
SIMS DISCOVER TRAINING	28/01/2015	28/01/2015	N		VICTORIA COLLEGE BELFAST
GCSE JOURNALISM AGREEMENT TRIALS	07/11/2014	07/11/2014	N		WELLINGTON PARK, BELFAST
DISOLVING BOUNDARIES AND SHARED ED	21/10/2014	21/10/2014	N		UNIVERSITY OF ULSTER
JOURNALISM COURSE	17/09/2014	17/09/2014	N		MILLENIUM FORUM, DERRY

Mrs H.Madine

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
STEM	28/05/2015	28/05/2015	N		W5

Mrs B.McAfee

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
EXAMINATION OFFICER COURSE	24/03/2015	24/03/2015	N		UNKNOWN
ITEACH	25/02/2015	25/02/2015	N		

Y

Mrs H.McCambridge

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
GCSE PE AGREEMENT TRIALS	07/11/2014	07/11/2014	N		CCEA HQ

Mr P.McCann

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
ART AGREEMENT TRIALS	20/11/2014	20/11/2014	N		CCEA HQ

Miss E.McCloskey

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
CCEA	15/06/2015	15/06/2015	N		CCEA HQ
DEVELOPING COM ACROSS CURRICULUM	23/03/2015	23/03/2015	N		GLENAVON HOTEL, COOKSTOWN

Mrs C.McCormick

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
AS JOURNALISM AGREEMENT TRIAL	03/10/2014	03/10/2014	N		CCEA HQ

Mrs A.McGinn

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
POST MODERATION MEETINGS	05/06/2015	10/06/2015	N		CCEA HQ
NOVA T6 TRAINING	13/05/2015	13/05/2015	N		C2K HQ
DISCOVER SIMS	11/05/2015	11/05/2015	N		ASHFIELD
FUTURE CLASSROOMS	12/03/2015	12/03/2015	N		C2K HQ
NOVA T6	10/03/2015	10/03/2015	N		ASHFIELD
ITEACH	25/02/2015	25/02/2015	N		ARMAGH
					ASHFIELD BOYS' SCHOOL

NEWTOWNABBE

					Y
A2 PSYCHOLOGY SPECIFICATION REVISION	28/01/2015	28/01/2015		N	CCEA HQ
REVISION PRINCIPAL'S TEMPLEPATRICK CONFERENCE	23/01/2015	23/01/2015		N	
A2 ICT AGREEMENT TRIAL	06/11/2014	06/11/2014		N	CCEA
GCSE ICT AGREEMENT TRIAL	16/10/2014	17/10/2014		N	CCEA HQ
MIDDLE MANAGEMENT BELB CLUSTER	30/09/2014	30/09/2014		N	FORTWILLIAM

Miss C.McGuckin*

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
INDUCTION DAY	29/09/2014	29/09/2014		N	SEELB HQ

Miss M.McKenna

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
TLNI	22/06/2015	22/06/2015		N	ASHFIELD GIRLS' SCHOOL

SHAHRP TRAINING	10/06/2015	10/06/2015		N	ASSUMPTION
STANDARDISING MEETING	09/06/2015	09/06/2015		N	CCEA HQ
TLNI	05/06/2015	05/06/2015		N	ASSUMPTION
TLNI	27/04/2015	27/04/2015		N	AQUINAS
TLSNI	26/03/2015	26/03/2015		N	ST LOUISE'S BELFAST

GCSE SPECIFICATION REVISION	10/11/2014	10/11/2014		N	CCEA HQ
GCSE HE AGREEMENT TRIAL	21/10/2014	21/10/2014		N	WELLINGTON PARK HOTEL BELFAST

AGREEMENT TRIAL AS HSC UNIT 10	17/10/2014	17/10/2014		N	WELLINGTON PARK HOTEL BELFAST
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AGREEMENT TRIAL AS HSC UNIT 11	15/10/2014	15/10/2014		N	WELLINGTON PARK
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Mrs L.McMenamin

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
TLNI	05/06/2015	05/06/2015		N	ST LOUISE'S
INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS	03/06/2015	03/06/2015		N	HOLY ROSARY PS
TLNI	27/04/2015	27/04/2015		N	AQUINAS
GLOBAL LEARNING PROGRAMME	23/04/2015	23/04/2015		N	FORTWILLIAM

TLSNI	26/03/2015	26/03/2015		N	ST LOUISE'S BELFAST
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CEOP TRAINING NEWTOWNARDS	24/02/2015	24/02/2015		N	
CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING	29/01/2015	29/01/2015		N	SEELB
CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING	28/01/2015	28/01/2015		N	SEELB HQ

LEVELS OF PROGRESSION	05/12/2014	05/12/2014	N	CCEA HQ
SHARED EDUCATION	05/12/2014	05/12/2014	N	FORTWILLIAM
GCSE ENG LIT	17/11/2014	17/11/2014	N	STORMONT
SPECIFICATION REVISION				HOTEL BELFAST

Mrs S.McVeigh

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
TLNI	12/06/2015	12/06/2015	N		ST LOUISE'S
TLNI	05/06/2015	05/06/2015	N		ASSUMPTION
TLNI	27/04/2015	27/04/2015	N		AQUINAS
TLSNI	26/03/2015	26/03/2015	N		ST LOUISE'S BELFAST

AGREEMENT TRIAL HSC	22/10/2014	22/10/2014	N		CCEA HQ
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Mrs M.Morrow

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
MSC AUTISM	22/06/2015	22/06/2015	N		QUB
ASE COURSE	05/06/2015	05/06/2015	N		ST MARY'S
MSC AUTISM	04/03/2015	06/03/2015	N		QUB
MSC IN AUTISM	28/11/2014	28/11/2014	N		QUB
MSC IN AUTISM	27/11/2014	27/11/2014	N		QUB
MSC IN AUTISM	26/11/2014	26/11/2014	N		QUB
A LEVEL PHYSICS	10/10/2014	10/10/2014	N		CCEA HQ
MSC AUTISM	02/10/2014	02/10/2014	N		QUB
MSC AUTISM	01/10/2014	01/10/2014	N		QUB
MSc Autism	03/09/2014	03/09/2014	N		QUB

Mrs A.Murphy

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
GCSE MATHS STANDARDISATION	12/06/2015	12/06/2015	N		CRUMLIN RD GAOL

Dr M.Murphy

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
TLSNI	26/01/2015	26/01/2015	N		LAGAN COLLEGE
TLSNI	23/01/2015	23/01/2015	N		ASHFIELD GIRLS' SCHOOL
TLSNI	15/01/2015	15/01/2015	N		ST LOUISE'S, BELFAST
SEN	28/11/2014	28/11/2014	N		UNKNOWN
SEN	27/11/2014	27/11/2014	N		UNKNOWN
TLSNI	25/11/2014	25/11/2014	N		ST LOUISE'S, BELFAST
TLSNI	07/11/2014	07/11/2014	N		ST LOUISE'S BELFAST

Mr R.Murphy

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
UNIT 9 AP BUS AGREEMENT TRIAL	13/11/2014	13/11/2014	N		CCEA HQ

Dr A.O'Neill

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
ICT STANDARD SETTING	07/11/2014	11/11/2014	N		SEELB HQ
AS/A2 AGREEMENT TRIAL	06/10/2014	06/10/2014	N		STRANMILLIS

Mrs M.Orsi

Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
TRAINING DAY	28/01/2015	28/01/2015		N	ST MARY'S COLLEGE
TLSNI	26/01/2015	26/01/2015		N	LAGAN COLLEGE
TLSNI	15/01/2015	15/01/2015		N	ST LOUISE'S, BELFAST
CHILD PROTECTION TRAINING	02/12/2014	03/12/2014		N	UNKNOWN
Mr D.Owens					
Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
A LEVEL MARKING CONFERENCE	09/06/2015	09/06/2015		N	CRUMLIN RD GAOL
AS/A2 MATHS SPECIFICATION REVISION	20/11/2014	20/11/2014		N	CCEA HQ
Mrs L.Patton					
Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
BATH SPA UNIVERSITY	02/06/2015	02/06/2015		N	GROSVENOR GRAMMAR
CCEA CONSULTATION	06/11/2014	06/11/2014		N	CCEA HQ
Dr P.Scullion					
Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
GCSE IRISH SPEAKING AGREEMENT TRIAL	21/10/2014	21/10/2014		N	CCEA HQ
Mr G.Toner					
Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
ADVANCED FRONTER TRAINING	05/02/2015	05/02/2015		N	ASHFIELD BOYS' SCHOOL
ICT STANDARD SETTING	07/11/2014	11/11/2014		N	SEELB HQ
NEW WORK PLACEMENT PROCEDURES	29/09/2014	29/09/2014		N	DUNDONALD
Dr P.Walsh					
Title	Start	End	Renewal Date	Completed	Venue
FRONTER TRAINING	01/12/2014	01/12/2014		N	NEELB HQ