

FRIENDS' SCHOOL NEWSLETTER AUTUMN TERM 2007

Academic Achievements

At GCSE level Jordan Phillips was placed 1st in Northern Ireland in CCEA GCSE Spanish. Judith Smyth was placed Joint 2nd in Northern Ireland in Economics and Jonathan Davidson Joint 2nd in GCSE Religious Studies. CCEA is also presenting special certificates to recognise the achievement of ten pupils from Friends': Victoria Agnew, Jonny Allen, Enya Brennan, Nicola Campbell, Emma Canning, Lucy Chalmers, Joanna Hyndman, Michaela McMenamin, Megan McMullan and Ashlea Smyth who gained maximum marks in the 2007 GCSE Art and Design examination. The pupils are pictured below with their teachers Ms Paula McPoland and Mr Michael Waring.



At Advanced level Sophie Kinloch, Martina Scott and Nicola Thornhill were placed Joint 1st in Northern Ireland in Art and Design. Peter Cavan was placed 2nd in Economics, Hannah Jess 2nd in French and Ciar McAndrew 2nd in Spanish.



Sophie Kinloch, Nicola Thornhill and Martina Scott

University Awards

On the basis of her performance at Advanced level, Rebecca Martin was awarded an Alumnus Scholarship by the University of Liverpool where she is studying Veterinary Science. Only ten Scholarships are presented annually. Ben Millar and Paddy Stevenson were each awarded a Chancellor's Scholarship by the University of

Dundee.

Carly Fitzsimmons was selected for an Entrance Exhibition Award by Trinity College, the University of Dublin, on the basis of her performance at Advanced level.

Ruth Kearney has been awarded the Stranmillis University College Worship Fund Prize which is awarded annually to the top entrant to the BEd degree course.

South Eastern Education and Library Board Outstanding Achievement Awards

At a ceremony held at the Lagan Island in November, pupils from Friends' won the following awards:

Academic Achievement:

GCSE: Jordan Phillips

Advanced level:

Sophie Kinloch, Martina Scott, Nicola Thornhill

Sport – participation:

Rachel Pearson

The Arts – individual:

Reuben Steenson

Charity in School

The Year 13 Charity Committee is chaired by Elizabeth Wallace. Molly Doran is Secretary and Hannah Gamble Treasurer. Jonny Allen and Megan McMullan are in charge of Publicity.

Jeans for Genes Day in October raised £1035 and a McMillan Coffee Morning £240.



Senior & Junior Pupils enjoying Jeans for Genes Day

There was an early start for the 90 pupils from all year groups who took part in the Bog Eyed Jog for Children in Need on a cold November morning. So far the jog has raised over £1300. £493 was added to the total when Mr Norman Gamble and Mr Stephen Robinson, in front of large crowds of pupils, underwent a leg wax and showed that even the most hardened rugby players couldn't stand the pain!



Mr Rodney McCrea starting off the Bog Eyed Jog

The Committee organised the annual collection of food hampers for Quaker Cottage. Pupils from P1 to Year 14 in School joined to gather a huge quantity of foodstuffs to support families in North Belfast, as well as small gifts for the mothers. There was an environmental angle to the collection this year, with the food being packed in hessian shopping bags for distribution.



Jonny Allen and Elizabeth Wallace with some of the bags collected for Quaker Cottage

The annual Fairtrade stall was swamped with pupils when it was discovered that chocolate was on sale and raised £650. Year 13 pupils also organised the annual party for residents from Thompson House and El Shammah, which was held in the last week of term. For the second year, all Collect groups took part in the Christian Aid Present Aid initiative, donating £1300 to buy gifts for the Third World ranging from water taps to ducks and pigs.

Rotary Youth Leadership Development Programme

Following interviews held in School, Alexander Redpath was selected to represent Friends' in the local area finals. After his success at that stage of the competition, Alexander went forward to the regional finals in Monaghan and was one of a group of pupils from across

the province selected to take part in a visit to Strasbourg next Easter.

Southern Schools' Pilgrimage

Ross Diamond and Philip Tran, Year 14, joined pupils from Sidcot, Sibford and Leighton Park for the Quaker pilgrimage to George Fox country from 20 - 24 September. The boys enjoyed the opportunity to meet up with Sixth Formers from the Quaker schools in the south of England and to learn more about the early Quakers.

Senior Scripture Union Weekend



The Scripture Union weekend at Castlewellan Castle, involving 66 senior pupils and 9 members of staff, took place in October and was greatly enjoyed.

Sport

Games Captains 2007-2008



Pictured above are Naomi Dobbin (Hockey) John Vance (Rugby), Lauren Browne (Netball) and Ian Harbinson (Hockey)

Athletics

At the Irish Schools' Athletics Dinner held in Dublin in November Mr Alan McGonigle, Head of PE, was presented with the Tailteann Nestle Award of Merit for services to schools' athletics.



Mr McGonigle receiving his award

Badminton

Early success for Year 8 boys and girls. The Year 8 Boys' team of Ryan Stewart, Gavin Boyes, Bruce Lawson and Jack Henderson defeated Bangor Grammar School, Sullivan Upper and Wallace High School in the semi-final stages of the league. In the finals the boys defeated Banbridge Academy, RBAI and Wallace High School to win the Ulster Schools' Year 8 Boys Round Robin Tournament.



The Year 8 Boys' Team

The Year 8 Girls' team of Katie Conn, Bronagh Walsh, Ruth Hanna, Gemma Walker, Lucy McFarlane and Coral Armstrong also won through to the finals of the Year 8 Girls Round Robin Tournament with victories over Coleraine High School, Cookstown High School, Ballyclare High School and Sullivan Upper School and in the finals defeated teams from Coleraine High School, Wallace High School and Hunterhouse College to win the title.



The Year 8 Girls' Team

Other competitions are in their early stages. The Junior A Boys' team has made a winning start to their campaign in League Division 1 and the Minor girls are also top of their league at present.

Champion of Champions

In the Champion of Champions Event, held at Lisburn Racquets Club on 13 November, Friends' pupils won through to five finals out of the six titles contested.

Caroline Black, Year 10, won the Minor Girls' title, Matthew Getty, Year 9, won the Minor Boys' title and Ruaraidh Sim, Year 11, won the Junior Boys' title. Ruth Roddis, Year 10, was runner up in the Junior Girls' competition and Tony Murphy, Year 13, was runner up in the Senior Boys' competition.

In the Ulster Under 15 championships Caroline Black, Year 10, won the Singles and the Mixed Doubles and Rachel Orr and Kirsty Walker won the Doubles.

Representative Honours

Ruaraidh Sim has been selected to represent Ireland at Under 15 and Under 17 level.

Ruth Roddis played for the Ireland Under 17 team in the European Under 17 team championships which were held in Istanbul from 22 to 29 October.

Tony Murphy, Year 13, was selected for the Irish U23 team to play in an international in October.

Girls Hockey

The 1st XI defeated Antrim Grammar School 2-1 in the 2nd round of the Schools' Cup but lost 1-0 to a strong Lurgan College team in the 3rd round.

Representative Honours

Ulster Under 16: Laura Gamble, Year 11

Tour to Newtown

The girls' 1st XI visited Newtown and Dublin on a short tour from 24 - 26 October. In Newtown the girls played Newtown School for the Swain Challenge Cup, winning 2-0. Ken Boomer presented the Cup when he was President of the Old Scholars' Association in 2006 to promote links between the two schools. It is hoped that the competition will be played for annually over a variety of sports and other activities and we look forward to welcoming pupils from Newtown to Lisburn next year.



The two teams following their match at Newtown

Boys Hockey

The boys' 1st XI qualified for the Irish Schools' Championships which were held in Dublin from 24 - 26 October. Results were as follows:

Sutton Park: lost 3-2, Cookstown lost 4-1, Ashton: lost 3 - 2.

In a friendly the boys defeated Middleton 8-4.

Representative Honours

Ulster Under 16: Collin Cleland and Ward Phillips, Year 12. Collin and Ward are also training with the Irish Under 16 panel.



Ward Phillips and Collin Cleland

Swimming

In the Ulster Schools' Minor Swimming Finals, held in Belfast on 13 October, Jemma Bingham, Year 9, was 2nd in the Butterfly and 4th in the Backcrawl and Courtney Hill, Year 9, was 2nd in the Breaststroke. Megan Morrison, Year 8, was 3rd in the Frontcrawl and 4th in the Backcrawl. Robert Alison, Year 8, was 5th in the Backcrawl and 6th in the Frontcrawl.



**Jemma Bingham, Courtney Hill,
Robert Alison, Sarah Graham &
Megan Morrison**

In the Ulster Grammar Schools' Championships David Thompson, Year 10, won Silver in the Freestyle and finished in 5th position in the Individual Medley. Courtney Hill, Year 9, was 4th in the Breaststroke and Jemma Bingham, also of Year 9, finished 4th in the Back Crawl. Courtney and Jemma, together with Megan Morrison of Year 8 and Erin Carruthers of Year 9, finished 3rd in the Medley relay and 5th in the Freestyle – a great achievement for a young team competing against older swimmers.

In the Intermediate section Siobhan Neill won Silver in the Breaststroke event and Nathan Taylor, also Year 12, Bronze in the Individual Medley. Rose Bradford, Year 13, and Sarah Mathewson, Year 11, finished 4th and 8th respectively in the Freestyle event. Sarah, Siobhan, Rose and Katy Fair competed in the relay events and performed extremely well in finishing 2nd in the Freestyle and 3rd in the Medley events.

Chess

Utkarsh Joshi, Year 11, won the Ulster Schools' Under 16 Championships in November to add to the titles he has won at Under 14 and Under 15 level



Showjumping

The annual Schools' Show Jumping competition was held at Balmoral in September. The Intermediate team of

Charlotte Creighton, Connie Doak, Emma White and Olivia Cumins got through to the jump off from a starting line of 40 teams and, after completing 3 fast clear rounds, finished in a very creditable 3rd position.

In the 2nd Round of Ulster Schools Show Jumping League held at Knockagh Lodge, Greenisland, on 15 December, two teams entered in the novice competition. Both teams jumped superbly and achieved double clears. In the jump off, the team of Michael Parker, Emma White, Catherine Jackson was placed 3rd and Flora Lawson, Connie Doak and Ria McClean achieved 6th place out of the 26 teams taking part.

Representative Honours

Emma White, Year 9, has been selected for the Northern Ireland U14 team to compete with the Pony Club in an international event in South Africa in summer 2008.

European Day of Languages.

European Day of Languages was marked in School on 26 September. Pupils and languages assistants took part in Assembly, there was an international menu at lunch time in the Dining Hall and a Food Fest for Years 8 and 9 after school. The next day 30 Sixth Formers visited Harmony Hill primary school and taught languages to pupils across all year groups.



**Sarah Gracey, Jonathan Davidson &
Molly Doran of Year 13 teaching
languages in Harmony Hill**

Languages

Debating competitions

In the first round of the Post 16 French Debating Competition Year 14 pupils Kerry Gilbert, Naomi Dobbin, Naomi McAteer and Adam Wilson defeated a team from St Patrick's School, Downpatrick. However, the team lost to Antrim Grammar School in the next round of the competition. The Friends' team of Anna Sophia Gallagher and Kirsty McCarroll, Year 14, and Hansol Lee and Chris Murray of Year 13 defeated Rathmore Grammar School in the first round of the post 16 German Debating competition.

German Exchange

In October, twenty-one pupils and two

members of staff took part in the first visit to our partner school in Weinstadt, a collection of small towns near Stuttgart in southern Germany, where they were reunited with the group of staff and pupils who had visited Friends' last March. Over the week, pupils spent time in school, observing life in the German classroom, and also went on a number of visits, including the Mercedes museum in Stuttgart and the Schloss Lichtenstein, where all but the faint-hearted were able to enjoy the thrills of the *Hochseilgarten*, a ropes course in the tall trees beside the castle. Over a weekend spent with their host families, pupils were able to enjoy the many harvest folk festivals which typically take place in October in this part of Germany, as well as the charms of Stuttgart with its fine buildings and impressive TV tower. It was clear that the friendships which have been established over the two visits will long endure.



**Pupils from Friends' with their
German counterparts in Weinstadt**

Spanish Trip

Twenty one pupils visited Bilbao, Santander on a 'home stay' visit from 20 – 25 October. With the emphasis on improving language skills, pupils were hosted in Spanish homes and attended Spanish lessons for three hours each morning.

Public Speaking

Pupils from Friends' have enjoyed success in a number of inter-schools Public Speaking competitions over the autumn term. The Edgar Graham Memorial Competition, run by the Ulster Women's Unionist Party, took place in October. Alexander Redpath (Year 14) and Jordan Phillips (Year 13) took part and were placed first and second respectively.

In November, a team comprising Kerry Gilbert (Year 14), Kirsty McCarroll (Year 14), and Sara Gracey (Year 13), took part in the BPW (Business and Professional Women) Public Speaking Competition for girls and were placed second overall.

The Meningitis Research Foundation held a Junior Public Speaking competition for pupils aged 11 to 15 on Wednesday 28th November. Friends' entered four Year 8 pupils: Caolan Harkin, Charlotte McCausland, Caroline

Finney and Ashleigh Hanna and two Year 9 pupils: Charlotte Creighton and Emily Cully. All of the participants were awarded certificates for their contribution and Ashleigh Hanna was awarded the Adjudicator's Cup for the most promising speaker. The pupils are pictured below:



Alexander Redpath (Year 14), Susannah Elliot (Year 12) and Chloe Hassard (Year 8) competed in the Road Safety Council's Public Speaking competition in December, with Alexander finishing runner-up in his category

Model United Nations Conference

31 pupils from Friends' attended the MUN at Methodist College Belfast from 1 – 3 November. Thomas Wilkinson was voted Best Junior Delegate and the members of the Slovakian Delegation were awarded Highly Commended Delegation. Individual successes included: Highly Commended Delegate Status: Alexander Redpath (Slovakia – Economics), Ben West (Poland – Ecology) and Judith Smyth (Slovakia – Human Rights). Milo Waddell (Poland – Economics) and Ashley McCausland (Israel – Human Rights) won Commended Delegate status.



MUN Delegates at MCB

History and Politics Department

15 Sixth formers took part in the annual visit to London from 2 – 5 December. The three days were packed with activities. A highlight was the visit to the Palace of Westminster, whilst many were deeply moved by the experience of the Holocaust exhibition in the Imperial War

Museum. The chance to see the Terracotta Warriors on show at the British Museum was also memorable. A free afternoon was spent shopping in Covent Garden whilst others went to the Science Museum, the National Portrait Gallery and even returned to Westminster for a House of Commons debate on political party funding!

Travel and Tourism

A course requirement for those studying for Advanced level in Travel and Tourism is practical experience in organising group travel. Over the term pupils have successfully run two visits to Dublin, both involving other Sixth Formers. The first was the History and Politics Department's annual visit to Dublin and the second was linked to the Careers Department in giving prospective students a chance to visit an Open Day at Trinity College.

School Council



Members of outgoing School Council with the Principal, Mrs Dickson

The following pupils have been elected to sit on the School Council for 2008:

Year 8

Katie Conn, Kerry Patterson, Susanne Shaw

Year 9

Robb Barnes, Julia Smith, Keady Smith

Year 10

Chloe Boomer, Anna Martin, Sophie Murtagh

Year 11

Jonathan Gregg, Craig McAfee, Jonathan Swain

Year 12

Stuart Hughes, Luke Sproule, Ralph Walker

Year 13

Simon Bamford, Laura MacDonnell Milo Waddell

Year 14

Richard Fuller, Alan Irwin, Jonathan Potter

Bar Trial Competition

On Saturday 17th November 17 students from years 11 to 14 took part in the Mock Bar Trial competition at the Royal Courts of justice in Belfast. The Mock Bar Trial is an annual contest where students act

out a court case and attempt to convince a jury of peers of their case. This required much learning of case literature, with each student acting as a witness having to learn completely his or her statement and being prepared for a strong (and sometimes harsh) interrogation by opponents from other schools. During the process of preparation for the contest students received expert advice from local barrister and a high court judge. The Friends' team went in to the Court Room knowing that, even if all did not go exactly to plan, they had worked admirably and diligently and could be proud of themselves. Although the team was not placed, there were some fine performances and the day was enjoyed by all.

Dates for your Diary

Open Morning:

Saturday 12 January 2008
10.00 am—12.30 pm

Pupils in Years 8 & 14 are requested to act as Guides during the morning

Examination Dates:

Year 12: Wednesday 16/1/08
to Friday 25/1/08

Years 8 to 11: Monday 21/1/08 to
Friday 25/1/08

Work Experience:

Year 13: Monday 21/1/08 to
Friday 25/1/08

Music

Lauren Mulholland and Matthew Nesbitt, Year 14, were invited to take part in an Ulster Orchestra Composition Workshop at the Belfast School of Music in October. A recital of Lauren's composition, played by members of the Ulster Orchestra, took place at the Waterfront in November.

National Youth Orchestra

Chris Curry, Year 14, has been awarded a place in the National Youth Orchestra of Ireland Symphony Orchestra for the 2008 season. After performing in the National Concert Hall, Dublin, over the New Year, Chris will travel with the NYOI to Berne, Switzerland, for a series of concerts in July 2008.

Kids' Lit Quiz

Wellington College recently hosted the regional heats of the annual Kids' Lit Quiz. Over 50 teams took part in 10 rounds of fast fire questions on topics ranging from comic book heroes to Harry Potter villains. The Friends' team of Michael Agnew and Caroline Finney (Year 8) and Ruth Simpson and Sara Woodhouse (Year 9), had great fun and finished a creditable seventh overall.