Mount Lourdes Grammar School Enniskillen

NEWSLETTER JUNE 2015

Technology

Mr Meenan, Head of Technology and Design, with Aoife Cullen, Sarah McAlinden, Hannah Parkinson and Bronagh McCaffrey, recipients of the 'Gold Crest in Engineering' Award.

Arkwright Scholarship

In January 2015, a number of Year 12 Technology and Design students applied for the Arkwright Scholarship.

After completing an aptitude examination Josephine McGoldrick, Miriam Kelly and Nicole Donnelly were selected for interview at University of Ulster at Jordanstown. These girls are eagerly awaiting their results which they will receive in July.

Pictured right: Year 12 students, Josephine McGoldrick, Miriam Kelly and Nicole Donnelly with Mr Meenan.

Sentinus R&D Programme

Sentinus is an organisation which works with schools and colleges throughout Northern Ireland to deliver programmes which promote engagement in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM).

In early October, four Year 13 students, Aoife Cullen, Sarah McAlinden, Hannah Parkinson and Bronagh McCaffrey, applied for the Sentinus R&D Programme. They were tasked with investigating a problem Encirc, a glass manufacturing company, was having with their labelling machine. The students worked on a variety of designs before settling on one final idea that was manufactured in the school's Technology Department. The solution was fitted and tested at the glass plant and was deemed a success.

The students travelled to Ballymena in April to present their product and were given full marks by the team of judges. They received the 'Gold Crest Award in Engineering'. These students will now present their product at the Sentinus Young Innovators 2015 in the University of Ulster at Jordanstown this month.

Eco Committee

Our newly formed Eco-Committee is made up of students and staff who have an interest in Conservation and Environmental issues.

The committee has aimed to increase the Biodiversity of the wildlife in and around the school grounds this year. Projects have involved planting native species hedge-rows and participation in the RSPB 'Big Schools' Bird Count'.

Community involvement has also been encouraged through the conservation of an area of the school grounds through a Heritage Lottery Funded 'Magnificent Meadows Project'.

The school received a Bird-Nesting Box with camera attachment for use in the school grounds. This camera, which was donated by Ulster Wildlife, was put into place in the Spring Term and connected via a 'live-feed' cable to a monitor within a communal area of the school. Students were delighted to find that on their return from the Easter break, a pair of blue-tits had taken up residence in the nesting box. Shortly afterwards seven eggs appeared in the box.

After a few weeks, the eggs all hatched successfully and the fledglings were captured on camera eating worms, maggots and a variety of insects. The baby blue tits stayed for a number of weeks and have now 'flown the nest'. We look forward to another family joining us again next year and we thank Ulster Wildlife for making it all possible!

Young Enterprise

At the beginning of the school year, students in Year 8 attended a programme delivered by Young Enterprise entitled 'How Cool is Your School?'. The aim of the day was to support the students as they settled into their new school. Later in the year, the students participated in a follow-up day called 'Moving On'. As part of their work on this programme, students set targets in preparation for their work in Year 9. Some of the students are pictured above displaying their poster which highlights aspects of their new school that they enjoy.

Year 10 Trip Lake Garda

In May, 87 Year 10 students and 9 staff set off to enjoy an educational trip to Lake Garda in the North of Italy.

During the trip, the group visited Verona, Venice, Sirmione and Milan as well as experiencing a cable car ride and a boat trip around Lake Garda. The highlight for many of the students, (and the staff!), was the day spent in the theme park, Gardaland.

Charity

Many thanks to all those students, parents, staff and the wider school community who contributed to the school's fund-raising efforts.

This year, the student body donated to The Alzheimer's Society, Cancer Connect NI, The Aisling Centre, Contact NI and Home – Start as the school's designated charities for the academic year 2014-2015.

Fund-raising activities included Cake Sales by students in Year 8 and 9, the annual Christmas Talent Show, a non-uniform day and a Prize Draw. A presentation of cheques to the various charities will take place at the end of term.

Millennium Volunteer Award

The Millennium Volunteer Award is a project which encourages students to participate in volunteer work.

Having undertaken the programme, 11 Year 14 students were invited to attend the Award of Excellence Ceremony which was held in the Waterfront Hall in Belfast. They each received the Award of Excellence which celebrates 200 hours of volunteering.

Year 14 students who received the Award of Excellence, back row from left to right: Ellen Maguire, Kiah Collins, Elizabeth Fee, Aisling Gray. Front row from left to right: Emma Treacy, Caitlin Taylor, Aoibheann Cox and Tara Joyce. Missing from the photograph are Caitriona Breen, Ellen O'Doherty and Eimear Carty.

Music

Another busy year ends in the Music Department. In March, the Senior Choir participated in an Ulster Youth Choir Workshop with vocal coach, Eunan Mac Donald. The pupils gained practical knowledge on vocal production, breathing and performance techniques both individually and as a choir. A large number of pupils auditioned for the Youth Choir Summer School Residential course and six students were accepted. They will undergo further intense vocal coaching in July at Campbell College, Belfast. Megan Ryan will have the opportunity to perform in the Royal Albert Hall, London with the Ulster Youth Choir as part of BBC Proms.

Music students in Years 10 - 13 joined students from Collegiate Grammar School to participate in Wind and Piano Master Classes in the Ardhowen theatre as part of the Joan Trimble Centenary Celebrations. The Wind workshop was delivered by the Wind Quintet 'Cassiopeia', which is made up of musicians who play in the National Symphony Orchestra of Ireland, RTE Concert Orchestra and The Crash Ensemble.

Olivia Daly, a Year 13 Music student, participated in a Master Class with the renowned Una Hunt who is one of Ireland's leading concert pianists.

Modern Languages

German

Congratulations to Zelal Turan, Year 11. She has been awarded a scholarship to visit Bavaria in Germany in July 2015 on a 3-week language programme. She will stay with a host family and undertake German classes in the mornings and cultural excursions in the afternoons. This is facilitated by UK-German Connections and Zelal was one of only a handful of successful candidates chosen from throughout the UK.

Zelal is pictured below with Mrs Zechner, Head of German.

Maeve Cadden, Year 12, has been busy carrying out her duties as UK-German Youth Ambassador this year.

Assisted by her 'buddy ambassador' and fellow GCSE German student Maeve O'Neill, Maeve organised a German Film Club for Year 8 students, a Christmas gift box exchange with her German partner school, a German Crafts Club for KS3 students, and a 'Virtual School Tour', (a short film in German which was shared with Maeve's partner school online). She delivered presentations to KS3 classes on German culture and traditions as well as the importance of the German language.

We wish Maeve well as she prepares to attend a conference of Youth Ambassadors in Berlin in July.

Karneval comes to Mount Lourdes!

Karneval is a big celebration which is held every February in Germany. Participants dress up in costumes and enjoy street parades and music. This year, our own version of the event was held in the Common Room and was attended by all students of German.

Pictured below: 'Karneval' in Mount Lourdes.

Irish

Congratulations to Mairead Maguire, Year 12, who was awarded the prize for the most promising speaker at Feis Lios na Scéithe and Mary Irvine, Year12, who won the Frank Maguire Perpetual trophy for the best overall Irish speaker. The school was also awarded the Eileen Magee Perpetual Trophy for the best overall school.

Chinese

Chinese continues to be offered to students in Years 10 to 12 after school in South West College.

Seventeen students currently in Year 11 successfully completed YCT Level 1 and five of them have progressed to YCT Level 2. (Pictured right.)

These students attended a celebration to mark Chinese New Year in South West College in March.

Pictured left: Alice McQuaid, Year 10.

Alice has been studying Chinese YCT Level 1 this year in South West College and was recently awarded a prize in the college for the student who made the most progress in spoken Chinese throughout the course. Alice hopes to continue with her studies of Chinese next year when she moves on to HSK Level 1.

Twenty Year 11 language students participated in a Linguistics Challenge organised by Dublin City University in January.

They sat a 2 hour paper where they were faced with a number of linguistic challenges in various languages ranging from Hindu to ancient Greek.

The students fully enjoyed the experience and some have expressed an interest in the Linguistics and Computing degree course on offer in DCU.

Year 8 Spanish Club

Pictured below: some members of the Year 8 Spanish Club who visited Taco Loco at the end of the school year.

Student Council

The Student Council provides students with the opportunity to become involved in the affairs of the school through working in partnership with school management and staff. It is made up of students who are democratically elected by their peers. Each year group has two representatives. The Council meet on a regular basis to discuss matters of concern to the students. Many thanks to this year's members for all their work.

Seated: Leah McGrath, Maria Gutierrez, Aislinn McCann, Eimer Howell, and Anisa Akram. Middle: Kiara Monsanto, Anna Guette, Molly Bogue, Lauren Jones and Mrs McKeever, Principal. Back: Mrs Cullen, Senior Teacher, Sarah Britton, Riona O'Brien, Fiona Keegan, Eimear Cassidy, Elizabeth Fee, Shannan McQuade, Eimear McGarrigle and Holly Lavery. Missing from the photograph are Ciara Doyle, Aisling Green, Rachel O'Shea, and Aoife Jones.

Year 9 Trip to Knock

Year 9 students enjoyed a day-trip to Knock Shrine, County Mayo, with their Religion teachers.

They visited Knock Museum and took part in an educational trail around the Shrine. The students assisted the elderly who attend an Occupational Therapy hour in St John's Centre on a daily basis. (Pictured right.)

The highlight of the day was a Year Group Mass in the Church of the Apparition. The Mass was celebrated by Canon McQuaid, School Chaplain. The students provided music, prayers and drama for the Mass.

Home Economics

Congratulations to the Year 14 Home Economics students who completed an online training course and assessment to obtain their Level 2 Certificate in Food Safety and Catering from the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health.

Sport in Mount Lourdes

Tennis

The Mount Lourdes' Senior Tennis team continues to build on their success from last year.

The team won the Ulster Senior Championship and attended a presentation awards ceremony in Belfast Boat Club in June.

Pictured above: The Mount Lourdes' Senior Tennis team. Left to right: Amy Griffin, Eimear Smyth, Ciara Griffin, Laura Griffin and Anna Guette, Missing from the photograph is Sarah Cousins.

Netball

Mount Lourdes' Minor, Junior and Intermediate teams all participated in the Northern Ireland Cup. The Junior Netball team reached the Western Area final and the Northern Ireland Shield Final.

Track and Field Athletics

Minor, Junior and Intermediate pupils all competed at the 'E' District Track and Field Championships held at Antrim Forum. Edel Monaghan, Aoife Farrell, Blaithin Bogue and Cadhla Bogue qualified for the Ulster Championships in their individual events.

Edel Monaghan won the 3000 metre final and was placed second in the 1500m. This qualified Edel for the Irish Schools Championship in Tullamore, where she successfully lifted bronze in the 3000 metres.

Edel was selected for the Ulster Schools' Team to compete in the 3000m at the Tailteann Irish Schools Inter Provincial Championship in Santry, Dublin where she ran a very competitive race to lift a well deserved bronze medal.

Swimming

Well done to Natasha Love, Year 12, who won gold in 100m Backcrawl at the Ulster Grammar Schools Gala. She then competed for Ulster in the Inter Provincials. Natasha also won silver in 100m at the Ulster Secondary Schools Gala.

In the Ulster Minor Schools Gala, Caitlin Love took silver in 50m Fly. She also won silver in the IM Relay along with Sorcha Lavelle, Caoimhe Leonard and Laura McCaffrey. Taking silver in the Frontcrawl Relay were Caitlin Love, Sorcha Lavelle, Rhiannon Dolan and Caoimhe Leonard.

Gaelic Football

Year 8 Blitz

Congratulations to the Year 8 Gaelic Football Team, (pictured below), who won the Shield competition in a blitz organised by Ulster Ladies GAA. Having beat Holy Trinity College, Cookstown, in the first round the team played St Joseph's Grammar School, Donaghmore. Emerging as winners of the game, the team beat Holy Cross College, Strabane in the semi-final. The team won the final against St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon.

Year 8/9 blitz

Pictured below is the Mount Lourdes' combined Years 8 and 9 Gaelic Football Team who travelled to St Genevieve's High school, Belfast to take part in the Gaelic football blitz.

Two teams were entered into the Cup competition. The standard of football was very high in this group and the first of our teams narrowly missed a quarter final place. The second team won three of four games and succeeded in reaching the quarter finals where they played a team from Our Lady's Grammar School, Newry. In the semi-final Mount Lourdes played St Dominic's Grammar School, Belfast and won the game before playing St Genevieve's, Belfast in the final. Although it was a hotly contested match, St Genevieve's won the game.

The U-14, U-16 and U-20 Gaelic Football teams all competed in division 'A' of the Ulster Schools Gaelic Football Championships.

The U-16 team reached the semi-final against Loreto College, Cavan.

The U-14 team reached the semi-final against Our Lady's and St Patrick's College, Belfast.

Sports Day 2015

Congratulations to all those students in Years 8, 9, 10 and 11 who participated in Sports Day. As well as sporting events, students enjoyed a fancy dress parade and a barbeque lunch.

Sports Day Results

	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11
100M	1st Megan Sharkey 2nd Ella Rose Benson 3rd Aoibhinn Jones	1st Cara Boyle Joint 2nd Rhiannon Dolan & Aisling Maguire	1st Eimear Smyth 2nd Anna Daly 3rd Meghan Lilly	1st Deborah McCarney 2nd Aoibhinn Murphy 3rd Elli-Mae Maguire
400M	1st Emma Mohan 2nd Aoife Straume 3rd Ursula Fee	1st Bronadh Duffy 2nd Cara McCaffrey 3rd Niamh McManus	1st Ciara Clarke 2nd Lauren Gormley 3rd Dearbhaile Gallagher	1st Deborah McCarney 2nd Kyra Carey 3rd Claire McCaffrey
800M	1st Seannain Murphy 2nd Niamh O'Kane 3rd Cadhla Bogue	1st Sorcha Lavelle 2nd Bronagh Duffy 3rd Rhiannon Dolan	1st Ciara Clarke 2nd Meghan Lilly 3rd Amy Griffin	1st Grace McGuinness 2nd Erin Murphy 3rd Hannah Sharkey
HIGH JUMP	Joint 1st Amy O'Reilly & Cadhla Bogue 2rd Abby Corry	1st Bronagh Duffy 2nd Niamh McManus 3rd Laura Hughes, Aisling Maguire & Caolfhionn Holland	1st Blaithin Bogue Joint 2nd Ellen Mulligan & Aoibheann Rainey	1st Anna McCool 2nd Laoise Holland 3rd Nessa Corrigan
TRIPLE JUMP	1st Emma Mohan 2nd Niamh Duffy 3rd Aoibhinn Jones	1st Aisling Maguire 2nd Lauren Murphy 3rd Roisin Cleary	1st Ciara Clarke 2nd Shayna Pearson 3rd Dearbhaile Gallagher	1st Ella Crudden Joint 2nd Erin Murphy & Aoibheann Ni Mhaolagain
SHOT	1st Kerry McCabe 2nd Niamh Keown 3rd Katie Teague	1st Keelan Perrett 2nd Katie Conlon 3rd Emma O'Connor	1st Aoife Seaney 2nd Niamh McGurn 3rd Cliodhna McElroy	1st Sarah Cousins 2nd Aoibhinn Murphy 3rd Niamh O'Connor
WELLIE THROW	1st Sorcha Malone 2nd Orla Gilheaney 3rd Deirbhile O'Reilly-Colton	1st Aimee McLaughlin 2nd Katie Conlan 3rd Emma O'Connor	1st Grainne Carey 2nd Roisin Keown 3rd Orlaigh Malanaphy,	1st Amy McNulty 2nd Caoimhe McElhill 3rd Cora Hamilton
RELAY	1st 8A 2nd 8D 3rd 8B	1st 9A Joint 2nd 9B & 3rd 9C	1st 10A 2nd 10B 3rd 10D	1st 11A 2nd 11C 3rd 11B