

*Mount Lourdes Grammar School*

*Enniskillen*



*Board of Governors Annual Report*

*2024-2025*

Telephone: 028 66322265

Email: [info@mountlds.enniskillen.ni.sch.uk](mailto:info@mountlds.enniskillen.ni.sch.uk)

Fax: 028 66343960

Web Site: [www.mountlourdes.com](http://www.mountlourdes.com)

## BOARD OF GOVERNORS

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Mr Damien Murray	4 Cherrymount Avenue Enniskillen	Teachers
Mr John Boyle	10 Aghakillymaud Road Derrylin	Parents
<b>Term of Office ends 29<sup>th</sup> December 2029</b>		
Mrs Sinead Cullen Secretary	Mount Lourdes	Principal

### Mount Lourdes Grammar School SCHOOL YEAR 2025-2026

<b>Autumn Term</b>	<b>1<sup>st</sup> September – 19<sup>th</sup> December</b>
Closings	29 <sup>th</sup> September – Staff Day
	24 <sup>th</sup> October – Staff Day
	27 <sup>th</sup> October – 31 <sup>st</sup> October - Holidays
<b>Spring Term</b>	<b>5<sup>th</sup> January – 31<sup>st</sup> March</b>
Closings	9 <sup>th</sup> & 10 <sup>th</sup> February - Staff Days
	11 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup> February - Mid Term
	16 <sup>th</sup> March - Staff Day
	17 <sup>th</sup> March - Holiday
	18 <sup>th</sup> March – Staff Day
	1 <sup>st</sup> April – Staff Day
<b>Summer Term</b>	<b>13<sup>th</sup> April - 30<sup>th</sup> June</b>
Closings	4 <sup>th</sup> May - Holiday
	25 <sup>th</sup> May – Staff Day

The school calendar will be updated at regular intervals throughout the year. Please refer to our website at [www.mountlourdes.com](http://www.mountlourdes.com)

The Board of Governors are pleased to present their report for the academic year 2024/2025. We include reference to a number of notable events of the year, a financial report and information of the grades awarded at GCSE and A Level.

## **Curriculum Provision**

Students have a wide range of learning opportunities suited to their needs, aptitudes and aspirations. Post 16 students are offered 35 subjects and Key Stage 4 students have access to 24 subjects. Significant work was progressed to expand the curriculum at Key Stage 4. New courses were identified for first delivery in September 2024. This included GCSE Learning for Life and Work, Single Award Science, GCSE Business Studies and OCN Religion. Students have also been offered BTEC Level 2 in Performing Arts and Creative Media Production in South West College as part of the Fermanagh Learning Community.

## **CEIAG**

Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance (CEIAG), referred to as Employability at Key Stage 3 and 4 is offered through the Learning for Life and Work Programme and as a discrete Careers Education class in Years 12 to 14. Students are guided in their choice of subjects at transition stages and are made aware of the range of career opportunities which are available to them. Internal CEIAG provision for Year 10 and 12 students is supplemented by input from the Careers Advisors from the Careers Service NI. The school continued to develop partnerships with local universities.

Several CEIAG events were held in Mount Lourdes over the course of 2024-2025. Year 13 students attended a very successful Careers Convention hosted by South West College and organised by the Fermanagh Learning Community in Term 2. Year 14 students had a great morning attending the annual ER&M University Roadshow 2024/25. Students were given advice on a range of topics such as what to consider when choosing their degree and university, the application process, personal statement advice and fees and funding information. The presentation was followed by a traditional careers fair session which gave students an opportunity to speak to representatives from the universities attending. This was a very successful and informative event in preparing Year 14 students for their UCAS applications.

There were also presentations from the University of Ulster, Queens University Belfast, Liverpool John Moore University, St. Mary's University Belfast, Price Waterhouse Cooper, Atlantic Technical University, South West College and the University of Galway.

Work experience took place for all Year 13 students in February 2025.

Guest speakers from the alumni data base visited individual subject departments sharing information on job and skills relevant to subject areas. Within CEIAG there was also a strong focus put on STEAM subjects with students and parents receiving information via email, on social media and at Parent Teacher meetings.

## **Art & Design**

The Art & Design Department offered students a wide range of creative, cultural and competitive experiences. Senior pupils visited the Devenish Gallery to view past pupil Megan Dunbar's *Home* exhibition, while GCSE and A-Level students attended a contemporary art talk by Sarah Longley at Seamus Heaney's Home Place, and Year 10 explored the work of William Scott during a visit to Enniskillen Castle. The department enjoyed strong competition success, with Key Stage 3 and Year 11 students winning awards in the Lisnaskea Feis, Enniskillen Credit Union competition, and the Seamus Heaney HomePlace Christmas Card Competition; Year 10 pupils also achieved multiple awards at the Fermanagh Feis, including Gold, Silver, Bronze and Highly Commended. The department contributed significantly to school life through displays for the Year 8 Pastoral Breakfast, Open Night exhibitions, and by providing artwork for the school magazine, *The Red Stairs 2025*. Three mixed-media panels created by Year 9 students under artist Dr Leonie Mansbridge were

framed and displayed in the school corridor. The department further supported whole-school initiatives by participating in the Sustainability Roadshow, hosting sustainable design workshops in collaboration with Queen's University.

### **Business Studies**

The Business Studies Department provided valuable real-world learning this year, with an educational visit for Year 11 students to Tayto Castle, the home of Tayto crisps. Students were welcomed by Mr Tayto and taken on a guided tour of the fully operational factory, observing first-hand how locally grown potatoes are transformed into one of Northern Ireland's best-known products. The trip offered an opportunity for pupils to see key business concepts in action, including production processes, quality control, business growth, and marketing strategies, all of which complement the topics studied in class.

### **Digital Technology / Online Safety**

Students engaged in a range of enrichment and skills-focused activities designed to deepen their understanding of coding, digital technologies, and cybersecurity. A number of Year 13 and 14 students enrolled in the QUB IT Subject Ambassadors Programme, receiving specialist training from Sentinus in BBC Microbit, cybersecurity, and related digital activities. These ambassadors then lead Code Clubs for Key Stage 3 pupils. Students from Years 11 to 14, along with members of the Online Safety Committee, attended Kainos' "Securing Tomorrow" presentation, which explored current challenges in cybersecurity and artificial intelligence, and highlighted the wide range of career pathways in this area.

Year 10 students participated in an engaging "Bring IT On" workshop, gaining insight into the ICT sector in Northern Ireland, the digital skills in high demand, and the routes available for progression into the tech industry. This session sparked significant interest and enthusiasm among pupils.

In March, all Year 12–14 Digital Technology students took part in a hands-on workshop delivered by South West College in partnership with Bring IT On. Activities included assembling computer components, programming robots, and investigating core cybersecurity concepts. These practical sessions encouraged logical thinking and problem-solving while offering a realistic view of digital technology careers. Congratulations to our award winners: Ellie Smyth – Best Creativity, Chelsy Quinto – Best Critical Thinker, and Ayesha Tahir – Overall Quiz Winner.

### **English Language and Literature & Drama**

The English and Drama Departments provided students with experiences that strengthened their communication skills, cultural awareness, and appreciation of literature and performance.

Students represented the school with distinction at the Soroptimist Public Speaking Competition, delivering articulate speeches on a range of global issues. We extend congratulations to Bronagh McDermott (2nd place) and Musfira Tariq (3rd place) for their achievements. At Key Stage 4, Year 11 and 12 English Literature students benefited from a visit to the *Heaney HomePlace* in Bellaghy, where they attended a lecture and toured the exhibition, deepening their understanding of Seamus Heaney's poetry and personal history. Senior students studying A Level English Literature attended *The Gate Theatre's* production of *King Lear*, featuring Conleth Hill in the title role. The group also visited Dublin's Garden of Remembrance, enriching their cultural and historical understanding. Year 13 English Literature students further enhanced their study of Brian Friel's *Translations* through attendance at the Enniskillen Drama Festival, where they watched Phoenix Players' production.

GCSE Drama students enjoyed a festival-winning performance of *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* at the Ardhowen Theatre, observing professional use of multimedia, ensemble work, and physical theatre. Meanwhile, Year 11 Drama students took part in a behind-the-scenes theatre tour led by Ardhowen Theatre Manager Anna Boomsma. Students explored lighting and sound equipment and gained insight into backstage roles—an excellent preparation for their Year 12 study of the “Knowledge and Understanding of Drama” unit.

## **Economics**

The Economics Department was delighted to welcome three senior representatives from the Bank of England to Mount Lourdes: Dr Catherine Mann, External Member of the Monetary Policy Committee (MPC); Frances Hill, Agent for Northern Ireland; and Gillian Anderson, Deputy Agent for Northern Ireland. Dr Mann delivered an informative presentation to GCSE, AS and A2 Economics students, explaining the role and responsibilities of the Monetary Policy Committee, the key factors currently influencing UK inflation, and the diverse career opportunities available within the field of Economics. Students gained valuable insight into real-world economic decision-making and the pathways open to aspiring economists. The visit was especially inspiring given Dr Mann’s distinguished international career, which includes serving as Global Chief Economist at Citibank, Chief Economist and G20 Finance Deputy at the OECD, and holding roles at Brandeis University, the Federal Reserve Board of Governors, the White House, and the World Bank. Her expertise and professional journey provided an exceptional learning opportunity and a powerful example for students considering future careers in Economics.

Year 13 and 14 students attended the Economics Schools’ Conference at Ulster University Business School, where they participated in a series of lectures, including an analysis of global trade policies. Presentations by Dr Áine Doran and Laura McElwee offered students academic insights as well as an introduction to studying Economics at university level. The department welcomed back former pupils Maria Kelly Neill and Aoife Rasdale, now studying Economics-related degrees at Queen’s University Belfast. They shared their experiences of university life, placements, and future career pathways, offering practical guidance and motivation to A-Level students.

Another highlight of the year was the visit from past pupil Lisa Bartley, now a Director at Deloitte in London. Lisa has generously established an annual Economics bursary to support a Year 14 student pursuing further study in the field. She presented the inaugural award to Caoimhe McDonnell, who received a financial prize and a mentoring opportunity. The department extends sincere thanks to Lisa for her generosity and congratulates Caoimhe on her well-deserved achievement.

## **Excel Programme**

The Excel Programme supported 67 students from Years 8–14, providing targeted academic, emotional and organisational assistance. It helped pupils improve wellbeing, build resilience and manage stress through weekly challenges and structured routines. Students developed stronger emotional regulation, improved friendships, and increased confidence in a safe, supportive environment. The programme strengthened study skills, teaching effective revision techniques, planning strategies and independent learning habits. A major focus was on improving organisation, including managing notes, study spaces, timetables and revision priorities. Students reported better grades, improved motivation and higher engagement across subjects, particularly in English and Maths. Heads of Year and staff praised the one-to-one and small-group support, citing significant gains in confidence and exam preparedness.

## **Geography**

The Geography Department provided learning both inside and outside the classroom. Year 8 pupils took part in an Environmental Sustainability Workshop delivered in partnership with Cuilcagh Lakelands Geopark and Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. Activities included a *Leave No Trace* presentation and interactive game exploring decomposition rates, a Bug Hunt examining local mini-beasts and pollinators, and crocus bulb planting to highlight the importance of biodiversity. AS Geography students supported pupils throughout the morning, helping to guide activities and deepen learning. Year 13 Geography students also benefited from fieldwork opportunities with a visit to Mullaghmore, Co. Sligo, where they collected primary data for their AS study on sand dune succession. Students gained valuable hands-on experience, applying geographical theory within a dynamic coastal environment.

## **Health and Social Care**

A Level Health and Social Care students engaged in a range of learning experiences that have strengthened their understanding of care practice, human rights, and community engagement. Year 13 Double Award Health and Social Care class visited *Cancer Connect NI*, where staff members delivered an informative session on the holistic therapies offered to individuals living with cancer. Students gained important insight into the role of complementary treatments and the benefits these therapies can provide in supporting overall wellbeing. Students also visited The Millcroft Care Home, where they interacted with residents and participated in a series of planned activities. This experience allowed pupils to observe high-quality care practice and develop their communication and interpersonal skills in a real-world setting. In addition, students spent time at Holy Trinity Primary School, further broadening their understanding of care across different age groups and settings.

The department also welcomed representatives from the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission to Mount Lourdes. They delivered an engaging presentation highlighting the importance of the Human Rights Act and international frameworks such as the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child. Their talk reinforced the central role of human rights, dignity, and equality within all areas of care provision. These opportunities have supported the students' learning and their preparation for future study and careers in the health and social care sector.

## **History Department**

The History Department delivered several programmes of activities throughout the year, offering pupils rich opportunities to deepen their understanding of the past. In November 2024, Year 8 students participated in the Norman Outreach Programme, an interactive workshop that brought the Norman period to life through hands-on exploration, historical debate, and demonstrations with replica weapons. Pupils also engaged with two fully costumed Norman knights, gaining insight into medieval warfare and the political landscape of 1066.

At senior level, Year 14 A-Level History students attended specialist lectures delivered in March 2025 by Dr Russell Rees, author of their Irish History textbook. Hosted by Omagh Academy, these sessions focused on core content from the A22 Partition of Ireland paper and provided students with expert guidance on examination technique and historical analysis. This support strengthened pupils' understanding of key themes and helped prepare them for their final assessments.

## **Home Economics**

The annual Biology Bake Off Competition once again highlighted the creativity and skill of students, with Year 14 Biology and Life & Health Science pupils producing an impressive range of innovative, delicious, and scientifically themed bakes. The standard was exceptionally high, making

the selection of winners difficult. Congratulations to our prize recipients: Best Bake – First Prize: Aoibhin Kelly and Maria Toal; Second Prize: Riona Dooris. Best Biology – First Prize: Julia Wegrzynowska; Second Prize: Aoife McCusker and Raina Tierney. In addition, the Home Economics department welcomed Margaret Anderson from the Livestock and Meat Commission, who delivered a cookery demonstration to Year 11 students on incorporating red meat into a balanced diet. Margaret outlined the nutritional benefits of farm quality-assured beef and lamb produced in Northern Ireland and provided pupils with recipe booklets and samples of the prepared dish. This visit greatly enhanced students’ understanding of nutrition, food quality, and healthy eating.

## **Learning Support**

The Learning Support Department in Mount Lourdes continues to meet the needs of students who experience learning difficulties/disabilities and/or have medical conditions. These needs are met in accordance with current legislation.

There is a commitment to remove barriers to learning and assist students in reaching their full potential. It is the school’s aim to identify, assess and make provision for students who have Special Educational Needs, ensuring that all students have equal access to all areas of the Curriculum. All staff continue to work in partnership with parents/guardians and other outside agencies in facilitating the overall development of the student, including CAMHS, EPS, AAIS, EOTAS, medical personnel, EWO etc. Listening to the pupil voice, allows students to have their say in the learning process. Multi-agency meetings are regularly held to discuss and review students’ progress and provision. Students with SEN are assisted in accessing the curriculum through the implementation of Personal Learning Plans (PLPs), Annual Reviews and staff training. School management endeavour to provide complete access to the building: the use of lifts, placement of handrails, painting of outdoor steps and structuring of the timetable. SEN students, or those with medical conditions, continue to avail of the SEN Hub where they can have time out or rest periods. A range of programmes have been developed to support SEN students’ needs. Students are provided with Study Skills and Independent Learning information and use appropriate ICT packages to further develop knowledge and assist learning.

As a school, we recognise the importance of good mental health in the learning process. A positive mental health amongst the student body is consistently promoted, especially with students who experience learning difficulties and/or have medical conditions. A range of notice boards, in different parts of the school, provide students with information and easy access to resources, including examples of good note-making and learning about healthy lifestyle habits. Students with autism are provided with a Transition Booklet to assist them with the move to post-primary education.

A programme of Capacity Building among Learning Support staff continues to be promoted, as all department members engage in relevant SEN training. The role of the classroom assistant is fundamental in making provision and delivering quality care and support to SEN students. Teaching staff continue to be upskilled through PPT presentations and resources made available to them.

In Mount Lourdes, we endeavour to include SEN students in all activities. Risk Management Plans are drawn up collaboratively, to ensure the safety and wellbeing of any student with SEN/medical condition.

## **Literacy**

The focus on whole-school literacy continued throughout the year, with students participating in activities designed to strengthen reading, writing and vocabulary development. Key Stage 3 pupils, along with a number of staff members, took part in the National Literacy Trust’s Annual Literacy Survey 2025, providing valuable insight into levels of literacy engagement across the school community. The data gathered will play an important role in shaping future literacy strategy, informing whole-school development planning and supporting ongoing action to ensure literacy remains a central priority.

## Modern Languages

Modern Language students were provided with a number of enrichment opportunities during the past year to support their study of French, Irish, Mandarin and Spanish.

European Day of Languages was celebrated with a full programme of events, including a Year 8 French Breakfast, a Year 10 quiz, creative bunting for the Red Bridge by Year 9, and language challenges with many pupils earning Bronze, Silver and Gold certificates. A-level language students played a leadership role throughout the week, supporting activities and acting as mentors. Year 8 language clubs ran successfully in both French and Spanish, offering fun activities, games, a fashion show and cultural treats, while the Year 8 Spanish Club concluded the year with an outing to McDonald's. Emma Martin and Lily Murray continued their Mandarin studies at SWC, earning recognition at the college's awards ceremony. Pupils also represented the school in external competitions, including the DCU All-Ireland Linguistics Olympiad, where Ellie Smyth and Emma Martin achieved highly commended scores.

The Irish Department provided rich and engaging experiences, beginning with celebrations for European Day of Languages and continuing with a highly successful after-school Irish Language Club for Year 9–10, delivered in partnership with Sruth na hÉirne. Senior pupils partnered with Holy Trinity Primary School to deliver weekly Irish lessons to P2 children, strengthening community links. Students excelled in Irish-language competitions, winning prizes at both *Feis Lios na Scéithe*—where five pupils received £200 Gaeltacht scholarships—and *Feis Fhear Manach*, where pupils from all year groups achieved awards for oral proficiency. The department hosted guest speaker Linda Ervine MBE, who delivered a presentation on Irish language promotion in East Belfast to pupils, staff and local community groups. Throughout the year, students engaged in Irish mentoring programmes, An Cumann Gaelach lunchtime activities, and completed Silver (Year 10) and Gold (Year 13) Fáinne examinations. Several pupils were also awarded Gaeltacht bursaries by FODC and Conradh na Gaeilge, further enhancing their language-immersion opportunities.

## Music

The Senior Choir performed at various whole school events including the Opening of the Year School Mass, Prize-Giving Ceremony and the Christmas Carol Service. The Traditional band performed at the School Mass, Prize Day and several school events.

Gráinne Gallagher (Year 11), Katie O'Hare (Year 14) and Maria Toal (Year 14) participated in a prestigious piano masterclass with renowned Northern Irish pianist Cathal Masterson in St Macartin's Cathedral. The students received expert guidance on piano technique and performance practice, while also gaining insight into the professional life of a working musician.

The Senior Choir took part in a workshop with the Ulster Youth Opera Company, where they refined their vocal technique and explored acting and stagecraft skills in a collaborative and inspiring environment.

A highlight of the year was the Senior Choir's beautiful and moving performance at St Michael's Church as part of the Fermanagh Choral Society's annual concert.

## Religious Education

The Religion Department delivered a varied programme of faith-based experiences, liturgical events and spiritual development opportunities throughout the year. Year 10 pupils visited Knock, where they toured the museum, explored the pilgrimage site and attended Mass in the Basilica. Senior students, including the Year 14 Religious Studies class and members of the Liturgy Committee,

attended the St Bernadette's Relic Mass in Holy Cross Church, Lisnaskea. The school marked Catholic Schools Week through a series of reflective activities. The Jubilee Year of Hope was introduced at Assemblies, and four "Walls of Hope" were created by pupils. The department coordinated participation in Christian Unity Week, with the Head Girl and Head of Liturgies representing the school at an ecumenical service. All Year 9 pupils took part in retreats delivered by the Siolta Retreat team.

### **Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)**

In Mathematics, an intermediate-level Year 10 class was introduced to better tailor teaching to student needs. Year 8 pupils took part in *Maths Week Ireland*, completing the Numeracy Challenge with prize-winners showcased across school platforms. Senior classes benefited from a week-long careers programme highlighting real-world applications of mathematics, concluding with a guest presentation from past pupil Dr Blánaid Hicks.

The Chemistry Department provided students with several STEM experiences, including talks and tours led by medical and scientific professionals. A-Level students attended a medical careers presentation by Dr Stephen McKenzie and later visited SWAH for an in-depth tour of the Pharmacy and Biochemistry labs. The school achieved outstanding success in the UK Chemistry Olympiad, where 15 students participated and 10 received awards from the Royal Society of Chemistry. In addition, AS students contributed to Queen's University Belfast research by participating in a discussion group exploring motivation behind choosing Chemistry-related university pathways.

Year 12 students attended a Space Physics Masterclass led by the National Space Academy, participating in hands-on rocket-building activities. Twenty-five Year 10 pupils took part in the *Activate Your Curiosity* Science Summer School, engaging in STEM workshops and hearing a keynote address from Professor Brian Cox. Junior students benefited from an alumni talk by Dr Hannah Gillespie, who shared insights into her career in medicine and research. The year also included a Bees and Biodiversity workshop for Year 10, featuring a live demonstration of beekeeping practices.

### **Sustainability Roadshow**

Mount Lourdes Grammar School in collaboration with Queen's University Belfast hosted a Sustainability Conference on March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2025. Approximately 250 students from both within Mount Lourdes and from a number of neighbouring schools attended the event.

The event started with a live panel discussion entitled 'Education to live in a Sustainable World'. The panel was comprised of Queen's University academic staff from the Centre for Advanced Sustainable Energy (CASE), local business leaders, Fermanagh District Council, Education Authority and CCEA. The panel discussion, which was student led, focused on panel members current involvement with sustainability, the role that young people can play in promoting sustainability and sustainability skills in demand for the future workplace.

A 'Business Meeting' followed between panel members and local school principals and students along with members of Fermanagh Chamber of Commerce. Discussions centred around how education and industry can work together in preparing students to contribute to the sustainable world with a view to enabling greater numbers of young people to work and live locally in the future.

Next students attended innovative workshops in small groups to experience sustainability initiatives first hand and to gain greater awareness of new approaches to sustainable living. The workshops included 'Hydrogen – powering the future of transportation - QUB', 'Sustainable waste materials - QUB', 'Green Chemistry – water pollution - QUB', 'Sustainable Agriculture - CASE', 'Jeans to Phone case – Titanic Denim', 'Tackling Textile Waste – QUB', 'Climate Action -QUB', 'Green Bricks – QUB', 'Renewable Energies – UU', 'Green Journey -Belmore Court and Motel',

‘Monitoring Health in Sustainable Homes – UU’. The workshops aimed to inspire students to become more proactive about environmental issues.

A sustainability stalls fayre completed the day with wide ranging businesses and service providers exhibiting their sustainable credentials and green initiatives to school students. This gave students the opportunity to liaise with local employers, ask questions and make connections which could potentially influence their career paths in the future.

This conference, which involved collaboration between local schools, universities, businesses and service providers, proved very inspirational to all who attended.

## **Sociology**

Staff from the sociology department attended the Liverpool John Moores University NI Teachers Conference on Nursing, Midwifery and Paramedic Science, gaining insight to enhance careers guidance within the curriculum. Senior students benefited from an inspiring talk by climate and social justice activist Kayla-Megan Burns, whose work in sustainability, disability advocacy and youth-led change encouraged pupils to consider wider social issues and their own capacity for leadership. The department also welcomed Debbie Greaves from Ulster University, who delivered a presentation on pathways into social work, further strengthening links with higher education and helping students understand university expectations. These initiatives collectively broadened students’ understanding of social justice, professional opportunities and the real-world applications of Sociology.

## **Sports Review**

The 2024–2025 academic year was a successful year for sport, with students excelling across swimming, netball, Gaelic games, cross-country, track and field, and A-Level PE initiatives. In swimming, Mount Lourdes was well represented at the Ulster Schools’ Cup and Championships, with standout performances from Kate McDade, who achieved Gold in the 100m breaststroke and Silver in the 200m IM, and from Hannah Murphy, who secured two bronze medals. Their combined results earned the McMahon Memorial Cup for Intermediate Girls, while Kate was selected for the Ulster Schools Team training camp and Ava Neal represented the Ulster Secondary Schools Association at a training camp in Tenerife.

Netball teams across the school achieved significant success. The Year 8 team were crowned *Fermanagh Champions*, going undefeated in their tournament, while several players were selected for the West U15 NI Regional Development Squad, representing the very best athletes across Fermanagh and Tyrone. The Minor Team also secured a Bronze Medal in the NI A League after stepping up from the B League and competing against top schools across Northern Ireland.

Gaelic football also had a strong year. The Year 8 team reached the Ulster Shield Blitz Final following an unbeaten run in the group stages, demonstrating strong skill and teamwork. Both the A and B teams were crowned double champions in the *Fermanagh Blitz*, while an internal in-house blitz further supported the development of emerging Year 8 Gaelic players. In a thrilling conclusion to their season, the Mount Lourdes U-14 team clinched victory in the Ulster ‘B’ Shield Final held in May 2025. Facing a strong St Dominic’s Grammar side, the girls delivered a determined and skilful performance, ultimately emerging as champions. Their teamwork, resilience, and commitment shone throughout the match, making this a memorable and well-deserved win.

Cross-country teams had a very successful year. Teams across multiple age groups earned podium positions at the Fermanagh Schools Cross-Country Championships, with the Minor, Junior, and Intermediate teams all excelling. Three teams qualified for the Irish Schools Championships, and Mount Lourdes was named *Best Performing Girls School in Ulster*. Individual highlights included Kate Kelly defending her Ulster Schools title and representing the NI Under-13 team in London. The Minor team achieved All-Ireland success, claiming gold for the second consecutive year. The Minor

Girls gold medal was also won by Kate Kelly who finished the 200m race in a time of 7:14 becoming the first female from Fermanagh to claim the prestigious title.

In track and field, students achieved strong results at Sportshall Athletics and the 'E' District Athletics meets, securing multiple county medals and several Ulster qualifications across sprinting, middle-distance, hurdles, and jumping events. A number of athletes progressed to the Ulster Schools' Championships, with Kate Kelly placing fourth in Ireland in the 800m.

This has been a highly successful and historic season for school rugby, with teams entered for the first time across all three age categories—U18, U16 and U14—in the Ulster Schools' competition. Following a series of strong performances in the regional qualifying stages throughout Terms 1 and 2, both the U14 and U18 squads secured places among the top twelve schools in Ulster, progressing respectively to the Finals Day (U14) and Finals Qualifying Day (U18). These achievements highlight the growing strength and depth of rugby within the school. In March, rugby players joined the A2 French class to attend the Women's Six Nations opening match between Ireland and France at Kingspan Stadium, Belfast—an opportunity for students to experience high-level international rugby. To round off the year, our Year 8 students participated in the Ulster Rugby 'Introduction to Rugby' Blitz at the Mid Ulster Sports Arena in Cookstown during the summer term. This event provided a fun and supportive environment for younger pupils to develop fundamental skills and confidence in the sport.

A-Level PE students played an active role in whole-school sport, attending the *Sport—A Home for Lifelong Volunteering* event and organising four major school sporting events: the Spinathon Fundraiser, the Year 8 Gaelic Tournament, the Year 9 Sportshall Athletics event, and the Year 10 Netball Tournament. The department concluded the year with a well-attended PE Fun Day for Years 8–11, supported by canteen staff

## **Mannok**

During the 2024/2025 academic year, the partnership between Mount Lourdes Grammar School and Mannok continued to deliver significant benefits to pupils across multiple year groups.

The collaboration further strengthened opportunities for career exploration and workplace exposure. In February 2025, five Year 13 students completed onsite work experience at Mannok, gaining meaningful insight into the operations of a major local employer. Careers guidance support continued in March 2025, when Mannok's HR representative, Gemma Hallett, hosted a Careers and Apprenticeships stall at the Year 12 subject-choice events.

A major highlight of the year was the Sustainability Roadshow in partnership with Queen's University Belfast, held in March 2025. Mannok played a supporting role in this event. The large-scale event brought together an expert panel discussion, a business meeting, workshops, and a careers fayre. It drew participation from 300 students across Years 10–14 from Mount Lourdes and four other post-primary schools. The scale and depth of this event reinforced the shared commitment of Mannok and Mount Lourdes to environmental education, sustainability leadership, and regional collaboration.

Curriculum enrichment also featured strongly throughout the year. In June 2025, Thomas McCaffrey delivered a Honey Bees and Biodiversity presentation to all Year 10 students and fifteen school staff. Later that month, Caroline McCaffrey visited the Mount Lourdes to launch Mannok's sponsorship of new digital touchscreen boards for the Maths, Science, Business Studies, and Economics departments. This investment directly supported teaching and learning for a great many students across eleven classrooms and further strengthened the technological capacity of the school.

## **Student Council**

The Mount Lourdes Student Council demonstrated effective leadership and meaningful impact throughout the 2024–2025 academic year, actively raising student concerns and influencing improvements across multiple aspects of school life.

Councillors played a constructive role in consultations on the updated Mobile-Phone Policy. The new policy was strongly supported recognising both the wellbeing concerns around student over-reliance on phones but also the advantage of teacher-directed educational use of phones, to aid learning and teaching. The Council also influenced the introduction of the newly redesigned school blazer featuring safety reflective strips and had involvement in the renovation of the former tennis pavilion into a wellbeing-focused hub for curricular and extra-curricular activities. Leadership development was also undertaken, with councillors participating in an inspirational workshop led by Mannok CFO and Mount Lourdes past pupil Mrs Brenda Rennick.

Student councillors engaged with staff on issues such as warm-weather uniform adaptations, leading to the implementation of practical measures like increased hydration access, more flexible tie expectations during warm weather and relocation from overheated rooms. They also helped address long canteen queues by reviewing the viability of vending machines, which resulted in the installation of two new water-vending units and enhancements to the online canteen system for greater efficiency. Further work included prompting repairs following an audit of toilet facilities and the employment of a school maintenance contractor, as well as contributing to ongoing improvements to sports grounds, with planned drainage and aeration works for the main pitch and maintenance upgrades to the school's 3G surface.

## **Pastoral Care**

The Pastoral Care Team delivered a focused and effective programme aimed at strengthening attendance, wellbeing, behaviour, and the overall school environment. Attendance improved to above the national average due to the embedded Absence Tiers System, half-term review meetings, targeted support for chronic absenteeism, and strong parental communication. Early initiatives such as the Year 8 Pastoral Breakfast and study-skills lessons also supported better engagement.

The Healthy Eating Policy was revised and promoted effectively. Ongoing initiatives such as the Uniform Recycling Scheme, wellbeing walk, and improved Period Dignity provision supported students' physical wellbeing and dignity. The Pavilion Hub became a central wellbeing space. Students benefited from Wellbeing Week, ACES training, Love for Life workshops, and EA-led sessions on resilience, stress, and vaping. SEN and FSM pupils were closely monitored, with interventions contributing to strong academic outcomes. PASS survey insights helped build detailed student profiles.

A consistent referral system was reinforced, with the SIMS behaviour module fully embedded for communication with parents. Anti-Bullying Ambassadors and KS3 mentors led assemblies, workshops, and awareness-raising. Kindness-themed initiatives supported a more positive school climate. A whole-school phone ban reduced cyberbullying and improved social interaction. Staff were trained to enforce the policy consistently, and all breaches were centrally recorded and sanctioned. Clubs and communal areas saw increased student use as a result. The school maintained strong links with EA Youth Service, PSNI, and local businesses, supporting safeguarding, preventative education, and work-related learning. Targeted SEN/FSM monitoring reduced barriers to learning.

## **Year 10 Trip**

This year's annual Year 10 trip was to Lake Garda in Italy. 84 students and 11 staff made the journey to Northern Italy. When they were there, the group explored Milan, Venice and Verona and visited San Siro and Juliet's Balcony. They also had a boat trip around Lake Garda and a cable car ride at Monte Baldo. As well as some retail therapy and an evening of bowling, students and staff spent an adrenaline filled day in Gardaland.

## **Volunteering and Fundraising**

The year saw strong engagement from senior students in volunteering and charitable initiatives. In October, Year 13 and 14 pupils attended a talk delivered by Matthew Williams from *Volunteer Now*, where they learned about the benefits of volunteering and the range of opportunities available within the local community. Following the session, students were supported to register on the Be Collective digital volunteer system and begin working towards the *Volunteer Now Impact Award*. Fundraising activities were also highly successful, with proceeds directed toward supporting school-based initiatives as agreed with the student body. Major events included the Health and Wellbeing Sponsored Walk (October 2024), the Christmas Fashion Show in aid of St Vincent de Paul (December 2024), Cake Sales (February 2025), and the Easter Hampers & Bunny Raffle (April 2025). Together these efforts raised a total of £10,188.69, reflecting the generosity, commitment and teamwork of the whole school community.

## **Sisters IN Leadership programme**

A number of Year 13 students took part in the SistersIN Leadership programme, promoting future female leaders. The programme delivered leadership development training, mentorship from female business leaders and project leadership experience. Having successfully completed the SistersIN Leadership Programme, students then joined almost 700 students from across Northern Ireland at the ICC, Belfast, to celebrate their achievements. During the celebration event, students got the opportunity to participate in discussions and to meet with mentors and industry professionals. As part of the programme the girls organised and delivered a range of exciting activities for students in Years 8 and 9, including a cinema day, a ceili dance, a quiz and bingo. The events raised funds which the team donated to Air Ambulance Northern Ireland, Women's Aid and Ellie's Retreat.

## **Staff Development**

Staff development during the 2024–2025 academic year placed strong emphasis on ensuring all staff remained fully compliant with statutory training requirements. Whole-school sessions were delivered on child protection and safeguarding, with updates aligned to the latest Education Authority guidance. Staff also completed refresher training in health and safety, including fire safety and evacuation procedures. Additional mandatory modules covered GDPR, whistleblowing, data security, personal data breaches and cyber-security, ensuring that staff were well equipped to manage sensitive information safely. Medical training was also prioritised, with refresher sessions on asthma, diabetes, anaphylaxis and other pupil-specific health needs.

Curriculum development remained a major focus throughout the year, with staff across departments engaging in a wide range of professional learning linked to subject expertise, specification changes and assessment requirements. Teachers attended CCEA training in Government & Politics, GCSE LLW, GCE Life and Health Science, and participated in university-hosted subject conferences such as the Sociology A-Level Conference at Queen's University Belfast. Provision in Geography was strengthened through participation in subject-specific cluster meetings in the Fermanagh Learning Community, while the UK German Connection Sustainability Development Training Seminar

supported cross-curricular engagement with global learning. History teachers benefited from training on the role of history education during periods of curriculum reform, while IT staff participated in industry insight sessions with Allstate. Careers and CEAIG delivery was enhanced through training provided by Liverpool John Moores University and the Fermanagh Learning Community.

High-quality teaching and learning continued to drive staff development, with opportunities provided to enhance pedagogy, digital skills and classroom practice. Staff received training on Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities, exploring strategies to embed critical thinking, collaboration and metacognitive approaches across KS3. The Fermanagh Learning Community Learning & Teaching Conference offered sessions on memory science, retrieval practice, the Magenta Principles, questioning techniques, classroom management, self-evaluation and the effective use of AI in education. Active learning was supported through additional training on scaffolding, feedback and approaches for supporting ASD learners. Digital capacity was further strengthened through whole-staff training on digital strategy and ICT use, including practical applications of Microsoft Copilot AI for teaching, planning and administration.

Pastoral development and inclusive practice were central themes this year, with training delivered to support pupil wellbeing, behaviour and special educational needs. Staff completed training on the school's new Healthy Diet & Lifestyle Policy and received an overview of the revised RSE policy. Further inclusion training included LGBTQIA+ awareness through Cara Friend, and restorative practice training delivered through the Fermanagh Learning Community. Key staff undertook safeguarding refresher training at designated and deputy designated levels, while trauma-informed practice was strengthened through ACES Tier 1 & 2 training. The SEN framework, PLPs, IEPs and SMARTE target-setting were covered in whole-staff sessions led by the Learning Support Coordinator. Classroom assistants accessed substantial training on autism support, sensory processing, emotional regulation, study skills, spelling support, transitions and inclusive classroom practice. Additional training was provided through the EA SEND Implementation Team on readiness for the graduated response and wider SEND transformation.

Leadership development was a strong feature of the year, with middle leaders participating in training on self-evaluation, action planning and strategic leadership through the Fermanagh Learning Community. Senior leaders engaged with ETI-focused training, including dissemination events on inspection insights and workshops on pupil learning profiles, attendance and school-wide success measures. The Examination officer received training from CCEA on exam administration, malpractice prevention, access arrangements and OCN procedures. Additional training in technology, first aid, COSHH, manual handling, circular saw and band saw safety ensured compliance and supported staff operating in practical environments. Working groups—including the Ethos Working Group and Learning & Teaching Group—continued to collaborate on whole-school development, reinforcing a culture of continuous improvement and shared professional responsibility.

## **Staffing**

We would like to extend our appreciation to all members of staff who left Mount Lourdes this year. We said goodbye to Mr D. McCrory, a member of the teaching staff. We also said farewell to Mrs K. Maguire, Administrative Staff, and Ms M. Cosgrove, Internal Caretaker and Cleaning Supervisor. We extend our thanks to our Classroom Assistants — Ms C. Goodwin, Ms M. McCaughey, Ms C. McDonnell, and Ms A. Keaney — for their dedication and support to pupils and staff. From the cleaning team, we said farewell to Mr M. Donnelly and Mrs L. Jones, and from the supervising team to Mrs P. Keane and Mrs T Maguire. We also acknowledge the service of Mr D. Wilson Taylor, Science Technician, as he moves on from the school. We thank each of them for their loyalty, commitment, and contribution to the life of Mount Lourdes. We wish them every happiness and fulfilment as they begin a new chapter in their lives.

## **Child Protection and Procedures**

The school has a responsibility for the Pastoral Care, general welfare and safety of the children and young people who attend our school. We work to carry out this duty by providing a caring, supportive and safe environment, where each child/young person is valued for her unique talents and abilities, and in which she can learn and develop to her potential. All members of staff, teaching and non-teaching, are provided with training in recognising the signs of possible abuse and are given clear guidance on the procedures to be followed if they have concerns in relation to an aspect of a child/young person's welfare. The school's policy sets out guidance on the action, which is required where abuse or neglect of a child/young person is suspected and outlines referral procedures within our school.

### **Principles**

The general principles, which underpin our work, are those set out in the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child and are enshrined in the Children (Northern Ireland) Order 1995, "Co-operating to safeguard children and young people in Northern Ireland" (DHSSPSNI, 2017), the Department of Education (Northern Ireland) guidance "Safeguarding and Child Protection in Schools" Circular 2017/04 (updated September 2019, September 2023 and September 2024) and the SBNI Core Child Protection Policy and Procedures (2017).

The following principles form the basis of our Child Protection Policy.

- It is a child's right to feel safe at all times, to be heard, listened to and taken seriously.
- We have a pastoral responsibility towards the children in our care and should take all reasonable steps to ensure their welfare is safeguarded and their safety is preserved.
- In any incident the child's welfare must be paramount, this overrides all other considerations.
- A careful balance must be maintained between safeguarding children and respecting the rights and needs of parents and families; however, when these interests conflict, the child's welfare must always take precedence.

### **School Safeguarding Team**

The members of the school's Safeguarding Team are:

- Chair of the Board of Governors: Monsignor Peter O'Reilly
- Designated Governor for Child Protection: Mr Gerry McCabe
- Designated Teacher: Mrs Michelle Judge: Senior Teacher
- Deputy Designated Teacher: Mr Seamus Devine: Vice Principal
- Deputy Designated Teacher: Mrs Sinead Cullen (Principal)
- Deputy Designated Teacher: Mr Gerard Quinn (Senior Teacher)
- ICT Co-Ordinator: Mrs Marcella O'Reilly
- Learning Support Coordinator: Mrs Mary Keaney
- Senior Teacher: Mrs Jane McGeoghan
- Teacher Governor: Mr Damien Murray

The policy is available to parents/guardians on request from the school's office and on the school website at [www.mountlourdes.com](http://www.mountlourdes.com)

### **Complaints Procedure**

Parents who wish to raise any matter relating to an aspect of the work of the school about which they are concerned, should contact the Principal directly, in whatever way is most appropriate for them. If their concerns persist, parents should submit them in writing for the attention of the Board of Governors. All concerns so reported will be dealt with in line with the school's Handling Complaints Procedures. The policy in full is available on the school website [www.mountlourdes.com](http://www.mountlourdes.com) or in hard copy from the main office.



## Examination Results

We are pleased to report on the results achieved in public examinations this year. They reflect the consistent hard work of students and teachers and we offer our congratulations and thanks to all those who worked so effectively to make this excellent level of achievement possible. We also acknowledge the major role played by parents and family members in supporting students and in ensuring that they achieved their potential.

### YEAR 12 PUPILS

Number of pupils in Year 12  
On 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 96

Number of these with a statement of  
Special Educational Needs 5

### GCSE RESULTS BY SUBJECT 2024/25

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C*	C	D	A*-C	A*-G
Art & Design	16	0	50	25	19	6	0	100	100
Design and Technology	26	8	27	35	11	15	4	96	100
Digital Technology	15	48	26	26	0	0	0	100	100
Drama	13	23	54	15	8	0	0	100	100
Economics	56	21	25	34	18	2	0	100	100
English Language	96	13	59	22	6	0	0	100	100
English Literature	16	37	44	19	0	0	0	100	100
French	24	8	38	33	8	13	0	100	100
Geography	45	11	58	22	7	2	0	100	100
History	48	19	38	29	6	8	0	100	100
Home Economics: Food & Nutrition	42	24	53	19	2	2	0	100	100
Irish	20	30	65	5	0	0	0	100	100
Mathematics	96	13	45	34	6	1	1	99	100
Mathematics Further	30	17	60	13	7	0	0	96.7	100
Music	4	0	75	0	25	0	0	100	100
Religious Studies	94	21	46	17	11	2	3	96	100
Spanish	48	44	42	14	0	0	0	100	100

Subject	Entries	**	*A	AA	AB	BB	BC*	C*C*	C*C	CC	CD	DD	A*-C
Science Double Award	96	14	14	14	15	15	15	3	7	1	1	1	98

### PERFORMANCE IN PUBLIC EXAMINATIONS 2021 - 2025

Performance Indicator %	2021/2022		2022/2023		2023/2024		2025
	School	NI average	School	NI average	School	NI average*	School
5+GCSEs at Grades A*-C	100	98	100	98	100	96.9	99
7+GCSEs at Grades A*-C	100	92	100	96	98	92.6	98
3+A levels at Grades A*-C	83	80	83	83	84	79.7	81
2+A levels at Grades A*-E	99	100	100	100	99	99.6	100

\*As per Benchmarking Data 23/24

### ANNUAL ATTENDANCE RATE (ALL PUPILS)

Total days attended by all pupils on roll as % of total possible day of attendance

93%

**YEAR 14 PUPILS**

Number of pupils in Year 14  
On 31<sup>st</sup> October 2024 126

Number of these with a statement of  
Special Educational Needs 1

**A-LEVEL RESULTS BY SUBJECT 2024/25**

Subject	Entries	% of pupils entered achieving grades						
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art & Design	5	0	20	0	80	0	0	0
Biology	34	6	29	44	21	0	0	0
Chemistry	24	4	25	42	21	8	0	0
Design & Technology	8	25	0	25	13	12	0	0
Digital Technology	2	0	0	50	50	0	0	0
Economics	16	6	19	19	44	6	6	0
English Literature	16	19	31	31	19	0	0	0
French	6	17	33	17	17	16	0	0
Geography	13	15	54	23	8	0	0	0
Government & Politics	12	8	26	33	33	0	0	0
Health & Social Care	30	0	13	77	10	0	0	0
History	21	0	10	48	24	18	0	0
Irish	4	25	25	50	0	0	0	0
Life & Health Science	16	6	44	44	6	0	0	0
Mathematics	33	9	42	31	3	9	6	0
Music	1	0	100	0	0	0	0	0
Nutrition & Food Science	21	19	19	24	14	24	0	0
Physics	6	17	0	33	33	17	0	0
Religious Studies	5	0	20	60	0	20	0	0
Sociology	17	0	18	24	41	12	5	0
Spanish	7	0	57	43	0	0	0	0
Sports Science	13	0	77	15	8	0	0	0

Subject	Entries	**	*A	AA	AB	BB	BC	CC	CD	DD
Health & Social Care DA	14	0	14	14	29	22	7	14	0	0

BTEC – L3 National Extended Certificate					
Subject	Entries	D*	D	M	P
Business Studies	15	67	33	0	0

BTEC Grades	
D*	Distinction *
D	Distinction
M	Merit
P	Pass

BTEC – L3 Subsidiary Diploma - Fermanagh Learning Community					
Subject	Entries	D*	D	M	P
Agriculture	3	67	33	0	0
Engineering	3	0	0	100	0
Creative Media (Tv&Film)	4	25	0	75	0

**SCHOOL LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS 2024/25 (FROM YEARS 12, 13, AND 14)**

Number of Leavers	Destinations of leavers to						
	Higher Education	Further Education	Another school	Apprenticeships	Year Out/Part-time Study	Employment	Other
134	111	11	6	0	6	0	0

**SCHOOL ACCOUNT**  
**1 April 2024 - 31March 2025**

<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
Department Grants	5010378	Wages & Salaries	4563034
Other Income	61690	Equipment & Class Materials	114129
		Examination Fees	77837
		Sports	1412
		Maintenance	59318
		Light & Heat	127607
		Insurance	70443
		Other Operating	107543
<b>Deficit</b>	<b>49255</b>		
	<u><b>5121323</b></u>		<u><b>5121323</b></u>

**CAPITAL ACCOUNT**  
**1 April 2024- 31March 2025**

<b>Income</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>Expenditure</b>	<b>£</b>
		Building & Equipment	25086
Capital Grant	25086		
Bank Interest	548	Surplus	548
	<u><b>25634</b></u>		<u><b>25634</b></u>