

Year 12 pupils dazzle at Charity Ball!

Wednesday 7th February saw old school glamour arrive at the Clandeboye Lodge as Year 12 pupils donned their glad rags to celebrate their five years at Saintfield High School, as well as to raise plenty of money for an important local charity. The girls were beautiful in their formal gowns, while the boys cut very handsome figures in their dapper suits. Following a delicious meal, pupils and staff danced the night away.

This year's Charity Ball raised more than £535 for the Child Brain Injury Trust—a very worthwhile cause, and one close to the hearts of our Year 12 pupils. The Trust is the leading voluntary sector organisation providing non-medical services to families affected by childhood acquired brain injury across the UK.



SAINTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

It is with great pleasure that I introduce our third newsletter of the academic year. I invite you to reflect with us on all the wonderful achievements and many varied and exciting events and activities that our young people have experienced since the start of 2018.

As a school community, we continue to focus on building and sustaining a positive and inclusive learning environment, and Term 2 saw the delivery of a series of pupil well-being programmes as part of our new Resilience Curriculum. We know that children have to be able to plan for the positives in any situation, whilst also having strategies to deal with the difficulties. Our preventative pastoral provision helps our pupils to achieve their full potential in the classroom, and it is our hope that they will continue to build upon these skills throughout their school years and beyond.

There have been many significant school events since our annual Open Evening in January, including our busy Senior School Mock Examinations and a series of GCSE modular assessments and moderations. Term 2 ended with our Year 10 pupils confirming their final choices for Key Stage Four study from an exciting and vibrant menu of subjects.

I must say a huge thank you to our newly rejuvenated Parent/Teacher Association for organising several worthwhile fundraising activities so far this year – I am so grateful for the time and effort you have devoted to our school community.

As you all know, we have recently launched our Parent/Carer Mail, and this is the first ever version of our newsletter to reach you electronically!

I want to wish everyone within our school community a relaxing and safe Easter break, and I look forward to seeing pupils on our return to school on Thursday 12th April 2018.

Miss S-L Hynds, Principal

SHS Newsletter No.60

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Spring Term ends: Wednesday 28 March, 12.20pm

Summer Term commences: Thursday 12 April

Bank Holiday Closure: Monday 7 May

End of Year Exams (Years 8, 9 and 10): 8 - 11 May (inclusive)

Bank Holiday closure: Friday 25 May & Monday 28 May

Sports Day (weather permitting): Wednesday 6 June

Year 11 Work Experience week: 18 - 22 June (inclusive)

Summer Term ends: Friday 29 June, 12.20pm

Dublin Theatre Trip

Saturday 24th February saw English Literature students from Years 11 & 12 meet at the crack of dawn to catch the Enterprise train from Belfast to Dublin. Following an enjoyable morning exploring the city, the group took in a stirring and engaging performance of Shakespeare's *Macbeth* at the Bord Gais Energy Theatre. After a quick but delicious dinner in Milano's Pizzeria, the pupils were back on the train home. "I had enjoyed reading Macbeth in class, but it was definitely worth going to see it on the stage as well" said Cameron McKnight (12CH). Cameron added, "The whole day out was really good fun too; Dublin is a great city to visit".



Careers Programme

Our school's Careers Department have enjoyed a busy term, organising a series of trips, visitors and events to help guide our Year 12 pupils as they approach their final few months at Saintfield High School. Speakers from institutions such as Grosvenor Grammar School, Down High School, and Belfast Metropolitan College have visited us, whilst our pupils have themselves visited Wellington College, Belfast, as well as attending a Careers Convention at Blackwater Integrated College. Additionally, our local Careers Advisor, Mr Alan Cousins, has continued to provide guidance and support to all Year 12 pupils during this busy time. Jessica Gibson (12ET) said "It can be confusing thinking about next year, but all of these talks have helped me to clarify a few things in my mind."

Coastal Studies

Year 11 GCSE Geography students recently visited Murlough beach and Newcastle town to assist with their study of coastal areas. Jo Whatmore from the National Trust spoke to the pupils on issues such as coastal protection and conservation, and how the coast is being sustainably managed. Despite the blustery and chilly conditions, an enjoyable and informative day was had by all.



A Royal Engagement



A number of pupils from Saintfield High School recently enjoyed a remarkable trip to London and Normandy. James Spratt, Devin Crutchley, Connor Gannon, Christine Spalding, Alexander McQuillan, Lee Umphrey, Carley Shaw, Rebekah Waddell, Elliot Hagen, David Thompson, Aaron Jennings, Job McClean, Oliver Rickey & Jake Nixon are all members of the Ballygowan Detachment of the Army Cadet Force, and travelled to London to take part in a special St Patrick's Day parade. Whilst there, the pupils were lucky enough to be selected as part of a contingent of cadets who were presented to the Duke & Duchess of Cambridge! The group then travelled on for a memorable weekend, touring the battlefields of World War 2 in the North of France.

Senior School Advice & Guidance

We were delighted to host a Senior School Advice & Guidance evening on Thursday 8th March. Pupils from Year 10, along with their parents/carers, were invited to tour a selection of stalls promoting the various options available to our pupils at Key Stage 4, as well as speaking to teachers and current senior school pupils about the reality of Senior School study. A very encouraging 93% of Year 10 pupils were able to attend.

PTA Update

It has been a busy year so far for the school's Parent/Teacher Association. Events such as discos, quizzes and doughnut sales have helped raise more than £3000 since September. Keep your eyes open for more top events in our third term, such as an exciting coach trip to Kildare Shopping Village!

Pastoral Round-up!

The Pupil Wellbeing team at Saintfield High School have been incredibly busy this term. Pupils from all year groups have engaged in a wealth of activities as part of our new Resilience Curriculum. Pupils have explored, discussed and learned about issues such as alcohol abuse, study skills, sexual health, the dangers of smoking, plus many, many other relevant and thought-provoking topics...

CANCER FOCUS: Senior School pupils received a Smoking Cessation assembly at the start of February, whilst Year 9 pupils took part in a three-week 'Dead Cool' smoking awareness programme in LLW lessons.

SOS ALCOHOL AWARENESS: All students in Year 10 have undertaken a challenging and thought-provoking programme in Alcohol Awareness this year, organised by the SOS Bus (NI). The SOS Bus is a local charity that works on the streets of Northern Ireland to help people at their most vulnerable. The aim of the programme was to educate our pupils on the importance of sensible actions and making better lifestyle choices. The programme concluded on 8th February when pupils, working in teams, made a series of multimedia presentations on the theme of 'Alcohol Awareness'. Staff from the SOS Bus praised our pupils for the quality and originality of their presentations.

LOVE FOR LIFE: We were pleased to be visited by an organization called 'Love for Life' in early February, who spoke to pupils from Year 10 and Year 12 about relationships, making good choices, and sexual health, amongst other topics. The presentations were age-appropriate and engaging.

AMAZING BRAINS: Over 100 pupils from Years 11 and 12 enjoyed a purposeful and extremely useful Study Skills workshop on Monday 8th January. The event was held in the school's assembly hall, and led by Ted Jensen from Skills4Study.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS: We were very pleased to welcome back Mr Hugh Roarty from Action Mental Health to our school this term. Mr Roarty worked with pupils from Years 8 & 11 in February, helping to promote positive mental health. This work was supported by a 3 week programme of workshops for pupils in Years 9 & 11 led by Mrs Derby, on the topic of 'Mental Health Awareness'. Mrs Derby thanked Action Mental Health for their continued support of the work we do in school, and praised our pupils for their willingness to take part in such challenging and important sessions.

GUNS & KNIVES RUIN LIVES: Our Year 12 pupils travelled to St. Patrick's Grammar School in Downpatrick to take part in a workshop alongside several other local schools. The event was led by officers from the PSNI, and focused on the lifelong damage caused by knife and gun crime.

Open Night

Despite being delayed by the snowy weather conditions, we were delighted to welcome P6 & P7 boys and girls and their parents to our annual OPEN EVENING back on January 23rd. It was a very busy evening with prospective pupils and their parents taking a real interest in the educational provision at Saintfield High School. Feedback from our visitors was very positive indeed. We look forward to meeting our new Year 8 intake this September.



Robotics Roadshow

Pupils in Year 10 recently enjoyed a Robotics Roadshow workshop, hosted in the school assembly hall by Sentinus NI. Sentinus is an educational charity, which works with schools and colleges throughout Northern Ireland to deliver STEM programmes to young people. The Robotics workshop involved pupils working in teams to program robotic vehicles before racing them against each other.

MARCHING FOR MONEY: Wednesday 7th March saw pupils from Years 8, 9 & 10 don their walking shoes and undertake a very successful sponsored walk around Delamont Country Park in aid of Action MS. We are very proud to say that our pupils raised more than £3250 for this very worthwhile cause.



Farm Visit

Our Year 11 GCSE Agriculture class enjoyed a sunny and informative day on Monday 26th March, as they visited the family farm of Year 9 pupil, Lucy Rodgers. The Rodgers' farm, near Dromara, provided our pupils with excellent insight into issues such as animal care & welfare and farm diversification. Tom McKnight commented that "it was very interesting to see the effect the windmills have had on the work of the farm." Thank you, of course, to Lucy and her family for accommodating our pupils in such tremendous fashion.

Mrs Irwin's Sports Round-up!



HOCKEY: A huge well done to our u16 Hockey team, who finished in 2nd place at the North Down Blitz Tournament held at Bangor Academy in January. This same group of sportswomen also finished as runners up in the North Down Hockey League. The final match of the season was played on 21st March against Lagan College and finished too close to call, with our team unlucky to lose 2-1 on penalty flicks. Congratulations to Bethany Peters of 11AT, who was awarded the title of Player of the Match in this hard fought game. Our u14 Hockey team must also be commended, as they played out a spirited and hard fought 0-0 draw with Lagan College on 25th January. Well done to the players from both teams for such a competitive match. Sarah Gibson (10DE) was selected as Player of the Match by the team's coach, Mrs McMordie. Our u14 team also finished in third place (from a field of twelve) in the North Down Hockey Blitz Tournament held at Bangor Academy.



Our u16 (above) and u14 (below) Hockey teams, both of whom have performed so admirably this term.



EQUESTRIAN: Well done to our High Novice team, Baillie Dunn (12ET), Ben Cousins (9MU), Hannah Bayfield (8CR) and Hannah Patterson (8CR), who rounded off a good season by finishing 5th (from a field of 25) in the Meadows League on Saturday 13th January. Particular congratulations to Baillie Dunn, who finished with a double clear in both the 1m & 1m10 classes. Mrs Birt has high hopes for the team next year, following on from this invaluable experience. A big thank you to all the members of the equestrian team, as well as their parents who have supported us loyally in all weathers!



Student Success!

Break a Leg! Best in Show!

A huge well done to our Deputy Head Boy, Joshua Wilson, who has recently been cast in Belfast's Grand Opera House's summer youth production of *The Wizard of Oz*. Joshua attended a strenuous audition back in February, and will be treading the famous boards of the Grand Opera House in the last week of July. Once Joshua's GCSE examinations are behind him, he will embark on a busy few weeks of rehearsals, costume fittings and all the attendant glamour of a major stage production. Good luck, Joshua!

Congratulations to Sarah Cushley (11IR) who recently competed at the internationally renowned Crufts Dog Show at the NEC in Birmingham. Sarah competed alongside a number of dogs, including her own puppy Omaar, a 19 month old saluki, in the Intermediate class. Sarah and Omaar were Very Highly Commended. Sarah was also successful in showing Luna, a Japanese shiba inu, who was awarded 2nd in her class and received a much sought-after Stud Book number, qualifying Luna for Crufts entry for the rest of her life. What an amazing achievement—well done Sarah!

Cricket Tour Ulster-Scots Fusion

Year 11 pupil Ethan Hanna has recently been selected to represent the Northern Cricket Union on their Youth Performance Tour of South Africa. This is a tremendous opportunity for Ethan, whose skills on the cricket field have been commended by the NCU. Ethan will have the opportunity to develop these sporting skills with some of the biggest talents in youth cricket, as well as represent Saintfield High School in an international sporting arena. Well done, Ethan!

12ET's own Amanda McIlveen recently appeared on TV screens as part of a celebration of Ulster-Scots culture. Amanda, who is an accomplished piper, was featured on BBC NI News along with her fellow musicians from the Ulster Scots Juvenile Pipe Band as part of the Coel Project which promotes shared music experiences throughout Northern Ireland. Congratulations also to Adam McIlveen and Ben Cousins, who joined Amanda on stage at the Burns' Night Celebration concert at the Waterfront Hall back in January, alongside the Ulster Orchestra. Amanda rounded off a busy term by playing for Prince Harry and his fiancée Megan Markle on their recent trip to Northern Ireland.