



The Greyhound Gazette

A Newsletter from Lurgan JHS - Respect, Responsibility, Resilience

Volume 1, Issue 2

March, 2023

Inside this issue:

- Principal's Message;
- New after-school club
- Easter Assemblies;
- Rewards Assemblies;
- Sporting Successes;
- Extra-Curricular activities.
- Annual Prize-giving Ceremony.
- PSNI Workshops.

And much much more.....



Dr McCrory attended Stranmillis' Professional Leadership Programme and then presented to other schools in the Area Learning Community.

Principal's Message

It gives me great delight to write to you at the close of another busy term, in this, our very own newsletter— **The Greyhound Gazette**! Inside this second edition, you will find news of pupils' successes and achievements as well as details of the many activities that pupils have been involved in this term. As always, it has been a hectic term in relation to both the academic and pastoral dimensions of school life. We have had great successes within the classroom and our Year 10s have risen to the challenges of the Transfer examinations. Outside the classroom, we have had many sporting successes that we are rightly proud of.

In this second issue of our Gazette, we say farewell to two members of staff: Mrs Heasley and Mrs Gilbert. Mrs Heasley will be moving on to a new chapter in her life and Mrs Gilbert will embrace everything that retirement has to offer. Indeed, we are most thankful for their contributions.

I take this opportunity to convey to you all my sincere appreciation for your unstinting support as parents and for taking time to read of our pupils' achievements in this edition. I wish you all a Happy Easter and hope that you all have a restful and relaxing Easter break with family and loved ones. We look forward to welcoming all pupils back to

school on 17th April, 2023.

J. McCoy, Principal.



Mr McCoy welcomed all Year Groups back after Christmas with an assembly on the topic of 'decisive moments'.

New afterschool Club

As a school we were happy to start Chess and Games Club this January for all pupils. Taking place on a Thursday after school, and organised by Mrs K Carson and Mr M McGreevy, pupils have been able to enjoy some competitive fun, playing chess and various games with each other. Chess and board games are a challenging and stimulating way to develop communication and stimulating way to develop communication and strategic skills in our pupils, whether played for fun or with increasing degrees of seriousness which is why we encourage this opportunity for our children at Lurgan JHS. The club has taken off with regular attendees every week

And we look forward to continue our weekly sessions as well as hosting potential tournaments in the Summer term.



Pupils enjoying Chess and other board games at our new after-school club.





Kurt Yr 9 & Penny Yr 8 cast in Building Bridges Community Arts Theatre production of 'Chitty Chitty Bang Bang'



Onatti Theatre Visit

On Friday 24th February, our assembly hall was packed with pupils eagerly anticipating this year's French play, 'La Maison Hantée', brought to us by the Onatti Theatre Company. Julien and Eugénie, two French actors, captivated the audience with convincing and comedic portrayals of their characters, all in French, of course, which was a wonderful learning opportunity for our pupils.

Caleb and Anna, two Year 8 pupils, were delighted to be called upon to participate on stage and help

solve the mystery of the haunted house! Their acting skills and their French did us proud! A massive thank you to Mrs Miskelly and the languages department for organising this event.



Lurgan JHS Guests of honour at 'A Night at the Movies'

It was an absolute honour for our musicians to be invited guests of honour at the South Ulster Community Band's annual concert. This took place in Portadown Town Hall on Friday 10th February. The theme for the concert was 'A Night at the Movies'.



Our pupils were outstanding, as usual, and we were blown away by the praise and compliments received from the audience. Once again, our musicians were wonderful ambassadors for Lurgan JHS.

Choir: '*Rhythm of Life*' from Sweet Charity
Piano Solo by Freddy McTernaghan: '*Passacaglia*' from the film '*Wanted*'
Vocal Solo by Bethany Givan: '*She Used To Be Mine*' from Waitress
Vocal Ensemble - Ruby Patton, Nicole Workman, Anna Wilson, Bethany Givan: '*Holding Out For A Hero*' from Footloose
Vocal Solo by Penny Speer: '*A Spoonful of Sugar*' from Mary Poppins
Choir: '*Revoluting Children*' from Matilda

Spring Showcase

On 1st March, our assembly hall was filled with daffodils, tasty treats and an array of musical delights. We welcomed a full hall to enjoy a relaxed showcase of our pupils' talent. The Spring Showcase was an opportunity for pupils to perform the music they love, and what an absolute treat we had.

Our evening repertoire included stunning piano solos, a flute ensemble, a clarinet solo, many fabulous vocal solos, electric guitar, bass and drums, full bank, choral items and a spectacular Bonnie Tyler finale. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the evening. We are incredibly proud of our young musicians who worked hard during rehearsals and performed so professionally on the night.



Jack Cowan has been successfully selected for the Northern Ireland Pony Club Games to compete at Royal Windsor Horse Show in May.



Oscar Black Yr 9 with his medals from the Ulster Swimming Championship.



Ben Ross won Irish Junior Free-style Competition.

Evan Pepper qualified for the Golf Open Tournament.

Sports News

We have had another successful term in the Girls' PE Department. The U13A and U14A hockey teams finished their season with strong wins over Kilkeel High School, winning 4-0 and 2-1.



Yr 8 B Team

Cadence Hamilton finished 35th in the Irish National School Cross-Country Championships and has qualified to represent NI in the London Mini Marathon.



Congratulations to all our boys' cross-country teams who had a day to remember at the snowy District 'D' Championships at Armagh Palace Demesne. All three teams have qualified for the Ulster Schools' Cross-country Championships.



The Year 10 Netball team finished third in the Vista Cup competition and Emma Cushly was the player of the tournament at the Year 9 tournament.



The U14 Girls Football team beat Killicomaine JHS 4-1 in the quarter-final to gain a place in the semi-final of the Mid Ulster U14 Girls' Cup.



Congratulations to the u12 rugby team who were winners of the 2023 U'12 High Schools' Cup at a sunny Lurgan RFC. Having previously won their 4 qualifying games over Clounagh JHS, Killicomaine JHS, Banbridge HS and St Patrick's HS the boys would qualify for the semi-finals with further group wins over Drumragh College (7-1) and St Pius X College (5-2) and a draw with Ballyclare (2-2).

The semi-final would see Lurgan JHS defeat Ballymoney HS (5-2) before a tight final game against Ballyclare. The game would finish 2-2 but Lurgan JHS would win courtesy of scoring the first try. It was a proud day for all involved and the boys would like to thank the Ulster Branch, referees & parents for all their efforts in a memorable day. Well done boys!!



'Art Day' at the F. E. McWilliam Gallery

We had a wonderful Art trip with Year 10 pupils to the FE McWilliam Gallery and Studio in Banbridge.

Thirty Art enthusiasts participated in a fun-filled day of activities including a tour of the Gallery and studio, talks about the Art exhibition, on-site sketching activities and question and answer sessions with hyper realist local artist Michelle Wilson, HOD Art from Lurgan College, Mrs Barbour, and portrait artist and past pupil of Lurgan JHS, Nicholas Hamilton.



Lurgan Credit Union delivered a Hamper to the Art department to thank them for taking part in 'It's a Wonderful World Competition'



Year 10 Bake Off

Lurgan JHS hosted their annual 'Christmas Bake Off!' and it was a great success. We celebrate and congratulate the Year 10 pupils who participated in the competition. Their creativity, enthusiasm, skill and attention to detail were superb! We extend our sincere thanks to Mr Sydney McCormick, founding owner of The Kosy Bakery in Lurgan and Ms Ally Drennan who works at The Kosy Bakery, for their encouragement, generosity and kindness towards our pupils in supporting this event.



Past Pupil, Nicholas Hamilton (above), was invited to speak. He is a graphite and charcoal artist and has been commissioned for a few pieces for celebrities: Connor McGreggor shown below.



Both judges tasted and reviewed all the delightful bakes and they were incredibly impressed with the efforts and the high standards demonstrated by all pupils who participated.

We have many promising bakers at Lurgan JHS and we thank all parents/guardians who supported our pupils to give them the resources and confidence to take part.

First prize was claimed by Brooke Wilson, 2nd Prize by Lucy McElmurray, 3rd Prize by Ross Emerson and the Endeavour award went to Mia Jardine.



Easter Assemblies

Our Easter assemblies took place prior to the end of the second term. We were delighted to welcome past pupil and current Youth worker with the Emmanuel Church, Mr Robbie Norton as our guest speaker. Mr Norton conveyed a very clear and accessible Easter message in three separate assemblies to Years 8, 9 and 10 which drew attention to the true meaning of Easter and the importance of the death, burial and resurrection of our Lord Jesus Christ to our Christian faith.



Rewards Assemblies

Our Rewards assemblies took place prior to the end of the second term. For each of the Year groups - 8, 9 & 10 - successes in terms of behaviour and effort were recognised by Year Heads and our Senior Leadership Team. Pupils demonstrating ability to achieve points were awarded the coveted postcard home, bronze, silver, gold and platinum certificates as well as being given Easter eggs to celebrate their accomplishments!

In addition, academic recognition was duly given to pupils who performed well in our 'Regression Analysis' of examination results. This sector-leading assessment procedure allows us to compare a child's performance in examinations with their standardised scores in their cognitive ability test taken when they begin the academic year. It was a real joy to see so many of our pupils exceeding their potential and we congratulate them all.



Literacy Week

Literacy week took place from Monday, 27th February to Friday 3rd March this term with several activities on offer to encourage reading throughout school. From brain-teasers in the canteen to our individual year-group assemblies, the promotion of literacy was at the fore.

Pupils were invited to enter our whole school competition where they were asked to recreate the covers of their favourite books. The response to this competition was excellent leaving the decision on prize winners very difficult.

You can see from the entries (to the left) that our pupils' creative and imaginative skills were of a very high standard. Congratulations to Ilinca Muntele in 8A7 on being the overall winner for her recreation of Roald Dahl's 'Matilda'. Well done also to Catherine Joshy in 9A4 and to Kara Houston in 8A2 for finishing second and third respectively for their creations.

Year group assemblies showcased the importance of literacy and reading across school and featured a literary quiz where Amber McCann in 8A7 was triumphant.

Literacy-based brain teasers featured daily in our canteen, which added to the competitive spirit of the week. Winning tables in each year group were awarded prizes for correctly solving each clue.

A thoroughly enjoyable week highlighting the importance of reading and literacy across school. We are already looking forward to next year!



1st Prize—Ilinca Muntele in 8A7



2nd Prize Catherine Joshy in 9A4



3rd Prize Kara Houston in 8A2

UKMaths Challenge

Lurgan JHS entered twenty pupils into the Intermediate UK Maths Challenge. The participants achieved one gold, four silver and seven bronze certificates altogether. Two pupils qualified for the follow-on round to compete. Michael Robinson was awarded with the merit award.

We look forward to twenty Year 9 pupils competing in the Junior UK Maths Challenge at the end of April.



Prize Day

On Friday, 10th February, Lurgan Junior High School celebrated the successes of 2021-2022 at its Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony. In attendance were members of our Board of Governors, Principals from our Senior partner schools and feeder primary schools; past and present pupils along with parents and guardians a

It showcased the talents here in the Junior High

and how pupils have progressed in their education over the last academic year.

As well as a detailed report given by Mr. McCoy on the life of the school, pupils receiving prizes were able to listen to our special guest, Miss H. Brown, Principal of King's Park Primary School, Lurgan, who spoke on an acrostic of the word 'SUCCESS'.



Mr McCoy pictured alongside special guest, Miss Brown, Principal of King's Park PS and current Head Boy and Head Girl, Harry Stevenson and Bethany Givan.

Right: This year's platform party at our Annual Prize Distribution Ceremony, including Vice-Chair of our Board of Governors, Mrs McIlwaine, Special Guest Miss Brown, Principal of King's Park PS; Mr McCallan, Principal of Lurgan College, Ms Harkness, Principal of CSHS, Mrs Lindsay, Principal of Carrick PS & Parent governor, governors Dr. Kennedy, Mrs Black and Mr Costley.



PSNI 'One Punch Kills' Sessions

As part of our preventative curriculum, on Monday 6 and Wednesday 8 March, the PSNI Neighbourhood Team delivered 'One Punch Kills' sessions to our Year 8 and Year 9 classes respectively. Each class had individual sessions to provide a more intimate setting which allowed pupils to engage more freely during the question and answer time at the end. There was a very clear message about the importance of appropriate and safe behaviour and the possible serious consequences of our actions when we are upset or angry and choose physical violence to deal with situations. Our student council, The Pupils' Voice, did a wonderful job of looking after the PSNI during their time in school, meeting and greeting them, accompanying them to the classrooms and ensuring they were in the right place at the right time. They are such positive role models for Lurgan JHS.

Saying Goodbye!

At the end of this term we said goodbye to Mrs Gilbert who has taught in Lurgan JHS for 23 years

We are also saying goodbye to Mrs Heasley who has worked in the school since 2009 in the Canteen, but who has spent the last 8 years as a Classroom Assistant.

We take this opportunity to thank them for their dedication and commitment over the years and wish them every happiness in the next chapter of their lives.



Staff Development

Lurgan JHS will be launching its own bespoke, exciting knowledge-rich curriculum in September 2023 with the start of our new three-year School Development Plan.

As preparation for this, teaching staff recently took part in a professional development session where we examined evidence for the most effective ways to use knowledge organisers to help pupils transfer knowledge into their long-term memory.

We look forward to sharing the results of our discussions with our incoming Year 8 pupils and parents in the new academic year.



School Reminders

Mobile phone Reminder: Parents are asked to remind all pupils of our high expectations regarding the use of mobile phones. These can be located on Page 14 of the Homework Planner. Our mobile phone policy is also located on our school's website along with videos demonstrating correct usage.

Parents are also asked to ensure that their child's uniform is correct. No hoodies are to be worn either under or over blazers. Hoodies can only be worn in PE class and will be confiscated if worn under blazers.

Key Dates for Term 3

Term three begins 17th April 2023 for all pupils;

Bank Holiday: Monday 8th May - coronation of King Charles III;

Our annual Balmoral Trip will take place on 10th May 2023 (TBC);

Summer Examinations for all Year groups will take place from 25th May 2023 to 7th June 2023 inclusive

PSNI Sessions on substance misuse - 12th & 13th June 2023

Semi-Formal for Year 10: provisional date - 13th June 2023 (TBC)

School Play - provisional dates 21st & 22nd June, 2023 (TBC)

