



# The Greyhound Gazette

A Newsletter from Lurgan JHS - Respect, Responsibility, Resilience

Volume 1, Issue 1

December, 2022

## Principal's Message

It gives me great pleasure to write to you at the close of another busy term, in this, our very own newsletter— **The Greyhound Gazette!** Inside this first 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 an industrious term with lots going on both inside the classroom and beyond it, but as usual, our fantastic pupils have risen to the challenge and continue to delight us with their talents, skills and leadership prowess.

In this first issue of our Gazette, the name of the Gazette and its signifi-

cance to our school is explained by Miss Hanna, a retired teacher from the Junior High. Indeed, we are most thankful for Miss Hanna's contribution.

We extend our congratulations to Heidi McTernaghan 8A1 - the pupil who won the competition to create the name for this newsletter - and I take this opportunity to convey to you all my sincere appreciation for your unwavering support as parents and for taking time to read of our pupils' achievements in this edition. I do hope that you enjoy it and I look forward to sharing future versions of **The Greyhound Gazette** as the academic year progresses. In the meantime, I send to you all my

best wishes for a safe and peaceful Christmas break and trust that it will be filled with God's richest blessings at this festive time of year.

J. McCoy, Principal.



*Heidi McTernaghan, 8A1 - Winner of the school's newsletter naming competition, pictured alongside Mrs Jardine, Head of English (organiser of the competition) and Mr McCoy, Principal.*

### Inside this issue:

- Principal's Message;
- What's in a name? The story behind the Greyhound Gazette;
- Representation at Remembrance Day;
- Rewards Assemblies;
- Sporting Successes;
- Extra-Curricular activities.

And much much more.....

## What's in a name? The story behind The Greyhound Gazette

Every Lurgan JHS pupil wears their uniform with pride. Our school badge illustrates the rich heritage of Lurgan, Co Armagh. It recalls the culture, traditions, and industrial past of our community. The Junior High pupils value the historical links our school shares with the town.

One such link is found at the bottom of the school badge, a little greyhound named Master McGrath. At a time when Lurgan was one of the biggest industrial towns in Ireland, this little pup was born. In 1867, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Baron Lurgan, Charles Brownlow (Lord Lurgan), sent one of his greyhounds down to Co Waterford. This dog later became Master McGrath's father!

Lord Lurgan's family had been strategic in the building and development of the town of Lurgan. Indeed, the Brownlow family had invested heavily in the Linen industry at the time and Lurgan was a thriving Linen town. It remained a large linen producer well into the 1980s.

The young pup, Master McGrath, was quite ordinary, not showing any of the qualities that would later make him famous! He was almost given away by his trainer. However, his handler had more faith in him and entered him into several races, which he won! As he gained recognition and success, he returned to his trainer and his destiny.

Master McGrath went on to win the famous Waterloo Cup, on three different occasions 1868, 1869 & 1871. He was the first greyhound to do so. In fact, he became so famous that he and his owner, Lord Lurgan, were introduced to Queen Victoria and the Royal Family after the 1871 win.

Sadly, Master McGrath died later that same year on Christmas Night, 1871. He was buried in the grounds of a house named 'Solitude' near to Brownlow House, the ancestral home of the Brownlow family. Master McGrath's name has always been linked with Brownlow House and the town of Lurgan.

A bronze statue of Master McGrath  
Cont'd on p.2



**The bronze statue of Master McGrath located in Lurgan town centre**



'Carols by Candle-light'

Tickets available for our 'Carols by Candle-light' service - Monday 19th December at 7pm. Please go to [Eventbrite.com](https://www.eventbrite.com) to get your FREE ticket.

**'Over 600 entries received for our Christmas Card design competition.'**

Cont'd from p. 1

McGrath stood in the grounds of Brownlow house until 1905, when the Brownlow family sold up and returned with it to Suffolk. This statue was stolen twice and was recovered. In 1993 a copy of the original bronze statue was gifted to the town of Lurgan by Jaime Brownlow, a direct descendant of Lord Lurgan, the dog's original owner.

The statue was placed at Craigavon Civic Centre in 1993 for safe keeping. Nevertheless, the people of Lurgan were determined that Master McGrath should be found in Lurgan Town. In 2013, the bronze statue of Master McGrath was returned to the town centre and is one of the iconic monuments in Lurgan.

Who would have thought that this little greyhound would have achieved so much? Perhaps that is why he is included on the Lurgan JHS School badge? What a wonderful lesson for us all.....the little pup who achieved his potential through determination, belief, and commitment. How apt then that we should name our school newsletter **The Greyhound Gazette!**

## Rewards

We were delighted to organize our termly Rewards Assemblies for Years 8, 9 and 10 to celebrate the children's achievements across the curriculum. These took place in the newly decorated Junior Assembly Hall which is now a great formal place to carry out such an important event. It was a joy to see so many of our pupils being rewarded for their efforts.



Rewards assembly Year 9

## Christmas Appeal

This year, we are supporting the Emmanuel Christmas Hamper Appeal. These hampers are given to help families in our community at Christmas time. The appeal has been divided into our three year groups with each year group responsible for bringing in one set of items - cranberry sauce, mince pies and candy canes.

Many thanks to all pupils and their families for their continued generosity of spirit. We have no doubt that it makes a huge impact on the lives of so



Delighted to gather goods for the Emmanuel Christmas hamper appeal.

## Christmas Card Design Competition

Having received over 600 entries for our Christmas Card Design Competition, we are delighted to announce our winners: **1st place is Eden McClelland 8A3**. Eden's unique and creative design shows mature media application, creative thinking and refined drawing skills. 2nd: Joy McGuigan, 10A2 3rd: Sophia Heasley, 9A5



Some of the highly commended card designs.

The winning Christmas card has been professionally printed and forwarded to our Board of Governors, all our feeder schools, partners and wider community this Christ-



Winning design by Eden McClelland 8A3

## Remembrance Sunday

Lurgan Junior High School was represented at this year's Remembrance Sunday in Lurgan by Mr McCoy, Head Boy and Head Girl.



Mr McCoy, Harry Stevenson and Bethany Givan.



**Rugby Results:****U'14**

Banbridge RFC 32  
– 37 LJHS U14

Killicomaine JHS 7  
– 12 LJHS U14  
(\*High Schools'  
Cup)

LJHS U14 19 – 10  
Banbridge Academy

RBAI U14B 26-0  
LJHS U14A

Clounagh 0 – 27  
LJHS U14 (\*High  
Schools Cup)

**U'13**

Banbridge Academy  
5 – 66 LJHS U13

Friends A 31 – 24  
LJHS U13A

Friends B 39 – 20  
LJHS U13B

Banbridge RFC 26  
– 29 LJHS U13

RBAI U13B 10 – 59  
LJHS U13A

RBAI U13C 24 – 17  
LJHS U13B

Clounagh 14 – 63  
LJHS U13

**Sports News**

The Girls' PE Department has had a very busy term. Year 8, 9 and 10 pupils represented the school in hockey, netball and football.

Hockey runs on a Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday with Saturday morning fixtures throughout the term. The U12, U13 and U14 play in the Mid-Ulster League. The U13's played the Royal School Dungannon winning 5-0 with three goals from Camryn Wilson and two from Lara Owens. They also played Omagh Academy drawing 2-2 with goals from Millie Dowds and Camryn Wilson.

The U14 were unfortunate to lose 2-1 to Royal School Dungannon and

Omagh Academy, narrowly missing out on a draw. Eva Hawthorne scored both goals. The U14 will compete in the Junior Plate Competition after Christmas.

Year 8 have played in the Ulster Hockey Blitz winning three matches, drawing one and losing one.

**Visit from Shirley McCay MBE**

We were also extremely fortunate to have Shirley McCay MBE the Ulster Hockey Talent Manager and Ex-Ireland international to speak to our girls recently. Some fantastic tips and experiences were shared with our pupils and enjoyed by all.

**Boys Football**

It has been an extremely successful football season to date with both U12 and U14 teams still going strong in the Northern Ireland Cup, as the U13's await their first round tie in the Northern Ireland Invitational Cup. Our U12's defeated Ashfield Boys, Culleybackey College and St Michael's, Enniskillen on their way to the quarter finals. The U12's are also going well in the Mid-Ulster Competitions with good wins against Clounagh at St Paul's, Bessbrook to date.

The U13 team are currently unbeaten in both Mid-Ulster League and Cup Competitions with fine winds to date over St Paul's Bessbrook, St Ronan's and Clounagh JHS.

The U14s are due to play Holy Cross, Strabane, in their 3rd round Northern Ireland Cup competition after knocking out St Coleman's, Ballynahinch and Ballyclare HS. The U14s are also unbeaten in all competitions with further wins in Mid-Ulster over Lismore and Killicomaine.



Netball Club continues to run - Players were selected into A and B teams. The A teams played in the NI league with mixed success. They were also entered in the local Vista league where they won against St. John's 24-3 (Yr9 and Yr10), and against Tandragee JHS. Yr9's won 20-4 while the Yr10's played an excellent game, but were defeated 16-21. The girls look forward to completing their Vista league fixture next term and taking part in the Vista Cup. Year 8 A Team was selected to play in the NI Year 8 Blitz. They had a great day winning 4 games, losing 2 and coming third overall which was a fantastic achievement.

The Year 9 Girls Football teams competed against Clounagh JHS and Killicomaine JHS winning one

Numbers at training have been excellent during term 1 and our B teams have had opportunities to play A teams from the Mid-Ulster Small Schools League.

**House cross-country**

This has been rescheduled for Friday 6th January periods 1 and 2.

## Staff Training and Achievements.

Our staff continue to keep abreast of teaching strategies and have been engaged in the 'Walkthru' Programme by Tom Sherington. This exciting CPD, carried out once a month ensures that our staff remain at the cutting edge of good pedagogy.

Congratulations to Dr McCrory who received her EdD Doctorate in Education from Queens University, Belfast. We are delighted to have her on our team at Lurgan JHS and pass on our congratulations to her.



*Dr McCrory is pictured outside the Lanyon Building at Queens University after receiving her doctorate.*

**'Congratulations  
Dr McCrory on  
your great  
achievement.'**



**Mr McCoy—Special**

### Speaker

Mr McCoy was delighted to share his research in professional development at the prestigious ResearchEd Conference in Dublin and later led staff training for other Principals for CSSC in Stranmillis University College, Belfast.



## Primary School Visits

Senior Leadership and Mr McCoy were delighted to visit our feeder Primary Schools in recent days to showcase our excellent Teaching & Learning to our prospective Year 8 pupils. A presentation was delivered by staff and paid tribute to all the boys and girls who took part in the school visits, it was great to show off the talent we have here in Lurgan Junior High School and great to witness our pupils being excellent ambassadors for Lurgan JHS.



Head Girl Bethany Givan and Prefect, Nicole Workman, performing in Carrick PS.

Gilford Road  
Lurgan  
Co Armagh  
BT66 8SU  
Phone: 028 3832 3243

Email:  
info@lurganjuniorthigh.lurgan.ni.sch.uk

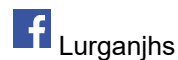
**Respect,**

We would like to invite you to attend our school's  
**Open Evening.**

**Thursday 12th January, 2023, 7.00pm—9.30pm.**

Principal's Introduction delivered at: 7.00pm and 8.00pm.

Please visit our school's website at [www.ljhs.co.uk](http://www.ljhs.co.uk)



@lurganjuniorthighschool



@Lurgan\_JHS

Find out more at:  
[www.ljhs.co.uk](http://www.ljhs.co.uk)

### Matilda Rehearsals

Pupils are delighted to have begun rehearsals for our school play in the newly decorated Junior Assembly Hall. It really is a great space! Watch out, in future editions of the Greyhound Gazette, for more details and see how rehearsals are going. Well done to everyone for their hard work and dedication so far!



### Dates for the new Term:

Wednesday 4th January—Pupils return to School.

Thursday 12th January—School Open Night.

### School Routines / Information / Reminders

Parents and pupils are reminded that no hoodies are to be worn under or over the schools blazer. Pupils may wear a coat or a school jumper, or white T-shirt under their shirt/Blouse.

Parents and pupils are reminded that uniform guidance is located in all pupils' Homework Planners for ease of reference.

Wednesday 21st December—School finishes at 12.

