



The Greyhound Gazette

A Newsletter from Lurgan JHS - Respect, Responsibility, Resilience

Volume 4, Issue 2

March 2026

Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

Welcome to the second edition of the Greyhound Gazette for this academic year. As we look back on the whirlwind of activity that has defined this last term, I am struck by the sheer energy, creativity, and resilience of our pupils. It has been a season of remarkable milestones, and this newsletter serves as a testament to what we can achieve when we run together as a pack.

Our competitive spirit was on full display across the board. From the muddy triumphs on the sports field to the precision of our Easter Baking Competition—where the “Showstopper” cakes were almost too good to

eat—our pupils have excelled. A particular highlight was the long-awaited Ski Trip, where students conquered the slopes with bravery and returned with stories of camaraderie that will last a lifetime.

On the academic front, Literacy Week transformed the time in the canteen with daily quizzes and I was incredibly proud to see our team represent us with such sharp intellect in the National Literacy Quiz, their performance against the country's brightest young readers was nothing short of inspiring.

Beyond our own gates, we participated in the Ulster Carpets' Challenge proving once again that

our pupils were worthy winners.

As you flip through these pages, I hope you feel a sense of pride in these achievements and many more. Thank you to the staff, parents and, most importantly, the pupils for making this term a truly memorable term for everyone.

Mr. McCoy

Principal



Inside this issue:

- Principal's Message;
- Ski Trip 2026
- Charity Challenge
- Easter Baking Competition
- National Literacy Quiz
- Social Communication Class news
- Sports' news;

And much more.....

Open Evening 2026

Thank you to all of our staff and pupils, our visiting parents/guardians, external agencies, and, most importantly, the Primary 6 and 7 pupils who took the time to visit and experience our unique 11-14 school setting on 14th January 2026.

We always value this evening greatly, and it was a wonderful opportunity to showcase all that our school has to offer.

We were also incredibly proud of our current pupils, who represented our school outstandingly throughout the night.



Social Communication Class—Term Highlights

The Social Communication class has enjoyed a fun and productive term packed with activities that built teamwork, confidence and important life skills. Highlights include:

- **Weekly Swimming Lessons:** Regular sessions at South Lakes Leisure Centre were a huge hit and helped students develop water confidence, fitness and coordination.

- **Football Coaching:** A six-week programme with Tommy from the Neurodiverse Football Club focused on communication, teamwork and skill-building.

- **NI Cup Trip:** Students attended the Under-13 NI Cup semi-final, enjoying the match atmosphere with a hand-made supporter poster.

- **Geography Revision:** The class created revision flashcards to help reinforce their learning and study skills.

- **Home Economics:** A favourite subject — students especially loved making their own stir fry dishes.

- **Christmas Trip:** A festive visit to The Boulevard for a cinema outing and some Christmas shopping.

- **Art Projects:** Creative activities included Mother's Day origami flowers and Minecraft-themed artwork.



Sport's News

Hockey news

It has been an exceptional series of matches for our U13 and U14 hockey teams.

The girls show great determination and dedication whether it be at training sessions or in matches. They lead by example and they represent their school impeccably.

The hockey season is nearly at an end and we want to wish our Year 10s every success in their hockey careers as they move on to their next schools.



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Rugby news

The U12 Rugby teams continued their progress this season with 2 hard-fought wins over Banbridge Academy. Special mention should go to captain Jack G, who always led by example. He was ably supported by Daniel C-A, Harry McG, Josiah M and Caleb F.

For the Lions team, captained by Rhys G, a special mention should go to Simon McS, who scored six tries.

The squad continues to grow and develop and is improving game by game. Well done.



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Congratulations to our U14 rugby team also, who are through to the quarter finals of the High School's Cup after a convincing 40-0 win against Glastry College. Tries were scored by captain Theo M, Mark C, Keigan Van D, Will U, Bobby G and Charley R. The boys will face Castle-derg High School on 26th March.



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Netball news

Congratulations to our U 12 Netball Team. They have been crowned VISTA Cup Champions after a series of outstanding performances. The team secured a 4-1 victory over Clounagh, a 5-0 victory against Killicomaine JHS, a 7-0 win over Craig-avon Integrated College and a 6-0 win against Tandragee JHS. Their teamwork, determination and positive attitude were evident throughout the tournament and they should be extremely proud of their success.



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Congratulations also to our U13 Netball team who were crowned VISTA League Champions and followed it up with an outstanding performance to finish runners up in the VISTA Tournament. Their teamwork, determination and positive spirit have been fantastic to watch and we are proud of everything they have achieved.



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Charity Challenge

We are absolutely delighted to share that we are joint recipients of the Ulster Carpets Schools Charity Challenge 2026, in partnership with Action Mental Health.

Our pupils wowed the judges with a fantastic presentation and a truly touching song, very worthy winners indeed.

A special congratulations to Jacob, Eliza, Zara, Catherine, Holly, Pippa, Emilie, Hollie and Jack form 10A1 for representing our school so wonderfully. You should be very proud of your achievement.



Congratulations to our fellow winners, St. John the Baptist College, and well done to the four other local schools for their insightful and inspiring presentations.



Ski Trip 2026

What an incredible week it was on the Austrian slopes: from 4am starts to airport slider drama, nursery slopes to red runs, spectacular tumbles to serious progress—this trip had it all. Skis carried, chair lift drama, fence encounters, endless pasta, dorm inspections, resilience in buckets and karaoke that will never be forgotten.

As always, our pupils were outstanding ambassadors for our school and an absolute pleasure to take away. We couldn't be more proud of them.



Drama Club

It has been great to see Drama Club in full swing this term. There is always an incredible turnout and so much enthusiasm in the room.

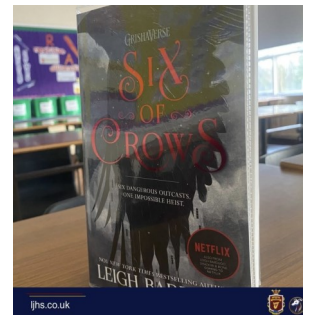
We always love to see how ideas start coming to life and think that there are definitely exciting times ahead at Drama Club.



Book Club

Book club continuing strong.

At Book Club this term we started into our second book of the year—Six of Crows by Leigh Bardugo. After finishing Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief before Christmas, this fantasy adventure felt like the perfect follow up. We were hooked and full of anticipation of what the story would bring.



Over-achievement certificates

We were incredibly proud to celebrate the pupils who received our Over-Achievement Certificates, recognising those whose progress has exceeded expectations based on their individual targets. Using regression analysis, we look at how pupils perform relative to their baseline assessments, allowing us to identify exceptional progress. These awards highlight not just high attainment, but also outstanding effort, resilience and learning growth. Congratulations to all our pupils who have gone above and beyond, your hard work truly deserves recognition.

WW2 Weapons Workshop

A sincere thank you to James Martin from Brownlow House for delivering such an engaging and informative WW2 weapons workshop for our Historical Society.

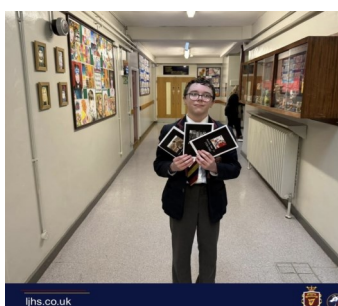
Your expertise and passion brought history to life and gave everyone a fascinating insight into this important period. We truly appreciate the time and effort you put into making the session both educational and memorable.

We look forward to working together again in the future.



We'd like to congratulate Charlie in Year 10, who has been developing his interest in history through independent research and making resources.

Using his notes from school alongside wider reading, Charlie produced a series of booklets covering topics from Hitler's rise to power through to Germany's foreign policy that led to the outbreak of the Second World War. This kind of sustained interest and effort is a positive way to deepen understanding of a subject. Well done Charlie.



National Literacy Quiz 2026

We were incredibly proud of our teams who headed to Killicomaine JHS on 27th February to take part in the National Literacy Quiz. Our teams represented Lurgan JHS with pride with one team finishing in 4th place out of 29 teams from 16 different schools across Northern Ireland. A great day was had by all.



Swimming

Congratulations to five of our pupils who represented LJHS brilliantly at the recent Ulster School's Swimming Gala in Bangor. Ines F and John T recorded personal bests in the 100m breaststroke, while Beth D achieved a personal best in the 100m freestyle.



Literacy Week Book Swap

As part of Literacy week this year, we were delighted to host another Book Swap from 2nd – 6th March.

We invited all pupils to take part by donating pre-loved books before Friday 27th February. For every book donated, pupils received one house point, so it was a fantastic way to support our houses while helping others to discover new books and a passion for reading



Our U14 Netball team played in the Junior VISTA tournament. The girls had a fantastic day, winning all 5 of their matches to be crowned overall champions. They played with great teamwork, moved the ball confidently through the court and defended strongly to create key turnovers. It was a brilliant team performance and a well deserved result for their effort and positive attitude throughout the day.

The U14 girls have also had a brilliant league campaign, finishing as runners up after winning all but 1 of their matches. It's a fantastic achievement and a real credit to the hard work and progress the squad has made this season.



Football News

Congratulations to our U14 girls football team who have made it through to the finals of both the Mid-Ulster Cup and the Northern Ireland Schools Cup. This is a tremendous achievement and shows that the hard work and dedication of the girls has really paid off.



Our U12 football team secured their place in the Northern Ireland School' Cup final after a 4-3 win against Bangor Academy at Seaview. Resilience was the word of the day as Lurgan came from behind on 2 occasions before sealing the win. Bangor took an early lead with a great shot from distance, before Ben D rounded 2 players on the left wing and sent a wonderful ball into the box for Caleb F to finish with a great header. Bangor retook the lead shortly after, but the rest of the first half belonged to Lurgan. Lurgan were awarded a penalty, but Alfie G's effort was well saved by the Bangor keeper. Shortly after, Alfie G put a superb free kick into the box to allow Caleb F to score another spectacular header. Alfie G then made it 3-2 to Lurgan just before half time with a well hit free kick from 30 yards. The second half started strongly and saw Jovi F chip the keeper to put Lurgan 4-2 up. Lurgan had other chances but couldn't convert, and it stayed 4-2 until the final seconds when Bangor scored a consolation third goal. Every player played their part and was supported by a wonderful and very noisy crowd of spectators. Well done boys!



Our U14 team have also had an extremely successful year and find themselves in the Mid-Ulster Cup Final v Tandragee and in the playoffs for the Mid Ulster League.



Cross Country

Congratulations to our Year 9 Cross Country team who represented the school brilliantly at the All Ireland Cross Country Championships. Competing against schools from across Ireland, the team of Lucia McM, Bella McM, Eden G, Rose G, Phoebe A, Maddie S, Eliska L and Daisy G delivered an outstanding performance after several weeks of dedicated preparation and training. Lurgan JHS finished 6th team in Ireland out of 12 teams and were placed 2nd in Ulster. Individually, Lucia McM achieved a fantastic top 10 finish, while Bella McM placed 48th and Eden G 54th. This was a tremendous achievement for the team and they should all be very proud of their performance. Well done to all the girls for representing the school so positively.



Easter Baking Competition

We were absolutely blown away by the incredible standard of Easter cupcakes, cakes and traybakes on display in the HE department during our Easter Cookery House Competition! The creativity, effort and skill on show were truly outstanding.

It was almost impossible to choose winners, but our Senior Leadership Team and House Captains did their very best. A huge congratulations to the following pupils, who earned 100, 80 and 60 points for 1st, 2nd and 3rd place respectively:

YEAR 9 CUPCAKES

- 1st Lucia McM Brownlow
- 2nd Bella McM Ferris
- 3rd Sarah P Wakehurst

YEAR 9 TRAYBAKES

- 1st Jayne D Wakehurst
- 2nd Elijah P Brownlow
- 3rd Maddie S Brownlow

YEAR 9 CAKES

- 1st Lucia McM Brownlow
- 2nd Beth M Wakehurst
- 3rd Amelie W Waring

YEAR 8 CUPCAKES

- 1st Cameron M Waring
- 2nd Rebecca L Waring
- 3rd Sofia R Brownlow

YEAR 8 TRAYBAKES

- 1st Harmony Ferris
- 2nd Isla McC Wakehurst
- 3rd Katie S Ferris

YEAR 8 CAKES

- 1st Rosie Wakehurst
- 2nd Charlie K Brownlow
- 3rd Oliver W Wakehurst



Igloo Code Competition

Mr Lavery and Mr Verner were very proud of our pupils who attended the Igloo Code Competition at Queen's University Belfast.

They showed fantastic teamwork, creativity and problem solving skills throughout the event, representing the school brilliantly. Pupils also gained valuable insight into future career pathways, learning about exciting job opportunities in Cyber Security and Software engineering.

A great experience and an excellent opportunity to develop their coding abilities. Well done to everyone involved.



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School Reminders Key Dates for Term 3, April-June

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.

Parents are also reminded that correct school footwear must be worn.

• **Term Three begins: 14th April 2026 for all pupils;**

- No Pupils in school 1st May
- Bank Holiday 4th May—No pupils in school
- No pupils in school 22nd May
- Bank Holiday 25th May—No pupils in School
- Year 8 and Year 9 Examinations 26th May—8th June
- Last day of term: 30th June 2026 (pupils finish at 12 noon).

