



# The Greyhound Gazette

A Newsletter from Lurgan JHS - Respect, Responsibility, Resilience

Volume 3, Issue 3

June, 2025

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- Semi-Formal
- Teachmeet Event
- Chess Tournament
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And much more.....

## Principal's Ponderings

Dear Pupils, Parents and Guardians,

As another school year draws to a close, it fills me with immense pride and gratitude to reflect on all that we, as a school community, have achieved together.

To our exceptional **staff**: your unwavering dedication, tireless efforts, and passion for education are truly the backbone of our school. Every day, you go above and beyond to inspire, challenge, and support our pupils, fostering an environment where they can truly thrive. Thank you for everything you do.

To our wonderful **pupils**: what a fantastic year it has been! Your hard work, resilience, and enthusiasm in all your endeavours, both inside and outside the classroom, have been a constant source of joy. From academic achievements to sporting triumphs, artistic expressions to community spirit, you have consistently made us proud.

And to our incredibly supportive **parents**: thank you for your unwavering trust and partnership. Your encouragement, involvement, and belief in our school's values are

invaluable. We are truly grateful for the strong home-school connection that underpins so much of our success.

This issue of The Greyhound Gazette is packed with just some of the highlights from a vibrant and memorable term. Inside, you'll find features on the elegant **Semi-formal for our Year 10 leavers**, the exciting **trip to the Balmoral Show**, insights from the informative **CALC Careers' Fayre**, the intense competition of our **annual Chess Tournament**, and, of course, all the latest **sports news** and much, much more!

Looking ahead to September, we are already excited about the possibilities the new academic year holds. Please remember to check our new **school website and social media platforms** for all the key dates and information regarding the start of the new term.

Wishing you all a restful and enjoyable summer break!

*J. McCoy*

Principal



Mr McCoy pictured alongside Mr Black and Mrs Dougan.

## Important Retirements

On Friday 27th June, we bade a fond farewell to two exceptional educators, Mr. Geoff Black and Mrs. Linda Dougan, as they retired after 26 and 33 years of outstanding service to the Junior High, respectively.

Throughout their incredible careers, both have mainly served the T.D., R.E. and P.E. Departments — and our entire school community — with distinction, dedication, and unwavering professionalism.

Mr. Black has enriched the lives of countless pupils by organising a multitude of memorable school trips, creating experiences that will be cherished for a lifetime.

Mrs. Dougan has been a pillar of strength in our P.E. department, inspiring generations of girls with her energy, encouragement, and passion for sport and well-being.

Their commitment and loyalty to our school have been nothing short of extraordinary. We are deeply grateful for all they have given and the legacy they leave behind.

We wish Mr. Black and Mrs. Dougan a long, happy, and well-earned retirement.

You will always be part of the Junior High family!



What an incredible night at Gracehall for our Semi-Formal on 17<sup>th</sup> June. We saw the true embodiment of the Lurgan Junior High way – a way that promotes high standards, friendship, loyalty, family, and aspiration. Our pupils are truly the product of this nurturing environment, and it was an absolute joy to celebrate this special occasion with you all. A special shout-out must go to the phenomenal staff members who poured their heart and soul into organising this unforgettable night: in particular, Mr. Black, Mrs. Pogue, Mrs. King, and the inimitable Mr. Lunn. Your dedication ensured everything ran seamlessly, and we are so grateful for your hard work! We are immensely proud of each one of our pupils.

### Balmoral Show

Year 10 had a fabulous day out at Balmoral Show on Wednesday 14 May! Mr McFarland and all the Geography Department would like to thank all our pupils for being fabulous ambassadors for the school.



### LJHS Hosting Teachmeet Event

What an inspiring event held at Lurgan Junior High School in May for the Craigavon Area Learning Community (CALC) Teachmeet! Today our focus was "Enhancing Equitable Learning for All." Educators from across the CALC network connected, shared, and collaborated on strategies to support every pupil. We tackled everything from social-emotional well-being and attendance challenges to ensuring full inclusion for SEN pupils. This Teachmeet reinforced CALC's mission: empowering educators, sharing best practices, and putting pupils first. It's all about making sure every child in Craigavon schools is getting the best possible chance to succeed. Huge thanks to all the passionate staff who organised, spoke, or listened today! Your dedication makes a real difference.



### Craigavon Area Learning Community's Careers Day

In June, all of our Year 9 pupils had the opportunity to attend the Craigavon Area Learning Community's Careers Day at South Lakes Leisure Centre. Numerous businesses from various job sectors were on hand to provide our pupils with knowledge to help with future subject choices and career decisions.



### Rotary Young Writer Competition

Following on from our success last year, Mrs Pogue again arranged for pupils to enter the Rotary Young Writer Competition. This competition is designed to support the development of young people's writing skills by encouraging them to write with imagination and creativity. This year's task was to write a piece of poetry or prose on the theme of 'Wonderful Water'. We were delighted to receive the news that four of our pupils were successful in the local level of the competition: Elliot Wilkinson 9A10 (1<sup>st</sup> place), Zara Kelly 8A2 (2<sup>nd</sup> place), Anna Kakuru 8A1 (3<sup>rd</sup> place) and Zariya Kashif 10A3 (4<sup>th</sup> place). All pupils were presented with a certificate and prize by the stage organiser, Dr N McKee. This was a valuable and exciting experience for all participants, and we look forward to further creative writing opportunities in the next academic year.



## Annual Chess Tournament

On Monday 23rd June, pupils gathered in Mrs Carson's room for our annual Chess Tournament, showcasing strategy, skill, and sportsmanship.

A huge congratulations to all who took part – the competition was fierce, and the atmosphere was fantastic!

Final Results:

3rd Place – Joshua H (9A6)

2nd Place – Kornel J (10A2)

Chess Grandmaster 2025 – Mohammad H (10A3)

A massive thank you to Mrs Carson and Mr McGreevy for their dedication and energy throughout the year with Chess and Games' Club.



## Art update

Many Artists entered a variety of creative work into the 2025 Lurgan Show. The Art department are delighted to share the 'Schools cup' with the Home Economics department for the most points accumulated from a secondary school. We had a number of 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> prize winners.



Congratulations to Savannah McC from 8A2 who is the winner of the Lurgan Junior High School heat of the Dickson Plan logo competition. Savannah won the competition with a wonderful computer aided design incorporating all the schools' colours and symbols. She wins a £50 voucher from Rushmere and now goes forward to the final run-off against winners from the other six Dickson Plan schools. We wish her all the best for the final part of the competition.



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The Art department were involved in Shared education with our partnership school St. Ronan's College this year. The pupils shared ideas and produced a range of logos and designs to promote positive relationships and identify similar interests. They teams produced excellent mottos in English and jigsaw pieces in Art.



Artclub has had a successful year of building friendships and sharing time being creative together. The group have entered external competitions and worked on paintings, drawings, and ceramics.



## Year 10 win Science Quiz

Congratulations to our team: Mohamed, Eden, Luke and Zariya, all from 10A3, who won this year's 'Big ALMAC Science Quiz' for KS3 schools in the area, held at St John the Baptist, Portadown. A great achievement! Thanks to Mrs Cochrane for supporting and accompanying the team. Lurgan Junior High School will have the honour of hosting the quiz in 2026.

## Sports News

### Cricket news

The U12 cricket team have had an excellent season finishing runners up in the Wesley Ferris Cup after losing by 43 runs to Limavady GS. It all started so well for Lurgan as opening bowlers Fletcher D and Zac S had Limavady only 10 runs for 4 wickets. Limavady rallied well to set a total of 110 from their 20 overs. Fletcher finished with 3 wickets for 18 runs and Zac with 2 for 23. In reply, Lurgan could only make 67 with Charlie N top scoring on 15.

On their way to the final, Lurgan saw off Wallace B by 8 wickets, Parkhall College by 10 wickets, Campbell JS and Grosvenor GS by 8 wickets. There were some special performances throughout the season, especially from the bowlers.

V Wallace HS B

Zac S 2 wickets for 8 runs off 4 overs.

Will R 2 wickets for 16 runs off 4 overs.

V Parkhall College

Zac S 3 wickets for 4 runs off 4 overs.

Lucia D 4 wickets for 1 run off 4 overs (including 2 double wicket maidens).

V Grosvenor GS

Fletcher D 2 wickets for 10 runs off 4 overs.

runs off 3.2 overs (including a double wicket maiden).

V Limavady GS

Zac S 2 wickets for 23 runs off 4 overs.

Fletcher D 3 wickets for 18 runs off 4 overs.



The U14 cricket team had a mixed season, with a strong win over Killicomaine but defeats to Banbridge Academy and Royal School Armagh. The match against Banbridge in particular featured some high-quality, hard-fought cricket from both sides, with Banbridge winning by 64 runs. Killicomaine were defeated by 7 wickets, and Armagh won by 3 wickets.

V Banbridge Academy

Penny S 34 not out

V Killicomaine JHS

Sulaiman A 5 wickets for 7 runs off 4 overs

Lucia D 2 wickets for 7 runs off 4 overs

V RS Armagh

Sulaiman A 3 wickets for 9 runs off 3 overs



### Athletics News

We had 20 girls' awarded medals at the District Athletics Championships.

#### Year 8- Mini girls

High Jump-Lucia McMullen Gold

800M-Lucia McMullen-Gold

Long Jump-Bella McMullen Bronze

#### Year 9-Minor Girls

100m – Sophia Bushe- Bronze

Shot-Lucy Wilson-Gold, Lucia Derby Bronze

Relay-Bronze -Lucy Wilson, Sophia Bushe, Maddie Magee, Noura Faila

Discus-Lucy Wilson Bronze

#### Year 10-Junior Girls

100M-Kacey Dillon Silver

Relay-Silver- Emilee White, Kacey Dillon, Lucy Brown and Emily Silva Shaw

High Jump- Kara Houston Gold

Long Jump-Emily Silva Shaw Gold

Shot Putt-Claudia Dunlop Gold

1500m-Lucy Steele Bronze

### Ulster Athletics Championships

Bella McMullen -Silver Long Jump





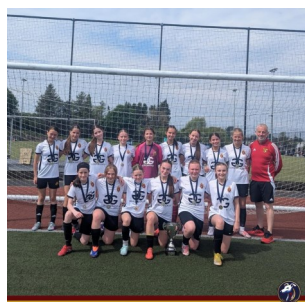
## Football News

The U14 girls played ICD in the league playoff between Section 1 and Section 2 winners. This game would decide who would win the league title.

Lurgan started stronger and controlled a lot of the game but couldn't get that all important goal. However, they had a chance when awarded a penalty which unfortunately was missed. On the 19th minute a great cross from Maddie found Lydia D at the back post which Lydia D finished well. ICD were a threat, but the Lurgan defence was solid. The game opened up a lot more in the second half with a number of good chances.

Ruby eventually got Lurgan's second on the 37th when she pounced on a mistake to tap over the line. A third goal followed great play from Lydia D and Ruby which Lydia D scored. ICD got a lifeline when scoring on the 55th minute but this was short lived as Lydia D finished her Player of the Match performance with an opportunist finish for a hat-trick. The girls are the Mid Ulster U14 League Champions. It has been a marvellous season for girls' football at the school. The U12s lifted the MU Tournament Cup, U13s reached the final of the NI Schools' Cup and the U14s were runners up in the MU Cup but are now winners of the League title.

Congratulations to all of the girls that have played a part in the games.



## Sports News

Well done to our U13 girls' football team for reaching the final of the NISFA U13 Cup in May. Whilst the game finished 5-1 to Holy Cross from Strabane, the game itself was much closer than what the scoreline would suggest. Maddie M scored the only goal for the Junior High and whilst there were stand out performances across the pitch, Maddie and Sienna both picked up player of the match. The girls must be commended for their gracious attitude in defeat at the full-time whistle and congratulations to Holy Cross.



NI Schools' Volleyball Results: Congratulations to all our boys' and girls' volleyball teams who competed at the South Lake Leisure Centre in May. The U12 boys' team of Charlie N, Lewis K, Dako N, Kayleb T, Ali B and Reuben R would defeat teams from Clounagh JHS, Killicomaine JHS, Dalriada enroute to the final where the boys would defeat Campbell College 25-21 to cap a memorable day as NI Winners. The U13 team of Cody G, Theo M, Jack S and Sam Q would win 7 games from 7 enroute to their final where the boys would finish runners-up to Dalriada (15-10). The U'14 team of Jack McG, Olivier O, Jack M, Archie D and Bailey M would also reach their final where they would eventually go down 25-21 to an excellent Campbell College side to finish as runners-up. Well done to everyone involved.



Congratulations to....Siena Ardis receiving trophy for Player of the Tournament at the recent Year 8 Vista Tournament



## Sports News Continued.....

### Sports Day

What an absolutely fantastic day we had at our whole-school Sports' Day – the first since 2019.

It was truly special to see all our pupils enjoying themselves, cheering on their classmates with incredible spirit and camaraderie.

A massive thank you to the P.E. department for their tireless hard work and brilliant organisation that made today such a huge success. Thank you to Sophie Gordon who spent time collating entries for both the boys and the girls, also.

It was also a special day for our school as we welcome back former pupil Arnar B who was presenting our medals and who will be representing Iceland Men's Team in the European Championships this Summer and in the Youth Olympics.

A shout-out to Miss Osborne and her team for putting together some fantastic challenges that kept our spectators entertained!

Today was also a significant moment in the history of the Junior High as it marked the last Sports' Day for Mrs. Dougan before her retirement at the end of this year. Mrs. Dougan, thank you for your years of unwavering commitment to Sports' Day.

We also closed a chapter in our school's history as we bid a fond farewell to our houses: Gosford, Shane, Carrick, and Dunluce. They have served us incredibly well over the years, and Dunluce will go down in the history books as the last house to win Sports' Day in this chapter of our school.

Lastly, and most importantly, a huge congratulations to our competitors.

Today was rightfully all about you. We are very proud of your determination, skill, grace, and humility, which were all on full display throughout.



#### Year 8 Girls

100m -Chloe Wilson

200m-Chloe Wilson

800m-Lucia McMullen

Long Jump- Bella McMullen

High Jump-Lucia McMullen

Shot Putt- Connie Kinkaid

Year 8 Best Athlete= Lucia McMullen

Year 8 runners up=Bella McMullen

#### Year 9 Girls

100m-Sophia Bushe

200m-Noura Faila

800m-Mia Gault

Long Jump- Sophia Bushe

High Jump- Mia Gault

Shot Putt- Lucy Wilson

Year 9 Best Athlete-Sophia Bushe

Year 9 Runners up-Mia Gault

#### Year 10 Girls

100m-Kacey Dillon

200m-Kacey Dillon

800m-Lucy Steele

Long Jump-Emily Silva Shaw

High Jump-Kara Houston

Shot Putt-Claudia Dunlop

Year 10 Best Athlete-Kacey Dillon

Year 10 Runners up-Emily Silva Shaw

### New Website live

Our new streamlined school website officially went live on 28th May. We've stripped it back to make it easier than ever to find the information you need.



### Senior Prefects 2025/26

Our Senior Leadership Team was delighted to host the traditional Senior Prefect Breakfast to officially welcome and celebrate our Senior Prefect Team for the 2025/26 academic year.

Joined by their parents, we marked this special occasion with a shared sense of pride in the leadership these young people will bring to Lurgan Junior High School.

We are incredibly proud of these six outstanding ambassadors. Pictured above from left to right:

Maddie M – Deputy Head Girl

Ezekiel F – Deputy Head Boy

Mia G – Head Girl

Theo M – Head Boy

Lucy W – Deputy Head Girl

Jack S – Deputy Head Boy

Thank you to our Senior Prefects and their families for joining us. We look forward to a great year ahead under your leadership!



**Please look out on our social media for dates of our annual uniform sale**



Lurganjhs



@lurganjuniorthighschool @Lurgan\_JHS

### School Reminders

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.

Please ensure that the hem of the skirt hits the back of the knee - therefore, purchase skirts at a length that will allow for growth of the child during the year.

### Key Dates for Term 1, Sept-Dec

26th & 27th August 2025: Year 8 Pupils only

28th August 2025: Year 9 Pupils only

29th August 2025: Year 10 Pupils only

1st September 2025: All pupils

23rd October 2025: Prize Day

27th October 2025: Staff Development Day

28-31st October 2025: Mid-term break

November 2025 TBC : Examinations

19th December 2025: Last day of term, pupils finish half-day at 12pm

22nd December—2nd Jan 2026: Christmas Holidays



