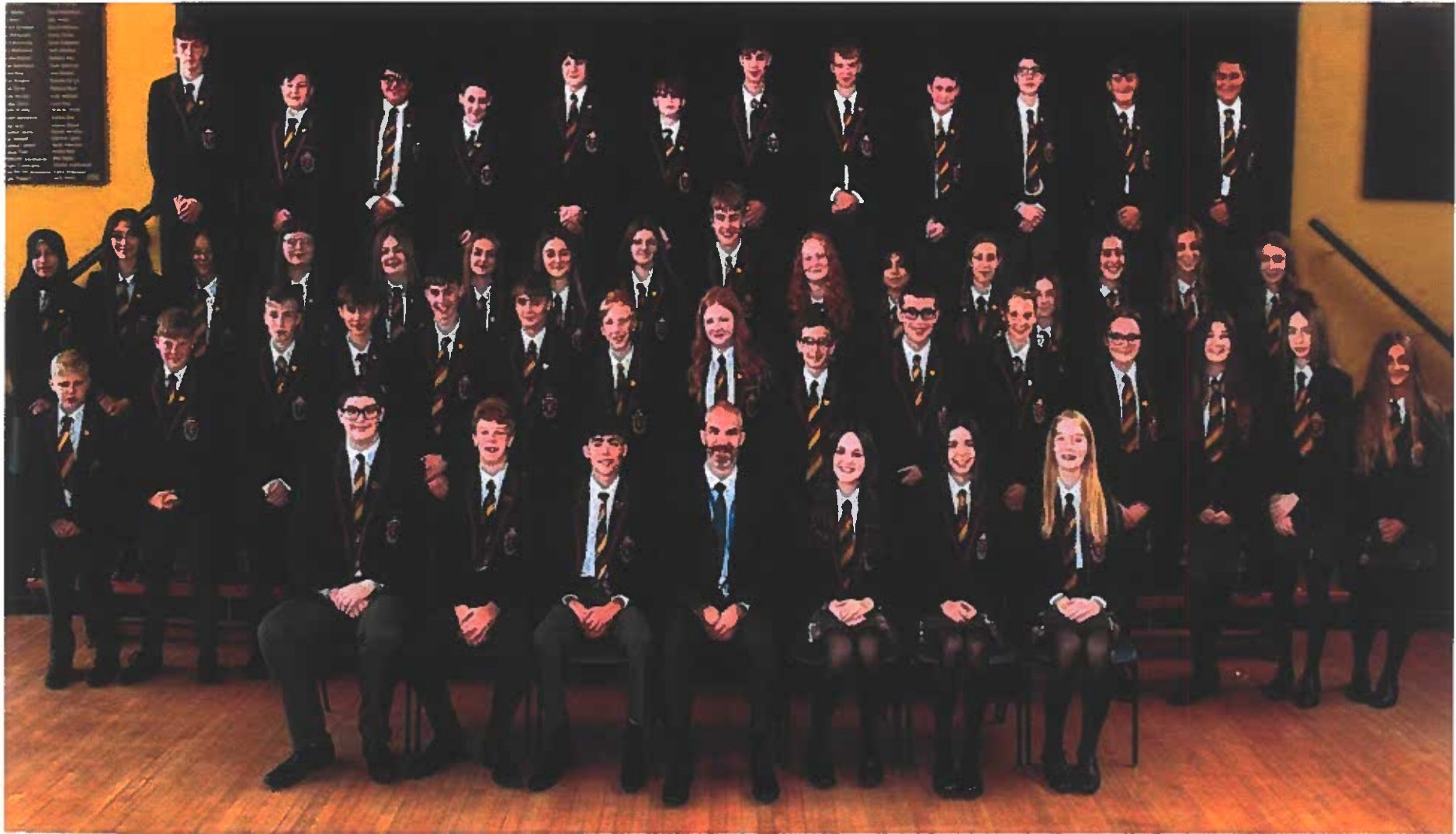


2022 – 2023 Annual Report



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Chairman's Foreword

"Time marches on", relentlessly I would say, as I find myself yet again poised in front of my computer reflecting on the school's last academic year.

Firstly, let me thank you as parents for placing your trust in Lurgan Junior High School to bring out the very best in your children, irrespective of any academic achievements attained in Primary education. I hope you can see, as we on the Board of Governors can see and recognise, that each and every child who enters our school is treated as an individual, and that the Principal, Senior Leadership Team and all other staff, both Teaching and Non-teaching, often go that extra mile to ensure that each child in our care gives of their very best and achieves all they, as individuals, are capable of. In school life, as in life in general there will always be those who are gifted and talented along with those who struggle, but we at Lurgan Junior High School celebrate *all* progress with equal enthusiasm and encouragement irrespective of Pupil Year group or Ranking.

Once again, contained within the sections of this Annual Report, there are some outstanding and noteworthy achievements produced by your children, not only academically but in music and sporting activities. We experienced what can only be described as a musical extravaganza which "blew our socks off", certainly in the view of all who witnessed it worthy of Broadway. We could, of course, not achieve such wonderful results without the help and support of our external agencies, partner schools our unsung heroes, you the parents of the children in our care.

So, relax, sit back with your feet up and enjoy discovering the delights contained within this year's Annual Report.

T. Enderby

Chairman, Board of Governors.

Mr Trevor Enderby
Chairman, Board of Governors

BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2018 – 2023

Board Representatives

Mr. Trevor Enderby (Chairman)
Ms. Carla Lockhart

Parents' Representatives

Mrs. Nicola McIlwaine (Vice Chair)
Mrs. Alison Lindsay
Mrs. Leigh-Anne Patterson
Mrs. K Turkington (Resigned March 2023)

Transferors

Mrs. Patricia Black
Mr. Brian Costley
Mrs. Gail Flavell
Dr. Gayle Kennedy
Mrs. Louise McDonald

Teacher

Miss Deborah Osborne
Mr. Keith Lunn

BOARD OF GOVERNORS SUB-COMMITTEES

Safeguarding Committee	Mr. T. Enderby Mrs. N. McIlwaine Mrs. A. Lindsay Mrs. Louise McDonald Mrs. K. Turkington
Health & Wellbeing/Staff/ Complaints/Premises	Mr. T. Enderby Mrs. N. McIlwaine
Finance	Mr. T. Enderby Dr. G. Kennedy Mrs. G. Flavell Mr B. Costley Mrs. P. Black Mrs. L. McDonald
Recruitment & Selection	Mr. T. Enderby Mrs. N. McIlwaine Mrs. L. Patterson Ms. C. Lockhart Mrs. A. Lindsay Mrs. G. Flavell Mrs. L. McDonald
Teaching & Learning	Mr. T. Enderby Mrs. N. McIlwaine Mrs. A. Lindsay Dr. G. Kennedy Mrs. K. Turkington Miss D. Osborne
Admissions	Mr. T. Enderby Mrs. N. McIlwaine Miss. D. Osborne Mr. K. Lunn Mr. J. McCoy

PRSD Principal Reviewers

Reviewer 1	Mr. T. Enderby
Reviewer 2	Mrs. A. Lindsay
Reviewer 3	Mr. B. Rolston. (EA external).

Teaching Staff (as at September 2022)
Positions and Responsibilities

Mr J McCoy	English	Principal	Mr K Lunn	History	Senior Teacher (Pastoral) /Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection
Mrs R Kerr	French & Spanish	Vice-Principal (Pastoral)	Miss J Lyness	RE & Music	Shared Ed Co-ordinator
Mr M Thompson	History	Vice-Principal (Curriculum)	Miss C McCann		HOD TD, ICT & Literacy Support
Mr M Addley	History	HOD /Year Head	Mrs M McCorry	Modern Languages	
Mrs J Alexander	Mathematics	HOD/Attendance Management Coordinator	Mr M McGreevy	Supported Learning	
Mrs K Bell	Art	HOD Art & Design	Mrs A McCrory	Music	HOD Music Social Media/Website Co-ordinator
Miss C Bell	English & RE	Year Head	Mrs R McDermott	Mathematics	
Mr G Black	TD & LLW	Year Head/Co-ordinator for Citizenship / School Trips	Mr R McDowell	PE	HOD PE
Mr J Black	Mathematics	Numeracy Co-ordinator / Year Head/Pupil Tracking & Assessment	Mr S McFarland	Geography	HOD Geography
Mrs B Carson	Science	HOD Science/Induction Tutor for Beginning/Student Teachers	Mr J McMahon	Geography & History	
Mrs K Carson	English		Mrs R Miskelly	French & Spanish	HOD Languages
Mrs J Clements	Art		Miss J Nelson	English	
Mrs L Cochrane	Science & RE		Mrs U O'Reilly	French & Spanish	Senior Teacher (Curriculum) / Deputy Designated Teacher for Child Protection / Recording & Reporting /
Mrs L Dougan	RE & PE	HOD RE	Miss D Osborne	Mathematics	
Mrs A Ferry	Science				
Mrs W Gilbert	HOD Drama		Mrs V Patterson	Art	
Mrs Je Graham	Home Economics	HOD HE	Mrs C Patton	Mathematics	
Mrs Ju Graham	English	Using Communication Co-ordinator	Mrs S Pogue	English & EAL	Newcomer Co-ordinator
Mrs D Gray	Home Economics		Mr R Poots	TD	HOD/TD/Transport Management
Mr J Guy	PE & Mathematics	Co-ordinator for Transfer at 14/HOD CEAIG/Employability	Miss K Quinn	ICT & LLW	HOD IT
Mrs L Haughian	French	Year Head & Asst. SENCO	Mr D Saadat	Music/RE	
Mrs L Harvey	Mathematics		Mrs N Saunderson	Girls PE	HOD Girls PE
Mrs A Jardine	English	HOD English/Library	Mrs G Smith	English & History	
Mrs F Kennedy	Science	Year Head	Mrs D Stewart	RE/General Studies	
Mr C Lawther	Science		Mrs E Walker	Home Economics/Geography	
			Mrs K Walmsley	Geography	
			Mrs S Wilkinson	Home Economics	
			Mrs R Wright	French & Spanish	

Non-Teaching Staff

Administration	Mrs E Lewis, SEO Mrs L Johnston	Mrs P Thompson Mrs T Whithorn
Building Supervisors	Mr. G. Cassells	Mr. J. Parks
Classroom Assistants	Mrs A Black Mrs A Calvert Ms C Grant Mrs J Hamilton Mrs J Heasley	Mrs L King (EAL) Miss J Mailey Mrs E Zukowska
Lunch-time Supervisors	Mrs L Cassells Mrs B Hill	Mary-beth Mr G Cassells Mr J Parks
Technicians	Mrs E Blakely (Home Economics) Mr R Clifford (Science) Mrs R Irwin (Art & Design)	Mr D Johnston (ICT) Mrs Todd (Tech & Design)

Curriculum

Lurgan JHS School aims to give its pupils a broad, balanced and relevant education. We seek to offer equal opportunities to all pupils. We seek to ensure that pupils' learning is purposeful, useful and rewarding.

Pupils are divided into four broad bands of developed ability based on Primary School data and our own baseline data. Within these streams pupils are placed in Form Classes and are taught in this arrangement for non-practical subjects. In Year 10, the three Science subjects (Biology, Chemistry and Physics) are taught separately, each for two periods a week.

All pupils study French in Year 8 and pupils in three of the four bands now take up Spanish in Year 9. Pupils follow a course in Learning for Life and Work comprising elements of Personal Development education in Year 8. In Year 9, pupils continue with one period per week of Employability. In Year 10, pupils follow a course in Citizenship. The school week is divided into 40 periods, with 35 being 40 minutes long and lunch periods of 35 minutes.

Assessment

Lurgan College continue to select a cohort of pupils using their own Rank Order list based on the results from Lurgan JHS examinations in March/April of Year 10, together with the results from end of Year 9 examinations. The results are split 30% Year 9 and 70% Year 10.

Parents and pupils continued to receive reports detailing their progress twice in the year. Year 10 pupils again received a report on their Term 3 progress.

The regression analysis was carried out after the December and June assessment period. This is a statistical process when a comparison is made of the pupils' attainment compared to their ability. Many of the pupils overachieved and this was celebrated with a certificate. Our Prize Day 'Endeavour' award is now based on the highest score in the analysis i.e. the person with the greatest over-achievement.

Target Setting

In 2018-19 we introduced a new and more personal method of measuring pupil attainment at Key Stage 3. This involved target setting across 10 academic subjects.

Each Year 8 pupil was given individual targets for each subject which were derived from CAT4 Standardised Testing. These targets allowed pupils, teachers, and parents to understand the various levels expected of them in each subject area. At 3 points in the year, pupils completed exams/assessments which were designed to assess them against these targets. Following this, parents received a report which showed how well the pupil performed in each subject, relative to their own target. A 'traffic light'—style colour coding system made this easy to understand.

This process has been a highly successful initiative by the Curriculum Team and was recognised as such in a monitoring visit letter by ETi in October 2021, where it was described as “whole-school approach to target-setting ... with data tracking points and departmental interventions in place. Data is regularly monitored and shared with pupils and parents”. The letter also stated that this means within Lurgan JHS there is “improved capacity to use pupil assessment data more effectively to set targets and track and evaluate their progress, resulting in the identification of, and greater support for, low and under-achieving pupils.”

Careers Education

Careers Education 2022/23

The Careers Department had another very enjoyable and successful year. In Year 9 Careers classes, pupils had the opportunity to explore their own skills and qualities, set short and long term goals, experience the job application process and discover many areas of work with the relevant qualifications needed in each. The Careers department would like to thank individual departments for organising numerous subject specific careers events and careers lessons. This has really helped pupils to see the link between the classroom and the world of work in specific areas.

Online resources were shared with Year 10 through the creation of a Year 10 Transfer Google Classroom. The Careers department made themselves available throughout the year for any Year 10 pupil that required advice on selecting GCSE options for their next school.

The Careers Department in Lurgan Junior High School continued to work closely with the Department of the Economy's careers advisors and with our senior schools. The careers advisors provided online class talks to all Year 10 pupils in November. Mr Guy followed this up with small group careers interviews for those students that required further advice prior to choosing provisional GCSE options. Lurgan JHS Careers Department has an excellent relationship with, and has liaised closely with its counterparts in Lurgan College, Craigavon Senior High School and various other schools, in an aim to make a smooth transition for all our pupils both in terms of subject choice and pastoral care.

Year 10 Leavers' Destinations

Percentage of Leavers to:

	Craigavon SHS	Lurgan College	Other
June 2022	41.9%	48.6%	9.5%
June 2021	42.1%	45.6%	12.3%
June 2020	38.8%	54.4%	10.7%
June 2019	40.6%	45%	14.4%
June 2018	43%	45%	12%
June 2017	39%	58%	3%

2022/2023 School Terms and Holidays

AUTUMN TERM

Tuesday 30 August – Wednesday 21 December

Autumn Half Term

Monday 31 October – Friday 4 November

Bank Holiday

19 September 2022 (Queen's Funeral)

SPRING TERM

Wednesday 4 January – Friday 16 April

Spring Half Term

Monday 13 February – Friday 17 February

Bank Holiday

Friday 17 March St Patrick's Day

SUMMER TERM

Monday 17 April – Friday 30 June

Bank Holidays

Monday 2 May

Monday 8 May (King Charles' Coronation)

Monday 29 May

Please note that all dates were inclusive

The School Day

Registration is from 9.05 – 9.15 am and takes place in Form Rooms. On Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday there are Assemblies for each Year Group. Period 1 is a class beginning at 9.15 am.

Attendance is recorded in registration and by each class teacher. School ends at 3.20 pm each day.

Registration / Assembly	9.05-9.15
Period 1	9.15-9.55
Period 2	9.55-10.35
Break	10.35-10.55
Period 3	10.55-11.35
Period 4	11.35-12.15
Period 5 (Year 8 Lunch)	12.15-12.50
Period 6 (Year 9 Lunch)	12.50-1.25
Period 7 (Year 10 Lunch)	1.25-2.00
Period 8	2.00-2.40
Period 9	2.40-3.20

Annual Attendance Rate

(All Pupils)

2019 – 2020 = 93.8% (up to March 2020)

2021 – 2022 = 91.9%

2022 - 2023 = 91.0%

Thereafter, attendance and engagement was monitored through work of Form Teachers, Year Heads and Senior Pastoral Team.

Parental Involvement

Parent meetings were held via the School Cloud online video call system. Progress review meetings were held in this way with subject teachers for Year 9 and 10 pupils in early January 2023, while Year 8 parents were able to book a School Cloud meeting with subject teachers in April.

We returned to the traditional Open Evening event, which was held for prospective entrants to Year 8 in January 2023, with classrooms open for visitors across the school, along with two addresses to parents by Mr McCoy and a showcase of the successful Drama and Music departments. Substantial numbers of parents and pupils attended and reported high levels of enthusiasm.

Parents of all pupils received reports following examinations in November and in May/June. Parents of pupils in Year 10 again received an additional report in June to reflect the work completed and assessments undertaken after the Transfer process was completed.

Parents were also given questionnaires following the examinations. Results were used to refine approaches to teaching, learning and assessment for the incoming academic year 2023-24.

An Induction Evening, which we held for the incoming Year 8 parents in June 2023, was extremely well-attended once again.

Safeguarding and Child Protection

DESIGNATED TEACHER'S ANNUAL REPORT TO BOARD OF GOVERNORS ON CHILD PROTECTION/SAFEGUARDING ARRANGEMENTS

YEAR ENDED June 2022

SCHOOL SAFEGUARDING TEAM

Chair of Board of Governors:	Mr Trevor Enderby
Designated Governor for Child Protection:	Mr Trevor Enderby
Principal:	Mr James McCoy
Designated Teacher:	Mrs Rhoda Kerr
Deputy Designated Teacher(s):	Mr Keith Lunn, Mr Michael Thompson, Miss Deborah Osborne

CHILD PROTECTION/SAFEGUARDING ACTIVITY

1 Concerns of Abuse

Over the past year, we have dealt with various types of child protection/safeguarding concerns, for example: actual/suspected neglect, emotional harm, physical harm, sexualised behaviours, self-harm/suicidal thoughts, domestic abuse, on-line safety, indecent images, substance misuse, anti-social behaviours, etc.

We have regularly liaised with the CPSSS to seek advice and guidance as required and are very thankful for their support. Where there was Social Services involvement with a family, our safeguarding team made regular contact with them and also with the family, putting in place additional supports in school when it was deemed necessary or beneficial to the pupil. Examples of these supports are a Downtime Pass, referral to Steph/Reach Mentoring and referral to our school counsellors.

1.1 Number Of Enquiries To Education Authority CPSS: 15 approx.

1.2 Number Of Referrals To Social Services: 3 UNOCINIS (two of these referrals included two siblings which means 5 children)

1.3 Number of Child Protection Complaints Against Staff: 0

1.4 Number Of Children On Child Protection Register: 6

1.5 Number Of Looked After Children (Children In Care): 4

1.6 Number Of Children With Social Services Involvement For Family Support (Not On Child Protection Register): 2

1.7 Multi-Agency Meetings

Members of our safeguarding team prepared reports and attended Case Conferences for pupils on the Child Protection Register. These meetings took place via Zoom. Reports for our Looked After Children were prepared for LAC reviews and a safeguarding team member attended these review meetings via Zoom.

Multi-Disciplinary Meetings were also held for some pupils with ETA, EWS and CAMHS and attended by members of our Senior Pastoral Team and/or SEN.

2 Training Attended/Provided

- **Designated/Deputy Designated Teacher**

Mr Lunn and Mrs Kerr participated in the ABSiT training programme delivered over eight sessions which started in January 2023 and will continue into 2023-24 academic year.

- **Whole School**

Awareness training was held for all members of staff, both teaching and non-teaching during our August SDDs and reflected updated guidance issued by the Department of Education. This was led by Mrs Kerr and Mr Lunn (DT and DDT respectively). An additional session was delivered at the beginning of October for canteen staff and for any staff who had been absent for the training in August.

In September, Mrs Kerr delivered safeguarding assemblies for all three year groups. This included details about our procedures for reporting any concerns and for requesting support, both inside and outside school. Safeguarding messages were also promoted regularly through our Learning for Life and Work curricular programme, pupil announcements, regular assemblies, etc. in addition to our sessions with the PSNI.

3 Child Protection/Safeguarding Policy Reviews

Our Mobile Phone, CCTV, Period Dignity policies were reviewed, updated and ratified this year.

4 The Preventative Curriculum

Reach Mentoring carried out one-to-one sessions with 25 - 30 pupils in our Youth Annexe on Tuesday mornings for support with a variety of issues – social, emotional and behaviour difficulties.

Aspire also continued to partner with us and worked with ten FSM pupils who were underachieving.

We continued our liaison with our PSNI Neighbourhood Team delivering elements of the preventative curriculum in individual class sessions to pupils. Once again, our student council, The Pupils' Voice, hosted these sessions with great professionalism, going round the classes with the PSNI team and introducing them. The topics covered were road safety, online safety, substance misuse and anti-social behaviour. Following each session, opportunity was given for pupils to discuss related questions with their Form Teachers. Feedback from the PSNI indicated that it is a positive step in building relationships with our pupils in the community and stated that there was a notable reduction in anti-social behaviours in the local community as a result of this level of contact with the PSNI Neighbourhood team.

At the end of each half term and full term, we had Positive Mental Health & Well-being Days. We collapsed the timetable for one day and had carousel activities across the whole school which consisted of events such as special assemblies (i.e. harvest, Christmas, Easter), table quizzes, karaoke, dance-a-thon, old style party games and movies with tuckshop. These days were received very positively by both staff and pupils and provided memorable fun moments for all. A massive thank you to Mr Lunn for all his hard work, incredible energy and creativity in organising and co-ordinating these days.

We continued with our reward system so that pupils received recognised awards when they achieved certain levels of achievement points on SIMS Behaviour Management. We believe it is important to acknowledge the vast number of pupils who regularly follow school rules, engage in their learning to a high standard and display respect and kindness, responsibility and resilience throughout the course of the school day. These awards included phone calls home to commend pupils, canteen queue jump passes, bronze (awarded by the Form Teacher), silver (awarded by Year Heads), gold (awarded by Senior Teachers), diamond (awarded by Vice Principals) and platinum certificates (awarded by Mr McCoy) with additional treats such as bacon baps in the canteen, McFlurries, Easter eggs, Domino's pizza, disco and the platinum trip to Portrush. Form Teachers were given Data Input afternoons as part of their directed time to collate achievement points. It was a significant amount of work on the part of all staff. Feedback from staff, pupils and parents indicate that the reward system has been very positively received and pupils feel valued and appreciated

Anxiety levels, which had been rising at an alarming level prior to the pandemic, increased even further during and since the pandemic. Pupils are anxious for a variety of reasons – for example, social anxiety and still adjusting to being back in the school setting; attachment issues, not wanting to leave a parent; anxious about having missed out on their learning; anxious about not being able to focus on their learning; anxious about friendships or lack of them. Self harm and suicidal ideation are also more prevalent. Where this was brought to the attention of school, parents were contacted and asked to come into school for a meeting with Mrs Kerr or Mr Lunn along with the pupil. Parents were asked to bring their child to the GP. Several pupils were referred to CAMHS/SHIP as a result. Mrs Kerr and Mr Lunn, along with the Form Teachers and relevant Year Heads, would have regular check-ins with these pupils and parents to monitor how they were coping in the school setting. They were also issued with Downtime Passes for school so that, when they were starting to feel anxious or overwhelmed, they could leave the classroom and have space to calm down and regulate their emotions. They were also referred to Steph, our Engage teacher, as an additional support. Feedback from parents and pupils indicated that the support from school was very much appreciated and that, on many occasions, school had gone above and beyond the call of duty. A number of pupils struggled to attend school, citing anxiety as the reason. We worked alongside these pupils, parents and any external agencies involved, making reasonable adjustments to support return to school (i.e. meetings after school when school was quiet, reduced timetable, time with Steph our Engage teacher, Downtime Pass). For some of these pupils it enabled them to fully engage with their learning and also participate in extra-curricular activities.

This year, we were delighted and grateful to have our Supported Learning teacher, Mr McGreevy, who worked with many of these pupils in a quiet learning environment to help them readjust to being

back in school, with one-to-one academic and pastoral support. We had 6 – 8 pupils whose attendance was below 50% due to anxiety.

With the Engage funding school received, we continued to employ Steph Duke from Reach Mentoring, a qualified English teacher, for four days each week to support pupils both pastorally and academically. Form Teachers and Year Heads made referrals to Steph where they felt this level of intervention was needed. Over the course of the year, Steph supported up to 50 young people. For the majority of pupils referred to Steph, anxiety was the principle issue. Other reasons for referral were friendship issues, pressures of school work, low mood and family circumstances. At the end of March, this funding ended with very little notice given. However, we continued to employ Steph as it would have been grossly unfair to remove this significant support/lifeline for so many pupils. There is simply no additional time available in the teaching day for Form Teachers and Year Heads to offer the level of support they would like to give, and which is needed, in order for some pupils to engage in their learning.

Support through Links Counselling continued as a valuable resource two days a week in school and, at times, when our waiting list increased to 12 plus, we operated a third day of counselling sessions. Over the course of the year, 41 pupils were referred for counselling.

Staff had training in anti-bullying legislation during our August staff training days and also throughout the year in twilight sessions. Staff reported that they find it useful to look at case studies and these have become a regular part of the training sessions. Mr Lunn and Mrs Kerr attended the ABSIT (Addressing Bullying in Schools

Implementation Team) training programme with our Craigavon Area Learning Community. This involved looking at current practice and ensuring our systems and processes are in line with the legislation. The training will continue into 2023-24. It has been insightful for us and it has supported us with in school staff training and dealing with bullying type behaviour incidents. We plan to update our policy in 2023-24 to bring our use of language in line with recommendations made at the training.

We have used restorative practice regularly over the past year with pupils who have had friendships issues, for vaping incidents and physical altercations, with great success. Our TPV led assemblies for Anti-Bullying Week in November, and clear messages and reminders were shared with all pupils in assemblies and form time throughout the year. We encourage pupils to use 'THINK' – Is it True? Is it Helpful? Is it Inspiring? Is it Necessary? Is it Kind?

5 Any Other Issues

Signed:	Designated Teacher
Signed:	Principal
Date:	

SEN Department

The SEN (Special Educational Needs) department had major changes made in the personnel during 2022-2023. Mrs Moorehead (SENCo) who had held the post from 1996 retired and Ms Haughian (Assistant SENCo) moved to live in France after holding the post for 4 years. After a number of recruitment processes with no applicants, Mr Lunn and Miss Osborne Senior Teachers for Pastoral and Curriculum respectively took over the role.

The first task was creating an SEN department that was resourced and with roles defined. This process was tailored accordingly throughout the year:

Mr Lunn: Pupils on Stages 1 and 2 of the Code of Practice, including their Individual Education Plans and liaising with external agencies.

Miss Osborne: Pupils on Stage 3 of the Code of Practice, setting up the new Social Communication Class (process started in June 2023), exam access arrangements and line manager of the Classroom and General Assistants.

An official SEN office has been set up to allow a space for meeting with pupils and parents. A clear process for filing pupil information has been set up so that information for pupils can be accessed for meetings and external agencies.

Training of staff within the department took place over the year is as below:

Staff	Training
D Osborne and K Lunn	New SENCO training
D Osborne and K Lunn	Introduction to Personal Learning Plans training
D Osborne and K Lunn	Autism Advisory Intervention Service Training Tier 1
D Osborne	Autism Advisory Intervention Service Training Tier 2
M McGreevy	'Sounds Write' training
All CAs and GAs	AAIS Training Tier 1
Teaching staff - K Walmsley, A Cunningham, C Bell	AAIS Training Tier 1

Mr McGreevy worked with Miss Osborne in identifying pupils with low spelling and reading ages to take part in a 6 week intervention programme for phonics called Sounds Write. Pupils who did not make significant progress will complete a further 6 week extension programme.

Weekly Classroom Assistant (CA) meetings take place on a Friday morning. These meetings are used to update CAs with events coming up in school so that they can prepare their pupils for it, which is particularly useful for pupils with ASD. It is also used to feed back any pastoral issues or behavioural issues with the SENCO of pupils that week.

We also introduced testing for learning difficulties and behaviour. Testing will help to identify clearly the need and support targets on IEPs.

- Dyslexia screener
- Dyslexia portfolio
- SNAP SPLD
- SNAP Behaviour
- Strengths and difficulties questionnaire.

SEN numbers for 2022-2023

	Stage 1	Stage 2	Stage 3	Total
Year 8	53	4	3	60
Year 9	15	6	5	26
Year 10	14	10	8	32
Total	82	20	16	118

Enrolment

On 5 October 2023 (the official school census date) the Schools' enrolment stood at 739. The number was made up as follows:

Year Group	Pupils	Pupils with SEN Stage 3
8	245	3
9	250	5
10	244	8

Staff Development Days

BAKER DAYS

Monday 24th to Thursday 26 August 2022

Friday 13th January 2023

Monday 16th January 2023

AUTUMN TERM

Staff Meetings - School Development Planning, Child Protection updates, Action Planning, Numeracy, Literacy whole school targets, ICT training, Results Analysis, Teaching and Learning overview

- Staff training on 'Walkthrus': Daily Review of learning
- Action Plans
- Inspection Preparation
- Google Classroom update - survey info/homework plan;
- Staff training on Retrieval Practice / Quizzing – Multiple Choice Questions
- Examination paper evaluations
- Group Meetings/Departmental Time

SPRING TERM

Staff meetings:

- Open Evening review; Year 10 exam preparation
- Exam data review / Regression Analysis.
- Meetings with pupils requiring intervention in Regression Analysis
- Staff training on Knowledge Rich Curriculum / SEN
- Staff training in use of Knowledge Organisers

SUMMER TERM

- Departmental time for assessment and reporting.
- Staff meetings and Behaviour case studies.
- Staff training on Knowledge Organisers
- P6 sampler day preparation

Financial Report

Summary of Accounts

Lurgan Junior High School continues to be in a strong position financially and finished the financial year with a credit. The Finance Committee supported the Principal and staff throughout the year.

The School Financial Plan for (2023-2024) was approved by the Board of Governors on 1st June 2023.

Gifts / Donations

A range of charity events were held throughout the year. A total of £3,120.00 was given to various charities.

Building Works/Equipment

Painting of staffroom and staff toilets
Sign in Junior Assembly Hall
Library renovation completed
Creation of Positive Impact Centre commenced

Charging and Remissions

School Fund

It is not possible to offer the full range of activities presently available to pupils by relying solely on the resources provided by the Department of Education. The Board of Governors therefore asks parents to make a voluntary contribution of £30 per pupil, £55 per 2 pupils and £65 for 3 or more pupils per annum so that the school may continue to offer as broad a range of educational opportunities as possible. No pupil will be disadvantaged in relation to whether or not his/her parents have made such contributions.

Books and Stationery

All textbooks required by each pupil are provided free of charge. The books remain the property of the school and it is expected that they will be kept in good condition and returned on demand. A charge will be made for books which have to be replaced through being lost, or by neglect, or if they are not returned, when required.

Each pupil will be provided free of charge with a reasonable amount of stationery each year. Additional stationery, if required, may be purchased privately.

Practical Subjects

The cost of materials for science is met by the school.

A materials charge of £30.00 is levied on pupils in Year 8 as a contribution towards the cost of consumables for Art and Design, Home Economics, Science and Technology. Further small charges are levied as and when necessary, by these departments.

Clothing

Parents are responsible for the provision of correct school uniform. Protective clothing and equipment required for practical subjects will be provided free of charge by the school. Parents are responsible for the provision of the correct clothing and equipment for Physical Education and Games. A used uniform facility was organised for the summer months and operates sporadically throughout the year as required.

Music

A charge will be made in respect of individual tuition in the playing of a musical instrument or singing lessons when these are not provided by the Education Authority.

All examination fees connected with individual music tuition will be paid by parents. A charge will also be made for the hire of musical instruments owned by the school.

Damage to Property

When damage is done to School property through carelessness or misbehaviour, the school may charge up to the full cost of replacement or repair, the cost being borne by the parents of the pupils involved.

Subject & Activity Reports

Maths Department

Exam Results

Last year in the Mathematics department we had excellent Key Stage 3 results with 79.8% of pupils attaining the level 5 or above in Maths. Further analysis of our results highlighted outstanding results for EAL pupils with 93.5% achieving level 5 and above.

Maths Support

After analysis of the Assessment data pupils, red flagged in their assessments where allocated Maths support of one period a week. This has been an excellent resource for the Maths department with some pupils moving from 'red to green' from their Year 9 assessment to Year 10. During the year, Maths Support after school was also held for all years on Tuesday or Wednesday or Thursday by three Maths teachers per week, with great uptake from pupils requiring extra assistance before assessments.

Numeracy Ninjas

In the department pupils took part in Numeracy Ninjas each week in their Maths Class. Numeracy Ninja is a Key Stage 3 intervention designed to fill gaps in students' basic mental calculation strategies and to empower them with the numeracy skills and fluency required to fully access GCSE Maths concepts when they move to Key Stage 4 study. Once per term, the highest achieving and the most improved students in each class are awarded **Grand Master** status certificate and a black pen.

Maths Week

Last year, in October, Mr J Black (Numeracy Coordinator) utilised the school's social media to post challenges that the pupils completed at home. The challenges proved to be very successful

as we received over one hundred responses. Prizes were given out following a raffle with all pupils who worked out the correct solution to the challenge. Additionally, pupils took part in numeracy competitions in the canteen and assembly.

IXL

This year, IXL has been utilised by all three-year groups. IXL is an online learning application that offers unlimited, algorithmically generated questions; real-time analytical reports; and dynamic scoring to encourage mastery in Literacy and Numeracy.

UKMT

This year, the school entered 20 Year 10 pupils into the Intermediate UKMT Maths Challenge. This is a maths challenge that attracts entries from schools across the UK. Of all entrants, 40% will receive either a bronze, silver or gold certificate. The intermediate challenge is open for years 12 and below (NI) so the Year 10 pupils were effectively 2 years younger than most entrants for this challenge. Despite their age, they achieved one gold, four silver and seven bronze certificates. In Year 9, 20 pupils were entered for the Junior challenge, which is for pupils in year 9 and below (NI). They achieved two gold, four silver and ten bronze certificates. The Maths Department would like to congratulate all of the entrants on being chosen to represent the school at a high level and in particular a special acknowledgement to the certificate winners.

Financial Capabilities

The Maths department arranged for 'Young Enterprise' to present to our Year 10s the PERSONAL ECONOMICS Programme which included financial capability training. This is always an important topic for young people, but significantly more so now due to the rise

in the cost of living. The talk covered topics such as savings, interest, money, mental health, budgeting, debt, APR, student finance, apprenticeships, earnings, tax, pensions, gambling, investments, identity theft, fraud and much more – all in a fun and interactive way!

Dickson Plan Curriculum Mapping Project

Last year saw the launch of our pilot Curriculum Mapping Project which provided opportunities for Mrs Alexander to meet with Maths HODs from across the Dickson Plan and embark on a journey that enables us as professionals to work together to strengthen the excellent work and collaboration that already exists with a view to increasing the outcomes for the students we serve.

English Department and Communication Report

In the 2022/23 school year, the English department was involved in a number of initiatives designed to benefit our students academically and encourage their enjoyment of reading.

This year we took part in the Dickson Plan pilot Curriculum Mapping Project which provided opportunities for subject leaders to meet and collaborate with a view to increasing the outcomes for our students. English subject leaders from the junior and senior schools met on four occasions throughout the year. During these meetings we worked on two key areas where common approaches could be adopted to benefit pupils and ease transition between the key stages. The areas chosen were editing of written work and familiarising students with key question stems in preparation for GCSE tasks and assessments. This was a valuable opportunity to

share good practice and to work towards developing consistent approaches between the junior and senior schools.

Reading Club began in January 2023 to encourage readers from all three year groups to read and discuss books in a social setting, aiming to focus on a different book each term. Meetings were arranged by Mrs K Carson and took place fortnightly, after school, to discuss the reading in person. Between these meet-ups weekly discussion points and quizzes were posted for members to complete on Google Classroom.

Literacy Week took place from Monday, 27th February to Friday, 3rd March. Mrs J Graham, as literacy co-ordinator, organised several activities to encourage reading throughout the school. Pupils were invited to enter a whole school competition where they were asked to recreate the cover of their favourite books. Year group assemblies showcased the importance of literacy and reading across school and featured a literary quiz on stage. Literacy-based brain-teasers featured daily in the canteen with winning tables in each year group awarded prizes for correctly solving each clue.

We progressed well in all areas targeted in the departmental action plan for the 2022-23 school year. The use of Google Classroom continues to be well-embedded across the department with master classrooms for all year groups which are accessed by teachers for individual classes. Pupil surveys showed 98.3 % of pupils were aware of the materials being regularly posted and were able to access them easily. We have practised and embedded effective questioning techniques with pupil surveys showing staff regularly use these strategies in lessons. Assessments show that 89% of students in all year groups are achieving or approaching their targets in English. All members of the English department participated in staff training regarding a knowledge rich curriculum,

and worked collaboratively to produce knowledge organisers for the use of Year 8 pupils in the next academic year.

In conclusion, this was another productive and purposeful year for the English department. We hope to build on the progress made moving into the 2023-2024 academic year.

Art Department

The Art and Design department has undertaken many changes within the last year. With a new Head of Department in place there has been implementation of new initiatives that we feel have allowed the department to develop positively both academically and within our extra-curricular contributions to school life.

Updated schemes of work have been put in place that embrace the previous good practice within the department and encourage creative skills alongside a knowledge-rich curriculum that prepares pupils for further study at GCSE level. Knowledge organisers have been created for key subject areas within the Art and Design Curriculum for year 8. Differentiated knowledge organisers have been created to ensure all pupils can access and understand the content.

We have made excellent progress in showcasing the high standard of pupils' work in LJHS by updating display boards in corridors and classrooms. We have regularly posted imagery of successful classwork, competitions, and Art club on social media and have added examples of excellence to our teaching resources to inspire pupils' outcomes.

Excellent examination practice has been established following a successful trial period for Year 8 winter and summer series in 2022/23. An assessment matrix which has been modelled on the GCSE

matrix is in place for Key Stage 3 marking. In line with GCSE, our grade boundaries ensure that our assessment process is clearly understood. We have created examination papers that include a written component that tests pupils' key knowledge. We have witnessed Year 8 pupils revising for their Art assessment effectively and we are excited to see this further developed for all year groups. Assessment sheets for classwork have been updated in line with the guidance provided on our matrix. Marking has been standardised and samples of assessed work are stored in separate folders for each year group to showcase the levels within our marking.

We feel that initiatives to promote the Art and Design department have enhanced the profile of the department, for example the whole school Christmas card competition in October 2022 was a great success. The winning entry was mature and skilful.

The department promoted careers within Art and disseminated information about the GCSE course to develop pupils' awareness of the Creative Industries. We enjoyed a very successful off timetable day with Year 10 pupils who were keen to choose Art GCSE. In December 2022, we visited the F. E. McWilliam gallery in Banbridge and hosted professional Artists talks by Michelle Wilson and Nicholas Hamilton. We continued links with schools within the Dickson plan by inviting Heads of senior school Art Departments in to talk to our pupils about Key Stage 4. Mrs Bell attended the opening viewing of the CCEA 'True Colours' exhibition at the Ulster Museum which showcased work by one of our past pupils.

We celebrated success with our entries in the Lurgan Credit Union competition and received 1st 2nd and 3rd place prizes at Lurgan Show in June 2023.

Our extra-curricular Art club has grown in popularity. Pupils worked hard on several projects and competitions and thoroughly enjoyed

contributing to the props for our school production of 'Matilda' in June 2023. Art club made Alphabet boxes, Bruce's fabulous chocolate cake and signage for the fantastic event.

Geography

The Geography department has continued to provide our pupils with educational experiences of the highest quality. We have been focused on developing the Geography curriculum, moving towards preparation for GCSE case study extended questions. New resources and guided answers have been produced for Year 9 and 10 case studies.

In addition, retrieval practice and low stakes quizzing has been built into lessons as teaching resources have been updated. We have moved away from Active Inspire teaching resources to google slides. This was a major shift and allows all resources to be shared with pupils on google drive and google classroom. Furthermore, we produced Year 8 knowledge organisers for this current academic year as the school moves towards a knowledge rich curriculum.

We were pleased to be able to enhance the teaching of the Farming unit of work with an educational visit to the Balmoral show in May. Mr McFarland and Mrs Walmsley accompanied 50 Year 10 pupils to this event. The purpose of this trip is to support the teaching of how physical and human factors influence our local farmers. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed this event.

Pupils have also had the opportunity to be out of the classroom investigating the local area and developing fieldwork skills giving them a good foundation for GCSE field work. Year 8 pupils carried out a Litter Survey and, back in class, were taught to present and analyse the data collected. Year 9 carried out a Traffic Survey and

Year 10 took part in orienteering around the school grounds to develop their map reading skills.

ICT continues to be a major focus for Geography at Lurgan JHS. Online testing and retrieval resources continue to be created and are a huge success in motivating and supporting our pupils' learning. We continued to use a 'learning log', a weekly log, updated by each teacher, with details of the work missed, including signposting to the slides required from the teaching slides and booklet page numbers. This allows pupils to see what work they have missed and allows for catch up if absent.

The Geography department continues to use our own Instagram page. The number of followers continues to grow, including parents, offering a chance to further showcase our school. This has proven a useful way to communicate with our pupils and to build interest and enthusiasm for our subject in addition to our contributions to the school Facebook page.

History Department

Curriculum Update

In 2022/23 the department's focus was on further embedding the use of Google Classroom to promote high standards of pupil learning. Secondly, there was a focus on continuing to ensure consistent use of effective teaching and learning strategies such as effective questioning and retrieval practice. Finally, there was a focus on continuing to develop strategies to support students with additional needs.

Pupil feedback and teacher professional judgment showed that the use of Google Classroom to support pupil learning has been fully embedded across the History Department. There was strong

feedback from pupils that they used the resources when revising for their assessments or completing work which they missed when they were off school.

Throughout the year, students with additional needs received subject specific support through writing frames/ sentence starters, tailored booklets and one to one support from teachers and classroom assistants. Pupils with additional needs was a standing item on the agenda for department meetings with support sought from the SEN and Newcomer Coordinators.

On several occasions throughout the year, department staff took part in Teacher Professional Learning training and completed reading on effective questioning and retrieval strategies. Feedback from pupil surveys and discussions at department meetings showed that effective teaching strategies such as 'Cold Calling, Say It Again Better', and various retrieval activities were used regularly throughout the year across the department to consolidate pupil knowledge and understanding.

Remembrance Day

On 11th November, the History Department organised a short Remembrance Day assembly which was watched by all form classes and was followed by a two-minute silence.

Shared Education

Mr Addley, along with colleagues from St Ronan's College, Lurgan, was involved in facilitating two history workshops for two different Shared Education cohorts. The focus of the workshops was to explore Unionist and Nationalist identity with a focus on the Irish

Home Rule crisis and the Unionist and Nationalist involvement in WW1.

Home Economics

In Home Economics, we help to prepare our pupils for independent living. It is a practical subject that can promote and enhance the wellbeing of individuals, families and communities through understanding food choice, nutritional health, consumer issues and relationships. This subject strand aims to equip pupils with the knowledge, skills and values that will help them to make appropriate lifestyle choices.

Last year, in the Home Economics' Department we created two new topics; 'Budgeting' and 'Love Food, Hate Waste' as well as updating all topics to ensure they were all of a high standard with plenty of stretch and challenge. In addition, assessments continued to be updated with GCSE style questions incorporated to ensure appropriate level of challenge. Furthermore, we produced Year 8 knowledge organisers for the incoming Year 8. We also reintroduced the Year 10 practical assessment which challenged pupils to plan, prepare and evaluate a meal on a budget of £5. This was very successful as pupils demonstrated a range of impressive skills and it gave prospective GCSE pupils an insight into the practical assessment at GCSE.

Furthermore, the department. was involved in the Curriculum Mapping Project which provided opportunities for Heads of Departments across the Dickson Plan to meet and strengthen the excellent work and collaboration that already exists. This proved to

be very beneficial as we now have stronger links with all Home Economic Departments across the Dickson Plan and a clear focus to improve and strengthen the delivery of all nutritional knowledge shared at Key Stage 3. We will continue to discuss nutrition during practicals and have already included more nutritional information and activities in booklets for this academic year to improve and embed pupils' nutritional knowledge.

Our department hosted two extra-curricular activities last year: the Year 8 Cookery Club and the annual Lurgan Junior High School Bake Off! The cookery club was a great success. Between 12 to 18 pupils attended the 6-week programme and their enthusiasm and confidence increased each week. Pupils were given the opportunity to develop a range of skills due to the carefully selected practicals which included cheesy cups, sausage rolls, fruit skewers, blueberry muffins, chicken goujons and butterfly cakes.

Finally, we celebrated and congratulated the seven pupils who participated in the 'Lurgan JHS Bake Off! 2022'. Their creativity, enthusiasm, skill and attention to detail and levels of comradery were superb! We extend our sincere thanks to Mr Sydney McCormick, the founding owner of The Kosy Bakery in Lurgan for his encouragement, generosity and kindness towards our pupils in supporting this event. Also, a special thanks to Miss Ally Drennan for assisting with the judging, as well as our principal, Mr McCoy who tasted and reviewed all of the delightful bakes. 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.

ICT

Last year, the ICT department continued to build on the successful teaching of a number of computer science based topics, such as Website Development and Python Programming to give our pupils broad and balanced ICT lessons. We introduced the topic of Game Development to Year 10 pupils which was well received. We were encouraged by the effort and results produced from students in each year group and continue to celebrate their success in the subject.

This year we had the opportunity again to continue the training with staff in areas of ICT to aid with their professional development. In August, Miss Quinn held a training session with staff to upskill and support them with their use of technology. We were pleased to see the progress that staff have made following on from this training. With the support of Mr Johnston, we also introduced Guardian Summaries which allowed parents/guardians from all year groups to receive regular updates on their child's activity on Google Classroom. We were delighted to hear of the positive feedback from this.

The ICT department continued to enhance their own professional development during this academic year. Miss Quinn and Mr Johnston had the opportunity to attend training sessions on the use of the Microsoft Surface Pro which they passed to the staff.

This year we continued with the extra-curricular ICT club for Years 9 and 10. The pupils who attended thoroughly enjoyed getting the chance to learn more about technology with lessons on Programming in C#, Microbits and the IDEA award with Miss Quinn and Mr Johnston. We look forward to the resumption of this club again next year.

Modern Languages

In September 2022, we welcomed Mrs McCorry into the Modern Languages Department as she took up the role of teaching French & Spanish, as well as supporting EAL pupils. Her input into the development of assessment resources was invaluable, with years of experience as a GCSE French examiner, she helped ensure that the assessments we set for pupils in all 3 terms equipped them for the assessment challenges they would face studying languages at GCSE.

This academic year, we introduced a new scheme in Year 8 French and Year 9 Spanish, based on the extensive processing instruction (E.P.I.) approach as championed by Gianfranco Conti, who has produced 'The Language Gym' website and accompanying textbooks. This means pupils are flooded with comprehensible input; content is organised by communicative functions and related constructions with a big focus on reading and listening as modelling. The units are designed so there are lots of systematic recycling and interleaving which allows for stronger retention and transfer of learning which has led to better outcomes in classwork, homework and assessments.

At the end of September 2022, Mrs Wright went on maternity leave and we welcomed Miss Robinson into the department to take on her role.

We continued to embed the use of Google Classroom with all department members producing resources and sharing them via the Google Classrooms to ensure that all pupils studying Modern Languages have equal access to the teaching and learning resources. All department members and their pupils have benefited from this consistent approach with 89% pupils reporting they were able to access Google Classroom resources from home to support their learning.

In October 2022, we said au revoir to Ms Haughian, a highly valued member of the Modern Languages Department, Pastoral Team and Assistant SENCo. We were delighted to welcome Mrs Cunningham to the department, in November 2022, to take on Ms Haughian's timetable.

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.

In term 3, our focus was on produced the knowledge organisers for Year 8 French to be ready for September 2023. This was a useful opportunity to evaluate the essential learning for Year 8 pupils. We also worked on preparing our schemes of work for Year 9 and 10 French and Year 10 Spanish to follow 'The Language Gym' textbook.

P.E. Department Report

Girls' Department

It has been another exciting and rewarding year for Girls' Hockey in Lurgan Junior High School. The U13A team and the U14A team competed in Mid-Ulster League competitions with the U13A finishing Runners-Up in their competition. The enthusiastic 12A and 12B teams enjoyed their first experience of competitive hockey and also had the opportunity to play a number of Saturday morning friendly games towards the end of the season.

Trials were held mid-September and a number of our talented players were selected to take part in the Ulster Hockey Talent Development Programme. This programme takes place over a twelve-week period and requires much commitment on the part of players and parents. A huge congratulations to Alex Kerr on their selection to this year's programme. Also, well done to four of the Under 13 squad who were invited to attend last year's coaching sessions as part of Ulster Hockey's Regional Talent Programme. Well done to Camryn Wilson, Lydia Neill, Sophie Harrison and Lucy Brown who were nominated to attend this year.

Hockey practices commenced for all three age groups in early September. On Tuesdays and Thursdays, the 13A and 14A girls trained with Mrs Saunderson and Susan Gibson on a Tuesday and Miss McCann, Mrs Saunderson and Lee Wilson on a Thursday. A talented group of Year 8 girls attended after-school practice under the guidance of Mrs Cochrane and Mrs Ferry and both 'A' and 'B' teams were fielded in league competitions with both teams competing with great success.

The Saturday morning Hockey programme commences on the last Saturday in August and offers our girls the opportunity to compete with the Hockey playing schools from across the province. We appreciate the enthusiasm and commitment given by our girls and parents and the support of LJHS Staff who help with Saturday morning supervision. A huge thank you is also extended to Mrs Cochrane and Miss McCann for their regular assistance with Saturday mornings umpiring and coaching.

Thanks to Mrs Cochrane, Mrs Ferry, Miss McCann, Miss Bell and Mrs Saunderson along with Susan Gibson and Lee Wilson from Lurgan Ladies Hockey Club who helped coach our U12, U13 and U14 hockey teams.

Netball Club 2022/23

There was an excellent response to the commencement of Netball for Year 9 and 10 after school in September as up to 30 girls in each year group attended. Training was divided into separate year groups to manage numbers until team selection was decided. The A squads trained every week, while the B squads enjoyed social Netball on selected dates.

Teams were re-entered into the NI Area League and Cup competitions last year after the covid break as well as the local Vista league and Cup, and it proved to be a very busy season.

The Year 9 and 10 teams were in the NI A League which proved to be a misplacement as the standard of play was high, and while they won a few games, overall, they were being beaten with a big goal difference. This proved to be very demoralizing for the girls, but they always played with determination and displayed good

sportsmanship. Next year, we plan to play in the B league for more fair competition.

After being defeated in the first round of the NI Cup, our Year 9 team had pleasing success in the NI Shield reaching the semi-final where they unfortunately lost to a strong Ballymena Academy team.

The girls enjoyed playing in the Vista League against local schools with mixed results, but there were some very tight games. The Vista Cup was played over two tournament days and both Year 9 and 10 teams really enjoyed the competition and played super Netball. Well done to the Year 10 team who finished in third place and congratulations to Emma Cushley, Year 9, who won Player of the Tournament.

There was a fantastic interest in the extra-curricular Year 8 Netball which commenced in October. Up to 40 girls were coached by Miss Lyness each week, who was also assisted by Mrs Quinn. A team attended the NI Year 8 Tournament in Magherafelt and performed well, finishing in third place. In the Vista Tournament the Year 8 team did even better coming Runners-Up and they received silver medals.

To end the season and to acknowledge commitment and loyalty to Netball all year, we organised the Year 10 team to meet for a meal and share memories of the sporting year.

Girls' Football

Mrs Patton takes our Girls' Year 8, 9 and 10 football practices along with Phil McKinley from Lurgan Town Football club. We had over forty girls sign up for football this year. The girls took part in a Futsal tournament in October and competed in the U14 Mid-Ulster School

Cup and League finishing as runners up in the league and reaching the semi-final of the Cup.

VOLLEYBALL

Volleyball was offered as an extra- curricular activity and there was a keen interest both in class and after school. The coaching sessions were a huge success with over thirty girls from Years 8 and 9 staying every Monday after school. The Club training was taken by Craigavon Aztecs coach Paul McIlwaine. We hope the Volleyball club will continue to grow on this year's success. We entered two Year 8 teams and 2 Year 9 teams in an interschool Volleyball tournament at the South Lakes Leisure Centre in April. All girls played lots of matches to help develop their skills and our Year 9 team came 2nd and 3rd out of 8 teams. Our Year 8 teams finished 3rd and 4th.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Year 8, 9 and 10 girls competed in the District Cross Country Championships at The Palace Stables in Armagh. Year 8 girls finished in 2nd place as a team with Lydia Neill 2nd, Kacey Dillon 8th, Emille White 11th, Leah Irwin 22nd and Clare Bailey 29th.

Year 9 Girls finished 4th as a Team. Cadence Hamilton won silver with Millie Dowds finishing 13th, Daisy Stokes 21st, Lara Owens 26th, Olivia Heasley 29th and Abigail Young 39th.

Year 10 girls did not place as a team but a strong effort was displayed by Naomi Wilson 8th , Leah Balfour 14th, Eve Hetherington 40th, Brooke Wilson 48th, Anna Wylie 59th and Gracie McIlwaine 60th.

District Athletics Championships and Ulster Athletics Championships

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

Gold Medalists

Mini Girls' Relay Team of Emilee White, Kacey Dillon, Clare Bailey and Sophie Harrison.

Cadence Hamilton: Minor Girls' 800m

Minor Girls' Relay Team - Millie Dowds, Camryn Wilson, Abigail Fitzsimmons and Hannah Holland

Junior Girls' Relay Team of Alex Kerr, Annabelle Davoust McCann, Naomi Wilson and Leah Balfour.

Julia Staniszewska - Mini Girls' High Jump. .

Brooke Wilson - Junior Girls' High Jump and Long Jump.

Silver Medalists

Kacey Dillon - Mini Girls' 100m

Abigail Fitzsimmons - Minor Girls' 100m

Camryn Wilson - Minor Girls' Shot Putt

Olivia Heasley - Minor Girls' High Jump

Alex Kerr - Junior Girls' 100m

Grace McNeill - Junior Girls' Javelin

Annabelle Davoust McCann - Junior Girls' discus

Bronze Medalists

Naomi Wilson - Junior Girls' 200m

Julia Fabisiak - Junior Girls' Javelin

Eliza Owens - Mini Girls' High Jump

Emilee White - Mini Girls' 100m

Millie Dowds - Minor Girls' Long Jump

Daisy Stokes - Minor Girls' High Jump

All of these pupils qualified to compete at the Ulster Athletics Championships with the Mini and the Minor Girls' Relay Teams finishing 5th and the Junior Girls' Relay Team finishing 4th at the Ulster Athletics Championships. Cadence Hamilton broke the school record in a time of 2 mins 31 seconds. All pupils who competed finished within the top 10 in Ulster: an amazing achievement.

Sports' Day June 2023

Our Year 8, 9 and 10 Sports' days were on the 13th, 14th and 15th of June. In Year 8, Kacey Dillon won the 100m and 200m breaking the school record in the 100m. Lydia won the 800m, Leah Irwin won the Long Jump, Emily Silva Shaw the Shot Putt, Kara Houston the High Jump and Gosford won the Year 8 Relay. In Year 9, Abigail Fitzsimmons won the 100m, Hannah Holland the 200m, Cadence Hamilton the 800m, Daisy Stokes won both the Long Jump and the High Jump, with Eve Adair winning the Shot Putt. Shane House won the Relay in Year 9. Finally, in Year 10 Alex Kerr won the 100m and 800m breaking the school record in the 100m. Brooke Wilson won the Long Jump and High Jump with Naomi Wilson winning the 200m and Shot Putt. Carrickfergus House won the Year 10 Relay. Our Best athlete in Year 8 was Kacey Dillon with Emily Silva Shaw as Runner-Up. In Year 9, the best athlete was Daisy Stokes with Abigail Fitzsimmons and Hannah Holland runners up and in Year 10 Brooke Wilson was the Best Athlete and Alex Kerr and Naomi Wilson were Runners Up.

Results of the Girls' Inter-House Competitions

Inter House Hockey - Gosford

Inter House Netball - Gosford

Inter House Cross Country - Carrickfergus

Inter House Football - Shane

Inter House Rounders - Shane

Boys' Department

U12's

The **U'12 'A'** rugby team co-captained by Micah McMullan and Archie Doogan began their season with a friendly fixture against Friends, Lisburn losing a high scoring contest 9 – 7 on tries scored. The 'B' team led by Theo Hall and Jensen Stewart would also find themselves on the wrong side of a 8-6 score line against their Lisburn rivals.

A 'Blitz' Tournament organised by the Ulster Branch gave both teams the opportunity to gain valuable playing time at Portadown RFC before the High Schools' Cup with wins over Killicomaine JHS, Tandragee JHS, Markethill HS and Banbridge High School.

The team would then go on an undefeated run of results in the High Schools' Cup with wins over Clounagh JHS (4-0), Killicomaine JHS (3-1), Banbridge High School (6-1) and St Patrick's High School (3-2) seeing the boys through to the finals. Further wins would follow over Drumragh College (7-1), St Pius X College (5-2) and a draw with Ballyclare Secondary School (2-2). The semi-final would see Lurgan JHS defeat Ballymoney Secondary School 5-2 and make it to the final where they would meet again with Ballyclare. A closely contested final would finish 2-2 with the Lurgan trys coming from player of the tournament Micah McMullan (11 trys) with Lurgan lifting the trophy courtesy of scoring first in the final to cap a memorable season in style.

U13's

The **U'13 'A'** team co-captained by Seth Martin and Max Blair enjoyed some early season wins over RBAI B', Banbridge RFC, Clounagh JHS and Banbridge Academy before narrow defeats to Friends', RBAI 'A' and a strong Sullivan Upper team. The team will take encouragement from the fact they were able to compete with the strongest teams at their age level for long parts of the games which they can build on for next season's High Schools' Cup.

The **U13 'B'** team co-captained by Alfie Givan and Ryan Ferguson had wins over Clounagh JHS 'B' and RBAI 'C' with defeats following against Friends 'B', Sullivan 'B' and RBAI 'B'.

U14's

The **U14** team captained by Harley Gardiner started their season strongly with wins over Banbridge RFC, Banbridge Academy and Killicomaine JHS in the High Schools' Cup Group stages. Defeats would follow against RBAI 'B' and a strong Friends team. The boys would discover their winning ways against Clounagh JHS in the High Schools' cup and defeat Glastry College in the quarter final stage. The semi-final would see the boys draw 5-5 away to Ballyclare Secondary School but go out of the competition as Ballyclare scored first – a tough way for any team to exit a competition.

Athletics' Report:

District Championships

The Boys' athletics teams would collect an impressive 7 Gold, 5 Silver and 5 Bronze medals at the District Athletics Championships at Clones and Antrim Forum:

Gold:

Matthew Lamont	Junior Boys' 800m
Michael Robinson	Junior Boys' 1500m
Tyler McKinney	Junior Boys' Shot Putt
Charlie McBride	Minor Boys' High Jump
Josh Bingham	Mini Boys' High Jump
Ross Beattie	Mini Boys' Long Jump
Bailey Magee,	
Josh Bingham,	
Archie Doogan,	
Alex White	Mini Boys' 4 X 100m Relay

Silver:

Jamie Pedlow	Junior Boys' 100m
Michael Robinson,	
Charlie Gault,	
Scott King,	
Jamie Pedlow	Junior Boys' 4 X 100m Relay
James Wilson	Minor Boys' Shot Putt
Patryk Jedrol	Minor Boys' Long Jump
Micah McMullan	Mini Boys' Long Jump

Bronze:

Charlie Gault	Junior Boys' High Jump
Austen Gault	Minor Boys' 800m
Lorcan Mantell	Minor Boys' 100m
Charlie McBride,	
Ben Buttery,	
Michael Emerson,	
Lorcan Mantell	Minor Boys' 4 X 100m Relay
Archie Doogan	Mini Boys' Shot Putt

Ulster Schools' Championships

The boys' athletics team would collect three individual medals at the Ulster Schools' Championships with Micah McMullan winning Silver in the Mini Boys' Long Jump, Charlie McBride collecting Bronze in the Minor Boys' High Jump and Matthew Lamont qualifying for the Irish Schools' Championships in Tullamore with a Bronze in the 800m.

Irish Schools' Championships

Matthew Lamont would finish 8th in Ireland in the 800m with a time of 2 minutes 13.99 seconds.

Volleyball Report

The Year 8 Boys' Volleyball team of Luke Wells, Micah McMullan, Noah Roderick, Archie Doogan and Ben Stewart would defeat teams from Campbell College, Tandragee JHS and Lurgan JHS en route to

winning the N. Ireland Schools' Cup at South Lakes Leisure Centre – a fantastic achievement in their first season of competitive volleyball.

The Year 9 Volleyball team of Andrew Dowdeswell, Sam Green, Seth Martin, Michael Emerson and Lewis Irwin would finish Runners-Up to Campbell College in the N. Ireland Schools' Cup with LJHS also finishing in 3rd place (Austen Gault, Patryk Jedrol, Alfie Givan, Will Cunningham and Max Blair). LJHS would finish a memorable day with their 'C' team also winning the Plate Competition (James Matthews, Jayden Harker, Ross Penny, Dylan McGrath and Lorcan Mantell).

Cross-Country Report:

The Mini Boys' team of Bailey Magee (8th) Tom Kerr, Max Wilson, Luke Wells, Finn McCorry, Taylor Hamilton, Corey Hamilton, Sam Woods and Harry Sutton would win team Bronze Medals in the District Championships and qualify for the Ulster Schools' Finals at Mallusk.

The Minor Boys' team of Tyler Black (2nd), Sam Green (3rd), Austen Gault (4th), Michael Emerson (7th), Jacob Neill, Andrew Dowdeswell, Charlie McBride and Josiah Ormerod would win team Gold Medals in the District Championships with Tyler and Sam also collecting individual Silver and Bronze medals – an outstanding performance from everyone involved.

The Junior Boys' team of Matthew Lamont (5th), Charlie Gault (7th), Michael Robinson, Charlie Robinson, Ben Ross, Freddie McTernaghan, Jamie Pedlow and Harry Stevenson would win team Gold Medals in the District Championships to ensure all three boys teams would qualify for the Ulster Schools' Finals.

Football

Lurgan JHS had the most successful season in history last year bringing home 6 trophies across the 3 year groups. With a wealth of talent throughout the school, the U13 team in the end, were the most successful. They won every single game that they played winning the Northern Ireland Cup, Mid-Ulster Cup and Mid-Ulster League. This talented team will represent Northern Ireland in the Allen McKinstrey 5 Nations Competition this coming May in Wales. The U14 team also had an unbelievable season, winning the Mid-Ulster League, Mid-Ulster Cup and battling their way through 5 rounds to reach the final of the Northern Ireland Cup. It wasn't to be in the final in front of a 600 strong crowd at the Blanchflower stadium in Belfast. The U12s also had a good year winning the Mid-Ulster Cup, finishing Runners Up by a single point in the Mid-Ulster League and reaching the quarter final of the Northern Ireland Cup where they were beaten by the eventual winners St Columb's. The U12, 13 and 14 'B' teams also gave excellent accounts of themselves in the small schools leagues playing against 'A' teams from the local area. Numbers at training were excellent all year and exceeded 100 each week across the 3 year groups.

Cricket

Lurgan JHS had a short, but enjoyable cricket season. Numbers at training were excellent across the 3 year groups, and Lurgan JHS would like to thank Lurgan CC for the use of their facilities and in providing coaches every Tuesday afternoon. The U12 and U14 teams entered the Wesley Ferris Cup and the Derriaghy Cup, and had competitive matches against Wallace, Belfast High, Ballyclare High and The Royal School Armagh. The highlight of the season was a 126 run victory against Belfast HS, when Harry Stevenson scored 92 runs and Nathaniel King took 5 wickets for only 2 runs.

Religious Education

Last year, we welcomed two new temporary members of staff to the RE teaching team, Mrs Stewart, and Mr Saadat to deliver our curriculum. All members of the Department delivered assemblies throughout the year, covering topics such as Mental Health Day, The Holocaust and Dr Martin Luther King Jnr and New Beginnings.

Pupils who attend Scripture Union presented our Harvest Assembly and local youth leaders from Hill St. Presbyterian and Emmanuel churches were invited to deliver our special Christmas and Easter Assemblies. Pupils were selected from each year group to provide readings and musical items were organised together with the Music Department.

In October Miss Lyness, organised a special presentation on the Tabernacle to assist with our Year 10 curriculum. Mr Gilliland brought in a model of the tabernacle and gave an informed talk on its structure and importance as a place where God could meet and dwell with the Israelites. Pupils had an opportunity to view the model and to ask and answer questions. This really helped our students to embed their knowledge of the Exodus story and understand the rituals of worship.

In January, we welcomed Miss Boyd as a student teacher on placement from Stranmillis College Belfast. She taught well prepared lessons with all staff, made satisfactory progress and also contributed to SU after school. We are pleased as a department to share our expertise and skills to assist with the training of teachers.

Prior to Year 10 and Year 9 exams, additional revision classes were provided for pupils who were identified as not meeting their target, to develop confidence and encourage improvement in academic performance.

The year ended with a farewell to Mr Saadat and Mrs Stewart, and we thank them for all they contributed to the department and wish them well for the future.

Science Department

In 2022-23, following a year of staff absence and challenges in finding subject-specific teachers, the Science Department returned to its full complement of permanent staff: Mrs Carson (Head of Department), Mrs Cochrane, Mrs Ferry, Mrs Kennedy, Mr Lawther (teachers) and Mr Clifford (technician). This led to a settled academic year when we had confidence that classes were taught Science by subject specialists and pupils were able to fully access all aspects of the curriculum.

Academic Progress

The Department welcomed the opportunity to return to normal class teaching, including a full engagement in practical activities following the Covid restrictions, albeit with extra focus on basic hygiene practices. It has been good to witness students' enthusiasm in developing hands-on skills in addition to increasing their knowledge within the subject area. It was obvious, however, that the Year 10 group especially had missed out on experience in the laboratory at various stages of Years 8 and 9, and time was spent catching up on simple practical techniques and safety procedures before they could fully progress.

Students in 10A1 to 10A10 continued to learn and be examined on the same material. Some pupils in 10A10 excelled in the Science transfer examinations, while others struggled to achieve their target

marks, and the challenge remains to make examinations accessible to all students, whilst fully stretching the most able. Having provided online resources during periods of teaching remotely, we now have an excellent bank of revision resources which we were able to present to pupils in all year groups as examinations approached. Feedback from pupil surveys would indicate that these resources were widely used and appreciated by a majority of students.

After-school revision support was offered to Year 10 pupils who were achieving significantly below their Science target, however, these classes were attended only by a small number of those invited. All attendees improved upon their marks in subsequent Science assessments.

Like other departments, we set about developing our contributions to the new Year 8 Knowledge Organisers. Having already created revision summary sheets for every topic, pioneered by Mrs A Ferry over the past several years, we had the basic structure in place for the knowledge organisers, which we are confident will be of benefit to our incoming Year 8 cohort.

Continuing Professional Development

All departmental teaching staff attended professional training delivered in school, which sought to maximise pupils' benefit from teaching and learning as well as to provide consistent behaviour management throughout the school.

Throughout the academic year, Mrs Carson represented the department in the Craigavon Area Learning Community Forum, where Science leaders from local post-primary schools focused on achieving a common approach to scientific language and

definitions. As a result of this, booklets and presentations for the incoming year have been scrutinised and developed to include precise CCEA Science definitions and language in line with that used in senior schools.

Our Science Technician, Mr Clifford, continued to attend Health and Safety Committee meetings through NIPSA and ICTU, keeping him, and consequently the department, up-to-date on legislation and the latest NI Health and Safety reports. In July 2023, he attended a presentation at the Labour Relations Agency regarding Respect in the Workplace.

Facilities

Laboratory safety has been further improved with the installation of carbon dioxide monitors and an extra layer of gas supply system protection across the Science rooms.

Maintenance to mend broken taps and sink drainage units was carried out and this is much appreciated.

Staffing Changes

In March, Mrs Carson stepped down from the position of Head of Department for Science after 7 years, as she seeks to reduce her timetable going forward. As Mrs Kennedy has now taken over this role, she, along with the rest of the Science Department, would like to take this opportunity to record our thanks to Mrs Carson for her dedication, guidance and sensitive leadership over those years.

Educational Visits

In June, a team of Year 10 students were delighted to enter “The Big Science Quiz” for Key Stage 3 pupils at St John the Baptist’s College, Portadown, organised by Craigavon Area Learning Community and Almac. The team comprising Lauren, Glen, Matthew and Freddy, under the guidance of Mrs Cochrane, acquitted themselves well, coming in second place and being excellent ambassadors for our school.

Shared Education

Last year, we proceeded to re-establish our Shared Education Partnership with St Ronan’s College for the first time in two years, due to previous restrictions from Covid-19. Despite the funding provided for Shared Education being significantly reduced, we successfully facilitated various projects taking place throughout the academic year. To re-introduce our partnership, Mr McErlane and

Miss Lyness created a video outlining the purpose of our Shared Education Partnership to be shown in assembly to all pupils, with the aim of strengthening the successful links we built prior to Covid.

Year 8 and 9 Projects

During the Winter and Spring term 2022-23, 60 pupils from across Years 8 and 9 from both schools participated in a 6-session project. This project was planned and delivered by Mrs Pogue, Mr Addley and Mr Sadaat from Lurgan Junior High, alongside three colleagues from St Ronan’s College. During the sessions, the pupils investigated the events and consequences of WW1, The Troubles and the recent conflict in Ukraine. In addition, they studied and analysed examples of War Poetry in mixed groups, creating their own version of a poem

based on war and conflict. Finally, both year groups listened to and analysed different music created as a response to conflict and chose one song to practise and perform together as a group. Feedback from pupils and their parents who took part in these projects was positive, with both parents and pupils stating that the projects opened opportunities to form new friendships and overcome existing disparities.

'Cuchulainn Initiative'

From January to April 2023, Ulster GAA delivered the 'Cuchulainn Initiative' to a group of 60 girls (across Years 10-12) from Lurgan Junior High, St Ronan's College and Brownlow Integrated College. The programme was a cross-community initiative with the aim of bringing together young people from different community backgrounds through Gaelic games. In February, 12 girls (4 from each participating school) were selected to progress in the programme and train for the Cuchulainn Cup. Despite being a newly established team with no prior experience of playing Gaelic Football, they defeated 5 teams at the Cuchulainn Blitz and won the Cuchulainn Cup.

Due to their superb performance at the Cuchulainn Blitz, the Lurgan Cuchulainns were selected to attend the 'All British Championship Games' in London in July 2023. The team began training together in March and we were immensely proud of how hard they worked to develop their skills in a new sport and their relationships/friendships with one another. They competed against 5 established Gaelic teams and reached the semi-final, winning 4 out of the 5 matches they played. The team showed true commitment and dedication throughout the entire programme and enjoyed a well-deserved trip to Thorpe Park, a walking tour of London and London's Westfield Shopping Centre.

This opportunity enabled the teams to create lifetime memories and we are extremely grateful to Ulster GAA who organised and facilitated the programme and to Coach Pierce Caherty, who encouraged and supported the girls from the beginning. The team has recently attended a Mayor Reception in Craigavon Civic Centre. They are completing their Level 1 Coaching Qualification in October 2023 and will attend a trip to Croke Park in December 2023 to conclude their programme.

Cinemagic Project

In June 2023, we facilitated and took part in a cross-community 'Cinemagic Project' in collaboration with St Ronan's College. This was an excellent opportunity to develop pupils' knowledge and skills of scriptwriting, film making and producing their own film. The short film was formally viewed at a showcase in Belfast and presented during assembly to the pupils at Lurgan Junior High and St Ronan's College.

We are very much looking forward to another successful year of Shared Education in the 2023-24 academic year.

Technology and Design

Staffing Changes

Last year the TD department said goodbye to Mr R Poots after over 30 years of service. Mr Poots was a very dedicated and practical teacher, who contributed massively to the department both as a teacher and head of department for many years. We wish him every blessing in his retirement. Mrs J Quinn has since joined our ranks and has quickly become a fantastic asset to the department, contributing to the development of resources, teaching and practical work.

Practical Work

Pupils very much enjoyed their practical lessons in the workshop last year and the projects they manufactured. All classes engaged well with practical lessons and have really benefited from the skills and knowledge being developed throughout. Engagement with practical activities in the workshop provides pupils with the opportunity to become increasingly confident using various tools and machinery, as well as developing their problem-solving skills.

Integration of Literacy and Numeracy

Last year in the TD classroom, pupils were encouraged to develop both their literacy and numeracy skills. Pupils have been encouraged to convert measurements, estimate lengths, and accurately mark out their work. Extended writing questions have also been integrated into lessons and examinations to encourage critical thinking whilst promoting high levels of written communication. Through this, pupils can recognise the importance of literacy and numeracy across the curriculum.

Technician

Mrs L Todd continues to be a fantastic asset to the Technology and Design department. Mrs Todd ensures that all the materials and resources required for practical lessons are prepared and ready for use when the pupils arrive.

ICT Upgrade

Following the 20 PC units that were installed in Miss C McCann's classroom a few years ago, we received an additional 20 units last year. The planning room adjoining Mrs Quinn's room will now be

turned into a computer room for the TD department, allowing computer access for all TD classes now, which is amazing. The computers will be a great asset to teaching and learning within the subject, providing pupils with the opportunity to programme circuits and learn Computer Aided Design.

Lurgan Heritage Scheme

Last year, the ABC Council offered us the opportunity to participate in a restoration project to restore railings from historic buildings in Lurgan town centre with the Lurgan Heritage Scheme. As a result, 30 pupils spent the day at Moneypenny's Blacksmiths, learning the various black smithing techniques. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed this opportunity and it was a great learning experience.