



# The Greyhound Gazette

A Newsletter from Lurgan JHS - Respect, Responsibility, Resilience

Volume 4, Issue 1

December, 2025

## Principal's Message

Dear Parents and Guardians,

As we approach the end of another busy and productive term, I am delighted to share with you some of the wonderful activities and achievements our pupils have been involved in.

This term, we have as usual, engaged in a full range of curricular and extra-curricular activities. Looking over the last term, we had the pleasure of presenting Gideons' New Testaments to all our new Year 8 pupils, marking an important milestone in their educational journey. Our school examination series saw students across all year groups demonstrating their hard work and dedication.

In the sporting arena, our pupils have excelled, with notable successes including our U14 Girls' Hockey team winning the final of the Stevenson Bowl. We also celebrated the success of our first-ever Christmas Fayre, which, along with our ever-growing Christmas Raffle, raised valuable funds to support both our children and local charities.

Creativity was in full swing with our Christmas Card competition, showcasing the artistic talents of our students. Our participation in Remembrance Day ceremonies was a poignant reminder of the importance of community and history and additionally, we introduced knowledge organ-

isers to all Year 8 and 9 pupils, providing them with valuable resources to aid their studies. Our pupils also had the opportunity to work with outside agencies such as the Royal Navy and representatives from NI Cancer Focus, enriching their learning experiences.

As we look forward to the Christmas break, I want to extend my heartfelt thanks to all parents and guardians for your continued support. I wish you all a joyful and restful holiday season. Please continue to follow us on our social media channels for updates including details of our upcoming Open Night on 16<sup>th</sup> January, 2025.

Warmest regards,

J. McCoy

## Knowledge Organiser Booklet for all 3 Year groups

At the beginning of the term, pupils across all year groups received their knowledge organiser books in special assemblies, where Mr. McCoy, Mr. Thompson and Miss Osborne explained the importance of regular retrieval practice through self-quizzing. At Lurgan JHS, we recognise that strong foundational subject knowledge is the key to successful learning across the curriculum, and there will be regular class and year group quizzing throughout each term to reinforce this. This is the first time all 3 year groups have taken part.



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Inside this issue:

- Principal's Message;
- Knowledge Organiser Booklet;
- Christmas Fayre
- Christmas card design competition;
- Remembrance Sunday;
- Sports' news;
- Prize Day
- Open Evening invite;

And much more.....

## Christmas Appeal

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

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

## Shoe Box Appeal

We were delighted to take part in the Samaritan's Purse Shoebox Appeal, a wonderful Christian charity that shares the message of hope while supporting communities around the world. At this time of the year, they deliver shoeboxes filled with gifts and toys to children and young people who might not otherwise receive any Christmas presents.

As a school, this has been a lovely reminder of the importance, and the joy, of giving to others. We're thrilled to have filled over 55 shoeboxes this year.



## Art Department news

This term has been very successful in the Art department.

We were thrilled to celebrate the creativity and hard work shown by our Year 10 Pupils in our annual Christmas Crad Competition. The standard was exceptional—well done to everyone who entered.

1st Place: Lara P (10A6)



2nd Place: Emilie A (10A1)



3rd Place: Connie S (10A1)



Highly Commended: Elliot W (10A10), Jasmine S (10A6), Alfie S (10A2), Alys L (10A6), Isobel B (10A4), Charlie I (10A6)

## Drama and Music trip

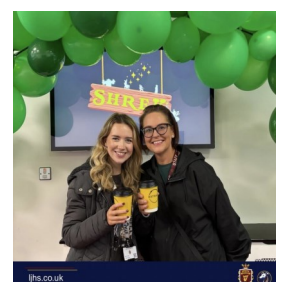
Our drama and music pupils travelled to Stanmillis College to see Shrek the Musical, and it proved to be a memorable and rewarding experience for everyone involved.



During the visit, our pupils were invited onto the stage to perform several School of Rock pieces from last year's production. They represented the school exceptionally well, and their enthusiasm was warmly received by the audience.



Overall, it was a wonderful day for our pupils and we are grateful for the opportunity to support their continued growth in the performing arts.





## Remembrance Sunday

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

## Anti-bullying week

The theme this year was 'Power for Good', calling on us all to use our voices, our actions and our kindness to stand up, speak out and support each other.

As part of our preventative Curriculum programme, the Community Policing Team were also in school delivering workshops to our year 9 pupils on the topic of 'One Punch Kills'. This powerful session emphasised the seriousness of a single violent act, and reinforced the message that making safe, responsible choices matters, both for oneself and for others.

## Scripture Union Bake Sale

The Scripture Union held a bake sale to raise money for SERVE Youth's Little Gifts, Big Smiles Christmas outreach project. A huge shout out to Tesco Lurgan for their kind donation of donuts, cookies and buns, thank you so much for your generosity.

With the money raised, gifts to fill 38 pencil cases were purchased, and the pupils at SU worked hard to fill each pencil case ready for delivery.



## 'My Brother'

We feel very honoured to have been able to share a special project created by our staff and pupils—a short film titled 'My Brother'.

Set in Lurgan, the story follows siblings George and Eliza Smith, whose lives unfold from childhood in 1905 through to the outbreak of war in 1916. Though George and Eliza are fictional, their journey reflects the experiences of so many real families—brothers and sisters whose everyday moments were forever changed by war.

This film serves as a reminder of the courage and sacrifice of those who came before us, and of the importance of remembrance.

We wish to express our deepest gratitude to the pupils and staff who took part in 'My Brother'. Each performance was delivered with dignity and a quiet grace, allowing us to honour the true stories that inspired this work and to focus on the enduring importance of remembrance.

Cast:

Eliza (aged 11) - Marnie C

Eliza (aged 16) - Hollie M

Eliza (aged 22) - Mrs Pogue

George (aged 11) - Caleb F

George (aged 16) - Jacob O

George (ages 22) - Mr Cullen

Postman—Mr Black

Music and Vocals—Danielle Lunn

## Sport's News

### Hockey news

It has been an exceptional series of matches for our U13 and U14 hockey teams, who have demonstrated fantastic skill, determination and teamwork on the pitch. Our U13 team has been on a remarkable winning streak, showcasing a formidable defence that has yet to concede a single goal across four games! Their results are a testament to their hard work and strategic play:

V. Kilkeel HS Won 4-0  
scorers Connie K, Georgia M, Lucia and Maddie S

V. Killicomaine JHS Won 2-0  
scorers Bella McM x2

V. Friends HS Won 4-0  
Scorers Bella McM, Lucia McM and Daisy G

V. Dromore HS Won 1-0  
scorer Daisy G

The U14 team has also delivered some outstanding performances, demonstrated great resilience and scoring ability in their fixtures:

V Kilkeel HS won 5-2 scorers Maddie M, Mia G, Lucy W x2

V Killicomaine JHS lost 0-2 (a tough match that provides valuable learning opportunities)

V Friends HS won 3-0  
scorers Jessica B Lucia McM and Mia G

V. Dromore HS won a convincing 7-0 scorers Lucy W, Jessica x3 Maddie, Mia and Lucia.

Junior Cup v Limavady Grammar School won 2-1  
scorers Bella and Lucia McM

A huge congratulations to all the players for their commitment and enthusiasm.



### Rugby news

The Year 8 rugby team continued their unbeaten start to the season. Following on from 2 wins and 2 draws at an Ulster Branch 'Let's Play' event at Portadown RFC, the boys recorded two more encouraging wins against Clounagh JHS. The squad continues to grow and improve with the help of players who are keen to improve and get involved in the variety of sports LJHS has to offer.

The U13 rugby team, led by Captain Tommy Lavery, continue to make progress despite a difficult start to the season with one win from their opening six games. Encouraging performances against RBAI and Banbridge Academy resulted in narrow defeats but positive attitudes and hard work at training will hopefully lead to improved results in the new year.

The U14 rugby team, led by Theo Martin, are showing signs of improvement following a narrow defeat (21-14) to local rivals Clounagh JHS in their recent High School's Cup match. There have been some shining lights in the form of Bobby Gardiner, Callum Craig, Will Uprichard and also Year 9 players Daniel Henry and Abdul Rafay. Onwards and Upwards.



### Netball news

The Year 9 Minor and Year 10 Junior Netball girls have made an excellent start to the season, taking part in the Southern A League, the Northern Ireland Cup and the Vista League. They faced strong competition in two of their league matches against Mount Lourdes and Sacred Heart and have had convincing wins against Banbridge Academy, Grosvenor Grammar and Clounagh Junior High School. The girls must be commended for the excellent commitment and dedication to training and fixtures this term.



Pictured above is our Minor and Junior Netball Teams



## Boys' Football

The LJHS Boys' football season has started extremely well this year. Our U12'S captained by Archie Gardiner are currently unbeaten and find themselves in the Quarter Finals of both the Northern Ireland and Mid Ulster Cups. A 3-0 win away to Integrated College Dungannon in the league was an excellent start, and this was followed up by a 6-2 win against Lismore in the Mid Ulster Cup and a 3-0 win against Killicomaine in the Northern Ireland Cup. The boys have since went on to defeat Integrated College Glengormley (1-0) and Holy Cross Strabane (3-2) to progress in the NI Cup.

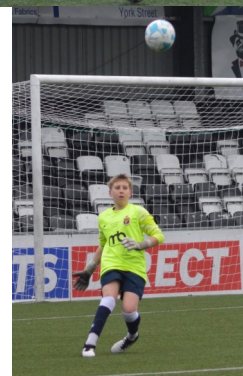
The U12B team have begun their campaign in spirited fashion with a competitive Small School's league defeat against St John the Baptist College sandwiched between two convincing wins over Integrated College Dungannon (6-0) and Holy Cross Strabane (13-0). The Boys look forward to further league encounters against St Patrick's College Dungannon, St Patrick's High School Keady and Tandragee JHS in the new year.

The LJHS U13A team, captained by the talented Eli Wade, kicked off their season with a highly competitive match in the league. Their opening fixture saw them face off against Killicomaine, in what was a fiercely contested game. Despite the Lurgan side demonstrating excellent control and enjoying the

majority of possession throughout the match, they were unable to convert their dominance into goals. Ultimately, a single, decisive goal sealed the game for Killicomaine, resulting in a narrow loss for the U13'S. The team is now eagerly anticipating their upcoming fixtures before the Christmas break, a challenging Mid Ulster Cup match against Newbridge and a league encounter with Tandragee, where they will look to translate their strong possession into a winning result.

The Yr 10 B team have played one game in the small school Mid Ulster League which was a defeat against a very strong Newbridge Integrated College. The team are hopeful in picking up some points in their remaining 2 fixtures.

Our U4's, captained by Jack Savage, have also had an excellent start to the season, finding themselves in the quarter final of the Mid Ulster Cup and currently unbeaten in the league. After two super wins in the Northern Ireland Cup (4-0 v Rathfriland and 8-0 v St Ciarans), the boys were unfortunately knocked out in an extremely close game against Laurelhill. Despite playing the better football, Lurgan couldn't create enough chances and eventually lost 2-1.



## Prize Day 2025

School was delighted to celebrate our Annual Prize Distribution on Thursday 23rd October 2025 with the Board of Governors, staff, parents and pupils of our school community present. This day marks a very special date in our school calendar as we celebrated the incredible achievements of our pupils both inside and outside the classroom for the 2024-2025 academic year.

A massive congratulations to all of our prize winners on the day, and a special welcome back to our former pupils who left us in June. It was wonderful to see them again, now representing their new schools, while also celebrating their many successes and contributions during their time at Lurgan Junior High School.

A huge thank you to our Music department and school choir for three wonderful musical items to open proceedings, including a beautiful solo piano performance.

Our thanks go to Mr Enderby, Chair of the Board of Governors, who opened proceedings, and to our Principal, MR McCoy, for his inspiring reflection on a year guided by our school motto: Swift to Learn, Ready to Lead.

We were honoured to hear from Mr Kyle McCallan MBE,

Headmaster of Lurgan College, who shared a powerful message about recognising success while also valuing the lessons learned from life's challenges and setbacks.

A heartfelt thank you to Mr Thompson and Mrs Gordon, in particular, and to all those staff members involved on the day for ensuring the day was a meaningful celebration of our school community.



## Christmas Fayre

We hosted our Christmas Fayre on Thursday 4th December, 2025.

The event was a resounding success with nearly 50 unique craft stalls and lots of engaging activities for those who attended. We had a Santa's grotto, the school choir performing and plenty of festive games and treats. The event was well supported by staff, students, parents and the broader community.



## Christmas Bake off

Well done to all the Year 10 pupils who took part in this year's Christmas House Bake Off Competition. The standard was exceptionally high, and we were truly impressed by the creativity and quality of all the delicious bakes. We were delighted to welcome Ally from The Kosy Bakery, who kindly helped to judge the competition. We would also like to thank Sidney McCormick for generously providing prizes for our top five winners. We greatly appreciate the time, support and generosity of everyone at The Kosy Bakery—thank you for making the event such a success. We hope the pupils enjoyed taking part in this competition and will continue to use their baking skills over the Christmas Holidays. Well done everyone!

Results as follows:

- 1st Place—Grace P 10A7 Ferris
- 2nd Place—Ezekial F 10A2 Wakehurst
- 3rd Place—Ella R 10A3 Waring
- 4th Place—Pippa H 10A1 Brownlow
- 5th Place—Lucy Q 10A1 Ferris





# Lurgan Junior High School

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

**Wednesday 14th January, 2025, 7.00pm—9.30pm.**

Principal's Introduction delivered at: 7.00pm and 8.00pm.  
(See website for details at [www.ljhs.co.uk](http://www.ljhs.co.uk) following the Christmas break).

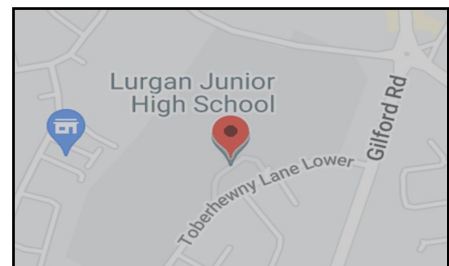
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**Respect Responsibility Resilience**



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## **School Reminders**

### **Key Dates for Term 2, Jan-April**

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

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

- **Term Two begins: 5th January 2026 for all pupils;**
- **Open Night: 14th January 2026 7pm—9.30pm;**
- **Pupils finish at 12 noon 14th January 2026**
- **Ski Trip departs: 17th January 2026;**
- **Mid-Term break: 9th February to 16th February inclusive;**
- **Year 10 Transfer Exams: 10th—24th March 2026**
- **Last day of term: 27th March 2026 (pupils finish at 12 noon).**

