

STRATHEARN NEWS



Lord Mayor's Visit to Strathearn

On 20 November, the Lord Mayor of Belfast, Nuala McAllister, visited Strathearn School. The Lord Mayor participated in a question and answer session with Sixth Form politics students. Topics as diverse as what makes Belfast a welcoming and inclusive city, how to break the current deadlock at Stormont and what it's like being a young woman in politics made for a lively discussion. Pupils enjoyed the chance to speak directly to an elected representative and the Lord Mayor responded thoughtfully to some of the issues that the pupils raised, making this a valuable visit for all concerned.



Carol Service



This year the Carol Service took place on 20 December in Bloomfield Presbyterian Church. The service was based around the Christmas story, told in the traditional Nine Lessons, with much-loved carols for the congregation and songs from Strathearn's four choirs, the Penrhyn Choir, Junior Choir, Senior Choir and Chamber Choir. We would like to thank everyone who participated for their contributions to a memorable evening of Christmas worship. The retiring collection was dedicated to Mrs Agnew's Library project in San Mateo School Lima, Peru. Mrs Agnew is there for one year and hopes to convert a disused classroom into a library. Many thanks to everyone who contributed so generously to this.

RAF Roadshow

On 29 November, pupils from Forms 2 and 3 enjoyed a visit from the RAF. The girls were treated to an exciting roadshow called The Physics of Flight. During the talk the girls watched a drone being flown in Manning Hall and they listened to the sound of a jet engine. They also got to learn about the many varied careers in the RAF. It was a great morning. Many thanks to the RAF for providing a great educational experience for free!



Form Efforts

- Congratulations to all in Form 1 for raising over £1900 for the Thorndale Centre in North Belfast. This centre, run by the Salvation Army, takes care of families who may otherwise be homeless. They provide support and love at a very difficult time for those who have very little. Orla Millard is pictured presenting the cheque to Dawn and Jackie from the centre.
- Congratulations to 3H, who raised £300 for the Princess Diana Anti-Bullying Trust by selling anti-bullying wrist bands.
- Congratulations to L6S, who have been doing a copper collection every Thursday morning to support Strathearn Primary School in Uganda. The total to date is £314. Thanks to everyone for their support!



Autumn Musical Evening

The Autumn Musical Evening included three impressive pieces by the school Orchestra. We also enjoyed items by junior soloists Eva Lappin, Hannah Stanfield, Tara Winton, Catherine Welsh, Rebekah Devlin and Kathryn Finlay (all singers), Madalaine Wilson, Rachel Brett and Emily Wilson (piano), Daisy Johnston (euphonium) and Stella Moore (violin). The very able senior soloists were Sophie Mitchell (flute), Hannah Hornsby (voice), Amy Bole, playing her own piano composition, Ide Simpson (voice) and Miriam O'Reilly (xylophone). It was a most enjoyable evening, and the Music Department would like to thank all the students who performed so well, and everyone who came to enjoy the music.



INDIVIDUAL'S SUCCESSES

Congratulations to...



Emily Wilson, 1T, who achieved a Distinction in her Grade Six Flute Exam.
Hannah McGugan, 3S, who won the U15 section of the Irish Junior Open for Squash.
Hannah Pollock-Chan, 2A, who performed as a dancer in Swan Lake in the Grand Opera House.
Aliah Cairns, 2A, who passed her Grade 5 Drama and Grade 8 Singing Exams.
Emily Hanna, 2S, who achieved a Distinction in her Grade 4 Piano Exam.
Sophie Hoey, 2S, who came 14th in Multi-Event at the All Ireland Athletics Championships.
Rebekah Devlin, 2S, who came 1st in the U13 Musical Theatre section of the Hollywood Music Festival. Rebekah also came 1st in the U14 Junior Repertoire section.
Kathryn Finlay, who came 3rd in the U14 Musical Theatre section of the Hollywood Music Festival.
Catherine Welsh, 3H, who was placed 5th overall in the NI Open Championships for Highland Dancing.
Megan Allen, 3T, who has been selected for the NI Performance Squad for Sailing. Megan also finished as 1st girl overall in the Regatta Fleet in the NI Sailing Championships.
Kristanna Clegg, 3T, who passed her Grade 5 Theory Exam.
Eve Greer, 4A, who reached the finals of the Young Farmers' Public Speaking competition.
Emily Parker, 4A, who graduated from a 'Serve' leadership course with her church.
Emily Hall, 5R, who participated in the English Youth Ballet's production of Swan Lake in the Grand Opera House.
Emmy Thornton, 1H, who came 12th in the U13 section of the All Ireland Cross-Country Championships.
Emma McGugan, 5T, who came 3rd in the Irish Junior Open for Squash.
Jessica Arbuckle, L6S, who passed her Grade 5 Piano Exam.

careers round-up

The focus for U6 in terms of the careers programme has now moved on to interview practice culminating in the Mock Interview Evening on 21 November. We welcomed 32 guest interviewers from a wide range of career backgrounds who gave our girls a practice interview and provided valuable feedback and guidance on how to improve their interview technique when they have an interview for real. As always, we are really indebted to all those professionals who took time out of their busy schedules to help our U6 pupils. Oxbridge applicants have had an additional interview as part of their preparation for their interview in December. Our careers adviser, Mrs Hearst, also talked to U6 about preparation for interviews and is running interview workshops for medical, dentistry and teaching applicants. She will run nursing interview workshops after Christmas. Mrs Hearst has also carried out practice interviews for anyone in school who wanted additional help.

Several girls have attended careers events outside school. Three L6 pupils attended an Insight Day with international law firm Baker McKenzie, another pupil attended a Physiotherapy Open Day at Musgrave Park Hospital, while one girl attended a Mental Health Nursing Open Morning at Knockbracken Healthcare Park.

L6 and Form 5 ICT classes heard an inspirational talk from Lisa Smith who is involved in a range of IT companies, and outlined the many and varied opportunities in ICT and STEM industries.

Form 3 classes have been visiting the careers suite to find out about resources which will help them choose their GCSEs later in the year. Jill Lemon, from the Department of the Economy, also talked to Form 3 about choosing their GCSE subjects. We also had a talk on Harvard University, another on Trinity College, Dublin and a guidance session on applying to all universities in the Republic of Ireland through CAO. We welcomed back former pupils from Oxford and Cambridge who talked to our girls about life at those institutions, while former pupils studying medicine and dentistry talked about their courses.

Finally, all members of the Careers Department would like to extend their best wishes to pupils, parents and colleagues for Christmas and the New Year.



Translink Safety Bus

On 15 November, Form 1 enjoyed a visit from Translink's Safety Bus. Kevin and Susan (from Translink) took time out of their busy schedule to inform the girls about safe travelling to and from school. The girls really enjoyed the morning and valued the important information given.



COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTY

Our Annual Community Christmas Party was once again held in Manning Hall and we welcomed 58 guests. 3T were this year's hosts and servers to the guests who came from a variety of Day Care centres, Church groups and those in the locality. A beautiful Christmas dinner was provided by Mrs Crymble and her team and the guests particularly enjoyed their Christmas pudding.

Once everyone had eaten, the entertainment began and the guests were treated to a wide and extensive range of talent provided by girls from Year 1 through to U6. Dancing, instrumentals and singing were thoroughly enjoyed and appreciated by everyone. Maria from 'Sound of Music' made an appearance as well!

One of our guests made a little thank you speech at the end and he wanted all the girls of Strathearn to know how grateful the guests were that this event is provided for them year after year by your non-uniform money.

Season's Greetings

Library News



BAR MOCK TRIAL



On Saturday 25 November, the Strathearn Bar Mock Trial Team competed in the Northern Ireland Bar Mock Trial heats held at the Royal Courts of Justice. We had been given two cases to prepare. We took on different roles including barristers, witnesses, court clerks and ushers as well as jury members. As barristers, we worked alongside legal mentors who helped us to understand our role and guided us in how to prepare properly for court. On the day we competed in three rounds. We had to present our case to the judge and the jury. This involved us presenting opening and closing speeches, examining Strathearn witnesses as well as Cross-examining witnesses from the opposition. The Strathearn witnesses held up well under cross-examination from other schools, and our usher and court clerk helped to facilitate the smooth running of the court. Although we did not manage to make the final, the day was a great insight into the legal profession and how court works. The experience we gained was invaluable and we would highly recommend this event.

Ellen Gilpin and Molly Longstaff

THE KIDS' LIT QUIZ



The library at Strathearn has been as busy as ever this November and December. First, two teams went to the Northern Ireland Heat of the Kids' Lit Quiz, where they answered questions on children's literature in rounds like 'Thieves' and 'The Disgusting'. Although the girls didn't win, they had a great afternoon.

BOOK CLUB

Book Club is as strong as ever, with a dedicated group meeting weekly in the library to have a chat about books and share recommendations. The festive edition, Bobble Hat Book Club, wouldn't be complete without hot chocolate and marshmallows!



ACCELERATED READER PROGRAMME

The Accelerated Reader programme is ongoing, and pupils had read over 981 books this term at the last count. Congratulations to those who scored 100% in a reading quiz and got their name onto the Quiz Club Wall of Fame. Congratulations also to those girls who won prizes in the draw!

SCHOLASTIC BOOK FAIR

Strathearn also hosted the Scholastic Book Fair, which raised £750 for new books for the library. Thanks to those of you who supported the event. A special mention must go to Rebekkah Lindores, 4H, whose helpfulness and enthusiasm made sure the event was a success.

THE LIBRARY TEAM

The Library Team has settled well this term, with around 40 pupils coming regularly to help serve others, keep the library tidy and to process the stock. Tara Kane, L6T, deserves a big thank you for all her efforts in the library over recent weeks, particularly for helping while junior classes are using the library. There will be plenty going on next year, including the Library Team's charity effort, which will take place in January. Remember you can follow the library on Twitter – just search for the handle @Library_Strath...

PUBLIC SPEAKING NEWS



Photo: L to R - Jenna Montgomery, Tavisha Sood and Tara Kane.

A number of girls from L6 have been very busy this month, preparing for and participating in two Public Speaking competitions. First was the Business and Professional Women's Public Speaking Competition. Tavisha Sood took the role of speaker, addressing the topic of 'The Glass Ceiling Today', and Rebecca McAlees chaired the meeting with Tara Kane offering thanks on behalf of the assembled audience at the end. The judges praised the connection that the girls made with the audience, the considered discussion that was offered and the clarity with which they spoke. The team from Strathearn won the heat, and will be competing to become Northern Ireland champions at the final in February.

Next was the Soroptimist International Public Speaking Competition, where Tara Kane talked with honesty about 'What Brexit means for young people', and Jenna Montgomery thoughtfully assessed the question, 'Immigration - how open should our doors be?' Tavisha Sood took the floor to consider 'What is in store for my generation?' and emerged as the winner of the heat. She will be going to the Northern Ireland final in the new year. Well done to all the pupils who entered these competitions. It takes considerable effort to research, write and redraft speeches like these, and courage to stand up and deliver them with confidence.



Young Enterprise Geography Field Trip



On 24 November, Form 2 had the opportunity to participate in the Young Enterprise, Exploring Enterprise event. The students investigated economic activity and the role that entrepreneurs can play in our local society. We are grateful to Barbara and the team for another excellent session, equipping our students with skills and awareness of the world of work.

On 20 November, the L6 geographers headed north to Magilligan Field Centre for our fieldwork residential. We spent two days in the outdoors, undertaking a beach and sand dune study along with a river investigation along the Curly Burn. We had a great trip and despite the heavy rain leading to flood conditions in the river, we gathered lots of data to process. A big thank you to Natalie and the MFC team who looked after us for the two days.

The Sound of Music

Congratulations to all of our pupils who participated in last summer's production of *The Sound of Music*. The production ran over three nights from 6-8 December, and provided great entertainment to everyone who attended.



FANTASTIC FEMALES

On 22 November, L6 Business Studies pupils attended the Fantastic Females event at the SSE Arena. Guest speakers included Aisling Keegan, Vice President and General Manager of Dell EMC Ireland and Roseann Kelly, Chief Executive of Women in Business. The girls encountered a range of empowering ideas and had a really enjoyable day.



3S Keep NI Beautiful

This year 3S decided to volunteer to do a beach clean-up at Ballywalter Beach for their Class Form Effort. We liked the idea of helping the community directly by volunteering a day's work. Our aim was to collect all the litter from around the Ballywalter Coast.

On 20 October, 3S along with Mr Bradley and Miss Davis, teamed up with the organisation 'Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful' to complete our beach clean. Their representative, Nicola, kindly provided us with safety equipment such as litter pickers, hi-vis jackets, bin bags and safety gloves. We started working early in the morning, setting off from Sandycove Holiday Park, with everyone excited to take part and do their bit. The sun was shining as we set off walking down the coast, picking up litter as we went. Everyone worked well together including the teachers. We found plenty of litter to keep us busy and half way along the coast we stopped for a short break of hot drinks and a biscuit. We all worked hard throughout the day, collecting pieces of litter, large and small, and there was an obvious improvement in the quality of the beach after we had completed our work. We even got the opportunity to see an enormous frog during our lunch break! In the afternoon we continued our work at the local community War Memorial. We were glad to help to keep the memorial looking neat and tidy by pulling out weeds, picking litter from the plants and clearing pathways. 3S thoroughly enjoyed our day at Ballywalter Beach and are looking forward to returning there to help again soon.

Rachel McDonald & Gabriella Park



Hockey

There have been various cup matches played by the hockey teams over the last few weeks. The 1st XI had a very convincing first round of the Senior Cup, beating Killeel High School 6-0. They then played Regent in the second round and won 2-1. Sullivan will be our next opposition after Christmas

The 2As narrowly lost to Ballyclare High School in the first round of the McDowell Cup. Good luck to them as they now go into the plate competition later in the season.

The 2Bs finished first in their group in the Gibson Cup beating Sullivan 1-0, Grosvensor 7-1 and drawing 0-0 against Down High School. They now progress to the Quarter-Finals in the new year.

The 3As also topped their group with wins against Grosvensor, Slemish College and Strabane. Good luck to them as they now play Rainey Endowed School in the Quarter-Finals.

The U14As played Hunterhouse in the second round of the Junior Cup and won 5-0. Good luck to them as they now play Ballymena Academy in the third round.

The U12s had their first matches on 6 December against Sullivan and made a great start to their Strathearn hockey careers.

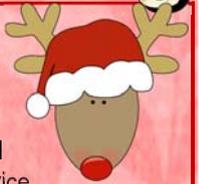


Badminton

This season's badminton matches have begun. The Form One Team unfortunately lost to Wallace High School and Coleraine Grammar but successfully beat Ballyclare High School. The Senior Team drew against Friends' School Lisburn and have matches against Bloomfield and Down High which are taking place next week.

Trampolining

Well done to everyone who competed in the Northern Ireland Regional Schools' Trampolining Competition. We had an U14 Novice Team of Ella Simms, Amy Wilson and Hannah Legge, and U15 Novice individuals Ellie Johnston and Emma Legge. Sophie Neale competed in the U19 Intermediate section and Eliza Chittick and Alexandra Speers in the U14 Intermediate section. The girls all bounced well but unfortunately were not in the top two qualifying places.



Netball

The netball league matches have officially started. The Minor Team won their first match against Ashfield with an impressive 43-0 score. The Junior Team have been busy, beating Ashfield 28-1 and St Columbanus 7-4 but were unfortunate to lose to Bangor Academy in a tightly fought match which ended up 7-5 to the opposition. The Intermediate Team have also been successful winning 24-9 against Bangor Academy and 29-14 against Ashfield. The Senior Team have had a successful start winning their first match against Ashfield 23-8.

Congratulations to Niamh Hanna who was selected for a second U15 RDA Netball trial. Well done to both Ellie Gordon and Lucie McNaught who also have been selected for further U13 RDA Netball trials.



Athletics

Congratulations to Sophie Hoey who competed at the Irish Schools' Multi-Event Championships in Athlone in October and finished a commendable 14th.

Orienteering

Orienteering Club continues on Tuesdays after school for pupils of all abilities. You can walk, jog or run the course whilst improving your map reading skills. Why not come along and give it a go?

Squash



Squash Club is now up and running on Mondays at 3.45pm at CIYMS. If you are interested in joining, please speak to the PE Department. No previous experience is necessary.

Dance



Congratulations to all those who have been selected for the Dance Team this year. The girls have started practising for the competitions in the spring. For all other aspiring dancers please come along to dance club on a Thursday lunchtime in the Sportshall. No experience required!!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

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| 4 January | School resumes at 8.45am |
| 6 January | Open Morning |
| 8-12 January | Mock Examinations for L6 and U6 |
| 8-19 January | Mock Examinations for Form 5 |
| 6 February | Form 4 Young Enterprise, periods 1-6 |
| 7 February | Sixth Form Parent-Teacher Consultation |



Please note that after-school sport will recommence on Thursday 4 January

Swimming News



EUROPEAN YOUTH OLYMPICS

In May 2017 Mia Davison and I were very excited and honoured to be selected for the Irish European Youth Olympic Team for the Games in Gyor, Hungary, July 2017. I qualified in 200 Butterfly and 400 IM, and Mia in 100 Breaststroke. I was then also offered a chance to swim 200 IM and Mia 200 Breaststroke. The festival is a bi-annual mini Olympic multi-sport event. We had a great experience staying at the athletes' village and meeting competitors from all over Europe. I swam my two main events on the first day, placing 12th in my 400 IM and 24th in the 200 Butterfly. I then swam the 200 IM on the third day, placing 24th. Mia swam the 100 Breaststroke, placing 30th and 200 Breaststroke, placing 38th. She also swam the 100 Breaststroke in the Medley Relay, and was placed 22nd. We learnt a lot about the pressure of international competition, and about competing in 32°! It was also a new experience not to have our club coaches or families with us. We are now working hard to qualify for the European Juniors in 2018.

Amelia Kane, 4S

SWIM ULSTER LONG COURSE CHAMPIONSHIPS

At the Swim Ulster Long Course Championships on 8-10 December Amelia Kane was crowned Ulster Junior and Senior Champion in 400m IM and 200m Butterfly winning both events in this open competition. She also became the Ulster Junior Champion in 200m Freestyle and 200m Backcrawl. She was also a member of the 4 x 100m IM and 4 x 200m Freestyle Relay Teams which finished 1st and broke the Irish Junior records in the process. Mia Davison was also part of the victorious IM Relay Team. Well done girls and to the other Strathearn swimmers who competed over the weekend!

RESULTS

ULSTER GRAMMAR SCHOOLS' SWIMMING GALA

Well done to all those who took part in this gala!

RELAY TEAM - 4th Medley & 4th Freestyle: Rachel Childs, Lauren Nesbitt, Alice Browne, Eva Lappin



JUNIOR TEAM RESULTS

<u>Name</u>	50m Back	50m Breast	50m Fly	50m Free	100m IM
Rachel Childs	6 th		11 th		
Lauren Nesbitt	11 th	16 th			
Lucy Wills	18 th			25 th	
Evie Gallen		21 st			18 th
Lauren Wilson		31 st			38 th
Eva Lappin		41 st		22 nd	
Alice Browne			17 th		13 th
Eilidh Blair			30 th		
Josie Bailie	38 th			59 th	
Emmy Thornton				46 th	
Martha Cupples			20 th		31 st

RELAY TEAM - 4th Medley & 4th Freestyle - Chloe Browne, Anna Heyburn, Evie Gallen, Rebecca Burrows

INTERMEDIATE TEAM RESULTS

<u>Name</u>	50m Back	50m Breast	50m Fly	50m Free	100m IM
Chloe Browne	13 th	14 th			
Anna Heyburn		2 nd		4 th	