

October 2014

STRATHEARN NEWS



PRIZE DAY



This year, Prize Night took place on 2 October in the Sports Hall. An excellent programme of music by the Orchestra opened the proceedings. Our Head Girl, Erin Prentice, welcomed everyone to the event. Mrs Stewart, Chair of the Board of Governors, then spoke of the enormous pleasure it was to share in the celebration of all the talents that Strathearn had nurtured. She expressed her thanks to the Board of Governors for their stewardship and thanked the parents for their generous financial support. All that had been promised in terms of buildings and resources had been delivered, and all that remained was the final completion in November of two tennis courts and the gymnasium.

In his report, Mr Manning expressed his delight at the new build and the wide-ranging successes the school has experienced both academically and in sport, music, drama and competitions. He was assisted in his review of the year by our Games Captain, Natalie Wallace, and Kate Umphray. Natalie spoke of the positive impact our new facilities have had on sport in Strathearn and of individual and team successes, and Kate told the audience of the success of the Chamber Choir in the *All Island School Choir of the Year*

Competition and spoke of the opportunities in music for pupils and her personal highlights in the musical calendar.

The Chair of the Board, Mrs Stewart then introduced our Guest of Honour, Professor Máire O'Neill of the Institute of Electronics, Communications and Information Technology at Queen's University, Belfast. Professor O'Neill presented the prizes and awards, and in her speech she congratulated the prize winners and expressed her pleasure at being present at the occasion. Professor O'Neill spoke of her enthusiasm for electronic engineering and urged the girls to consider this field as a rewarding career option, which would enable them to work with the latest technologies and on problems that matter to society. She spoke of the inspiration she experienced at an early age when her father built a hydro-electric scheme on the river running near their house in Donegal and her career path to this point. Now a leading cryptography expert, Professor O'Neill urged the girls to be proactive, as you never know where this will lead and illustrated this by speaking of points in her career when this quality had led to significant breakthroughs. She concluded her inspiring speech by quoting Henry Ford who said: "Whether you think you can, or think you can't - you're right."

After a presentation to our Guest of Honour by the Deputy Head Girls, Hermione Anstey and Naoise Webster, the Chamber Choir brought the evening to a conclusion with a great performance of *Joshua Fit The Battle of Jericho*.

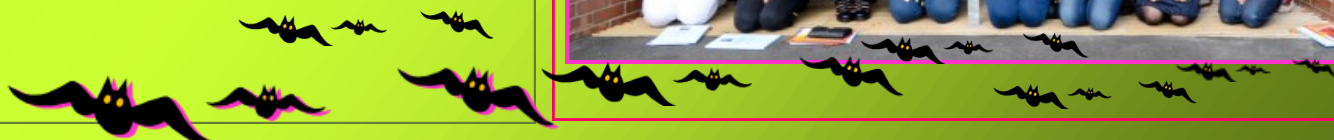
House Plays U6 Prize Distribution



The House plays were presented to the Junior School on Tuesday, 21 October and to the Senior School on Wednesday, 22 October. Barbour House produced *The Escape*, which was directed by House Captain, Katie Brown and was based on *The Great Nursing Home Escape* by Nathan Hartswick. Watts House, directed by House Captain, Clara Kerr, produced *Rejection* based on *Will Date for Food* by Ian McWethy. Boucher House, directed by House Captain, Jessica McCleery, produced *Take a Seat* based on *Hard Candy* by Jonathan Rand. McCaughey House, directed by Beth Lynas, produced *How I Met Your Father* based on *That's Not How I Remember It* by Dan Zolidis.

We welcomed Mrs Leeman, a former Head of Drama at Strathearn, as our adjudicator this year. The results of the competition were as follows: the Frances Mulley Rose Bowl for Best Actress was awarded to Frances Wilson in Watts House; the Levers Shield for Best Cameo Performance went to Aife Sansom in Barbour House; the McNeill Cup for Directing was awarded to Beth Lynas in McCaughey House; the McMinn Cup for Best Supporting Actress went to Jill Fergie in McCaughey House; the Gillian Douglas Drama Award was awarded to McCaughey House for the Best Technical Performance and the Inter-House Drama Award went to McCaughey House for *How I Met Your Father*.

The Class of 2014 returned to Strathearn on 4 September to receive certificates, prizes and awards at an informal ceremony in the Assembly Hall. Refreshments were served in the new Sixth Form common room and it was a pleasure to congratulate the girls in person and to wish them well as they move on to the next phase of their lives. We hope to keep in touch with the Class of 2014 at other school events!



INDIVIDUAL SUCCESSES

congratulations to...

Emily Hall, 2S, who passed her Grade Three Ballet Examination with Distinction.
 Lauren Kerr, 2S, who passed her Grade Four Flute Examination with Distinction.
 Laurn Todd, 4R, who passed her Grade Five Viola Examination.
 Abigail Acheson, 4R, who passed her Grade Five Viola Examination.
 Ally McConnell, 1A, who tackled a 1m jump on her horse.
 Jess Winton, 1A, who won four cups for sailing.
 Ruby Allen, 1A, who passed a dressage test and came 4th in an equestrian competition. Ruby also gained a Distinction in Grade Three Drama.
 Charlotte and Sara Black, 1A, who learned to windsurf, sail and paddleboard on a watersports course in England.
 Chloe Browne, 1A, who came first in a Duathlon competition and who also gained a Distinction in Grade Three Drama.
 Elizabeth Walker, 1T, who earned her promise badge at Guides.
 Grace Thompson, 1T, who earned her green tag (7th Kup) belt at Taekwondo.
 Tori Jackson and Amy Bole, 2A, who sang in Stormont for the Chest Heart and Stroke Association with the Stormont School of Singing.
 Freya Axten, 2A, who passed her Saxophone Examination with Distinction.
 Nina Reid, 2A, who passed her Grade Three Alto Saxophone with Distinction.
 Laura Killiner, 2A, who passed her Grade Three Theory Examination with Merit.
 Emma Craig, 2A, who passed her Acting Examination with Distinction and her Guitar Examination with Merit.
 Anna Kenny, 2A, who passed her Grade Three Violin Examination with Merit.
 Amy Bole, 2A, who passed her Grade Five Flute Examination with Merit.
 Hannah Hornsby, 2A, who will be taking part in *Oliver* in the Grand Opera House.
 Tori Jackson, 2A, who passed her Singing Examination with Distinction.
 Sophie Hamilton, 2A, who passed her Grade Three Violin Examination with Merit.
 Rebecca Welsh, 2A, who was placed first in the U13 Pre-Championships in Scottish Dancing and third in the Ulster Championships.
 Amy McWhirter, 1S, who was a member of the dance team which won 17 trophies in their heat at the *That's Showbiz* Dance Competition.
 Isabella McKnight, 1S, who passed her Speech and Drama Examination with Distinction.
 Jordan Hineson, 2R, who is dancing in *Oliver* at the Grand Opera House.
 Orla Bannister, 3A, who passed her Grade Seven Piano Examination with Distinction and her Grade Four Flute Examination.
 Katie Campbell, 3A, who passed her Grade Two Guitar Examination with Merit.
 Rachael Campbell, 3A, who passed her Grade Four Flute Examination.
 Rachel Bell, 3T, who passed her Grade Two Clarinet Examination.
 Lauren Shankey, 3T, who performed with her Dance School in the finals of the *Talent Fest UK* in Blackpool.
 Olivia Nelson, Mia Wheatley and Rose Templeton, 3H, who took part in the Summer Youth Project's production of *Guys and Dolls* at the Grand Opera House in July.
 Mia Wheatley, 3H, who completed a two week residential and performed in *Evita* in the Titanic Quarter with MT4UTH.
 Lauren Clarke 4H, who competed in the U 15 Girls' Age Group at the Great Britain Championships of Irish Dancing on 18 October in Bognor Regis. Lauren was placed 25th overall out of a group of over 100 girls.
 Murphy Miller 2S, who came third in the Runher Titanic 10k Run for schools.

Careers Update FORM 1 VISIT THE ZOO

The autumn term got underway with the usual round of Open Days. Many girls attended events at the University of Ulster's campuses at Jordanstown, Magee and Coleraine, and all of Upper Sixth went to the Open Day at Queen's University and the Methodist College Options XXII careers event. Pupils were able to use these opportunities to confirm university choices and obtain useful last minute information. Almost all UCAS forms have been completed and no doubt, some girls will have secured some offers by Christmas depending on the courses and universities to which they have applied. Mrs Hearst has been running a series of advice sessions on personal statements throughout this term and she will organise several interview workshops after the Halloween break.

We welcomed a range of speakers during this term. Form Five had a talk on engineering and two others on law and medicine - both from former pupils. We also had presentations for sixth form pupils on gap years, teaching, nursing and midwifery, art school applications and healthcare professions. One Lower Sixth student attended a Radiotherapy Open Day at the Cancer Centre at the Belfast City Hospital. A group of Form Five girls attended the Corpus Christi outreach conference at Wallace High School on 8 September. Form Three have had a Careers Planning Day and Form Five have started their programme of careers guidance interviews with the careers adviser from the Careers Service NI, with other interviews to follow after the half-term break.

On 12 September all of Form One visited the Zoo. Although it was rather overcast, the rain stayed away and everyone was able to enjoy a great day out. The mixed groups meant that the girls were able to get to know others in Form One. There were many highlights but the favourite was definitely the new baby giraffe. The Zoovenier shop was also very popular!



Sythes Award

The standard of entries for the annual Sythes Award for Prose was, as usual, very high. This year the judges decided that there should be two winners: U6 pupils Anna Campbell and Sarah Lamont. Anna considered the international community's responsibilities to Africa, and Sarah wrote about issues surrounding censorship in the arts. Both essays were engaging and highly thought-provoking.

Form News & Trips investment challenge • QUB

ART: *Taking Place* was an exciting photography exhibition on show at the Crescent Arts Centre in September. Two former Strathearn pupils were amongst the artists. Joanna McNulty's work included photos taken in the streets close to Strathearn and Victoria J Dean's theme was the *Fortified Coast of Ireland*. The school is delighted to see Art created by former students being shown in the public arena and wishes both artists every success.

DRAMA: The A-level Drama classes have been busy this term with Lower Sixth attending *Jonathan Harker and Dracula* at the Theatre at the Mill and the Upper Sixth seeing *A Midsummer Night's Dream* at the Courtyard Theatre, Ballyearl. Both plays offered ample material for the classes to review for both coursework and examination. *Dracula* was a fast-paced and modern interpretation of the classic with one actor assuming over 15 roles. *A Midsummer Night's Dream* was much more traditionally presented and yet still had the Upper Sixth giggling in their seats showing how Shakespeare still speaks to audiences today.

SANTANDER: *Buen viaje!* to the Key Stage Four Spanish students who are on a language trip to Santander from 19-23 October.

MINNEAPOLIS: Bon Voyage to the nineteen Sixth Form girls who head off over the Halloween half-term break to Minneapolis as part of our on-going student exchange with Cretin-Derham Hall High School. The girls will be staying with host families for just over a week, and will attend school, visit local sights and maybe even get in some shopping while they are away! We wish them well and look forward to hearing about their experiences when they return.

FORM 2: Congratulations to 2R whose recent Form Effort raised £147 for Tiny Life.

Library News

Book Fair: It will soon be time for the Scholastic Book Fair, so it is time to start saving up pocket money to spend on the new and exciting books that will be on offer. The Fair will take place in the Library during the week beginning 10 November, and all first to third form classes will be brought as a class to browse and make their purchases. It will also be open every day at break, lunchtime and after school for anyone else who wishes to buy anything.

This is a great opportunity to support the Library as we will receive at least 50% commission on all the sales, the result of which means lots more new books for girls to read! So make a note in your diary.

Library Assistants: This year the Library has an army of helpers in the form of Junior Library Assistants, Senior Library Assistants, Sixth Form Librarians and Class Librarians, all of whom work hard to make the library a very busy and productive place.

We have also introduced the accolade of *Library Assistant of the Month* to the girl who has proved to be the most helpful and diligent in her Library duties, and the first girl to hold this title is Charlotte Crawford, 2H. Well done!



On 16 October, seven girls studying A-level Business Studies and Maths met outside Riddel Hall (Queen's Management School) to take part in the Queen's University Investment Challenges. The morning comprised of a *Stock Market Challenge* in three sessions. We were each put in teams of two and given two computers - one displayed the movement of share prices for various companies listed on the stock exchange, and the other displayed news flashes and bulletins from the media. In each pair one of us became the investment analyst and the other a media analyst and we were given £500,000 to invest. Within the three sessions we had to compete against the 49 other teams, from many other schools across Northern Ireland. We interpreted the media updates and from these we had to make decisions about which shares to buy and sell in order to increase our profit. It was important to work well as a team, interpreting the new media stories and analysing the figures. At times it was very stressful as we had to make fast decisions on our feet and there was an element of risk involved with each decision, but this made it a very exciting experience.

The afternoon session started with a finger buffet lunch in the 'Courtyard' and then we all attended a financial talk given by a lecturer from the BSc. Finance degree at Queen's. During this lecture we examined the role of money in economies. This involved us understanding how society continually changes how people trade and gave us a better understanding of the future of money. We also had the opportunity to speak to Queen's University graduates who are now working in various financial institutions in Belfast. We all found the whole day extremely beneficial and very enjoyable!



INDIVIDUAL SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS

congratulations to...

Charlotte de Montmorency-Wright, 5H, who was selected for the Northern Irish Tetrathlon Team for the Royal Windsor Horse Show. Charlotte also competed for Northern Ireland in the Irish Tetrathlon Championships. In the UK Championship the Northern Irish Team was fourth overall. Charlotte also went to England for individual eventing and dressage.

Fionn Clarke, 5H, who won an International Horse Riding Competition called *Tattersalls*.

Felicity Johnston, 1T, who competed at the Pony Club Home Championships 2014; the team was placed second and individually Felicity was placed eleventh.

Charlotte Keers, 1T, who was placed first at the Tullymurry Equestrian U12 Autumn Two Phase Event.

Freya Axten, 2A, who qualified to compete at the Tetrathlon Championships in Bishop Burton.

Keziah Beattie, 5S, who represented Northern Ireland in the Sainsbury School Games in the U19 Fencing. In the team event, Keziah won a Bronze medal. Keziah was on the GB U17 Team which participated in European tour events against several other Nations. She was also selected on the NI UK Schools' Games Team which took place in Manchester last September.

Leah McClements, 2T, who passed her Level Three Diving Examination.

Olivia Nelson, 3H, who was placed second in the U15 1500m with a personal best of 4.53 at the Irish Championships on 27 July. On 9 August she was second in the Youth Development League 800m with a personal best of 2.23. On 24 August she was third in Scotland in the U15 1500m with a personal best of 4.51. Olivia was also first in the YDL final, where she was *Athlete of the Match*.



Swimming

On 10 October girls from Forms 1 and 2 swam at the Ulster Minor Schools' Championships in Ballymena. Everyone swam exceptionally well but results have not been finalised by the Ulster Schools' Swimming Association, so outlined below are those results that were made available on the day.

In the Form One Age Group Amelia Kane won Bronze in both the Individual Medley event and 50m Butterfly. Well done to Rebekah Burrows, who made the final in both Freestyle and Breaststroke! Congratulations also to the Medley Relay Team of Rebecca Callaghan, Rebekah Burrows, Amelia Kane and Eve McKibbin on winning Silver. The same quartet also won Silver medals in the Freestyle Relay.

Good luck to everyone swimming at the Ulster Secondary Schools' Gala. The Senior swimmers will compete on 14 November and the Juniors and Intermediates on 15 November.

Hockey



The hockey season is well underway now, with all teams showing promising starts. The following girls have been elected as Captain and Vice-Captain of their respective teams:

1st XI Captain – Isla Lockhart; Vice Captain – Shannon McClintock
 2A XI Captain – Aimée Irwin; Vice Captain – Sarah Simpson
 2B XI Captain – Lara Sweet; Vice Captain – Francesca Lynn
 3A XI Captain – Rachel Powderley; Vice Captain – Amy Gilpin
 3B XI Captain – Ellen Gilpin; Vice Captain Katie Caldwell
 U14A Captain – Zoe Hepworth; Vice Captain – Hannah McCann
 U14B Captain – Sophie Neale; Vice Captain – Rebecca Mitchell
 U13A Captain – Eve Elliott; Vice Captain – Harriet Platt
 U13B Captain – to be confirmed.

Good Luck to all the Captains and Vice Captains for the rest of the season!

Cup competitions get underway after half-term with the 1st XI in action against Coleraine HS at home. The 2A XI open their campaign in the McDowell Cup with an away draw to local rivals, Bloomfield Collegiate, while the U14A XI meet Regent House away in the Junior Cup. The 2B and 3A Teams feature in the league sections of the Gibson Cup.

Good luck to all the teams who are training hard at the moment and have important matches coming up in various Cup competitions!

The Senior Hockey Tour, involving 24 players takes place in Belgium from 23-26 October. Two matches per squad is included in the trip along with a Coaching Master Class taken by current International players, a tour of Brussels and free entry to a top level women's match.

GREENHILL

Against the idyllic backdrop of the Mourne coast, all of second form attended Greenhill YMCA in Newcastle. They took part in outdoor pursuits and teambuilding exercises led by the enthusiastic and good-humoured staff from the centre. Initially the hard hats presented a conflict of hairstyle versus health and safety, however everyone quickly got on with abseiling, wall climbing, zip-lining, bouldering and some ill-fated attempts at canoe-building. Many thanks to Ms Young for organising such an enjoyable event!



Athletics

As a result of their success at the Ulster and Irish Schools' Athletics Championships in May, Megan Marrs and Lauren Brooker were selected to represent Ulster (U17) at the Tailteann Interprovincial Championships. These took place at Santry in Dublin on 21 June, Lauren finished 8th in the High Jump and Megan was 1st in the 100m (11.71 sec (w)) and was also part of the relay which finished 3rd.

Megan went on to be selected for Ireland (U17) at the Schools' Track and Field International competition in Cardiff on 19 July, where again she ran extremely well and brought home the Gold medal in the 100m (12.01 sec) and Silver in the relay.

The UK School Games was the next event on the calendar and it took place in Manchester on 4-7 September. At this event both Megan Marrs and Kate Farrelly were selected to represent Northern Ireland (U17). Kate was 7th in the 80m Hurdles and Megan excelled again winning the 100m (12.02 sec).

The Ulster Schools' Multi-event Championships were held on 18 September at the Mary Peters' Track. Strathearn were represented by Lauren Brooker and Kate Farrelly in the Intermediate Age Group. After a long day of competition - 5 events each - the girls were placed 3rd and 5th respectively. From this Lauren has now qualified for the Irish Schools' Championships in Athlone on 15 November. Well done both of you and good luck Lauren!!

NETBALL

Netball practices are well underway with large numbers attending across all age ranges. The following girls have been nominated to attend Belfast Regional Academy Trials (RDS), the dates of which have yet to be confirmed: U15 – Hannah McCann, Katie Wills, Victoria Hamilton, Alanna McHugh, Natalie McHugh. U13 – Eve Elliott, Grace Hutchinson, Olivia Allister, Megan Adair, Anna McKibbin, Murphy Miller. Good Luck to all!

This year all teams have been entered into the Grammar Schools' League and matches will commence soon. The hard work and dedication seen so far this year, will hopefully pay off in future matches. Good luck!

Show Jumping



The annual Inter-Schools' Team Show Jumping competition took place on 18 October at Balmoral Park, Maze, Lisburn. Strathearn had six riders competing; Charlotte De Montmorency-Wright was jumping in the Senior competition and unfortunately had a fall. Molly Cahoon was competing in a mixed Intermediate Team, where riders from different schools joined to make a team but she, unfortunately, missed a fence and so was eliminated. Our Intermediate Team of Rose De Montmorency-Wright, Zoe Martin, Freya Axten and Charlotte Keers had a total of 24 faults which put them out of contention for the main jumping prizes, but they did bring home the Tack and Turn-Out trophy for 2014. Well done girls!

Dates for your Diary

10-13 November: Book Fair
 13 & 14 November: Geography Field Trip
 20 November: Autumn Musical Evening
 21 November: Exceptional Closure Day & School Formal
 24 November: Upper Sixth Practice Interviews
 27 November: Form Two Young Enterprise Event
 3 December: Community Service Christmas Party
 4 December: Form One Consultation Evening 7-9 pm
 10, 11 & 12 December: The School Production
 18 December: Carol Service at Stormont Presbyterian Church
 19 December: School ends at 12 noon

SCHOOL RESUMES 3 NOVEMBER AT 8.40AM