

STRATHEARN NEWS



THE END OF AN ERA!



After almost 20 years as Principal of Strathearn, Mr Manning has decided that it is time to move on to pastures new! Mr Manning came to the school in 1989 and served for 8 years as Head of the Maths Department before his appointment as Principal in 1997. During the past 20 years, Mr Manning has brought his own style of inspirational leadership to his role, and he is held in high esteem by the staff, pupils and parents of Strathearn. In the final assembly of the term, on Wednesday 21 December, the school community will celebrate the past 20 years and bid a fond farewell to Mr Manning with much gratitude and emotion. We send all our best wishes to Mr Manning for his retirement, as well as our assurance that he will not be forgotten!

Carol Service Autumn Musical Evening

This year the Carol Service took place on 15 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 the school's four choirs, the Penrhyn Choir, Junior Choir, Senior Choir and Chamber Choir. We would like to thank everyone for their contributions to a memorable evening of Christmas worship. The retiring collection was split between the Belfast Central Mission Christmas Appeal and Abaana (for education in Uganda), and we would like to thank all of you who contributed so generously to these worthy causes.



The Autumn Musical Evening started and finished with pieces by the school Orchestra. We also heard junior soloists, Rebekah Devlin, Kathryn Finlay, Emma Owens and Tara Winton (all singers), Alex Coetzee (piano), Sydney Heatley (violin), Anna Hughes (clarinet), Daisy Johnston (euphonium), Stella Moore (violin), and Hannah Pollock Chan (piano). Senior soloists were Joanne Allen (voice), Orla Bannister (piano), Naomi Cochrane (violin), Emma Gibson (flute) and Sian Murray (cello). Ms Kimber (clarinet) and Mrs McIvor (trumpet) also did their best in a Grade One duet, ably accompanied by Amy Bole. 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.



The Little Mermaid

Congratulations to all of our pupils who participated in last summer's production of *The Little Mermaid*. The production ran over three nights from 12 June, and provided great entertainment to everyone who attended.



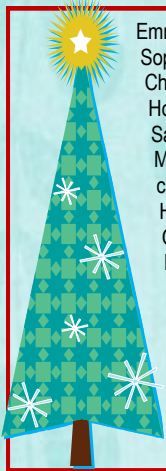
Operation Christmas Child

On 14 November, Strathearn girls dropped off 141 shoeboxes which had been filled by pupils and staff with gifts which will be given to needy children around the world. Thank you to everyone who donated a box and filled it to make Christmas special for a child in need somewhere else in the world.



INDIVIDUAL'S SUCCESSES

Congratulations to...



Emma Lowey, 1S, who won two gold medals and one silver medal at the Irish Gymnastics Nationals.
 Sophie Hoey, 1S, who was selected as a sprinter for the Rising Stars Squad, and will be training for the 2021 Junior Commonwealth Games.
 Charlotte Nicholson, 1S, who won the Northern Ireland U15 Skiing Championship.
 Hollie Massey, 1H, who represented Ulster at U12 level in the All Ireland National Cross-Country Championships in Dublin.
 Sasha White, 2T, who won the Watts House Spirit Prize for 2015-16.
 Mia Davison, 2S, who came 1st in the Breast Stroke and 2nd in the 200m IM in the Ulster Schools' Swimming Championships. In the Ulster Winter Meet, Mia came 1st in the 50m and 100m Butterfly, and 3rd in the 100m Back Crawl, the 200m Front Crawl and the 800m Front Crawl.
 Hannah Stanfield, 2S, who came 1st overall in the Singing category of the Hollywood Music Festival.
 Grace Thompson, 3T, who achieved two bronze medals in the Northern Ireland Taekwondo Championships.
 Emily Crockett, 3T, who passed her Grade Five Drama exam with Distinction.
 Kaitlyn Eadie, 3T, who achieved her Baden Powell Award in Guides.
 Sophie Williams, 3H, who won two gold medals, a silver medal and a bronze medal at the Lisburn Swimming Gala.
 Aimee McGill and Anna McCabe, both 3S, who danced and sang with their Performing Arts School at the SSE Arena on 25 and 26 November before the ice hockey matches.
 Megan Allen, 2T, who came 3rd in the Donaghadee Town Cup sailing competition.
 Charlotte Nicholson, 1S, who won the U14 Girls' Race in a Northern Ireland Ski Club event held at Craigavon. Charlotte also helps out with the club's coaching sessions on a regular basis, working with groups of children who have special needs.

careers round-up



Now that our U6 girls have completed their UCAS applications, the focus switches to interview practice. Our school careers adviser, Mrs Hearst, talked to all U6 pupils about interview preparation to get the girls ready for the Mock Interview Evening on 22 November. This was a brilliant opportunity for the girls to have a practice interview with an expert in a course or career they are interested in. As always, we are really indebted to all those professionals who took time out of their busy schedules to help our U6 pupils. Applicants for Oxford and Cambridge had additional interviews and Mrs Hearst has been running interview workshops for medical, dental and teacher training applicants throughout November and December. She will also be running some nursing interview workshops in the New Year. Any pupil may have a practice interview with Mrs Hearst at any time throughout the school year. Some girls have attended careers events outside school. One girl attended a Physiotherapy Open Day at Musgrave Park Hospital, while another attended a Work Inspiration Day with the law firm Pinsent Masons. Ms Wallace also took five girls from Form 5 to an open day at Schlumberger's Belfast site. Schlumberger is the largest oil and gas field services company in the world, with more than 100,000 employees from over 140 nationalities, working in around 85 different countries. This STEM event was especially for girls in order to address the gender imbalance in engineering, and it engaged the students through Q&A sessions, competitions, quizzes, and tours of the site, as well as advising pupils about the opportunities which exist in the field of engineering. Several former pupils returned to school to talk about life at the University of Cambridge, while other girls, currently studying medicine and dentistry, informed pupils about their university courses. We also had a talk by a former pupil who is working as a junior doctor in England. We also welcomed several speakers to Strathearn. Jill Lemon from the Department of the Economy talked to Form 3 about choosing their GCSE subjects. A representative from CAFRE spoke to pupils about their courses and about the many opportunities for employment within the food sector in NI. All of L6 attended a talk by an IT expert who outlined job opportunities within this sector in NI.

A tutor from Trinity College Dublin talked to pupils about the university, and a representative from the Health & Safety Executive for NI talked to all of L6 about keeping safe in the workplace; this is especially important given that the girls will be completing a week of work experience in January.

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.

BAR MOCK TRIAL



Well done to the 2016 Strathearn Bar Mock Trial Team! They took on different roles: barristers, witnesses, court clerk, usher, court artist and jury members, to prepare and present two cases in a real court, in front of real life legal practitioners, in competition with other schools. The whole team performed admirably. There are definitely some budding lawyers and actresses among them!



Back row - Laura Gooding, Sophie King, Amy Greer, Anna Diekemper, Kathryn Neill, Emma Ferguson, Shannon Montgomery. Middle row - Rachel Forsythe, Zara Hepworth, Naivasha Pratt-Jarvis, Fionn Clarke and Front row - Miss J Myles, Emily Marten, Kaitlyn Smith, Rebecca McAlees, Tavisha Sood, Jenna Montgomery, Ms L Stevenson.

Young Enterprise

On 21 November, Form Two took part in a Young Enterprise session called Exploring Enterprise. It was a great opportunity for the girls to work in groups and explore the characteristics of successful entrepreneurs in the 21st century. The pupils were given the challenge of developing their own board game and presenting it as a viable business venture. It was a great event, exploring innovation and developing creativity. We are very grateful to Barbara from Young Enterprise for facilitating such an exciting and worthwhile programme, and we look forward to other interactive sessions with this organisation in the months ahead.



COMMUNITY SERVICE PARTY

The Community Service Party was held on 7 December. 1R and 3T hosted this year's event, welcoming guests from a variety of Day Care centres, Church groups and homes in the local area. A beautiful Christmas dinner was provided by the canteen staff, which the guests really enjoyed. The guests were then treated to displays of dancing and musical performances which were thoroughly enjoyed by all. A special thank you should go to Miss Gibson for continuing to organise this lovely event.

Library News

Book Fair

The library hosted the Scholastic Book Fair in November, and once again it was a great success. Many thanks to the staff and pupils who bought books, and to parents for their support. This year, the library will be adding more than £700-worth of new books to the stacks from the commission earned at the Book Fair.

The library ran a number of competitions for Forms 1 to 3 during the run up to the Book Fair: a 'Guess Who?' puzzle made of literary silhouettes, a book cover design task and a creative writing challenge. There were more than 200 entries across the three competitions. Congratulations go to Aimée Blair, 1A, Lauren Farmer, 2R, and Isabelle Davidson, 3S, who correctly identified the characters and were awarded book vouchers to spend at the Book Fair. Amy Major, 2T, was victorious in the book cover competition and Jess Winton, 3R, won the power paragraph award. Both girls won vouchers to spend at the Book Fair.

The first batch of new reads is waiting to be catalogued and shelved, and the pupils really do appreciate this boost to the library's holdings.



Library Team

Our dedicated team of volunteers has continued to work hard in the library this term. Special mention must be given to Neve O'Neill, U6S, and Julia Rawson, 2T, who have worked particularly hard during November. Thanks go to all the pupils who spend time during break and lunch working hard in the library, and particularly to the more experienced members of the Library Team who have been helping to welcome new volunteers by showing them the stacks and the systems for running the library. Pupils continue to make great strides towards their Library Awards. Keep up the good work!

Book Club

The Book Club continues to attract a healthy turn-out in the library during lunchtimes on Thursdays. Pupils from Forms 1 to U6 have enjoyed chatting about reading and sharing passages from their favourite books, which has stimulated plenty of debate and recommendations.

Accelerated Reader

Pupils in Forms 1 and 2 have been busy using the Accelerated Reader programme. Those who are successful in quizzes on books they have read, come to the librarian to claim stars. These are placed on the Quiz Clubber's 'Wall of Fame' which takes pride of place in the library. More than 400 stars were awarded in November! Congratulations to Katie Briers of 1T, whose star was drawn from all those on the wall, and is our inaugural Quiz Clubber of the Month.

The Northern Ireland Heat of the Kids' Lit Quiz

Six pupils from Form 1 and 2 participated in the Northern Ireland Heat of the Kids' Lit Quiz, held at Wellington College on 29 November. Amy Major, 2T, Sophie Thomas and Zara Conroy, 1H, and Cerys McMurray, 1T, made up the team which was admirably supported by reserves Victoria Murray, 1T, and Julia Rawson, 2T. The girls tested their knowledge of children's literature through topics as diverse as 'Cutlery' and 'Rodents'. The team scored top marks in three rounds and each member took home a book as a prize for their success in the 'Furniture' round. Despite maintaining a steady third position for most of the competition, the team finished 7th out of 23 teams after the final two tricky sets of questions. The pupils had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon, which truly celebrated a love of literature.



Top: L-R - Accelerated Reader Wall of Fame, Tavisha Sood with the Soroptimist Plate and the Kids' Lit Quiz Team

Soroptimist Success

Four girls represented the school at the local heat of the Soroptimist International Public Speaking Competition on 23 November. Miriam Parker discussed the relationship between population growth and environmental sustainability, and Grace McAllister spoke about whether living to 100 was a good or a bad thing. Freedom of the press was Emma Ferguson's topic, and Tavisha Sood considered the limits of individual rights. Each girl spoke with poise and confidence, and there was a great supportive atmosphere amongst the competitors from different schools. The Chief Adjudicator commended the high standard achieved by all the participants, but it was our own Tavisha who emerged victorious. She will go on to the regional final in February next year. Very well done to all the pupils who spoke so well, and good luck to Tavisha for the next stage of the competition.

Photo: Miriam Parker, Grace McAllister, Dr Haire, Tavisha Sood and Emma Ferguson



Debating Society

The Debating Society has been very active this term, hosting lively and topical discussions on motions such as 'This house believes that Donald Trump should be the next president of the USA'. Once again, debating has provided a great opportunity for pupils of all ages to develop their confidence and communication skills, but also for the audiences to explore and question unfamiliar or opposing points of view. The variety of topics and positions represented have also helped to improve awareness and engagement with current affairs throughout the school. A big thank you to everyone who took part in or supported the debates. We hope to see you all again next term!



Business Studies Trip The School Council



On 22 November, Mrs White accompanied her U6 Business Studies students on a visit to W5 for the Fantastic Females event. The event was to inspire young women to take more of an interest in business and politics on a global scale, irrespective of their career choice. The keynote speech was from Angela McGeown, Director of CBI, but there were also talks from representatives of BDO Stoy Hayward, W5 and Ulster University Business School.



The School Council has been working hard this term under the stewardship of Gemma Burnside and Mehika Sood (Chair and Vice-Chair). The council has met three times and the focus has been on supporting Mrs Myers with the important reviews of the merits system and procedures for appointing students to Sixth Form positions of responsibility. We hope that the feedback from the Council will contribute to some constructive changes in these areas. Other issues that we will be dealing with include the school E-safety policy and other day-to-day issues of concern to the pupils.



Minnesota Trip

On 28 October, seventeen L6 pupils, accompanied by Mr Smith and Miss Stewart, set off for Dublin to catch their flight to the USA. We were delayed for five hours in Chicago airport, before we were able to board our connecting flight to Minneapolis. When we arrived, we were greeted by our host families. We spent the Halloween weekend with these families and did a range of activities such as trick or treating, pumpkin carving and attending an American football game. Throughout the week we met at Cretin Durham Hall High School at 7.45 each morning, where we found out what sort of trip was planned for us. We visited the Mall of America for lots of shopping, had a tour of the twin cities of Minneapolis and St Paul, and finally we went to the Science Museum of Minnesota where we saw a film in an IMAX cinema. One of the highlights of the week, however, was spending the day in an American high school, as it was interesting to see how different their school life was to ours. We all had an amazing time and it was an experience which we will never forget!



school formal ★

This year's school formal took place on 13 November at the Clondeboy Lodge Hotel. Staff and pupils joined together in a glamorous evening of fine food, music and dancing. Thanks are due to the Formal Committee and everyone else who worked to make the occasion such a success. Photographs of the occasion can be viewed in the gallery on our website.



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

SCHOOL RESUMES: 4 January at 8.40am

- 4 January - school finishes at 2:20
- 4-13 January - Mock Examinations for L6 and U6
- 4-20 January - Mock Examinations for Form 5
- 21 January - Open Morning
- 16-20 January - L6 Work Experience
- 30 January-1 February - L6 Biology Field Trip
- 27 February-1 March - L6 Biology Field Trip
- 7 February - Form 4 Young Enterprise, periods 1-6



HO! HO! HO!

Charity Events



- ◆ Congratulations to all the **Form 1 pupils** who participated enthusiastically in the Potted Sports event at the end of October. They raised a very impressive £1856 for the Cancer Fund for Children. This is enough money to send four families affected by cancer on a weekend retreat to Daisy Lodge in Newcastle. Many thanks to the PE Department and the Peer Mentors who helped to make the event such a success.
- ◆ Well done to **4S**, who have been selling Christmas decorations they made themselves as part of their form effort. The proceeds will go to a charity called Fields of Life, which will use the money to buy sustainable gifts for families in Africa.

Swimming



The Ulster Grammar Schools' Swimming Gala took place on 26 November at Ballymena Leisure Centre. The following results were the most notable: Alice Browne - 10th in the 100m IM; Lauren Nesbitt - 7th in the 50m Backstroke and 6th in the 50m Breaststroke; Rebecca Callaghan - 9th in the 50m Backstroke and 8th in the 50m Freestyle; Faith Heyburn - 9th in the 50m Butterfly and Samantha McCormick - 3rd in the 50m Breaststroke and 3rd in the 100m IM.

The Junior Relay Team of Rebecca Callaghan, Lauren Nesbitt, Faith Heyburn and Freya Adams came 3rd in the Medley Relay, and just missed out on a medal in the Freestyle Relay by finishing in 4th place. Well done to all the girls who competed!



Season's Greetings

Hockey

There have been various cup matches played by the hockey teams over the past few weeks. The 1st XI lost 3-2 on strokes in the first round of the Senior Cup against Regent Grammar School. Good luck to them as they go on to play in the Plate competition later this season.

The 2As lost 6-1 in the first round of the McDowell Cup against a very strong Ballyclare High School team, with Victoria Hamilton scoring. Good luck to them as they also play in their Plate competition after Christmas.

The 2Bs have finished top of their group in the Gibson Cup, beating Rainey Endowed 1-0, Ballymena Academy 1-0 and Omagh Academy 1-0. They will play in the knockout stages of the competition after Christmas.

The 3As beat Down High School 1-0 and drew with Carrick Grammar 0-0, and are awaiting other results to see if they will also progress to the knockout stages of the Gibson Cup.

The U14As won their 2nd round match in the Junior Cup 4-0 against Royal and Prior Raphoe, with Amelia Hopkins scoring twice and Jemima Thomas scoring once - the other goal was an own goal. Good luck to them when they play Regent Grammar School in the 3rd round on 8 December.



Netball



Congratulations to Grace Hutchinson, Grace Ruding, Olivia Allister, Megan Adair, Talia Irwin, Jemima Thomas and Sarah West on being nominated for the U15 Future International Academy trials. The upcoming matches are as follows:

Minor Teams (A & B), 23 January - away to Bloomfield.

Junior Teams (A & B), 9 January - away to Ashfield; 24 January - home to Bloomfield.

Intermediate Team, 14 December - home to Ashfield.

Senior Team, 14 December - away to Ashfield; 25 January - away to Bloomfield.

Badminton

Stratheam has entered Junior and Senior Teams in the Ulster Schools' Badminton League. The Seniors won 7-6 against Down High School, and the Juniors also won 7-6 against Bloomfield. Unfortunately, however, both teams were beaten by very strong Hunterhouse teams. A combined Form 1 & 2 team also played a friendly match at Bloomfield, which they won 4-0.

Trampolining

Well done to all those who competed in the Northern Ireland Regional Schools' Trampolining Competition on 20 November. There were two U14 Novice Teams and two competitors in the U19 Individuals. Congratulations to Eliza Chittick for finishing 2nd individually in her category, and to the U14A Novice Team. They have both qualified for the Zonal Championships in Wigan in February. Good luck!



Tennis

Congratulations to Jessica Leeman, L6, who was selected as a ball girl for the ATP World Tour Finals at the O2 Arena in London at the end of November. She got to meet many of the tour's top tennis stars and really enjoyed the experience, particularly the final between Andy Murray and Novak Djokovic. Well done!

Mr Manning's Testimonial Match

There will be a Staff versus Pupil Volleyball match on 20 December at 1pm in the Sports Hall. Please come along and spectate.

House Quiz Results

The annual House Quiz took place at lunchtime on 1 December for Seniors and Staff, and Juniors on 2 December. The overall results were: Boucher 1st; McCaughey 2nd; Barbour 3rd and Watts 4th.

Boucher Table 5 won the Juniors and McCaughey Table 4 won the Seniors. Total points for all tables in each House were taken into consideration as well as the top 4 places at each age group to give the overall results.



Inter-House Events

The next Inter-House sports events are Badminton and Netball, in the week beginning 12 December. Please check the House notice boards for more detail.

Please note that all after-school sport will recommence on Thursday 5 January