

# STRATHEARN NEWS

## Autumn Musical Evening

The Autumn Musical Evening on Wednesday 21 November saw the Manning Hall packed with an appreciative audience, who heard the Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra and Traditional Group perform a range of excellent pieces. They also enjoyed the performances of ten excellent soloists from First to Fourth Form: Zophia Quigley, Iona Holt, Emily Wilson, Amélie Euler, Hannah Pollock Chan, Lauren Wright, Emma Owens, Abi Patton, Rosie Elwood and Anna Hughes. Many thanks to all who took part for their hard work and commitment in preparing for the concert, and for their very engaging performances on the night itself.

## Carol Service Frantic Assembly Workshop

This year the Carol Service took place on 18 December in Bloomfield Presbyterian Church and was attended by over eight hundred people. 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 choirs. We would like to thank everyone who participated for their contributions to a memorable evening of Christmas worship. The retiring collection of £1230 was donated to The Salvation Army. Many thanks to everyone who contributed so generously to this.



Frantic Assembly is an award-winning theatre group from England which is perhaps best known for its physical approach to texts, including their famous West End version of *A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*. On Thursday 29 November, Strathearn Drama Department was fortunate to secure a practitioner who travelled over from London to host a workshop for two separate drama groups: the Form Four GCSE classes and both Sixth Form classes. Jonnie Riordan led the two groups through Frantic's guide to devising theatre, including activities such as Hymn Hands, Round/Through/By, Squeeze and various complex lifts. By the end of the workshops, the classes felt invigorated and enthused about beginning their own devising processes in the upcoming weeks.



## Maths Challenge

This year the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge took place in November 2018. We had a typically large number of participants (56) but also a high number of certificate winners (24).

The questions in the Maths Challenge certainly are difficult and without the use of their calculators, all pupils did well just to make it to the end of the paper. Once again, House points are awarded based on participation and achievement.

Well done to everyone who took part, but in particular to the following girls:

**Bronze:** Ellie Davies, Anna McKibbin, Alex Armstrong, Freya Axten, Kate Wilson, Josie Knox, Murphy Miller, Harriet Platt, Daisy Moore, Leah Beattie, Grace Hutchinson, Ruth Gregg, Amy Welsh, Jessica Moore, Rebekah Mitchell, Eva Perott, Esther Henry, Anna Robinson, Isabella Reihill and Georgia Gallen.

**Silver:** Sophie Young (Best in U6th, Best in School), Philippa Sha, Ellie Mackey and Faye Donaghy (Best in L6th).

## Coca-Cola Trip

In early December, each Form 3 Geography class visited the Coca-Cola factory in Lisburn, County Antrim. We were guided around the plant, theatre and interactive zone, investigating how Coca-Cola, as a multinational company, operates in Northern Ireland. Specifically, we focused on the environmental sustainability of their operations as they seek to manage resources more efficiently.

The scale of operations in the factory is huge with up to 3 million bottles being made every day. Impressively, the factory now uses energy efficient lighting which has saved 145 tonnes of CO2 every year.





# INDIVIDUAL'S SUCCESSES

## Congratulations to...



Lauren Nesbitt, 4R, who achieved Bronze in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme.  
 Beth Chivers, 2S, who competed in the FDTA Ulsters, and was Overall Solo Winner.  
 Emily Wilson, 2S, who sang with the Belfast School of Performing Arts at the Waterfront in *The Music Box*.  
 Elessa Deeny, 2S, who sang at the Holywood Music Festival.  
 Aoife Moore, 4R, who won a gold medal in the All Ireland ILGU (Golf).  
 Catherine Welsh, 4T, who achieved 3rd place in the Chosen and Set Song in the Holywood Music Festival.  
 Rebecca Moore, 4H, who achieved a Merit in her Grade 7 Clarinet Exam.  
 Zophia Quigley, 1H, who achieved a Distinction in her Grade 3 Bassoon Exam.  
 Kathryn Finlay, 3H, who competed in the Lusk Equestrian Christmas Derby and was placed 5th out of 25.  
 Arabella Brown, 4S, who achieved a Distinction in her Grade Six Singing Examination.  
 Anna Cousins, 1S, who competed at the Rising Stars indoor athletics competition at UUJ. She was the overall winner in her age group, having won the 40m sprint and 40m hurdles.

## BUS SAFETY VISIT



On 6 November all of Form 1 enjoyed hearing a very informative talk on Bus Safety from Kevin and Paula from Translink. Each class enjoyed an excellent presentation on how to travel safely by buses and all commented on how helpful it was.

## careers round-up Beach Clean Up

Many girls attended events outside school during the latter half of this term. L6 girls attended Open Days on Radiotherapy, Pharmacy, Midwifery and working in Laboratories in the Ulster and Royal Victoria Hospitals. One pupil attended an engineering careers event at Montupet where she learned about the design and production of aluminium products. Several girls attended a Medicine at Queen's event which was aimed at pupils who are considering applying to Medicine for 2020 entry. Different academics talked about career opportunities and working life in General Practice or as a Pathologist or Surgeon. In addition, there were hands-on interactive activities in Anatomy, Physiology and Clinical Skills.

Our programme of guest speakers continued for Form 5 and we were delighted to welcome a university lecturer and former teacher to talk about the teaching profession. We also had a talk on applying to Harvard University and a presentation from the University of Strathclyde. We welcomed a representative from Trinity College Dublin at the end of November and all interested pupils went to a guidance session on applying to all universities in the Republic of Ireland through CAO. We also had a representative from Deloitte who talked about opportunities in that organisation and about its Bright Start programme. Form 3 had a talk on choosing their GCSEs from our careers adviser from the Department of the Economy.

All U6 had the opportunity to attend our Mock Interview Evening on 20 November where each pupil could have a practice interview with an expert in their chosen area. Interviewers also provided valuable feedback and guidance for our pupils 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 interviews 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 would like additional help. We welcomed back former pupils studying medicine and dentistry who talked about their courses.

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



This year 2S made the decision to volunteer in a beach clean-up. Our Form Effort took place at Ballywalter Beach. We all liked the idea of serving the community directly by working together for a day. Our goal was to remove litter from the Ballywalter coast.

On 19 October, Mr Bradley, Mrs Rea and the girls of 2S, joined forces with 'Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful' to complete our aim. We were provided with safety equipment such as bin bags, litter pickers, hi-vis jackets and safety gloves by their representative.

We set off bright and early from Sandy Cove Holiday Park. Everybody was looking forward to taking part in the day ahead and in making a difference! We started off freezing, but we were in high spirits and did not let the odd shower dampen our enthusiasm. We filled well over twenty bags with all kinds of plastics, wood and metal. We paused for a well-deserved lunch with a lovely view of the beach and the Irish Sea.

In the afternoon we continued our clean-up, this time at the Community War Memorial. We dug up weeds, cleaned the paths and after seeing several large spiders, we became cautious of what we were touching but we were glad to keep the memorial looking neat and tidy. 2S took great delight and pleasure in helping the community and we are all looking forward to next year's challenge.

Drea Doudican, 2S



## House of Lords Debate

Pupils from Strathearn travelled to Westminster to participate in a debate in the Lords Chamber at the Palace of Westminster run by Plan International UK and the English Speaking Union. Four pupils were pre-selected to add their voices to the debate, called Girls Breaking Barriers, on 16 November, which focused on what could be done to help girls achieve their potential.

Mrs Connery said, 'Hearing the voices of girls from Strathearn speaking at the Chamber Debate at the House of Lords was wonderful. The pupils' measured contributions added much to the discussions. The opportunity to travel to London to participate in the Girls Breaking Barriers debate and to put questions to inspirational women in a House of Lords' Committee Room will not be forgotten.'

Pupils got the chance to talk to panels of inspirational women which included Chelsea FC Ambassador, Katie Chapman, Space Scientist, Maggie Aderin-Pocock, and Editor in Chief of Marie Claire UK, Trish Halpin.

The debate was opened by Ellie Massey, who discussed the damage that persistent stereotypes can cause girls as they pursue their education. Darcey Jamison, Rachel Lipson and Hannah McCartney delivered prepared speeches, and a number of the school's students were called upon by the Deputy Speakers to add to the debate, and gave impromptu speeches to the Chamber.

Barnaby Smith, Plan International UK's Youth Engagement Officer, explained that Plan International's research has found that girls still face discrimination tied to their gender. He added, 'This debate marks a significant step towards tackling the many barriers to success that girls experience from a young age. It has been an absolute joy to work with students from Strathearn School – they have been an inspirational group to work with, have been confident in sharing their experiences, and I really hope to cross paths with the school again in the future.'

Well done to the pupils who represented the school so well at the event.



## Kids' Lit Quiz

Well done to the team of girls from Strathearn who participated in the Kids' Lit Quiz Northern Ireland heat at the beginning of November at Wellington College Belfast. The girls scored top marks in a number of rounds, and each took home a book as a prize. The competition was very tight, and although the girls came outside of the top placings, they had a thoroughly enjoyable afternoon at this quiz, which truly celebrates the imaginative world of children's literature.



## Other Library News

This term's Scholastic Book Fair was a great success, and more than £600 worth of books will be added to the library's shelves next term as a result of the great support shown by pupils and staff. Congratulations to those pupils who entered the various competitions that the Library ran during the book fair – you can find the winning entries along with highly commended ones on display now. Members of the Library Team have been very productive recently, and the Library Committee ran another very successful craft session at lunchtime where pupils made beautiful book paper angels, gift tags and cards for Christmas. Thank you to Women Aloud NI's two representatives, Gaynor Kane and R B Kelly, who spent time at the library reading their work and talking to pupils about reading in December. Many thanks to those who are so dedicated in their work at the library, helping with the general running as well as organising events!



## Author Visits Third Form

Sheena Wilkinson, award winning author of seven novels for children and young people, visited pupils at Strathearn. She talked about *Star By Star*, her most recent book, which was awarded the CBI Award for Fiction in Manning Hall earlier this month. Set in Ireland in 1918, it follows Stella as she navigates the world of 'suffragettes and heroes... as war ends, flu sweeps the land – and women get to vote!'

Sheena gave a great talk about the process of writing, explaining her own background and the challenges that being a writer can bring. She emphasised hard work as central to success, and shared some places that have been inspirational to her in the past – including her local library.

Sheena explained that when writing creatively, you need to think about character, setting, conflict, dialogue and where the story is going to go. She also emphasised the importance of editing, and explained after its first draft, a novel needs to be crafted over many weeks and months before it is ready to be published. Pupils asked Sheena questions about being a writer. Thank you to Sheena for spending the morning with us at Strathearn, and sharing her inspiring words with pupils.





# Geography Field Trip

In November, the L6 geographers completed their two-day residential at the north coast, exploring the Umbra sand dunes and undertaking a study of the Curly Burn River, near Limavady. It was a busy couple of days, exposed to the elements but the girls worked hard, developing an understanding of natural processes in a local context.



# Netball

Our netball teams have had a very successful start to the season with matches and trials. Well done to the following girls who attended the U15 Belfast Academy Trials; Ellen Douglas, Ellie Gordon, Lauren Mooney, Niamh Hanna, Rosie Bonner and Megan Stewart. All six girls have been invited to attend the first training session - a fantastic achievement. Congratulations also to the U13 netball players who attended trials for the U13 Belfast Academy Squad. Emma Stranaghan, Rhiannon Davies and Sophie Johnston have been selected for the squad - another excellent achievement!

<b>Senior</b>	St Columbanus	Won	31-21
	Regent	Lost	12-25
<b>Intermediate</b>	Bangor Academy	Won	24-4
	Glenola	Lost	10-12
<b>Junior A</b>	Victoria College	Won	23-5
	St Joseph's	Won	32-4
<b>Junior B</b>	Regent	Lost	12-3
<b>Minor A</b>	Sullivan	Won	7-6
	St Columbanus	Won	29-1
<b>Minor B</b>	Ashfield	Won	15-7
	Sullivan	Lost	2-3

# After-school Sports Clubs

Tennis, Kayaking and Gymnastics Clubs will be continuing after Christmas. These activities are run by outside organisations, so pupils need to sign up for the new block of sessions in the New Year. If you are interested in participating in one of these clubs, please contact the PE Department.

# Somme Heritage Visit

The annual trip to the Somme Heritage Centre was brought forward this year to coincide with the week commemorating the centenary of the end of the 1914-18 conflict. During that same week, Form 3 helped to lead assembly on the same theme of 'Remembrance'.



# Badminton

Congratulations to Strathearn's Minor Badminton Team who defeated Royal & Prior, but then had an unlucky loss to Friends. The Senior Badminton Team lost to Royal & Prior and Friends. A massive well done also goes out to our Form 1 Team who came 4th in their badminton tournament at Coleraine Grammar School. Good luck for all remaining matches.



# Trampolining

On Sunday 18 November, Strathearn's Trampolining Squad competed in the Regional British Schools' Trampolining Competition at Ards Leisure Centre. The girls faced tough competition and all competed extremely well. Three girls placed in the top three of their age categories. Zoe Hill placed 3rd in the Minor Novice Competition, and in the Junior Novice Competition Amy Wilson placed 1st and Ella Simms placed 2nd. Sophie Neale, Alexandra Spears and Eliza Chittick all finished in the top ten of their categories. Congratulations to all! Zoe, Amy and Ella will now compete in the Zonal Competition in January, good luck girls!





# Hockey

There have been various cup matches played by the hockey teams over the last few weeks with great success from all teams.

**The 1st XI** successfully got to the quarter-final stages of this year's Super League but were unfortunately given a tough draw in this round and lost against Rainey Endowed 4-0. However, due to the achievement of reaching the quarter-final they will enter the Senior Cup in the 3rd round and are set to play Royal and Prior, Raphoe on Wednesday 9 January.

**The 2As** have been very successful in the early rounds of the McDowell Cup. In the 2nd round, they beat Ballyclare Secondary School 4-0, with Amelia Hopkins scoring a hat-trick and Molly Longstaff also scoring. In the 3rd round, their winning streak continued as they won against tough opponents Banbridge Academy 1-0, with Amelia Hopkins scoring. They now progress to the quarter-final in the new year.

**The 2Bs** finished in the top 2 of their group in the Gibson Cup after successfully winning against Carrick Grammar 7-0, Victoria College 4-0, Glenlola Collegiate 2-0 and drawing to Ballyclare Secondary School 2-2. They now will progress to the quarter-final in January.

**The 3As** have had an excellent start in the 4XI Cup by winning 7-0 against Lagan College in the 3rd round. Good luck to them as they are also through to the quarter-final after Christmas.

## U14 Hockey

Congratulations to the U14A Hockey Team who have been progressing steadily in the Junior Cup. They beat Omagh Academy 1-0 and also secured an impressive win over Clounagh Junior High (6-nil). Well done girls! We would like to wish them the best of luck in their upcoming quarter-final match against Ballymena!

## Form 1 Hockey

Strathearn's Form 1 hockey players had a great day out at Sullivan Upper School playing matches against their Form 1 girls on 7 December! The girls displayed great performances for such young teams and battled until the final whistle despite the arctic weather conditions! They are in action again on Friday 14 December at the Methody Form 1 Tournament and also against Regent House. Good luck!

\*\*\* Congratulations to Harriet Platt who has been invited to attend Ulster U21 training sessions. \*\*\*

## Barcelona Hockey Tour

At the end of October, thirty-two of our senior girls travelled to Barcelona for this year's hockey tour. We played matches against some of the local teams called Club Egara, CD Terrassa Club and Club Junior 1917. As well as this, the girls got to explore the city of Barcelona, learn about the local history and roam PortAventura Theme Park. This tour was an incredibly valuable experience. A big thank you goes out to the PE Department from all the girls for organising such a fantastic trip and one that we won't forget!



# House System Update

Well done to all those who took part in this year's Inter-House Quiz and good luck to everyone involved in House Netball on Tuesday 18 December. Watts lead at the minute, but there are lots of opportunities to gain points for your House over the next few months. Keep getting involved!!

## House Points 2018/2019 - November 2018

