

Strathearn News



National Trust Volunteers Careers Round-up

On 12 February, 3S undertook their Form Effort for charity by volunteering a day's work at the National Trust's grounds in Minnowburn near Shaw's Bridge. An enjoyable, if exhausting and wet, day was had by all.



This was another very busy term for the Careers Department. Mrs Hearst ran a series of Nursing Interview Workshops for U6 girls during January and February and carried out a number of practice interviews for several pupils who had an interview as part of the selection to secure a place on their chosen university course. All U6 attended a talk on Student Finance to make the girls aware of the financial implications of going on to higher education.

Our week of work experience for L6 ran from 11 to 15 January. The placements were varied as ever and have given L6 pupils a lot to think about in terms of which courses and careers they will pursue.

We welcomed many speakers from a range of universities this term who talked to L6 about courses at their institutions. These included St Andrews, Liverpool Hope, Southampton, Oxford, Newcastle, Northumbria, Queen's, Ulster, Cambridge, Liverpool John Moores, Imperial College and the Scottish Universities Tour which gave a presentation on behalf of Edinburgh, Glasgow, Strathclyde, Heriot Watt, Aberdeen, Dundee and Stirling.

L6 pupils also attended many events outside school. These included Open Days for physiotherapy and dietetics at our local hospitals, a taster day at QUB School of Management, an Engineering Insight Day at Montupet, a session on Careers in Clinical Psychology, an Open Day at Stranmillis University College and an Engineering Conference and a Law Conference both at Methodist College Belfast. Several girls attended the Oxford and Cambridge Conference in Lisburn, while others attended a Law Taster Day at Christ's College Cambridge and a Further Maths event at the University of Oxford. All L6 attended the UCAS Higher Education Convention where they had the opportunity to attend a range of seminars on courses and careers and speak to many university representatives from NI, the rest of the UK and Ireland, and even further afield. L6 girls also attended a presentation on personal statements in school and are beginning to think about their UCAS applications for next autumn.

Form 5 have continued their careers guidance interviews with our careers adviser – Miss Lemon from the Department of Employment and Learning, and she has also spoken to the year group about choosing their A-levels. The series of guest speakers has continued for Form 5 where we had presentations on finance and economics, creative industries (film and television), nursing and midwifery, the make-up industry, psychology, and teaching. We are really indebted to all those busy professionals who take time out from their busy schedules to talk to our pupils. We also welcomed Dr Dan Corbett from QUB School of Pharmacy and Pharmacology who talked to girls from Form 5 upwards, about courses and careers. Representatives from Belfast Metropolitan College and SERC also did lunchtime presentations for girls from Form 5 upwards so that our girls are aware of other Further Education options.

Form 3 has had visits to the careers suite to find out more about the importance of choosing their GCSEs carefully; they also attended the Bring it On roadshow, where they learned more about opportunities in the IT sector. All Form 1 girls have also had introductory visits to the careers suite during this term.

Guide Dog Sponsorship

Form 1 recently heard a talk from Heather Gilmore about the work of Guide Dogs NI. Heather brought in Lando, a beautiful golden retriever, who was able to show the girls how a well-trained dog should behave! A few weeks after the talk, the girls participated in a Sponsored Sports Event and raised a wonderful total of £1700. As a result of this impressive total, the girls have been allowed to name a new guide dog puppy. A voting system was put in place to name the new dog. The girls came up with three names: Monty, Bella and Harley (a link to Harland and Wolff). We have just heard from the breeding centre that our puppy is soon to be born. Many thanks to Miss Young and all the helpers for organising the Sports Event, and to Heather Gilmore for bringing in their dogs Lando and Frankie.



Individual Successes congratulations to...



Scarlett Reid, 3R, enjoyed great success recently at the Belfast Musical Festival of Speech and Drama, held at the Lyric Theatre. Scarlett was placed first in her Duologue Class and second in her Monologue Class and was invited to perform at the Prize-winners Gala.

Cheryl Watson, 1R, who has achieved a Distinction in her Grade Three Musical Theatre Examination.

Lucy Bole, 1R, who achieved a Merit in her Grade One Piano Examination.

Anna Hughes, 1R, who achieved a Distinction in her Grade Three Drama Examination.

Rosie Elwood, 1R, who achieved a Distinction in her Grade Three Drama Examination.

Annabel Holden, 1R, who was placed second in the Lyric Theatre Poetry Competition.

Lara Whitten, 1R, who was placed second in the 200m Medley and third in the 200m Back Crawl in the Swim Ulster Winter Qualifying Meet.

Grace Ross, 1R, who was placed sixth in the 800m Freestyle in the Swim Ulster Spring Qualifying Meet.

Rosie Elwood, 1R, and Anna McKinty, 1A, who were placed fifth in the NI Schools' Acrobatics U14 Pairs category.

Lauren Mooney, 1R, and Alice Sloan, 1T, who were placed second in the NI Schools' Acrobatics U14 Novice Pairs category.

Amy Mawhinney, 1R, who achieved Levels Seven and Eight in after-school Gymnastics.

Annabel Holden, 1R, who was placed first in the 200m IM in the Omagh Leisure Centre Swimming Gala.

Rachel McDonald, 1S, who achieved a Distinction in her Grade Three Piano Examination. Rachel was also placed second in the 100m Breast Stroke in the Lisburn Leisure Centre Swimming Gala.

Andra Vladu, 1S, who was placed third in the Beginners' Skiing Competition in Tyrol, Austria.

Lauren Nesbitt, 1S, who achieved a Distinction in her Grade One Piano Examination.

Catherine O'Reilly, 1S, who achieved a Distinction in her Grade Three Verse and Prose Examination.

Ruby Allen, 2A, who has achieved a Distinction in her Grade Two Singing Examination.

Ella Rook, 2T, who became the NIFAA Archery Junior Champion.

Grace Thompson, 2T, who achieved Red Tag grading in Tae Kwon-Do. Grace also participated in the Lagan Festival of Speech and Drama, in which she achieved first place in the Duologue, and second place in the Group Improvisation.

Erin J McConnell, 4A, who was placed second in the NICS U17 Cross-Country Competition.

Beth Crosbie, 5R, who was placed second in the 300m and third in the Shot in the Ulster and NI Indoor Athletics Championships.

Lucy Robinson, U6R, who was placed third in the Forestside School Song Challenge.

Susanna Griffin, U6R, who has reached the final of the Bank of Ireland Catherine Judge Memorial Award for solo classical musicians.

Hannah McGugan, 1S, who was placed second in the Irish National Junior Squash Championships.

Mia Davison, 1S, who participated in the Derwentio Excel swimming competition in Sheffield. Mia achieved a double silver in the 50m Breast Stroke and in the 200m Breast Stroke. Mia also won a double gold in the 400m IM and the 200m Butterfly in the Ulster Qualifying Meet in Bangor.

Eden Byrne, 1A, who was placed first in the team event and third in the individual section of the 12-14 age category of the International Tae Kwon-Do Championships in London.

Amelia Hopkins, 2H, who won the Grosvenor Hockey Club trophy last week for U13 Best Player of the Year.

Clara Potts, 2S, who was placed third in the Lusk Equestrian Annual Dressage Competition.

Amy McWhirter, 2S, who performed in the musical Thoroughly Modern Millie in The Mac.

Joanne Allen, 4S, who performed in the West End with Belfast Voice and Dance Academy in Her Majesty's Theatre.

Rebecca McAlees, 4H, who raised £500 for Croft Community by selling her chocolate hearts.

Hannah Craig, L6A, who was placed second in the Irish Senior Nationals in Squash.

Art News



Art classes from Forms 4 to L6 attended the True Colours Exhibition at the Ulster Museum between January and February. This is an exhibition of work done by pupils in schools across Northern Ireland. Form 4 artists also enjoyed a Textiles Workshop on 8 December with visiting artist, Aisling Smyth. The pupils enjoyed hearing about Aisling's exciting career, including her work in the costume department on *Game of Thrones*, and were excited to see examples of her work which she brought along. Aisling also demonstrated a variety of beautiful hand-stitching techniques for the girls to try out in their own projects. Art pupils from Forms 4 to U6 also got the opportunity to visit the annual Royal Ulster Academy Exhibition at the Ulster Museum. The girls were impressed by the wide variety of impressive art work on display at the exhibition, and left with lots of ideas about how they could integrate some of these techniques and ideas into their own work. The department was also delighted to welcome back a past pupil, Annabel Terry, who spoke at the lunchtime Art Club about her current studies on an Interior Design course.



Form News & Trips



- Well done to 2T, who raised over £110 in their Form Effort for Hawah Namyalo.
- *Buon Viaggio* to all of the staff and pupils who are leaving for Italy on 16 March!
- *Bon voyage* to all of the staff and pupils who are leaving for Belgium and France, on 17 April!
- Well done to 2H, who made hot chocolate gifts which they sold to raise money for Abaana Charity. The girls raised £200.



Library News Biology Field Trip

Craft Fayre: As part of the Library charity effort this year, the library assistants held a Craft Fayre at the end of February, where lots of handmade crafts were on sale. This included origami bookmarks, felt crafts, button brooches, greetings cards, book hedgehogs and much more. They raised just over £300 for Guide Dogs NI to sponsor a class of puppies being trained as guide dogs. During assembly the previous week, the pupils enjoyed a visit from local resident Mary Hutchison and her guide dog Truffle. The pupils learnt about how guide dogs are trained and how they help their owners, and afterwards they were able to chat to Mary and make a fuss of Truffle!

World Book Day: World Book Day was celebrated in the library this year with a number of events. The Book Swap enabled pupils to bring in old books they no longer wanted to swap them for others. Many of the books were in excellent condition and so it was just like getting a new book without having to spend any money. The Shelfie Competition involved having to match members of staff with photos of their bookshelves (shelfies). This proved to be more difficult than it first seemed, but was very enjoyable to all who had a go. Some little clues were included in each shelfie, which the eagle-eyed pupils were able to spot. Joint winners of this competition were Kezia Hobson, U6R, and Isabelle Davidson, 2S, who managed to get them all right. The Big Ten Quiz had book-related questions taken from the World Book Day Big Bumper Quiz, and was a bit of a challenge even to the most widely read. Joint winners of this were Nishtha Panchratna, 2H, and Emma Caldwell and Katy Strutt, both 3T, who completed the quiz together.



This year the first Lower Sixth Biology field trip took place in January. The cold weather, however, did not deter the pupils from getting out and about to gather data for their studies of ecology. As well as being good fun, the trip allowed the girls to observe ecological principles at work in a range of different habitats. In the sand dunes at Murlough, they needed to use magnifying glasses as they lay down on the grass to examine minute plants in the dune slacks. On the sheltered shores at Strangford, they sat on the rocks to identify the various seaweeds and animals that were found there as part of their study of zonation. The pupils were definitely relieved to have the use of waterproof trousers for this part of their research. As always, Delamont House provided a warm and welcoming sanctuary after a day in the field; the spaghetti Bolognese went down well for dinner, as did the buns for supper. Many thanks to Mrs Dalzell, Mrs Gray and Miss Grier for organising this enjoyable and useful trip.



EU Debate

On 1 March pupils from Strathearn attended an EU Debate at the University of Ulster's Belfast Campus. The event was organised by the university in order to allow its members and other invited guests to ask questions of leading politicians, namely Nigel Farage and Vernon Coaker, about the potential implications of leaving the EU. The event was well attended and the debate was heated. The chair of the debate emphasised how encouraging it was to see so many young people, especially school pupils, in the audience. Well done to Mehika Sood, Georgia Coulter, Nina Graham and Lydia Miller for participating in the debate, and special thanks to Mr Newell for organising Strathearn's involvement.



School Council News

We were delighted to accept an invitation from the Lord Lieutenant of Belfast to be special guests at a Citizenship Ceremony in Hillsborough Castle in December 2015. Rosalind Skillen, Chloe Scott, Niamh Lemon and Yuan Chen represented the School Council at this important function, welcoming people as citizens of our country. We were given a full tour of the castle and this included viewing royal memorabilia as well as important artefacts that have been gathered by national and international guests over the years. We heard stories about the Queen and her preferences when she stays, as well as details about the rare visits of US Presidents. The ceremony itself involved twenty individuals and families being formally welcomed as achieving British citizenship. For many, this was the end of a long process that began many years earlier in countries such as Sudan, Sri Lanka and Russia. It was a great opportunity to be part of such an important day and to be reminded of how diverse a nation we are.



MATHS CHALLENGES



This year the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge took place on November 2015. We had seventy-three participants and a record twenty-eight certificate winners. The questions in the Maths Challenge are very difficult and pupils did well just to make it to the end of the paper, especially given the fact that they did not have the use of their calculators. Well done to everyone who took part. The following girls achieved Bronze: Katy Dutton, Fiona Gibson, Florence Ogonda, Becky Poots, Lucy Dolan, Abby Larmour, Rachel Bruce, Katie Mashford, Kezia Hobson, Rebekah Kenny, Rebecca Gallagher, Rhia Prentice, Sarah Brown, Georgia Stewart, Marie Fung, Amy Martin, Emma Reihill, Amy Lynch, Victoria White, Gabrielle Park, Anieshia Bedford, Ariana Gallen, Keziah Beattie, Mehika Sood, Fionn Clarke, Lauren Bailie. The following girls achieved Silver: Emma Lowry, Claudia Paulin, Abigail Sheridan, Amy Dutton, Katie McMurrin and Ailie McKinty (best in Lower Sixth). Hannah Eakin achieved Gold, and was also the best in Upper Sixth, and best in School.

Hockey

The hockey season is drawing to a close with all Saturday fixtures complete and all League and Cup competitions finished. We had eight to ten teams playing most Saturday mornings and six teams competing in Ulster Schools' competitions.

The 1st XI were drawn against Wallace High School in the Senior Shield quarter-final on 6 February. Unfortunately Wallace proved too strong on the day and we lost 3-0. Wallace were the eventual winners of the Shield. The 1st XI, however, were still determined to finish the season on a better note, and they played some fine hockey in the remaining friendlies and league matches. With a squad that had ten U6 players on it, the girls had a very enjoyable and successful season. They scored over fifty goals, and captain Erin Larmour came close to topping the long-standing 'Top Goal Scorer' record with her excellent total of twenty goals. The team's combined efforts right to the final whistle of the last game earned them 3rd place in the Belfast Area League.

The 2A XI reached the quarter-final of the McDowell Cup after beating Carrickfergus Grammar in the third round. Their next opponents were Ballyclare High School, and despite a good start with an early goal we ended up losing 3-1. Even so, this was a good achievement from a young team. They have learnt a lot this season, and are already looking ahead to next year.

The 2B XI had a very successful season as they reached the semi-final of the Gibson Cup. They also played Ballyclare High School in their quarter-final, and this time Strathearn emerged as the stronger team, winning 1-0. Friends' School Lisburn were our opponents in the semi-final and they were on the attack from the first whistle, scoring early in the match and leaving our 2Bs on the back foot. The team tried hard but it was not their day and Friends ran out as worthy 4-1 winners.

This year there were up to twenty U6 girls playing regularly on our five senior teams and they will certainly be missed next year. We wish them every success as they move on and thank them for their dedication and commitment over the last seven years. We really hope that they will look back with fond memories of the times they have had playing in the Strathearn kit!

The U14A XI beat Royal and Prior School Raphoe in the quarter-final of the Junior Plate 2-0. They then took on Foyle and Londonderry in the semi-final, winning 3-0 to gain a place in the final. Read the full report later in this newsletter.

The 3A, 3B, U14B and U13A and B teams have all had a successful season. The U12A and U12B teams have played some fixtures and are looking forward to a few more to finish the season off. The U12A XI competed in the Annual Year 8 Grosvenor Tournament on 8 March. With the matches being very short it was difficult for the team to score goals, which meant they drew all matches in their section. Unfortunately this was not enough to gain them a place in the semi-final. They did, however, show good skills and tactical awareness on the pitch.

U17 Area Board trials took place on 1 March, with the following four girls being nominated: Sarah Brown, Ailie McKinty, Bonnie Ramsay and Victoria Hamilton. Sarah, Bonnie and Ailie have been selected for the Belfast U17 Area Board team, and will play in the Area Board Tournament on 15 March. Good luck!

U15 Area Board trials took place on 3 March, with the following five girls being nominated: Harriet Platt, Erin Stewart, Chloe Sweet, Maya Savage Newell and Jessica Anderson Bell. Harriet, Erin, Maya and Jessica have been called back for a second trial, and await to hear if they will be selected for the Belfast Area U15 team.



netball

Since Christmas, our netball teams have been playing matches in the Sol Sports League against Sullivan, Regent and Rockport in Minor, Junior, Intermediate and Senior age groups. Form 1 teams have been playing in the Belfast Area Year 8 League. The As beat Hunterhouse 4-3 and Bs beat Hazelwood 5-2. There are still a few fixtures to complete before the final league standings will be known.

trampolining

Well done to all three Strathearn teams who competed in the NI Regional Schools' Trampolining Championships. In particular, congratulations to Sophie Neale who was 1st in the U19 Girls Novice competition. This meant she then qualified for the British Schools' Zonal Championships in Newcastle upon Tyne, in which she was placed 7th overall. As such, she was the highest placed NI competitor in this competition.

GYMNASTICS

Strathearn's gymnasts were in action at the Northern Irish Schools' Gymnastics Championships on Sunday at Ballysillan Leisure Centre. With our gym club only up and running since September, the girls performed very well against strong opposition. We had girls competing in a number of categories.

In the U14 group section, the Strathearn A team of Evie Hempstead, Aimee McGill, Emma Hylands, Daisy Moore, Hannah Hornsby, Jasmine Trill and Jodie Wilson finished 4th.

The Strathearn B team of Alice Sloan, Lauren Mooney, Charlotte Keers, Lauren Farmer, Gabriella Park, Annie Heavern, Erin Vogan and Sophie Jordan finished in 5th place.

In the pairs sections, Lauren Mooney and Alice Sloan were placed 2nd in the U14 Novice section, Jasmine Trill and Jodie Wilson were placed 3rd in the U14 Novice section and Emma Hylands and Aimee McGill were 3rd in the U14 Open section.

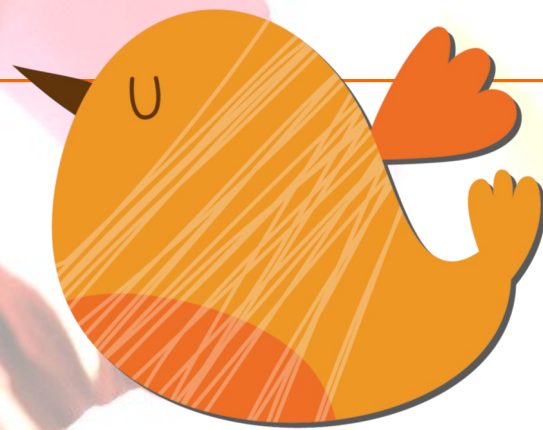
Dance

Congratulations to the Junior and Intermediate dance teams which competed at the Northern Ireland Creative Movement and Aerobic Championships on 5 March.

The Strathearn teams are led and choreographed by our own pupils, and they competed against some very talented teams coached by professional dance teachers. The teams have worked hard since September to learn and perfect their routines, and all the hard work paid off with the Junior team finishing runners-up in their section. Special mention goes to their team of coaches from Forms 4 and 5 – Aife Sansom, Sophie Gillespie, Alice Graham, Rebecca Black and Sarah McTaggart who have all worked tirelessly to get the girls to this level. The Intermediate team were up against the Senior teams as well, and finished in a very commendable 3rd place. Special mention should go to their coach, Hannah Eakin, for producing such a fantastic routine.



Cross-Country



Congratulations to all the athletes who competed in the Co Down District Cross-Country Championships on 28 January. The day started with the Mini Girls' race, and our Form 1 athletes got us off to a good start by finishing runners-up, missing out on gold by just three points. Lara Whitten finished 4th, Grace Ross 8th, Lucy Chambers 11th, Mia Davison 15th, Anna McKinty 18th and Faith Heyburn 46th.

The Senior Girls were next to take to the course and they also finished in silver medal position, with Sarah Brown the first of the Strathearn girls to cross the line in 10th place. Emma Watson was 12th, Amy Hepworth 13th, Keziah Beattie 16th and Jessica Leeman 21st. The Juniors were determined to continue their winning streak over the last two years, and they did not disappoint! Murphy Miller came home in 3rd place, with Aimee Stitt and Harriet Platt hot on her heels in 4th and 5th place. Rhiannon Brady was 10th, Grace Ruding 12th and Freya Axten 16th. The team score was better than any of the opposition, and Strathearn added a third consecutive Co Down title to their list of wins.

The Minor Girls took on the challenge next and were keen to match the Juniors' achievement. Amelia Kane led from the front and powered home well ahead of the field to win gold individually, helping the team to become Minor Champions. Jemima Thomas finished 11th, Rebekah Burrows 12th, Emily Gault 27th, Charlotte Keers 44th and Chloe Brown 46th.

The last race of the day involved the Intermediate team, and they had the challenge of running three times around the course to complete 3000m. Olivia Nelson ran a magnificent race and sailed home full of running with nobody near her. The battle was happening further back for the next places, with Erin McConnell storming through to finish second. Katie Wills was 8th, Sam McCormick 10th, Ruby Baxter 18th and Alex Reilly 19th. The team were well ahead of the next school and were crowned Co Down Champions for the 4th successive year.

This was certainly not a bad day's work for the Strathearn Cross-country teams, and preparations quickly began for the Ulster Championships on 10 February at Mallusk.

Ulster Schools' Cross-Country Championships 2016

After the success of the Cross-country teams at the District Championships, we set off to the Ulster Championships with high expectations. The girls from Strathearn certainly did not disappoint, bringing home the Junior Ulster Trophy and finishing as bronze medallists in the Minor, Intermediate and Senior competitions. With all these brilliant performances, Strathearn were in contention for the overall trophy, but were narrowly beaten by one point.

All the results are on the website but special mention should go to Amelia Kane who was second individually in the Minor race, and to Olivia Nelson who stole the show with her superb run to win the Intermediate race.

The Junior team were crowned Ulster Champions for the third consecutive time. Olivia Nelson has also made Strathearn history with her third consecutive individual gold medal.

Irish Schools' Cross-Country Championships 2016

The Minor, Junior, Intermediate and Senior Teams qualified for the Irish Schools' Cross-Country Championships at Sligo Racecourse on 5 March. After an early start and a long journey, Strathearn's four teams took on the best runners in Ireland. Not all of our athletes were available to travel, but we did receive special commendation throughout the day as being the only school to be represented in all four age groups. This really is a fantastic achievement in itself. Despite the beautiful backdrop of Ben Bulbin, this was a very tough course. Our Minor Girls (Eve McKibbin, Rebekah Burrows and Chloe Browne) were placed eleventh overall. The Junior team of Murphy Miller, Harriet Platt, Aimee Stitt, Freya Axten, Rhiannon Brady and Grace Ruding were 7th, with Murphy finishing a very commendable 10th place individually. The Intermediate team of Olivia Nelson, Katie Wills, Ruby Baxter and Alex Reilly finished 9th, with Olivia being placed 9th individually. The Senior team of Sarah Brown, Jessica Leeman and Hannah Craig also finished 9th. Well done to all the girls who competed at this high level. Due to their super individual performances at the Ulster Championships, Olivia Nelson and Amelia Kane have been selected to run in the London Mini-Marathon in April.

Sporting Successes SQUASH

- Amelia Kane, 2A, who has been asked by Swim Ireland to take part in a 1600m swim as part of this year's Sports Relief.
- Olivia Nelson, 4R, ran in the Ulster Clubs' Cross-Country Championships in Donegal on 9 November, and finished 3rd in the U17 age group (4000m). She then went on to run at the Irish Clubs' Cross-Country Championships in Waterford on 6 December, and finished 7th in the U17 age group (4000m). Olivia then ran at the Antrim International Cross-Country Championships at Greenmount on 16 January as part of an Irish U17 development team. She ran brilliantly to finish as U17 champion. The team was also placed 1st.
- Hannah Craig, L6A, has been playing in numerous squash tournaments at national and international level. She won the Ulster Junior Closed Championships on 23 January, and so was crowned Ulster U19 Champion. Hannah is currently ranked No 2 in Europe at U17 level, having won the Swiss Junior Open in Zurich on 5 December. She is competing at the U19 European Championships in Switzerland in March, so we wish her good luck!
- Congratulations to Tess McMillen, 4T, who won the Junior Gross category of the Ulster Schools' Golf Championships at Portstewart Golf Club on 11 March.
- Congratulations to Erin McConnell, who has been selected on the Ulster Team to compete at the Interprovincial Schools' Championships in May.

Congratulations to the U19 & U15 squash teams who competed in the Ulster Schools' Cup on 24 February.

The U19 team of Hannah Craig, Victoria White, Rachael Thomas and Alex Reilly defeated Laurelhill Community College and took home the Ulster U19 Cup.

The U15 team of Emma McGugan, Hannah McGugan and Jemima Thomas defeated St Patrick's Lisburn and took home the Ulster U15 Cup.

The teams have now qualified for the Irish Schools' Cup on 15 April.

There were more squash teams in action at the Novice Schools' Competition on 1 March.

The U19B team of Rachael Thomas, Alex Reilly, Katy Mashford and Nicky Montgomery defeated Victoria A, Victoria B and Down High School to win the competition.

SPORTSHALL ATHLETICS

Well done to the U13 and U15 Sports Hall Athletics teams who competed on 10 March at Meadowbank Stadium. The U13 team tried hard in all events and came home in bronze medal position. The U15 team were in top form and finished as overall champions, thus qualifying for the British Championships in Manchester in April. Individual results will be posted on the website. Well done and good luck!

Strathearn U14A XI Win Junior Plate



Congratulations to the U14A XI for winning the Junior Plate! On Friday they boarded the mini-bus and headed up the M2 to play Ballyclare High School in the final. This was now becoming a familiar journey to the girls, as they had already travelled up the motorway to play matches against Coleraine Grammar School and Foyle and Londonderry College. The final proved to be a much closer-fought affair than these earlier matches. The girls had played Ballyclare twice already this season, narrowly losing both games. This meant that they were probably slight underdogs going into the match.

Strathearn got off to a great start by forcing an error from the Ballyclare defence. Alex Fawcett was able to capitalise on this by beating the last defender, and scoring a fabulous goal from the top of the circle. Strathearn held the lead for the next ten minutes, but then Ballyclare scored to level the match as half-time approached. Whilst the second half had plenty of goal-scoring opportunities, neither team managed to get the ball over the line.

The full-time whistle went, taking the match into extra-time. The 'silver goal' rule was in place, which meant that if one team was ahead after the first five minutes, then the game was over. Both teams showed maturity beyond their years by dealing with the pressure of the big occasion. Strathearn began the first period strongly by winning a penalty corner in the early stages. Anna McKibben took the corner and the ball made its way to Erin Stewart, who scored an excellent goal. Strathearn were 2 -1 up with three minutes to go! All they needed to do was keep the ball away from the circle, but Ballyclare gave everything they had to get a goal back. Strathearn, however, stood firm and managed to get lots of players behind the ball, making it as difficult as possible for Ballyclare as the clock ticked on. Strathearn cleared the ball out of defence one final time as their supporters counted down the seconds. The umpire's whistle finally sounded and the match was ours! The girls gave a fabulous display of skill and great teamwork. Well done for bringing home the Junior Plate!

SWIMMING

Congratulations to all the girls who took part in the Ulster Secondary Schools' Swimming Championships on 5 and 6 February 2016. The results were as follows.

In the Girls Age 11-14 Backstroke 100m, Rebekah Burrows came 6th (2nd in Form 2), Lauren Nesbitt 11th (2nd in Form 1) and Rachel Childs 14th. In the Girls Age 11-14 Breaststroke 100m Lauren Nesbitt came 17th.

In the Girls Age 11-14 Butterfly 100m, Lara Whitten came 12th and Evie Gallen 15th.

In the Girls Age 11-14 Freestyle 100m, Rebekah Burrows came 3rd (2nd in Form 2).

In the Girls Age 11-14 IM 200m, Lara Whitten came 14th (2nd Form 1) and Rachel Childs 19th.

Moving onto the Junior Relays, the Freestyle team of Lara Whitten, Evie Gallen, Lauren Nesbitt and Rebekah Burrows were placed 4th. The Medley team of Rachel Childs, Lauren Nesbitt, Lara Whitten and Rebekah Burrows were placed 5th.

In the Girls 15-16 Breaststroke 100m, Sam McCormick was placed 2nd and won the Girls 15-16 IM 200m.

In the Intermediate Relays, the Medley and Freestyle team of Sophie Williams, Sam McCormick, Georgia Gallen and Olivia Nelson were placed 1st and 2nd respectively.

The Senior Relay team of Caitie Williams, Ferne Blackstock, Victoria White and Helen Navalli were placed 2nd in the Medley and 2nd in the Freestyle Relay.

At the Irish Minor Schools' Championships in Dublin on 7 February, Strathearn were represented by Lara Whitten who finished 7th in the Back Crawl and 7th in the Butterfly, Grace Ross finished 15th in the Front Crawl and Rachel Childs finished 12th in the Back Crawl. These three girls, along with Alice Brown from Penrhyn, brought home the Irish bronze medals in both the Medley and Freestyle Relays. Well done to all the girls!

Happy

Easter!

Dates for your Diary...

8 April: Robotics Roadshow for Form 1 (periods 1 – 6)

14 April: Spring Concert

20 April: Form 2 Consultation (3-5pm)

2 May: Bank Holiday

18 – 24 May: School Examinations for Forms 1 – 3

18 – 27 May: School Examinations for Form 4

27 May: School closes at 12.50pm

30 May: Exceptional Closure

9 & 10 June: Junior School Production

16 June: Form Four Parent Consultation - School finishes at 12.50pm

30 June: End of Term - School finishes at 12 noon

SCHOOL RETURNS on MONDAY 4 APRIL at 8.45am