

Strathearn News



NI Science Festival Art Competition Win!

Strathearn School's new Art and Craft Club has won their first award! 'Jam the Jellyfish' was selected as the winner of the Key Stages 3 & 4 category in the NI Science Festival/Ulster Wildlife Marine Litter Art Competition 2018. This large sculpture was made from waste materials collected from a local beach and was designed to highlight the issue of marine litter in Northern Ireland. The Art and Craft Club has been run by sixth form students for pupils in Forms 1-3 and has enjoyed a good attendance and a range of exciting activities in its first term.

Jam the Jellyfish is an interesting sculpture with bright, colourful, tentacles and a hodge podge head. Jam was inspired by the large number of jellyfish we saw as we collected our rubbish, which we found sad. We also wanted to reflect the way in which animals can mistake litter for jellyfish. The jellyfish was constructed from a recycled umbrella, poles found at the beach and paper mache from recycled newspapers. We hung tentacles made of plastic bottles, wrappers and adorned the top with beach litter.

The winning artwork is exhibited at the Bangor Carnegie Library from 15-31 February, and again at the Ulster Wildlife Living Seas Art Exhibition at the Down Arts Centre in June 2018.

The prize was presented to Alex Dougherty from Form 1, who represented the club, at the Ulster Museum on 18 February by Professor Callum Roberts (University of York), Dr Carol Turley (Plymouth Marine Lab), Dr James Strong (National Oceanography Centre), Dr Jade Berman (Ulster Wildlife) and Chris McCreery (NI Science Festival Director).



The Spring Concert

Strathearn's annual Spring Concert took place on Tuesday 20 March. Many thanks to everyone who performed at this event and to all the audience members who came along to support it. It was a very enjoyable evening of vocal and instrumental music, with excellent performances from the Junior, Senior and Chamber Choirs, the Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra and Traditional Group, and a large number of Upper Sixth soloists.



Francofest

Four Form 3 pupils - Freya Beers, Rosie Elwood, Lauren Farmer and Anna Hughes competed in 'Francofest' at the Whitla Hall, Queen's University on 5 February. The event was organised at QUB to promote languages in business and marketing. Pupils had to create a stand for a simulated international trade fair environment and sell their products to prospective French companies using only the French language. They created the resources, promo materials and products themselves and they practised role play dialogues and scenarios in French beforehand with Ms Vincent. They won the prize for the Best French stand and featured on Radio Ulster and the local news. Well done girls and a big thank you to Ms Vincent.



Individual Successes

...congratulations to...



Kristin Weinert, L6R, who has been selected for the Irish Ladies' National Underwater Hockey Team that will be participating in the BOA Ladies' Nationals in Leeds. She is the youngest person ever to have been selected for this team!

Elena Gourley, 1R, who achieved 2nd place in the British Council Creative Writing Competition.

Alia Cairns, 2A, who was awarded the Commemorative Cup in the Lagan Festival of Speech and Drama.

Hannah Pollock Chan, 2A, who came 1st in her Grade Seven Recital Class at the Lagan Festival of Speech and Drama.

Hannah Alexander, 2A, who completed a training course in CPR.

Jodie Flaherty, 2T, who represented Northern Ireland in Gymnastics (Grade Two Trio).

Catherine Welsh, 3A, who performed in the Peace Proms with Cross Border Orchestra Ireland.

Sarah Catherall, 3S, who achieved her Purple Belt in Karate.

Hannah Stanfield, 3S, who achieved a Distinction in her Musical Theatre Singing Grade Five exam.

Hannah McCartney, 3S, who achieved a Distinction in her Grade Four Ballet exam.

Ellie Gordon, 2T, who was placed No 1 for her age group in the UK for the 30 minute event in Indoor Rowing.

Careers Round-up



Lots of things have been going on in the Careers Department in this second term. Many pupils attended careers events outside school. Several girls in L6 and U6 attended a Careers in Clinical Psychology event at the Whitla Hall where they found out more about opportunities in this field. Five pupils from L6 attended an Open Day at Stranmillis University College where they learned about its teaching courses and other undergraduate programmes. Ten L6 pupils attended an 'Experience Computing 2018' event which gave our girls an opportunity to spend 2 days in the new state of the art Computer Science Building at Queen's to find out about some of the interesting new technology and roles in this continually changing field. Two L6 girls went to the Deloitte Actuarial Experience Day at its Belfast Technology Studio where they learned more about the qualifications and skills required for the profession and what sorts of work an actuary does. Eleven other L6 pupils attended a Medicine at Queen's Open Day at the MBC where the girls heard about different careers opportunities and the working life of doctors in General Practice, as a Pathologist or Surgeon, viewed the state of the art learning facilities and had the opportunity to talk to undergraduates and academics to gain valuable insight into what life as a medical student at Queen's is really like. Two girls attended a Dentistry Open Day at Queen's, one pupil attended a careers morning at Belfast Metropolitan College which highlighted opportunities within the Creative Industry Sector and one pupil attended a Speech & Language Open Day at one of our Belfast Hospitals. All L6 attended the UCAS Higher Education Exhibition at the Eikon Centre in Lisburn where the pupils could talk to UCAS experts and hundreds of university representatives, employers, and gap year specialists. There were inspirational talks, topical seminars, application process advice, and interactive stands. Current students were on hand to discuss what it's really like to study a certain subject.

Eight pupils are attending the Oxford and Cambridge Student Conference in Lisburn over the Easter holidays and there they will find out up-to-date information about the courses, the application process and admissions procedures at both universities.

A number of universities visited Strathearn during this time. These included Southampton, St Andrews, Liverpool Hope, Lancaster, Newcastle, the Scottish University Tour, Northumbria, Queen's, Ulster, Cambridge, Bath, Liverpool John Moores and Scotland's Modern University Tour. These talks were either held in a L6 careers period or over lunchtime so that all girls could attend.

The programme of guest speakers for Form 5 continued throughout this term. This included talks on psychology, teaching, languages, veterinary science and business. We are all really indebted to all those professionals who took time from their busy schedules to talk to our pupils. Form 5 also had a talk on choosing A Levels and all their careers guidance interviews with Jill Lemon from the Department of the Economy are now completed. U6 had two talks – one on Student Finance to make the girls aware of the financial implications of going on to higher education, and another from the Department of the Communities on Renting and Accommodation. Information from both of these talks should be useful for U6 when they leave Strathearn in June. Other talks included one from a representative from CAFRE and another from the Food & Drink Skills Sector and both talked about careers in the agri food sector in NI. We also had a talk from a representative from the NI Statistics & Research Agency which focused on careers using maths and we welcomed a lecturer on Chemical Engineering and another focusing on Marine Biology both from Queen's who talked about courses and careers in those areas.

All Form 1 classes have now had their introductory visit to the careers suite. Form 3 had a session called 'Bring IT On' which highlighted opportunities in the IT sector. Form 3 girls also had visits to the careers suite and question and answer sessions with Mrs Hearst regarding their subject choices. Mrs Quinn and our careers adviser from the Department of the Economy Jill Lemon, also talked to pupils about choosing GCSEs. Members of the careers team had careers guidance interviews with all girls in Form 3 and their parents/guardians to give advice and guidance about these choices.

Baden Powell Award



Congratulations to Saya Caddy, 4A, who has received her Baden Powell Challenge award from the Holywood Guides. This is the highest possible level of award available in Guiding. Saya had to get involved in volunteering, leading the younger girls, taking part in a cook-out and running numerous fundraising activities. The final part of the challenge was a two-day trip to London which involved small groups of guides navigating their way, unaccompanied, around London landmarks using only London public transport. Saya and her intrepid group took it all in their stride, successfully completing their task and even managing to fit in a bit of shopping in Oxford Street!

Library News

STAFF COFFEE MORNING

This has been another very busy term for the Library. The girls of the Library Team stepped up to cater for the Staff Coffee Morning in January, providing a gorgeous array of baked treats for staff. Their efforts were rewarded by donations totalling £340, which is being sent to Peru where Strathearn's own Mrs Agnew is helping to create a library in the school at which she is volunteering.



COMMONWEALTH CLASS SHORT STORY COMPETITION



There has been plenty going on in terms of creative writing this term, between pupils entering the BBC's 500 Words Competition, the Young Writers' Competitions and the Commonwealth Class Short Story Competition, in which Elena Gourley, 1R, came runner-up out of 1600 entries from 53 countries. What an achievement!

WORLD BOOK DAY

In March, the library celebrated World Book Day by making a promotional video to encourage use of the library and by running competitions for pupils and staff. Well done to Liana Hawthorne, 2S, and to Miss Ferris who correctly identified some classic books from difficult clues. Pupils in forms one, two and three have entered into a sponsored read in March with the English department, in an effort to raise money for the Cancer Fund for Children.

THE BOOK CLUB

Our use of Accelerated Reader continues, and 1A, 2T and 3T currently lead the standings in the Word Warrior Competition. A number of Library Assistants have provided a great deal of help, but Eloise McClelland, 1S, and Isla McKelvey, 1R, deserve extra recognition for their hard work in the library since the start of the year.

NORTHERN IRELAND FINALS

Strathearn's Public Speakers competed in two Northern Ireland Finals this term. First, in Hillsborough for the Soroptimists, Tavisha Sood, L6S, spoke confidently about the challenges in store for her generation, then presented a humorous extempore speech about whether or not she would push the red button. She was awarded a certificate and a gift for making the final. The following weekend she was joined by Rebecca McAlees, L6S, and Tara Kane, L6T, at the BPW Public Speaking Final at Newforge Country Club. Tavisha spoke on 'The Glass Ceiling Today', Rebecca oversaw the proceedings with poise, and Tara delivered a thoughtful expression of thanks. The team were presented with medals and certificates in recognition of their achievements in getting to the regional final.



COURT MOCK TRIALS



Pupils in Forms 2 and 3 have worked incredibly hard this term to participate in the Young Citizens Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition which took place on Saturday 10 March. They took on the roles of court staff, lawyers and witnesses as well as magistrates to run a case about the possession of a bladed article.

LOCAL POLITICIANS VISIT STRATHEARN

This term, Strathearn's sixth form pupils have welcomed local politicians to the school. DUP MP for East Belfast, Gavin Robinson, visited and participated in a question and answer session that covered topics as wide-ranging as feminism, faith and the much-debated Irish Language Act.



Alliance MLA Chris Lyttle also came to meet pupils, and discussed issues including the current state of Stormont and the prospect of lowering the voting age. It was very useful to have an insight into the political process from the politicians' points of view, but also useful to have the chance to speak to those currently in office about topics concerning young people today. Miriam Parker chaired both these sessions with confidence, ensuring a variety of opinions were aired during the course of the discussions.



Coca Cola Visit



3A completed their rescheduled visit to the Coca Cola factory in January, investigating the operation of a multi-national company in Northern Ireland. Our big focus was on the sustainability of their operations with an emphasis on the environment, jobs and the local community. One interesting fact that we discovered is that energy efficient lighting used in the factory saves over 145,000 tonnes of carbon dioxide every year. That's the equivalent of a car driving around the world twenty times!!



German Debate



On 27 February, both Campbell College and Strathearn School took part in the Queen's German Debate held at Queen's University. The teams performed extremely well and are a credit to our schools. The girls were outstandingly prepared and really impressive. All three boys from Campbell College also performed well, with Sam Carrigan receiving the prize of Best Speaker. Although neither team won, the students gained confidence which will benefit them in their oral exam. Everyone saw it as an excellent opportunity to practise speaking and listening skills. Furthermore, the standard was very high this year, so the students made us especially proud. There were eight schools involved in the competition. Well done to everyone who took part and to our students who attended the event in order to show their support!

StemQuest

Two teams of Form 3 pupils competed in the final of the Stemquest Quiz, having won the Belfast regional heat in January. Congratulations to Team 1 (Niamh Hanna, Anna McKinty, Lara Whitten and Lauren Mooney) who got through to the overall final, and to Team 2 (Catherine Welsh, Jodie Morgan, Ellie Van Giesen and Hannah McCartney).



Young Enterprise

In February, Form 4 completed a Young Enterprise event focusing on the skills needed to run an effective business. The pupils worked in groups, starting up a jewellery business from scratch and having to engage in business activity to promote and sell their goods for a profit. This was a great opportunity for the students to develop entrepreneurial skills and combine their creative talents with an understanding of economics.

Badminton

Three badminton teams entered the Ulster Schools' Badminton Cup Competitions. Our Senior Team played well winning two out of three matches. The Minors and Form 1 pupils won all their matches and went on to the knockout stages of their competitions both reaching the finals. The Minors were just beaten by a very strong Wallace team and the Form 1 pupils defeated Bloomfield in their final and so became Ulster 'B' Division Champions.

Dates for your Diary...

22-27 March	Italy Trip
23 March	Last day of Term! School finishes at 12 noon
7 May	Bank Holiday
21-30 May	Form 4 exams
24-30 May	Forms 1-3 exams
28 May	Exceptional Closure
13 June	L6 UCAS Information (2pm, Manning Hall)
15 June	Form 2 Giants' Causeway Trip
29 June	End of term! School finishes at 12 noon



HOCKEY



The **2B XI** and **3A XI** both progressed to the knock-out stages of the Gibson Cup. The 2B XI won 2-1 in the quarter-finals against a strong Ballymena Academy team. They then faced Friends' School, Lisburn in the semi-final and unfortunately lost 3-1. The 3A XI beat Rainey Endowed 2-1 and then progressed to the semi-final. In the semi-final they faced Ballyclare HS. After a very closely fought game the score line was 0-0 at full time. Unfortunately, in extra time Ballyclare took their chances and scored in the last minute of the game. Both teams should be extremely proud of reaching the semi-final of the Cup.

The **U14As** faced Ballymena Academy in the third round of the Junior Cup. The girls all fought hard, however the Ballymena side came away with a 3-1 win. This meant they still had a chance to compete for the Junior Shield. In the quarter-final of the Shield they played Carrick Grammar. The girls worked extremely hard but narrowly lost 4-3 on penalty strokes. They played well and were unfortunate not to make it to the semi-finals.

The **2A XI** travelled to both Omagh Academy and Strabane College in the early rounds of the Plate. They beat Omagh 3-2 and Strabane 8-0. They then progressed to the semi-final of the Plate where they played Foyle and Londonderry College at the Joey Dunlop Centre in Ballymoney. Despite the travelling, the girls won 4-0 meaning they had earned a place in the final of the Plate. The final took place on 12 March at Playball, Stormont against Royal School Armagh. The sun shone and our supporters were fantastic spurring our girls on throughout the game. It was a closely contested match which went all the way to the final two minutes before there was a goal. Unfortunately it was Armagh who scored. Strathearn won a corner in the dying seconds, but couldn't manage to pull one back. On this occasion the glory went to the Royal School Armagh but our 2A XI should be extremely proud of their efforts throughout the season. A final is a great way to finish any season but especially for our U6 girls.

The **1st XI** made it through to the final of the Ulster Schools' Senior Shield, having beaten Omagh Academy 3-1 in the quarter-finals and Victoria College 3-2 in the semi-finals. They too played their final at Playball, Stormont on 14 March. The sun was not shining and the rain was pouring down but this did not deter our supporters – a big thank you to friends, parents, grandparents, staff and governors who all withstood the elements to cheer the team on. It was a very competitive match and Portadown College were strong opposition. Strathearn probably had more possession throughout but had to hold off a number of attacks from the Portadown side leaving the game fairly even and nil all at half-time. The second half continued in similar fashion with some excellent play from our girls but unfortunately no goals were scored until twenty minutes in, when we won a corner and Erin Stewart took a superb strike to put us ahead. The next ten minutes were tense, but we held our composure and the game finished 1-0 to Strathearn. The Senior Shield was ours. This was a lovely way for the season to close and especially for the Captain, Victoria Hamilton and for Alanna McHugh who have now finished their Strathearn hockey careers.

The **U12s** have been practising hard all year on Wednesday afternoons and the weather has played havoc with their planned fixtures. They played in the annual Form 1 Tournament at Grosvenor where they won two, lost one and drew one. Unfortunately they didn't make it out of their section but played well and gained a lot of experience. On Friday, our U12A and B Teams played a friendly tournament against Sullivan and Regent. Both teams won both their matches and so again finished their season on a high.

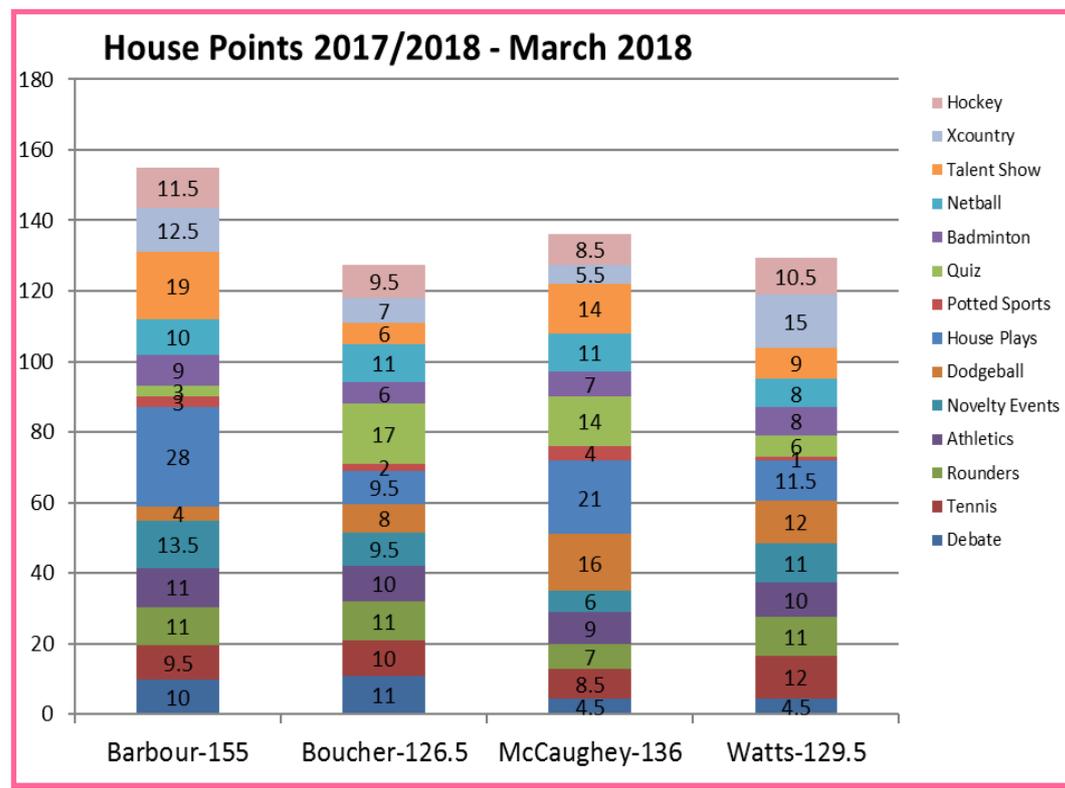
Congratulations to Anna Gillespie, Anna McKinty, Molly Elliott, Zara Hanna and Lara Whitten who were all nominated for the U15 Belfast Area Board Trials. Well done to the four girls who made the team and who will play at the Area Board Tournament on 20 March. Special congratulations to Anna Gillespie who has been selected as Captain of the Belfast team.

House Events



Netball

Well done to everyone who participated in the House Talent Show, Cross-Country and Hockey over the last few weeks. The House year is coming to a close at Easter and so the final battle for points is heating up. Barbour are still ahead but the other Houses are in hot pursuit hoping to be crowned House winners for 2017/2018. Here's how the points stand at the minute with four more items to be added:



The Strathearn netball teams have been very successful in the leagues this year.

The Minor and Senior Teams both won their District 6 NI Schools' leagues. Both teams impressively won all their matches.

The Intermediate Team put up a good fight with some impressive wins, but just missed out on top spot in their section.

The Junior Team managed to win four of their matches and drew the other one. They also narrowly missed out on being top of their table.

Well done to all the teams for a great season with some solid team performances.

The Form 1 league is just beginning so good luck to them!



Cross-Country



Co Down District Cross-Country Championships:

Congratulations to all the Strathearn athletes who competed in the Co Down District Cross-Country Championships on 6 February at Campbell College. The day started with the Mini Girls' race and we got us off to a great start with Bethany Johnston leading the team home and finishing in 4th place. Lucy Wills was next to cross the line in 6th place, then Maddie Haldane in 11th, Hannah Dadley-Young in 17th, Amy McClean 20th and Charlotte Moore 21st. These results meant the team were crowned overall Mini Champions. Next up were the Minor Girls, who also took the title of overall Minor Champions. Mabelle Wilcox powered home to claim individual gold, Emmy Thornton claimed the individual bronze and Niamh Hatfield was in 4th. Alice Browne was 6th, Connie Hanna 8th and Ellie Gordon 13th. The Junior Girls were next to take on the challenge and the team worked very hard to keep the trophies coming our way. Lara Whitten was first to cross the line finishing in 4th place, Freya Adams came home in 6th, Martha Todd in 8th, Anna McKinty in 16th place, Faith Heyburn 18th, and Amy Ellison 37th. The team score was again better than any of the opposition and Strathearn added the Junior title to our list of wins. Next were the Intermediate Team, who had the challenge of running 2500m. Amelia Kane and Murphy Miller charged off from the start into the lead group, Amelia, who pulled away from the others finished 1st individually for the 4th successive year at these championships. Murphy came in 5th place, Freya Axten in 12th and along with Rhiannon Brady, Jemima Thomas and Aimee Stitt, this meant that Strathearn finished well ahead of the other teams and brought home another Co Down trophy. The Senior Girls were the last team to take to the course and they put in a great team performance with Olivia Nelson the first of the Strathearn girls to cross the line coming in 2nd. The other girls made sure we kept the trophies coming our way with Alex Reilly finishing 5th, Sophie Kenny 7th, Katie Wills 10th, Ruby Baxter 11th and Sam McCormick 20th. This ensured the gold medal for the team and for some girls this is their 6th successive Co Down title! This is the 2nd year in a row Strathearn have had a clean sweep, bringing home all five of the Co Down trophies!

Ulster Schools' Cross-Country Championships:

The Mini and Junior Teams put in solid team performances against the best in Ulster and finished a very commendable 5th & 6th place respectively overall. The Minor Team however, were the team of the day. Mabelle Wilcox fought hard to get herself into the medals with a super finish to take the bronze medal. The rest of the team were not far behind her with Emmy Thornton in 7th, Niamh Hatfield in 10th, Alice Browne in 16th, Connie Hanna 19th and Ellie Gordon in 26th. This meant the girls added to their Ulster title from last year. In the Intermediate race we saw another outstanding individual performance by Amelia Kane who came home as Ulster Champion. Murphy Miller charged through to take the bronze medal. Their teammates worked hard behind which meant they secured the overall Intermediate Trophy. The Senior Team again put in a good team performance. Olivia Nelson came 15th, Alex Reilly 19th, Sophie Kenny 29th, and with the rest of their teammates working hard, they secured the bronze medal. As a result of this, our Minor, Intermediate and Senior girls have all qualified for the Irish Championships and have been crowned Overall Ulster Schools' Cross-Country Champions for the 2nd successive year! Individual performances from Amelia, Murphy and Mabelle has led to them being selected to compete at the London Mini-Marathon in April. We wish them well for this exciting opportunity to run at such a prestigious event.



Irish Schools' Cross-Country Championships:

All three of our teams that had qualified made the three-and-a-half-hour long journey to Waterford to compete in the All Ireland Schools' Cross-Country Championships. Despite the long journey and the very testing race conditions, the girls put in exceptional performances against the best in Ireland. The Intermediate Team of Amelia Kane, Murphy Miller, Freya Axten and Sophie Kenny, finished just outside the medals in 4th place. Special mention goes to Amelia Kane who crossed the line in 10th place. The Senior Team of Olivia Nelson, Alex Reilly, Ruby Baxter and Katie Wills finished in a commendable 8th place. The Minors, however, were the team of the day. Mabelle Wilcox who finished in 4th and Emmy Thornton in 8th along with Connie Hanna, Niamh Hatfield, Alice Browne and Ellie Gordon made history for Strathearn as they won Strathearn's first ever Irish Cross-Country title! This is a great achievement and congratulations to all the girls that ran!

Sport in Short...



Dance: This year both the Junior and Senior Dance Teams are competing in the Ulster Fitness and Dance Championships on 23 March. Both teams have been working really hard choreographing and perfecting their routines. Good luck to both teams in the upcoming competition.

Gymnastics: The Gymnastics Team competed on 4 March in the NI Schools' Acrobatic Gymnastics Championships at Bangor Aurora. The girls produced a strong performance which earned them 5th place, just missing out on the medals. Well done girls!

Squash: Three Strathearn pupils were selected to represent Ulster at the recent Interprovincial Championships. Sophie Thomas was on the U13 Team, Jemima Thomas the U15 Team and Emma McGugan the U17 Team. The Schools' Cup competitions will be taking place during Easter so we wish the girls well for that.

Form 5 PE Classes: Our Form 5 pupils have had the opportunity to get involved in Zumba before half-term and Rowing over the last few weeks. Both activities proved very popular and we hope pupils will now have the confidence to join in with such activities outside of school.

Primary Schools Events

Sports Hall Athletics: We hosted over 700 primary school pupils at our Sports Hall Athletics event on 22 and 23 January. The pupils were introduced to a variety of athletics events where everyone got an opportunity to participate and gain points for their team. It was thoroughly enjoyed by both staff and pupils and we are looking forward to seeing the schools back again next year. A huge thank you to our Parents' Association for funding the equipment necessary to run the competition.

Cricket: Civil Service Cricket Club teamed up with Strandtown PS and ourselves to offer P7 pupils a cricket session in our Sports Hall. Again the main objective was to introduce all pupils to a new sport and encourage them to get involved in it, either at school or at a club in the future.

Summer Extra-Curricular Programme: The summer extra-curricular programme is now up and running. For more information on Athletics, Tennis and Cricket please check the notice boards or speak to a member of the PE Department.