

STRATHEARN NEWS



PRIZE DAY



This year, Prize Night took place on 6 October in the Sports Hall. An excellent programme of music by the Orchestra opened the proceedings, and then our Head Girl, Rachael Thomas, welcomed everyone to the event. Mrs Stewart, Chair of the Board of Governors, then spoke of the great pleasure it was to be able to celebrate another successful year for the school. She also expressed her appreciation of the roles played by the Board of Governors, the parents, the Principal and the staff in nurturing the Strathearn community.

In his report on the school year, Mr Manning referred to the school's academic, sporting, musical and dramatic successes. He also congratulated the pupils who had successfully participated in the Duke of Edinburgh's Award scheme. He explained that last summer one hill walking group completed their Gold Expedition in the Jura Mountains on the French-Swiss border, and that three groups completed their canoeing expedition along the Royal Canal and River Shannon in the Republic of Ireland. One of those groups had recorded their experiences on video and edited it to produce a short film about what they had learnt. Mr Manning then showed an extract of this to give the audience a flavour of what a canoeing expedition is like. This was followed by another short film

which documented the official opening of the new school by HRH Prince Edward. His speech then moved on to congratulate the GCSE and A-level pupils on their outstanding results, and to express thanks to the teaching staff for their contribution to this success. He stressed, however, the importance of striking the right balance between academic work and leisure pursuits. Not every activity in life, he said, should be thought of as a contributory element to a person's CV.

The Chair of the Board then introduced our Guest of Honour, Mrs Suzanne Wylie, the Chief Executive of Belfast City Council. Mrs Wylie presented the prizes and awards, congratulating the prize winners in her subsequent speech. Now responsible for managing budgets linked to large-scale events, tourism development and construction projects across the city, Mrs Wylie urged the girls to embrace the challenge of taking on leadership roles in whatever career paths they chose. She also emphasised the importance of being prepared to step outside your comfort zone to explore new areas of experience.

After a presentation to our Guest of Honour by the Deputy Head Girls, Dakota Armour and Rachel Bruce, the Chamber Choir brought the evening to a close with a beautiful performance of McGlynn's *Geantraí* and a setting of the traditional Irish Blessing by Stopford.



LIBRARY NEWS



It will soon be time for the Scholastic Book Fair, so it is time to start saving up pocket money to spend on the new and exciting books that will be on offer. The Fair will take place in the Library during the week beginning 16 November, and all girls from Forms One to Three will be brought as a class to browse and make their purchases. It will also be open every day at break, lunchtime and after school for anyone else who wishes to buy anything. This is a great opportunity to support the Library as we will receive at least 50% commission on all the sales. This will mean we can buy lots more books for girls to read!

This year the Library has an army of helpers in the form of Junior Library Assistants, Senior Library Assistants, Sixth Form Librarians and Class Librarians, all of whom work hard to make the Library a very busy and productive place. Special congratulations should go to Chloe McBurney from 2H who is our Library Assistant of the Month for September. Well done!

HOUSE PLAYS U6 Prize Distribution

The House Plays were presented to the Junior School on Tuesday, 20 October and to the Senior School on Wednesday, 21 October. Barbour House produced *UFO*, which was based on *Mum There's a Spaceship in the Back Yard* by S Cowan. Watts House produced *Spelling Bee* adapted from *The 25th Putnam Spelling Bee* by Finn and Sheinkin. Boucher House produced *Accident and EMX* written by Florence Ogonda, Erin Larmour and Ella McAllister. McCaughey House, produced *Love Thy Neighbour* written by Jill Fergie and Aimee Richardson.

We welcomed Ms E DeDakis, the Director of Accidental Theatre Company as our adjudicator this year. The results of the competition were as follows: the Frances Mulley Rose Bowl for Best Actress was awarded to Esther Henry in Watts House; the Ivers Shield for Best Cameo Performance went to Amy Gilpin in Boucher House; the McNeill Cup for Directing was awarded to Lydia Miller in Watts House; the McMinn Cup for Best Supporting Actress went to Emma Carson in McCaughey House; the Gillian Douglas Drama Award was awarded to Barbour House for the Best Technical Performance and the coveted Inter-House Drama Award went to McCaughey House for *Love Thy Neighbour*.

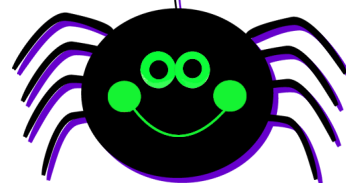


The Class of 2015 returned to Strathearn on 3 September to receive certificates, prizes and awards at an informal ceremony in the Assembly Hall. Refreshments were served in the Sixth Form common room. It was a pleasure to congratulate the girls in person and to wish them well as they move on to the next stage of their lives. We hope to keep in touch with the Class of 2015 at other school events.

INDIVIDUAL SUCCESSES

congratulations to...

Alex Coetzee, 1A, who passed her Grade Three Violin Examination with Distinction.
 Ella Keane, 1S, who passed her Grade Three Saxophone Examination.
 Hannah Stanfield, 1S, who passed her Grade One Singing Examination with Merit, and her Grade One Piano Examination.
 Amy Ellison, 1S, who passed her Grade Three Flute Examination.
 Lauren Nesbitt, 1S, who passed her Initial Piano Examination with Distinction.
 Sarah Catherall, 1S, who passed her Grade Three Singing Examination with Distinction.
 Erin McCullough, 2S, who passed her Grade One Trumpet Examination.
 Maya Renfrew, 2S, who has completed her Grade Three Climbing Certificate.
 Lauren Clarke, 5H, who danced in the Belfast Tattoo in the SSE Arena.
 Íde Simpson, 3H, who passed her Grade Five Acting Examination with Distinction.
 Emma Carson, 3T, who passed her Grade Five Drama Examination with Distinction.
 Joanne Allen, 4S, who achieved two first places in a Voice and Dance competition in Disneyland Paris.
 Jennifer Scott, 5H, who competed in the ScotDance competition in London, Ontario, Canada.



FORM NEWS

- **Sarah Lowry, 1S**, who raised over £1500 for Cancer Focus by selling items she baked with her Gran.
- Congratulations to **3R** whose recent Form Effort raised £74 for Diabetes UK and £74 for Leukaemia & Lymphoma NI.
- **Jill Nelis, 3T**, who appeared on the BBC's Countryfile to promote the Brittle Bone Society.

Media Studies Trip

Sixty A-level Media Studies pupils attended an event as part of the Cinemagic Festival at the SSE Arena on 19 October. A talk was given by a representative of the British Board of Film Classification about how age ratings are allocated to films.

JUNIOR DRAMA CLUB

Any pupils from Forms 1-3 who are interested in joining the Junior Drama Club should give their names to Mr Scott, in Room G10, as soon as possible. The club will meet on Mondays at 1pm in the Assembly Hall. Please note that no experience is necessary - just come along, get involved and enjoy the fun!

Careers Update



The school year has got underway with the usual plethora of university open days. Many girls attended an event at the Jordanstown campus whilst others attended the Saturday sessions at the Coleraine and Magee campuses of Ulster University. All girls in Upper Sixth attended the open day at Queen's and the Options XXIII careers event at Methodist College. These events allowed pupils to confirm decisions and obtain any last-minute information they may have required. Mrs Hearst, our Careers Adviser, has been running a series of specific guidance sessions for personal statements and will be running interview workshops after the Halloween break. We also

welcomed speakers from the University of Bristol and the University of Dundee who gave both Upper Sixth and Lower Sixth important information about courses and life at those institutions. Almost all UCAS forms have been completed before half term, and no doubt some girls will have secured offers by Christmas.

As usual for this time of the year we welcomed several speakers: a lecturer from Stranmillis University College spoke to students about the teaching profession, two tutors from Queen's School of Nursing and Midwifery came to talk about nursing careers, and a speaker from Project Trust talked about gap years.

Some pupils have had opportunities to attend other careers events outside school. Two Lower Sixth girls attended a BBC Broadcasting Industry Insight Day at Blackstaff Studios, another pupil attended a Business Overview Day in Financial Services Industry Progressive Building Society while another pupil attended a Radiotherapy Open Day at the Belfast City Hospital.

Lower Sixth girls have been busy organising their work experience for the week of 11 January 2016 and we would encourage them to finalise arrangements in the next few weeks as there is considerable competition for places from other schools. Form Three attended a Careers Planning Day hosted by Sentinus, while Form Five have had three careers talks from guest speakers (two were former pupils) relating to law, medicine, business and engineering. Some pupils have already had a careers guidance interview with a careers adviser from the Department of Employment and Learning; other pupils will have their interviews during the rest of this and next term.

Poetry in Motion

This term the pupils of 1S have been enjoying a series of creative writing workshops as part of the *Poetry in Motion* scheme. A successful and published local poet, Deirdre Cartmill, has been mentoring the girls as they write poetry on the themes of 'light' and 'journeys'. A professional sound crew will come to Strathearn before Christmas to make recordings of the girls reading their poems, and the work will be published in an anthology later in the year. The scheme will culminate with an event at the Ulster Hall early in the new year. We wish the girls well!



Drama News

Auditions for the senior school production took place in September with many actors eager to participate in the upcoming December production of *Daisy Pulls it Off*. The play is a comedy parodying life in a 1920s girls' boarding school, so it should hopefully appeal to all fans of *St Trinians*! Rehearsals will take place after school with many of the cast juggling their commitment to the production with the intensity of practice for the upcoming House play competitions. The performances will be held on 10 and 11 December (Thursday and Friday) in the school assembly hall so watch out for tickets. If any student is interested in joining the backstage crew, Mrs Ingram will be delighted to build her team.

FORM 1 ZOO VISIT art trips

On 11 September, 117 of our Form One pupils visited Belfast Zoo. The weather was fine all day long and the pupils were able to enjoy a great excursion. The mixed groups allowed the girls to get to know pupils they had not met before. There were many highlights but the favourite was the little prairie dog which escaped from its enclosure by burrowing out under the wire. The Strathearn girls were delighted to look after it until its keepers arrived!



Twenty-six of our Form 5 artists visited the Ulster Museum and The Mac on 18 September. Everyone enjoyed the Colin Davidson *Silent Testimony* exhibition at the Ulster Museum; this was a collection of very moving portrait paintings that revealed the stories of eighteen people connected by their individual experiences of loss through the Troubles. At The Mac the artists had a fascinating tour of the *Paddy McCann: Black Quarter* exhibition, during which they learned how the artist combined personal memories with historical and political themes. This was followed by a fantastic artist-led workshop in which girls were encouraged to explore new ways of thinking about painting.

Fourteen of our Sixth Form artists visited the Irish Museum of Modern Art in Dublin on 22 September. They enjoyed a fascinating guided tour of the *What We Call Love: From Surrealism to Now* exhibition, which explored how the notion of love has evolved within the 20th century. The girls were excited to see many artworks by highly acclaimed artists such as Dali, Picasso, and Warhol. Many of the pupils also enjoyed the beautiful gardens at the museum and were inspired to take lots of photographs. Later in the day they visited the National Gallery of Ireland where they viewed a range of more traditional art work in the *Masterpieces from the Collection* exhibition. This exhibition included work from the early Renaissance to the mid-twentieth century and provided an interesting comparison to the work viewed in the morning. The girls enjoyed making sketches throughout the day to bring back to school to help inspire their own individual projects.

Greenhill Trip

The whole of Form Two went on an outdoor pursuits day to Greenhill YMCA in Newcastle on 17 September. The weather was kind with only a couple of sharp showers in the afternoon. Activities included canoeing, raft building, a climbing tower, bouldering, ropes courses and archery. Girls were in groups of mixed form classes which allowed them to get to know a wider range of pupils in the year group. A number of team-building exercises helped pupils identify their own strengths and those of others, with many surprised by their own bravery when it came to activities like the zip-line or high ropes course. Staff threw themselves fully into the event as you might expect with Mr Heaney bravely tackling the climbing tower and Mrs Staples a blur on the zip-line!



DUKE OF EDINBURGH NEWS

Congratulations to our Sixth Form girls who recently completed their DOE Gold expeditions. One hill walking group travelled as far afield as the Swiss border whilst other groups stayed closer to home when they visited the Royal Canal and River Shannon in the Republic of Ireland. They researched a range of topics during these expeditions, and afterwards gave entertaining and informative presentations in school to Mr Manning.



Dates for your Diary

- 12 & 13 November: Geography Field Trip
- 13 November: Exceptional Closure and School Formal
- 16 – 19 November: Book Fair
- 23 November: Upper Sixth Mock Interview Evening
- 24 November: Form Two Young Enterprise Event
- 26 November: Autumn Musical Evening
- 1 December: Form One Consultation Evening (7pm)
- 2 – 4 December: Joint School Production (CCB)
- 17 December: Carol Service at Stormont Presbyterian Church
- 18 December: School ends at 12 noon

SCHOOL RESUMES Monday 2 November at 8.40 am

minnesota exchange trip

Best wishes to the seventeen Sixth Form students who will be heading off to St Paul, Minnesota on 23 October as part of our ongoing student exchange with Cretin-Derham Hall High School. The girls will be staying with host families for just over a week, during which they will attend school, visit local sights and probably embark on many shopping trips! We wish them well and look forward to hearing about their experiences when they return.



Hockey Swimming

The hockey season got off to a great start with the 1st XI reaching the final of the National Playing Fields Tournament. All teams have been playing in our scheduled Saturday fixtures and preparing for Cup matches which will begin after half term. This season's Hockey Captains are as follows:

1st XI Captain - Erin Larmour; Vice-Captain - Anieshia Bedford.

2A XI Captain - Bonnie Ramsay; Vice-Captain - Becky Poots.

2B XI Captain - Rachel Powderly; Vice-Captain - Lara Sweet.

3A XI Captain - Amy Gilpin; Vice-Captain - Amy Hepworth.

3B XI Captain - Bethany Craig.

U14A XI Captain - Harriet Platt; Vice-Captain - Grace Hutchinson.

U14B XI Captain - Eva Aston; Vice-Captain - Emma McGugan.

U13A XI Captain - Eve McKibbin; Vice-Captain - Francesca Park.

U13B XI Captain - Amber Hamilton; Vice-Captain - Holly Gilpin.

The 1st XI Squad are also looking forward to a training trip to Dublin. They travel down on 22 October for two nights and will play a number of competitive matches. This will be good preparation for the Schools' Cup, which starts in November.

Well done to the following girls who were nominated to attend the Talent Development Squad trials - Maya Savage Newell, Chloe Sweet, Eve Elliott, Zoe Hepworth, Harriet Platt and Jessica Anderson Bell.



Good luck to the girls who will be competing in the Swim Ulster Schools' Cup Gala on 17 and 18 October - results will follow in the Christmas issue. Congratulations to Victoria White, who has been named this year's Swimming Captain.

CROSS-COUNTRY

Cross-Country Club has resumed on Thursday afternoons, with this year's captain being Lauren Brooker. The club is open to all girls in the school, including both those who wish to run recreationally and those who wish to run competitively. Why not come down and give it a go?

DANCE



At the end of September, a large number of girls attended auditions for Strathearn's Junior and Intermediate Dance Teams. Whilst the overall standard was very high, special congratulations should go to those who were selected for the two teams. Rehearsals are on Mondays for the Intermediate Team which will be coached by Hannah Eakin, and on Tuesdays for the Junior Team which will be coached by Aife Sansom, Alice Graham, Rebecca Black, Sarah McTaggart and Sophie Gillespie.

ATHLETICS



Congratulations to Beth Crosbie who came 4th in the Intermediate Multi-Event Championships. Murphy Miller and Molly Longstaff were placed 5th and 6th respectively in the Junior age group.

fitness fanatics!

Many Form Five girls are busy in the Fitness Suite every Tuesday after school working on their personal fitness. Keep it up!

UK School Games

Kate Farrelly, Katie Armstrong and Keziah Beattie all represented Northern Ireland at the UK School Games in Manchester. Well done to Kate who came 5th in the triple jump and Keziah who came 3rd in the fencing.



INDIVIDUAL SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS

congratulations to...

Anna Gillespie, 1A, who was selected to play for Ulster Tennis in the UTP Masters Tournament.

Hannah McGugan, 1S, who won the Connaught Junior Open Squash competition.

Grace Thompson, 2T, who achieved her Blue Belt (4th Kup) in Taekwondo.

Emily Parker, 2T, who passed her Ballet Examination.

Sophie Neale, 4S, who was placed first in the qualifying round for the Northern Ireland Trampoline Championships.

Hannah Craig, L6A, who won the Ladies A Section of the Curragh Senior Open in Squash.

Gymnastics

Gymnastics Club has resumed in the new gymnasium. It is led by Victoria Dawson and her coaches from The Gymnastics Academy. We look forward to an exciting year getting our Gym Club back up and running; the girls who are attending are already showing great improvement.

NETBALL



Netball practices have started for Forms 2 to Upper Sixth with a large number of girls getting involved on various afternoons. Please see the noticeboard in the Sports Hall for details if you wish to join in. The following girls have been nominated to attend Belfast Regional Academy

Trials (RDS): U15 - Olivia Allister, Megan Adair, Grace Hutchinson, Grace Ruding and Katie Wills. U13 - Jemima Thomas, Molly Walker, Talia Irwin, Eve McKibbin, Sarah West, Ella Rook, Katie Robinson and Rachel Lemon. Good luck to all!

SHOW JUMPING

The annual Inter-Schools' Team Showjumping Competition took place on 3 October at Balmoral Park, Maze, Lisburn. Strathearn had teams competing at both Senior and Intermediate levels. The Senior Team of Rose De Montmorency-Wright, Charlotte De Montmorency-Wright, Katie McVeigh and Sophie Ennis were not placed but enjoyed taking part. The Intermediate Team won the Tack and Turn-Out Trophy for the second year in a row, and were placed seventh overall in the jumping. Charlotte Keers and Freya Axten jumped clear. Felicity Johnston had one pole down so finished on four faults, whilst Zoe Martin had sixteen faults.

Happy Halloween!

Follow the Strathearn PE Department on twitter @sport_str for more sporting updates!