

# RATHMORE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS TO PARENTS FOR THE YEAR 2019/20

Parents are invited to read the Report in conjunction with the school magazine, Solas, which gives a more colourful insight into the life of the school, many aspects of which are also highlighted on the school website at [www.rathmoregrammarschool.org](http://www.rathmoregrammarschool.org).

### BOARD OF GOVERNORS

#### Members

Trustee Appointees:	Mr J Morrissey, Sr U Canavan, Mr T Keenan, Ms I Jennings
DENI Appointees:	Mr T Donaghy, Mrs S Fleming Mitchell, Mr S Mahon
Elected Parent:	Mr P McErlean
Elected Teacher:	Mr A Donnelly
Co-opted Member	Mr M Matthews
Chairman:	Mr J Morrissey
Principal:	Mrs T Hamilton
Secretary:	Ms D Magee

**Current Term of Office:** 30/12/17 until 29/12/21

**Election of Parent Governor:** The next election will be held in November 2021

**Discharge of Functions:** In the discharge of their functions the governors held five full Board meetings and numerous committee meetings during the year. Matters dealt with included Finance and Audit, Admissions Criteria, Child Protection, School Development Planning, Examination Results, Staff Development, Appointments and Promotions, School Canteen and Fund Raising.

### CHILD PROTECTION

If parents have any concern about their child's safety they should contact Mrs Ursula Lavery, Vice Principal responsible for Pastoral Care and Discipline, who is the school's Designated Teacher for Child Protection, Ms Miskelly and Dr Arthur Donnelly, who are the Deputy Designated Teachers, or Mrs Thérèse Hamilton, the Principal.

### SCHOOL POLICIES

Please note that school policies on **Bullying, Child Protection, Pastoral Care, Positive Behaviour and Special Education Needs** and **this Report** are on the school website: [www.rathmoregrammarschool.org](http://www.rathmoregrammarschool.org). Hard copies are available on request from the Principal.

### SCHOOL TERMS 2021-22 (Provisional)

Autumn:	25 August – 22 December	Mid Term:	25 October – 29 October		
Spring:	6 January – 13 April	Mid Term:	14 – 18 February	St Patrick's Day:	17 March
Summer: 2	25 April – 30 June				

**School Day:** 9.00 am – 3.25 pm

**N.B. Parents are asked to ensure that family holidays are not arranged during term time as indicated above.**

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2019-2020

<b>20 August 2019</b>	Principal's day with staff, followed by meetings for HoYs, HoDs, Departments, New Staff induction and working groups.
<b>21 August 2019</b>	Learning and Teaching Focus Digital Strategy / IT Development – Cloud technologies – Pilot OneNote and Teams Training on ActivPanel/Interactive Whiteboards SLT/Department Link meetings
<b>29 August 2019</b>	Overview of Drugs Education Shane Martin – Mood Matters
<b>27 September 2019</b>	Staff Well-being Day
<b>4 November 2019</b>	Curriculum/Pastoral, Year 12 and U6 P/T Meetings
<b>20 December 2019</b>	Curriculum and Assessment
<b>17 January 2020</b>	Curriculum/Pastoral, Student progress, intervention strategies, Learning Guidance Forum
<b>18, 19, 20 March 2020</b>	Planning for remote learning, use of Microsoft Teams.

## CURRICULUM

The school seeks to provide a balanced and broadly based curriculum which promotes the spiritual, moral, social, cultural, intellectual and physical development of students and prepares them for the opportunities, responsibilities and challenges of adult life.

The school continues to offer the full Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stages 3 and 4. Rathmore is part of the South Belfast Area Learning Community. All schools in this community are committed to providing students with access to the Entitlement Framework which aims to guarantee all post primary students aged 14 and above greater choice and flexibility, by providing them with the choice of a broad range of general and applied courses suited to their needs, aptitudes and interests.

Religious Education and community prayer and worship are central to the life of the school. The spiritual, moral and social development of students is promoted in particular through Religious Education classes, group retreats and the pastoral care programme. Particular attention is paid to promoting good cross-community relations, to responding to areas of need in the local community and in developing countries and to participating in conservation projects.

New to the curriculum this year is the introduction of split lunch arrangements with a view to improving the student experience within the school day. This has necessitated the modification of the timetable cycle and is under review as the year progresses.

### Key Stage Three

Students at Key Stage Three follow the Northern Ireland Curriculum which aims to empower young people to achieve their potential and to make informed and responsible decisions throughout their lives. The key objectives are:

- to develop the young person as an individual;
- to develop the young person as a contributor to society; and

- to develop the young person as a contributor to the economy and environment.

These objectives are to be achieved for learning for life and work through Key Elements, infusing cross-curricular skills and thinking skills and personal capabilities across the Areas of Learning.

### **Subjects studied in Years 8, 9 and 10**

Art and Design, Design and Technology, Drama, English, French, General Science, Geography, German, History, Home Economics, ICT, Irish, Learning for Life and Work, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education, Spanish.

Students at Key Stage Three study two modern languages, French and either German, Irish or Spanish. As well as being infused through the Areas of Learning, ICT is delivered as a discrete subject in Year Eight, Year Nine and Year Ten.

### **Key Stage 4**

**Core Subjects:** At Key Stage Four students are required to study at GCSE level Religious Education, English, English Literature, Mathematics, at least one Modern Language and at least one Science. All students at Key Stage Four follow non-examination classes in Physical Education and Learning for Life and Work.

The Mathematics department select students, based on their performance at Key Stage Three, to study Further Mathematics at GCSE. These students will normally sit GCSE Mathematics at the end of Year Eleven and Further Mathematics at the end of Year Twelve. Students studying only Mathematics will sit one unit at the end of Year Eleven and one or two units at the end of Year Twelve.

Students studying English Literature, History, Religion and Technology will sit one unit at the end of Year 11 and then either one or two units at the end of Year 12. In Year 12 Students studying Double Award Science will sit one unit in each Science in November and then one or two units in each Science in June. Year 12 students will sit one unit in English Language in January and one unit in May/June.

Except for Computer Science (OCR) the examination board for GCSE subjects is CCEA.

### **Optional Subjects: In addition to their core subjects students are offered a choice of the following subjects:**

Art and Design, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Computing, Digital Technology, Drama, French, Geography, German, History, Home Economics, Irish, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Double Award Science, Spanish, Technology and Design.

### **Organisation of Classes**

Students are taught in mixed-ability classes in all subjects apart from Mathematics where classes are arranged in sets at Key Stage 4 to enable students with greater mathematical ability to follow an accelerated GCSE programme.

### **Sixth Form**

As young adults who have freely chosen to pursue their studies to A level, Sixth Form students are invited to assume a leadership role within the school, working closely with teachers and fellow students in promoting a caring and vibrant learning atmosphere.

We hope that students will enjoy their Sixth Form years and avail of the opportunities which the school provides for them to achieve academic excellence, in keeping with their individual aptitudes, and to become more confident, articulate and responsible young adults.

### **Core Curriculum in Sixth Form**

All Sixth Form students take a school designed course in Religious Education and Careers and a minimum of 3 subjects to A level from the following which are also offered at AS level: Applied Health and Social Care, Art & Design, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Computing, Digital Technology, Drama and Theatre Studies, English Literature, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, German, Government & Politics, History, Home Economics, Irish, Mathematics, Moving Image Arts, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Religious Studies, Sociology, Spanish and Technology & Design.

In addition all Year 13 students sign up to an enrichment programme designed to develop and engage while at the same time promoting student health and wellbeing.

### **Choices Within the Curriculum**

Where there is an element of choice within the curriculum, for example, the second modern language in Year 8, subjects for GCSE and A/AS level, the school endeavours to accommodate students but may not be able to give them their first choice because of factors such as time-table and budgetary constraints, regulations regarding class sizes and teachers' expertise.

### **Enhancing pastoral care, learning and teaching, curriculum content and delivery and pupil - teacher communication through the use of IT.**

The programme of investment in ActivePanels continued within the school to enhance the classroom experience for pupils and staff. In addition, the adoption of cloud technologies was piloted by a growing number of staff both in curriculum and pastoral contexts. Teachers and pupils worked together on the development and use of cloud based resources. Microsoft Teams and OneNote were trialled in a number of departments and in-house training organized where staff could share best practice. The school became a C2K Pilot school for Microsoft Teams and hosted two separate visits from the Microsoft Corporation and their product management team responsible for OneNote and Teams. As a consequence of the very positive impression made by both pupils and staff the school was selected to represent Ireland to showcase the use of OneNote and Teams at Microsoft's global education event in Sydney, Australia (postponed).

The preparatory work of the initial pilot and adoption of Microsoft Teams served the school well when the extended period of remote learning took place. An accelerated training programme coupled with pupil, parent and staff surveys facilitated a rapid increase in the use of cloud technologies to deliver remote learning and pastoral support across the school community.

## **PASTORAL CARE**

The school seeks to foster academic excellence while meeting the needs of individual students within a well structured, fully supportive Pastoral Care System designed to promote the overall development and welfare of each student and to ensure that students are protected from harm. Pastoral Care permeates all aspects of school life and contributes to the creation of a supportive atmosphere in the school for both teachers and students. A Vice-Principal co-ordinates Pastoral Care throughout the school, working closely with Year Heads who have particular responsibility for the students in a specific year group and who, in turn, co-ordinate the work of the Tutors in that year group. Tutors and Year Heads keep in close contact with parents.

### **Tutor System**

Each year group of 180 students is divided into Tutor Groups of about 20 students and each group is placed under the care of a Tutor who seeks to build up a detailed knowledge of the needs, emotional development, and academic attainment of each student. Tutors are at the heart of the Pastoral Care System and liaise closely with Year Heads, Heads of Department, subject teachers and parents.

Tutors meet their groups at the beginning of each school day, three days for ten minutes and on Wednesday morning for 40 minutes. Once a week there is also a Year Group Assembly led by the Year Head. The Tutor Period begins with prayer and is used to register students, to relay information and to deliver a Pastoral Care Programme designed to meet the needs of pupils in the particular year group.

### **The following themes are included in the Pastoral Programmes from Year 8 to Year 14, delivered through a Life Skills Training Programme:**

- Positive Mental Health and Emotional Wellbeing
- Internet Safety / Cyber Bullying
- Bullying Awareness
- Drug and Alcohol Education
- Relationships and Sexuality
- Social Justice Awareness Campaigns
- Study Skills

The personal and academic development, and the emotional wellbeing of students are of high priority and our "keeping safe" messages are embedded in the school. Our Pastoral Programme promotes a positive approach to emotional health and wellbeing and aims to develop in our students the confidence, resilience and coping skills to deal with difficult situations, to build healthy relationships, to keep themselves and others safe and to make informed choices in their lives.

The Safeguarding Board has the names and photos of the Designated Teachers for Safeguarding and Child Protection and contains useful information for students who may be in need of more support. The Board also has information on our unique on-line service "It's OK to Say". This service, which was introduced by the

Student Council, is used by students across all year groups to communicate their worries about themselves or their concerns about another student.

## **SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS PROVISION 2019-20**

The Learning Support Department's vision and action planning is embedded within the pastoral care dimension and existing effective classroom practice. It is the aim of the school to identify pupils with special educational needs as early as possible, providing full access to a broad curriculum and ensuring all pupils feel valued. The arrangements and facilities for pupils with SEN are co-ordinated by the SENCo, in close liaison with the Assistant SENCo, Heads of Departments, Year Heads, tutors, subject teachers and Learning Support staff. During the year, pupils are supported by a team of 17 Learning Support Assistants, one of whom is part-time.

Our Learning Support Assistants work effectively and collaboratively with the SENCo, Assistant SENCo, teaching staff and staff from external agencies. They are extremely knowledgeable in methods and strategies supporting pupils and assisting them maximise their levels of achievement and independence.

We believe that the quality of care and support provided for our students contributes significantly to the positive ethos of our school. Students recognise and appreciate the care and support available to them. This provision fosters excellent relations between parents, students and staff, promoting the values of respect, responsibility and co-operation. Such an environment is conducive to effective learning and teaching, hence enhancing outcomes for all students.

All pupils, including those with additional needs are given access to the full statutory curriculum and to the full range of extra-curricular activities. Pupils with additional needs benefit as fully as possible from educational opportunities offered within the available resources and are fully integrated within the school community as circumstances allow. If necessary, a risk assessment is undertaken to ensure pupil safety. The need for reasonable adjustments is assessed and implemented in accordance with SENDO legislation.

The SENCo implemented the Special Educational Needs Policy & Code of Practice in accordance with the legislative requirement and our SEN Register covered pupils ranging from Stage 1 – Stage 5. It emphasises the statutory entitlement of students with additional learning needs to be included as full participants in the academic, pastoral and social life of the school community. The SEN data was compiled and disseminated to teachers during a Staff Development Day, August 2019, to enable strategic planning and preparation for pupils with additional needs and were subsequently amended as required throughout the year.

Through the support of all staff and inclusion in every aspect of school life, effective monitoring/tracking system within SIMS, the young people with additional needs are identified, supported and monitored by the excellent pastoral care provision. Many pupils manage very well in our setting with minimal intervention, as our learning and teaching strategies are structured to support the young person with Special Educational Needs. The range of provisions made by the Learning Support Department ensure that students with additional needs make appropriate progress and fulfil their potential. Open communication is invaluable between all professionals and has the greatest impact on our pupils. Identification procedures include diagnostic testing, teacher observations and parental referrals.

However, at times some pupils with additional needs can find school life challenging. Should circumstances require adjustments to a pupil's programme of study, significant consultation occurs with the Principal or Vice Principals, relevant Heads of Department, Heads of Year, SENCo, pupil and parents.

There are several areas of provision for pupils requiring learning support. These include: -

- Pastoral Care Provision through HOY, tutor, pupil, parents and staff.
- Peer/Pupil Mentoring.
- Disapplication of curricular area.
- Additional support and intervention in Literacy & Numeracy.
- Lunchtime/ Homework Clubs.
- Sensory Room Space.
- School Council.
- A programme of diagnostic testing (CAT4D, PASS).
- Learning Guidance Forum at transition years.
- EAL tutor.
- Educational Psychology (EA Belfast Region) assessments.
- Outreach support – Autism Advisory Intervention Service (AAIS).

We have an ever-changing pupil profile. The growth of the Learning Support Department has been immense over the past few years – currently 16% of our school community are on the SEN register with 41 students at Stage 5 of the Code of Practice, a 11% increase on the previous year. The figures represent the presenting

needs which usually are a combination of need - making the issues quite complex. Pupils are identified on the SEN Register as having either a medical, sensory, emotional/social and/or cognitive need.

The SENCo attended on-going Continuous Professional Development on the Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Act (Northern Ireland) 2016, which will reform how children with Special Educational Needs are identified and supported. Implementation of the Act was halted by the Department of Education in light on ongoing Covid-19. The new SEN Framework will ensure pupils with a medical need are clearly identified and support and not identified on the SEN Register, as they do not have an identified special educational need. In Rathmore Grammar School, their needs can be met without having their names recorded on the SEN Register, or will have their needs met at the early stages of the Code of Practice. Some pupils require a Health Care/Action Plan so that medical needs can be managed within school. Medical action plans were drawn up in consultation with School Health Team and parents. Medical supplies were updated as required. Additional back up supplies are centrally located in the Medical Room for ease of access.

Meeting with pupils and parents and drawing up mutually agreed Education Plans is vital to assessing, monitoring and reviewing the progress of our pupils with additional needs. We pride ourselves in creating an inclusive environment in which all pupils are encouraged, supported and challenged to achieve their potential. Pupils at Stage 2 and above follow Individual Education Plans (IEP's). IEP's focus on areas of strength and limitations, including recommendations for specific strategies to be implemented by teachers and learning support assistants. This IEP ensures equality of access to the curriculum for pupils with Special Educational Needs. Subject teacher and Learning Support staff are consulted on the needs of individual pupils and these contributions help inform IEP's and targets. Target-setting and reviews were carried out periodically. Maintaining high expectations for our children with special educational needs, avoiding "learned helplessness" and for their achievements to be comparable with their peers is a priority.

Due to early closure of school in March 2020, the SENCo and Assistant SENCo were only able to conduct a small number of Annual Reviews early in the second term. These occurred in consultation with parents, pupils, colleagues, Transition Officers and the S.E.N. personnel from the relevant Education Authority's Regional Office.

A safe, caring and supportive learning environment is provided for all pupils with additional needs. Communication links are established with feeder primary schools, peripatetic services and parents regarding students making the smooth transition to Year 8. There is close liaison with external agencies such as the Education Authority, Mitchell House, Audiology Department, Occupational & Physiotherapists, Autism Advisory Intervention Service (AAIS), ICSS, CAMHS and other professional services.

The work we endeavour to do is a partnership between home and school. The families of P7 pupils transferring to Rathmore Grammar School with additional needs were contacted by the SENCo and issued supplementary transition resources and support.

A multi-purpose resource room provides excellent accommodation facilitating the holistic development of our pupils through a range of activities and opportunities. This area was highly utilised by our learning support team and pupils throughout all Key Stages, proving invaluable for the academic progress, emotional well-being of our students, especially those with disappplied curricular time. Various departments also availed of the facilities; peer study and peer mentoring for Lower and Upper Sixth Students, Chess Club, Lunchtime Games Club and Homework Club valued the opportunity to experience the enhanced environment.

The Homework Club operated as an extended school provision for Key Stage 3 pupils, 4 days per week, Monday – Thursday (3:30pm – 5:00pm). The essential provision of support by Learning Support Assistants continued to offer pupils individual/peer assistance and guidance, enabling pupils to continue their learning in a conducive environment and enable maximum potential to be achieved. ICT provision, study facilities and library access were also available from 8.30am – 7:00pm, with substantial up-take throughout all year groups until March 2020.

Apart from the existing Convent building, level access has been achieved for all areas of the school. A discreet lift is provided to assist access suitable for those with physical impairment. Timetabling arrangements are reviewed to ensure that children with particular needs are accommodated in classrooms that are appropriate. The SENCo is responsible for issuing Lift and Gate Passes for children requiring access to all areas of the school campus due to short/long term physical disabilities. Individual toilet facilities are also available, along with a newly refurbished individual changing facility. Throughout the school, contrasting nosings have been fitted to stairs to assist those with impaired sight; while magnetic hold-open devices have been fitted to regularly used fire doors to assist free movement. Specialist classrooms, such as Science, Technology and Home Economics, have been adapted to give all students access to most parts of the curriculum.

The SENCo liaises closely with the Examinations Officer and Assistant Examinations Officer regarding assessment and application for Access Arrangements for internal and external examinations to ensure

compliance with JCQ directives. All documentations are recorded demonstrating a history of need and evidence of pupil achievements. The SENCo completed CCET training. Certificate of Competence in Educational Testing - NI. The SENCo conducts diagnostic testing for assessing pupils requiring access arrangements for GCSE & A Level external examinations.

New investments in Assistive Technology have been approved in the form of laptops and electronic notebooks for pupils.

All school staff work very hard to ensure our pupils receive the best educational provision and experiences.

We are conscious in reviewing our method of delivering the curriculum, being fully committed to a child's unique learning style, differentiation, stretching and challenging for improvement and attentively being proactive in responding to needs. A number of students display special talents, skills, expertise and understanding in particular areas. These include both high levels of ability in subject disciplines and in activities beyond the curriculum; in musical excellence, business acumen, creativity and sporting prowess. All staff take responsibility to identify such students, encouraging their interests and making appropriate provision in lesson planning, provision of extension activities, additional challenges and experiences offered through clubs, societies, competitions, teams and attendance at events.

However, some pupils are hindered in achieving their full potential for a wide range of reasons including social, emotional, family issues or personal challenges. We pride ourselves in empowering young people to seek help and that promote the theme that *"it is ok not to be ok."* Counselling provides an opportunity to talk to a professionally qualified counsellor about concerns. The Department of Education awarded the contract for Independent Counselling Service in Schools (ICSS) to Familyworks for all post primary schools in Northern Ireland. The school counsellor is available to our pupils on two half days each week. Due to the immense requests and increasing number of self-referrals seeking support, we are privileged to have been able to appoint an independent counsellor, who is also in attendance once a week. Our counselling services has grown year on year. The services are immensely successful in supporting the young person on their journey. Our unique confidential email service, *"It is Ok to Say"* is very successful and utilised across the student population. From March through to July 2020, counselling provision continued for a number of pupils through telephone consultations and/or via TEAMS. During the period of heightened anxiety surrounding GCE, AS and GCSE examination results, August 2020, the service was made available to all pupils, uptake was understandably high and very much appreciated by both parents and students. A number of staff have also accessed support through the expertise of the external agency *Inspire*.

The development and utilisation of a small sensory quiet area for pupils to work through feelings & emotions has been very encouraging – not only from pupils with a specific special need but for pupils who maybe at times overwhelmed – who are having short term emotional difficulties, demonstrating the fluidity and the transient nature of the term "need". This area is a solace of calm and space, designed to reduce anxiety and support emotional well-being of our young people.

### **Safeguarding:**

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is Mrs Ursula Lavery, Vice-Principal with responsibility of Pastoral Care, with Dr Arthur Donnelly, Vice-Principal, and Miss Claire Miskelly as Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection. Mr Terry Donaghy is the Designated Governor for Child Protection. Their names and photographs are widely displayed throughout the school and the referral process and procedures are clearly identified in Student Planners. Rathmore Grammar School is fully compliant with all relevant Circulars from the Department of Education regarding policy and practice. Training for all staff occurs annually at the commencement of the academic year and throughout when new staff have taken up position. Staff training records are kept and updated regularly. The Safeguarding Team meet regularly with Child Protection reported at each Governor meeting.

## **DEPARTMENTAL ACTIVITIES**

### **ART DEPARTMENT**

#### **True Colours Exhibition**

The work from two of our A-Level students was selected for the True Colours Exhibition 2020.

Work was requested for marking/agreement trials for CCEA.

All Art pupils from Years 11 – 14 visited the True Colours Exhibition 2020 in the Ulster Museum in January.

#### **Malone House Exhibition**

The Art department put on an exhibition in January 2020 in Malone House Hotel. All of our pupils, KS3, GCSE and A-Level were invited to enter a framed piece. The Exhibition was a real success with many pieces selling and great feedback from the public.

#### **Workshops**

Print and Collage workshops were carried out after school for year 11-14 pupils throughout the year.

Pupils took part in an Art walking tour around Belfast city centre.

#### **Royal Ulster Academy Exhibition**

Lower and Upper 6 pupils attended the annual Royal Ulster Academy Exhibition in the Ulster Museum in November 2019.

#### **Extra-Curricular Activities**

Art Club for Year 8 before Christmas.

Life drawing classes ran after school for Lower and Upper 6 pupils.

After school activities for Year 8 ran on a Wednesday lunchtime in term one.

A very successful recreational Art programme for LVI pupils ran from September- March.

#### **DEAR Campaign**

The Art Department raised awareness for the launch of the DEAR Campaign and have continued to promote the campaign throughout the school year.

#### **Art Department involved in:**

First Year Mass, Coffee Morning, Trocaire, Catholic Caring, Spring Concert

#### **Awareness**

The Art department focused on raising awareness of Mental Health, Internet Safety, Drugs, Child Protection and many other topical issues through visual awareness on noticeboards and by running poster competitions in KS3 to help with policy understanding and awareness at pupil level.

#### **March - June 2020**

The Art department concentrated on setting work and following plans that developed the learning and focused on the wellbeing of the pupils. We had an artist of the week shared each week online and in assemblies, weekly art challenges as well as poster competitions based on topical awareness.

### **BUSINESS STUDIES DEPARTMENT**

#### **Year 13**

#### **Northern Ireland Business Challenge for Schools**

Queen's Management School, in partnership with BDO Northern Ireland and Henderson Group, held a competition for Year 13 and 14 students studying A Level Business Studies. Students from eight schools across Northern Ireland took part with Rathmore Grammar School participating as the reigning champions. This year's event took place again at Queen's Management School, Riddell Hall, with a judging panel made up of BDO Northern Ireland, Queen's Management School and Henderson Group. The initiative, now in its third year is aimed at providing students with first-hand practical experience of what it is like to work in a fast-paced business environment, giving them an insight into possible future careers. Participants not only get the chance to compete against other schools but gain much needed knowledge and experience in communication, critical thinking, teamwork and project management. As part of the event this year, pupils were tasked with investigating the use of a revolutionary EPOS system based on a real scenario provided by Henderson Group.

The team was led by Mr McKeown and comprised of the following Year 13 pupils: Niamh Burke, Lucy Doran, Michael Farmer and Keelan White. (pic attached)

## **Year 13**

### **Young Enterprise Company Programme**

This programme is open to All Year 13 students as an enrichment programme to encourage self-employment as a career option. This Year's Young Enterprise Company was called Apollo and was set up as social enterprise. The group decided to have two key social objectives this year the first was, working with the Student Council, to focus on reducing plastic waste in Rathmore and the second was to help alleviate homelessness in the Greater Belfast area.

The company sold a range of very on trend metal water bottles to pupils, teachers and members of the public at the school's open day. In addition to selling metal water bottles, Apollo also designed, sourced and marketed the Year 13 Ski Trip Hoodies for their trip to Pinzolo, Italy over the mid-term. The design and quality were greatly appreciated and were beneficial going through the airports to help identify each student with their own customised nickname. The process of growing £300 seed capital to generating a profit of over £1000 has been a great achievement for the extremely committed team.

The group had then intended to use the profit generated to provide rough sleepers in Belfast a kit of essential toiletries and blanket. The pupils had liaised with The Simon Community to make sure they were meeting the needs of the homeless as much as possible. Unfortunately, as with many things this year this objective was postponed due to the school closure. The group hope to continue to meet their objectives in the new academic year.

The Company Programme enables pupils to experience what it's like to set up and run a student company. Running throughout one academic year, students make all the decisions about their enterprise, from deciding on the name and product to creating a business plan, managing the student company finances and selling to the public. All this takes place with the support of a volunteer Business Adviser who brings a wealth of business knowledge and expertise.

### **Testimonials from pupils**

This early experience of managing an enterprise has taught me a great deal about my favourite subject, Business Studies. Applying for Young Enterprise is one of the very few opportunities for pupils to truly become engaged with the school community in a commercial context. Despite the frequently asked question: "Isn't Young Enterprise only for Business Studies?" the reality is very different as only two people, including me, are doing AS Business Studies from the original 15 members. Young Enterprise not only gives you a flavour of the world of business, but also develops a valuable set of skills such as teamwork, communication and resilience. I believe there is not a single club, sport or any other extracurricular activity that allows so much freedom and choice with a total of nine roles of Managing, Secretary, Sales, Marketing, Finance, Human resources, IT and Sustainability, Operations.

### **Ben Duffy (Managing Director)**

"I learnt precious skills such as organisation and flexibility. Throughout the year we faced obstacles but as a group, we learnt to adapt."- **Luke Kilpatrick (Sales)**

"Young Enterprise taught me a variety of valuable experiences which I know will help me when the time comes for me to work in the real world. I feel I have come out of this experience with a stronger sense of resilience, as well as improved organisational and teamworking skills"- **Erin Keenan (Marketing)**

"I really enjoyed managing the group's finances. Although it was time-consuming, it helped me to improve my money management and organisational skills."- **Mark Toner (Finance)**

## Years 11-13

### The Student Investor Challenge

The Student Investor Challenge is an online share challenge open to teams from anywhere in the world. Using the website, teams invest their virtual money in a set of stocks and other investment instruments. Again, this year, teams had to create two portfolios: The Active Investor portfolio, short term day trading stocks and The Strategic Investor portfolio which only allows a limited number of trades per month, encouraging long term thinking. Teams had £100,000 to invest in each portfolio. The competition this year ran from October to February.

The competition was open to all Business Studies Pupils but this year the focus was placed on both sets of Year 11 and Year 13 pupils, who were entered in teams of four. The team came 257<sup>th</sup> out of a total 3000 teams, narrowly missing out on a shot at the semifinals.

The winning team in Rathmore this year was from Year 11: Declan O'Donnell, Mary Kate Clarke, Reise Doherty and Anna Shannon. (pic attached)

### Year 11

#### Visit to Coca-Cola Hellenic

In term 1 the Year 11 Business Studies pupils visit the Coca Cola HBC Bottling plant in Lisburn where everyone experiences first-hand the reality of production in the Soft Drinks Market. Such visits continue to form an essential part of the Business Studies learning experience and the pupils continue to enjoy the benefits of visiting cutting edge businesses working in the secondary sector of the NI economy.

#### Pupil Testimonial

"We were welcomed into the Heritage Theatre to watch an engaging, short movie on the extraordinary history of Coca-Cola. Afterwards, the friendly, informative guide took us on a tour of the production facility, where we were able to see a birds-eye view of the Coca Cola products being manufactured, packaged and stored. It was very useful to see a real-life, large-scale business working. To finish, we visited the interactive activity zone where we participated in games and quizzes to summarise our day. We really enjoyed the day and it was very beneficial for our GCSE course."

## COMPUTER SCIENCE AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

### CyberFirst Girls' Competition 2020.

Rathmore Grammar School entered 5 teams comprising of 19 Year 9 girls into the CyberFirst Girls Competition 2020.

The girls in their teams had to compete in a preliminary round which involved them working together over a number of weeks to solve a series computational and logical problem solving challenges which increased in complexity.

One of our teams was successful in reaching the Semi Final stages which took place on Saturday 8 February at Allstate Northern Ireland in Belfast. Whilst the team performed very well (reaching the top 10 out of over 100 teams) they were unlucky not to get through to the finals. The names of the competitors are below.

<b>Team 1</b>	Emma Duffy, Martha Agnew, Aimee Downey and Alena Suhanova
<b>Team 2</b>	India Clements, Grace Ward, Sophie Walsh and Abigail Toner
<b>Team 3</b>	Freya Dunn, Sophie McHenry, Beth McArt and Ella McDonald
<b>Team 4</b>	Erin O'Brien, Freya Cross, Mae Keating and Grainne Ryan
<b>Team 5</b>	Molly Melville, Niamh Wilkinson and Jasmine Hampshire

### Extra-Curricular Support

The ICT suites were available for students between 8.30-8.55 am and 3.30-4.30 pm for supervised use of facilities.

## **DRAMA DEPARTMENT**

### **Theatre Trips**

The Drama Department organised theatre visits throughout the year for Years 8-14. Some of the visits included:

**September 2019** - 'Now for North' – MAC Theatre.

#### **October 2019**

- 'Bouncers' – MAC Theatre.
- 'Playboy of the Western World' – Lyric Theatre.

#### **November 2019**

- 'A View from the Bridge' – Accidental Theatre.
- 'A Christmas Carol' – MAC Theatre.

#### **February 2020**

- 'Under the Hawthorn Tree' – MAC Theatre.

#### **March 2020**

- 'Blood Brothers' – Millennium Forum Derry.

### **Drama Workshops**

Students attended a range of workshops to support their AS and A2 studies these included:

- **September 2019** - Physical Theatre Workshops with David Paulin from Lyric Theatre, Belfast.
- **October 2019** - Physical Theatre Workshop with David Calvert from Lyric Theatre, Belfast.
- **January 2020** - 'A Day with Bruiser Theatre Company', MAC Theatre Belfast

### **Lyric Theatre Affiliated Schools Programme**

Following a second application we are delighted to have been selected for a second year running to become an affiliated school with the Lyric Theatre, Belfast. This has given us fantastic opportunities to attend specific teacher training for Drama and Theatre Studies, hold visiting workshops, performances and attend a wide range of live theatre events e.g. 'Shirley Valentine'. This has given us the opportunity to preview performances and assess the suitability of productions for the students. This allowed us to take notes in advance of teaching the live theatre production and bond as a department.

### **Liturgies**

The Drama Department worked with the RE and Music Departments for the Year 8 Mass and the Carol Service.

### **KS3 Drama Club**

Year 14 Drama and Theatre Studies students ran a Drama Club every Wednesday at lunchtime. They taught performance skills using junior texts, improvisation on relevant themes and musical theatre.

### **Year 10 Drama Enrichment Programme**

This year we introduced the Year 10 enrichment programme giving students the opportunity to engage in GCSE studies. 15 students from Year 10 attended weekly lunch time sessions exploring Devised, Scripted and our current GCSE Set text, 'Juno and the Paycock'. Students were invited to attend a GCSE Drama trip to St. Patrick's Academy Dungannon where they attended a live theatre performance of, 'Juno and the Paycock'. The Year 10 students had the opportunity to interact with Year 11 and 12 GCSE Drama students and listen to their experience of studying the course as well as engage in a backstage tour of the set and discussion with the director. In addition to this the 15 year 10 students were entered for New Era Academy Acting Qualifications in Devised Drama however due to Covid 19 the examinations were unable to take place. We hope to continue with this work as the students' progress into Year 11. This will give them the opportunity to gain additional qualifications and progress towards QCF Level 3, an additional GCSE and gain UCAS points.

### **Cinemagic Special Effects Make Up Workshop in Collaboration with Moving image Arts**

On Thursday 7 November 2019 Year 13 and 14 Drama and Theatre Studies students collaborated with the Year 13 and 14 Moving Image Arts students and engaged in special effects make up workshop. As part of the GCSE, AS and A2 course students in Drama and Theatre Studies are required to study make-up effects for characters in their set text. The workshop was highly enjoyable and brought the theory to life for the students.

### **World Book Week:**

The Drama Department supported the English Department during World Book Week. Students from Year 14 performed scripted scenes from, 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' where the theatre was packed with over 70 students in attendance.

### **New Era Academy, London**

The Year 12 GCSE Drama students also completed an additional qualification with the New Era Academy, London – they were entered for their Grade 6 Acting examination. They were all awarded high distinctions.

## **ENGLISH DEPARTMENT**

Year 10 pupils studied aspects of 'A Christmas Carol' in class during November in preparation for a trip to The Mac to see a stage production of the novel. This proved to be enjoyable and also gave the pupils the opportunity to critique the production in a knowledgeable manner.

In February the AS English class visited the Seamus Heaney Homeplace in Bellaghy. The permanent exhibition and insights offered by the tour guide, served to enhance the pupils' appreciation of Heaney's poetry and the importance of contextual factors, such as setting and people.

### **In March the English Department organised a number of events to celebrate World Book Day.**

Rathmore was delighted when Kelly McCaughrain, the Seamus Heaney Children's Writing Fellow, came to the library to give a reading from her acclaimed novel, 'Flying Tips For Flightless Birds.' She read extracts from the novel, gave an insight into its context and answered questions from the enthusiastic Year 8 pupils.

Celebrated screenwriter Matt Harvey delivered a wonderful workshop to the Year 10 cohort in the school library. He talked about his life, focusing on the work and unique experiences of being a screenwriter. Matt employed a number of exciting and creative strategies to encourage the pupils in their own writing and inspired them to think of writing as a career.

Byddi Lee the writer (and past member of Rathmore staff), delivered a talk and workshop to the Year 9 cohort. She spoke about her life and journey towards becoming a writer. Byddi focused on specific aspects of writing such as structure, openings and endings, which proved instructive for pupils in developing their own writing.

## **PUBLIC SPEAKING AND DEBATING**

Through Public Speaking and Debating the school seeks to encourage pupils to become confident, articulate and responsible members of the community, as outlined in its mission statement. In collaboration with the School Development Plan, we aim to strengthen "Student Voice", by organising a range of activities that harness pupil voice.

### **Knights of St Columbanus Public Speaking Competition**

After publicising Debating through Lower Sixth assemblies combined with holding auditions, three Lower Sixth pupils were selected to represent Rathmore in the All-Ireland Knights of St. Columbanus Public Speaking Competition. The team included Aine McCann, Daire Mallon and Olivia Kennedy. The Knights of St. Columbanus is a Catholic lay order founded in 1915 by Canon James O'Neill. Guided by the bravery and courage of St. Columbanus, the organisation thrives on pursuing charity and justice. To continue this mission, the Order established an All-Ireland Public Speaking Competition which seeks to familiarise young Christians with the social justice issues gripping our world today. Pupils were braced with the motion "I am a mission, always; you are a mission, always; every baptised man and woman is on a mission" (Pope Francis). Students divided this motion into three angles the origin of the mission (Aine McCann), the present day Christian mission (Daire Mallon) and the future of the Christian mission (Olivia Kennedy), speaking for 13 minutes in totality. On 5 February Rathmore hosted the first heat of the competition against St. Joseph's College, Ravenhill Road. The team were victorious in the first heat and secured a place in the Ulster Semi-Final. However, this was cancelled due to the global crisis of COVID-19.

### **Soroptimist Public Speaking Competition**

On 13 November 2019, six Year 13 pupils participated in the Soroptimist International Public Speaking Competition in Hillsborough. This is a female public speaking competition organised by the Soroptimist Society of Northern Ireland. The society aim to promote self-confidence and public speaking skills amongst young women. Our pupils had chosen a topic from a list of six and were required to present a six-minute speech on this topic (see table below). With nineteen outstanding competitors from all across Belfast and Lisburn, we were delighted that Anna Sonebi was placed second, Anna Wilson placed joint third and the rest of the Rathmore team praised for their efforts. Rathmore were the only school in the competition to have secured more than one awarding place.

<b>Pupil Name</b>	<b>Speech title</b>
Anna Sonebi	To bee or not to bee! Without bees, are we in trouble?
Anna Wilson	Domestic violence - silence is its greatest friend
Lucy McGurran	Domestic violence - silence is its greatest friend
Sarah Higgins	Domestic violence - silence is its greatest friend
Alice Marron	Young women of today - is it a glass ceiling or a sticky floor?
Christine Khalil	Overfed or underfed - a modern day issue

### **Business and Professional Women Public Speaking Competition**

BPW is a Public Speaking Competition for young people which seeks to build upon key skills such as researching, team work, and the ability to speak in public. Students are required to mimic a meeting whilst fulfilling a certain role. There are three members on each team; the Chairperson, the Speaker and the Expresser of Thanks. A speaker from each school gets put into teams with members from the opposing teams. This means that the Chairperson and Expresser of Thanks need to be prepared to summarise and discuss a speech which will have only been shown to them thirty minutes prior to the competition commencing. They must ask the speaker questions on their speech to derive information. On the 21 November 2019, two teams from Rathmore competed in the Belfast heat, hoping to secure a place in the Northern Ireland Final. Team One included Rory Maguire (Chairperson), Alice Marron (Speaker) and Michael Graham (Expresser of Thanks). Team Two included Caoimhe Ryan (Chairperson), Christine Khalil (Speaker) and Hugh Higgins (Expresser of Thanks). Team Two achieved second place at the Belfast heat and secured a place in the Northern Ireland Final. This took place in Newforge Country Club, Belfast on Saturday 1 February. Our team represented Rathmore very well and received finalist medals and certificates.

### **Irish Federation of University Women Public Speaking Competition**

On 7 March, we were delighted to win the All-Ireland Final of the Irish Federation of University Women Public Speaking Competition, especially since Rathmore were the reigning winners. The competition is organised by University Women from the five main universities in Ireland; University College Cork, Galway University, Trinity College, University College Dublin and Queen's University, Belfast. Each university holds a heat with the winners representing their university/province at the All-Ireland Final. The aim is to promote friendship between the University women whilst enabling young women to have the confidence to use public speaking skills in society. After publicising the competition to all Year 9 and Year 10 girls, Emma Duffy (Year 9), Eve Wilson (Year 9) and Leia Phenix (Year 10) were selected as the Rathmore team.

On Tuesday 12 February, we attended the Queen's University heat. There were six general topics: Sport and Leisure, Friendship, Health, Environment, Education and Entertainment. Pupils had thirty minutes to write a 2-3-minute speech, without any information. They would only be informed of the motion, thirty minutes prior to the competition. Although students had thoroughly researched two topics each prior to the competition, these topics are so broad that it is almost impossible to research every single aspect, but Rathmore rose to the challenge! Rathmore were placed first, presented with the June Meenagh-Smartt Cup for Best Team, Eve Wilson was crowned as the Best Speaker and most notably, we earned a place in the All-Ireland Final in Dublin.

On Saturday 7 March, we travelled to University College Dublin, dazzled by the talented finalists from across the country with one of the adjudicators commenting, "The future of our country is in safe hands." It was a great feeling when the adjudicator announced Rathmore as the 2020 All-Ireland winners.

### **Year 8 Trócaire Public Speaking Competition**

In consultation with the Head of Religious Education, preparation for the Year 8 Trócaire Public Speaking Competition took place in RE classes during the season of Lent. Through the use of a pupil activity booklet and Trócaire resources, Year 8 students learnt about the importance of 'Protecting the planet' and how in doing so we protect our human rights, our heritage and the sacredness of life. Each Year 8 pupil was asked to create a 2-3 speech minute entitled, "Protecting the planet, protects us all..." with two finalists being selected from each RE class and invited to compete in the Drama Lecture Theatre, adjudicated by Mrs McCormick (Head of Year 8), Sarah Sloan and Fergal Henry (Year 8 Prefects). This was due to take place on Wednesday 1 April but was cancelled due to the global crisis of COVID-19.

### **Junior Debating and Public Speaking Society**

In September 2019, six Lower Sixth pupils, Ciara Kennedy, Pierce Finnegan, Christine Khalil, Caoimhe Ryan, Aine McCann and Matthew Cummings were chosen as mentors for the Debating Society. They were responsible for organising exciting activities for a Junior Debating Society. After a month of planning and preparing, the Junior Debating Society commenced on Friday 4 October, open to all pupils in Year 9 and Year 10. This was held on a weekly basis during junior lunch. Activities and games ranged from walking debates, "Would you rather?", "If I ruled the world, I would..." and "I couldn't disagree more because..." to debates that focused upon climate change, the environmental impacts of industrial farming to the commercialisation of Christmas. The Junior Debating Society was attended by an average of twenty pupils and although both Year 9 and Year 10 were represented, the majority of pupils were Year 9 who had sought a keen interest in debating from the Year 8 Debating Society. A Debating Society solely for Year 8 was formed in term two but ended prematurely due to the crisis of COVID-19.

## **GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT**

Last year the Geography department was involved in various extra-curricular activities. There was a field trip to Colin Glen Forest Park for Year 12 in September where we studied the changing dynamics of the River Colin as it moved downstream. We took a year 12 Quiz team to Queen's University for the annual NI Geography quiz in November.

At A-Level, staff and some students availed of a series of Autumn lectures on Tuesday evenings in Queen's University aimed at A-level students. There was also a residential field trip in November for all AS students to Magilligan, Co Derry, where we studied sand dunes. All our Year 14 students went on a tour of the Causeway Coast in March to observe coastal features and management and also went on a bus tour of Belfast in December to aid their study of Ethnic Diversity.

The Geo Club ran in school every week throughout the year for any Years 8-10 interested. This was very enjoyable for students who had the opportunity to research volcanic eruptions, mini-earthquakes, Geo Quiz and orienteering.

## **HISTORY DEPARTMENT**

### **Holocaust Memorial Day Event at Methodist College Belfast - OCTOBER 2019**

The 27 January this year marked the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz Concentration Camp, a place known infamously for the Nazi crimes committed there during World War Two. There were a number of events held in Belfast in the run up to the new year to commemorate this significant event. The History Department were delighted to be invited to partake of some of the events planned. We joined with some of the schools in the local area for a Shared Education seminar hosted by Methodist College Belfast on the 24 October. Mrs Bailey and Miss Wright attended this event with about 45 lower sixth History and RE students. We heard the moving story of Susan Pollack, a Holocaust Survivor. Susan was born in Hungary in 1930 and during the war in late May 1944, Susan and her family were sent by cattle truck to Auschwitz-Birkenau. It was a privilege to be able to hear her story first-hand, given how few survivors there still are. The pupils were moved and challenged by her words. After telling her story, she took questions from the audience and a number of our pupils asked her some interesting and thoughtful questions. We were fortunate enough to have our picture taken with her afterwards, and some pupils even engaged with her one to one and had smaller group photographs taken. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed the event and spoke freely with staff afterward about how moving it was to hear her story and how much they got out of it.

### **Berlin Trip – February 2020**

Over the February half term this year, the History department travelled for their seventh year to Berlin. Mrs Bailey and Mr Connolly were again the accompanying teachers, travelling with 22 Lower and Upper Sixth pupils. On the first day the historians set off for a visit to the Reichstag building. They toured the dome and

enjoyed some stunning views over the city. They then stopped for lunch close to the famous Brandenburg Gate before setting off to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. They took the S Bahn to Oranienburg and then walked out to the camp. The pupils enjoyed a self-guided tour and were able to explore and investigate the remaining buildings and features of the camp and its museum. They then returned to Berlin and went to dinner at Vapianos before going to the cinema to see 1917 – keeping with the historical theme. On Sunday, the weather was a little temperamental and so much of the day was spent trying to avoid the rain. They visited the Holocaust Memorial and Museum in the morning and visited Checkpoint Charlie before visiting the Topography of Terror museum in the afternoon. In the afternoon they travelled over to the East Side Gallery to visit the world-famous open-air art gallery at the site of the remnants of the Berlin Wall. Many, many photos were taken before they returned to their hostel and set out for dinner and bowling at Alexanderplatz. On their last day they walked from the hostel to their last stop for the weekend – the German Historical Museum. The pupils were well engaged all weekend – soaking up all the History that Berlin afforded to them. Although they didn't know it at the time, the Coronavirus was about to hit Europe, and they were so lucky to have avoided it in Germany so they could enjoy their weekend away.

## **HOME ECONOMICS AND HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE**

- An after school Cookery Club was held for pupils in Years 9 & 10. This was delivered by the Home Economics Assistant, Ms McConaghie and involved the students preparing and cooking a variety of dishes which they would not be able to prepare in class. They were also given an opportunity to be involved in the decision making process.
- The Year 9 classes took part in a cookery demonstration organised by The Livestock and Meat Commission during the month of November. During this the pupils were informed about various aspects of meat production and the importance of buying farm quality assured products. They were also told about the nutritional benefits of red meat as well as the current dietary guidelines for its consumption. During the various visits a range of dishes were prepared and cooked including Balsamic beef and tomato ragu, Beef nachos, and Yummy lamb curry which the students were allowed to sample and enjoy. Each student received a recipe booklet which they were able to take home.
- The Year 13 Health and Social Care students attended St Anne's Primary School on a regular basis between October and March to obtain the information required to complete various aspects of their coursework modules.
- The Year 11 Food and Nutrition students visited Draynes Farm in Lisburn to reinforce the Food Provenance and Processing of Food areas of their specification. During the visit they were shown how cattle are reared on the farm including how they are milked automatically. They were also shown how milk is processed before being bottled and sold, as well as how it is converted into ice cream. Sampling their award winning ice cream was enjoyed by everyone.

## **LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT**

### **FRENCH**

#### **French Trip abroad**

From 5-9 April 2020 the French Department had organised a trip, under the leadership of David Newell, to the Château de la Baudonnière in Normandy. 43 pupils and 5 members of staff had signed up to go, pupils mainly from Year 9. Unfortunately, due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the trip had to be cancelled for health and safety reasons and we are pleased to say that all of the money was refunded to the families.

Alongside the various planned activities during their stay, pupils were mainly there to practise the French language via Immersion courses led by the Château native staff and the core principle was to use French in practical settings. It was hugely frustrating to have to cancel the trip, as the pupils were very excited about going to France, in some instances for the first time in the country. So much hard work and effort went into the organisation of the trip.

Hopefully in the not too distant future we will be able to offer pupils the opportunity to visit France and to enjoy the full authentic experience of life in the Target Language country.

#### **Oxford admission**

Katie Boyle, a pupil in Year 14, was interviewed in the University of Oxford, to read French and German. The French Department, under the guidance of Fiona Sutherland, prepared Katie for interview; she worked with her

to tailor her personal statement to support her application, recommended literary texts for her to read beyond the A Level syllabus, discussed these with her, set and marked additional language and literature work, and conducted mock interviews with Katie. She was subsequently offered a place at the Queen's College, Oxford which she accepted. She has now begun her studies at Oxford.

Diana Badoi, a past pupil, who is currently reading French and Spanish at Merton College Oxford, was invited by the French Department to address last year's Year 14 students to encourage them to apply for Oxbridge. The students held a question and answer session with her. Diana also gave advice to Katie Boyle to support her in advance of her interview.

### **Nicilt Poetry competition**

Year 9 pupils participated in a poetry competition organised by Nicilt.

### **French Assistant**

Our French Assistant, Aude Duval from Normandy came and gave conversation classes to Year 13 and 14 pupils. The Year 12 pupils also had the opportunity to practise their speaking test questions with her on a number of occasions. All Year 8 also had the chance to take part in a lunchtime workshop where they made French "verb bugs". We felt it was very refreshing to have a young native speaker working in the Department, helping both pupils

## **GERMAN**

### **Activities in German**

#### **High Achiever in Languages**

The German Department was particularly proud this year of the achievements of Anna Lavery who was placed second in Northern Ireland in A2 German. Anna is currently reading German and Law at Trinity College Dublin.

#### **UK-GERMAN CONNECTION Programme 2019-20**

Olivia Kennedy (L6) took part in a weekend-long programme 7-10 November 2019. The programme centred on conflict in both Germany and Northern Ireland. The German participants shared their stories and experiences after the fall of the Berlin Wall, and the Irish delegates offered meaningful insights and opinions of their experiences growing up in Northern Ireland following on from the Good Friday Agreement. We are pleased that, for the second year running, a Rathmore Grammar School pupil was selected to take part in this programme. Olivia came back from the trip with a renewed enthusiasm for the German language, as well as having made several new friends from both NI and Germany. We wish her well as she continues into A2 and hopefully we will be able to offer this opportunity to other pupils in the not too distant future.

#### **Visit by Sarah O'Kane, student of Business Studies with German at QUB**

In February, a former pupil of Rathmore Grammar School, Sarah O'Kane, came to speak to the Lower and Upper Sixth pupils about the degree pathway she was on at Queen's University. She explained how German has been re-introduced to Queen's University as a core component of the Business Studies degree. She talked to the students about the pre-requisites for accessing the course, as well as the year out, which Sarah spent working in a German watch manufacturer's firm in Berlin. She left the students with some literature about the course after she had finished her presentation, and her visit proved to be extremely useful; for those students in particular who are still undecided about what degree they would like to do, it certainly opened up an option to them that allows them to continue studying German whilst staying in Northern Ireland.

#### **German Debate**

In March 2020, three A2 pupils, Katie Boyle, Caroline Loughlin and Louise McCarthy, competed in a German Debate organised by NICILT at Queen's University. The motion, translated into English, was "Homework should be banned." Our team was proposing the motion, whereas Campbell College argued against the motion. The Rathmore team was unfortunately beaten in the end, although everyone was in agreement that our team had the more difficult motion to argue. The debate was still a very worthwhile experience for our competitors, as it gave them the experience of public speaking whilst enhancing their knowledge of how to present information in the Target Language. We were delighted that Caroline was awarded "Best Speaker" and hope that the current AS German pupils will be sufficiently inspired by the experience to return to the competition next year with renewed vigour to bring the cup back to Rathmore.

## **The German Assistant and 'Der Deutschklub' (German Club)**

This year we welcomed our German Assistant for 2019-20, Judith Willms from Germany, and we enjoyed working closely with Judith as she helped to broaden students' German language skills and further enhance their knowledge of German traditions. The lunch-time German Club is very popular with our Year 8 pupils. Pupils consolidate the language covered in class, extend their vocabulary and are given a flavour of German culture through the many exciting activities offered at the club, which is led by our German Assistant.

This year a group of Year 9 pupils also worked with Judith in preparing 'Schultüten' for the Open Morning. These are traditional bags given to pupils in Germany on their first day of school. They are usually filled with sweets and stationery and are colourfully decorated. The pupils also learned some traditional German songs and read short stories in German.

Judith has been an invaluable addition to the German Department. She regularly visited Junior classes and delivered a lovely presentation to pupils in all year groups on how she and her family celebrate Christmas, bringing with her delicious homemade biscuits that are traditionally eaten at that time of year; she also organised cookery classes with KS3 German students and assisted the A2 Debating Team with their preparation for the debate at QUB in March. The German Club proved to be very successful this year. We hope to be able to run it again in the next academic year.

## **Foreign Language Student, Miss Lorna Waldminghaus**

From January to March 2020 Rathmore Grammar School hosted a student from Germany, Lorna Waldminghaus, following a request from her parents, as well as from a family friend who lives near the school. Lorna, whose English language was already at a very high standard, studied Drama, History, English and Biology. She integrated fully, even wearing the Rathmore uniform and going to a Year 13 Tutor Group. We are very thankful to those departments who invited Lorna as a student into their AS classes and made her feel very welcome. We are so pleased that our school was able to facilitate this experience for Lorna and both she and her parents wish to pass on their gratitude to Mrs Hamilton and the Board of Governors for affording her such a unique opportunity.

## **Missed opportunities due to the Coronavirus outbreak**

### **Work Experience in Bonn (June 2020)**

After finishing the exams in June, our 9 AS pupils were meant to set off for Bonn, where they were going to complete Work Experience in their chosen areas of interest. This has proven year on year to be an amazing opportunity for our students to practise their German, immerse themselves in the German culture and meet up again with their German Exchange partners, whom they hosted in January 2020 when the German students came to Belfast to complete their work experience.

This is all possible because of the link with our partner school in Bonn, the Nicolaus-Cusanus-Gymnasium, which was established over 15 years ago. We are grateful to Mrs Eva Junker in our partner school, who is responsible for organising placements for our pupils. Without the link, this opportunity just wouldn't be open to the class, so we hope to see it continue for many years to come. We do hope that, despite this break in the exchange programme between the two schools, pupils from both here and Germany will continue to stay in contact with each other and, perhaps, get to meet up again in the not-too-distant future. We are all devastated that our students missed out this year on going to Bonn.

### **German Scholarships Programme (June 2020)**

We were delighted that Peter Looney (L6) was accepted to attend the German Scholarships Programme in June in association with the Pädagogischer Austauschdienst, but sadly he was unable to attend due to the Coronavirus outbreak. Two of our other students in L6, Euan McGreevy and Kady Patton, were also placed on the reserve list. Whilst Peter does not study German for A-level, he attended German Conversation Classes every Wednesday as part of the Lower Sixth Enrichment Programme. Peter's acceptance onto the German Scholarships Programme is therefore all the more impressive, having submitted an essay in German as part of his application process. This is, in itself, proof of the benefits of having a Language Assistant in Rathmore Grammar School and we are indebted to the efforts of our Assistant for this year, Miss Judith Willms, and all that she did to support our students this year.

## **IRISH**

### **Club na Gaeltachta**

Club na Gaeltachta is for Year 8 pupils of Irish. This club seeks to give pupils a flavour of the Gaeltacht experience and was held every Thursday at lunchtime from September until the end of April. The club was led by Year 13 pupils and sought to inspire pupils at both ends of the age spectrum to speak Irish outside of the classroom setting.

### **Tráth na gCeist Sóisearach / Junior Schools' quiz**

The Year 10 Irish class took part in the Gael Linn Schools' quiz in October in Lurgan. There were almost 40 teams of four involved from schools all over the north.

### **Abair / Public Speaking Competition**

The Mid-Ulster round of the long running Irish public speaking competition 'Abair' was held in St. Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt in February. **Caoimhe Venning** and **Darragh McDonnell** came joint first in the Grammar School section with Caolán Laverty coming second. Both students had qualified for the final which was due to be held in March.

### **An Fáinne Airgid / Silver Fáinne**

This long established tradition marks the half way point on the road to fluency for pupils of Irish. The Year 10 Irish class used a series of five speaking tasks covering all areas of language studied in junior school. This award is highly regarded by the Irish speaking community and serves to inspire pupils to continue learning Irish and other languages. This project builds confidence in the pupils and prepares them for the rigours of GCSE.

### **An Fáinne Óir / Gold Fáinne**

The Year 14 pupils achieved their 'Fáinne Óir' which denotes fluency in Irish having gone through seven years of intensive Irish learning. These same pupils only four years previously had been awarded the silver Fáinne, which shows due diligence and serves to inspire the younger pupils in the Irish Department.

## **SPANISH**

### **Spanish Assistant**

This year our Spanish assistant, Mónica Montón, worked with our Year 13 and Year 14 pupils to provide 2 speaking classes a week for each pupil. She continued to do so via Teams during lockdown when she had to return to Spain.

### **Spanish Club**

The Spanish Club, which was taken by our Spanish Assistant Mónica, continued last year for Year 8 pupils. Year 14 pupils helped out in the club. Pupils enjoyed the weekly contact with a native speaker.

### **Competitions**

Year 9 pupils were invited to enter a poetry competition on the theme of 'New Beginnings', organised by NICILT and open to schools in NI.

We were placed first in two categories in German, and first and second in two categories in Spanish.

Our winners are:

Spanish: Emma Duffy (First prize in the category of Most Creative) and Molly Melville (Second prize for Best Use of Language).

## **CHINESE**

Ms Felicia Wang completed her final year with the Confucius Institute at Rathmore and has now returned to her school in China.

Unfortunately, our pupils were unable to sit their HSK exams due to Covid-19.

## **LEARNING FOR LIFE AND WORK DEPARTMENT**

Links with external bodies for Learning for Life and Work:

### **Young Enterprise programmes:**

Year 8 – Your School, Your Business

Year 9 – YE Nine

Year 12 – Entrepreneurship Masterclass

### **Youth and Philanthropy Initiative:**

Year 9 participated in a programme with the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative. In groups pupils researched the work of a local charity working in the social services sector that was engaged in work they considered to be valuable.

Students developed links with many charities including:

PIPS

Women's Aid

Simon Community

Year 12 LLW class had a visit from the owner of White Field for a Q&A session on the advantages and disadvantages of self-employment.

## **MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT**

Year 13 and Year 14 pupils participated in the Senior Maths Challenge and the following awards were obtained:

- Gold (5), Silver (24), Bronze (31)
- 3 pupils progressed to the next stage (Kangaroo) and 1 received a Merit
- 2 pupils progressed to the higher level (BMO1); 1 received a Merit and 1 received a Distinction and qualified for the highest stage BMO2.

A team of Year 13 and Year 14 pupils represented the school in the Senior Maths Team Challenge and came 4<sup>th</sup>.

Year 8 and Year 9 Maths Club takes place one lunchtime a week.

Conor Doherty and Flynn Ryan were both offered places at Cambridge to read Mathematics.

## **MOVING IMAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT**

In conjunction with the Cinemagic festival, the Moving Image Arts department organised a make-up and special effects workshop with industry expert Connie McGrath for MIA and Drama students on the 7 November. This was a brilliant opportunity for students to learn how to make realistic scars, injuries and bullet wounds using relatively inexpensive equipment such as wax, Vaseline and fake blood. After Connie had shown pupils how to master these techniques, they were able to practice on each other, making very realistic and often terrifying effects. Pupils even got to create these effects on their teachers! This was a wonderful session that gave pupils the chance to not only meet an expert who has worked in many film and TV shows, but to glean top tips that they could use in their film and theatre productions.

On the 21 November, A Level MIA students had the opportunity to attend the annual Moving Image Arts showcase in the SSE arena as part of the Cinemagic Festival. Each shortlisted film was selected by a panel of experts, and the winning films were chosen for their strong production values, story, originality and audience appeal. Students were very inspired by the creative and visually stunning works that they saw. They also had the opportunity to attend a film careers event afterwards.

## **MUSIC DEPARTMENT**

### **INTRODUCTION**

The academic year 2019-20 was an incomplete year, due to the period of school closure (March – June). This report will reflect work done within the department until mid-March of 2020.

During our time in school the year brought many successes for Rathmore Music Department. With a rich array of opportunities in terms of both tuition and extra-curricular activities, the learning within the classroom was both complemented and enhanced by these additional opportunities for music-making. The teaching staff worked in close collaboration with the team of 16 peripatetic music tutors to ensure the students had quality provision within both areas.

## **STAFF**

In September 2019, we welcomed Mr Aidan Murphy as our new part time teacher. Mr Murphy primarily had responsibility for some KS3 classes on a Monday morning and he also took responsibility for the Junior Choir. In addition, it was most fortunate that he was able to cover some flute tuition during the absence of one of the tutors.

We welcomed two new peripatetic staff to our team in September 2019: Mr Neale Agnew to teach Piano and Ms Mairead Forde to teach Traditional Fiddle. Both are experienced tutors and talented musicians within their respective fields and the department was privileged to bring them on board to enhance our strong team.

## **PERIPATETIC MUSIC LESSONS**

Numbers of pupils taking instrumental and vocal lessons during this academic year remained healthy, with just over two hundred pupils enrolled for tuition. This was a very encouraging uptake given some changes to lesson provision and fees in this new academic year. We hope that the new year will continue to bring increased numbers, with particular endeavours to recruit where numbers are lower. In terms of our peripatetic reports, usual practice is that parents receive two reports on their child's progress – January and June. Every child received their report of progress for Term 1 this year.

The very successful record of entries for graded exams encompasses pupils from across the different instrumental/vocal disciplines and the exams reflect their study within different genres – Classical, Music Theatre, Pop Vocals and Rock and Pop. There was a large entry planned for the March and June exam sessions, with all of the above and also with some of our Traditional pupils due to take exams.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR MUSIC**

The department staff (both classroom and peripatetic teachers) joined forces to provide a broad range of extra-curricular activities for our pupils to become involved in. The majority of the existing groups were maintained, with healthy numbers sustained in the choirs and instrumental groups.

There were opportunities for children to be part of a range of smaller ensembles – three string quartets, a saxophone quartet and the 2020 Year 12 class formed various ensembles (which were due to be used for the performance exam).

The various groups and small ensembles had opportunities to perform, even within the shorter academic year. These events included, the Opening Mass, Carol Service, Speech Day, Open Day and the Spring Concert in March. In addition to this, our Senior String Quartet had the great privilege of performing at the memorable Alumni Gala Ball in February. They were extremely professional and provided a most enjoyable programme of entertainment for guests as the evening began. A wonderful opportunity for the young musicians.

This school continues to be represented in some highly regarded musical activities outside of school. A number of our students participate in the Group Activities offered by CBSM and other EA areas, giving them additional opportunities to perform and develop their skills; a small number of boys are members of the Schola Cantorum; and many others are part of theatre groups / theatre schools. All of this complements our provision in school.

## **SOME HIGHLIGHTS OF THE YEAR**

### **GALA BALL**

On Saturday 8 February, the school celebrated its first Alumni Gala Ball. It was to be a very formal event, with past and present staff members, invited guests and of course, the alumni body. Our Senior String Quartet were asked to provide entertainment as guests were gathering for the event. In the weeks leading up to the evening, we gathered a programme of music that would be varied and enjoyable for those attending the ball. The pupils showed instant dedication and enthusiasm towards this and they embarked on a regular rehearsal schedule. On the evening itself, the Quartet showed great independence, leadership and professionalism carrying the whole programme without formal teacher guidance. They gained a huge amount themselves from being part of this event also and thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience. There were many positive comments from those

in attendance. It was wonderful that the group had this opportunity, particularly as the majority of them were in their final year at school.

## **SPRING CONCERT**

Thursday 5 March brought the highlight of the Music Department's calendar – the annual Spring Concert. Approximately two hundred pupils representing Years 8-14 took part in this event, showcasing their immense talent and commitment to music making. The programme was wide and varied, providing something for everyone. Our three choirs delighted the audience with music from the world of Classical Music, Pop, Music Theatre and Contemporary Choral Music. Our Junior Traditional Group provided an enjoyable selection of dance tunes and we had a lovely harp solo for the first time. The dancing which followed was unique this year. It was solo and done in a contemporary style without music, relying solely on rhythm. Our small instrumental ensembles showed the range of musical styles in which our pupils have the opportunity to play featuring Jazz, Rock and contemporary Pop music. The Concert Band impressed with Pop and Film numbers, while the orchestras performed a range of music from Film, Television, Jazz and contemporary compositions. We also embarked on an ambitious piece this year, which ended the first half. The Junior Choir, Junior Orchestra, Bass Guitars, Keyboard and Drums all combined to perform the Gary Barlow/Andrew Lloyd Webber composition, 'Sing'. It was quite a special item, with a large number of pupils involved and performed exclusively by our KS3 students.

The music staff were extremely proud of the standard achieved by our pupils and their performances provided a fitting conclusion to the many months of hard work. A special word of thanks also goes to our peripatetic tutors who gave of their time both in preparing the students and for supporting the department on the night itself.

## **GOVERNMENT & POLITICS DEPARTMENT**

The Politics Society which is open to all students Years 12-14 with an interest in Politics held a number of events throughout the year. These included opportunities for Q and A sessions with political figures from across Ireland including Claire Hanna MP.

Year 13 Politics students took part in the Politics in Action Programme. This was a cross community initiative with Methodist College Belfast. As part of this programme, students visited both Houses of Parliament and Downing Street. Three Yr 14 Politics students also participated in the Mock European Council.

## **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT**

### **Spirit of Catholic Education Award 2020**

The Religious Education Department was delighted to be awarded the 'Spirit of Catholic Education' award in January 2020 and received the award during Catholic Schools' Week in St Mary's University College, Belfast. The award acknowledged the on-going work on faith development and strong promotion of the Catholic ethos in Rathmore.

### **Fr Peter McVerry**

Through the Down and Connor Catholic Schools' Support Service Team, Miss Wright made contact with Fr Peter McVerry and invited him to address our pupils about the national crisis, homelessness. This issue had been discussed during our General RE Sixth form programme and Fr McVerry agreed to visit the school along with Vincent O'Neill and share their experiences. Vincent was homeless as a young boy and Fr McVerry helped him overcome this. Their visit was very special and pupils and staff all helped raise money for the Peter McVerry Trust.

### **Cephas Programme**

The Down and Connor Schools' Support Service also reached out to Catholic Schools to join a pilot scheme of a Non-examination sixth form RE programme, entitled, 'Cephas.' Miss Wright attended a meeting to explore the programme and agreed to implement the scheme of work in Rathmore. Due to Covid-19, the programme was not completed but hopefully the pilot scheme will continue next year.

## **ALPHA YOUTH**

This year we extended our ALPHA programme to allow for pupils, who completed the course last year, to act as group leaders. They completed their training with Laura Whinnery in September and they were a great help

to us as facilitators when the course commenced. Our numbers doubled this year and we had 38 pupils awarded with an ALPHA certificate. Fr James O'Reilly led the award ceremony in our school chapel in November. It was a lovely service that recognised the pupils' commitment over 10 weeks after school where they discussed and developed their faith. The programme was very engaging and we hope to continue to run the course next year.

## **Retreats**

Retreats continued this year for Year 8, 9 and 10 and were led by Mrs Fiona Collins.

The retreats form an integral part of the Religious Education Programme at Key Stage 3, in so far as they play a significant role in *"leading pupils to a deeper, active and more personal faith"*.

In Year 8, pupils explored the theme 'belonging', and had time to assess their own gifts and talents, connect with the members of their new class at Rathmore and understand how to use their talents to enrich their school community.

In Year 9, the pupils focused on the theme 'reconciliation', and the pupils had an opportunity to examine their conscience, recognise that no sin is unforgiveable, acknowledge God's presence in their lives to support their moral choices and offer reconciliation for sins.

In Year 10, the pupils focused on the theme of "Friendship" and developed a greater awareness of the term and how relationships affect our lives. They used prayer, reflection and meditation to ask God to help them appreciate their own value and the value of each person in their tutor group.

Retreat days offer pupils a unique experience to develop their personal spirituality, mental well-being and a more positive outlook on life.

We also organised our first Year 11 retreat in October 2019, as this had been requested by the pupils using the student council forum. Cast Ireland led two retreats over two days and the Year 11 pupils engaged with topics focusing on their faith, relationships with others and hopes and dreams for the future.

## **The Blessing of Hands in order to facilitate Ministers of Eucharistic Adoration:**

In September 2019, Fr James O'Reilly conducted a ceremony of anointing during which the Year 13 pupils were commissioned to become Ministers of Eucharistic Adoration. Subsequently, these pupils assumed responsibility for organising services of Eucharistic Adoration, held each day, in the convent chapel. These services were open to all members of the school community and were available during junior and senior lunches.

## **Lower VI Liturgy Group**

Our Lower VI Liturgy Group, who work with Mrs Fiona Collins, continued to create new opportunities to deepen the spiritual life of our school. In addition to continuing the daily Eucharistic Adoration in the Convent Chapel, the group worked closely with Miss Wright in leading the Rosary Club every Tuesday at break time. During the month of November, the Liturgy Group led prayer services for deceased friends and family of our pupils and staff. Morning Prayer was also held during the season of Lent on Monday morning for staff and pupils, followed by tea/coffee in RE6. This was cut short due to Covid-19.

## **Liturgies**

The Religious Education Department provides opportunities for all pupils to participate in liturgical services. In preparation for liturgies, the RE Department works closely with the Art, Drama and Music Departments. The religious experiences afforded to the children provide opportunities for them to reflect and grow in personal faith, enhancing their sense of religious identity within the Catholic Community that is Rathmore.

In September, we gathered as a school community to officially mark the beginning of the new school year and to give thanks for the wonderful success of our pupils in their summer exams. Fr O'Reilly celebrated our opening Masses which centred around the theme 'journey of faith.'

In October, our Year 8 pupils attended a special Mass with their families. It was a celebration to welcome the newest members of our school community led by Fr Peter O'Hare.

Some Year 13 pupils led our Advent Liturgy and they continued with the theme of 'journey' as they re-enacted the journey of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem. This was contrasted with the journey of many refugees today to help the congregation realise the relevance of the Christmas story. It allowed everyone to reflect upon their own faith during the Christmas season and how they would 'journey' from darkness into light.

The JP11 pupils led three Ash Wednesday services in the school assembly hall and the Liturgy team helped with the preparation of readings and prayers.

Our Lenten Liturgy was created by Mr O'Callaghan and was delivered virtually through Microsoft Teams as the school had to close due to Covid-19. We were also unable to celebrate a leaver's mass but we helped organise a short liturgy for the Year 14 Assembly.

### **Knights of Saint Columbanus Ulster Semi-Finalists**

Aine McCann, Daire Mallon and Olivia Kennedy (Year 13 pupils) took part in the Knights of Saint Columbanus 'All Ireland Debating and Public Speaking competition'.

Braced with the challenging motion, "I am a mission, always; you are a mission, always; every baptised man and woman is on a mission", the pupils met after school and at lunchtime to prepare their speech. Under the guidance of Miss Boyle, the pupils researched, wrote, rewrote and rehearsed whilst preparing for the challenging 'unseen question'. The team successfully earned a place in the Ulster Semi-final, however, due to Covid-19, the competition was cancelled. Hopefully the team will be able to continue the competition in the new school year.

### **The Commissioning of Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion**

In February 2020, Miss Wright and Mrs Fiona Collins led a course on this ministry with 35 pupils from Year 13 and 14 in the school chapel. These pupils were commissioned as Eucharistic Ministers by Fr James O'Reilly at the Retreat Mass.

### **Pope John Paul II Award**

Living Youth awarded the Pope John Paul II Award to 17 Upper Sixth pupils. Miss Cassidy led the award and the ceremony was scheduled to take place in April 2020 but this was cancelled due to Covid-19. The recipients of the Award carried out voluntary service in a wide range of parish and social settings that included leading Children's Liturgy, ministering as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion and Ministers of the Word. In addition to volunteering to support a wide-range of activities in school, some of our pupils had the opportunity to travel to Lourdes during the summer holiday.

### **Faith Talks**

- Lucy Kelly (past pupil) visited the school in January and addressed our pupils in the school chapel. She talked openly about her faith journey and her current work today that is influenced heavily by her strong Catholic beliefs.
- Patrick Gallagher (past pupil) was scheduled to visit the school and discuss his faith journey in March 2020 but due to Covid-19, this was cancelled.
- Six Year 14 pupils attended a Trócaire talk at Stormont alongside Mrs Lavery and Miss Wright. The talk was an introduction into the Trócaire Lenten Campaign this year, *'Women Taking the Lead: Defending Human Rights and the Environment'*.
- Trócaire were also invited to the school during the season of Lent to address the pupils on their 2020 campaign on 'Human Rights and the Environment'. This talk helped to launch the Lenten Campaign in Rathmore.
- Miss Boyle led a Trócaire Land Rights Speaking Competition for Year 8 pupils and the work on this project was carried out in the RE lessons by KS3 teachers. It was not fully completed due to Covid-19 interruptions.
- LifeWorks are an agency shedding light on abortion; one of the most pressing issues affecting contemporary life. They addressed our Year 13 pupils in January and emphasised the importance of upholding the sanctity of life. Two pupils; Fergal Burns (13) and Katie Sesay (13) entered their essay competition entitled, *"Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."* - Martin Luther King Jr.
- They were placed 2<sup>nd</sup> and highly commended (all Ireland competition). LifeWorks could not visit the school to present the pupils with their award but they posted their prizes and we held a 'socially distanced' award ceremony in June 2020.

## **SCIENCE DEPARTMENT**

### **BIOLOGY**

#### **Biology fieldtrip – October 2019**

63 AS Biology pupils travelled Groomsport, Co. Down. The trip in question furthers the pupils' understanding of the ecology topic on the AS specification and provides the opportunity to practise different sampling techniques.

### **Forensic science – October 2019**

All Year 10 students attended an interactive Forensic Science session. Students had the opportunity to solve one of the most renowned crimes, and at the same time learn and interact with various applications of science/CSI. Again, the 3 period extended sessions proved very successful in allowing pupils to participate in more activities and to discuss science related careers in more depth. Both staff and pupil feedback was very positive.

### **Eco-schools – September to February**

Events throughout the year included:

- Switch-off fortnight campaign (Term 1)
- Lunchtime Crunch time & Reducing food waste through a compost heap (Term 2)
- Recycle week (Term 2)
- Pond clean up (term 2)

### **CPR Workshops**

The Biology department completed CPR workshops for Year 10 and 12 Biology students. The workshops in question were extremely successful and indeed very beneficial, as the department was able to train over 350 students in the true life skill of CPR. It is hoped that our students will influence this vital technique across their own friendship and family circles, thus ensuring greater possibilities of lives being saved during heart attack/cardiac arrest.

Years 8, 13 and 14 were trained in CPR by Mr Graham during extended pastoral periods on a Wednesday.

### **Sentinus Biotechnology STEM Support – Gel Electrophoresis of DNA from Lambda Phage Workshop**

42 A2 Biology Students were given the unique opportunity to perform Gel Electrophoresis of DNA from Lambda Phage. The students worked in groups of four, extracting and analysing DNA extracts from a range of different organisms. The workshop in question was excellent, as this is a very difficult concept for our students to understand.

Teachers were able to provide practical support in the following areas:

- Practise loading the gels
- Prepare DNA digests
- Load DNA into gels
- Presentation to explain the practical with questions to check for understanding
- Stain the gels
- Observe and photograph the DNA fragments and measure Rf values
- Q & A Summary session

### **Biology Challenge/Olympiad – Year 10 (January/February)**

All of our Year 10 Biology classes were entered into the UK Biology Olympiad. The Biology Olympiad challenged and stimulated our students to expand and extend their talents in Biology and Science as a whole. Year 10 students were enabled opportunities to demonstrate their knowledge and to be suitably rewarded with publicly recognised certificates and medals.

## **CHEMISTRY**

Three Year 13 students, Shane Murphy, Pearse Finnegan and Patrick Glover competed in a RSC Schools 'Analyst competition against other Northern Ireland schools. This involved students undertaking problem solving exercises that required them to use their AS Practical and Computational skills. They had to plan, execute and analyse results of a variety of complex Analytical Chemistry techniques. They were evaluated on communication, team work, precision and conclusions. They were the runners up and won book tokens for themselves and for the school.

Year 11 GCSE Chemistry students visited a "Chemistry At Work" conference at Queen's University. They experienced aspects of a variety of Chemistry related industries, advice on careers, and information on Chemistry-based Science Degrees at Queen's.

Year 13 Chemistry students attended an event in W5 regarding STEM Careers. The main activity consisted of groups of students moving from one professional to another, having to ask them questions about their Science qualifications and their job. There was also a lecture on the diversity of career paths taken by those who acquired degrees in STEM subjects.

Year 12 Double Award Chemistry students attended an event in W5 regarding STEM Careers. Like the Year 13 event it consisted of groups of students moving from one scientific professional to another. The emphasis on discussing subject choices for AS and the students getting the opportunity to question the professionals on the diversity of their academic pathways and the fields/industries that they now work in.

Year 10 Chemistry students attended a STEM event in W5 where they got to experience practical activities that mirrored those in different scientific research and analytical labs. There was also a lecture and discussion groups on the benefits of studying Double Award Science or GCSE Chemistry to future career plans.

Year 14 A2 Chemistry students (and some AS Year 13 students) were responsible for training and supervising Year 9 and 10 students in preparation for, and during Open Day. 2019 Open Day saw the focus in Chemistry on interactive activities and experiments. Year 14 students explained, demonstrated and gave advice to those junior students who would be conducting the activities. The older pupils also supervised the delivery and were on hand to aid verbal interactions.

## **PHYSICS**

- Many of the Year 13 Physics students took part in the British Physics Olympiad, with Gold, Bronze and Commendations being awarded.
- A number of Year 12 pupils took part in the British Physics Olympiad with Bronze and Commendations being awarded.

## **SOCIOLOGY**

Year 14 Sociology visited the Crumlin Road Gaol as part of their Criminology module.

## **TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN DEPARTMENT**

### **Arkwright Scholarships**

The Arkwright Scholarships Trust administers one of the most prestigious scholarship schemes in the UK. Schools must be invited into the process before they can submit applications, with a limited number of schools in Northern Ireland being offered this prestigious opportunity. The scholarship is open to applicants studying Technology and Design at GCSE, aiming to discover and support their studies at GCE level through financial assistance and academic mentoring with qualified engineers. Nine students undertook this process which involved an in-depth application and 2 hour aptitude paper. The top students were then selected for interview – five students were selected from Rathmore Grammar School. Due to Covid-19 the interviews were cancelled and there has been a delay in the selection process but we are hopeful that successful candidates will be informed before the end of September 2020.

2020 is the seventh year that Arkwright Trust has had affiliations with NI schools. Each year Technology and Design in Rathmore has been represented at the prestigious graduation ceremony in London or Edinburgh. We are very proud of our pupils' achievements, demonstrating their superb analytical, design and communication skills on a larger stage.

### **Sentinus Team R&D Programme**

This programme is designed for small teams of pupils in Year 13 to work closely on a project with local engineering companies. Five students were selected to represent Rathmore and were linked with an engineer from NIE to develop a potential solution that would relieve issues associated with regular power outages in particular regions.

As part of this programme each pupil had a specific role and worked closely with engineers, both NIE and through University Ulster Jordanstown, to investigate, develop and report on their solution. This was an

invaluable experience for our pupils as they were involved in a genuine problem encountered by a local company whilst also gaining experience of University programmes during site visits to UUJ.

The team had developed a solution and written their report but unfortunately they did not get the opportunity to present this due to Covid-19 restrictions. The pupils enjoyed the challenge and varied experiences afforded to them as part of this team.

### **Product Design and Innovation workshop**

AS and A2 level students were involved in a workshop aimed at demonstrating the importance of client/designer relationships. Held after school, this extra-curricular activity aimed to promote the necessity of further research and quality design thinking which would be of benefit to coursework and design related exam questions. Leading this activity was past pupil Conor Hamill, who studied Technology and Design at A-Level, going on to study Engineering at QUB. This workshop focused on the use of recognised industry techniques to promote creativity. The workshop also encouraged pupils to consider the role client input has to the design process and illustrated methods of communicating more effectively – questioning styles and exploring potential solutions with clients to expand upon their original requests.

Pupils enhanced their graphic skills and developed modelling skills which they used to communicate their potential design solution with peers. This short workshop was of great benefit to pupils who were beginning project work and has inspired a number to reinvigorate their initial submissions.

### **Additional support**

Due to the expansive nature of Technology and Design coursework it was decided to afford pupils opportunities to develop all aspects of their studies. Extra classes were held across each exam group to assist with revision planning, exam techniques and any issues arising from coursework submissions. A significant number of pupils made use of this initiative, which ran from October to March.

## **CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE**

In Years 8 to 12 the Careers programme is delivered through Learning and Life for Work and in Sixth Form it is delivered through the pastoral programme and designated careers classes. In addition, careers guidance was provided by specialist teachers and outside agents who gave pupils opportunities to explore their interests and aptitudes, obtain advice on possible career paths and make informed choices of subjects at GCSE, AS and A level and of courses in Further and Higher Education.

### **The careers programme included:**

#### **Year 8**

Through LLW pupils investigated various jobs. They examined what Transferable Skills are and they looked at their own skills and qualities and investigated which skills and qualities are needed in different jobs.

#### **Year 9**

In LLW pupils examined what it's like to be an entrepreneur. They investigated famous entrepreneurs and discovered the challenges they faced. Year 9 also looked at different job types and work patterns in NI. The main focus in Year 9 is the Miniversity Week. Pupils explored third level education through a series of fun activities culminating in a visit to Ulster and Queen's University and a graduation ceremony on the last day. Unfortunately, due to lockdown we were unable to facilitate this part of the programme.

#### **Year 10**

In Year 10 the focus was on employability skills. The pupils worked to identify their skills and qualities and many undertook the Tenner Challenge. There was a Careers Information Morning for pupils and parents in November and the subject information morning was well received by pupils who thought it was a useful, valuable and informative exercise. In January, the Careers department held interviews with pupils and parents to discuss GCSE choices and options. Prior to interview pupils had to create a Careers Action Plan. All pupils received a Year 10 Choices Booklet in which every department gave details of their subject at GCSE, how it is assessed and what are the potential career paths related to their subject.

#### **Year 11**

Through LLW Year 11 pupils look at recruitment and selection processes for jobs. The main focus in Year 11 is the World of Work Week. Pupils are encouraged to get into the workplace for three to five days during the last week of June. In 2018 we had a 94%-96% uptake from students. The idea is for pupils to experience the world of work with the focus on gaining some insight into the adult working environment. Unfortunately, due to lockdown we were unable to facilitate this.

#### **Year 12**

In Year 12 pupils examined opportunities for self-employment. Pupils attended talks by local entrepreneurs as part of their LLW class. The Careers department worked closely with Careers Service NI and each pupil received an initial interview with a Careers officer, followed by further interviews if required. A Careers Information Choices Morning for parents and pupils was held in January and a subject information morning was held for pupils which was well received. The Careers department held interviews in February with pupils and parents to discuss A level choices and other options if necessary. In preparation for interview, pupils had to create a Careers Action Plan. A Year 12 Choices Booklet was produced. In it each department gave details of their subject at A level, how it is assessed and what are the potential career paths related to their subject. Year 12 pupils also had the opportunity to get involved with the Sentinus Insight into Engineering scheme.

#### **Year 13**

In Year 13 Careers classes pupils prepared for Work Shadow, researched courses and universities and began work on their personal statement for UCAS. In June students should have undertaken a week of work shadow

but due to Covid restrictions this had to be cancelled, as did work experience in Germany for Lower 6 pupils studying German. In March they attended the UCAS conference. Throughout April, May and June all the L6 pupils, along with parents, had an interview with Careers staff via Teams. In preparation for interview, pupils had to create a Careers Action Plan and submit a draft Personal Statement. Statements were marked and returned to the students. Up until March pupils had the opportunity to attend Insight Days organised by Charter, attend talks by admissions tutors from local, Southern, Scottish and English Universities, Institutes of Further and Higher Education and a range of local and globally based business and companies

## Year 14

Pupils were given the opportunity to attend university Open days at UU, QUB, St Mary's and Stranmillis UC. In Careers classes pupils prepared for UCAS applications and for Interview Skills Day. Interview Skills requires students to submit an application form prior to interview which is marked by an advisor. On the day they are assessed in Group activities, interviewed by an outside advisor and sit an aptitude test.

Mock MMI's were held for medical, dental and nursing applicants. Mock interviews for Ox/Bridge and teaching applicants were also held.

Students attended presentations from Deloitte, PwC, Belfast Met and Student Finance NI.

There was an Information session for parents prior to the U6 Parent Teacher meeting.

## SPORT

Sports facilities include a 440 square metre Sport Hall, a 260 square metre Gym and associated changing facilities. Outdoor facilities include a large sand based grass playing surface which provides a full size Gaelic football pitch, a regulation Football pitch and a smaller junior Gaelic football pitch, two recently constructed synthetic surface pitches, the larger of which is flood lit, and a 6600 square metre full size football pitch or a Gaelic football training pitch, six tennis courts, two basketball courts, a netball court and a polymeric surface running track, a Long Jump pit and general games area of approximately 2000 square metres. The school also makes use of the local Leisure centres for swimming and netball and the local parks for Orienteering.

The school provides a planned and rich experience in physical activity through curricular and extra-curricular physical education and sporting activities including the following: athletics, badminton, basketball, cross country, fitness training, football, Gaelic football, golf, hurling, netball, orienteering, outdoor adventure activities, skiing and opportunities for our senior pupils to develop their skills in coaching, fitness planning and weight training programmes.

### Team Achievements:

Individual achievements are included with the team achievements as so many sports have been cut short by Covid-19 throughout the past year.

### Basketball

The **U19 Boys' Basketball Team** finished Ulster B runner up and came 2nd in the All-Ireland quarterfinal pool hosted at Rathmore.

The **U16 Boys' Basketball Team** were the only other team who finished their season.

The **Year 8 Girls Basketball Team** only played one tournament and were beaten finalists.

The **Year 9 and Year 10 Basketball Teams** were runners up in their leagues.

The **U19 and U16 Basketball Teams** were runners up in their leagues.

Luke Kilpatrick, Johnny Kennedy and Daniel Byrne represented the **U18 NI team** and Rory McParland represented the **U14 team**.

### Cross Country

The **Junior Boys' Cross Country Team** were the District qualifiers in Ormeau Park, in the Ulster Finals (Mallusk) and in the All Ireland Finals (Dublin).

There were outstanding individual performances from Lughaidh Mallon who won the District and the Ulsters and placed 2nd in the All Irelands. Conor Broderick was 2nd in the Districts and 2nd in the Ulsters.

The team was as follows:

Lughaidh Mallon, Conor Broderick, Oisín McGloin, Noah Kavanagh, Tom Kearney, Aidan McManus and Darragh Toner.

Anna Broderick qualified for the Ulster Finals.

Pearse McBriarty qualified for the Ulster and All Ireland Finals and was excellent in both races. He represented the NI U16 Athletics Association.

## **Golf**

Olivia McCrystal was the representative on the Girls Interprovincial Schools Golf team at U17 level.

## **Netball**

The **Year 8 A squad** were unbeaten however all matches were not completed.

The **Minor A Team** were unbeaten and were League winners and then won the NNI Schools Cup. They didn't finish their season but reached the final of the Shield.

The **Inter A Team** were Premier league winners and won the NNI schools cup. They didn't finish their season but reached the final of the Shield.

The **Inter B squad** were beaten in the semifinal of the league and reached the semifinal of the Cup and unfortunately were defeated.

The **Senior A Team** were Premier league winners and were NNI cup winners.

## **Soccer**

Competitions were not completed due to Covid-19.

Lorcan Donnelly was selected as part of the UEFA League Academy and Michael Morgan represented the NI U15 Squad.

## **Gaelic Games**

### **Hurling**

Our Year 10/11 boys won the Leopold Cup for the second time in our school history.

### **Gaelic Football**

Our Markey Cup (Senior Boys), Paddy O'Hara Cup (4<sup>th</sup> Years), Arthur's Cup and Loch an Iúir team all topped their group but were beaten at the quarter stage of the competition. The Arthur's Cup (5<sup>th</sup> Years) topped their group but were beaten at the semifinal stage of the competition.

### **Ladies Gaelic Football**

Unfortunately, U16 and U20 squads didn't progress out of their groups.

The U14 squad won the first two games in their group and were in a good position to progress to the Ulster quarter final but unfortunately they didn't finish due to Covid.

Ellen Morgan made her county senior debut.

### **Judo**

Caolan McKee represented Ireland and NI at U18 level.

### **Karate**

Lucy Murtagh represented Ireland at U16 level.

## **Swimming and Waterpolo**

The **school U19 Team** came second in their Ulster Schools' Competition.

Niall McSherry, Caolan Crossey and Conal Mervyn all represented the Ireland Waterpolo Team, while Fiontáinn Hill, Lorcan Murnaghan, Tiarnan Crosby, Tom McSherry and James Quinn represented Ulster.

Ordhan Mallon also competed at the World Lifesaving Championships and Meabh Rodgers competed at the National Speed Lifesaving Championships.

## FOSTERING LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY

The school is committed to fostering links with the wider community and to promoting education for mutual understanding through a broad range of activities.

In September the Prefect Team led a fundraising campaign for the Friends of the Cancer Centre. The campaign was launched by the Prefect Team through inspirational Assemblies and supported by the Buddies and all students in Sixth Form who generously baked for the Coffee Morning on Friday 4 October. This year we raised £3,067.30.

The Catholic Caring campaign was launched in November. The focus of our Catholic Caring Campaign is to relieve some of the financial pressures faced by families in our local communities, especially during the approach to Christmas. Each Tutor Group raises money to buy clothes and toys for a child and provides a hamper for a family. The school was able to provide new clothes, toys and hampers for 75 families.

In preparation for the school's annual Trócaire campaign, a group of Sixth Form pupils attended the launch of Trócaire's 2020 campaign which was hosted at Stormont. The guest speaker, Bertha Zúñiga Cáceres spoke passionately about the challenges of her work as a Honduran activist. We were all inspired by Bertha's story; she courageously spoke about the death of her mother who was murdered on 3 March 2016 because of her work as a defender of human rights and the environment.

The Prefect Team launched Rathmore's Trócaire Campaign during the week starting 2 March. Unfortunately, the Campaign was interrupted by a Lockdown as a result of the Coronavirus; the Prefect Team had still managed to raise £2894.92.

## SCHOOL SECURITY

The Board and Senior Management of the school continue to keep school security under review.

## FINANCE

Draft Statement of LMS account 1 April 2019 until 31 March 2020

Income	2019 £	2018 £	Expenditure	2019 £	2018 £
DENI	6,162,997	6,034,891	Teaching Staff Costs	4,478,112	4,251,792
Other	<u>203,232</u>	<u>207,755</u>	Non-Teaching Staff Costs	1,151,831	1,227,557
<b>Total Income</b>	6,366,229	6,242,646	Other Operating Costs	<u>772,317</u>	<u>895,917</u>
			<b>Total Expenditure</b>	6,402,260	6,375,266
DEFICIT FOR YEAR	36,031	132,620			
	6,402,260	6,375,266		6,402,260	6,375,266

### The New School Building Fund/Parental Voluntary Contributions

Most parents will know that in connection with the redevelopment of the buildings some years ago the school incurred substantial non grant aided expenditure in providing additional facilities and refurbishing the historic Rathmore House and Convent Chapel. Further expenditure has been incurred in recent years in the provision of the synthetic surface pitch and additional changing facilities. As Department of Education regulations

prevent the use of LMS funds for capital works, a new school building fund was set up to help defray the extra expenditure. This fund is now also used to maintain the school's enhancement provision such as after school activities and additional pastoral support. The Board wishes to thank all parents, friends and former students who made a voluntary contribution to the fund. These contributions, including Gift Aid tax reimbursement thereon, amounted to £84,497 in the year to 31 March 2020.

## PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2019-20

### A Level Results by Subject

Subject	Number Entered	Number of pupils entered achieving grades						
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art & Design	18	5	6	7	0	0	0	0
Biology	43	13	15	10	5	0	0	0
Business Studies	33	11	13	9	0	0	0	0
Chemistry	36	15	18	3	0	0	0	0
Computer Studies	6	3	3	0	0	0	0	0
D&T Product Design	10	2	5	3	0	0	0	0
Drama	13	6	6	1	0	0	0	0
English Literature	32	7	12	9	4	0	0	0
French	8	2	4	1	1	0	0	0
Geography	24	5	11	7	1	0	0	0
German	9	4	2	3	0	0	0	0
Health & Social Care	6	0	2	4	0	0	0	0
History	23	5	7	7	4	0	0	0
IT	17	3	5	5	4	0	0	0
Irish	8	4	2	2	0	0	0	0
Further Maths	14	13	1	0	0	0	0	0
Mathematics	73	24	33	13	3	0	0	0
Moving Image Art	5	1	3	1	0	0	0	0
Music	4	0	2	2	0	0	0	0
Physics	22	10	9	3	0	0	0	0
Politics	11	4	1	6	0	0	0	0
Religious Studies	41	13	16	11	1	0	0	0
Sociology	21	4	7	8	2	0	0	0
Spanish	17	5	7	5	0	0	0	0
Sport/PE Studies	20	4	5	9	2	0	0	0

## High Achievers at A Level

### 4A\* at A level 13 pupils

Colquhoun Matthew	Lavery Caolan	Rogan Patrick
Doherty Conor	Magee Sarah	Ryan Flynn
Ho Jason	McCaffrey Declan	Venning Caoimhe
Hyndman Alan	Muldoon Joseph	
Kelly Charlie	Murphy Patrick	

### 3A\* + 1A at A Level 1 pupil

Johnston Lauren Mary
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### 1A\* + 3A at A level 2 pupils

Heatley Niamh	Jenkins Luke
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### 3A\* at A level 13 pupils

Campbell Nicola	Loughlin Caroline	Sloan Sarah
Elwood Clarke Ryan	McAteer Matthew	Varghese Amith
Graham Patrick	McCaffrey Tiarnan	Walsh Caolan
Grant Catherine	McDonnell Darragh	
Husband Megan	Simpson Charley	

### 2A\* + 1A at A level 14 pupils

Boyle Katie	Henry Fergal	O'Neill Sarah
Coyle Zoe	Kelly Mary-Kate	Reilly Nathan
Cummings Eoin	Kelly Nathan	Rooney Anna
Early Matthew	Lynch Marcus	Savage John
Harrison Donal	Murray Aodhan	

### 1A\* + 2A at A level 30 pupils

Abraham Joel Mathew	Forte Sarah	Mcllvenny Ronan
Aicken Sophie	Grant Olivia	McKeown Erin
Campbell Nuala	Kelly Rory	McKinney Claire
Cherian Elizabeth	Kennedy Reece	Mitchell Liam
Crawford Sarah	Kiely Maebh	Mullin-O'Hare Luca
Dawson Ethan	Linton Claire	O'Callaghan Shona
Duffy Diarmaid	Maguire Blaithin	Prenter Jack
Duffy Matt	McAtamney Meabh	Young Anna
Finnegan Meabh	McCambridge Sean	Young Sarah
Flynn Fiona	McCarthy Louise	Campbell Cristin

### 1A\*+ 1A+1B at A level 5 pupils

Harkin Julia	Murray Ross	Stevenson Daire
Hunter Caoimhe	Pelan Katie	

### 3A at A level 10 pupils

Crossey Ella	Jordan Matthew	Plumb Tiarna
Denny Alwin	Kerr Caitlin	Rainey Pearce
Dougan Mollie	Lavery Conor	
Horner Matthew	O'Neill Lorccan	

## AS Results 2019

	Year	% All pupils
<b>achieving 3+ A-C grades</b>	<b>2020</b>	100
	<b>2019</b>	85
	<b>2018</b>	73
	<b>2017</b>	75
	<b>2016</b>	78

### AS Level Results by Subject

Subject	Number Entered	Number of pupils entered achieving grades					
		A	B	C	D	E	U
<b>Art &amp; Design</b>	<b>5</b>	5	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Biology</b>	<b>49</b>	26	16	7	0	0	0
<b>Business Studies</b>	<b>30</b>	19	9	2	0	0	0
<b>Chemistry</b>	<b>42</b>	22	12	8	0	0	0
<b>Computer Studies</b>	<b>14</b>	8	5	1	0	0	0
<b>Design and Technology</b>	<b>17</b>	10	7	0	0	0	0
<b>Drama</b>	<b>15</b>	15	0	0	0	0	0
<b>English Literature</b>	<b>16</b>	7	5	4	0	0	0
<b>French</b>	<b>11</b>	7	4	0	0	0	0
<b>Geography</b>	<b>36</b>	21	11	4	0	0	0
<b>German</b>	<b>9</b>	6	3	0	0	0	0
<b>Health &amp; Social Care</b>	<b>12</b>	4	7	1	0	0	0
<b>History</b>	<b>35</b>	18	12	5	0	0	0
<b>Information Technology</b>	<b>18</b>	7	5	6	0	0	0
<b>Irish</b>	<b>5</b>	4	1	0	0	0	0
<b>Mathematics Further</b>	<b>10</b>	10	0	0	0	0	0
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>86</b>	65	16	5	0	0	0
<b>Physics</b>	<b>32</b>	21	9	2	0	0	0
<b>Politics</b>	<b>16</b>	5	8	3	0	0	0
<b>Religious Studies</b>	<b>64</b>	39	16	9	0	0	0
<b>Sociology</b>	<b>24</b>	10	10	4	0	0	0
<b>Spanish</b>	<b>11</b>	6	5	0	0	0	0
<b>Sports Studies</b>	<b>20</b>	10	5	5	0	0	0

## High Achievers at AS Level

### 4A            33 pupils

Birt Rosa	Hamill Siomha	McGurran Lucy
Burton Christian	Hamilton Jude	McKnight Jada
Canavan Mark	Herbert Fox Grace	Murphy Alanna
Cartland Jonah	Higgins Sarah	Murphy Shane
Conlon Finnbar	Keenan Erin	O'Boyle Joseph
Cummings Matthew	Leyden Aoife	Shearer Anna
Dixon David	Looney Peter	Shearer Ariane
Donnan James	Mallon Daire	Sonebi Anna
Doran Lucy	Marken Oliver	Taylor Cassie
Finnegan Pierce	McCann Aine	Toner Mark
Gilligan Orla	McErlean Anna	Wilson Anna

### 3A+ or 3A    34 pupils

Biging Loughran Daniel	Burke Niamh	McKay Benjamin
Carmichael James	Duffy Luke	McMahon Logan
Clenaghan Francis	Gorman Oisin	Robinson David
Finnegan Eve	Hughes Callum	Rodgers Laura
Glover Patrick	Kennedy Carl	Ryan Caoimhe
Gribbon Conor	Kennedy Ciara	Sesay Katie
Hamill Gareth	Lam Aimee	Venning Niamh
Lundy Beth	Maguire Connla	Watson Alex
Marron Alice	Maguire Rory	Whyte Keelan
McNama Niall	Male Jack	Wilson Mollie
Rodgers Aodhan	McCool Emma	
Thompson Niamh	McGeown Patrick	

### 2A+            38 pupils

Azar Roudy	Graham Michael	McCann Orlaith
Boyd Louis	Hanna Anya	McCarthy Anna
Breen Charlie	Higgins Hugh	McCrystal Olivia
Brennan Sean	Johnson Ethan	McNally Shea
Broderick Jack	Joyce Pearse	Moore Ethan
Bryson Lauren	Keane Carla	Nelson Stephen
Burns Fergal	Keating Evan	O'Connor Harry
Campbell Ulan Erin	Kennedy Olivia	O'Loughlin Myles
Carey Louise	Khalil Christine	Quattromano Giacomo
Carleton Reuben	Logue Jack	Rodgers Jonathan
Carville Paul	Matthews Riona	Sibi Sino
Duffy Ben	McAlister-Colacio Matthew	Walsh Shea
Duffy Joe	McCaffrey Anthony	

## GCSE Results by Subject

Subject	Number Entered	Number of pupils entered achieving grades						
		A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E
<b>Art &amp; Design</b>	<b>36</b>	8	16	4	3	5	0	0
<b>Biology</b>	<b>38</b>	7	10	9	6	6	0	0
<b>Business Studies</b>	<b>28</b>	7	11	7	1	1	1	0
<b>Chemistry</b>	<b>23</b>	9	6	7	1	0	0	0
<b>Computer Studies</b>	<b>37</b>	6	18	7	6	0	0	0
<b>Design &amp; Technology</b>	<b>46</b>	10	18	13	5	0	0	0
<b>Drama</b>	<b>19</b>	12	4	3	0	0	0	0
<b>English Language</b>	<b>185</b>	61	61	37	17	9	0	0
<b>English Literature</b>	<b>180</b>	57	55	36	17	15	0	0
<b>French</b>	<b>57</b>	22	14	13	2	4	2	0
<b>Geography</b>	<b>56</b>	25	18	9	2	2	0	0
<b>German</b>	<b>27</b>	10	7	4	3	2	1	0
<b>History</b>	<b>52</b>	20	20	10	2	0	0	0
<b>Home Economics</b>	<b>27</b>	2	12	7	4	2	0	0
<b>IT</b>	<b>13</b>	2	6	3	0	2	0	0
<b>Irish</b>	<b>18</b>	5	5	4	1	3	0	0
<b>Further Maths</b>	<b>83</b>	4	41	26	8	4	0	0
<b>Mathematics</b>	<b>100</b>	33	35	21	5	5	1	0
<b>Music</b>	<b>10</b>	4	4	1	0	1	0	0
<b>Physics</b>	<b>27</b>	11	10	4	0	2	0	0
<b>Religious Studies</b>	<b>185</b>	97	60	17	6	4	1	0
<b>Science DA 1</b>	<b>136</b>	66	33	22	10	5	0	0
<b>Science DA 2</b>	<b>136</b>	43	43	27	13	10	0	0
<b>Spanish</b>	<b>97</b>	33	27	22	7	8	0	0
<b>Sports Studies</b>	<b>35</b>	15	13	4	2	1	0	0

## High Achievers at GCSE

### 10+ A: 50 pupils

Name	A*	Name	A*	Name	A*
Austin Ciara	10	Gibbon Rachel	9	McCann Conor	7
Conlon Oisín	10	Hanly Lara	9	McParland James	7
Dabir Zoya	10	Hart Anna	9	Mullan Bronagh	7
Devlin Patrick	10	Larkin Aoibheann	9	Ward Ciaran	7
Gallagher Sophie	10	Mitchell Leona	9	McCann John	6
Graham Aodhan	10	Morgan Lucas	9	McConnell Ciarraí	6
Grant Oran	10	Ryan Louis	9	Rooney Aoife	6
Magee Cara	10	Babu Feby	8	Shibu Anusree	6
Mallon Anna	10	Crossey James	8	Hawkins Sophie	5
McBride Emma	10	Edwards Conor	8	Reel Emma	5
McCarthy Charlotte	10	Hayes Clodagh	8	Sajan Hredya	5
McGeown Sophie	10	Irvine Ellie	8	Wilson Dervla	5
Monaghan Rachel	10	Kelly Rebecca	8	Cowden Adam	4
Shahzad Minaahil	10	Marron Phoebe	8	Crossey Aimee	4
Toal Marianne	10	Pietrzekiewicz Mateusz	8	Sinu Riya	3
Corral Daniel	9	Horner Cormac	7	McLarnon Sam	1
Dairo Ven Angelo	9	Kerr Beth	7		

### 9 A: 26 pupils

Name	A*	Name	A*	Name	A*
Wade Lucy	8	McCooe John	5	Mallon Patrick	3
Barrie Olivia	7	Hughes Jennifer	4	McGurk Brian	3
Blaney Brendan	7	Morgan Cara	4	Christie Eoin	2
McAteer Conor	7	Overend Ethan	4	Jenkins Eva	2
McStravick Olivia	6	Pendleton Eoin	4	Prenter Pj	2
Murphy Conor	6	Rainey Mia	4	McGoldrick Jason	1
Ormerod Adam	6	Smyth Che	4	O'Boyle Matthew	1
Thompson Anna	6	Donnelly Madison	3	Sweeney Joseph	1
McBriarty Pearse	5	Keenan Conal Dominic	3		