



**Parkhall**  
INTEGRATED COLLEGE  
**Magazine 25-26**



## Our vision

To provide an inclusive, caring learning environment where we all feel valued and respected and are empowered to reach our full potential.

## Our core values



### Achievement

striving to be the best that we can be



### Community

contributing positively to our college and local community



### Kindness

being kind, helpful and polite in all we do



### Respect

respecting ourselves, each other, and our environment



### Responsibility

working hard, being committed, and taking responsibility for our own actions and development

## To help realise our vision we will:

- ✓ Place the core principles of Integrated Education at the heart of our college, through promoting equality, faith and values, parental involvement and social responsibility in all we do.
- ✓ Promote academic excellence through a challenging and ambitious curriculum and evidence-informed pedagogy.
- ✓ Give high quality pastoral care to meet individual needs and support the development of the well-being of our students.
- ✓ Offer a range of enrichment opportunities which develop life skills and character beyond the classroom.
- ✓ Provide high quality professional development for all our staff to ensure ongoing continuing personal and college improvement.

# Welcome



As we conclude the 2025–2026 academic year, we reflect with pride and gratitude on another successful year at Parkhall Integrated College. This magazine highlights the many achievements, experiences and moments that have strengthened our school community.

My sincere thanks go to the staff and students who contributed to this publication, and to the local businesses whose continued support is greatly appreciated.

We remain committed to helping every student strive for excellence while living out our core values of Achievement, Community, Kindness, Respect and Responsibility in all areas of school life. These values are evident in the classroom and beyond, particularly in our students' engagement in charity work and community initiatives.

The dedication of our staff, alongside the support of families, ensures a nurturing and inclusive environment where all can thrive. Together, we continue to work towards a school where everyone feels valued and empowered to reach their full potential.

I hope you enjoy the 2025–2026 edition of our annual magazine.

Best wishes.

**Mr N D Owen**  
Principal

Parkhall Integrated College  
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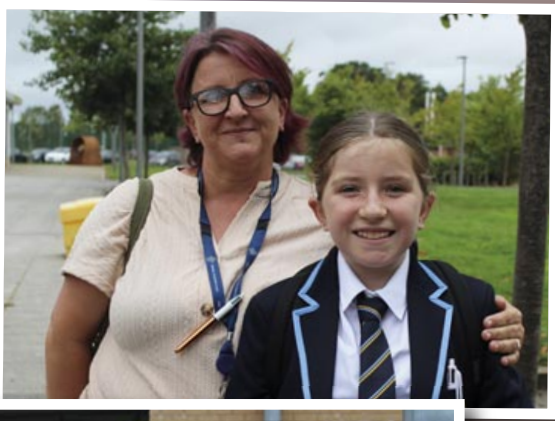


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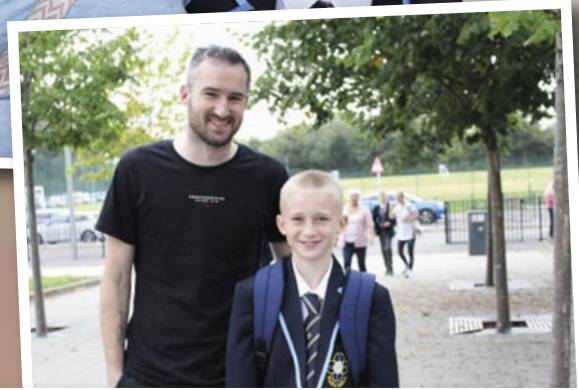


# YEAR 8 FIRST DAY









## Student success - Rugby

We were proud of Year 14 student, Sam Craig, who was awarded a place on the Ulster University Talented Athlete Programme. Sam had competed for Ulster in rugby and was recognised by Ulster University for his sporting ability.

As a result of his strong application, Sam received a reduced grade offer for his chosen course at Ulster University. He also gained access to sports support services, fitness programmes, merchandise and membership deals, along with a dedicated mentor during his time at Ulster University.

Well done, Sam.



## Student success - Darts

The school was delighted to share excellent news regarding Lee Shields, who continued his impressive form by qualifying for another prestigious darts event. Lee was selected to represent Northern Ireland at the 2026 JDC Academy Nations Cup in Scotland, earning his place as part of a twelve strong squad comprising eight boys and four girls. His selection followed a highly competitive qualification event, where he performed exceptionally well among the top forty eight junior players in Northern Ireland.

In addition to this achievement, Lee was also in a strong position to qualify for the 2026 Junior Darts Corporation World Championships later in the year. His consistent performances further secured him a place at the WDF World Youth Masters in Las Vegas—an outstanding accomplishment—although he was unfortunately unable to attend the event during the summer due to other commitments.

Warm congratulations were extended to Lee on his remarkable achievements, which reflected his dedication, talent, and continued success in the sport.



## Student success - Ice Skating

The school extended its congratulations to Tegan McKeown following an excellent performance at the BIS Opens in Sheffield. Competing at a higher level, Tegan achieved a new personal milestone, demonstrating dedication, perseverance and commitment to her sport.

This was a superb achievement, and the school expressed pride in Tegan's hard work and success.



## Honouring Remembrance Day

Flight Sergeant Charles Creighton (Year 13) represented his family and his squadron at the Royal British Legion Festival of Remembrance at the Royal Albert Hall.

He drew particular attention as he proudly wore the Legion d'Honneur medal, awarded by France to his great grandfather in recognition of his heroic service on D-Day.

Well done, Charles.



## Student success - Showjumping

Huge congratulations to Year 10 student Ellie Bingham, who, together with her pony Prada, achieved an outstanding victory by jumping her way to first place in the one-metre Danescroft Schools' showjumping competition.

A fantastic achievement — well done, Ellie and Prada!

## Student Success - Music

Congratulations to Reuben Goudy, who recently achieved success in his Grade 2 clarinet examination. This accomplishment reflects not only his growing musical ability but also the dedication and commitment he has shown throughout his rehearsals and practice sessions.

Reuben's progress has been evident over the past year, and passing this exam marks an important milestone in his musical journey. It is wonderful to see his hard work rewarded, and we look forward to following his continued development and future achievements.

Well done, Reuben.



## Student success - Gymnastics

Congratulations to year 8 student Daisy Booth, who represented Northern Ireland in the Loulé Cup in Portugal at the end of October. Well done, Daisy.

## Sporting success - Cricket

We were delighted to share the news that Marko Bates had been selected to represent Ireland at the ICC U19 Cricket World Cup in January 2026.

This outstanding achievement was a testament to Marko's hard work, dedication, and talent.



# Book Buddies Programme Launches with Record Sixth-Form Participation

We were delighted to announce the launch of the 2025 Book Buddies programme, which featured our largest-ever group of sixth-form volunteers.

Each week, selected Year 8 students spent an hour with their sixth-form book buddy, taking part in reading activities, sharing book discussions, and building meaningful connections across year groups. This initiative not only supported literacy development but also encouraged confidence and community through shared learning experiences.



## Year 10 Rewards Breakfast

As part of our ongoing rewards programme, Parkhall Integrated College was pleased to host a special breakfast celebration for a group of Year 10 students who had achieved the highest number of achievement points in their year group. Their positive attitude to learning, consistent effort, and strong commitment to our school values have been evident throughout the term.

The breakfast provided a wonderful opportunity to acknowledge their achievements in a relaxed and enjoyable setting. Staff were delighted to commend the students for their excellent work ethic and the example they continue to set for their peers. The event also offered students a chance to reflect on their progress and take pride in the dedication that earned them this recognition.

Well done to all those involved for their outstanding contributions and continued enthusiasm for school life.



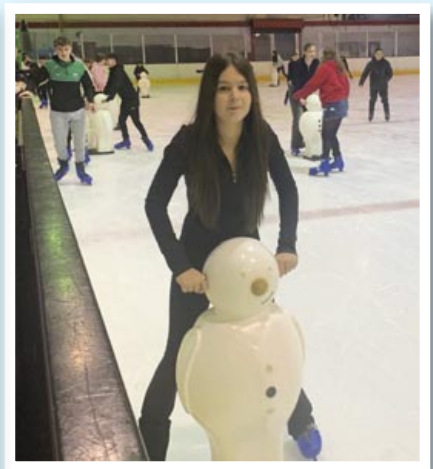
# Year 8 Rewards Trip to Dundonald International Ice Bowl

To celebrate the end of their first term, fifty eight outstanding Year 8 students enjoyed a fantastic day at the Dundonald International Ice Bowl.

These students earned their place on the trip through their achievement points, excellent conduct, and strong attendance since joining the college. It was a wonderful way to mark the end of the term.

This special event will recognise those who continue to make a positive contribution to school life—something we value greatly.

A huge thank you was extended to our local business partners, whose generous sponsorship made these rewards possible. Their support helps us celebrate success and encourage excellence every day.



# Parkhall Integrated College: A Centre of Excellence

Parkhall Integrated College was awarded the Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) and recognised as a Centre of Excellence for inclusion. This achievement followed a comprehensive process of self-evaluation and a detailed two-day assessment, which included meetings with staff, students, parents, and governors, lesson observations, and a thorough review of evidence.



# Year 14 University Success

Congratulations to Ekaterina in Year 14, who received an offer of a scholarship from the University of Stirling shortly before the end of the autumn term. Her outstanding personal statement and UCAS application were key to securing this remarkable achievement.

What a wonderful Christmas surprise and an excellent start to her future studies.



# Fight2Thrive

Fight2Thrive was delivered as a six week resilience programme that used boxing and workshops as a powerful tool to support young people in becoming the best version of themselves. The social enterprise was founded by former professional boxer and Commonwealth Games silver medallist Steven Ward.

Grounded in the belief that boxing helped to develop resilience, emotional regulation and accountability, the programme offered a safe, supportive and enjoyable environment in which participants could channel their emotions positively. Through a combination of uplifting discussion and structured physical activity, students were encouraged to build confidence, self-awareness and perseverance.

The Fight2Thrive programme provided an energising and empowering experience, supporting students' wellbeing and personal growth through purposeful challenge and positive engagement.



## Digital Media Forum

Parkhall Integrated College was delighted to host the Digital Media Forum in collaboration with Antrim Chamber of Commerce. The event provided students with the opportunity to work alongside business representatives and explore how digital technology and AI were being used to support a range of modern industries and services.

During the session, students presented their ideas for the use of AI across various job sectors and listened to a panel discussion focused on enhancing future career pathways. They also had the chance to try out several AI technologies, including robot servers from Belfast International Airport and a skinage analysis tool provided by Anita's Health and Beauty Clinic.

Thank you to everyone involved for delivering such an informative and thoroughly enjoyable experience for our students.



## Steve's Remarkable Journey

We congratulate Steve, one of our dedicated LSAs, embarked on an extraordinary challenge, walking the equivalent of crossing Ireland one hundred times. His efforts were in support of Women's Aid ABCLN, a charity committed to helping women affected by abuse. Steve's journey not only raised vital funds but also brought attention to an important cause. The challenge concluded with a community walk, joined by colleagues and students, celebrating solidarity and support.



## Sweet Success for Fairtrade

Our senior prefects launched a vibrant Fairtrade chocolate stall, offering a tempting selection from Divine Chocolate, a company committed to ethical sourcing.

The team worked tirelessly to promote and sell the delicious treats, raising an impressive total of £231.25. All proceeds were donated directly to charity, supporting Fairtrade initiatives and helping to make a real difference in communities around the world.

Well done to everyone involved for their dedication and enthusiasm in championing such a worthy cause!



## Macmillan Coffee Morning

Our Sixth Form charity committee was delighted to present Mrs Jill Stubbs from the Antrim Macmillan Cancer Support Group with a cheque for £445. This fantastic total was raised at our Sixth Form and staff coffee mornings, and we are grateful to everyone who contributed.



## A Fond Farewell to Mrs Julie McCullough

We bid a fond farewell to Mrs Julie McCullough, who had been an integral part of the Parkhall Integrated College community for many years. Mrs McCullough first taught at the then Parkhall College from 1994 to 2000, before returning in September 2005 and serving until November 2025.

Throughout her time with us, Mrs McCullough fulfilled many roles. She taught mathematics, led the department as Head of Mathematics, and, more recently, made a significant impact as our Autism Support Coordinator. In addition to her teaching and leadership responsibilities, she was a valued member of our Scripture Union team and dedicated her time to running the Aspire afterschool club.

Her commitment, kindness, and expertise were deeply appreciated by staff, students, and the wider school community. We wished Mrs McCullough every success and happiness as she relocated with her family to Donegal.



## Student Success

Congratulations to Year 8 student Josephine McKay Dunne, who dedicated the month of September to fundraising for Sport Relief. Setting herself the ambitious target of swimming 15 kilometres and raising £150, Josephine went above and beyond—completing an impressive 16.725 kilometres and raising £450.

An outstanding achievement—well done, Josephine!



# The Hive

The Hive was established as a new ASDfriendly space within the school. Designed to be welcoming and supportive, it provided a base for group work sessions as well as the Aspire after-school club.

The name The Hive was chosen with the help of students, reflecting a sense of community and collaboration. The logo was designed by Year 14 student Sam Brown, whose creativity helped bring the space's concept and identity to life.

The school expressed great pride in the students who contributed to shaping The Hive, creating a space that supported inclusion, wellbeing and positive relationships.



## Love Your Library Day Brings Our School Community Together

Congratulations to Year 8 student Josephine McKay Dunne, who dedicated the month of September to fundraising for Sport Relief. Setting herself the ambitious target of swimming 15 kilometres and raising £150, Josephine went above and beyond—completing an impressive 16.725 kilometres and raising £450.





# World Mental Health Day 2025

To mark World Mental Health Day 2025, Parkhall Integrated College took meaningful steps to raise awareness and promote positive well-being among students. Our school nurse, Orlaith, led the initiative by delivering a short presentation in classes and sharing an informative video clip focused on mental health and simple, practical strategies to support everyday well-being.

An information stand was also set up within the school, offering students access to helpful resources and guidance to further support their mental health journey.

We extend our sincere thanks to Orlaith for organising these valuable activities.

The school expressed great pride in the students who contributed to shaping The Hive, creating a space that supported inclusion, wellbeing and positive relationships.

MENTAL  
HEALTH  
MATTERS.  
♥



# The Hub Coffee Morning

Our Behaviour Support Assistants - Janette, Linda, and Shauna - welcomed staff and students to a coffee morning in The Hub. It was wonderful to see such strong staff support, and the event provided a valuable opportunity to celebrate the positive contributions made by Hub students to school life.

The morning created a warm, inclusive atmosphere, allowing visitors to engage with the students and appreciate the hard work taking place at The Hub.



**Hub Coffee Morning**  
**Brew Monday - 19th January**  
 Please join us for a cuppa and cake during junior and senior break in The Hub.



# Parkhall Integrated College Community Christmas Party

Parkhall Integrated College was delighted to open its doors on Wednesday, 17 December, for its fifth annual Community Christmas Party, an event that had become a cherished tradition, bringing together generations from across Antrim to celebrate the spirit of the season.

The college was filled with festive warmth as guests from throughout the community joined in the occasion. Among those attending were residents from Clonlee and Antrim Care Homes, seventy-eight students and staff from Steeple Nursery School, members of the school choir and orchestra, representatives from the Board of Governors, the Mayor of Antrim, a range of political representatives, and local clergy.

The afternoon was alive with music, laughter, and Christmas cheer. Guests enjoyed a heartfelt programme of carols performed by the Parkhall Integrated College choir, followed by charming seasonal performances from the seventy-eight students of Steeple Nursery School, who captured the hearts of everyone present.

A delicious selection of food and refreshments helped keep the celebrations in full swing, and excitement grew with a surprise visit from a very special guest all the way from the North Pole—much to the delight of both children and adults.

Parkhall Integrated College expressed sincere gratitude to the generous supporters, Yew Tree Butchery and Deli and Ace Cabs, whose contributions helped ensure the afternoon ran smoothly and provided a warm, welcoming environment for all.

It was truly memorable to see so many generations of the Antrim community gathered under one roof, sharing stories, laughter, and the joy of Christmas. Events such as this highlighted the importance of connection and the happiness that comes from celebrating together as a community.





# Christmas Hampers

Once again, Parkhall Integrated College was delighted to support Antrim Foodbank through its annual Christmas food collection. As shown in the photographs, the Parkhall community's generosity was as impressive as ever.

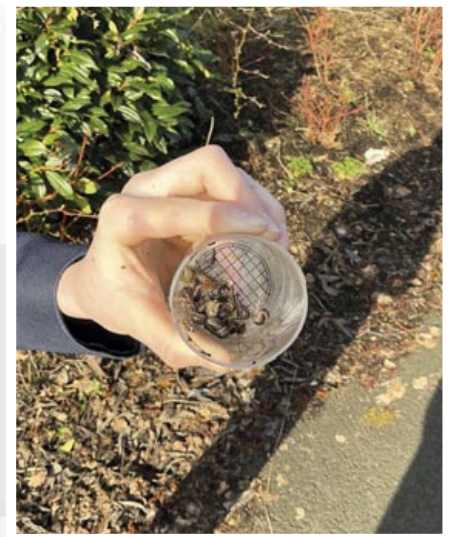
Sincere thanks to everyone who contributed and helped make a positive difference to families in need.



# Outdoor Learning

Students from 8OR and 10OR took part in an engaging outdoor learning session led by Jordan from the RSPB. During the session, students learned about minibeasts and the vital role they play in maintaining healthy, biodiverse gardens.

After exploring the school grounds in search of a variety of minibeasts, the classes worked collaboratively to build a bug hotel beside the school greenhouse. The session concluded with students sowing seeds across the area, helping create a welcoming habitat where insects could live, thrive, and support pollination.



# Selection Box Appeal

On the final day of the autumn term, Parkhall Integrated College had the pleasure of delivering 338 selection boxes to a range of groups, organisations, and community services in the local area.

The donations were distributed as follows:

- Children’s A&E – 50 boxes
- Fresh Minds Education – 15 boxes
- Riverside Special School – 145 boxes
- All About Us ASD Teens – 30 boxes
- Spring Meadows Children’s Home – 10 boxes
- Scripture Union – 53 boxes
- Mind You Social and Recreational Hub – 30 boxes
- Antrim Community Support Hub – 15 boxes

Total distributed: 338 selection boxes

A heartfelt thank you goes to all the students and parents of Parkhall Integrated College whose generosity made this appeal such a success. A small act of kindness truly goes a long way.



# Barcelona Trip

Students took part in a highly successful educational trip to Barcelona, enjoying a rich blend of cultural exploration, curriculum linked learning and memorable experiences.

Following arrival in Spain, the group began the visit with a panoramic tour of the city, taking in wellknown landmarks including Plaça d'Espanya, the Olympic Stadium and a scenic ride on the Montjuïc cable car, which offered impressive views across Barcelona.

Throughout the trip, students followed a carefully planned itinerary that balanced learning with enjoyment. Highlights included a visit to the Barcelona Aquarium, where students learned about marine life and biodiversity, and Parc Güell, Gaudí's vibrant and imaginative masterpiece, which provided an ideal setting for lunch and reflection. A visit to the CosmoCaixa Science Museum was another memorable experience, inspiring curiosity through its interactive exhibits.

One day was dedicated to a full programme at Port Aventura Theme Park, followed by a relaxed evening of bowling. On the final day, students visited the iconic La Sagrada Familia and took part in a guided tour that enhanced their understanding of Gaudí's architecture and its cultural significance.





# New York Trip

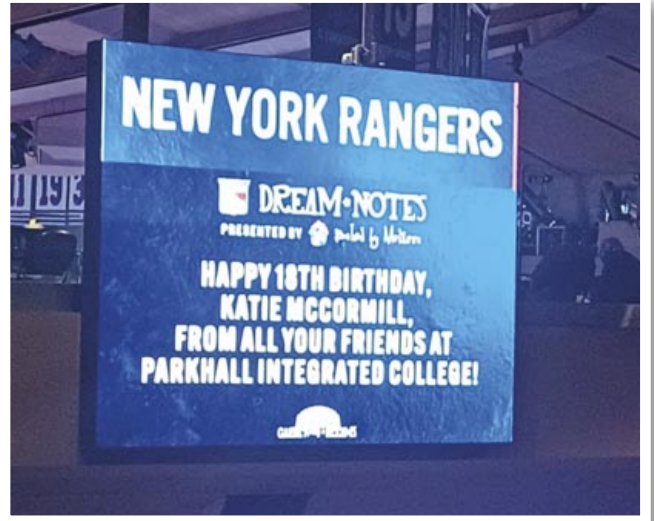
Our sixth form students had an unforgettable six-day adventure to New York City, enriched by learning, culture, and moments that would be remembered for years to come. From the early morning departure for Dublin, excitement was evident, with many students experiencing their first long haul journey and their first glimpse of the iconic Manhattan skyline.

Highlights included absorbing the vibrant energy of Times Square, admiring the views from the Empire State Building, and enjoying a thrilling NHL ice hockey game at Madison Square Garden. Students gained valuable insight into American history through visits to the Statue of Liberty, Ellis Island, and the 9/11 Memorial, where they reflected thoughtfully on the powerful stories behind these iconic sites.

A Midtown walking tour brought landmarks such as Grand Central Station, New York's Public Library, and Central Park to life, while evenings spent at Ellen's Stardust Diner and a spectacular performance of Wicked offered memorable cultural experiences. A visit to Jersey Gardens, along with free time exploring Chelsea Market and Times Square, completed the itinerary.

Throughout the trip, the students represented the school with distinction, demonstrating engagement, respect, and enthusiasm at every stage. It was a pleasure to share such a remarkable experience with them.





## Ski Trip

Our annual ski trip took place in January. It was clearly an unforgettable week in the mountains. The group enjoyed a wonderful blend of crisp alpine air, breathtaking scenery, and excellent skiing conditions, making each day a new adventure.

Throughout the trip, students embraced every opportunity the slopes offered. Many beginners made remarkable progress, growing in confidence as they mastered new skills and navigated their first runs. More experienced skiers also rose to the challenge, tackling a variety of routes and pushing themselves to improve technique and control. Staff were equally impressed by the determination, teamwork, and enthusiasm shown across the group.

Beyond the skiing itself, the trip offered students a valuable opportunity to build friendships, try something new, and develop resilience in a fun and supportive environment. Evening activities and shared mealtimes helped strengthen bonds within the group, creating memories that will undoubtedly stay with them for many years.



# Dave Pettard Photography

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Weddings

Formals

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'Emma's Diary' official baby  
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# Year 14 Business Enrichment Students Fundraise Creatively

Our Year 14 Business Enrichment group organised a “Bring Anything but a Bag Day” as part of their fundraising efforts for their new business venture. Students from Years 13 and 14 took part, arriving with a wide variety of creative and entertaining alternatives to school bags. Even the teachers joined in the fun.



# Saphara Partnership Update

The Year 13 Saphara team attended a collaborative meeting at Dominican College, Belfast, alongside students from Dominican College, St Malachy's College, and The Boys' Model. Saphara is a Northern Ireland-based charity dedicated to transforming lives through education, supporting newcomer children locally and marginalised communities in India.

During the meeting, students worked in mixed teams, created name badges, and explored their personal strengths—skills that will support them in future leadership roles. They also learned about Saphara's impactful work in India, including supporting girls' education and helping schools grow from enrolments of 20 students to well over 1,000.

The team began developing fundraising ideas to support this important cause, with more activities to come. Together, our students continued to embrace the challenge to Be the Change both locally and globally



# Saphara Partnership Update

On Tuesday, 20 January, Parkhall Integrated College hosted the second Saphara workshop for the Belfast team, which included students from St Malachy's, Dominican College, and The Boys' Model.

Working in teams, students discussed poverty in India and examined five different children's profiles before deciding which child they would prioritise for access to education. This activity prompted thoughtful debate, careful reasoning, and meaningful reflection on the challenges many young people around the world face.

Students also planned for the upcoming newcomer day in June, designing activities for the children and agreeing on their individual roles within the team. There was plenty of fun as they tested out physical activities, including dodgeball, parachute games, and Simon Says.

Further team-building tasks challenged their coordination and broadened their knowledge of other countries. The workshop concluded with a shared reading of the poem Home, a powerful reminder that leaving one's country is rarely a choice.



## Running for a Cause: Year 13 Fundraising Achievement

Five Year 13 students took part in the relay event of the Belfast Marathon to raise funds for the local charity ASCERT. Through their dedication and commitment, the students successfully supported an organisation that works across Northern Ireland to assist young people, families, and adults affected by issues relating to alcohol, substance use, and mental health. ASCERT also provides vital services in the areas of prevention, early intervention, training, and recovery.

Dillon, Mark, Sam, Charles, and Jack trained diligently for the event and their hard work paid off, as they raised over £1,000 for the charity. Their efforts were a credit to themselves and the wider school community, and their fundraising success was a testament to their generosity and determination.



## PTA Quiz Night

The inaugural Parent/Teacher Association table quiz was held at Starbucks in Antrim and proved to be a very enjoyable and successful evening. The event raised a total of £197 towards the PTA's minibus fund. Sincere thanks are extended to everyone who attended, supported the event, and took part in the quiz. The evening highlighted the strong sense of community within the school, and it is hoped that this quiz night will become a regular and much anticipated fixture in the school's fundraising calendar.



# Creative Connections Cluster Activity 1

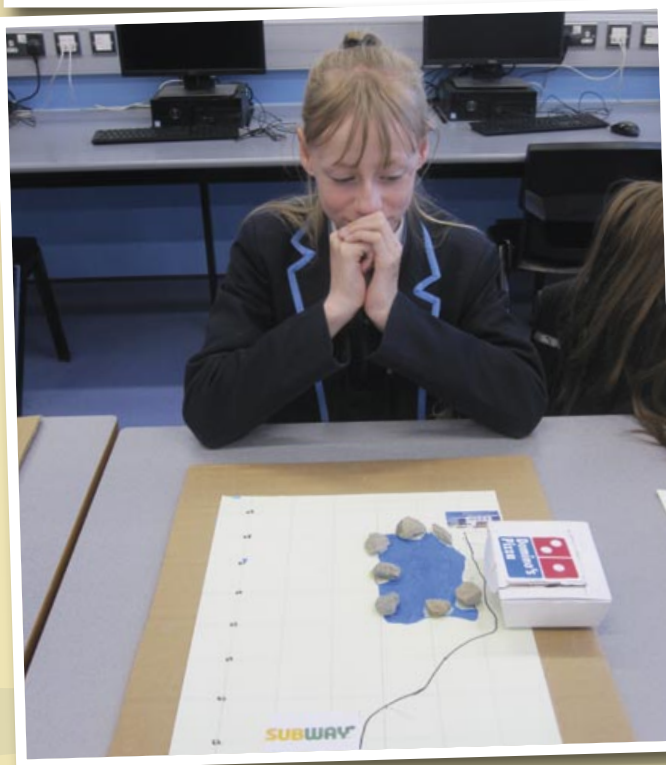
Some Year 8 and 9 students participated in a Creative Connections Cluster, using creative approaches to support and develop their Geography mapmaking skills. As part of this work, students from Scoil na gCailíní in Castleblayney visited the school, and students also had the opportunity to visit their partner school.

The exchange provided a valuable and enjoyable learning experience for all involved and took place on a day that allowed students to make the most of the shared activities.



# Creative Connections Cluster Activity 2

Students across Key Stage 3 took part in engaging Creative Connections activities, using juggling and magic to support and enhance their learning in mathematics. These hands on sessions helped bring mathematical concepts to life, while developing confidence, creativity and problem solving skills in a fun and memorable way.



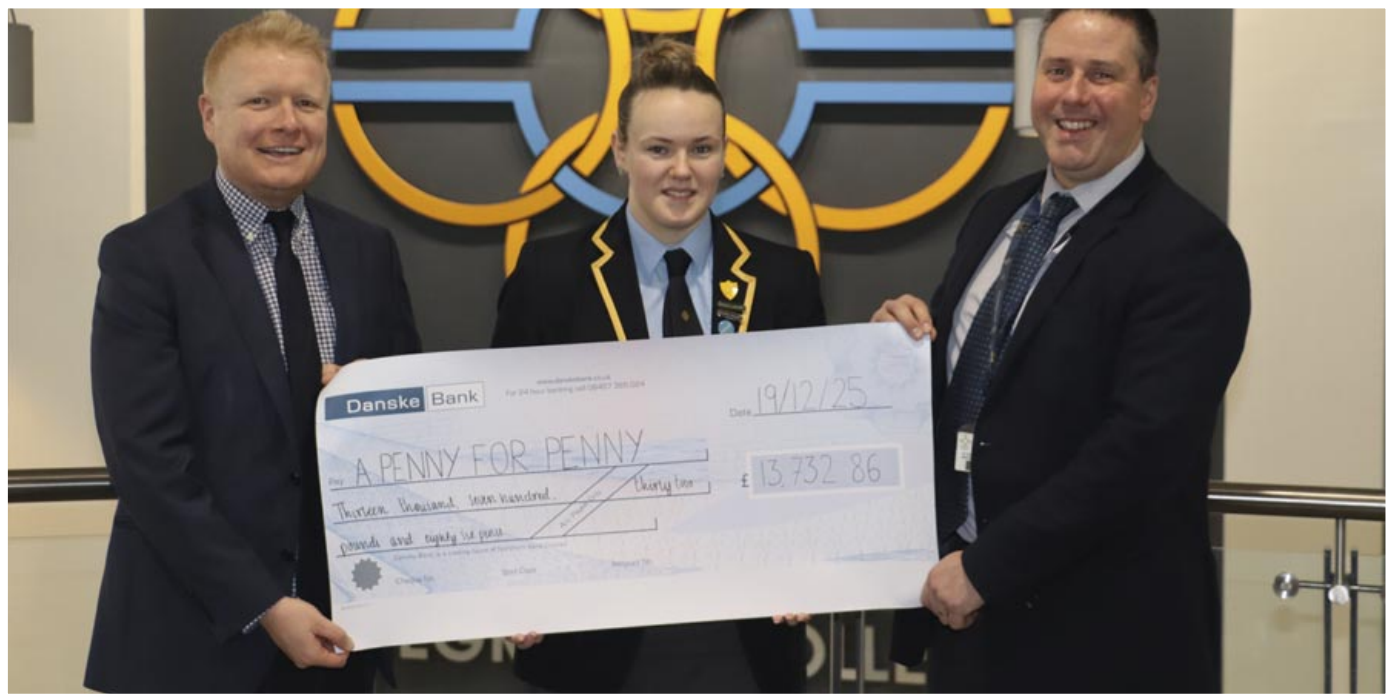
# Student Charity Fundraising

Bethany Park of 14C continued her outstanding fundraising efforts in support of the charities Just4Children and A Penny for Penny.

Just4Children provides vital support for Penny, the daughter of Mr and Mrs Cunningham. Demonstrating remarkable dedication, Bethany organised a charity steak night at the Ballymena Livestock Market in October, followed by a festive afternoon tea on Saturday 13 December 2025.

Together, these events raised an incredible total of £13,732.86.

Well done, Bethany, on this exceptional achievement and for making such a meaningful difference to others.



## Take 5 Ambassadors

Our Take 5 Ambassadors worked exceptionally hard as part of their ongoing Acts of Kindness initiative. This formed one of the key Take 5 steps they committed to throughout the year, promoting wellbeing, compassion, and a strong sense of community across the school.

In partnership with Karen, the ambassadors thoughtfully created small gifts for staff and students, taking great care to ensure each gesture felt meaningful. Their dedication, creativity, and genuine desire to make a positive impact created a warm, uplifting atmosphere at the school.

We remained incredibly proud of their efforts and of the kindness they continued to share each day.

Well done, Bethany, on this exceptional achievement and for making such a meaningful difference to others.



## Pickleball at Parkhall Integrated College

We welcomed the Community Sports Network into the college as part of a powerful programme focused on ending violence against women and girls, using sport as a meaningful tool for engagement. During their visit, some of our students had the opportunity to try pickleball—and they thoroughly enjoyed it.

White Ribbon worked alongside this initiative and joined us to deliver impactful workshops with our Year 10 and Year 11 groups, raising awareness and promoting positive change within our school community.



## Parkhall Integrated College Achieved Bronze Rights Respecting School Award

Parkhall Integrated College was awarded the Bronze Rights Respecting School Award by UNICEF UK. This accomplishment reflected the school's commitment to creating a safe, inclusive, and respectful environment where the rights of every child were valued and upheld. The award represented an important milestone in the college's ongoing journey to embed children's rights at the heart of its ethos and daily practice.



## White Ribbon

Parkhall Integrated College was pleased to welcome representatives from White Ribbon into the school to deliver a programme focused on preventing violence against women.

White Ribbon is a global movement and charity dedicated to ending violence against women and girls. The organisation works closely with men and boys, promoting positive attitudes and encouraging safer, more respectful communities.

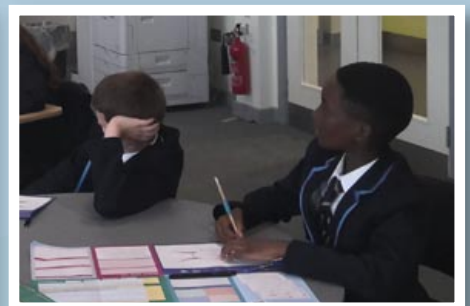
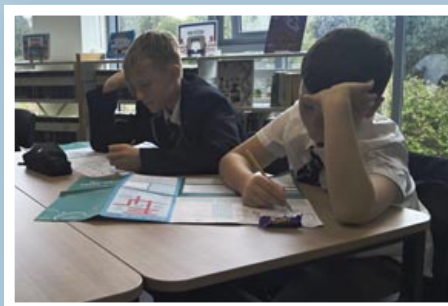
As part of this ongoing initiative, White Ribbon worked with a group of Year 10 boys and was also scheduled to deliver sessions to our Year 11 boys. The programme offered valuable learning opportunities and helped raise awareness of the importance of respect, responsibility, and positive action.



# Year 8 Embrace Study Success with Learn Spark

Our Year 8 students took part in an inspiring study skills workshop led by Learn Spark. The session introduced them to a range of effective learning strategies, including the value of creating an optimal study environment, the use of powerful encoding techniques, and methods for identifying key information within complex texts.

The enthusiasm and engagement shown by our students throughout the workshop were truly commendable. They left the session energised and equipped with practical tools to support their academic journey. A huge well done to Year 8 for their positive attitude and eagerness to learn.



## Students Represent at Northern Ireland Green Skills Conference

Our Head Boy, Rowan, and Head Girl, Bethany, were honoured to attend the Northern Ireland Green Skills Conference, held at the Europa Hotel. The event brought together business leaders, representatives from Ulster University, and employers to explore the future of sustainability and green innovation.

Rowan and Bethany actively participated in discussions and made a strong impression during a quick-fire Q&A session with Tina Calder, where they posed thoughtful questions on sustainability and environmental responsibility.

Congratulations to both students for representing the school with confidence and professionalism at this important event.



## Exploring Future Pathways in STEM

Year 10 Students took part in a workshop delivered by Workplus, designed to highlight the importance of STEM in everyday life and to encourage students to consider STEM-related career paths. The session explored how technology and innovation can make a positive difference in others' lives, prompting students to consider the opportunities available to them in science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.



## Nonsmoking Day

The school nurse promoted awareness of the dangers and risks associated with smoking and vaping as part of Nonsmoking Day activities. A health promotion stand was set up to provide students with informative leaflets, visual displays and the opportunity to ask questions about the health effects of smoking and vaping.

Key messages focusing on making healthy choices and avoiding tobacco and vaping products were also shared with students during registration. The initiative supported students in developing greater awareness and understanding of the importance of positive lifestyle choices.



# Smashed Live: Year 9 Students Confront the Realities of Underage Drinking

Year 9 students had plenty to reflect on as they took part in Smashed Live, an award-winning international programme that used drama, discussion, and real-life stories to address the risks associated with underage drinking. The performance, delivered with energy and emotional depth, provided far more than a traditional talk. It created a powerful space for young people to consider the consequences of risky behaviour and to think carefully about the choices they make during their teenage years.

The production followed the story of three teenagers whose night out quickly spiralled out of control once alcohol became involved. Through relatable characters and authentic dialogue, students saw how seemingly harmless decisions could lead to harm, regret, and long-term impact. The use of live theatre kept the audience fully engaged, with reactions ranging from laughter to moments of thoughtful silence as the scenarios unfolded.

What truly set Smashed Live apart, however, was the follow-up workshop. The actors led an interactive session that encouraged students to unpack what they had witnessed and to explore the pressures often surrounding alcohol use. Year 9 students discussed peer influence, reputation, social media expectations, and common myths about drinking. The performers also highlighted support networks and reinforced that choosing to say “no” is both acceptable and respected.

By using storytelling rather than fear-based tactics, Smashed Live delivered its message in a way that resonated strongly with students. The event also sparked meaningful conversations about friendship, responsibility, and looking out for one another. This initiative supported the school’s ongoing commitment to safeguarding and wellbeing, helping students develop the confidence to make informed, responsible decisions both inside and beyond the classroom.

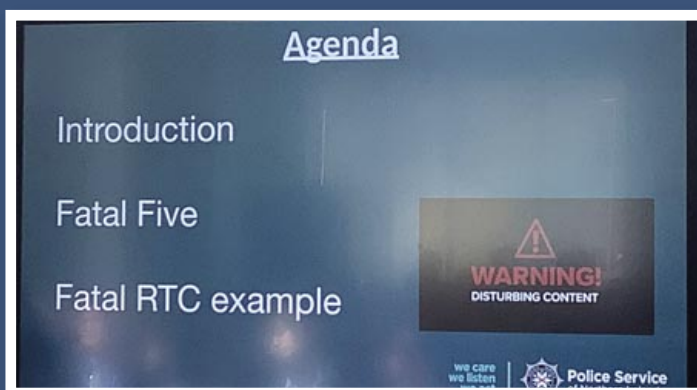


## PSNI Roadsafe

Year 13 students received a visit from Constable Dumigan from the PSNI Road Education Department. Students were given the opportunity to view videos and examine statistics relating to deaths on Northern Ireland's roads, drink-driving, the use of electronic devices in cars, the importance of wearing seatbelts, careless driving, and speeding. Constable Dumigan also presented several hard-hitting TV adverts highlighting the dangers of careless driving and excessive speed, and shared a video and information relating to a serious road traffic accident that occurred in Belfast in 2018.

As there were several new drivers and many students learning to drive, the session proved highly beneficial. Students listened attentively and engaged fully throughout.

At the end of the session, students were invited to ask questions, many of which were thoughtful and mature. Students were surprised to learn that police officers, both on and off duty, had been caught speeding, and also learned about the importance of not flashing headlights at oncoming vehicles to warn them of speed cameras.



# Student Council Reviews Attendance Initiatives

The Student Council recently met to continue their work on promoting excellent attendance across Parkhall Integrated College. The discussion focused on the school's attendance strategy and the rewards programme designed to recognise and celebrate students who show a strong commitment to regular attendance.

We extend our thanks to our Student Council members for their dedication and thoughtful contributions. Their insights played an important role in our development and refinement of our attendance initiatives.



# Student Council Discussed Uniform Policy

The Student Council at Parkhall Integrated College convened to discuss important school matters and to contribute to the ongoing review of the school uniform policy. Peter from Wallace's Uniforms joined the meeting and engaged students in a productive conversation about how the uniform meets the needs and preferences of our school community.

The discussion provided a valuable opportunity for student voices to be heard as part of this collaborative review.



# Year 11 LLW Workshop – Democracy and Active Participation

Year 11 LLW classes took part in an inspiring workshop on Democracy and Active Participation, delivered by Fiona Payne, Education Officer for the UK Parliament. During the session, students explored key features of democracy—representation, accountability, and rights—and discovered practical ways to make their voices heard, including voting, petitions, and engaging with the Youth Parliament.

The workshop was designed to promote awareness of democratic principles and to encourage active civic participation. It aimed to equip students with the knowledge and tools needed to engage effectively in democratic processes. Empowering young people to shape the future begins with understanding how democracy works, and this session played an important role in fostering that understanding.



# Student Leaders Take Part in COP30 Climate Discussions

While the UN Climate Change Conference (COP30) was taking place in Brazil, our head girl and head boy had the opportunity to join more than eighty students from local schools for their own climate discussions at the COP30 event held at Belfast Castle, stepping into the roles of young leaders.

Bethany and Rowan met with other student leaders to explore their responsibilities in promoting sustainability. They adopted the role of activists, challenging representatives of other countries on their environmental actions and their contributions to global warming.

Positive environmental change often begins with young people who are ready to lead with passion and purpose. Stepping into leadership means taking responsibility for the world around us—protecting nature, promoting sustainable practices, and inspiring others to make environmentally responsible choices. Well done to both Bethany and Rowan.





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## Junior Leadership Team take part in the Project Pioneer Team

The Junior Student Leadership Team came together to launch their final project of the academic year in partnership with The Project Pioneer Team. During the session, students engaged in thoughtful discussion around the issues that mattered most in society and agreed on clear expectations for working together as they began this six week project. A key focus of the meeting was the development of a student charter, with students considering its purpose, core values and design. The team demonstrated enthusiasm, creativity and a strong sense of responsibility, establishing a solid foundation for what was expected to be an inspiring and impactful project.



## Senior Prefect Leadership Team

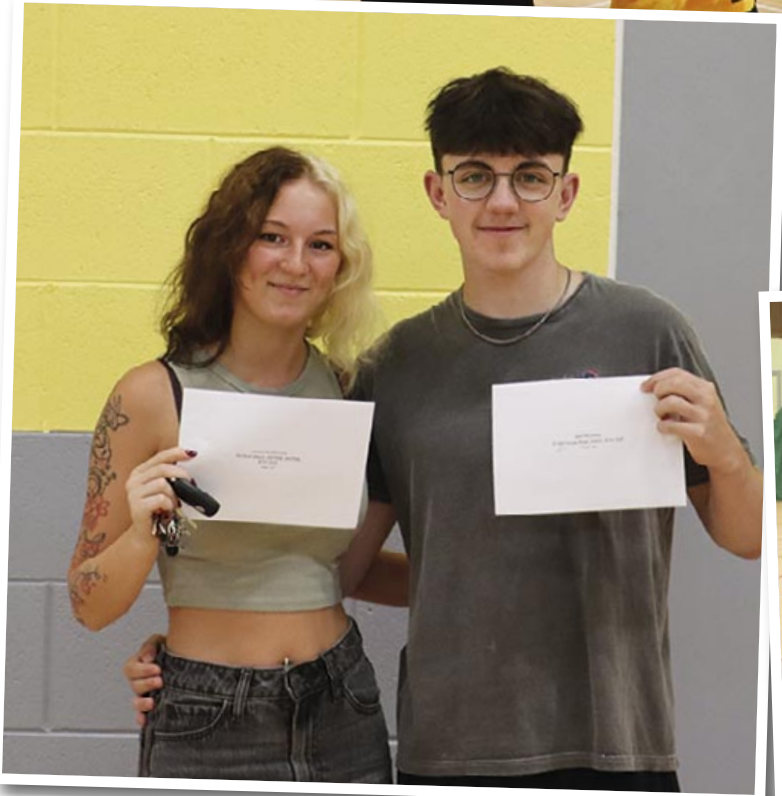
The school announced the appointment of the new Senior Prefect Leadership Team for the 2026–2027 academic year. Dillon Fee was appointed Head Boy, supported by Sam Lewis as Deputy Head Boy. Emily Wray was named Head Girl, with Jessica McQuillan appointed as Deputy Head Girl.

The leadership team was further strengthened by a committed group of Senior Prefects. All candidates underwent a rigorous recruitment process and demonstrated a high standard of performance throughout the interview stage.

The school expressed its best wishes to the entire team as they prepared to take up their new roles. Their dedication, character and leadership potential were a source of great pride, and the year ahead was anticipated with confidence and enthusiasm.



# A-Level results



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# GCSE Results





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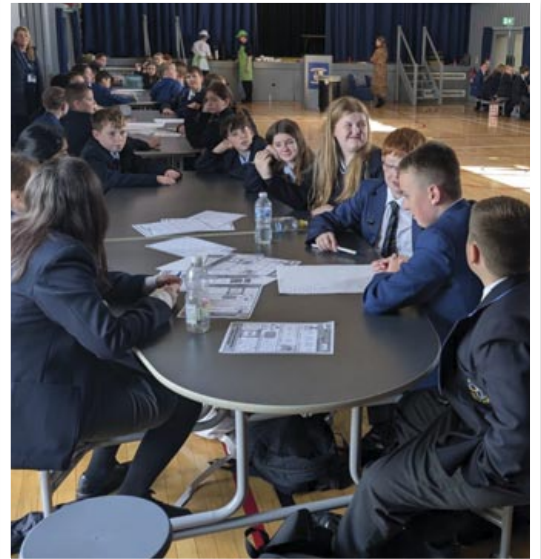


# Year 8 Begin Shared Education Journey

In September, our Year 8 students participated in their first shared educational activity of the academic year.

Collaborating with peers from Antrim Grammar School and St. Benedict's College, the session focused on the transition from primary to post-primary education and the emotions that often accompany this significant change.

Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to meet new friends, reconnect with familiar faces, and learn practical strategies for managing their feelings in different situations. It was a valuable experience that encouraged reflection, empathy, and personal growth.



## Shared Education - October

Last October, some of our Year 8 students took part in a Shared Education team-building day alongside students from our partner schools, Antrim Grammar School and St Benedict's College.

The event gave students the opportunity to express their creativity, challenge their problem solving abilities, and develop their teamwork skills. Our Shared Education programme is built around the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing initiative, which is embedded across all three schools.

It was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, and everyone involved is looking forward to meeting again for future sessions.





## Shared Education

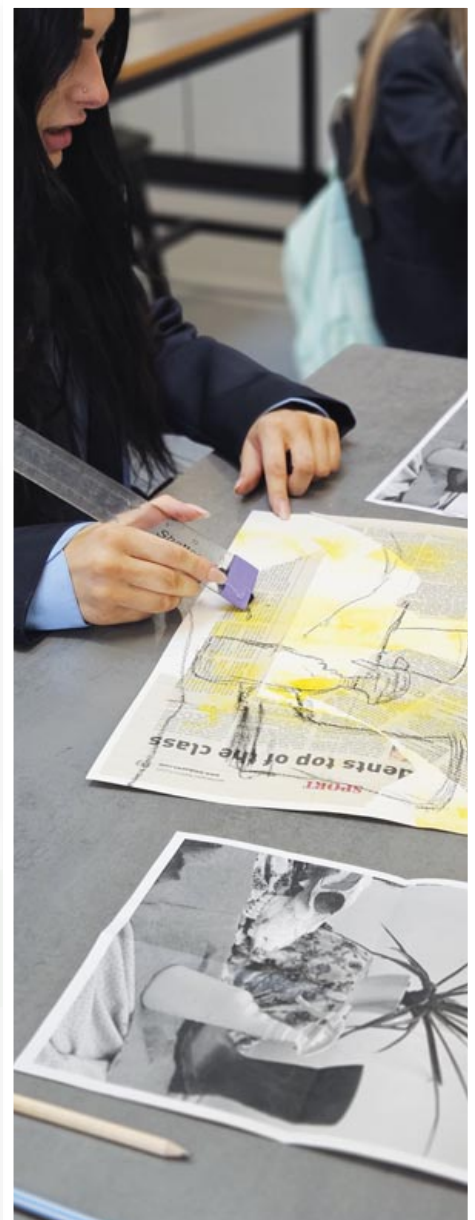
Year 8 students joined their partnership schools, Antrim Grammar School and St. Benedict's College, for a Take 5 Be Active Day as part of the shared education programme. Students participated in a game of three halves, rotating between football, rugby and Gaelic football, representing key sports from each partnership school. The day provided an excellent opportunity for students to remain active, develop new skills, reconnect with friends and enjoy outdoor activities.



# Year 11 GCSE Artists

Earlier this academic year, our Year 11 GCSE Art students explored a range of experimental drawing techniques, with a particular focus on creative risk-taking and developing a looser, more expressive style. As part of this work, they participated in a gestural drawing workshop, producing rapid sketches that captured the movement and character of still-life objects.

Inspired by the bold, energetic mark-making of Jean Michel Basquiat, students continued to build their confidence and technical skills in line with the CCEA GCSE Art and Design specification.



# Ceramic tile design

Year 10 Art and Design students produced ceramic tile designs inspired by the stylistic techniques of the American Pop artist Roy Lichtenstein. Throughout the unit, students explored bold lines, graphic imagery and distinctive colour choices characteristic of Lichtenstein's work.

As shown in the selection of images, students engaged enthusiastically with the ceramic process and demonstrated creativity and care in their designs. Following the initial sculpting stage, the tiles were prepared for firing in the school kiln before students painted their final responses using Lichtenstein's signature colour palette and techniques.

This project provided students with valuable experience of working with clay while deepening their understanding of Pop Art and artistic processes.



## Year 12 Office and Retail Students Complete Assessment

Our Year 12 Office and Retail class completed an assessment in which they interviewed a range of retail employees. The students visited several outlets in The Junction, gaining valuable insight into the world of customer service and exploring the skills required in the industry.



## Year 14 Business Enrichment Winners

We were delighted to share the exciting news that our Year 14 Business Enrichment group achieved exceptional success during their trading day at St George's Market with Young Enterprise. Their business, Parkhall Apprentices, not only generated an impressive profit but also received the Special Recognition Award in acknowledgment of their hard work and professionalism.



## The Tenner Club

Members of the Year 10 Tenner Club successfully traded at the Christmas carol service. They offered a selection of calendars, bracelets, and tree decorations for sale and were delighted with the excellent volume of purchases they achieved.



## Business Enrichment

Our Year 14 Business Enrichment class, Parkhall Associates, celebrated another impressive achievement by competing against schools from across Northern Ireland at the Young Enterprise Trade Fair, held at Fairhill Shopping Centre, Ballymena.

Representing the college with professionalism and creativity, the students showcased their handmade Valentine's crackers, cards, and mugs. Their hard work paid off, as they not only returned with a very successful sales set but also received their second award of the year - this time for Best Display. The judges commended the presentation, creativity, and overall professionalism of the stand.

This event provided our young entrepreneurs with valuable real-world business experience, including product development, marketing, customer service, and sales.

Their achievement reflects the dedication, teamwork, and commitment they have shown throughout the programme.

Well done to everyone involved for their outstanding effort, and many congratulations on their award..



# Creative Co Shine at Young Enterprise Trade Fair

Our Year 13 Business Enrichment group, Creative Co, enjoyed the competitive atmosphere of the Young Enterprise Trade Fair at Fairhill Shopping Centre. With twenty companies from a range of schools all vying for customers' attention, the event provided an exciting and energetic platform for young entrepreneurs to showcase their work.

Creative Co offered a selection of thoughtful products, including loveheart coasters, datenight jars, and their signature Box of Love, meeting strong demand for romantic gifts. Mrs Park Fullerton was extremely proud of the promotional efforts the students carried out to secure healthy sales throughout the day.

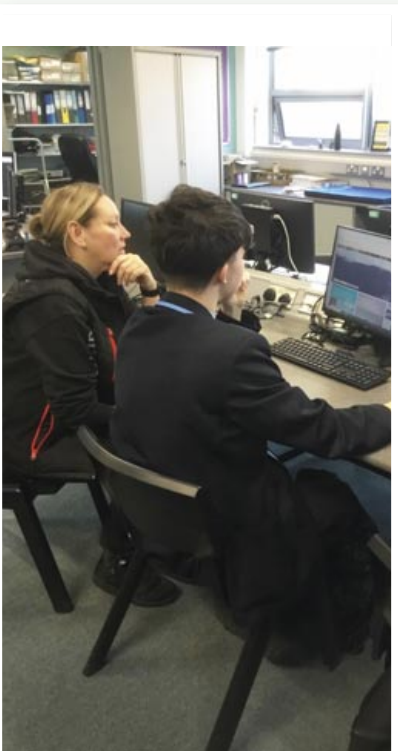


# Industry Insight: Devine Design Visits BCS Students

Our Year 12 Business and Communication Systems group enjoyed a visit from Charlene Devine of Devine Design in Antrim. Charlene spoke to the students about her career journey and the realities of running a business. The main focus of her visit was to offer guidance on effective website design—an essential element of the GCSE Business and Communication Systems course.

She spent time engaging individually with students, discussing their current website projects and offering practical, insightful advice. Her visit proved both relevant and inspiring, giving students a real-world perspective on design and entrepreneurship.

Thanks also go to Charlene for her generous Devine Design goodie bags.



## Tenner Club

Year 10 Tenner Club members celebrated a successful end to their Young Enterprise journey when profits were announced at their final meeting of the year. A total profit of £310 was generated, with each member receiving £45.

Beginning the project with an initial investment of £10, students worked collaboratively to plan, create and run their own business. A wide range of products was designed, produced and sold, including calendars, Christmas trees, cards and keyrings. Students also had the opportunity to attend the Big Market at St George's Market in Belfast, where they represented their company and competed alongside many other Young Enterprise teams.

The experience developed strong enterprise, teamwork and problem solving skills, and the Business Studies department expressed great pride in the students' achievements and enterprising spirit.



## Unidosh Workshop: Preparing Year 14 for Financial Independence

Year 14 students participated in a financial awareness workshop led by Unidosh, focusing on the realities of managing money after leaving school. The session explored the economic implications of various post-18 pathways, including university, apprenticeships, and full-time employment.

For many students, budgeting and financial planning are entirely new skills. Through practical guidance and real-life scenarios, the workshop helped students build confidence in making informed financial decisions. They left with a clearer understanding of how to fund their future lifestyles and navigate the financial responsibilities that come with independence.

## Year 14 Explore Ulster University Campuses

Our Year 14 students visited both the Magee and Coleraine campuses of Ulster University as part of their in-person open day experience. During these visits, students engaged with faculty members from courses they are considering, explored the campus facilities through guided tours, and attended subject-specific talks and information sessions. These valuable opportunities provided students with deeper insight into university life and academic options, supporting them as they prepared their UCAS applications.



## Exploring Future Pathways: Year 14 Attend University Roadshow

Our Year 14 students welcomed the university roadshow to the school as part of their journey to explore post-18 options. The event provided valuable insights into universities across the UK, including institutions that students may not typically have the opportunity to visit.

In addition to discovering a wide range of courses - including some lesser-known and unique options, students also gained a clearer understanding of university financing and support. The roadshow highlighted the diversity of opportunities available, reinforcing the message that there truly is something for everyone.



## Year 12 Jobs and Apprenticeships Fair

Year 12 students attended the Jobs and Apprenticeships Fair at Antrim Forum, where they had the opportunity to explore a wide range of post-school options. Exhibitors included employers offering immediate job opportunities, as well as apprenticeship and training providers for those considering this pathway at the end of Year 12.

As part of their LLW employability programme, students have been learning about post-16 choices and preparing for their next steps. After half-term, they will continue this work by focusing on CV writing and completing application forms.

## Year 14 Mock Interviews

We extended our sincere thanks to Antrim Enterprise for their invaluable support in mock interviews with our Year 14 students. These interviews provided an excellent opportunity for students to develop their employability skills and prepare for the next steps in their chosen pathways - whether progressing to university, further education, apprenticeships, or employment.

Our students approached the experience with confidence and maturity, and we are extremely proud of their commitment to developing themselves as individuals.

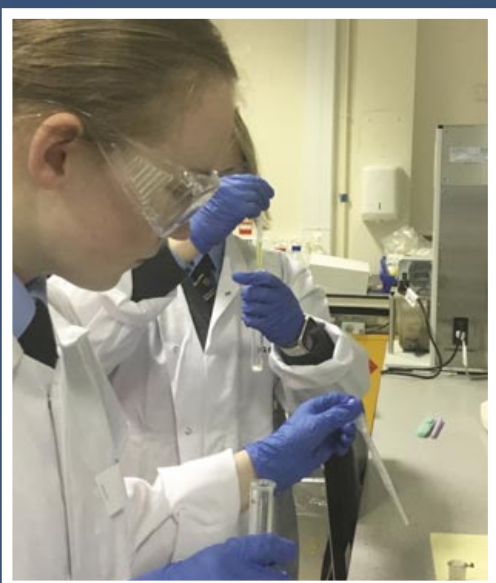


# Ulster University Trip

Year 13 Life and Health Science students took part in a visit to Ulster University's Coleraine campus, joining Year 13 students from Magherafelt High School and Year 14 students from Cookstown High School.

During the trip, students had the opportunity to practise a range of experimental techniques, including making aspirin, calculating percentage yield, and checking product purity. It was an excellent practical experience and an enjoyable day overall, despite everyone getting extremely wet on the journey home.

A huge thank you was extended to Dr Heather Nesbitt and Dr Peter McPherson for generously giving their time to teach valuable scientific skills and to provide students with hands-on experience in the university labs.



# UCAS Exhibition

Year 13 students attended the UCAS Exhibition at the Eikon Exhibition Centre in Lisburn, where they explored a wide range of post18 pathways. Students engaged with representatives from universities across the UK and Ireland, as well as employers and apprenticeship providers, gaining valuable insight into future education and career options.

By exploring a variety of opportunities, students began the process of making informed decisions about their next steps. These discussions encouraged them to reflect on future aspirations, consider potential pathways and understand the steps required to achieve their goals.



# Apprenticeships Fair

Year 12 and Year 14 students attended an informative presentation by Ruth from Workplus, which gave them the opportunity to explore the world of apprenticeships in greater depth. Ruth outlined what students can expect from an apprenticeship pathway, explained the application process, and highlighted the skills employers value most. She also shared details of an interview support event scheduled for later in the month, offering further guidance for those preparing to take their next steps.

Following the presentation, students visited a range of exhibition stands hosted by local businesses and employers. These organisations generously gave up their time to showcase the diverse opportunities available across different industries, helping students gain a clearer understanding of the career routes and training options that apprenticeships can provide.

We are grateful to all the employers and representatives who contributed to the event and helped make it such a valuable learning experience for our students.



## Drama Workshop with Bruiser Theatre Company

Year 11 and Year 13 Drama students took part in an inspiring workshop delivered by Bruiser Theatre Company, focusing on the techniques of physical theatre. The session supported key elements of both the GCSE and A-Level Drama curricula, giving students practical experience in ensemble movement, nonnaturalistic performance, and devising skills. It offered a valuable opportunity to deepen their understanding of theatrical styles while developing creativity and confidence.

A sincere thank you was extended to Bruiser Theatre Company for delivering such an energetic and insightful workshop.



## Theatre Trip

Year 12 and Year 13 Drama students attended a performance of *Wasted* by Kat Woods at Theatre at The Mill, presented by Bruiser Theatre Company. The production explored important contemporary themes, including consent and alcohol misuse, in a sensitive and impactful manner.

The visit provided students with the opportunity to experience high quality professional theatre that directly supported their examination preparation and enhanced their understanding of modern performance and theatrical practice.



## Bruiser Workshops at the MAC

Our Year 11 and Year 13 Drama students enjoyed an unforgettable and enriching visit to the MAC Theatre, where they immersed themselves in the world of performance with the renowned Bruiser Theatre Company.

Throughout the day, students took part in three highly interactive workshops, each focused on the work of influential theatre practitioners. These sessions allowed students to explore how different theatrical approaches can shape storytelling on stage. Far from being purely theoretical, the workshops were energetic, hands-on, and directly linked to key elements of their GCSE and A-level Drama coursework. Students left with fresh perspectives and new techniques to bring into their own devising and performance work.

A highlight of the visit was the opportunity to watch a professional script adaptation performed in Bruiser's distinctive physical theatre style. Seeing seasoned actors use movement, precision, and expressive ensemble work to bring text to life offered students a powerful illustration of how creative and dynamic contemporary theatre can be. Many commented on how inspiring it was to witness these methods in action.

The experience generated a real buzz among the group, sparking discussion, curiosity, and a renewed enthusiasm for practical performance. It was a day full of discovery, creativity, and a reminder of the excitement and immediacy that live theatre brings to both performers and audiences.



# Geography Residential Trip to Magilligan

Our AS Geography students recently returned from a highly successful three-day residential trip to Magilligan, where they completed a range of fieldwork activities to support their studies.

## Day One – Coastal Fieldwork

The visit began at the Umbra sand dunes, where students examined how dune systems develop and change over time. Working in groups, they used quadrats and soil sampling techniques to gather data on vegetation cover and soil properties, thereby deepening their understanding of dune succession.

## Day Two – River Studies

The focus then shifted to fluvial geography at the Curly Burn River. Students investigated nine sites along the river, recording measurements such as velocity, width, depth, and gradient to explore how river characteristics alter downstream.

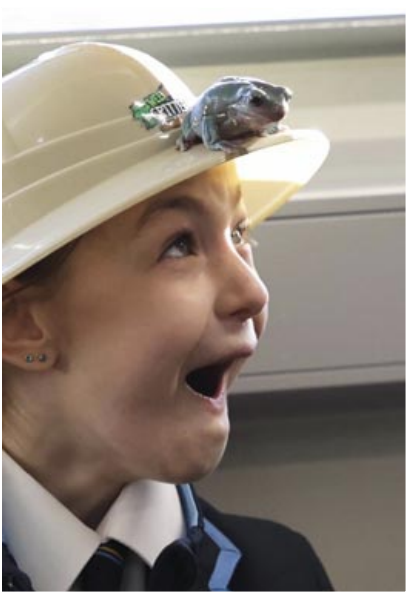
Later, the group enjoyed a visit to Magilligan's historic Martello Tower, followed by a refreshing walk along the nearby shoreline.

## Day Three – Urban Geography

On the final day, students travelled to Coleraine to carry out urban fieldwork. They studied the distribution of public services across the town and conducted surveys with local residents to learn more about their reasons for visiting Coleraine.

The trip provided excellent preparation for upcoming AS examinations and offered students the valuable opportunity to apply classroom learning to real-world geographical environments.





## Wee Critters Visit the Geography Department

Parkhall Integrated College was delighted to welcome Alan from Wee Critters back to the college to speak to both Year 8 and Year 9 students.

Year 8 students were preparing to explore tropical rainforests as their next topic, making Alan's visit particularly timely. They were introduced to a range of fascinating creatures, including Craig the cockroach, Trevor the king toad, Severus the common boa, Philip the Australian White's tree frog, and Wiggle the tenrec. Alan explained the unique adaptations of these animals and discussed the incredible vegetation found in tropical rainforests—ecosystems currently under threat from widespread deforestation. He also encouraged students to think carefully about everyday choices, such as avoiding products containing palm oil, which remains a leading contributor to the decline of the orangutan population in Borneo.

Year 9 students enjoyed similar discussions as preparation for their topic on hot and cold deserts. CurlySue the tarantula, Sidney the Peters' banded skink, Huckleberry the pygmy hedgehog, and Scampi the skunk were all welcome visitors to the department.

As always, the workshops offered engaging hands-on learning and a valuable glimpse of life beyond the classroom. Our students were excellent ambassadors for the college, demonstrating kindness, respect, and enthusiasm throughout Alan's visit. We look forward to discovering which creatures will join him next year.



## Wee Critters Visit

We were delighted to welcome Allan from Wee Critters back to the Geography Department to visit our year 10 and A-level students. This time, we were focused on the savanna grassland areas of the world and the unique adaptations the local animals have to survive in this often harsh habitat. As well as meeting Albie the armadillo, Dobbie the white-faced owl, Slytherin the constrictor, Tayto the tortoise, Katie the grasshopper and Dinky the pigmy dormouse, we were informed of the devastating threats of farming practices across these areas upon the many indigenous species. Everyone enjoyed listening to Allan's vast knowledge of this biome and meeting these amazing animals.



## Geography Field Trip

Year 11 GCSE Geography students took part in a successful fieldwork visit to the Curly Burn river with Magilligan Field Centre. The trip provided students with the opportunity to apply classroom learning and geographical skills within a real river environment.

Students used a range of fieldwork methods to measure river profiles at different sites, including recording width, depth, and other key characteristics. Students worked confidently throughout the day and showed strong engagement and enthusiasm for the subject.

The experience proved valuable and enjoyable, supporting students as they continued their preparation for the GCSE Geography examination.



# Volcanoes

Congratulations to Year 9 students, who successfully completed their volcano project. From constructing dynamic eruption models to investigating the geographical processes behind volcanic activity, the project showcased impressive creativity and enthusiasm.

The students demonstrated excellent geographical understanding throughout, working collaboratively and bringing their learning to life in a memorable and engaging way.



## Government and Politics

As part of the A-level Government and Politics course, students had the valuable opportunity to hear from a range of local MLAs over the course of the year. Pam Cameron was the first to visit in December, followed by Declan Kearney, and most recently John Blair.

During their visits to the college, Pam Cameron, Declan Kearney and John Blair each spoke in detail about the day-to-day responsibilities of an MLA. They outlined their work in scrutinising government activity both in the Assembly chamber and through their roles on various committees, providing students with a well-rounded and practical insight into the realities of political life and the importance of effective representation.

We are grateful for the time Pam Cameron, Declan Kearney and John Blair each dedicated to the group and for the clarity they brought to this important area of the course. Their contributions have provided students with valuable firsthand perspectives on political processes and decision-making, helping them connect classroom learning with real-world experience and deepen their understanding of the subject.



## Year 8 History Trip to Carrickfergus Castle

As part of their studies of the Normans in Ireland, all of Year 8 visited Carrickfergus Castle over three days in March.

Students were given a guided tour of the castle. They learned about the various stages involved in the building of the castle, its defences and what life in the castle would have been like. They even got to sit at the banqueting table.

Students also enjoyed an interactive session, which reinforced their learning about The Feudal System. This allowed them to dress up in the various clothes that would have been worn at the time, by the different classes of those within The Feudal System.

They were also introduced to some of the weapons and armour that would have been used in battle.

Some were lucky handle a few of the weapons that would have been used in combat, but thankfully, there were no injuries!

The trips were enjoyed by students and staff alike. We were even lucky enough to have good weather on all three days!



# Halloween treats!

At Halloween, our Home Economics students fully embraced the Halloween spirit during their practical lessons. As they developed their cooking and baking skills, the classrooms were filled with creativity and festive energy.

Year 8 students had great fun preparing spooky Halloween-themed “eyeballs,” while Year 9 students focused on healthy eating, creating dishes that helped them work towards their five a day. It was a wonderfully engaging and imaginative week of learning.



## Exploring Non-Newtonian Fun at Aspire Club

At Aspire Club, students made Oobleck—a simple mixture of cornflour and water. Because the cornflour did not dissolve, it formed a suspension, a non-Newtonian fluid that behaves like both a solid and a liquid depending on how it is handled.

Everyone involved enjoyed the activity and learned a great deal.

Special thanks went to the Home Economics Department for their support in preparing such an engaging session for the Aspire Club.



## Aspire Club

The Aspire Club took part in a baking activity that involved making Rice Krispie buns, which proved to be both enjoyable and engaging for everyone involved. Students worked collaboratively, developing practical skills while following recipes and learning about basic baking techniques in a relaxed and supportive environment. The activity was made possible with the much appreciated support of Miss Noble and the Home Economics department, whose guidance and encouragement helped ensure a successful and enjoyable session for all.



# GCSE Food and Nutrition Practical Assessments

Our Year 12 GCSE Food and Nutrition students had an incredibly busy and rewarding week in January, completing their practical assessments. Each student demonstrated outstanding dedication throughout the preparation, planning, and execution of their dishes, showcasing impressive creativity and technical skill.

Their hard work was evident in every stage of the process, and the results reflected the commitment they brought to their studies. We are extremely proud of the professionalism and enthusiasm they displayed during this important part of their course.

A huge well done to every member of the group.





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## Year 10 Love for Life: Icebergs and Babies

Year 10 students took part in the Love for Life Icebergs and Babies workshop, an engaging session that supported the LLW personal development programme. The workshop encouraged students to reflect on the hidden influences behind decision making, likened to the unseen part of an iceberg, and to consider how choices could lead to real-life consequences.

Through interactive activities and open discussion, students explored themes of responsibility, relationships, emotional wellbeing and the impact of choices on future aspirations. The session was delivered in a supportive and respectful environment, enabling students to develop confidence as they reflected on the kind of adults they aspired to become.

The Icebergs and Babies workshop provided students with valuable insights, reinforcing the importance of self awareness and informed decision making as they navigated their teenage years.

## Year 10 Personal Development

Year 10 students took part in a deeply moving and thought provoking performance of I Love You, Mum – I Promise I Won't Die, the acclaimed verbatim play by Mark Wheeler. Delivered in school by Ever Unique Productions, the performance had a strong impact on both students and staff.

The play told the true story of Daniel Spargo Mabbs, a sixteen year old boy who tragically lost his life following an unintentional overdose of MDMA. Created entirely from real interviews with Dan's family and friends, the production explored the events leading up to his death, the decisions he made, and the far-reaching effects on those around him. The cast delivered a powerful and sensitive portrayal, capturing both the warmth of Dan's personality and the heartbreak of his story. Through its honesty, pace and emotional depth, the performance encouraged students to reflect on the real-life consequences of risky choices and the importance of looking after themselves and others.

This experience was a meaningful addition to the personal development curriculum, reinforcing key messages about safety, decision-making, and the realities young people may encounter. The school expressed its thanks to Ever Unique Productions for presenting such an impactful and memorable piece of theatre.

## Love for Life “izone” Workshop

Year 8 students took part in the Love for Life “izone” workshop, an interactive session that explored key topics including self-esteem, friendships, online influences, and making positive choices.

Through a range of engaging activities and discussions, students considered how to look after their wellbeing and develop healthy relationships as they grow and change. The presenters commended Year 8 for their excellent participation and thoughtful contributions throughout the workshop.

The “izone” workshop proved to be a valuable addition to the LLW personal development curriculum, supporting students in building confidence, resilience and a stronger sense of identity.

## Year 12 Love for Life – Dating and Mating

Year 12 students took part in Love for Life's Dating and Mating workshop, a thoughtful and engaging programme that supported the LLW personal development curriculum. The session encouraged young people to reflect on healthy relationships, personal boundaries, mutual respect and the values that informed their choices.

Through discussion, real-life scenarios and interactive activities, students explored what made relationships positive, supportive and safe. The workshop offered valuable insights into communication, emotional wellbeing and the importance of making informed and responsible decisions as they moved towards adulthood.

The Dating and Mating workshop provided a meaningful and supportive learning experience, strengthening students' confidence and understanding as they prepared for life beyond school.



## Modern Foreign Languages CPD Event: Enhancing Learning through Metacognition and Listening

In the Autumn term, Parkhall Integrated College proudly hosted a regional Continuing Professional Development (CPD) event for Modern Foreign Language (MFL) teachers, titled Enhancing MFL through Metacognition and Listening.

Educators from across the region came together for a stimulating and insightful day focused on the impact of metacognitive strategies and listening techniques in language teaching. The event explored how encouraging students to reflect on their own thinking - especially during listening tasks - can significantly enhance comprehension, memory retention, and confidence in learning a new language.

Throughout the day, delegates took part in hands-on activities and collaborative discussions centred around:

- Planning, monitoring, and evaluating listening tasks using metacognitive strategies
- Supporting students to become active listeners by identifying key information and interpreting spoken language
- Integrating self-reflection and learning awareness into everyday MFL lessons

Attendees left equipped with a practical toolkit of ideas to enrich their classroom practice, aiming to foster deeper student engagement and more meaningful learning experiences.

A key highlight of the event was the series of workshops led by Dr Gianfranco Conti, a renowned speaker and CPD facilitator who delivers over a hundred workshops annually across the UK, Europe, Asia, and Australia. Dr Conti is dedicated to making research in cognitive science and applied linguistics accessible and actionable for classroom teachers.

Feedback from participants was overwhelmingly positive, with many praising the practical nature of the sessions and the opportunity to connect with fellow language educators.

This CPD event not only reinforced the importance of language learning but also celebrated the commitment of MFL teachers in nurturing the next generation of global citizens.



# French Film Festival

French students in Years 10 and 12 had the opportunity to immerse themselves in Francophone cinema through La Fête du Cinéma, a UK-wide French film festival. Before the screening, students engaged in preview activities, such as predicting the storyline from the film poster and sharing their thoughts on the trailer.

The film *À la Belle Étoile* captivated students with its uplifting narrative, cultural richness, and strong message about perseverance in the face of adversity. Inspired by Yazid's real-life journey, the film follows his challenging childhood and the determination, resilience, and support that enabled him to turn obstacles into opportunities on his path to becoming a world-class pastry chef. As well as offering insight into modern-day life in France, the film highlighted the difficulties young people may face as they pursue their ambitions and the power of tenacity.

Students particularly noted the mouth-watering French culinary creations, the striking cinematography, and the impactful music—alongside the popcorn they enjoyed during the screening. They also appreciated hearing a range of French accents, and many felt their cultural knowledge had deepened. One student shared that she had learned about the World Pastry Cup (Coupe du Monde de la Pâtisserie), a major international competition in chocolate, sugar, and ice artistry featured in the film. Another commented, “I found the end of the film very heartwarming.”

Following the screening, students continued to develop their French language skills through activities such as matching characters to descriptions, writing French statements about their favourite character, completing gap-fill tasks based on the plot, and categorising film critic statements as positive or negative. They also practised expressing their future ambitions in French and reflected on the film’s key themes.

This enriching experience broadened cultural understanding and, we hope, inspired students to pursue their own dreams with creativity and resilience.



## Inspiring the Next Generation of Linguists

GCSE students gained valuable insight into the world of languages when Zak, a final year undergraduate, visited the college to share his journey studying French at A-level and beyond. He spoke openly about the unexpected opportunities that came from continuing a language after GCSE, including travel, cultural experiences, and academic pathways at university. Zak also highlighted how language learning builds confidence, resilience, and a global outlook—skills increasingly important in today’s connected world.

He introduced students to the wide range of language options available at Queen’s University Belfast, where French and Spanish can be combined with subjects such as Business, History, Politics, English, Linguistics, Film Studies, Anthropology, and Translation & Interpreting. Students were particularly interested in the diverse careers these pathways can lead to, including diplomacy, marketing, tourism, teaching, journalism, and international development.

Zak, along with fellow student mentor Chloe, had been supporting GCSE French students since October through the QUB Languages Mentoring Programme, helping to build confidence and encouraging students to consider modern languages at A level.



## GCSE Music Trip to the Ulster Hall

Students from the GCSE Music class, along with selected year 10 students, accompanied Mrs McCarthy and Miss Kennoway to the Ulster Hall on Friday night to hear the Ulster Orchestra perform *Symphonie Fantastique* by Berlioz, one of the GCSE Music set works. They heard an illuminating pre-concert talk by the conductor and the orchestra's artistic director about the background to this piece. Our students enjoyed the power of hearing the Ulster Orchestra perform live, and this has given them a deeper understanding of one of the pieces they are studying. They also enjoyed socialising with each other and eating some delicious pizza.



## School Choir

A group of selected students from the college choir travelled to St Benedict's College to take part in a workshop led by the artistic director of the National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland. During the session, students engaged in a variety of singing and movement activities designed to challenge concentration, coordination and vocal skills.

The workshop provided an enriching and enjoyable experience, supporting students in developing their musical ability, confidence and teamwork through active participation.



# Hockey Trip to Dublin

A group of lucky students travelled to Dublin to watch the FIH Pro League matches between England and Belgium (men) and Ireland and England (women). It was an excellent opportunity for students to experience top-level international hockey and enjoy a memorable day out of school.



## Sports qualifications

Well done to our Year 13 and Year 14 students who successfully achieved the following qualifications:

- Coaching Disabled Footballers Award (CDFA) – Level 1
- Level 1 Referee’s Award

The Coaching Disabled Footballers Award equipped students with the knowledge and confidence to support players of all abilities and promote inclusive participation in football.

The Level 1 Referee’s Award provided a solid introduction to the rules of the game, giving students a strong foundation for future officiating roles.



## American Football Enrichment Programme

Year 13 and Year 14 Enrichment students enjoyed several sessions of American Football. Over the course of the sessions, students had the opportunity to develop key skills such as teamwork, communication, coordination, and strategic thinking - all central to the sport.

The programme gave students valuable exposure to a game rapidly growing in popularity across the UK, allowing them to learn fundamental techniques, understand the gameplay, and take part in friendly, competitive drills. Many students commented on how enjoyable and energising the experience had been, with several expressing interest in pursuing the sport further.

A sincere thankyou was extended to The Community Sports Network for their support in organising and delivering the activity. Their expertise and enthusiasm helped create a rewarding and memorable experience for all involved.



## Boys School Football

This year has once again been a fantastic one for school football, with enthusiasm, commitment, and participation reaching impressive levels across all year groups. It has been especially encouraging to see so many students getting involved in football throughout the year, whether by representing school teams, taking part in training sessions, or enjoying recreational games at lunchtime and after school.

From the very start of the season, there was a clear sense of excitement and determination among players. Throughout the year, fixtures against other schools provided plenty of memorable moments. Teams showed excellent teamwork, resilience, and sportsmanship in both victories and defeats. Many matches were closely contested, demonstrating the improving standard of football across all teams. Players consistently represented the school with pride, showing respect towards opponents and officials.

Another highlight of the year has been the opportunity for students from different year groups to get involved. Younger players have benefitted from learning alongside more experienced teammates, while older students have taken on leadership roles, setting excellent examples both on and off the pitch. This sense of community has been a defining feature of the school's football programme.

Overall, this has been another highly successful year for school football. The commitment, enthusiasm, and sportsmanship shown by all involved have been outstanding. As we look ahead to next year, there is every reason to believe that school football will continue to grow and thrive, with even more students getting involved and enjoying the beautiful game.





## Girls Extracurricular Sport

Our girls' extracurricular sports programme has been buzzing with energy this year, with hockey, netball, and football practices running every day after school. The commitment shown by the players has been outstanding and it is fantastic to see so many girls taking part in a range of sports. Thanks to Kealan Curran for taking photos of the girls throughout the year.

Hockey

Girls' hockey has had a great year, with teams competing from Year 8 - Year 14 and showing commitment across every age group. Training sessions have been well attended, and the players' teamwork and determination have been clear in every match. Many of our girls also represent clubs outside of school, and it's been brilliant to see them bringing that extra experience. Several have achieved notable success with their clubs this season, reflecting both their hard work and the strength of hockey within our school community.



## STEM Club

Parkhall Integrated College's STEM Club enjoyed a wonderfully spooky session filled with hands-on Halloween-themed experiments. Students created bubbling lava lamps, crafted eerie teabag ghosts, and erupted miniature pumpkin volcanoes. They also launched exploding canisters and even made a jelly baby "scream" and light up - bringing science to life in a fun and memorable way.

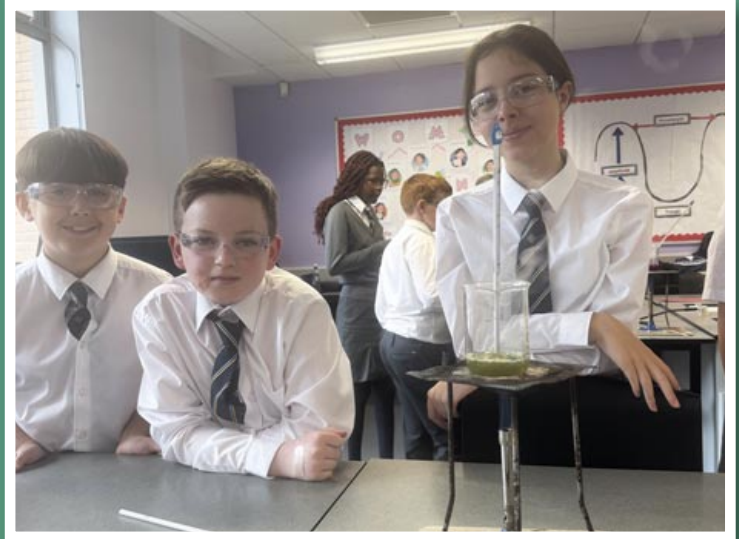
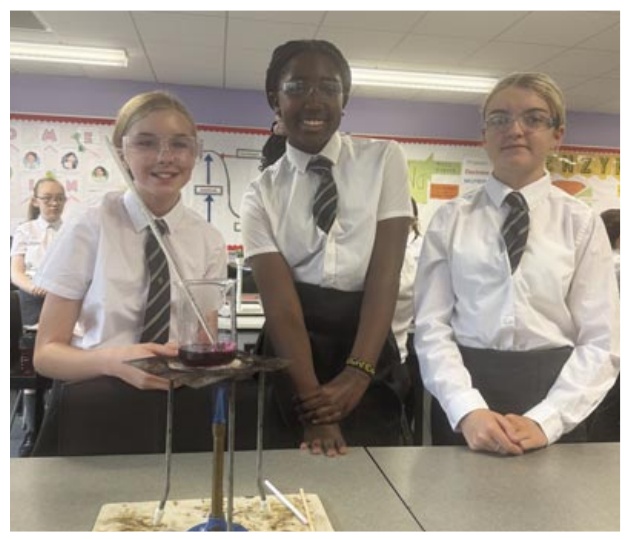
A big thank you goes to our fantastic STEM helpers and to all the brave students who took part in the frightfully exciting activities.



## Year 8 inner scientists

Our Year 8 students embraced their inner scientists as they investigated temperature changes using boiled, coloured water—then transformed their findings into imaginative pumpkin-themed projects.

Throughout the lessons, students explored how heat affects liquids, experimented with colour mixing, and discovered how scientific principles can be applied creatively to produce eye-catching artwork. It was a voyage of discovery, creativity, and hands-on learning.



## Year 9 Egg Drop Challenge

Year 9 students took part in an engaging egg drop challenge in Miss McMath's science class as they explored key concepts in physics and air resistance. Students worked collaboratively and creatively to design protective contraptions aimed at keeping their eggs safe.

Using recycled materials, teams tested their designs to see which egg could survive the drop. Each release created plenty of suspense, followed by cheers when eggs landed intact and groans when some did not.

The activity provided a fun and memorable way for students to understand how air resistance slows falling objects, while also developing teamwork, problem solving and engineering skills.



# Technology & Design term 1 round up

During Term 1, our Year 8 students developed their practical hand skills through a creative Halloween lantern project. They used a variety of tools to cut and shape pumpkins before soldering components onto a PCB to light up the lanterns' eyes.

Also in Term 1, our Year 9 students began preparing for the festive season by using coping saws to cut out wooden Christmas trees. To complete their designs, they soldered flashing LEDs onto a PCB to give their trees a twinkling effect.

Throughout the term, Year 10 students strengthened their woodworking skills as they worked on their fruit basket project, gaining confidence in measuring, cutting, and assembling timber.

Our Year 11 Carpentry & Joinery students began their coffee table project by learning how to cut traditional wood joints using chisels, developing precision and craftsmanship.

Year 12 Construction students spent Term 1 mastering the technique of squaring off a mortise after drilling, an essential step in their side table project.

Later in the term, our Year 12 Carpentry & Joinery students attended a Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) bootcamp, where they explored potential career pathways and gained hands-on experience in carpentry, brickwork, tiling, and painting and decorating.



# TECHNOLOGY



# IED PRINT

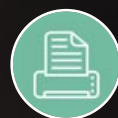
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## Year 12 Construction – Work Related Learning

Our Year 12 Construction class visited P. McVey Building Systems for a valuable work-related learning experience. During the visit, students learned about efficient construction techniques and observed modular units being built from start to finish. This hands-on insight enabled them to see the full process in action and understand modern construction methods.

Students also explored the office environment and met the teams who work behind the scenes within the construction industry. These included quantity surveying, design, marketing, purchasing, accounts, sales, and human resources—highlighting the wide range of career pathways available beyond the building site itself.

It was an excellent, relevant, and highly informative experience for our students. We extend our thanks to P. McVey Building Systems for their generous time and hospitality.



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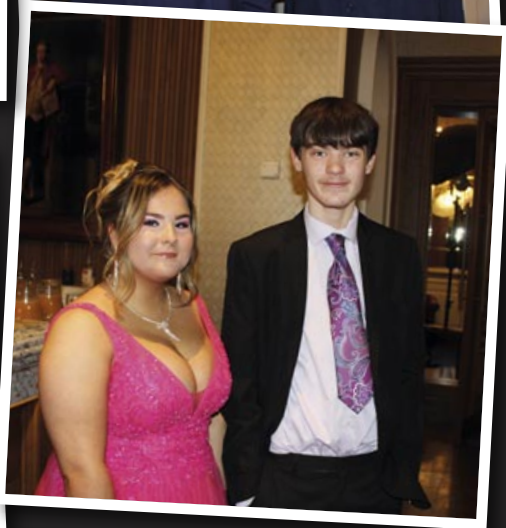
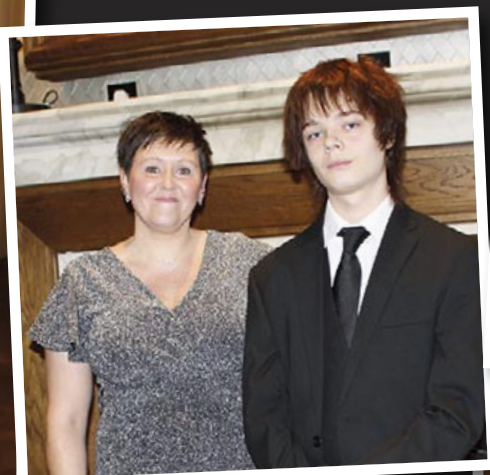
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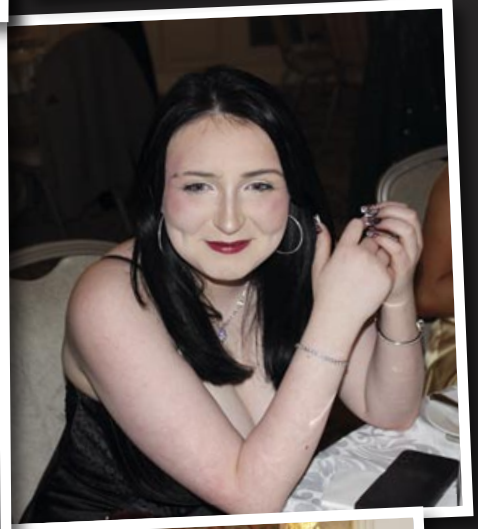
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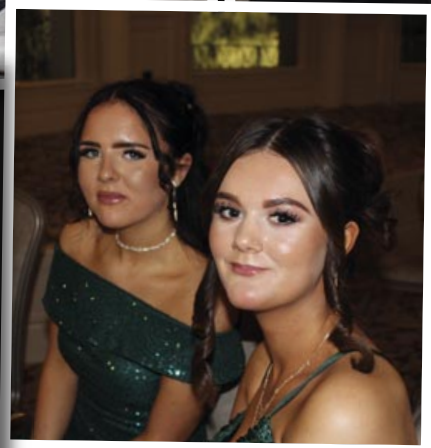
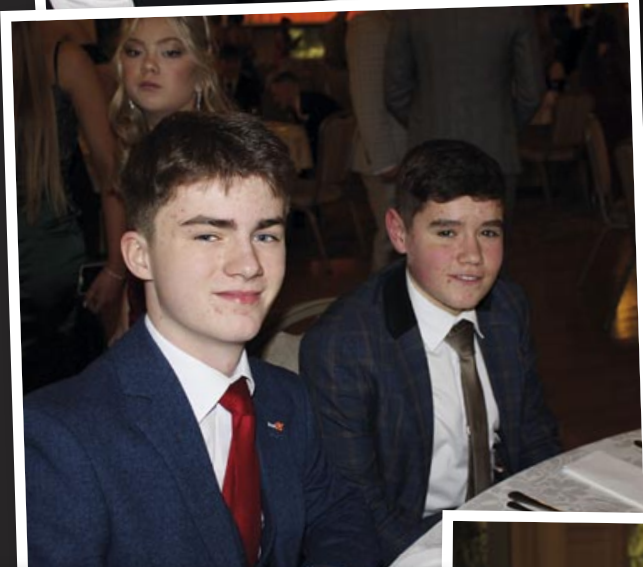
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# YEAR 12 FORMAL

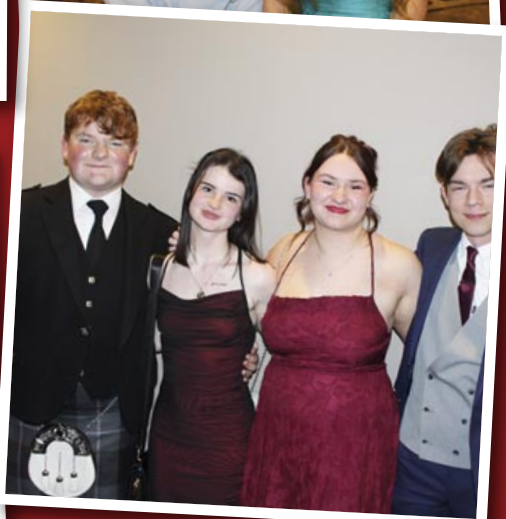
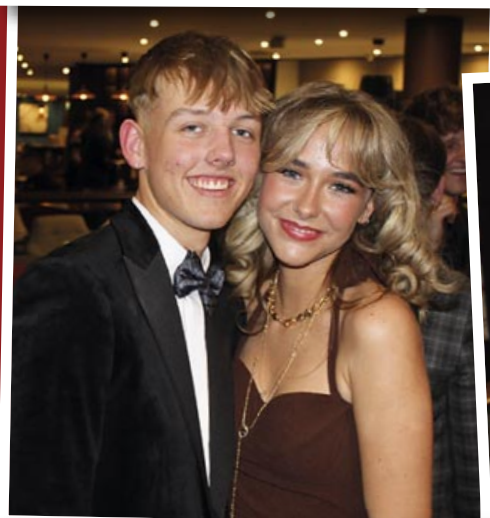








# YEAR 14 FORMAL











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