

THE ANNUAL REPORT



2021 – 2022

Curriculum

Belfast Royal Academy aims to give its pupils a broad, balanced and relevant education. In the Junior School we seek to give equal opportunities to all pupils and the emphasis is on discovery and enjoyment. In these early years, we seek to instil in pupils' good study skills and habits which will equip them for GCSE level and beyond. It is the School's aim that the timetable should be constructed to meet the needs of its pupils. To that end, as much freedom of choice as possible is offered to pupils at KS3, GCSE, AS and A2 levels. We endeavour to continually evaluate the curriculum, introducing new subjects that, in our view, serve the needs and aspiration of our pupils.

Key Stage 3 Curriculum

2022-23

Pupils in **Key Stage 3** (Forms 1-3) follow a broad common curriculum, developing knowledge and skill across a wide range of subjects.

In **Forms 1 and 2** classes are not streamed. Pupils are divided into seven classes and are taught in this arrangement for non-practical subjects. The practical subjects, Art and Design, Home Economics, Computer Science, Music, Science and Technology and Design, are taught in smaller groups.

At all **Key Stage 3** years the three Science subjects, Biology, Chemistry and Physics, are taught separately, each for two sixty-five minute periods per fortnight.

In **Form 3** pupils are partially streamed in Mathematics, but all other classes remain mixed. Pupils choose to study three subjects from the following choice of eight: Business Studies, Computer Science, Drama, German, Home Economics, Latin, Spanish and Technology. Each of these option subjects is studied for three periods per fortnight.

At all **Key Stage 3** years, pupils follow a course in Learning for Life and Work which involves the three strands: Personal Development, Citizenship and Employability. Pupils also take part in an enrichment course in Arabic Art, Culture and Language as part of their Art classes. In **Form 3** pupils have one dedicated Careers period per fortnight. Pupils in **Form 1** have one LORIC period per fortnight.

KS3 Subject	Number of Periods (per fortnight)		
	Form 1	Form 2	Form 3
Art	2	1	2
Biology	2	2	2
Business Studies	-	-	3*
Careers	-	-	1
Chemistry	2	2	2
Computer Science	-	-	3*
Drama	-	1	3*
English	5	5	5
French	5	3	3
Geography	3	3	3
German	-	1	3*
History	3	3	3
Home Economics	1	1	3*
IT	1	1	-
Latin	2	2	3*
Learning for Life & Work	2	2	-
LORIC	1	-	-
Mathematics	5	5	6
Music	2	2	2
PE	2	2	2
Physics	2	2	2
RE	2	2	3
Spanish	-	1	3*
Technology	2	3	3*
Total	44	44	44

All pupils have 4 periods of games per fortnight and a tutorial period once a week.

*Option subject, 3 periods per fortnight.

Key Stage 4 Curriculum

2022-23

Pupils in **Key Stage 4** (Forms 4 and 5) follow a common core curriculum and then choose from a range of subject options. Pupils take a minimum of 8 and a maximum of 10 subjects at GCSE. Option block subjects are studied for five periods per fortnight. All pupils take GCSEs in English, Mathematics and Religious Education. Approximately 85% of pupils take English Literature and approximately 30% take Further Mathematics.

Most pupils take at least one Science subject at Triple Award standard. A small number of pupils follow a Single Award Science option.

All pupils study at least one modern or classical language chosen from: French, German, Latin and Spanish.

In addition, pupils have three other GCSE choices.

Non-GCSE subjects taken by all pupils are PE and Games (Form 4) and Games (Form 5), and LLW, which includes the three strands: Personal Development, Citizenship and Employability. Pupils in **Form 5** have a dedicated Careers period, and a dedicated Study Skills period.

The table below gives the full list of the twenty-five subjects *currently* offered at GCSE.

Subject Title (Awarding Body)

Art and Design (CCEA)
Biology (CCEA)
Business Studies (CCEA)
Chemistry (CCEA)
Computer Science (OCR)
Design and Technology (CCEA)
Digital Technology (CCEA)
Drama (CCEA)
Economics (CCEA)
English Language (CCEA)
English Literature (CCEA)
Home Economics -Food and Nutrition (CCEA)
French (CCEA)

Subject Title (Awarding Body)

Further Mathematics (CCEA)
Geography (CCEA)
German (CCEA)
History (CCEA)
Latin (OCR)
Mathematics (CCEA)
Music (CCEA)
Physical Education (CCEA)
Physics (CCEA)
Religious Education (AQA)
Single Award Science (CCEA)
Spanish (CCEA)

Sixth Form Curriculum

2022-23

All pupils in Lower Sixth study three or four subjects to AS level and most continue with three subjects in Middle Sixth to the full A Level qualification. A number of pupils continue with four subjects to A2 Level. About 15 pupils complete their GCE Mathematics in one year, and a small number of these pupils may complete five A Levels by the end of the Sixth Form. In their Lower Sixth Year, pupils have the option of some enrichment courses including choir, and work experience in local primary schools. In addition, all pupils have a tutorial period once each week which includes elements of Religious Education and UCAS preparation. Games are optional for pupils in the Sixth Form. Pupils who do not participate in games have a Study period instead.

The table below gives the full list of the thirty subjects *currently* offered at AS and A2.

Subject Title (Awarding Body)	Subject Title (Awarding Body)
Art and Design (CCEA)	Health and Social Care (CCEA)
Biology (CCEA)	History (CCEA)
Business Studies (CCEA)	Latin (OCR)
Chemistry (CCEA)	Life and Health Sciences (CCEA)
Computer Science (Pearson BTEC)	Mathematics (CCEA)
Digital Technology (CCEA)	Moving Image Arts*(CCEA)
Drama and Theatre Studies (AQA)	Music (CCEA)
Economics (WJEC)	Nutrition and Food Science (CCEA)
English Language (AQA)	Physical Education (Pearson BTEC)
English Literature (CCEA)	Physics (CCEA)
French (CCEA)	Religious Studies (CCEA)
Further Mathematics (CCEA)	Sociology (WJEC)
Geography (CCEA)	Software Systems Development (CCEA)
German (CCEA)	Spanish (CCEA)
Government and Politics (CCEA)	Technology and Design (CCEA)

*Offered at St. Malachy's College as part of the North Belfast Area Learning Community.

DEPARTMENTS

Art

Senior Sixth Form art students had the opportunity to view artwork for the 140th RUA Annual Exhibition in the Ulster Museum, with artist talk from Simon McWilliams, the Vice President of the RUA. They also received an insightful guided tour of the exhibition by Maggie Bowen, then viewed the works on display in the Colin Davison 'Silent Testimony' exhibition and the 'Blue Sky Thinking' exhibition. We had three students selected for the CCEA True Colours Art and Design Exhibition, Eoghan Hughes, Holly Hooks and Kathleen Malone, in the first ever virtual exhibition.

The Art and Design Department continues with its many highly successful Art Clubs. Afterschool Fantasy Art and Design Club, Junior Mini Art Club, Comic Creators Club and LS Art Club, all run by Art Technician Laura Atkin and new Art and Design Teacher Mr Roberts. Afterschool Fantasy Art and Design club members met each Monday afternoon to learn about becoming fantasy artists. In the first term they created their own fantasy world maps using paper staining and ageing techniques, as well as gaining ink dip pen drawing and writing skills. The second term involved learning how to paint with acrylics and create fantasy landscapes unique to the worlds they had made. The third term was a fabulous opportunity to work with air dry clay and make fantasy creatures that lived within their fantasy landscapes.

Junior Mini Art Club took place each Tuesday lunchtime in the Art and Design Department. Students were able to try paper marbling, learn pom-pom making skills, make Christmas decorations, get their own Christmas card designs printed on cards, tote bags and mugs, and make felt embroidery pictures.

Comic Creators Club met every Thursday at lunchtime to discover how to create comic characters, write plots, design comic book covers, plan a comic story, and enjoy lots of fun challenges such as making mini comics, story blocks and Frankenstein comic games.

LS Art Club met in the Learning Support Suite each Friday lunchtime to allow for some fun and creative projects in a quieter, more relaxed space. Students learned to hand sew pocket monsters in felt, made cardboard marble run games, folded paper to make origami dragons and dinosaurs, along with other exciting arts and crafts.

All pupils were invited to take part in the Inktober Challenge for a fifth year running. Students joined together in the Art and Design Department every break-time for the entire month of October to draw from the official Inktober prompts list, encourage one another and experiment with various ink media, from markers to traditional ink dip pens. Drawings were displayed daily in the Art and Design Department and Inktober badges were awarded to all those who took part, with special gold badges for being able to complete a drawing for all 31 days, and 150 badges awarded in the end.

This year we also joined forces with the school library in celebrating National Poetry Day alongside Inktober 2021 by holding a joint competition which challenged students to write a poem based on one of their Inktober drawings. Beth Armstrong's thought-provoking poem and drawing, 'Pressure', received 1st prize, Adam Cleland received 2nd prize for his poem and drawing on 'Crystal', and Charlei Hill received 3rd prize for their poem and drawing on 'Raven'.

We had Student Teacher Melissa Smith completing her teaching practice with us for 8 weeks during the months of April and May. Melissa worked wonderfully with the students and supported junior art classes, senior student art tutorials, taught wet felt workshops and got involved in the many Art Clubs taking place in the Art and Design Department. This was the first year the Character House Competition was run in coordination with the Art and Design Department. Each student had to create a portrait of a famous person who inspired them. Winners were Molly Adams, Evie Lewis, Evie Moore and Charlie Yates.

The Owl Cover for 2021-22 was designed by Kate Sturgess and the Sponsored Walk 2022 was designed by Shannen Kelly. Students are encouraged to be involved in the art world through competitions and projects outside of the normal school curriculum. We had seven students from our Art and Design classes take part in the Beat Carnival 'What's the Story' programme. This was a good relationship project, aiming to unite and celebrate young people's individual 'single' stories of growing up in NI, their identity and culture. The group wrote and created art illustrations to represent their multiple stories.

Our students who entered the National Texaco Children's Art Competition in February 2021, a number were awarded commendations, these pupils were Katie Geddis, Clara Gilchrist, Shannen Kelly, Leah Shephard and Elsa Campbell.

Form 4 Art and Design students attended the Royal Ulster Academy at Alpha House, where they viewed the 68th Texaco Children's Art Competition Winners Exhibition. Two groups of students had the opportunity to go. The first group were able to view the exhibitions at the MAC Belfast. The second group had a guided tour of the RUA Diploma Exhibition by Simon McWilliams, the Vice president of the RUA.

Three members of staff took part in outside moderating of GCSE and A2 Level Art and Design in other schools for CCEA.

The Annual Art and Design Exhibition returned to the Art and Design Department this year in June. Work was on display from the GCSE and A-Level groups as well as the Junior classes and extracurricular Art Clubs in our dedicated exhibition space and Art classrooms. We also had the Staff Preview Art and Design Exhibition event where school staff viewed the artwork and raised £100 for Save the Children Fund.

Biology

The Biology department, like all departments in the Academy has managed to navigate another very difficult year during 2021/22. With a 'new normal' forced upon us by Covid 19 we embraced the new school year with all the enthusiasm we could muster behind our facemasks! As progress with the virus progressed, we as a department relished the opportunity to teach immunity and vaccines and all of the biology surrounding the covid variants. The topic of viruses at AS level is a very short topic, but never before has it been of such utmost importance to not just the Biology department but the whole of society on a global scale! With nervous pupils facing assessments and exams again for the first time in two missed examination years we were delighted with their engagement as we worked our way through reduced specifications. Covid continued to rampage through the school community and many pupils and staff succumbed to illness throughout the academic year.

We feel very fortunate as a department that all of the GCSE, AS and A2 theory examinations went ahead in the Summer of 2022. Our practical examination components were omitted which despite the time pressures we also delivered as best we could, in order to prepare our students to progress to the next stage. Due to the pandemic we also had to cancel all fieldwork activities.

There have been significant staffing changes within the Biology department. Dr Anderson settled into the department very well on a part-time basis and due to staffing pressures took on a full-time role in January 2022. In June 2022 Mr Trevor Hughes was installed in the post of pastoral Vice-principal, a role which we know he will fulfil with his characteristic enthusiasm and drive. We will Miss Trevor immensely in the department on a full-time basis but look forward to seeing him as he continues to teach M6 next year.

We paid tribute to our Form 5, L6 and M6 who received results in August 2022. Our results this year are outstanding, and we heap praise on our students for their hard-work and sheer resilience in navigating another difficult and at times very uncertain year. We look forward to the next academic year with renewed vigour, knowing that lesson by lesson we are helping young people achieve their dreams.

Business Studies

Over the course of the academic year, we provided extra tuition for pupils within the CTG system to help with grade improvement. This proved to be a success, with all pupils involved showing signs of improvement.

As a department we continued to put in place regular assessments, asking pupils to submit work via Google classroom and in homework books, providing marks and feedback online.

153 pupils visited Subway to aid the completion of their coursework. Various guest speakers gave talks to pupils from Deloitte, PWC, B.A. and Careers in the Food Industry NI. Catalyst also attended and gave a pupil presentation on Innovation.

Chemistry

The Chemistry Department had a 100% pass rate at GCSE, AS and A2 level. An incredible total of 14 pupils achieved an A* at A level and almost 80 % of the cohort achieved an A* - A grade.

Over 70 % of the cohort achieved an A grade at AS level. An unbelievable total of 39 pupils (over 40 % of the cohort) achieved an A* at GCSE level. The results obtained by the Chemistry department were considerably above the NIGSA at all levels.

Drama

This year fourteen pupils studied Drama and Theatre at GCE A-Level: 79% obtained an impressive A*-A while 93% obtained A*-C. Fourteen pupils studied GCSE Drama: 100% obtained A*-C* with an impressive 86% awarded A*-A.

Belfast Royal Academy was once again selected to be a part of the Schools Affiliation scheme with the Lyric Theatre, Belfast. The aim of the scheme is to develop relationships and strengthen communication with the Lyric. We are delighted that the Academy has once again been selected to be a part of the programme for the 2022/23 academic year.

As part of the Schools Affiliation scheme, in June, Form IV Drama students took part in an Acting workshop, facilitated by the Lyric Theatre, to assist pupils in refining their skills in preparation for performing their GCSE Devised Performance Controlled Assessment.

With the pandemic making trips to the theatre difficult, KS3, GCSE and A-Level Drama students were still able to access live theatre through the department's subscription to the National Theatre Collection. With access to fifty shows from the National Theatre Archive, pupils enjoyed productions ranging from the magical *Peter Pan* and *Treasure Island* to the critically acclaimed *Frankenstein*, *Small Island* and *Translations*.

In-person Junior Drama Club recommenced and continued to be a very successful and popular extra-curricular activity, attracting up to thirty Form 1 and 2 pupils on a Wednesday afternoon.

Staff development activities included SLT attending a two-day CPD workshop *The Adventure Collective: Spotlight on Teachers* with Replay Theatre Company. Workshops, facilitated by industry professionals such as Lisa May, Artistic Director and Founder of Bruiser Theatre Company, and Patrick J O'Reilly, artistic director at Tinderbox Theatre Company, included *Back to Basics: Social Anxiety after Social Distancing*, *Multi-Media Crash Course* and *New Approaches to Devising*. There was also an opportunity to network with other Drama teachers and share practice.

Economics

This was the third year since we had chosen to switch to the WJEC qualification for A level and the first year for which this examination board awarded the BRA Economics results based on examination performance. The change of specification has required not only changes to course content but also in approach to preparing pupils for the WJEC style of assessment. Experience of teaching the WJEC specification for several years has helped me to identify further areas for amendment of teaching notes and this has been done alongside the usual updating for the 2022-23 academic year.

Covid absences and mask-wearing for much of the 2021-22 academic year meant another abnormal year for pupils and I felt that the wearing of masks interfered with free communication. Both AS and A2 classes contained a greater proportion of weaker pupils than in a normal year. Covid also had a major impact on motivation and Mrs Woods attempted to encourage quite a few of my A2 pupils through regular one-to-one meetings. Results at AS and

A2 are broadly in line with results for previous years, rather than higher as some other departments have experienced, although this seems to be primarily due to levels of motivation and ability of pupils. Given ability and motivation levels, I was pleasantly surprised not to experience a considerable drop in performance. Comparisons of the performance of Economics pupils in other subjects, particularly other subjects commonly identified as academically demanding, showed Economics pupils in general performing at least as well in this subject, as in others.

I continued to send an "Economics Briefing" by email to the parents of sixth form pupils on a regular basis, to provide details of upcoming class assessments, the range of marks on completed assessments and other information which I thought might be of interest. This was well received by parents.

While I attempt to market the subject every year, I have been concerned at declining numbers in recent years and an increase in the percentage of pupils who appear to be selecting Economics as a "last resort", without considering its demanding nature. To overcome this, I spoke to a number of classes individually and this more personalised approach appears to have encouraged many more pupils to choose the subject for the 2022-23 academic year.

The results for the GCSE class, taught by Mr Irwin, were very encouraging and most of the class chose to continue to AS level. Mr Irwin had identified at an early date two pupils unlikely to achieve a C grade due to a combination of ability levels and lack of engagement with the course and unfortunately, his predictions were accurate.

English

This year 54 pupils studied English Literature at GCE 'A' Level, while a further 25 opted for GCE 'A' Level English Language. 96% of 'A2' Literature students obtained A*- C while 93% of 'A-Level' Language students achieved A*- C.

203 pupils studied GCSE English Language. 183 pupils also completed GCSE English Literature. 99.5% of Language students obtained A*- C and 100% of English Literature students achieved A*- C*.

Under the enthusiastic aegis of Miss Herron, students from the English Department had success in a range of writing competitions. The poetry of several students was published in a special Community Arts Project, Poetry in Motion anthology entitled, 'Our World, Our Words'. Four year groups ranging from Forms I to MVI took part in the project. Form IV student, Ciara Gilchrist, was also runner up for the Seamus Heaney Award for Achievement with her poem 'Moonface' and BRA was 'Highly Commended' for its contribution to the project.

Furthermore, Clara Walsh (Form IV) was the winner of the Inaugural Intercomm's North Belfast Short Story Literary competition (Age: 15-17 category). She read her work at an awards ceremony held at Clifton House. Furthermore, Kathleen Malone MVI was long listed for Oxford University's Christopher Tower Poetry Competition. Kathleen's poem, 'My Empty-Chaired Wedding' was in the top 10% of all competition entries. In addition, Niall Blasket created a video review of Sue Divan's 'Guard Your Heart'. Divan's Young Adult novel was nominated for a Carnegie Medal. Sue Divan tweeted about the English Department on Twitter after Niall's video was posted to thank

him for and praise his review. It should also be noted our colleague, J. Herron, won the Seamus Heaney Award for New Writing 2022.

In collaboration with the Literacy Co-Ordinator and the Careers Department, the English Department took part in an event to celebrate 100 years of the BBC. As part of their Centenary celebrations the BBC selected 100 schools from across the UK to visit and host a major event called 'BBC Share Your Story', which focused on improving pupils' oracy skills and inspiring them through the power of storytelling. BRA was delighted to be selected as one of only two schools in Belfast, and the event was hosted by Phil Taggart, Radio 1 DJ. The BBC Ambassador was Sarah McCaffery, who shared her inspirational story through storytelling about her experiences of racism and the difficulties she experienced handling pressure at school which resulted in anxiety. There was also an opportunity for some pupils to participate and a selection of pupils from Forms I, II and III had the opportunity to speak in front of their peers on the topic of 'Finding Something you Love'. The following pupils read their stories: Form I Evan Tosh and Yazmin McNamee; Form II Daniel Maitland and Austen Miskimmin-Young and Form III Jacob McLaughlin and Zoe Ingram.

In co-operation with the Library, Accelerated Reader proceeded for Forms I and II. Our pupils managed to: read 42, 961,898 words and take 1, 149 quizzes. Pupils were awarded House Points for becoming 'Millionaires' and/or members of the '100% Club', winners having read over a million words or achieving 100% in their reading quizzes. Certificates were signed by Mrs. Woods and given out to pupils in Assembly.

Other pupil-focused activities included Read-On week as Form I and II pupils raised £700 for the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children and hosting the Scholastic Book Fair raising £612.

Staff development activities included: the introduction of Surface Pro computers and, many thanks to a generous donation from FOTA, the introduction of Chromebooks for use with the pupils. Colleagues also attended a Shared Education Day with St. Malachy's, Belfast as well as online moderation events.

Geography

The Geography Department had a successful year both inside and outside the classroom during 2021 – 2022. The students achieved a fantastic set of results, at A2 100% A*-C, AS 100% A*-C and at GCSE 91% A*-C. We had 4 students achieve an A* at A Level and 5 at GCSE which was very pleasing to see.

Geography is continuing to be a popular subject choice with an 80% increase at GCSE and numbers at AS doubling. This is a trend the department would hope continues, as the subject links to a wide range of university choices and careers.

Our new students in Form 1 were able to bond together as young Geographers as part of wellbeing week we were able to join with Antrim and Newtownabbey Council to take part in a litter pick at Hazelbank Park and Loughshore. The students were able to collect a range of plastic and manmade rubbish from the area and filled over 15 black bags. This was a great opportunity to help protect our coastline and make students aware of the issues of plastic pollution in our oceans.

In October we were able to take our Lower 6th students to the North Coast to do a Sand Dune Study. This linked well to their Unit 1 and 3 examinations. The students went to Magilligan Field Centre and were able to take advantage of the expertise of the field centre staff to complete their study. The students went to Magilligan Point and went through the Umbra Sand Dunes, and during this time they studied the local wildlife, soil pH, temperature, and soil water content. This was a great experience and allowed our students to see our classwork in the real-world environment.

During the Summer Term Form 4 were able to take part in their Unit 3 river study. Again, the students went to the North Coast and looked at the Curly Burn River. The students represented the school well and collected data on Velocity, Rock size and river width/depth. This data will be used in their Unit 3 paper for their GCSE exams. This was a good experience to see their theory from the classroom in real life and how it is applied to the natural world.

Throughout the year Form 4 were able to take part in a pilot programme for the All-Island Schools Action for Climate Change programme. This was to allow students to get a qualification in science modules while taking part in a practical programme to reduce carbon emissions. The students ran a walk to school event and were able to reduce car journeys to school by over 150. The programme was running in conjunction with St Malachys and allowed us to share ideas and discuss these from a shared education perspective.

In addition to these local trips the Department has organised two trips to Iceland and Naples for 2023, these trips are well supported by the students, and we are very excited to see the Geography of these areas up close. It will support the students in their tectonics, tourism, and coasts modules.

Inside the classroom the Staff have worked hard to re organise and structure the junior school curriculum to bring it in line with their GCSE and A Level module which has been beneficial for students. Additionally notes at A Level and classroom activities are continually being developed and changed to keep Geography fresh for students and engaging.

History

The History department started the new academic year inspired by the training we had on our staff day in late September on the Rosenshine principles. We took away from this training the importance of retrieval, effective questioning, and the value of summarising and rehearsing information and applying it regularly. We attempted to integrate these principles more thoroughly into our teaching and learning activities and increased the use of the retrieval activities as suggested at our training. In particular, the use of 'Show me' boards has become a very strong and effective learning tool in the department, which has forced all pupils to become more engaged and allows all the teachers to assess the effectiveness of learning as well as teaching. This has become an integral part of our teaching with every classroom now equipped with a full set of student boards and pens.

Staff worked hard to integrate some of our COVID online resources into our face-to-face teaching to create a more hybrid form of learning, where it was felt that this style enhanced learning. We were able to re-use Explain Everything videos made during lock down as consolidation tools and

therefore the development of a useful flipped classroom emerged this year in a more meaningful way than before Covid-19.

As a department, our focus was on undertaking skills work at GCSE, AS and A2 Level, as this had been highlighted as a particular weakness due to numerous lockdowns. The skills deficit led to increased collaboration and consistency across the department when undertaking discussion of which sources, we would use for teaching and how they would be taught at all levels. Common were sources used by all teachers at similar points in the course to drive consistency. This approach undoubtedly helped us to achieve our excellent GCSE results in the summer of 2022.

We attended IMAX training during the year to enhance how we use the boards in our classrooms that were introduced into the History department at the end of 2021. Staff felt this training was very useful for teaching examination technique, showing pupils model answers and providing a more engaging form of teaching. We have all become more proficient in our use as a result of this training.

The History department welcomed a return to our face-to-face Open Morning in May 2022, where the History department received an exceptionally high number of visitors. Staff and pupil volunteers had prepared an engaging display in C5 that consisted of our Tommies display (those B.R.A. pupils who lost their lives in WWI), working out the meaning behind some of our post popular nursery rhymes, taking part in a quiz all with a 3D version of the Tower of London being displayed on our interactive board.

M6 pupils benefitted greatly for our M6 mock in early May. This session, which was led by the three members of the department who were teaching this group, prepared and delivered a run through of an A2 2 paper. Pupils found these highly valuable and undoubtedly played a role in our 100% A*-C grade results in the summer 2022 series.

Home Economics

It was good to return to a little normality in 2021-2022 still masked and socially distanced but in school. Zoom training and meetings were still very much part of school life.

Practical classes started early in September with pupils working together and enjoying learning together. We were aware of gaps due to some pupils having missed the practical experiences due to the two lockdowns.

There were two form 5 classes starting their controlled assessment in September, unfortunately the practical aspect of the controlled assessment was removed. The students were disappointed not to get to show off their skills. They worked well on the other aspects of the assessment.

The MVI students had to complete the two modules at A2 though the coursework requirements were greatly reduced. The A'level numbers remain small, and it can be difficult juggling the two year groups at the same time.

Results at GCSE and GCE were pleasing and much as expected.

We linked with a Queens University student who presented an Allergens workshop for form 4. This had potential but unfortunately ended up being on Zoom so the class were not quite as engaged.

I am very thankful for the teaching staff who helped out in the department, this year there were 3 additional members of staff teaching forms 1 – 3. Diane Younge the Biology technician is also a great help.

Again, I would like to record my appreciation for the work done by Mrs Woods and the SLT throughout the year, they worked tirelessly for the well-being of the whole school community.

ICT

The various lunch-time clubs were busy as always - Code Club for Forms 1 – 3 on Mondays and Gamers' Club on Wednesdays, both in C2. In Code Club, pupils had the opportunity use a range of hardware and software to learn the basis of coding. In Gaming Club, pupils were able to use a range of different games consoles, old and new (SNES, Mega Drive, Amiga, PlayStation, Xbox). Once again, the annual FIFA competition was eagerly contested.

Girls' Code Club in J3 was also popular on Tuesdays at lunchtime where they created projects using Microbits, HTML and Python.

In the Raspberry Pi Club (Wednesdays in C3), pupils created and programmed traffic lights (using leds, a button, buzzer and Python) and wrote Python code to construct buildings in Minecraft.

BRA was one of five schools to participate in a pilot project with Sentinus for the QUB IT Subject Ambassadors programme. Last November, staff from Sentinus and QUB Computer Science visited BRA and provided an afternoon of BBC microbit training to L6 SSD pupils. These pupils then acted as IT Subject Mentors with KS3 students in the code clubs.

The Library

The library hosted many author events throughout the year and continued its work with Explore Book Club at Oxford University. Pupils got to virtually meet and chat with such high-profile authors as Jacqueline Wilson, Jeff Kinney and Derek Landy. Academy pupils were awarded certificates from Oxford due to their hard work in book club. National Poetry Day and World Book Day were both celebrated. Book fairs took place and raised free books for the School Library. We continued our Shared Reading Group and strengthened our links with 'The Reader' in Liverpool. Form 1 and 2 classes continued to have timetabled library classes and participated in our highly successful Accelerated Reader programme. It had been a very successful year in the School Library.

Mathematics

The students studying Mathematics and Further Mathematics at all levels achieved grades that far surpassed the NI Grammar averages. This is an outstanding achievement as can be seen below.

Benchmarking GCSE 2022						
CCEA	%A*	%A	%B	%C*	%C	%D
B.R.A.	27.0	70.6	98.0	99.0	99.5	100
NI Grammar	18.7	58.9	88.4	94.8	97.9	98.9

Benchmarking AS 2022					
CCEA	%A	%B	%C	%D	%E
B.R.A.	83.3	95.0	96.7	96.7	98.3
NI Grammar	58.6	79.9	89.2	95.8	98.8

Benchmarking A2 2022						
CCEA	%A*	%A	%B	%C	%D	%E
B.R.A.	46.8	80.6	88.7	96.7	98.4	100
NI Grammar	32.5	70.4	83.9	92.8	97.6	100

The department supported a range of students from those who were looking to secure a GCSE pass to those going on to study a Mathematics related subject at university. Ben Golden was prepared for the STEP examinations for Cambridge University which is a huge undertaking. He was successful in his application and will be attending Jesus College to study Mathematics. This is a credit to his dedication and the staff involved. We had the largest cohort of students, 62, at A2 level in school and a Further Mathematics class of 12 out of 173 total candidates in Northern Ireland.

The school representatives continue to perform impressively in competitive, extracurricular Mathematics despite serious disruption due to Covid 19. The UKMT team competitions did not run but the Queen's competition did take place. The senior team of Ben Golden (M6), Alex Scott (M6), Sarah McCarney (L6) and Riya Raghuram (L6) claimed an impressive second place finish.

Individual competitions occurred as a mix of online and in person events. This posed significant logistical challenges but was rewarded with strong results.

At Senior level, pupils achieved: 2 Gold, 8 Silver and 11 Bronze awards. Ben Golden (M6) and Harrison Kirk (F5) qualified for the next round (the Senior Kangaroo) with Ben earning a merit certificate.

At Intermediate level, pupils achieved: 7 Gold, 4 Silver and 25 Bronze awards. In addition to their Gold awards, Oliver Pearce, Daniel Stewart, Georgia Crawford, Jakob Dabrowski, Oscar Hill, Harrison Kirk and Adam O'Brien (all F5) were selected to participate in the next round (the Pink Kangaroo) with Oliver and Daniel earning certificates of merit for their performance.

At Junior level, pupils achieved: 5 Gold, 7 Silver and 6 Bronze awards. In addition to earning Gold awards, Keshav Raghuram (F2) and Moss Scott (F2) qualified for the next round (the Junior Kangaroo).

Modern Foreign Languages

French and Spanish

The Department celebrated European Day of Languages, Form 3 students were treated to crepes by Colin the Crepe Man and students also competed in quizzes in class.

With a sense of normality returning to Belfast Royal Academy, the Department organised a French and German play for KS4 students with the Onatti Theatre Group. This was a part of the celebrations for European Day of Languages. Thanks to the financial support of Professor Hasslett, a smaller group of students were able to watch the German play.

The Classics Department has planned a trip to Pompei with the Geography Department for Form 3 and Form 4 students next year. Students are very much looking forward to seeing what they have learned in Classical Civilisations class.

The Department welcomed two student teachers from Queen's University Belfast, Miss Anna Walsh and Mr Matthew Leonard.

Siobhán Baine, Ben Golden and Joseph McGuigan were invited to compete in the final of the All-Ireland Linguistics Olympiad after having been placed in the top 100 in Ireland.

This year, the Department bade farewell to Ms. Rose McCay and Mrs. Jane McGowan.

German

This year we signed up for NICILT's Languages for Employability Webinar for Year 10 pupils. (January 2022). During the session pupils were able to discover how learning a language at GCSE helps to build a range of hard and soft skills that are invaluable in the workplace, as well as learning about the benefits that a second language can bring to both their personal and professional lives.

The Onatti theatre company visited school on 3rd May 2022 – the company performed a funny play, "Horoskop", for our Form 3 and 4 pupils which was very well received.

During the period of extended online learning / ongoing Covid restrictions, I encouraged pupils to participate in a range of opportunities offered to them via online platforms to enhance their knowledge of German language and culture:

- NICILT Spelling Bee competition (KS3)

- Café Connect – UK German Connection – all levels (interactive activities, group discussions on current topics, the opportunity to make new friends, learn about another culture, and practise some German)
- Still and Sparkling: UK-German Youth magazine with issues affecting young people today
- German Pupil courses / Scholarships: open to older pupils and taking place online during Summer 22
- Television series: Dark Woods, Nordic Murders – older pupils

Music

2021/2022 has proven to be a very busy and exciting year for the Music Department. Rehearsals commenced immediately in September for all groups socially distanced in the Assembly Hall. With only seven rehearsals between the beginning of the new school year and the Senior Orchestra and Senior Choirs performances at Prize Day, we settled down to concentrate on the music chosen for that occasion. The Senior Orchestra performed *Rondeau* by Purcell and the Chamber Choir sang *A Clare Benediction* by John Rutter. Due to Covid restrictions the performances were recorded in School and broadcast during the ceremony.

Immediately after the half term break, rehearsals commenced for the Carol Service. Once again, the Senior Choir, Chamber Choir, Intermediate Choir and Junior Choir performed. Belfast Cathedral was a wonderful venue, and we were all able to socially distance accordingly. Due to Covid restrictions, only 1 parent per child was allowed to attend the service – hopefully things will be different this year.

The Annual Spring Concert in March was a huge success. Fourteen different groups and over three hundred students performed in the Ulster Hall. With so many different musical genres represented throughout the two evenings it really was a feast of music. Special mention must go to the various members of M6 for whom this will be their last concert. There are simply too many to mention by name in this short article but Mr Forde, Mrs Prior and myself have greatly appreciated your support during your time at B.R.A.

Finally, news of some successes in the wider instrumental scene. Hugo Reilly Stewart, Connor Gillam, Theodore Hayward, Jamie Wilson and Rory Nethercott all gained places in the Ulster Youth Orchestra. These places are all highly prized and gained only by audition against the stiffest of competition province wide. Many congratulations to them all. The UYO's concert at the end of the summer in the Ulster Hall was fabulous and it was wonderful seeing so many past and present pupils of BRA playing in the youth orchestra or leading the course.

Physics

Thirteen Form 5 students participated in the British Physics Olympiad Intermediate Challenge. They attained one gold certificate, seven silver and five bronze.

Fifteen AS students entered the British Physics Olympiad Senior Challenge. They were awarded three gold certificates, six silver and six bronze.

100% of students attained a grade A*-C at GCSE level, with 83.6% awarded a grade A*-B

A-C and A-B performances at AS level were 14.3% and 14.7% above the NI grammar school average respectively.

At A2 level, 40% of pupils attained a grade A*, 15.8% above the NI Grammar School Average.

Politics

Politics enjoyed a successful year in 2021-22. There was enough demand for the subject that two L6 classes had to be timetabled, showing an increased level of interest in the subject from the previous year. In M6, Adam Finnegan joined the class after a particularly disappointing result in AS Chemistry. Although he did not need to sit the AS Politics paper, he did need to know the content for the comparative aspect on the A21 paper. He showed himself to be a conscientious and dedicated student, faithfully coming to extra classes and submitting work of a high standard.

The results in August were pleasing and testament to the hard work of the students. Three Middle Sixth students, Sorcha Boersma, Thomas Mahood and Ethan Duffy were awarded A* grades (Indeed Sorcha Boersma received the highest raw marks of any BRA Politics student). All 3 students worked to a very high standard throughout their 2 years of A Level, showing great interest in the subject outside of class and making salient points in class discussions. To his immense credit, Adam Finnegan was just 1 UMS away from an A* but decided not to ask for a re-mark. In Lower Sixth, over half the cohort was awarded an A grade, with Emily Campbell and Chris McGuigan achieving a UMS just short of 90% and 6 more students achieving a UMS more than 85%. Except for Chris McGuigan, both the LVI and MVI top performing students had been the top performing students consistently through the year in class assessments and tracking tests, demonstrating their robustness. Eva Jackson, a student that I tutored privately from March 2022, has joined the school to continue her A Levels.

Outside of the classroom, as many clubs and societies still could not meet, a group of committed LVI students met to take part in the Covid-proof Politics in Action group, a cross-community group of political engaged young people from BRA, St. Malachy's College and Dominican College. This year the meetings were again held on Zoom, very ably led by Ulster University lecturer and political commentator, David McCann. The students got to ask questions to Ma O'Hara, now the Green Party NI leader and benefitted from a session with Fact Check NI, a really vital skill for any student. With the election looming, the students presented their final manifesto to journalists Alison Morris and Alex Kane, who both tweeted to their thousands of followers about how impressed they were with the consideration, broad-mindedness, and positive ideas the students put forward.

Religious Studies

The Department continued to use the study support material which assisted the pupils on a week-to-week basis. We also continued to use the RE staff website which complemented our use of Google classroom as a pupil-based assessment tool. This has also been developed as a resource to summarise every lesson that is taught, which gives valuable information to those that are absent and also helps pupils to develop skills of organisation, and greater understanding of what is taught each lesson.

We continued to use the centralised 'Team Drive' which allows all members of the department access to standardised resources. Notes were updated for GCSE / AS /A2. The combination of Ethics and Church History at A-Level continues to prove to be a positive move. With the exception of this year, the AS/A2 courses has seen successive jumps in numbers of students doing RE at A-Level. We are hopeful this year was a 'one-off' dip in numbers.

In light of only getting 1 hour per week of Form 4 RE teaching time, we continued to use the space in the KS3 curriculum to teach the first unit of Form 4 GCSE from January of Form 3. We felt that this was a very positive decision, though it has also necessitated a total re-write of the KS3 syllabus and course notes.

We have now switched to the Philosophy course at GCSE. This has replaced the Mark's gospel module and has been a positive change with increased engagement from pupils.

We further developed booklets and embedded the 6 world faiths into the KS3 syllabus for 2022-23.

Sociology

Sociology continues to be a popular subject at both AS and A2 level. Despite Covid related absenteeism both LVI and MVI worked very hard throughout 2021 – 22. Results were higher than previous years with A2 100% A* - B, and AS 89% A – C.

Technology and Design

In November and February, the Technology department organised STEM activity days for girls in Form 3, starting a new initiative called GETSET (Girls exploring Technology, Science and Engineering Together). Mrs Graydon and Mrs McIlwaine led practical jewellery making workshops to show the girls how laser cutting technology could be used in manufacture of modern jewellery making.

In March we took the M6 Technology pupils to visit Terry Design Studio in Portadown, where they were able to see how a professional company designs and manufactures bespoke products for

clients. This proved to be a great experience for the pupils to see similar processes to school, but in a professional setting. This was particularly worthwhile for the several pupils going on to study Product Design at University.

In March we also hosted a careers talk for Civil Engineering for L6 pupils who were interested in applying to this field at University.

Throughout the year we developed a promotional / subject choice video using the professional clips used for the school website and our own L6 and M6 pupils talking about why they chose Technology and what they plan to do at university. We have used this in subject choice presentations for Forms 2,3 and 5 and it will be something we continue to work on and evolve in the future.

In June, a small group of our best Form 2 pupils were invited to take part in a Faraday Challenge Day at QUB, where they were involved in solving a transport problem and to model a solution to it. The group won the competition that day after they presented their solution to the judging panel and performed very well in all aspects of the challenge.

Form 2 pupils were invited to a Robotics event in Fleming Fulton School, organised by UUJ and Sentinus. The pupils have experience in building and programming robots and robotic cars to solve problems and they very much enjoyed the experience and challenge.

To celebrate International Women in Engineering Day in June, we took a selection of Form 4 girls to W5 where they had workshops, interviews and exposure to future careers in Engineering for Women. The girls responded very well to this and seemed to really be inspired by the guest speakers from local companies.

Using some of our COVID lessons, we ran a Dyson Challenge; Marble Run, for Form 3 in June after the examinations. This was an opportunity to include group work in Technology, which is not usually possible. The pupils enjoyed the challenge and worked well with their own design and problem-solving skills were developed well, if only because of the motivation to win the prizes!

Sport

PE Department

CMC/DJC/KEB completed RLSS National Pool Lifeguarding Qualification.

F4 Pupils attended Orienteering at Palace Stables in Armagh for GCSE practical assessment.

Sports Day was hosted at Mary Peters' and was well supported by both pupils and staff.

Defibrillator training for PE staff and coaches was carried out in June 2022.

Cricket, Rugby, and Hockey hosted fixtures to link with the former pupils of BRA.

Rugby

It was great to have a full season with block fixtures with other Schools returning. Teams represented the school from Form 1-1st XV with various teams at various levels. Notable performances during the season saw the 2nd XV and 3rd XV both reach the Quarter Final of their cup competitions. The Medallion XV also reached the Quarter Final of the Medallion Shield losing to eventual winners Campbell College

The Senior 7s team finished the season winning the Senior Ulster Schools 7s competition at Campbell College, defeating Campbell in the semi-final and Coleraine Grammar in the final.

Our junior teams all had excellent performances at their end of season blitz competitions.

Hockey

The 2A XI hockey team won the McDowell Shield by beating Strathearn School.

The U14A squad reached the semi-final of the Plate competition.

Zoe Place, Alex Snoddy and Rachel Beattie were selected for the Ulster Hockey U16 Development squad.

Olivia Beattie and Emma Uprichard were selected for the Ulster U18 squad and U18 Irish Squad.

Anouk Bosket, Erin Gray, Faith Hillis and Alex Snoddy were selected for Ulster East.

Beth Strong was selected to play for Ulster North.

Netball

Both coaches and players were delighted to see a return to school netball this year and enjoyed getting back to competitive matches! All teams played in the District League Competition, with the Minor B, Junior B and Junior A teams reaching the Northern Ireland League Finals Day. The Minor B and Junior A won their sections with the Junior B team finishing runners up. This was fantastic success for BRA netball and well deserved for all of the dedicated players involved.

Representative Honours

U13 Regional Development Squad- Emilia Gordon, Jessica Smyth, Keri Gray

U15 Regional Development Squad – Jane Martin, Ruby Hanna, Lucy Smyth, Beth Strong, Wiktoria Januszewska, Aditi Saneesh Krishna.

U17 Northern Ireland Long Squad- Erin Gray

U17 Northern Ireland Development Squad- Anna Falls, Ciara Murray

U21 Northern Ireland Long Squad- Catelyn Burns, Siobhan Baine, Nada Hawela

Athletics (boys)

The District Athletic Championships took place at the Antrim Forum on Tuesday 3rd May. In total, 30 athletes qualified for the Ulster championships, the Mini Boys finished 3rd in the Team Competition, Minor Boys finished 1st in the Team Competition, Junior Boys finished 3rd Team Competition and the Intermediate Boys finished 2nd Team Competition. The Ulster Schools' Athletics Championships took place at the Antrim Forum on Friday 20th and Saturday 21st May. In total 7 athletes won medals; Antoni Derezenski deserves a special mention for winning the Minor boys Shot Putt. 5 athletes qualified to compete at the Irish Schools' Championships. In the Form 1 Ulster Schools' team competition the boys finished 3rd.

Athletics (girls)

The athletics season began mid-March. Enthusiasm and commitment to train was evident with large numbers turning out to games and extra practice. In all, 45 girls represented BRA at the District Championships, with many debutant performances. The girls successfully achieved 5 Gold, 7 Silver and 6 Bronze medals. There were distinguished performances from Keri Gray, Eve Manson, Hope Daniels, Grace McAllister, Abbie O'Neill, and Maia Erwin.

5 girls qualified for the Irish Championships in Tullamore. To reach this level is a superb achievement for our athletes.

Congratulations to Grace McAllister Form 4 (javelin) who was selected to represent Ulster at the Tailteann Irish Schools Interprovincial in Tullamore on Friday 24th June.

Girls' Cricket

The U15 Girls' Cup team, won against Shimna Integrated College by 94 runs in the first round with Zoe Place top scoring with 39 runs and Aditi Saneesh Krishna taking 5 wickets for 4 runs. As the competition progressed the team faced tough opposition from Friends School Lisburn at the semi-final stage and were unfortunate to lose. The team showed much enthusiasm and determination throughout the competition. It was great to also field a second U15 girls' team who played friendly competitions. Girls in Forms 1 and 2 were able to compete at the U13 Super 8's competition and enjoyed their first competitive matches.

Congratulations to Fiona Murray and Ciara Murray who continued their training with the NCU U17 Girls' Regional Development Squad during the season.

Aquatics

It was fantastic to see the return of the school aquatic sports, with several students getting involved in school training sessions and many representing BRA in Regional swimming and water polo competitions over the course of the year.

Special congratulations to Bryn Mawhinney (F3) who was selected to compete for the Ulster team at the Irish Schools Interprovincial gala along with Moss Scott (F1) and Jan Boersma (F1)c who were selected for the Swim Ulster Regional Skills Squad. Congratulations also to Ellen Loane (L6th) who represented the Irish Water polo team in the Senior European Cup Qualifiers in Romania.

Special Educational Needs

Learning Support Co-ordinator: Ms Diane Keenan

Assistant Learning Support Co-ordinator: Mrs Joanne McNally

SEN Governor: Mrs Ann Clements

During 2021-22 a report on Special Educational Needs was delivered to the Education Committee of the Board of Governors each term. A full report using the EA template was shared with the Board of Governors for the June 2022 meeting. The school SEN policy was reviewed as part of the Autumn report and is available on the School website. The Learning Support Department met in June to plan the use of a Staff Development Day in August 2022 to conduct whole school development to support children with Special Educational Needs (SEN). This continues to be particularly important as we move towards staged implementation of the new SEN Framework. The support and interest of the Board of Governors, particularly that of Mrs Ann Clements, is very much appreciated. We are also indebted to the Teaching Staff and Classroom Assistants who show great care, commitment and dedication in order to meet the needs of all our pupils.

Student Teachers 2021-2022

The following students were given School Experience and Teaching Practice at the Academy in the academic year 2021/22:

University of Ulster

Melissa Smith Art and Design

Queen's University

Daniel Connaghan Mathematics

Victoria Dobbin Religious Studies

Matthew Leonard Spanish

Anna Walsh Spanish

Mark Stewart Chemistry

Intercomm's North Belfast Short Story Literary Competition

Clara Walsh (Form 4) was the winner of the Inaugural Intercomm's North Belfast Short Story Literary competition (15-17 Yr old category). She read her poem at an awards ceremony held at Clifton House.

Book Review

Niall Blasket did a video review of Sue Divan's 'Guard Your Heart'. Her YA novel was nominated for a Carnegie Medal. Sue tweeted about the English Department on Twitter after Niall's video was posted.

Model United Nations

Model United Nations continued to meet weekly in C5 with a strong turn out from junior boys. We debated a range of topics such as nuclear weapons, refugees, sustainability, the pandemic and the war in Ukraine. The pupils really enjoyed the role play component of debating as the delegate of a particular country and enjoyed competing for the accolade of delegate of the week. There was a notable growth in confidence amongst the pupils as they became more able to speak in front of their peers and we focused on oracy at the weekly meetings. Particular thanks to Ethan Wiley (L6) and Soham Ghosh (L6) who acted as guest chairs on a weekly basis.

Junior Scripture Union

Junior Scripture Union was held weekly during Wednesday lunchtime. Throughout the course of the year we studied several characters in the Bible. Pupils also attended the BIG Scripture Union Weekend which was held this year in school due to Covid restrictions. The S.U. also organised an end of year barbecue at Ben Madigan and were delighted to have Dr McCombe speaking to the pupils before he took up his new position at Stranmillis College.

Senior Scripture Union

Senior Scripture Union was held weekly during Friday lunchtime. Throughout the course of the year, we looked at what the Bible has to say. The highlight of the year was the Senior S.U. Weekend which was held in March at Seaview House, Kilkeel. Steven Halliday from Crown Jesus Ministries was the speaker over the weekend.

Young Einstein Club

Following Covid Restrictions, practical work in the Science Departments was only beginning to be re-established. We did not feel able to run the Young Einstein Club during this academic year and no meetings took place. The club will return in the October 2022.

Trips

Due to ongoing covid restrictions no school trips were able to be organised for this academic year. A wide range of trips have been already planned for School calendar next year including two ski trips, a Spanish exchange, trips to Rome, Hadrian's wall, Iceland, Naples, Paris and Geneva.

Other Matters

Careers

- MVI pupils received help, advice and guidance with UCAS, CAO and HE applications.
- MVI pupils attended many Virtual Open Days including QUB, UU, Stranmillis, St Mary's and Northern Regional College.
- A representative from Belfast Metropolitan College came into school and spoke to Form 5 pupils about Further Education pathways and spoke to MVI about Higher Education pathways.
- Aspiring MVI medical, dentistry, veterinary, nursing and midwifery students participated in a 'Virtual Multi Mini Interview simulation event'. These were organised via school cloud.
- Mock interviews were held for all those applying for Teaching.
- Some pupils received a Conditional Offer from PWC and Deloitte for their Higher Apprenticeship.
- All Apprenticeship opportunities, including the Higher-Level Apprenticeships, were advertised to our pupils. Examples included, Mercedes-Benz, Stena Line, Belfast Harbour Civil Engineering Apprentice Opportunity, BT, NIE, NI Water etc.
- Several our LVI and MVI pupils attended the Chartered Accountancy Open Day at PWC.
- A number of LVI pupils took part in numerous programmes organised by Screenworks such as Prosthetics, Costume Design and Special Effects.
- Form V pupils attended an introductory session about the role of the Careers Service NI and each pupil was interviewed by the DEL Careers Adviser.

- All virtual work experience opportunities were posted on google classroom and emailed out to parents.
- Work+ came into school and gave a presentation about Apprenticeship opportunities in NI.
- All LVI pupils attended the UCAS Conference at the Eikon Centre.
- The Army Recruiting team visited school and spoke to some Form 5 – MVI pupils.
- Some LVI pupils participated in actual work experience such as with the PSNI, Catalyst and in some local primary schools.

Habitat for Humanity NI

Activities for the Habitat for humanity group were impacted by covid restrictions but it is hoped that efforts and participation in local events will recommence in the new academic year.

Primary School Programme

Despite attempts to secure experience for our Lower Sixth Form pupils with a number of our partner primary schools, we were unable to run this programme because of the continuing restrictions in place as a consequence of Covid19. We are looking forward to a return to normal practice in the 2022-23 academic year.

Save the Children Fund

The Save the Children Fund Committee raised over £3,500 in 2021/22, from events such as BRA's Bake Off, Staff Christmas Jumper Day, candy cane deliveries, a non-uniform day, hamper raffles and a BBQ at the Sponsored Walk.

School Council

It was a busy year for the School Council in 2021-2022. We held our annual non-uniform day in October. The Pupil and School Councils chose to split the money raised for this fund-raising

activity between Jigsaw CCC, NI Children's Hospice and Macmillan. Representatives from each of these organisations received cheques for £600 at whole-school Assemblies in December.

At the beginning of the academic year, all schools were offered a time capsule to commemorate the centenary of Northern Ireland and capture key moments and themes of this anniversary year for pupils of the future. The Pupil Council agreed the contents of the time capsule which includes items to reflect the Covid-19 pandemic and the impact on daily life, families and the school community. At a ceremony on 27th May, the capsule was placed in its location within the Crombie foyer by members of the Pupil Council, Mrs Woods, our oldest alumna, Mrs Beattie Metcalfe, and our youngest Form 1 pupil Amelia Manley.

Throughout the process pupils enjoyed thinking of artefacts that reflect our school history and what life had been like for students during the past year in the pandemic. Some items included in the capsule are a school crest, the Christmas 2021 edition of The Owl magazine, a programme for the 2022 Spring Concert, a facemask, a lateral flow test kit, a memory stick containing promotional videos and handwritten accounts from members of the Pupil Council involved in this project. It is hoped that the contents of the time capsule will create an important part of the School's history for future generations of pupils to discover.

There were also plans to bring some greenery back into our school. The Council agreed to work with the Horticulture Society to try to improve the school environment. The Pupil and School Council were also involved in the introduction of the Merit Wheel in Year Assemblies. The Merit Wheel is now used to reward pupils for their good behaviour in school in relation to Character, Culture and Currency Merits. The Merit Wheel was funded by a generous donation from Friends of the Academy.

Other issues discussed by the Pupil and School Councils throughout the year included the food provision in the canteen; ways to reduce litter throughout the school site; recycling facilities; and the possibility of the installation of bike racks.

The Head Boy, Head Girl and their deputies addressed whole-school assemblies regarding these various issues in December.

The Villiers Park Trust

An Educational Trust based in Cambridge which aims to inspire gifted and talented pupils.

The residential Reading Parties at Foxton did not resume during the academic year 2021-22. However, virtual opportunities that were shared to us by the Trust were advertised to pupils through the Careers Department's Google Classroom.

Ben Madigan Preparatory School

After two difficult years, it was great to start the 2020- 2021 academic year with the knowledge that some covid restrictions were being lifted. As a result, we were gradually over the school year, able to begin to resume some school activities.

We joined with our partner school, Our Lady of Lourdes, to attend EA Peace IV activities to the National Football Stadium at Windsor Park, had joint ukulele and drum lessons and a fun-packed day at Breckenhill Outdoor Education Centre, to name but a few.

Ukulele lessons resumed in school for all children in Preps 4 – 7.

Prep 7 residential was a fun and active few days at Crawfordsburn Activity Scout Centre, under the leadership of Mr Coulter and Mr Ingram.

Our football team had success on the field, winning the Galaxy Football's Prep School Football Tournament 2022.

Our Prep 4-7 tread the boards at Courtyard Theatre, Ballyearl, with a very entertaining performance of 'Pirates of the Curry Bean'. Thank you to Mrs Lennon, Mr Ingram and Mrs Bell for spending time rehearsing with the children to ensure that this was a thoroughly enjoyable evening for both the children and the audience.

Mrs. Wilson retired after just over 30 years as a teacher in Ben Madigan Prep.

Mr. Coulter left, after two years as Principal of Ben Madigan, to take up a new position much nearer to home.

Mr. McCleery took up the post of PE specialist in October 2021.

Miss Boyle took up the post as Nursery Manager in January 2021.

Mrs. Dallas was appointed as new Principal in May 2022 and will take up her post in January 2023.

Mrs. Chapman was appointed Vice Principal in June 2022 and will be Acting Principal until December 2022.

Over the course of the year £ 4,474 was raised for various charities including Macmillan Cancer, Save the Children, Children in Need and Horatio's Garden.

Measures for the Security of Pupils, Staff and Premises

The Board of Governors is committed to ensuring a safe and secure environment for pupils and staff during the school day. Security measures are reviewed periodically and include the following:

A modern fire detection and alarm system is in operation throughout all the school sites and is tested on a frequent basis. A fire drill is carried out each term.

A monitored intruder alarm system is in operation at the main school and Preparatory Department sites.

CCTV cameras are in operation at the main school site and at Ben Madigan.

Buildings are secured by school janitorial staff each evening.

Staff members are on supervisory duty at break and lunchtimes.

Safe systems of work are in operation with respect to contractors working on the school site.

School management consults with the Education Authority and the PSNI Crime Prevention Branch on a regular basis with respect to safety and security measures to be undertaken on the school site.

Insurance

Following advice from representatives of the school's insurance brokers, the Board of Governors is responsible to ensure that adequate insurance cover is held by the school. At present, the school insures against its Legal Liability for injury caused to members of the public, including pupils. To succeed in any action against the school, a claimant must prove that the School has been in breach of its statutory duties or has been negligent.

In some cases, injuries can befall pupils arising out of school activities, particularly in the area of sports and other extra-curricular activities, where there is no such legal liability upon the School to provide insurance cover. **The Board of Governors would therefore strongly advise parents to take out individual Personal Accident policies for their children**, in order that cover may be provided, in the event of a severe injury being sustained by a pupil, where there is no negligence on the part of the School or any other party. Further information for those interested in Personal Accident cover for rugby is available on the IRFU website.

Insurance should also be taken out by parents, if expensive items of equipment are being brought into school.

Buildings, Estates and Equipment

Cliftonville Road Site

New roof covering to Bruce Building including external concrete repairs, new windows to rear and new Fume Cupboards, Mechanical Ventilation and decorations to Chemistry Labs and Geography room on top floor of Bruce Building.

External re-decoration of Darbyshire, Jackson and Pollin Buildings

New roof covering to Swimming Pool Plant Room

Sanding and Varnishing of Lower Jackson classrooms and Assembly Hall stage

Replacement of boilers to Louis Lord Building

Replacement of one boiler to main boiler house

Replacement of heating control panels to Pollin and Louis Lord Boiler Houses

Replacement of desks and chairs to Bruce Ground Floor classrooms

Ben Madigan Site

Sanding and Varnishing of Assembly Hall

External redecoration of Kindergarten Building, Cricket Pitch Steps and Transition Block

Roughfort Site

Installation of new security fencing and gates along front boundary

New temporary surface on overflow parking area

Health and Safety Work (all sites)

Fixed wire testing was carried out in relevant buildings throughout the school. This is completed on a rota basis.

Portable Appliance Testing was carried out on all school electrical equipment

A Landlord's gas check was carried out, as required annually.

Boiler servicing was carried out

Legionella pipe work and water tank cleaning was carried out.

Fire and Security Alarm Cyclical Maintenance was carried out.

Freedom of Information Scheme

In line with legislative requirements, the School has a policy, detailing information which is accessible to parents on request. Copies of this policy may be obtained from the Bursar's Office.

GDPR

The School processes and retains records in line with the requirements of the GDPR

Summary of Accounts

Income and Expenditure Account

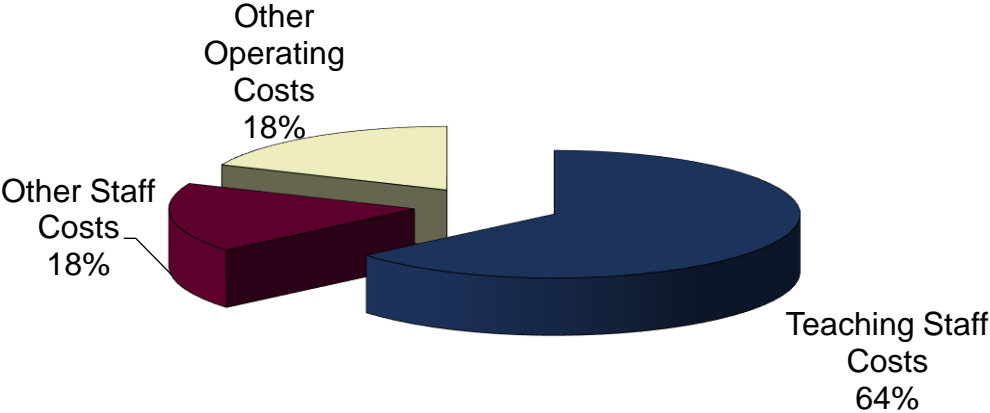
2021/22

	2021/22	2020/21
Income	£	£
Department of Education Grants	8,309,609	8,113,365
Preparatory Department Fee Income	490,581	448,130
Playgroup & Childminding Fees	152,155	44,591
Miscellaneous Income	98,512	127,225
	<u>9,050,857</u>	<u>8,733,311</u>
Expenditure	£	£
Teaching Staff Costs	6,020,138	5,690,199
Other Staff Costs	1,667,504	1,465,319
Other Operating Costs	1,743,413	1,483,015
	<u>9,431,055</u>	<u>8,638,533</u>
(Deficit)/Surplus to Reserves	<u>(380,198)</u>	<u>94,778</u>

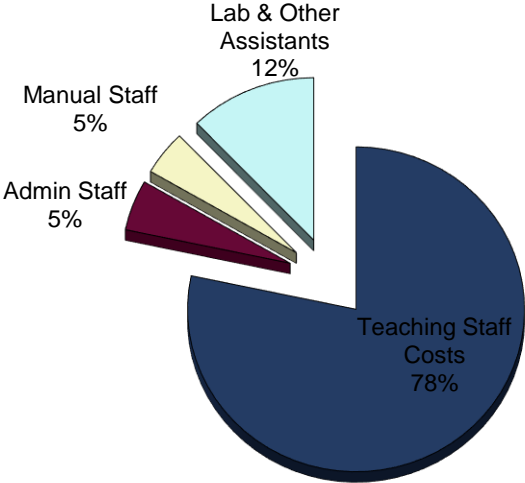
(Continued)

	2021/22	2020/21
Other Operating Costs	£	£
Class materials	107,568	68,886
Maintenance	312,285	427,481
Heat, Light & Water	297,331	149,419
Cleaning	259,508	260,950
Insurance, Bank & Audit	164,820	165,312
Examination Fees	37,597	34,136
Administration	125,725	130,425
Sports, Games & Travel	34,761	9,548
Transport	142,738	57,977
Purchase of Equipment	160,275	80,469
Miscellaneous	<u>100,805</u>	<u>98,412</u>
Total	<u>1,743,413</u>	<u>1,483,015</u>
Other Staff Costs	£	£
Administrative Staff	387,024	351,221
Manual Staff	341,984	309,549
Laboratory & Other Assistants	<u>938,496</u>	<u>804,549</u>
	<u>1,667,504</u>	<u>1,465,319</u>
The number of full-time equivalent teachers employed by the School during the year was:		
	2021/22	2020/21
Secondary Department	89	85
Preparatory Department	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
	<u>97</u>	<u>93</u>

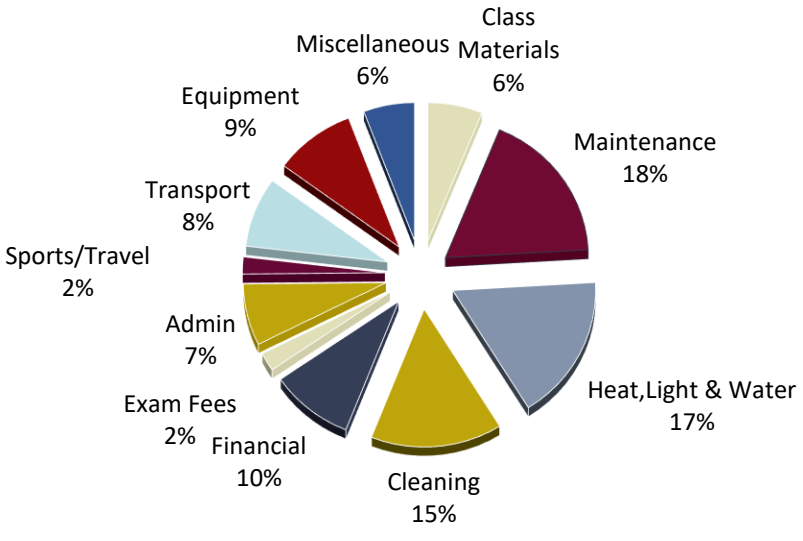
Expenditure 2021/22



Staff Costs 2021/22



Other Operating Costs 2021/22



Board of Governors

Appointed by the Department of Education

(for the period from Jan 2022 – December 2025)

Mr. D. Flood, JP., B.Ed., Pg.Cert.

Mrs. E. Tohill, BSc; F.C.A

Mr Brian Monroe, B.Sc.(Acct.), M.Acct., F.C.A.

Mrs. C. Rowan, B.Sc.

Prof. J. A. I. Montgomery, B.A., D.Phil, PFHEA, MISTD, FRSA

Elected Parent Governors

(For the period February 2022 – January 2026)

Mrs. P. Gillies, BSc, M.B.A, F.C.A.

Mrs. C. Latham, B.Ed., M.Sc., P.Q.H. (N.I.)

Dr. C. O’Kane, BA (Hons), M.B.A

Elected Teacher Governors

(For the period February 2022 – January 2026)

Ms. K. Barnett B.A., M.A.

Miss. K. Brady B.Sc.

Mr. C. Nash, B.Sc.

Elected Representative Governors

(For the period February 2020 – January 2024)

Mr. K.A. Knox, M.Sc. (Hon. Treasurer)

Mr. G.R. Simon, F.R.I.C.S.

(For the period February 2022 – January 2023)

Ms. C. Dillon, B.A.

(For the period February 2022 – January 2025)

Mr. N. W. Beggs

Mr. B.W. McCormack, B.Sc. (Econ) F.C.A.

Mr. S.B. Orr, LL.B.

Mr. S.J.S. Warke, A.C.I.I., Dip P.F.S.,
T.E.P.

(For the period Feb 2022 – January 2026)

Mr. M. L. Blake, LL.B., B.L.; Attorney at Law

Mrs. K. L. Burns, B.A

Mrs. A. Clements, B.A.

Mr. M. Orr, K.C., S.C.

Mr. D.E. Porter, M.Sc., C.Eng., M.I.C.E.,
M.C.I.H.T., M.C.I.W.E.M.

(For the period Feb 2019 – January 2023)

Mrs. J. Weir, M.B.E., B.Sc., C.Math., M.I.M.A.

(Hon. Secretary)

Principal (Non-voting member)

Mrs. H. Woods, B.Sc., B.Ed., P.Q.H. (N.I.) M.A.

Warden

Dr. K. M. Bill, M.B. Ch. B., F.C.A.I., F.R.C.A.,
F.F.I.C.M., M.A. (Warden)

Senior Vice-Warden

Mr. D. Walsh, B.Sc., M.B.A., C.Eng., M.I.M.E.

Head of Finance & Corporate Services

Mr. S Burrows, B.Sc, F.C.A.

(Acts as Clerk to the Board of Governors)