

THE ANNUAL REPORT



2022 – 2023

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

2023-24

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. In **Form 3** pupils have one dedicated Careers period per fortnight. RSE is delivered in line with statutory guidance and makes use of CCEA resources. 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

2023-24

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. RSE is delivered in line with statutory guidance and makes use of CCEA resources.

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

Subject Title (Awarding Body)	Subject Title (Awarding Body)
Art and Design (CCEA)	Further Mathematics (CCEA)
Biology (CCEA)	Geography (CCEA)
Business Studies (CCEA)	German (CCEA)
Chemistry (CCEA)	History (CCEA)
Computer Science (OCR)	Latin (OCR)
Design and Technology (CCEA)	Mathematics (CCEA)
Digital Technology (CCEA)	Music (CCEA)
Drama (CCEA)	Physical Education (CCEA)
Economics (CCEA)	Physics (CCEA)
English Language (CCEA)	Religious Education (AQA)
English Literature (CCEA)	Single Award Science (CCEA)
Food and Nutrition (CCEA)	Spanish (CCEA)
French (CCEA)	

Sixth Form Curriculum

2023-24

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 as well as a devoted programme for our Oxbridge candidates. 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-one subjects *currently* offered at AS and A2.

Subject Title (Awarding Body)	Subject Title (Awarding Body)
Art and Design (CCEA)	History (CCEA)
Biology (CCEA)	Latin (OCR)
Business Studies (CCEA)	Life and Health Sciences (CCEA)
Chemistry (CCEA)	Mathematics (CCEA)
Computer Science (Pearson)	Moving Image Arts (CCEA)
Digital Technology (CCEA)	Music (CCEA)
Drama and Theatre Studies (AQA)	Nutrition and Food Science (CCEA)
Economics (WJEC)	Physical Education (Pearson)
English (AQA)	Physics (CCEA)
English Literature (CCEA)	Psychology (WJEC)
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)
Health and Social Care (CCEA)	

DEPARTMENTS

ART

All pupils from each of our Art and Design GCSE and A-Level groups had the fantastic opportunity to visit the Royal Ulster Academy of Arts 141st Annual Art Exhibition in the Ulster Museum. These trips helped enhance their courses as they received a range of exhibition tours alongside workshops and a talk by local artist Simon McWilliams.

Congratulations to our Art and Design student Ellyn Elliott whose textile work was selected for the CCEA True Colours Virtual Exhibition. The exhibition showcased the top candidates from Northern Ireland.

We had two past pupils, Chloe Hall and Shannon Brolly, complete a short work experience with us in the Art and Design Department before progressing on to other posts.

Our Form 4 pupils had the opportunity to be involved in designing and making two life-size scarecrows to be part of the Hillsborough Castle Scarecrow Parade 2022. Our pupils enjoyed two very active and creative sessions with artist, Sue Cathcart, and helper, Linda, who assisted them to bring to life their Ice Queen and King Kong designs for the Kings, Queens and Rulers theme. The Scarecrows were displayed alongside many others created by local schools and community groups in partnership with local artists.

A2 and AS Level Art students were very privileged this year to have the opportunity to view the private art collection of BRA Alumnus, Dr Bernard Jaffa in Belfast. Dr Jaffa very kindly offered to host the pupils and their teachers for a morning to visit his home, view his wonderful art collection and hear about his passion for art. He shared his love and appreciation of the works of many celebrated Irish artists, including Gerard Dillon, Dan O'Neill, Neil Shawcross, Basil Blackshaw, and fellow BRA alumnus Colin Middleton. Dr Jaffa took time to speak to all the pupils about their own art projects and reminisce about his time at school.

The Art and Design Department continued with its many highly successful Art Clubs. Afterschool and lunchtime Fantasy Art Clubs, Comic Creators Club and LS Art Club, and Inktober drawing Challenge Month, all run by Art Technician Laura Atkins, as well as a new Senior Art Club run by Art & Design teacher Mrs Hare.

We encourage students to be involved in the art world through competitions and projects outside of school. Katie Geddis (F5) had a winning entry in Ulster University's LGBT+ History Month Art Competition, and Jai Beattie (F4) won 1st place in Newington Credit Union's Chapter 3 Art Competition. Seven students from our Art and Design classes continued for a second year in the Beat Carnival programme. This relationship project aims to unite and celebrate young people's individual 'single' stories of growing up in NI, their identity and culture.

The North Belfast Area Learning Community Schools' Art Exhibition took place in October hosted by the University of Ulster. Ten of our own outstanding Art and Design pupils with their family and friends were invited to celebrate their art successes over the last year. It was a wonderful evening despite the rainy weather; they were able to view their creative work alongside that of several other North Belfast schools in Ulster University's exciting new campus.

Mrs Hare and Mrs Patterson ran a ceramics Christmas decoration workshop in November for Friends of the Academy to help raise much-needed funds.

The Art and Design Department invited three wonderful past pupils to give an information talk to our Form 6 students who would be applying to various fields of Art for their further education. Kathleen Malone is undertaking Fine Art, Ellie Walsh is undertaking Fashion and Aine Crawford is undertaking Foundation Art, all at Ulster University. They shared insights into their degree courses and current art portfolio work as well as answering questions.

Form 4, 5, L6 and M6 students had the pleasure of listening to a talk by visiting course Co-Director Dr Henry Melki of BDes Hons Animation at Ulster University in school in October. Animation is a studio-focused, highly creative course, specialising in computer animation for games, VFX, feature and TV animation, and Dr Melki gave insights on the course and opportunities available to students after progressing through the degree.

Senior students from Belfast Royal Academy and St Malachy's College had the opportunity of a Shared Education trip to the MAC Belfast for the Ron Mueck Exhibition. Students were given a talk on the impressive sculpture pieces on display and then took part in a drawing workshop to fully take in the experience. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed their experience at the MAC.

Form 6 students from across Belfast gathered at Ulster University to explore dreams for themselves and the city as part of the 4 Corners Festival. Elliott McKeown, Mia McKay and Michael O'Reilly along with Mrs Patterson (Art and Design Subject Leader) attended the photography workshop run by award-winning photographer Mal McCann (Irish News) who gave support and teaching on developing skills in smartphone photography and considering new perspectives on their city and their future.

The Creative Art Society was introduced this year. Past Pupil Kim Mawhinney is the patron and our President Leah McCord and Vice Presidents Mia McKay and Joseph Golden were nominated.

We had Student Teacher Emily Scott completing her teaching practice with us for 8 weeks during the months of April and May. Emily worked with the students and supported junior art classes, senior student art tutorials, taught a connected STEAM project and got involved in the many Art Clubs taking place in the Art and Design Department.

The Annual Art and Design Exhibition in the Art and Design Department took place 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.

Mrs Patterson and Mr Roberts attended several events throughout the year run by CCEA on Marking and teaching Moving Image Arts.

Mrs Hare, Mrs O'Donnell and Mr Roberts had the opportunity to moderate for CCEA. This is a valuable opportunity for the department and for staff professional development.

The Owl Cover for 2021-22 was designed by Leah McCord.

Mr Roberts moved from the Art and Design department at BRA and is now in post at Antrim Grammar.

BIOLOGY

In 2022-2023, the Biology department was back to full swing again, initially teaching the full Biology specification and welcoming the full return of practical work at both GCSE and GCE levels. This proved both challenging for staff and pupils, especially since many pupils had limited practical experience due to the COVID pandemic. Each class overcame these challenges and produced some fantastic practical write-ups and the CCEA moderation feedback was excellent across the board. The AS level Biologists were very lucky and got to carry out a fieldtrip to Tollymore field studies centre in Newcastle, Co. Down for some hands-on practical experience. This was the first time since before the COVID pandemic, and was so beneficial for each pupil.

As the year progressed, CCEA released some advanced information for the GCSE and GCE examinations. This provided some much-needed guidance to the students who have endured so much in the past number of years. The staff in the Biology department worked exceptionally hard to adapt their teaching and revision strategies to ensure each pupil had the necessary resources to ensure the course was fully taught, but to also hone the skills of the pupils to make best use of the advanced material. This was extremely successful, and we have achieved some of the best results the Biology department has ever had. The team deserves credit for the hard work and effort put into the year.

There have been a number of staffing changes in the Biology department. Dr Currie was on long-term sick leave and returned in January 2023 on a phased return. We were very fortunate to secure Miss Julia Trowell for the full academic year to cover Dr Currie's absence. Julia was an amazing asset to the Biology department and both the pupils and staff miss her greatly; we wish her every happiness in her gap year travelling around different parts of the world. Mrs Leah Nicholl stepped up to the position of subject leader. A huge thank you to Leah for stepping into this role at short notice and for doing an outstanding job throughout the year. In February, we were pleased to report Dr Ursula Anderson was appointed to the full-time permanent position within the department. She is an invaluable member of the department and has settled in very well.

Throughout the year, the Horticultural society under the tutelage of Dr U Anderson and Dr J Shiels, have grown various plants (geraniums and aloe vera) and vegetables (tomatoes, chilli, courgettes and garlic). They have also made bird garlands during the Winter and held a sunflower competition. Later in the year, they were involved with the development of the green space in the school playgrounds. The pupils developed their skills as landscape gardeners to arrange and plant various trees and shrubs to create a visually appealing recreation area for all pupils to enjoy in the Bruce and Jackson playgrounds, this project was funded by a school pollinator garden grant.

Dr J Shiels entered a number of Form 4 and 5 pupils into the Biology Olympiad; this was a great opportunity for the pupil to test their skills and several pupils achieved some marvellous results: 2 Gold, 3 Silver, 5 Bronze and many more highly commended. This was a brilliant experience and achievement for these pupils.

We paid tribute to our Form 5, L6th and M6th who received results in August 2023. Our results this year are outstanding, and we praise our students for their hard work and resilience in navigating through this academic year.

BUSINESS STUDIES

As a department, we continued to provide extra tuition and therapy sessions for pupils within the Study Support system to help with grade improvement. This continues to be a success, with all pupils involved showing signs of improvement.

164 pupils visited Subway to aid the completion of their coursework.

Various guest speakers gave talks to pupils from Deloitte, PWC, Generation Innovation and Hayes Recruitment.

Catalyst also attended and gave a pupil presentation on Innovation.

Two teams entered the NI BDO/QUB Business Challenge. One team made it through the heats to the final four.

Five pupils undertook summer work experience with Generation 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 75 % of the cohort achieved an A* - A grade.

Over 75 % of the cohort achieved an A grade at AS level. An unbelievable total of 40 pupils (almost 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.

Four pupils competed in the regional heat of the 'Top of the Bench' Competition, finishing in an excellent third place.

COMPUTER SCIENCE/DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY

Mr McKillen's Code Club for Forms 1 – 3 on Mondays and Gamers 'Club on Wednesdays were both extremely busy. In Code Club, pupils had the opportunity to 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.

Mrs Thornton's Girls 'Code Club in J3 was also popular on Tuesdays at lunchtime where they created a range of 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). Pupils also built a programmable Lego robot.

DRAMA

11 pupils studied Drama and Theatre at GCE A-Level: 73% obtained an impressive A*-A while 100% obtained A*-B.

13 pupils studied GCSE Drama: 100% obtained A*-B with an impressive 92% awarded A*-A.

In November, the Senior School musical *School of Rock* was performed to packed-out audiences over two consecutive nights. An enthusiastic cast and crew helped ensure a very successful and enjoyable production, which included a matinee performance for local primary schools.

The Drama department 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 department has once again been selected to be a part of the programme for the 2023/24 academic year.

In October, as part of the continuing Shared Education initiative, 49 GCSE, AS and A Level Drama students, as well as members of the *School of Rock* cast who do not study curriculum Drama, teamed up with their counterparts at St Malachy's College to watch Bruiser Theatre Company's touring production of John Godber's *Teachers*.

In January, Lower VI students attended a theatre workshop with Bruiser Theatre Company at the Mac, Belfast. Led by artistic director Lisa May, students attended four ninety-minute workshops with industry experts, which proved invaluable in helping them prepare for their practical examination, as well as showcasing a variety of careers in the Creative Arts industry.

In the Spring term, A Level and GCSE Drama students showcased their practical work to packed-out audiences of friends, family and teachers.

In June, the department hosted former pupil Carly McCullough. Carly, who hopes to apply for a PGCE and is currently studying Drama and English at Queen's University, gained valuable experience as she shadowed Form IV Drama students preparing for practical controlled assessment.

Staff development activities included SLT joining Replay Theatre Company's Teacher Advisory Panel, which offered advice to the production team as they prepared their new musical *Mirrorball*. The show played on the main stage of the Lyric Theatre as part of Belfast Children's Festival, with GCSE and A Level students attending a free matinee performance.

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

ECONOMICS

This was the second year since we chose to switch to the WJEC qualification for A level that examinations have returned, and I have continued to amend my teaching notes to take account of the WJEC style of assessment in addition to the usual updating required by changes in the economy, such as rapid inflation and policy responses.

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.

Results at A grade at AS level were the best in the last 10 years (jointly with 2015) and the best in the last 10 years in terms of A* grades at A2 level. Results were also good in terms of A/A* - B grades at AS and A2 levels, although a small group of pupils who were resistant to all efforts to encourage a better work ethic resulted in one D and one E grade. Just over one third of A2 pupils have chosen to study Economics or a closely related subject at university in Northern Ireland, Scotland, and England.

At GCSE, the lowest result was a C* which was extremely encouraging. However, while the percentage of A grades was high, there were no A* grades, which was a surprise given the ability of the pupils and their work ethic. Thus, while my AS and A2 grades were almost entirely in line with, or exceeded my expectations, the grades at GCSE level for the more able pupils were below my expectations. This confirms the wisdom of the move to the Welsh examination board for A level. Unfortunately, this option is not available for GCSE.

ENGLISH

This year, 56 pupils studied English Literature at GCE 'A' Level, while a further 18 opted for GCE 'A' Level English Language. 96% of 'A2' Literature students obtained A*- C while 100% of 'A-Level' Language students achieved A*- C.

213 pupils studied GCSE English Language; 196 pupils also completed GCSE English Literature. 99.5% of Language students obtained A*- C and 100% of English Literature students achieved A*- C*.

With the support of Miss Herron, six students won prizes in the North Belfast Festival's Short Story Competition. The students attended a prize ceremony at Clifton House to celebrate their achievements. In the 15-17 age category winners were: 1st Clara Walsh, 2nd Diana Zhou and 3rd Charlei Hill and in the 11-14 age category: 1st Charlotte Marron, 2nd Hope Rogers and 3rd Noah Braithwaite. Clara Walsh also received runner-up in the One World Festival poetry competition. The theme of the competition was 'Displacement, Migration and Movement.' In addition, Charlotte Marron's short story, *Flock*, was published in the Irish Times. Her work joined a selection of prose and poetry from all over the island of Ireland as part of the Fighting Words creative writing showcase for talented young writers. Katie McWatters (FI) and Niall Blaskett (FV) won the BBC Two Minute Tales competition in their age categories. Katie's story *This Mallow's Anticipating Story* (9-12 age category) and Niall's story *Shadow in Snow* (13-16 age category) were chosen from over 1400 entries. Both students were interviewed live on Radio Ulster's The Lynette Fay Show. As well as these successes, Myia O'Sullivan and Clara Walsh were jointly awarded first place for the Jigsaw Youth Writing Prize. The prize was launched by NI charity, Start360, in memory of Northern Irish Writer, Christi Patterson. Niall Blaskett and Alex McKeown were also longlisted. Lorcan McCusker's (FII) personal essay, 'A Time to Reflect,' featured in the Young Writers 'Annual Showcase anthology.

Miss Herron also co-ordinated a Shared Education schools' poetry anthology, *Words for Wellbeing*. The launch of the pamphlet took place in the school library with poetry readings from

representatives of many of the schools involved. All GCSE English Literature students studying the CCEA 'Identity' anthology enjoyed the poet Paul Maddern's lecture on his poem, *Effacé*. BRA students were also joined by visitors from Girls' Model School.

Eight Form II students had poems published in the new youth writing magazine titled '*Write Up Your Street*'. The magazine, published by charity group Fighting Words, had the theme of Belfast's Geography. All the students wrote about their experiences of, or favourite places in the city. Through the support of Ms Craig, the following students enjoyed seeing their work published: Trystan Meldrum, Sophie Harris, Casey Waite, Rachael Johnston, Lorcan McCusker, Ella O'Kane, Molly Adams and Ruby Johnston.

In co-operation with the Library, Accelerated Reader proceeded for Forms I and II. Our pupils managed to read 114,968,676 words and take 2,933 quizzes. We introduced 'Reading Ambassador' badges for pupils managing to read one million words and above. Forty pupils achieved a 'Reading Ambassador' badge in their house colour throughout the academic year. Our top performing pupil got awarded with an Owl trophy and our second and third highest readers were awarded with 'Reader Leader' and 'Reading Champion' badges to mark their achievements.

Other pupil-focused activities included Read-On week as Form I and II pupils, co-ordinated by Ms McBeth, raised £2296.20 for the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children and hosting the Scholastic Book Fairs raising £787.10.

Staff development activities included a trip to Seamus Heaney HomePlace with the English Literature students of St Malachy's, Belfast. Colleagues also attended a Shared Education day with St Malachy's, Belfast, as well as online moderation events organised by CCEA.

GEOGRAPHY

The Geography Department had another successful year both inside and outside the classroom during 2022-2023. The students achieved a fantastic set of results with both A2 and GCSE students achieving 100% A*-C. At GCSE we had three students achieve an A* which was an excellent achievement for them.

Geography continues to be a popular choice at GCSE and A Level with numbers continuing to grow from 2021-22. This is very pleasing for the department as the subject links to a wide range of university choices and careers including Medicine, Law, Environmental Science and Business.

In October we were able to take our Lower 6th students to the North Coast for 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.

The department had two very successful trips this year to Iceland and Naples. The Iceland Trip took 40 students around the Volcanic Islands natural features such as Kerid Crater, Gulfoss Waterfall and the gap between the North Atlantic and Eurasian plates. In Naples, 70 students had the opportunity to study coasts and volcanic activity around the island of Capri and Mount Vesuvius. Both trips were excellent opportunities for the students to explore their curriculum in

real life and hopefully we can continue trips like these going forward. These trips are detailed later in this Report.

Additionally the department has started an Eco Society called the Green Goblins that meet once a fortnight. They will work towards the Green Flag award and ensure BRA becomes a more sustainable school going forward.

The staff continue to work hard and develop resources, materials and revision for students. The staff provide extra support during the week and on Tuesday afternoons to students who require a bit of extra help.

HISTORY

Curriculum

This year we moved exclusively to booklets for Forms 1 and 2, which was partly a drive towards consistency within the department but was also designed to provide support for non-specialists who were teaching these two year groups. Topics were divided into booklets, which were very pupil-friendly and easy to manage. Common booklets were also introduced for the first time at Key Stage 4. Form 5 were provided with a common booklet of past paper questions for their Northern Ireland module. For their International Relations course, a very co-ordinated approach was taken to ensure a consistent approach within the department. Pupils were provided with a common set of notes, technical guidance and a practice question booklet. M6 pupils were provided with a booklet of past paper questions, model answers, mark schemes and examiners' reports for A21. This approach across all Key Stages is one that we would like to maintain and develop in the next academic year.

We embedded the literacy target of promoting oracy into our schemes of work for Forms 1 and 3 by introducing an oracy task for these two year groups that made up 10% of their January report. Form 1 had to prepare a presentation on who should be king in 1066 and Form 3 looked at whether General Haig was the butcher of the battle of the Somme. As a department we felt this was very effective and the pupils engaged very well.

We introduced two new topics into our Form 3 History scheme of work this year: the Suffragettes and the Holocaust. The Holocaust fulfilled the statutory requirement of developing pupils as contributors to society, which requires pupils to investigate critical issues in history or historical figures who have behaved ethically or unethically. Pupils looked at racial discrimination in the 1930s, the escalation of persecution after the war and the death camps. As this is also one of our GCSE topics, pupils will benefit in Form 4 from this prior knowledge. The Suffragettes also fulfilled the statutory requirement of developing pupils as contributors to society by investigating the impact of significant events/ideas of the 20th century on the world. Pupils looked at the development of women's rights and as part of their summer report mark, debated whether the suffragettes' actions helped or hindered their cause. After the June exams, Form 1 looked at the Black Death, albeit a traditional topic, from a different perspective by comparing and contrasting this plague to COVID-19. This met the statutory curriculum of developing pupils as individuals by exploring issues related to personal health, looking at the Black Death and comparing this with a modern-day pandemic.

For revision, two optional Walking Talk Mocks were provided for Form 5 on Tuesday afternoons; one on Paper 1 and one on Paper 2, and the attendance was excellent. M6 were provided with a

Walking Talk Mock, again on a Tuesday afternoon, which was very well attended. Individual teachers carried out their own revision classes with L6. These very much focused on the Advanced Information, received in February, to help pupils streamline their revision.

As a department, we were very inspired by Mark Roberts' presentation at the start of the academic year. Along with the Rosenshine Principles and the Magenta Training (attended by Dr Adair throughout the year), we have continued, as a department, to focus on retrieval practices, the use of scaffolding, model answers and managing information. We will continue to focus on this in the next academic year.

Enrichment

We had a strong desire this year, as a department, to re-establish a variety of enrichment activities for our pupils and we had a very exciting year as a result.

All Form 1 pupils visited Carrickfergus Castle in late January to see what life was like in a medieval castle and to learn how it was attacked and defended. This was thoroughly enjoyed by all. In March we submitted a proposal for the new 'Cotting On' project, if funding is secured. We see this partnership as an ideal time to develop exciting, digitally-enabled resources that will engage our pupils in the history of their hometown, the UK, and the wider world. Specifically, a visit to Museum at the Mill in Mossley would be an exciting opportunity to enrich what our pupils would learn in the classroom about the Industrial Revolution in 19th-century Ulster.

Form 3, along with all Form 5, all L6 and some M6 pupils attended a presentation by Lesley Urtach from the organisation 'Generation2Generation' to coincide with Holocaust Memorial Day. She gave a personal testimony about her parents and grandparents' experience of Nazi persecution leading up to and during WWII and her mother and aunt's experience on the Kindertransport. Two M6 pupils, Grace Upritchard and Naomi Todd, attended the annual Holocaust Memorial event at City Hall, designed to remember the victims of survivors of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides.

Form 4 went on the 'Troubles Walking Tour' organised by Crumlin Road Gaol to complement their GCSE course on the Troubles. It involved an opportunity to tour the museum and then take a walking tour of traditional loyalist and nationalist areas, taking in some of the most iconic murals.

L6 pupils attended a virtual History conference hosted by the School of History, Anthropology, Philosophy and Politics at Queen's University Belfast in January. They had the opportunity to listen to a lecture by Dr Danny Kowalsky on the 'Autobahn, Luftwaffe, Untermensch: Drawing Connections in Nazi Germany 1933-39' and Dr Alex Titov on the reasons why the Bolsheviks won the Civil War. Both of these lectures matched their AS course directly, making it a very beneficial experience. A number of L6 pupils also voluntarily attended a series of Zoom lectures in February on the history of Belfast. These talks covered the social, economic and political life of Georgian and Victorian Belfast and included topics such as 'Child Welfare and Education in the Industrialising Town of Belfast' and 'Doing the Needful': Belfast Charitable Society and its Outdoor Relief Scheme'. Several L6 History pupils also attended an event to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the Belfast/Good Friday Agreement held at St. Malachy's College in April. Pupils had the opportunity to hear first-hand the reflections of Sir Tony Blair and Mr Bertie Ahern on their role and experiences in shaping the Good Friday Agreement.

In December, M6 pupils attended a guest Zoom lecture by Professor Patrick Geoghegan of Trinity College Dublin, on their A21 module, 'The History of the American president. He provided a highly original and thought-provoking overview of the century. In March, M6 pupils travelled to Dublin for the A22 module on the partition of Ireland - pupils saw first-hand where events of the Easter Rising and Civil War took place. In May, Mr Ronnie Hanna, principal examiner for A21 Option 5, gave the pupils a lecture on the American presidency. He provided an excellent overview of the century and reinforced important turning points.

Vision and Visibility

We wanted to create a better visibility for History this year and we achieved this through upgrading the landing at the top of the Crombie. New signage was created to give us a sense of identity and all noticeboards were upgraded to include careers in history, an analysis of how many of our 2022 leavers chose History as a degree, a 'this month in history' board as well as a display on key women in History. Our Cultural Icon, Greg Jenner, was displayed on a new noticeboard, including a personal response by Jenner on receipt of the news that he had been chosen as our icon.

We were successful in our proposal to the Board of Governors for a class set of Chromebooks. We look forward to receiving these in the new academic year and integrating them into our teaching and learning with pupils across all key stages.

Our two open nights in January were very successful. The trench made a reappearance and was accompanied this year with an opportunity to enlist and suffer the humiliation of being given a white feather if you did not sign up. Prospective pupils and parents alike really enjoyed the opportunity to sample medieval food and drink at our inaugural 'Come Dine With Me.'

We had a strong vision for the department this year and I am very proud of our achievements. We worked extremely hard as a team to provide the best experiences for our pupils and to help them reach their potential in History. Testimony to this hard work can be seen in the fact that we continue to be one of the most popular GCSE subjects with 110 pupils having selected History for GCSE next year.

Staffing

Mr Ross Graham replaced Dr McCombe temporarily for one year.

HOME ECONOMICS

Practical classes began early in September with pupils working together and enjoying learning together.

One Form 5 class started their controlled assessment in September. They also worked well on the other aspects of the assessment.

The MVI students had to complete two modules at A2. The A level numbers remain small, and it can be difficult to teach composite classes with two year groups at the same time.

Results at GCSE and GCE were much as expected.

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

LIBRARY

The 2022/23 academic year became our most successful on Accelerated Reader since its inception in 2011 - forty pupils became millionaire readers by the end of the year as opposed to eight pupils the previous year. The Autumn Book Fair also had great success and became our most successful since 2008 - £903.60 was raised and the School Library was awarded £482.16 worth of free books as a result. The Spring 2023 Book Fair in February made £608.24 and earned us £304.94 in free books for the Library. The Library also received many kind donations of books from parents. The Oxplore Book Club with Oxford University continued. Imagination Club with the Art Department took place every Monday lunchtime. Junior Book Club also met every Thursday. It was a highly successful year in the library.

MATHEMATICS

It was a good year for the department in terms of results. New teachers settled in from the previous years and contributed well to the ethos and vision of the department. Specimen changes have bedded in with staff and pupils. We had a good uptake for UKMT contests. The department continues to provide a high level of support in person and with resources that are prepared for our students.

Benchmarking GCSE 2023						
CCEA	%A*	%A	%B	%C*	%C	%D
B.R.A.	25.7	76.2	97.7	99.8	99.8	99.8
NI Grammar	15.7	57.9	83.0	92.5	96.6	98.3

Benchmarking AS 2023					
CCEA	%A	%B	%C	%D	%E
B.R.A.	76.9	93.8	98.5	100	100
NI Grammar	54.7	76.6	89.0	95.6	98.4

Benchmarking A2 2023						
CCEA	%A*	%A	%B	%C	%D	%E
B.R.A.	43.6	76.4	92.7	96.4	100	100
NI Grammar	26.7	64.5	83.5	93.6	98.1	99.6

The school representatives continue to perform very well in competitive, extracurricular maths. UKMT have yet to resume their team challenges after Covid so BRA (under the guidance of Dr Springer), together with St Malachy's and Wallace HS, organised a junior team challenge attended by over thirty schools from across NI (with BRA providing all the questions for the rounds). The BRA team of Kady Graham (F2), Ryan Pogue (F2), Eleanor Murphy (F3) and Keshav Raghuram (F3) finished third. The annual Queen's competition took place and the BRA team of Oscar Hill (L6), Harrison Kirk (L6), Oliver Pearce (L6) and Riya Raghuram (M6) were highly commended.

Over 150 pupils once again took part in the UK Maths Trust's individual challenges and the number of certificates awarded and qualifiers for the elite further rounds continues to be impressive.

At Senior level, pupils achieved 5 golds, 9 silver and 18 bronze awards. Eleanor Green (M6), Oscar Hill (L6), Sarah McCarney (M6) and Riya Raghuram (M6) qualified for the next round (the Senior Kangaroo) with Sarah and Riya achieving merit certificates for their performance.

At Intermediate level, pupils achieved 1 gold, 9 silver and 16 bronze awards. Nathan Rossal (F5) qualified for the next round (the Kangaroo).

At Junior level, pupils achieved 4 gold, 6 silver and 9 bronze awards. Molly Adams (F2), Marco Allen (F2), Christy Hanna (F2), Ryan Lunn (F2), Nathan Keed (F1) qualified for the next round (the Kangaroo).

MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES

Charlotte Robinson joined the team in August 2022, Miss Robinson is an invaluable member of the team and has settled well into both the Department and the Academy.

In November, we welcomed Miss Enya Murphy from QUB for her SE1 placement. Miss Murphy made an excellent impression.

The Department reintroduced a variety of school trips. A level Spanish students went on the Spanish Exchange Trip in October 2023, the first Classics and Geography Trip to Naples occurred in March, Form 2 French students went to Paris in June and forty pupils completed the second leg of the Camino de Santiago.

The Onatti Group once again visited the Academy and performed shows in both French and Spanish for Key Stage 3 students.

A Level French students attended a Literature event in Queen's University Belfast and A level Spanish students had the opportunity to see their A2 play in Cervantes Theatre in London.

Due to personal circumstances, Paul Porter took a leave of absence, and the Department welcomed Claire Williamson who supported the French classes during this time. It is imperative to note a word of sincere thanks to Ms Rosie Wallace, who added extra Latin classes to her timetable and provided cover work for Latin classes who were being covered internally.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

89% of Form V achieved an A*-B in CCEA GCSE Music and 78% achieved A*-B at AS and A2. Eleanor Black and Theo Hayward achieved full marks in their A2 recital and Callum Whiteside achieved full marks in his A2 composition. Matthew Rankin achieved full marks in his AS recital and Harrison Kirk and Joe O’Kane achieved full marks in their AS composition.

Alex Simon gained a place in the Ulster Youth Choir and 11 pupils gained a place in the Ulster Youth Orchestra: Olivier Staworzynski (Form IV double bass), Alex McQueen (Form V cello), Maria Watters (Form V Violin), Jamie Wilson (Form V violin), Matthew Rankin (L6 percussion), Hugo Reilly Stewart (L6 violin), Harrison Kirk (L6 trumpet), Theo Hayward (M6 viola), Connor Gillam (M6 violin) and Rory Nethercott (M6 violin). We are the most represented school in the UYO and have been for a number of years. These pupils performed with these groups at various concerts throughout the summer months.

2022/23 was a very busy year for the Music Department with the pupils performing at the School Musical, Carol Service, Prize Day, Open Nights, School functions and the Spring Concert.

Music Extra Curricular

The Senior Orchestra and Chamber Choir performed at Prize Day in the Spires Centre.

The Ulster Orchestra enjoyed working with our pupils and pupils from St Malachy’s in a joint orchestra project, culminating in a day of rehearsals and a performance the 4th movement from Berlioz’s ‘Symphonie Fantastique’.

Pupils from the senior school enjoyed taking part in the School Musical, ‘*School of Rock*’.

The Carol Service took place in St Anne’s Cathedral with performances from the Senior Choir, Chamber Choir, Junior Choir and Senior Orchestra.

The Boys ’Choir entertained everyone on the last day of term before the Christmas Holidays with their lively rendition of well-known Christmas carols.

The Big Band, Senior and Junior Trad and various string quartets entertained prospective pupils at the School’s annual Open Evenings in January.

The Chamber Choir performed an Evensong at St Anne’s Cathedral and sang Stanford’s Magnificat and Nunc Dimitus in B flat.

Over 350 pupils participated in the annual Spring Concert in the Ulster Hall. There were performances from the Senior Orchestra, Senior Choir, Big Band, Senior Strings, Wind Band, Clarinet Trio, Junior Trad, Senior Trad, Boys ’Choir, Junior Choir and Junior Strings. Theo Hayward and Eleanor Black were the M6 soloists.

PHYSICS

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

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

100% of students attained a grade A*-C at GCSE level, with 88.8% awarded a grade A*-B. Grade A-B performance at AS level was 22.3% above the NI grammar school average, with 86.2% of students reaching this standard.

At A2 level, 97% of pupils attained a grade A*-C, 11.7% above the NI Grammar School Average.

POLITICS

Politics Society

Politics Society returned to regular Friday lunchtime meetings this year with some dedicated Form V, Lower VI and Middle VI students coming to share ideas, discuss issues and debate with each other. With another turbulent year in British politics we had no shortage of topics for discussion, covering the end of the Johnson premiership, the beginning and end of Truss' premiership and the strikes that took place in many sectors. Our lunchtime sessions are always rooted in current affairs and topical issues like the censorship of Roald Dahl's books and the protests in Iran following the death of Masha Amini were also examined. We were grateful to have the assistance of Mr Graham from the History Department during the year; his love of politics was evident in the lunchtime sessions he facilitated.

In March, six students attended the Northern Ireland Youth Forum event marking the 25th anniversary of the Good Friday Agreement. This event brought together over 150 young people from a range of different schools, youth groups and organisations. By its very nature it was focused not just on this seminal moment in the history of NI, but also on its future and young people's hopes for peace. Some politicians were there and spoke about young people's role in building for the future, while others were notable by their absence. The passion on display that night from young people served to remind the politicians and decision makers that young people have a stake in our society and cannot be overlooked.

I always enjoy being able to take students out of the classroom to experience and to meet the politicians, decision makers and key players, and this year was no exception. I am indebted to RHG, LC and RMC for accompanying us on Politics trips through the year, making them possible for the students.

Law and Politics Society

In February 2023, our newly formed LVI Law and Politics career pathway society met for the first time. We were fortunate to have been ably assisted by alumnus, Andrew Palmer BL who has had an active role as Patron of the Society. He helped choose our President (Cara McMahon) and Vice Presidents (Harry Nicholson and Jeb-Jeb Samama), and came into school to meet with the students, inspiring them with his stories of both studying and practising law and telling them about his own school experience.

Cara writes about her experience in leading the Society:

'I was thrilled when I got the letter to tell me that my application for President of the Law and Politics Society had been successful and although we've only had a few months meeting together, we've been able to cover a lot of ground. In February, I went with Harry and Jeb-Jeb to the NI Commissioner for Children and Young People (NICCY) Age Law Reform conference. I was touched by hearing a neurodiverse young person's story of age discrimination. This experience has inspired me to fight against injustice in the future.

'In April, Harry, Jeb-Jeb and I led a presentation on human rights and civil liberties. Although we presented on an unfamiliar subject area, I really enjoyed the experience of reading and researching more about the European Convention on Human Rights and gathering recent case studies relating to the Human Rights Act 1998 and the Bill of Rights such as the right to marry and freedom of expression. We debated and discussed with each other on these issues during our meeting.

During the summer, Andrew and Ms Barnett provided us with a reading list to help develop our knowledge of law and politics. Overall, the Society experience has definitely cemented my aspiration to study law and I am looking forward to the last few months of being President.'

RELIGIOUS STUDIES

We continued to use the study support material which assisted the pupils on a week-to-week basis.

We 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 many of the lessons that are 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.

We updated notes for GCSE / AS /A2. Our switch from the Church History course to Philosophy at AS/A2 seems to be a positive move as the AS/A2 courses saw a significant jump in numbers of students doing RE at A-Level. Furthermore, we feel this as a positive move as it mirrors the topics studied at GCSE – Ethics & Philosophy.

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, and we are in the process of updating the current GCSE notes.

Having completed our first year teaching the new Philosophy unit in place of Mark's gospel at GCSE, we are delighted with the results. We have also updated last year's booklets, making what we believe to be minor adjustments that will further benefit our students.

We further developed and updated booklets and embedded the six world faiths into the KS3 syllabus for 2022-23, creating a new 'Big Questions' booklet for Form 1, a new 'Hinduism' booklet for Form 2 and a new 'Islam' booklet for Form 3.

One of the members of our department (GCM) is Magenta trained and has shared innovative ideas that we use in our teaching alongside Rosenshine's 10 principles.

SOCIOLOGY

Sociology continues to be a very popular choice at A'Level. Grades remain strong with 52% of pupils achieving A*- A grades and 93% of pupils achieving A* - C grades in the A2 examinations. 71% of pupils achieved A - C grades in the AS examinations.

The pupils also took part in the Annual QUB A'Level Sociology Conference, which covered many themes contained in the A'Level specification.

TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN

We had two visits from Peter Gilleece, CEO of Vikela, for pupils in Form 5, L6 and M6 about careers paths, engineering and being an innovator and entrepreneur in Northern Ireland.

Susanne Graydon and Shirley McIlwaine organised two GETSET days for Form 2 and 3 girls to promote girls in STEM subjects. They designed and manufactured laser cut projects and were given information about opportunities in STEM subjects and careers.

As part of the STEM careers group, KL brought a group of L6 pupils to QUB Civil Engineering Department and liaised with Brian McFarland of McFarland Consulting and Dr Taylor, head of Civil Engineering @ QUB.

Shirley McIlwaine took a group of Form 3 girls to the Women in Engineering Event at W5, hosted by several NI companies with leading female STEM ambassadors for inspiration.

We were invited to be part of the ENTHUS programme, one of six schools to focus on STEM related initiatives, including developing STEM ambassadors. Four L6 pupils were trained in this area and teachers were given specialist training in related areas. Shirley McIlwaine has led this and attended the SolidWorks CAD training and disseminated her knowledge subsequently. Funding has been promised through Amazon, but this is still work in progress.

SPORT

Rugby

It was another great season for the rugby club in Belfast Royal Academy. Teams represented the school from Form 1-1st XV, with various teams at a number of levels. The First XV were beaten by Methodist College Belfast in the fourth round of the Schools' Cup. The team then progressed to the semi-final of the subsidiary shield but lost to Down High School. The 2nd XV and 3rd XV both reached the Final of their shield competitions. The 2nd XV were narrowly beaten by Royal School Armagh whilst the 3rd XV were narrowly beaten by Wallace High School. The Medallion XV also reached the semi-final of the Medallion Shield, losing to Ballymena Academy. They had great wins versus Sullivan Upper School and Dromore High School in the previous rounds.

The Senior 7s team finished the season losing a tight semi-final to Ballymena Academy in the Ulster Schools Sevens competition held at our Roughfort Playing Fields.

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

Girls 'Hockey

4 senior teams and 4 junior teams represented BRA in weekly fixtures.

In addition, a 5th XI played some mid-week friendlies.

1st XI won their SuperLeague group with 100% record but lost in the quarter-final.

1st XI also reached the Semi-final of the Senior Schools 'Cup

2nd XI reached the Semi-final of the McDowell Cup (2s Cup competition)

3rd XI reached the Semi-final of the Gibson Cup (3s Cup competition)

4th XI won the 4s Cup.

U14s reached the Semi-final of the Junior Cup.

Form 1 Hockey club ran every Thursday and Saturday. The girls played friendly fixtures on Friday afternoons from November – February as well as some blitz days and the annual Grosvenor tournament.

Representative Honours

Olivia Beattie, Ulster U21

Abbie Braniff, Ulster U18.

Rachel Beattie, Ulster U18

Zoe Place, Ulster U16

Beth Strong, Ulster U16

Alex Snoddy, Ulster U16

Boys' Hockey

The 1st XI boys 'hockey was ably led by captain Bradley Irwin, who was by far the most talented and consistent player on the team. His vice-captain, Kian Jan-Dickens, also played with great skill and determination. With only one win, one draw and the rest defeats, the season was difficult, but the boys 'efforts and attitude were always extremely high and I know they always gave their best, which is all we ever asked of them. The whole team always tried to apply the tactics and try the skills they had developed through training, but simply our standard of quality is less than other pupils and schools. The one win of the season v Kilkeel, 2-1, was a great example of their hard work and determination. After losing to the same team 2-1 earlier in the season, they showed they had learned, developed and dug deep to claim a deserved victory against a tough and direct side.

It is encouraging to see boys with a variety of playing experience and ability come together in a school environment and create bonds and camaraderie which is long-lasting. This was evident in our 'old boys 'match at the end of the season, organised by past-pupil Barra Patterson, when past-pupils from the last 20 years came along and played a match against the current 1st XI, held at Belfast Harlequins HC. It is clear that the impact of boys' hockey at BRA goes much further than just winning trophies.

Netball

BRA netball had a successful season overall. Ten teams played competitive matches with Minor, Junior, Intermediate and Senior squads playing in the District League Competition. The Senior A team reached the Semi-final of their league and Semi-final of the Cup Competition. Congratulations to the Intermediate A squad won the Plate Competition against St Paul's

Bessbrook (23-20). This was a fantastic achievement for a dedicated and talented group of players.

It is fantastic to see numerous pupils competing at representative level. I would like to thank all the players and coaches for their hard work this season.

Representative Honours

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

U15 Regional Development Squad – Maria Mallon, Lucy Smyth

U17 Northern Ireland Development Squad- Erin Gray, Wiktoria Januszevska, Ciara Murray

U19/21 Northern Ireland Development Squad- Fiona Murray

Athletics (boys)

Athletics continues to be a popular option for pupils during the summer term. There was much success both collectively and individually throughout the season. Special congratulations to Lorcan Bell, Antoni Derezenski, Daniel Ogilby who all became Ulster Champions in their respective events. Congratulations to the Junior Boys team who won the Junior Boys' Cup for the most points won at Ulster Schools' Championships. Daniel Ogilby deserves a special mention for winning a bronze medal in the Junior Boys Triple Jump at the Irish Schools Championships, clinching the medal with his very last jump, a magnificent achievement.

District Results

Mini Boys

Jacob Picking 1st 100m 13.3 s

4 x 100m Relay 1st 55.2s

Joshua Canavan 1st High Jump 1.31m

Harrison Orr 6th 100m 14.56 s

3rd Team Competition

Minor Boys

Jack McNabb 1st 100 m 12.5 secs. 1st Long Jump 5.06m

Evan Tosh 1st 800m 2.19

4 x 100 m Relay 2nd 52.8 s

Adam Young 3rd High Jump 1.33

Josh Fletcher 4th High Jump 1.33

Max Strong 6th 800m 2.27

2nd Team Competition

Junior Boys

Michael Woloszyn 1st 800m 2.19

Daniel Ogilby 1st Triple Jump 11.00m, 2nd Long Jump 5.23

Antoni Derezenski 1st Shot Putt 11.46m , 1st Hammer 28.58

Joseph Donnelly 2nd Triple Jump -10.69m

Alex Molyneaux 2nd Javelin 23.08m

Oscar Coiley 2nd Hammer 25.74 m, 4th Shot Putt 9.73m

Alex Simon 4th 800M 2.26

Caleb McWhinney 4th 200m 26.7, 6th 100m 13.2s

2nd Team Competition

Inter Boys

4 x 100m relay 1st 47.50
Chris O'Hara 1st Long Jump, 5.38 5th 100m 12.3
Finn McAlorum 1st 400 m Hurdles, 87.9 2nd 100m Hurdles 19.04
Reuben Gourley 2nd 200m 25.16 s
Oscar Purvis 2nd 1500m 4.35
Yasha Peters 2nd Shot 10.40m, 2nd Hammer 23.64
Zach Archer 2nd Discus 25.96m
Alex French 2nd High Jump 1.56m
Aaron Caldwell 3rd Discus 24.59m
Breakthrough John 3rd 200m 26.38
Max McKittrick 3rd 400m 58.17
Chester Enriquez 4th 100m 12.1 s
Johnny Nicholson 4th 800m 2.13
Robbie Tosh 5th 400m 59.84 s
Kain McGorry 5th Hammer 18.69m
Aaron Brolly 6th Shot 8.65m

1st Team Competition

Senior Boys

Matthew Mallon 2nd long jump 5.09m, 3rd High Jump 1.55m
Hugo Reilly Stuart 3rd 1500m 4.35

Ulster Schools' Athletics Championship 2023

Mini Boys

Jacob Picking 3rd 100m 13.06 s
Josh Canavan 8th High Jump 1.36 m

Minor Boys

Evan Tosh 3rd 800m 2.14
Jack McNabb 4th 100m 12.39, 5th Long Jump 4.92
4 x 100m relay 5th 52.08

Junior Boys

Daniel Ogilby 1st Triple Jump 11.23, 7th Long Jump 5.04
Antoni Derezanski 1st Hammer 29.30, 2nd Shot 11.14
Oscar Coiley 2nd Hammer 26.30
Joseph Donnelly 3rd Triple Jump 10.90
Alex Molyneaux 7th Javelin 26.61

Intermediate Boys

Lorcan Bell 1st 1500m Steeple Chase 4.54
Finn McAlorum 4th 100m Hurdles 16.98
Yasha Peters 5th Hammer 23.34, 8th Shot 9.63
4 x 100m relay 5th 47.76
Zach Archer 6th Discus 25.27
Aaron Caldwell 7th 23.97
Alex French 7th High Jump 1.55

Reuben Gourley 8th 200m 25.2

Max McKittrick 8th 400m 1.01

Senior Boys

Hugo Reilly Stuart 4th 1500m 4.11

Irish Schools' Athletics Championships

Junior Boys

Daniel Ogilby 3rd Triple Jump 10.95 m

Joseph Donnelly 7th Triple Jump 10.41m

Antoni Derezenski 7th Shot Putt 11.27m, 5th Hammer 31.35m

Oscar Coiley 6th Hammer 30.43 m

Athletics (girls)

As always, the athletics season arrived mid-March with large numbers of enthusiastic athletes turning out to practice during Games, after school and on Saturday mornings at both Roughfort and Antrim Forum. This laid the foundations for a successful season to come at District, Ulster and Irish level.

In all, 50 girls represented BRA at the District Championships, with many debutant performances. The girls successfully achieved 5 Gold, 6 Silver and 8 Bronze medals.

There were distinguished performances from Keri Gray, Holly Johnston, Esther Lawrence, Niamh Cunningham, Eve Manson, Sophia Morwood, Hope Daniels and Grace McAllister,

Two girls qualified for the Irish Championships in Tullamore. To reach this level is a superb achievement for our athletes - well done to both Eve Manson (100m) and Grace McAllister (Javelin).

Sports Day was held on Monday 19th June at the Mary Peters Track with approximately 530 pupils from Forms 1-4 taking part. A very enjoyable day was had by all, with Currie house winning the overall trophy. Well done to all that took part in this event.

Well done to Grace McAllister (Form 5) who was selected for the U17 Ulster Schools' Athletics team. She represented Ulster at the Tailteann Irish Schools' Interprovincial on Saturday 24th June in Carlow. Grace was placed 9th in the javelin with a throw of 32m.

Football

In the 2022/23 season, the football team competed in the Northern Ireland Cup, Belfast Cup and Grammar School League.

Golf (2022-23) - Boys

There was mixed success this year for the Golf team. Unfortunately, we didn't win any of the events we entered but came runner-up in the Irish Schools Junior Championship.

On a pleasant, but windy November day at Kirkistown Golf Club, our senior golf team consisting of Peter Richardson, Jack Moffett, Ben McIlroy and Josh McKee had a top 10 finish in the **Ulster Schools Scratch Competition**.

Our other Senior tournament, the **Irish Schools Championship**, saw a 'below par' team performance from the boys. The team, consisting of Peter Richardson, Jack Moffett, Ben McIlroy and Josh McKee were placed outside the 'top 10'. Where there were some good individual performances, sadly it wasn't enough, as others struggled to come to grips with the tricky Spa Golf course.

Our Junior team, on the other hand, had better fortunes in their two competitions. Our team consisting of George Patterson-Wilson, Alex French and Ben McIlroy finished runner-up in the **Irish Schools Junior competition** played at Portadown Golf Course. We were edged out narrowly by a very good Lurgan team.

Our other Junior event, the **Ulster Schools Junior Competition**, saw the team consisting of Matthew Anderson, Alfie Davis, Alex French and George Patterson-Wilson finish 6th. This was played at Spa Golf Club. As with our seniors at Spa, earlier in the year, there were some good individual performance's but consistency let a few of the boys down.

Going forward, I am filled with much optimism for the future of BRA Golf, thanks to some of our extremely strong Junior golfers who, at different stages, have already represented our senior team and are currently all playing off single figure handicaps.

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

Special Educational Needs

Learning Support Co-ordinator: Ms Diane Keenan

Assistant Learning Support Co-ordinator: Mrs Joanne McNally

SEN Governor: Mrs Ann Clements

During 2022-23, 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 2023 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 2023 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 summer term was also a period of handover to our new Learning Support Co-ordinator, Miss Karen Brady, who took up the post in September 2023.

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 2022-2023

The following students were given School Experience and Teaching Practice at the Academy in the academic year 2022/23:

Queen's University

Courtney Elley	English
Elmer McAtamney	Sociology
Victoria Henry	Health and Social Care
Enya Murphy	French and Spanish

Ulster University

Eimear Flood	Geography and Religious Studies
Emily Scott	Art and Design

Stranmillis University College

Amy Cosgrove	Religious Studies and PE
Andrew Dorman	Technology and Design and PE

Stranmillis University College (Erasmus)

Verena Luschnig	German
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Internship (student hosted from University of Toulon)

Alice Caudate	French and Spanish
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Work Experience 2022-23

The following students were afforded work experience at the Academy in the academic year 2022/23:

Work Experience Placement

Matthew Peake	Physical Education
Chloe Hall	Art and Design
Shannon Brolly	Art and Design
Carly McCullough	Drama

OTHER EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

BRIDGE CLUB

Bridge Club met twice a week, at lunchtime, during the year. There were sixteen students who attended throughout the year. We had one weekday match against Carrick Grammar for various levels of students and a Saturday morning of training with the same school and members of the NI Bridge Union. Some of our former students represented NI at U20 (Ewan Todd) and U25 (Xander Todd, Lucy O'Kane) home internationals and we hope some of our current students go on and do the same. The difficulty of school transport, where we are unable to drive minibuses ourselves, and the cost of this, limits the opportunities the students have, along with the decrease in schools playing since Covid -19.

CREATIVE WRITING

Six students won prizes in the North Belfast Festival's Short Story Competition. They attended a prize ceremony at Clifton House to celebrate their achievements.

Winners:

15-17 age category

- 1st Clara Walsh
- 2nd Diana Zhou
- 3rd Charlei Hill

11-14 age category

- 1st Charlotte Marron
- 2nd Hope Rogers
- 3rd Noah

JUNIOR SCRIPTURE UNION

Junior Scripture Union was held weekly during Wednesday lunchtime. Throughout the course of the year, we followed SUNI's "*The One Another*" series, which explored how we relate to and treat others, as a community who trust and follow Jesus. Pupils also attended the BIG Scripture Union Weekend at Castlewellan Castle. The SU also organised an end-of-year barbecue at Ben Madigan and were delighted to have Steven Halliday from Crown Jesus Ministries speaking to the pupils.

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 and how it impacts our daily lives. The highlight of the year was the Senior Scripture Union Weekend which was held in March at Seaview House, Kilkeel. Andrew Mullan was the speaker over the weekend.

THE POLAND SCRIPTURE UNION TEAM

The Scripture Union team consisting of seventeen senior pupils travelled to Warsaw, Poland in March. The team were involved in helping at a local church for the poor, a bread ministry and leading a weekend camp for ninety Polish teenagers. The teenagers were mainly from four state-run orphanages. The team also visited a Ukrainian refugee camp in Warsaw and were moved by

the living conditions of those at the centre. Overall, the trip was a great success and both the Polish people and the B.R.A. pupils had an encouraging and challenging trip.

YOUNG EINSTEIN CLUB

The Young Einstein Club has enjoyed a great year, and it was good to finally return following the lifting of restrictions on practical work due to COVID. Mrs Bell and Mrs Henry have decided to step-down, and we thank them for their many years of service. We are delighted to welcome Mr McAleer to the team.

We were encouraged by the enthusiastic way in which the Junior Pupils approached each experiment. Our sixth form committee were exceptional this year. They were reliable, willing to get involved in setting up, tidying up, communicating with junior pupils and their excitement as they attempted each task before the junior pupils arrived was infectious!

In February we hosted an Inter-House Science Quiz. There was a real buzz of excitement and House rivalry. After 5 closely contested rounds, 1st place was awarded jointly to Cairns and Pottinger.

Our other experiments this year have included: Get in a Twist with Mobius Strips, Amazing Rice, Perching Parrots, Dancing Popcorn and Soap Boat Races.

OTHER MATTERS

CAREERS 2022/23

- MVI pupils received help, advice and guidance with UCAS, CAO and HE applications.
- MVI pupils attended many in-person and virtual Open Days including QUB, UU, Stranmillis, St Mary's, Belfast Met and Northern Regional College.
- A representative from Belfast Metropolitan College came into school and spoke to Form 5 pupils about Further Education pathways and 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 SchoolCloud.
- Mock interviews were held for all those applying for Teaching.
- Six Alumni Solicitors and Barristers held a 'Careers in Law' event for interested students, via zoom.
- Some pupils received a Conditional Offer from PWC, Deloitte, AIB and Farrans for their Higher Apprenticeships.
- 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 and NI Water.
- Several of 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. Some interviews were held via zoom, others in person.
- 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.
- All LVI pupils participated in actual work experience.
- Generation Innovation came into school and hosted a entrepreneur event. Five of our pupils then took work experience with Catalyst at the NI Science Park.

PRIMARY SCHOOL PROGRAMME

During the last academic year, over 50 Sixth Form pupils participated in the School's long-standing Primary School Experience programme. From the start of October until Easter, the pupils attended one of nearly twenty schools in north or west Belfast every Wednesday afternoon to gain experience of working with children while supporting the class teacher. The wide range of activities offered to our pupils included literacy and numeracy support, PE and games classes, music and language lessons and drama productions. Our pupils were highly praised by the staff of their host schools for their conscientious attitude, helpfulness and good humour, and the pupils themselves thoroughly enjoyed the experience while gaining valuable skills in a professional setting

SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council had a busy and productive year. The non-uniform day in September raised £2400 and this money was used to support two local charities, PIPS and Angels 'Wishes, as well as helping to fund extra counselling sessions for pupils through local organisation, Jigsaw. Throughout the year, the Council debated many initiatives brought forward from their peers. This was done in a respectful and mature way. The Council helped to shape the R.S.E. curriculum, debated locker provision, school clubs and societies and many other topics. The Council successfully negotiated the permission for pupils to wear the quarter-zip Games top under the School blazers and selected the design of the School Homework Diary from photographs submitted by pupils. I would like to thank all councillors for their dedication, maturity and commitment to this vital area of school life.

The School Council 2022/23

F1- Isabel-ah Baksh and Ben Dalton
 F2- Leo Philip and Olivia Mitchell
 F3- Harry McIntyre and Holly Green
 F4- Toby McCrea and Wiktorja Januszuska
 F5- Madhumila Pundiaraj and Ethan Doloughan
 L6- Oliver Pearce and Ellie Bell
 M6- Summer Moreland and Jude Crook
 Head Boy Oliver Scott and Head Girl Riya Ragahuram

SCHOOL TRIPS

Iceland 2023

The Geography Department had been thinking of a Senior School Field Trip for a long time and finally got to explore the opportunity after COVID. Iceland, 'The land of Ice and Fire', was the chosen destination - it linked in well with the A Level Course and it was an opportunity to explore a country most of us had never been to before.

Five members of staff and 40 students took up the opportunity and after a year of planning, February 2023 came around very quickly.

After a 2-3 hour flight and listening to some of our students practice their Icelandic on the plane (not an easy language to pick up quickly!), we headed straight to our first destination. After landing in a snow-covered Reykjavik, we headed off to the “hotly” anticipated Blue Lagoon. Students were able to see first-hand how the geothermal power provided by the volcanic activity creates outdoor spa pools in the rocky craters. Some students indulged in a silica mud mask or three, whilst others practiced their Instagram poses among the milky blue waters.

In the evening we took on the challenge of finding the Aurora Borealis. Unfortunately for our students, the weather had started to close in and the clouds obscured our view after searching for two hours. The spirits were still high, however, and the lights of Reykjavik reflected in the clouds gave the impression we caught the Northern Lights as planned.

Day two started with a trip to the Hellisheidi Power Station. This gave students an opportunity to see how a geothermal power plant provides power to the cities and towns of Iceland. This renewable form of energy is highly valued in Iceland and the scale of their power plant was impressive. This busy day also took in some beautiful natural geography. We visited the Kerid crater lake, which was formed by volcanoes 3000 years ago, Gulfoss Waterfall which is one of the most famous in Europe, the Great Geysers which sprayed water up to 25 ft high (and smelt of rotten eggs) and finally, Pingvellir National Park, where we could witness the Mid Atlantic Ridge and the action of plate tectonics. The evening allowed us to explore the capital and students enjoyed some down-time in an Escape Room team activity and walking the Rainbow Road in the city centre.

Our last full day was impacted by the weather. Strong gale force winds meant that our coach could not travel to the far south of the island, as it risked blowing over! We adjusted our plans and took in some more of the physical landscape visiting Skogafoss Waterfall, Seljalandsfoss Waterfall and some of the island’s iconic black sand beaches. This was a beautiful but challenging day and students were commended for their “get on with it” attitude in the face of the high winds and rain! The evening took in some bowling and relaxation in and around the city centre which was well deserved.

The final day was a “travel day” and allowed time to reflect on an extremely busy trip. The students were a credit to themselves and received praise from tourists and locals regularly throughout the trip for their behaviour and manners. Hopefully we can go to Iceland again in the future and continue to make memories in the volcanic capital of Europe.

THE CLASSICS AND GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO NAPLES

School trips can be an integral part of the educational journey, providing pupils with opportunities to explore new environments and learn in an interactive manner. The Form 3 trip to Naples in March 2023 certainly delivered plenty of opportunities as it was an immersive learning experience that allowed pupils to make lasting memories.

The five-day trip offered a packed schedule that took the pupils and teachers on a tour around the west coast of Italy to places such as the Amalfi Coast, Sorrento and Capri. The trip was

organised by the Subject Leaders for the 'Geography' and 'Classics & Modern Languages' departments - Mr Nash and Miss Williams - and it allowed pupils to see and experience what they had been taught in the classroom firsthand.

On the trip we visited the Amalfi Coast and embarked on a boat tour around the island of Capri, observing cases of coastal erosion up close - something we had learned about in Form 2 Geography. Having covered the topic of volcanoes in our Geography classes earlier in the year, we hiked up Mount Vesuvius, one of the most famous volcanoes in the world. We were able to look right into the crater of the active volcano which was amazing.

Next, we visited the famous ruins of Pompeii and Herculaneum, two cities that had been preserved by the volcanic ash from the eruption in 79 CE. On our tour around the ruins of Pompeii we saw the remains of the amphitheatre, the town baths and the forum (which was the centre of town life) as well as the preserved plaster casts of the bodies of the residents caught in the eruption. While exploring the ruins of Herculaneum, we got to walk through the once busy streets and enter the houses and civic buildings, which was so atmospheric, affording us a glimpse into what life in the city was like in Roman times.

The trip was not just educational from a school curriculum perspective; we were exposed to the social and cultural aspects of Italian life throughout our trip. On our day excursions to Capri and Amalfi, we experienced the bustling streets, interacted with local shopkeepers and purchased souvenirs before returning to our hotel in Sorrento where we had leisure time to explore the town in the evenings. We also enhanced our understanding of Italian cuisine through workshops taught by locals, when we got to make (and taste!) pizza using fresh ingredients from the region and lemon sorbet using the famous Sorrento lemons.

The Naples Trip was a once in a lifetime experience, allowing us to make memories, strengthen bonds and form new friendships.

Thank you to all the staff in school who helped to make the trip happen, especially Mr Nash and Miss Williams for organising such an amazing and memorable trip!

Eleanor Murphy, Form 3

BEN MADIGAN PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The school has continued to thrive in the academic year of 2022 – 2023. It was a busy year and we continued to develop links with our partner school as part of the Shared Education Project. Ben Madigan and Our Lady of Lourdes joined together for a range of activities and trips, including art projects, PE and games and drumming sessions, as well as joint visits to Castle Espie, Greenmount and Brecken Hill.

Our Prep 6 & 7 pupils enjoyed a very active and three-day residential in Enniskillen at the Share Village during the Summer Term. Mr Ingram, Miss Collin and Mrs Cadell supported our Prep 7 pupils. Our Prep 5 pupils explored Crawfordburn Scout Centre on their two-day residential and again, hit the amazing Irish summer weather of a heat wave, getting to canoe on the sea, with Mr Crighton and Miss Kennedy organising and supporting the pupils.

Our pupils continued to join in ukulele lessons from Prep 4 – 7 as well as having blocks of swimming coaching down in BRA.

The Prep 5 to Prep 7 pupils put on an excellent performance of SuperStan in the Summer term where all pupils had a role to play, either on stage or backstage. The Courtyard Theatre was hired for the evening performance. Our Pre-Prep and Prep 1 – 3 dazzled at Christmas in their Nativity performances.

The Choir had an eventful year where they performed at the carol service at Whitehouse Presbyterian Church. They joined around 35,000 pupils for the Peace Proms at the SSE Arena, and performed in the BRA Spring concert in the Ulster Hall.

Mr McCleery joined the team as Games and PE teacher and secured this post on a full-time basis, working two days a week at Ben Madigan. He has organised more sporting opportunities across the year with local schools and prep schools, and this will continue to develop in the next academic year. The pupils from Prep 5 to Prep 7 took part in cross country, rugby, hockey and a swimming gala.

Miss Kennedy has secured the post of part-time teacher, two day a week for the next academic year. She had a very successful year as Prep 4 class teacher, and she teaches Spanish from Prep 4 – Prep 7.

Miss Boyle left at the end of the academic year as Nursery Manager. Miss Boyd has been appointed as the new Nursery Manager for the next academic year.

Mrs Bell left at the end of September to go on maternity leave, she is due to re-join in the new academic year.

Mrs Henry is expecting a baby and is due to go off in the next academic year, early September. Miss Harris has been appointed as maternity cover teacher for Prep 1.

Miss Erin Murphy, who worked as a classroom assistant, was appointed for the year and supported in Prep 3. Mrs Louise Cadell supported in the Prep 2 classroom as a 1:1 support but left part way through the year to join the team of teaching assistants in BRA as the SEN pupil left.

Mrs Maureen Thompson joined Prep 1 as a classroom assistant, and will continue to support in Prep 1 in the next academic year.

Mrs Dallas joined the school in January to take up post as Principal.

Sports day was a great success with a good turnout from parents. Tom Stewart supported the pupils and awarded medals and certificates.

Our Prep 7 pupils performed well at AQE with 80% of pupils getting their first choice of grammar school. Out of the 20 pupils, 17 went to a grammar school. Prep 7 enjoyed end-of-school events with a summer BBQ and a big day out.

The pupils took part in charity events across the year, including supporting Macmillan Cancer, Save the Children, Children in Need and Harvest for Store House. SDA continued to support the

school with coffee mornings, preloved uniform sale, school fundraising such as non-uniform days, Halloween disco, Valentine disco and Easter events, and supported with the P7 end-of-school events. Playground equipment has been purchased for outdoor play.

MEASURES FOR THE SECURITY OF PUPILS, STAFF AND PREMISES

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 lunch-times.
- 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 web-site. 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 Boys Concourse Toilets in Jackson Building
- Redecoration of the following areas:
 - Crombie upper landings
 - Sixth Form Study rear staircase
 - Maths Department Corridors
 - Jackson suite
 - Louis Lord Boys Toilets
- Installation of 2 new Bike Hangers
- New planters and container trees in Main Playground
- Replacement of Sports Hall lighting

Ben Madigan Site

- Redecoration of the following areas:
- Assembly hall
- All toilet lobbies
- All internal doors and radiators

Roughfort Site

- Replacement of existing hockey pitch floodlights with LED
- Replacement of existing hockey pitch carpet
- Installation of boot cleaners
- New tractor and verti-drain machine (also for Ben Madigan Site)
- Redecoration of the following areas:
 - Changing Room Corridors
 - External Walls

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
2022/23

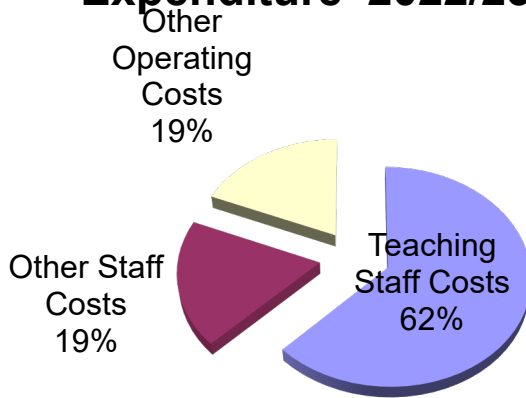
	2022/23	2021/22
Income	£	£
Department of Education Grants	8,267,996	8,309,609
Preparatory Department Fee Income	480,994	490,581
Playgroup & Childminding Fees	136,659	152,155
Miscellaneous Income	169,992	98,512
	<u>9,055,641</u>	<u>9,050,857</u>
Expenditure	£	£
Teaching Staff Costs	6,088,595	6,020,138
Other Staff Costs	1,830,092	1,667,504
Other Operating Costs	1,822,659	1,743,413
	<u>9,741,346</u>	<u>9,431,055</u>
(Deficit) to Reserves	<u>(685,705)</u>	<u>(380,198)</u>

	2022/23	2021/22
Other Operating Costs	£	£
Class materials	100,069	107,568
Maintenance	304,583	312,285
Heat, Light & Water	348,052	297,331
Cleaning	256,420	259,508
Insurance, Bank & Audit	169,496	164,820
Examination Fees	88,055	37,597
Administration	164,857	125,725
Sports, Games & Travel	45,050	34,761
Transport	150,118	142,738
Purchase of Equipment	100,645	160,275
Miscellaneous	<u>95,314</u>	<u>100,805</u>
Total	<u>1,822,659</u>	<u>1,743,413</u>
Other Staff Costs	£	£
Administrative Staff	420,214	387,024
Manual Staff	403,842	341,984
Laboratory & Other Assistants	<u>1,006,036</u>	<u>938,496</u>
	<u>1,830,092</u>	<u>1,667,504</u>
The number of full-time equivalent teachers employed by the School during the year was:		
	2022/23	2021/22
Secondary Department	89	89
Preparatory Department	<u>9</u>	<u>8</u>
	<u>98</u>	<u>97</u>

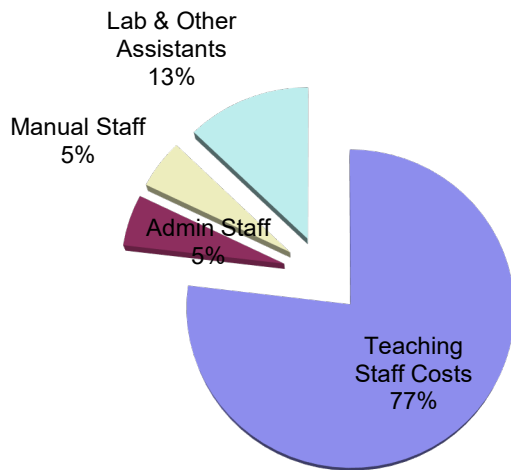
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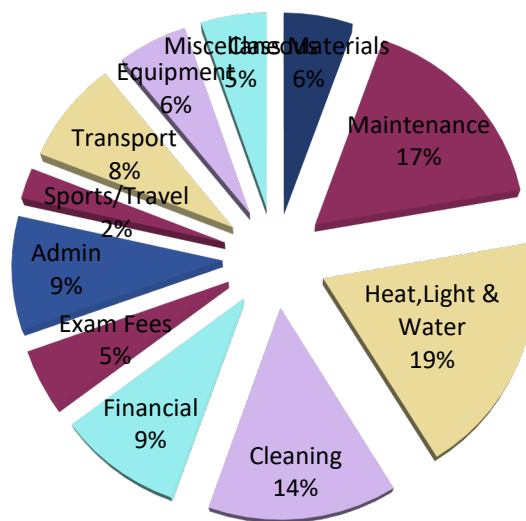
Expenditure 2022/23



Staff Costs 2022/23



Other Operating Costs 2022/23



BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Appointed by the Department of Education
(for the period from Jan 2022 – Dec 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 Feb 2022 – Jan 2026)

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

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

Dr. C. O’Kane, B.A., M.B.A.

Elected Teacher Governors

(For the period Feb 2022 – Jan 2026)

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

Miss. K. Brady B.Sc.

Mr. C. Nash, B.Sc.

Elected Representative Governors

(For the period Feb 2020 – Jan 2024)

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

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

(For the period Feb 2022 – Jan 2023)

Ms. C. Dillon, B.A.

(For the period Feb 2022 – Jan 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 – Jan 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 – Jan 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)