



ROYAL SCHOOL

ARMAGH

ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS
2024 - 2025

HEADMASTER'S REPORT 2024 / 2025

The twin aims of this school as set out by King Charles I in 1627, *“the increase of learning and good manners”* remain at the heart of everything we do here – promoting learning and developing good manners, or sound character - in our learners.

As a school we remain focussed on academic attainment and standards – *“the increase of learning”* part of the historic aims - and I'm pleased to report that 2024/25 was a remarkable year with regard to external examination results.

Across Northern Ireland at A Level 30% of all the grades awarded were A* or A; however, at the Royal School an impressive 37% of entries achieved those grades and over 65% of all grades were within the A* - B range.

With regard to individual achievement an impressive 23 pupils achieved 3 or more A*/A grades representing approximately 16 percent of the year group. The percentage of pupils achieving three A Levels at the top grades A*-C surpassed 73%.

AS success is a crucial foundation for A Level. Just over a third of all the grades awarded were As, with attainment in the A-C category reaching just under 80%. This is historically high and really encouraging as these young people continue their A Level studies.

We're pleased that attainment runs throughout the pupil body and that an increasing number of pupils have reached their potential and are thus enabled to achieve their objectives in terms of university destinations or further training.

While we are justifiably proud of all our pupils' attainment, we note particularly the achievement of Archie Alderdice who has won a place to study Theology and Philosophy at Oxford.

GCSE attainment was historically high. A fantastic 47% of all entries achieved A* or A grades, compared to 31% across Northern Ireland. Almost 75% of all grades awarded to our school's pupils were within the A* - B range.

Overall, the percentage of pupils achieving at least 7 GCSEs including English and mathematics at grades A*-C, rose to 94%, the highest it has ever been.

An impressive 31 pupils achieved at least 8 A* or A grades in the courses they studied. This incredible success is a credit to the young people who studied hard and performed well, but also to the commitment and professionalism of our staff and clear evidence of the encouragement, and support of parents and families.

It is always important to remember that behind all the talk of percentages and pupil cohorts there are real people set on course for a fulfilling future. That's what motivates us as teachers.

The Preparatory Department continues to be a haven of learning, development, care and fun, where pupils flourish under the excellent leadership of Dr Carson-McClenaghan. Last year, its pupils engaged in a range of activities including their brilliant trip to Paris.

Boarding remains central to our school's identity. Last year this school was home to seventy young people. The strength of that provision is its international mix with pupils from across these islands, but also Europe and the far East coming to enjoy our varied curricular and extracurricular programmes. Their presence brings an invaluable international dynamic to our school and

introduces Armagh to a host of young people whose talent will, in time, place them in the leadership of their chosen professions and industries around the world.

Those twin aims of our school require not only the increase of learning but also of “*good manners*” – today that manifests itself as the development of a rounded personality and depth of character, to equip our young people for a dynamic world of work, change and challenge.

A considerable part of character development here comes through our extra and co-curricular provision. I’d like to thank our staff, and those parents, who give of their time for extracurricular activities or who take time away from their own families and voluntarily assume the organisation and responsibility of a school trip.

These responsibilities are assumed voluntarily because of a sense of moral purpose, and governors and the school leadership do not take that for granted.

The Combined Cadet Force contingent continues to provide a range of character-building opportunities for pupils, including the army section annual camp, this year at Barry Budden, Scotland and regular weekends away. The air section enjoyed several flight sessions. The Millskills team won the bronze medal in the 38 Brigade Millskills competition at Milligan. I want to congratulate Cadet RSM Tom McWilliams on being awarded an Army Officer Scholarship. When he completes his university degree Tom will begin his officer training at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

In the last few years we have witnessed remarkable achievement in girls’ hockey. 2023/24 set the bar very high – the best in Ulster – twice, and the best in Ireland, and 2024/25 looked like it would be a similar fairytale of success. And the 1XI did have great success, they won the Stevenson Senior League and reached the final of the Belfast Telegraph Ulster Senior Cup. Sadly, this year victory eluded the girls. Losing is tough, if it’s hard to watch it’s harder to experience and we saw in defeat how much victory meant to the girls. The team then participated in the Daphne Hall All Ireland League Winners Tournament in which they were the runners up.

The 2nd XI were runners up in the McDowell Cup while the 3rd XI reached the quarter final of the Ulster Gibson Cup and were the joint winners of the Mid Ulster League. The 4th XI reached the semifinal of their cup competition and were joint winners of the Mid Ulster League.

The U14 XI were quarter finalists in the Junior Super League and Ulster Junior Cup and joint winners of the Mid Ulster League.

The U13 A and B teams and the U12A team were runners up in their respective competitions.

We are the smallest of the high performing rugby schools in the province. We consistently punch above our weight and last year was no exception. I am always struck that the strength of the sport in this school is the ethos of engagement, improvement, and enjoyment.

I would also say that in comparison to our opponents our supporters always do us proud. We were delighted that the 1XV reached the final of the Danske Bank Schools Cup and proud also of the way they played and the way they managed the disappointment of defeat against Wallace High School. The 2nd XV won the Danske Bank 2XV Shield, while the 3rd XV reached the quarter finals in their plate competition.

At U16 level the team were the runners up in the Danske Bank U16 shield.

We were delighted that after an uncertain start to the season the Medallion XV defeated Enniskillen Royal Grammar School to win the Bowl. Teams played regularly throughout the season at U14, U13 and U12 level.

Girls' rugby continues to strengthen at school with U18, U16 and U14 sevens teams active throughout the season.

Cross country and athletics had a very successful year in a range of competitions the length and breadth of Ireland. A special mention is deserved by Honour Buwalda who won a gold *and* silver at the Northern Ireland and Ulster Indoor Championships in Athlone.

The Swimming Club had, as always, a very active year; pupils competed in competitions on both sides of the border representing both their school and their province. Many swimmers were highly placed in the range of competitions, often obtaining personal bests in events.

Inter school dance is very competitive and highly skilled pursuit. Last year a total of thirty-four pupils entered thirty-four separate events at the Northern Ireland Creative Movement and Aerobics Championships and the Ulster Fusion School's Competition. Amazingly every one of our entries achieved a first, second or third place. A number of pupils received special recognition at the Ulster Fusion Awards.

One of the impressive things about sport here is that we now have so many pupils who attain representative honours that it's no longer feasible to include all the names in this report.

Tae KwanDo Club continues to meet each Friday and pupils continue to attain highly and compete in national competitions, including the National Championships in Manchester where they won a range of medals. Mia Taylor already a Black Belt, achieved a gold medal in Manchester.

Few things develop character like taking to the stage – the exposure to a live audience tests timing, talent, resilience, initiative, teamwork, commitment - and simply takes courage. Last December the school was alive with *The Sound of Music*. It was quite a journey for everyone involved on stage, backstage and front of house. It was fascinating to see our young people develop and blossom – some got much more than they bargained for at the start, and it was fantastic to see the assembly hall packed to capacity each night as staff and pupils came together, from across the school to work with common purpose.

For some time, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award has been an important feature of school life, and I want to thank Mr Cunningham for his decades of leadership to that aspect of school. Last year 61 silver and 27 gold participants achieved their award. I know that many former pupils will go on to complete the award in the next few years. Expeditions are central to this level of achievement, and they are made possible by the many colleagues who take their enthusiasm, skill and interest in pupils out of the classroom and on to the mountain sides.

Speaking of mountain sides, in March 70 pupils and staff returned to the slopes of Andalo in Northern Italy for the ever popular ski trip.

Co-curricular activities are those which support, develop, or extend the taught curriculum. They help pupils develop insight and enliven what is done in the classroom. Throughout last year we had a varied co-curricular programme.

Top quality music remains a vital part of our school life. Last year seven pupils received awards from the EA Music Service. A large number of pupils participated in regional or national orchestras or choirs. The school choirs and musicians participated in an extensive range of events throughout our community, particularly in local churches around Christmas.

In March, Year 14 music pupils attended the Commonwealth Service in Westminster Abbey, while of course the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols and the Spring Concert, both held in the Cathedral, were musical highlights of the year.

In art Lara Brooke, and Mya Stewart won top prizes in the Credit Union Art competition, pupils in the English department visited the Heaney Homeplace and enjoyed junior debating and drama. Health & Social Care pupils raised £250 for Women's Aid through a bake sale. Geography pupils represented Egypt at an event linked to COP 29, while Year 8 pupils had flags, they designed taken to Antarctica. Four pupils from the Technology and Design department entered the Sentinus Young Innovator Awards with Corey Whiteside winning the overall prize for Most Innovative Project! Mathematics pupils entered the senior maths challenge.

A group of Sixth Form Philosophy and Ethics pupils attended The United Nations Association Hope for Our World event in Dungannon where they heard former head girl Laura Hampton speak about her circumnavigation of the globe. Pupils also attended a council led event to mark International Women's Day

The Senior Debating Team travelled to Royal School Dungannon where they were the runners up to Royal School Cavan in the 1608 debate.

Key stage 3 Science Club and the Wildlife Club ran throughout the year and for the sixth year running, a team of four year 9 girls participated in the GCHQ Cyber security competition coming an impressive seventh in Northern Ireland.

Modern Foreign Languages always lend themselves to a bit of foreign travel and last year 48 pupils and 6 staff enjoyed the sights and sounds of Paris.

Last year some of our agriculture pupils won five Aberdeen Angus calves in the ABP Angus Youth Challenge. This year pupils continued the journey with the livestock as they witnessed first-hand them being slaughtered for meat production. This was a stark experience for everyone involved, but an important reminder of the realities of modern food production.

As a school we promote the value of service, and it would be a pitiful thing if the young men and women who attend this school did not come to understand the importance of service to others. Last year, the Charity Committee and others supported a wide range of worthy causes such as Pretty 'n Pink, Shoebox Appeal, Women's Aid, NI Children's Hospice, Asha, NSPCC, Save the Children and Simon Community NI.

One of our strongest extracurricular activities is the Scripture Union. In addition to its weekly meetings, it held Junior and Senior residential weekends and an excellent dinner dance in the Four Seasons Hotel, Monaghan supported this year by pupils and staff from Monaghan Collegiate School, Cavan Royal School, the City of Armagh and Newtownhamilton High school.

Pupils lead active, productive lives designed to facilitate individual achievement and to complement rather than detract from academic success. Well done to all!

- A Enrolment
- B Examination Results
- C Finance
- D Staffing
- E Northern Ireland Curriculum
- F The Role of the School in the Community
- G The Promotion of Cross-Community Relationships
- H Sports/Games
- I Security
- J Safeguarding
- K Special Educational Needs

(A) Enrolment

- (i) Secondary Department
The details of the Secondary Department enrolment show that at 1st September 2024, the enrolment was 813 pupils.
- (ii) Preparatory Department
The details of the Prep Department enrolment show that at 1st September 2024, the enrolment was 27 pupils.
- (iii) Boarding Department
The Boarding Department enrolment was 70, with one boarder in the Prep Department.

(B) Examination Results

- (i) 'A' Level G.C.E.
87.85% of students gained 3 A Levels at A* - C. These results enabled more than 89% of Year 14 leavers to access the university of their choice.
- (ii) G.C.S.E. Results
94% of pupils gained at least 7 GCSE passes at grades A* – C including Mathematics and English Language. There was a 98% pass rate in English Language and 99% pass rate in Mathematics.

(C) Finance

Details of the Income/Expenditure accounts are enclosed for each of the three major accounts in regard to the Financial Year ending 31st March 2025.

- (i) The Capital Fees Account
This shows a surplus for the year of £264,922.
- (ii) The Preparatory Department Account
This shows a shortfall for the year of £86,246 with an accumulated deficit of £209,703.
- (iii) The Secondary Department Account
This shows an in-year deficit of £208,708 with an accumulated deficit of £810,191.

(D) Staffing

Details of staffing for the 2024 /2025 academic year is shown below:

Appointments

Teaching Staff Miss K Boyle (Teacher of English)
 Mrs C Gordon (Teacher of Mathematics)
 Mr A Irvine (Teacher of Technology & Design)
 Mrs A Prescott (Teacher of Religious Studies)

Retirements/Resignations

Teaching Staff Mr S Thompson
 Mr N Gamble

Boarding Staff Ms G Gidmann
 Miss E Burnett
 Mr A Sweeney

Support Staff Miss L Mallon

(E) Northern Ireland Curriculum

The school is delivering all aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum at Key Stages 1, 2, 3, and 4.

(F) The Role of the School in the Community

The school was used for the following community events and for local clubs and societies, in the 2024 /2025 academic year:

- Armagh City Choir
- Armagh Cricket Club
- Armagh Hockey Club
- Armagh Rugby Club
- Armagh Scouts
- Charles Wood Girls' Choir Summer School
- Intent Summer School
- John Hewitt International Summer School
- Reformed Presbyterian Summer School

(G) Promotion of Cross-Community Relations

Once again the school was involved with other schools in various activities to promote cross-community contact.

These included:

- BTEC in Construction, St Patricks; Theatre Studies and Moving Image Art, St Catherine's College, Biology, Software Systems Development and French are offered by Royal School to pupils in St Patrick's Armagh, St Patrick's Keady and St Catherine's Armagh.
- Inter-School Cross-Country competitions
- Inter-School dance competitions
- Sixth Form Conferences
- There is cross-border attendance at the School's SU Formal

(H) Sports /Games

Sport continues to have an essential place in the life of the school. There are currently 11 Rugby Teams, including three for girls' rugby, and eight Hockey Teams. Information follows. Thanks to all our coaches throughout this memorable season.

(I) Security

The use of closed-circuit television (CCTV) in the Royal School Armagh, as in many other schools, has increased in recent years. The use of CCTV surveillance was instigated as a positive measure to help prevent vandalism and enhance security in the school estate. Parts of the premises are vulnerable to anti-social behaviour and criminal activity by those who access the grounds especially out of school

hours. The possibility of vandalism, arson and burglary in the school is of concern to all, including teachers, governors and parents.

When it was initially decided by the Board of Governors to install CCTV and subsequently further expand its use in the school, account was taken of the benefits of using surveillance cameras. The Board of Governors considered whether any better solutions were available and concluded that CCTV was the most effective.

The CCTV was first installed in 1997 with the objective of enhancing the security and protection of the school estate. More recently, enhancements to the CCTV system were specifically aimed at monitoring movement and behaviour in communal areas, including the Boarding Department. The Board of Governors can confirm that all CCTV cameras comply with the law. The school has a policy on the acceptable use of CCTV.

The siting of all the cameras was carefully planned. Cameras are not to be used in areas where pupils and/or staff have a heightened expectancy of privacy, e.g. changing rooms or toilet areas. Cameras are not used in these areas unless there are exceptional circumstances that make it necessary for them to be fitted. Such an exceptional circumstance might be when vandalism has occurred in the entrance areas to changing rooms or if it is suspected that bullying-type behaviour has taken place. In those circumstances, all staff and pupils will be informed of the reason the cameras are there. The CCTV cameras are not placed, for example, in areas that could capture images of pupils changing. Within the Boarding Department cameras are sited in corridor areas and in the cinema and recreation areas.

Storage and retention of CCTV images

The retention of images aligns with the school's purposes in recording them. For example, as one objective of the CCTV is as a deterrent to vandalism and the monitoring of pupil behaviour, if there are no reports of vandalism etc. the images will not be viewed and will be destroyed within 31 days of the recording.

The use of CCTV systems is constantly reviewed to monitor their effectiveness and impact on the school community.

There is a balance to be struck between the intrusion into privacy that CCTV cameras can make, and the security and protection of anyone who uses the school. Staff, parents and pupils can be assured that the Royal School is not breaching the law around surveillance and the use of CCTV cameras. School staff, parents and pupils should have no fears or concerns about the increasing use of surveillance in the school. It is for everyone's safety and security.

We are grateful for the help of the Police Service of Northern Ireland on the few occasions that we have needed them. All recorded data is now dealt with in line with the General Data Protection Regulations.

(J) Safeguarding

The Board of Governors has adopted a Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy. Pupils and parents are supplied with details in regard to the procedures etc. Any parent who wishes to have a copy of the arrangements or seek further information can contact the school. The school complies with all safeguarding procedures.

The Boarding Department was inspected by the RQIA in June 2025. The report received was a positive one; highlighting the high standard of care and accommodation in Royal School Armagh. Any parent who wishes to receive a copy of the boarding report should contact the School Office.

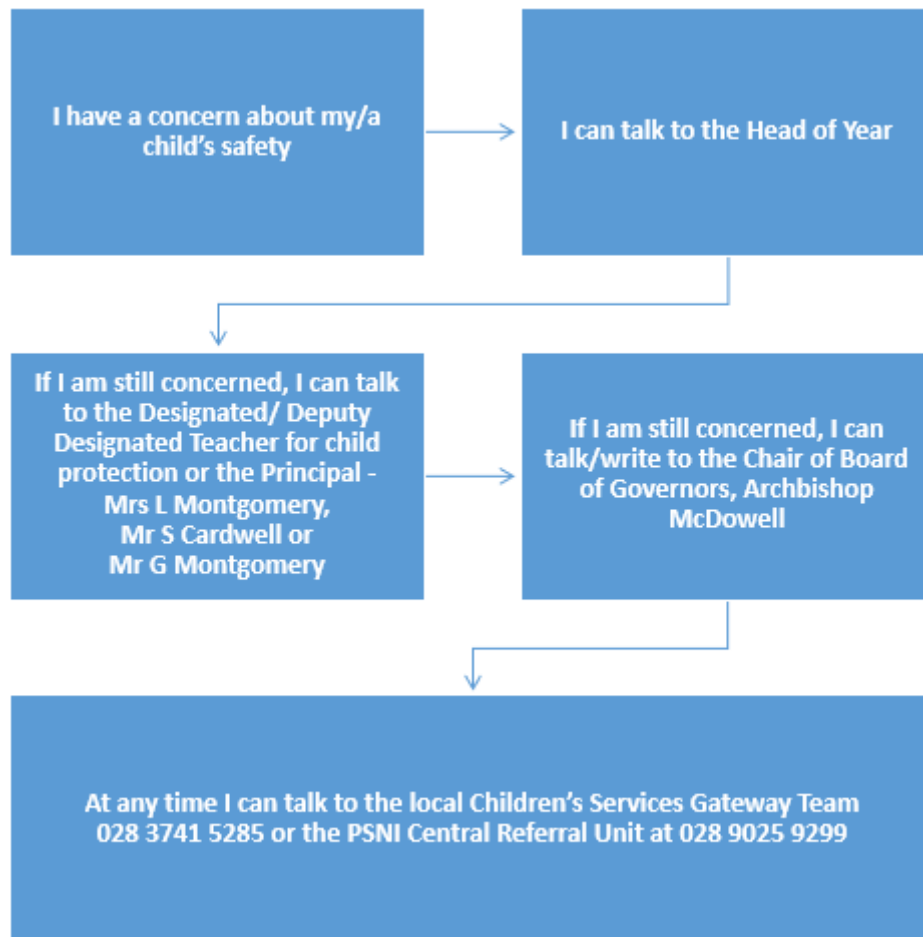
K) Special Educational Needs

The Board of Governors has adopted a Special Educational Needs Policy. Mrs Montgomery, who is a senior teacher, is the Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator (SENCo). The School is currently preparing for the introduction of new SEN legislation.

(L) Complaints Procedure

For Child Protection issues please see the flow chart published in the Safeguarding & Child Protection Policy. It is on the school's website and a hard copy is available from the Headmaster's Office. All Child Protection Officers' names and photographs are displayed on boards placed strategically around the school.

From April 2017 the NIPSO has had jurisdiction over grant maintained schools in Northern Ireland.

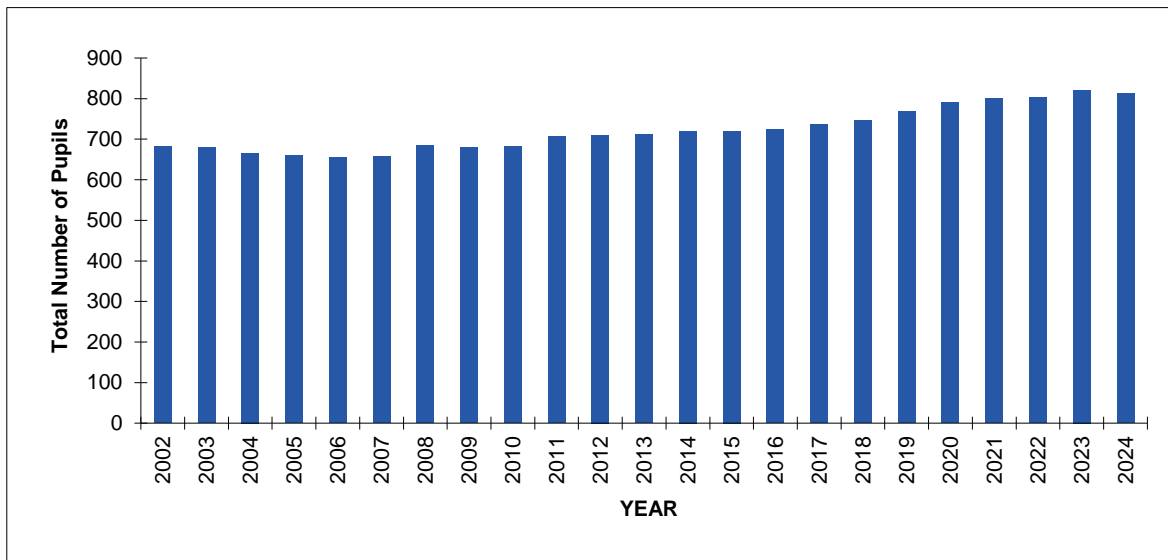


Graham GW Montgomery
Headmaster

August 2025

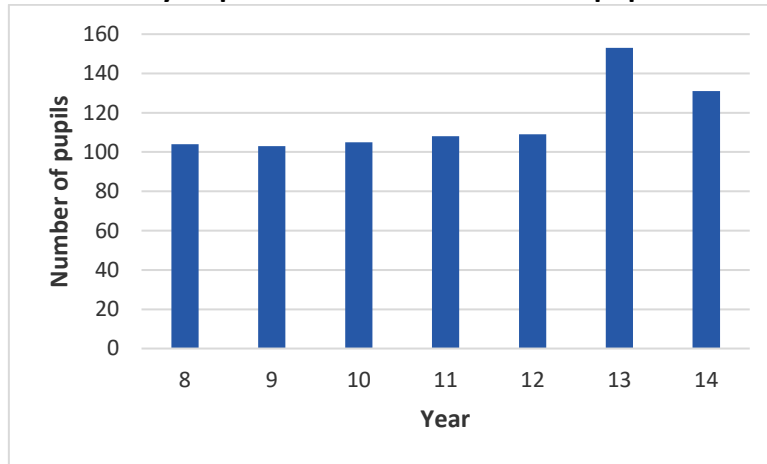
Secondary Department Numbers 2000 – 2024

YEAR	ENROLMENT	YEAR	ENROLMENT	YEAR	ENROLMENT
2000	680	2009	679	2018	746
2001	689	2010	682	2019	769
2002	682	2011	707	2020	791
2003	679	2012	710	2021	800
2004	666	2013	712	2022	803
2005	659	2014	720	2023	821
2006	654	2015	720	2024	813
2007	657	2016	723		
2008	684	2017	737		

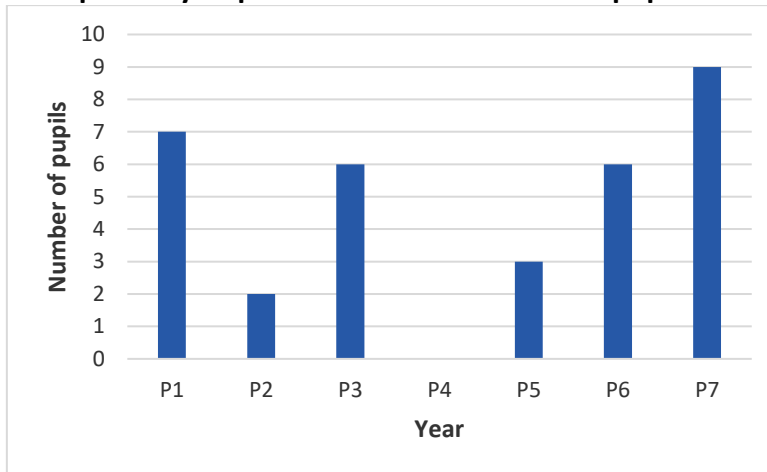


The Royal School Armagh, Pupil Numbers 2024

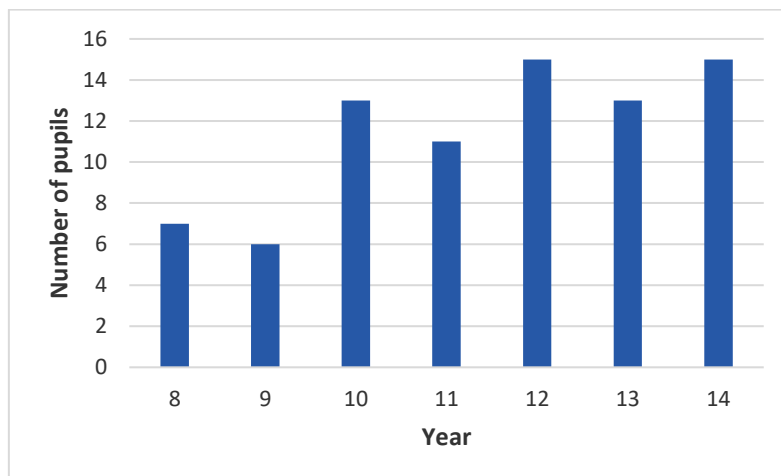
Secondary Department: Total Number of pupils = 813



Preparatory Department: Total Number of pupils = 33



Boarding Department: Total number of pupils in boarding = 80



A Level Results 2025

YEAR	2025		2024		2023		2022		2021		2020		2019		2018		2017	
Grades	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %
A	162	37.85	146	35.96	217	51.54	224	57.14	218	54.23	169	48.29	117	39.13	131	41.46	131	43.81
(A*)	(58)	13.55	(63)	15.52	(69)	16.39	(64)	16.33	(80)	19.90	(60)	17.14	(45)	15.05	(36)	11.39	(29)	9.70
B	119	65.65	99	60.34	101	75.53	91	80.36	94	77.61	105	78.29	84	67.22	109	75.95	79	70.23
C	95	87.85	81	80.30	67	91.45	47	92.35	62	93.03	54	93.71	72	91.30	45	90.19	46	85.62
D	34	95.79	51	92.86	21	96.44	17	96.68	22	98.51	16	98.29	19	97.66	19	96.20	30	95.65
E	12	98.60	20	97.78	13	99.52	13	100.00	5	99.75	6	100.00	4	99.00	7	98.42	11	99.33
N (O)	0	98.60	0	97.78	0	99.52	0	100.00	0	99.75	0	100.00	0	99.00	0	98.42	0	99.33
U (F)	6	100	9	100	1	100	0	100	1	100	0	100	3	100	5	100	2	100
Totals	428		406		421		392		402		350		299		316		299	
AS Level	161		131		47		0		0		0		151		115		115	
YEAR	2016		2015		2014		2013		2012		2011		2010		2009		2008	
Grades	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %
A	115	36.86	106	34.98	97	34.28	156	50.98	110	39.29	91	40.81	127	43.94	85	34.84	70	32.41
(A*)	(22)	7.05	(32)	10.56	(36)	12.72	(46)	15.03	(24)	8.57	(22)	9.87	(21)	7.27	-	-	-	-
B	109	71.79	103	68.98	94	67.49	91	80.72	101	75.36	67	70.85	79	71.28	58	58.61	67	63.43
C	61	91.35	58	88.12	61	89.05	38	93.14	48	92.50	47	91.93	50	88.58	53	80.33	42	82.87
D	19	97.44	27	97.03	20	96.11	18	99.02	14	97.50	7	95.07	22	96.19	24	90.16	26	94.91
E	4	98.72	9	100.00	8	98.94	1	99.35	5	99.29	7	98.21	5	97.92	11	94.67	9	99.07
N (O)	0	98.72	0	100.00	0	98.94	0	99.35	0	99.29	0	98.21	0	97.92	0	94.67	0	99.07
U (F)	4	100	0	100	3	100	2	100	2	100	4	100	6	100	13	100	2	100
Totals	312		303		283		306		280		223		289		244		216	
AS Level	145		112		84		50		31		23		21		48		15	

A Level Results 2025 by Subjects

GCE A level Subject	Year	No of Pupils Entered	Number of pupils entered achieving grades:									
			A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	X	Q	
Art	2025	5	1	1	1	1	1	0		0	0	0
Biology	2025	33	4	8	10	8	3	0		0	0	0
Business Studies	2025	46	0	4	19	14	5	4		0	0	0
Chemistry	2025	24	3	8	5	5	2	1		0	0	0
Digital Technology	2025	16	1	3	4	4	2	0		2	0	0
Design and Technology	2025	17	3	5	2	2	4	1		0	0	0
Drama	2025	3	0	0	2	0	1	0		0	0	0
Engineering	2025	20	3	8	0	8	0	1		0	0	0
English Literature	2025	18	0	5	7	5	1	0		0	0	0
French	2025	5	0	1	2	1	0	1		0	0	0
Geography	2025	23	0	6	12	3	1	1		0	0	0
Agriculture	2025	17	14	3	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Government and Politics	2025	19	0	0	9	8	2	0		0	0	0
Health and Social Care	2025	10	0	4	4	2	0	0		0	0	0
Home Economics	2025	9	1	3	1	2	1	0		1	0	0
History	2025	14	1	1	5	5	2	0		0	0	0
Mathematics	2025	55	8	18	9	12	3	3		2	0	0
Mathematics (Further)	2025	6	5	0	1	0	0	0		0	0	0
Music	2025	2	1	1	0	0	0	0		0	0	0
Physics	2025	20	4	6	6	3	1	0		0	0	0
Religious Studies	2025	32	4	8	12	5	3	0		0	0	0
Software Systems Development	2025	3	0	1	2	0	0	0		0	0	0
Spanish	2025	7	1	3	1	2	0	0		0	0	0
Sport/PE Studies	2025	16	1	4	5	3	2	0		1	0	0
Travel and Tourism	2025	8	3	3	0	2	0	0		0	0	0

GCSE Results 2025, by Subjects

GCSE Subject	Year	No of Pupils Entered	Number of pupils entered achieving grades:									
			A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E	F	G	U
Additional Mathematics (Further)	2025	50	8	22	14	5	0	1	0	0	0	0
Art	2025	13	2	6	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	0
Biology	2025	38	5	18	14	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
Business Studies	2025	63	0	7	17	19	9	7	2	0	1	1
Chemistry	2025	38	5	15	10	4	3	1	0	0	0	0
Digital Technology	2025	26	5	8	6	3	1	1	2	0	0	0
Double Award Science	2025	136 (68)	11	26	36	28	16	16	3	0	0	0
English	2025	104	10	51	33	7	1	1	1	0	0	0
English Literature	2025	25	8	6	9	1	1	0	0	0	0	0
French	2025	40	3	13	8	6	6	3	1	0	0	0
Geography	2025	45	5	20	12	6	2	0	0	0	0	0
Agriculture	2025	19	0	9	7	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Home Economics	2025	19	5	6	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0
History	2025	48	2	17	15	9	2	2	0	0	0	0
Mathematics	2025	105	19	51	27	5	2	0	1	0	0	0
Music	2025	11	7	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Physics	2025	38	5	16	14	3	0	0	0	0	0	0
Psychology	2025	12	1	2	2	2	1	1	3	0	0	0
Religious Studies (Full Course)	2025	105	25	36	12	11	11	4	2	2	0	2
Spanish	2025	27	3	10	5	5	4	0	0	0	0	0
Sport/PE Studies	2025	25	1	7	12	3	1	1	0	0	0	0
Statistics	2025	24	4	4	10	5	0	0	0	0	0	0
Technology	2025	26	3	10	11	2	0	0	0	0	0	0

AS Results 2025

YEAR	2025		2024		2023		2022		2021		2020		2019		2018	
Grades	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %
A	146	32.96	126	28.90	128	33.07	208	47.93	181	47.14	180	40.36	128	29.63	107	28.53
B	113	58.47	116	55.50	106	60.47	129	77.65	111	76.04	121	67.49	99	52.55	84	50.93
C	87	78.10	93	76.83	77	80.36	61	91.71	60	91.67	89	87.44	116	79.40	90	74.93
D	58	91.20	57	89.91	48	92.76	25	97.47	20	96.88	35	95.29	48	90.51	61	91.20
E	22	96.16	26	95.87	16	96.90	8	99.31	5	98.18	14	98.43	31	97.69	21	96.80
U	15	99.55	18	100.00	9	99.22	3	100.00	7	100.00	7	100.00	10	100.00	12	100.00
Total	443		436		387		434		384		446		432		375	
YEAR	2017		2016		2015		2014		2013		2012		2011		2010	
Grades	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %	No	Cum %
A	139	36.39	145	38.16	129	30.94	133	31.59	120	32.88	180	45.80	151	42.18	130	45.30
B	94	60.99	86	60.79	129	61.87	106	56.77	93	58.36	100	71.25	96	68.99	65	67.94
C	64	77.75	57	75.79	78	80.58	85	76.96	78	79.73	62	87.02	52	83.52	41	82.23
D	36	87.17	42	86.84	46	91.61	42	86.94	42	91.23	25	93.38	41	94.97	25	90.94
E	32	95.55	30	94.74	17	95.68	26	93.11	20	96.71	13	96.69	13	98.60	16	96.52
U	17	100.00	20	100.00	18	100.00	29	100.00	12	100.00	13	100.00	5	100.00	10	100.00
Total	382		380		417		421		365		393		358		287	

This list of individual and team achievements together with school activities is not intended to be a complete list but merely reflect upon the breadth of involvement and participation of pupils at the school as well as the range of activities available.

AGRICULTURE

It has been another busy year within the Royal School Armagh's Agriculture Department. A very popular course with top results being achieved this year due to lots of hard work from a great group of enthusiastic pupils.

We started the academic year with the final chapter in our 'Farm to Fork' Aberdeen Angus journey from last term where our Y11 pupils took their Aberdeen Angus calves for processing to the abattoir. Pupils witnessed firsthand their calves being slaughtered for meat production. A stark and visceral experience, but an important lesson in meat processing and production. The pain was lessened with a nice fat cheque presented to the team afterwards.

Pupils attended an open day held in Hillsborough Agri-Food & Biosciences Institute where 'farming for the future' was the main focus. A most informative day, showcasing the latest research in farming from leading Queens university scientists.

During the course of our Agriculture programme we constantly promote the benefit of Continual Professional Development to enhance career opportunities and many of our pupils completed agricultural competencies to enhance their A Level coursework, for example, safety certificates in machinery competence, Construction Safety Register (CSR) training and Artificial Insemination courses. Pupils also won many awards at various agricultural shows across NI including Balmoral show, creating opportunities for progression into many different agricultural career paths, exciting times to be part of the growing Agriculture and Agri Food Sector in Northern Ireland. One of the largest employers in NI.

Throughout the year many industry experts have delivered class talks to our Year 13 & 14 pupils, bringing the farm into the classroom, creating dynamic, engaging and enjoyable classes. The Northern Ireland Health & Safety Executive visited our Y13 class, raising awareness of the many dangers on our farms.

Via Social media we are able to follow the progress of various local arable producers in Agriculture, getting live updates throughout the seasons, bringing the field into the classroom. We follow Mr Tim McClelland's Farm - 'A large local Arable Farmer - who grows the oats for your Speedicook porridge produced in Tandragee & also Gilfresh one of the largest vegetable producers in NI. We follow live video footage on social media of planting, spraying, harvesting, processing etc as part of our healthy crop production topic.

The crowning event of a busy year was an inspiring trip to Red House Holsteins, farming 170 pedigree Holsteins cows and are a Technology Demonstration Farm, for DEARA, specialising in the topic Genetic Selection and Fertility Management. We also visited JMW Farms, specialises in pig production, feed milling, and renewable energy generation through an anaerobic digestion and CHP plant.

Both trips followed different areas of the syllabus and opened our eyes to new technologies and advances in Agriculture both in sustainable energy and renewables.

These practical trips were greatly enjoyed by the pupils and a valuable learning tool bringing the textbook to life on the farm.

Exciting things to come in the Agriculture department, as in September 2025 a new group of Year 11 Agriculture pupils will again be entered the prestigious ABP Angus Youth Challenge. An enthusiastic bunch of agricultural pupils looking to get their hands on the 5 Aberdeen Angus Calves! We will do our best to bring home the livestock!

ART AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

The department received a £500 gift from Armagh Credit Union in recognition of all of the winning entries over the years.

Over 45 students created work for the Annual Credit Union Art Competition. The students below were awarded with prizes for their work:

- Credit Union Annual Art Competition - Armagh Branch level 14 -17 year old category
 - 3rd place Lara Brooke.
- Credit Union Annual Art Competition - Armagh Branch level 14 – 17 year old category
 - 1st Mya Sterritt.
- Credit Union Annual Art Competition- Chapter level 14-17 year old category
 - 2nd place Mya Sterritt.
- Years 12, 13 & 14 took part in artist print making workshops with artist Robert Peters.
- Eight students submitted entries to the Texaco Children’s Art competition The competition is the largest art competition in Ireland, and it received over 24,750 entries.

CCF ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Cdt RSM Tom McWilliams was awarded an Army Officer Scholarship. On completion of his studies at university Tom will take up his place at the Royal Military Academy in Sandhurst to complete his officer training.
- The MilSkills team, consisting of eight cadets, were awarded a bronze medal in the 38 Brigade Northern Ireland CCF MilSkills Competition, held at Magilligan. This is the most gruelling competition of the training year and tests all aspects of the cadets’ knowledge, skills and leadership qualities.
- CCF Shooting Team competed at the CADSAM at Magilligan Training Camp.
- Cdt LCpl Jorja Turkington represented RSA CCF at the RBL City of Armagh Branch Festival of Remembrance at the Market Place Theatre where she recited the poem, My Longest Day.
- RBL Remembrance Sunday Armagh, 75 cadets and officers were on parade.
- BTEC (Level 2 Extended Certificate) Teamwork and Personal Development in the Community, four cadets passed this course.
- Cadets assisted in their duties at the school’s Annual Service of Remembrance.
- September Range weekend in Ballykinler: 8 cadets
- CCF field training day at RSA- laser shot gun, paint balling patrol alley, orienteering and BBQ.
- Skill At Arms training and testing, Palace Barracks - one visit: 35 cadets
- RAF & Army Section cadets performed ceremonial duties at the VE Day Service to mark the 80th anniversary of the end of WW2, held in St Patrick’s Cathedral.
- CCF Army Section Annual Camp Barry Budden Training Camp, which involved a wide range of different military and adventure training activities: 34 cadets
- Air Experience Flying with 13 AEF at Aldergrove Flying Station: Oct three cadets, Dec three cadets, Feb six cadets
- Annual Camp at Aldergrove Station July: six cadets
- RAF Senior Cadet Training Weekend, FS Aldergrove - 2 Cadets
- 3 Air Experience Flying days, 13 AEF, FS Aldergrove – 13 Cadets
- RAF Annual Camp, RAF Lossiemouth - 4 Cadets
- RAF National Air and Space Camp, RAF Syerston - 1 Cadet

CHARITY COMMITTEE

This year, our school community once again demonstrated its generosity and compassion through a wide range of fundraising activities supporting local and international charities.

We kicked off the year with a warm and welcoming Macmillan Coffee Morning on Friday 27th September. Staff enjoyed a delicious array of baked treats in the staffroom, raising an impressive £305 for Macmillan Cancer Support - a fantastic start to our charitable efforts.

The Hockey Club chose Pretty ‘n Pink, a breast cancer charity, as their nominated charity this year. Their creative fundraising included selling pink hockey stick grips and socks, and hosting a spirited tournament during Games periods where players proudly wore pink accessories to raise awareness. The school was awash with pink on

Friday 11th October, as students and staff joined in by wearing something pink. The club also ran a popular tuck shop during the House Talent Show, adding to their fundraising total.

October also saw the launch of our annual Shoebox Challenge for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child campaign. Tutor groups from Years 8 - 12 packed and wrapped shoeboxes filled with thoughtful gifts. We were thrilled to send 54 boxes to Moldova and Albania, helping to bring joy to children during the festive season.

The A Level Health and Social Care students, alongside Miss McBride and Miss Logan, continued their support for Women's Aid with a well-attended breaktime Bake Sale. Their efforts were further boosted by funds raised during the Christmas Jumper Non-Uniform Day, contributing to the vital work of this important charity in conjunction with the Lady Mayoress' focused work for this charity.

To mark Anti-Bullying Week in November, Year 8 hosted a lively Crazy Hair Day. Form tutors were barely recognizable in their colourful wigs, and pupils embraced the fun with hairspray and temporary dye - some staff were even persuaded to join in a little hair-colouring session during lessons! Funds raised supported the Children's Hospice, which also benefited from a retiring collection at the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols.

Additional non-uniform days throughout the year, alongside a well-supported Cash for Clobber collection, raised valuable funds for the NSPCC, Save the Children, and the Simon Community in Northern Ireland - each one making a meaningful difference to the lives of those in need.

Our school charity, Asha, remains close to our hearts. During the school musical, we were honoured to receive a generous donation of an original painting by Mr George Gourley, recently inducted into the Watercolour Society of Ireland. The painting was raffled, and alongside programme and ice-cream sales, helped launch this year's fundraising for Asha in a truly inspiring way. We also ran a Tuck Shop during our End of Term Fun Day and many more events will be happening in September and October 2025 as we get ready to head to New Delhi once again.

COMPUTING DEPARTMENT

Sentinus Young Innovators Competition

At the Sentinus Young Innovators competition, held at Belfast Metropolitan College, eight of our pupils from Year 10 to Year 14 showcased their creativity, ingenuity and engineering skills. Their projects ranged from mobile apps and prototypes to innovative product designs, each one reflecting the high standards of research, design and problem-solving developed within our Computing and STEM programmes.

Thank you to all the pupils who represented the school so admirably at this prestigious event.

Empower Girls 2025 - Inspiring the Next Generation in Technology

We are proud of our Year 8 girls who took part in Empower Girls 2025 at the ICC Belfast. Thirty pupils joined over 600 young people from across Northern Ireland to explore technology and cyber security through workshops, demonstrations and discussions with industry professionals.

Special congratulations go to Aureja, who achieved 2nd place in the Kahoot quiz and won an Amazon Alexa, while several other pupils received spot prizes from leading tech companies. The event provided an inspiring opportunity for our pupils to develop their skills, curiosity and confidence, and to see first-hand the exciting possibilities within the world of technology.

CyberFirst Girls Competition - Year 9 Pupils Excel in National Challenge

We are delighted to celebrate the achievements of four of our Year 9 pupils - Emily Broomfield, Eden Clarke, Isabella Kindred and Georgia King - who represented the school at the CyberFirst Girls Competition Celebration at W5 LIFE, Belfast. Their team finished 7th in Northern Ireland, an impressive accomplishment in a competition that saw over 15,000 pupils from 4,000 teams across the UK take part. This annual event encourages young women to explore careers in cybersecurity and technology, fields in which female representation remains limited.

The celebration day offered both inspiration and challenge. Rose Templeton, a Cyber Security Consultant at Vertical Structure, spoke about her career and highlighted the importance of increasing female participation in the cyber industry. Our pupils then tackled the 'Operation Enigma' activity, a hands-on challenge based on the World War II codebreaking work at Bletchley Park. They successfully decrypted complex German messages,

demonstrating teamwork, problem-solving and technical skills - completing all tasks within the allotted time, an achievement rarely seen.

The day also included a special birthday surprise for Georgia King, which added a personal and memorable touch to an already remarkable experience. We extend our thanks to our ICT department and Miss Spillane for supporting the pupils throughout this journey, and we congratulate Emily, Eden, Isabella and Georgia for their dedication, skill and exemplary representation of the school.

Kainos Software Industry Insights Event

Our Computing Department remains closely connected with industry partners, ensuring that teaching and learning reflect the skills and practices valued in the workplace. This year one of our ICT teachers attended the Industry Insights event hosted by Kainos and Software NI. The programme explored personalised learning, design thinking, agile development and accessibility, all within the context of real-world software practices. Experiencing the full software development cycle in a professional environment provided valuable ideas that will continue to enrich our pupils' classroom experience. We are grateful to our partners in industry who invest their time and expertise in supporting the next generation of learners.

iDEA Awards Success

We also celebrate the achievements of our younger pupils who are embracing new opportunities in digital learning. This year, Year 9 pupil Jensen has distinguished himself through the iDEA Awards programme, achieving both the Bronze and Silver certificates in record time. The iDEA Awards develop skills in coding, cybersecurity, game design and digital enterprise, and are recognised nationally as a mark of digital competence.

Jensen's commitment, enthusiasm and rapid progress are an excellent example of how our pupils are taking ownership of their learning and preparing themselves with skills that will serve them well in the years ahead.

CROSS COUNTRY AND ATHLETICS CLUB

Cross Country

District Cross Country in January at Gordon Playing Fields, Lurgan.
Qualifiers for the Ulster Schools' Championships

- Owen Acheson 1st and the Junior Boys' Team 2nd - Daniel Graham 7th, Jesse Buwalda 8th, Will Sleeth 37th, Jude McDowell, Jake Hartley, Tom Dorman, Sam Dorman
- Junior Girls' Team 2nd- Emma Sloan, Rosie Lucas, Hannah Rea, Anna Nicolay, Ellie Coalter, Jorja Turkington, Faith Ferris
- Mini Boys - Joel McMullan 8th
- Mini Girls - Sadie Dunwoody 9th, Eve Sloan 14th
- Intermediate Girls - Honor Buwalda 1st and Megan Barnet 2nd
- Senior Boys - Tom Currie

Ulster Schools' Cross Country Championships, February, at Mallusk Playing Fields.

- Owen Acheson was 2nd in the Junior Boy's race and qualified for the Irish Championships in March.
- Intermediate Girls - Honor Buwalda was 15th and qualified for the Irish Championships in March.
- Megan Barnet finished 20th, just missing Irish qualification.
- Junior Boys' Team - 6th, Owen 2nd, Daniel 43rd, Jesse 50th, Will 75th.
- Junior Girls Team - 5th, Emma 18th, Hannah 37th, Anna 56th.
- Mini Boys - Joel 54th.
- Mini Girls - Sadie 22nd, Eve 65th.

Owen Acheson was also selected to run for Ireland Juniors in the Mini Marathon in London in April.

Athletics-

District and Ulster Results

	<u>District Championships</u>	<u>Ulster Championships</u>
Mini Girls		
Salome Adepoju	100m 1st 13.5sec	100m 1st 13.1sec
Sadie Dunwoody	100m 2nd 13.8sec	100m 4th 13.8sec
	800m 3rd 2.36min	800m 11th 2.38mins
Sophia Dunne	Shot Put 3rd 7.10m	Shot Put 9th 6.75m
Mini Girls Relay Team (Salome, Sadie, Cerys Acheson, Cassie Walker)	MG Relay 1st 57.7sec	MG Relay 4th 55.98sec
Minor Girls		
Isabella Kindred	Shot Put 2nd 8.10m	Shot Put 10th 7.49m
Junior Girls		
Katie Dunwoody	100m 1st 200m 1st	100m 3rd in heat
Jorja Turkington	75mH 1st	75mH 7th 13.89sec
Emily Nesbitt	Triple Jump 1st 9.35m	Triple Jump 9th 8.75m
Ana Smyth	High Jump 1st 1.35m+	High Jump 10th
Nadia Weglarz	Discus 1st	Discus 8th 18.20m
Emma Sloan	Long Jump 2nd	Long Jump 4.46m 9th
Hope Dougan	Discus 2nd	Discus 17.86m 10th
Anna Nicolay	800m 3rd	800m 11th 2.36mins
Junior Girls Relay Team (Katie, Emma, Rosie Gamble, Kristin Knipe)	JG Relay 1st 54.08sec	JG Relay 4th 53.46sec
Junior Boys		
Owen Acheson	1500m 1st	1500m 1st 4.16mins
Ethan Samhembere	Long Jump 1st 4.85m	Long Jump 5th 5.18m
Jesse Buwalda	800m 3rd 80mH 1st	800m 80mH
Intermediate Girls		
Honor Buwalda	1500m 1st 800m 1st	1500m 5th 4.50mins
Megan Barnet	3000m 2nd	3000m 7th 10.57mins
Annie Agnew	Javelin 2nd	Javelin 11th 20.82m
Intermediate Boys		
Reuben McDowell	400m 1st	400m 5th in heat
Senior Boys		
Tom Currie	800m 1st	DNS

Owen Acheson won bronze medal at Irish Schools' Championships 2025.

Year 8 girls' athletics team won gold at the Ulster Year 8 Team Competition, where Salome won gold and the relay team also won gold. Salome Adepoju, Sadie Dunwoody, Sophia Dunne, Madison Allen, Cerys Acheson, Cassie Walker.

NI and Ulster Indoor Championships, Athlone

Anna Nicolay had PBs in the 60M and 800M. Cerys Acheson had a PB in the 60M, was placed 10th in the long jump and 5th in the shot. Owen Acheson had a PB and won gold in the 1500M. Jude McDowell had PBs in the 200M and the shot put where he secured 5th place. Jesse Buwalda had PB in the 200M and 800M. Honor Buwalda won gold in the 800M and silver in the 1500. Reuben McDowell PB in the 200M and secured a bronze medal, he won gold in the 60M hurdles. Tom Currie had a PB and a bronze medal in the 800M. Reuben, Jesse, Jude and Honor's strong performances in the 4 x 200 relay teams helped to secure 4th place and silver medals for their club. Reuben, Honor, Tom, Jessie and Owen all qualified to compete at the Irish Indoor Championships.

Irish Indoor Champions

Jessie Buwalda 800

Honor Buwalda 800 & PB in 1500

Reuben McDowell 200 & 60 Hurdles

Owen Acheson PB 1500 6th place

NI Age Group Championships in June at the Mary Peters' Track

Megan (Newry AC), Honor, Reuben, Katie, Owen, Daniel Graham Anna Nicholay and Jesse Buwalda all competed for their club (Armagh AC). Cerys Acheson 2nd high jump and 2nd in her 80m heat. Owen Acheson was 5th 1500 and Daniel Graham 11th in the 1500. Jesse Buwalda was placed 8th in the 800. Katie Dunwoody was 2nd in the 200m. Honor Bulwalda was placed 2nd in the 1500m. Megan Barnett came 3rd in the 3000m. Reuben McDowell 7th in the 200m and 1st in the 300m hurdles. Honor, Katie, Reuben, Cerys and Megan all qualified for the All-Ireland Age Group Championships in Tullamore.

All-Ireland Age Group Championships in Tullamore

Our track and field athletes did not disappoint with sterling performances at Tullamore in July. Kate qualified for the final in the 200m and was placed 7th, Megan was placed 7th in the 3000m, Cerys came 12th in the high jump, Honor was placed 4th in the 1500, Reuben qualified in his heats for the final of the 300 hurdles and was placed 5th.

Individual Honours

Based on their performances at the All-Ireland Age Group Championships 2024 the athletes below were selected onto the NI and Ulster Performance Squads:

Honor Buwalda 1500

Reuben McDowell 250 hurdles

Megan Barnett 3000

House Sports Day Results:

Girls' Results

	Year 8 (Mini)	Year 9 (Minor)	Year 10 (Junior)	Year 11 (Intermediate)
100m	Salome Adepoju	Faith Davidson	Katie Dunwoody	Cadence Gillespie
800m	Sadie Dunwoody	Hanna Zlotnik	Pippa Scott	Cadence Gillespie
Long Jump	Mia Farrah	Isabella Kindred	Emily McKenna	Farrah Quinn
High Jump	Cerys Acheson	Jocelyn Hutchinson	Ana Smyth	Emma Todd
Shot Put	Sophia Dunne	Alveena Tilak	Hope Dougan	Eva McConnell
Cricketball/ Javelin	Sophia Dunne	X	Ellie Coalter	Annie Agnew
Discus	X	Emma Forster	Nadia Weglarz	Annie Agnew
Relay	Armstrong	Armstrong	Rokeby	Armstrong
Overall Champion (top 3 events)	Sophia Dunne & Cerys Acheson	Isabella Kindred	Ellie Coalter & Emma Sloan	Annie Agnew

Boys' Results

	Year 8 (Mini)	Year 9 (Minor)	Year 10 (Junior)	Year 11 (Intermediate)
100m	Josh Thompson 14.47s	Einoras Litvaitis 14.47s	Ethan Samhembere 12.08s	John Kennedy 12.15s
200m	Joel McMullan	Joshua Oni	Alex Grove	Joel Dougan
800m	Joel McMullan 2m 20s	Andrew Purdy 2m 22s	Owen Acheson 1m 58s	Yo Hasegawa 2m 12s
Long Jump	Jack Finch 4.20m	Joshua Oni 3.90m	Ethan Samhembere 5.00m	John Kennedy 4.70m
High Jump	Samuel Murdock 1.15m	Callum Lewis 1.33m	Matthew Kerr 1.50m	Reuben Cartmill 1.43m
Shot Putt	Finn Scallon 7.00m	Zach Shannon 8.40m	Matthew Kerr 9.95m	Joel Conn 9.60m
Discus	-	Nathan Rainey 12.20m	James Millar 23.10m	Harry Emerson 27.00m
Javelin	-	Caleb Watt 16.56m	Sonny Kerr 25.35m	Matthew Cartmill 23.85m
Relay	Beresford 64.02s	Beresford 60.00s	D'Arcy 54.07s	D'Arcy 54.82s
Overall Champions (top 2 events)	J McMullan / J Thompson	A Purdy/ J Oni	E Samhembere / M Kerr	John Kennedy

Sports Day House Points 2025

1 st	Armstrong	630
2 nd	Rokeby	619
3 rd	D'Arcy	593
4 th	Beresford	587

House Events 2024-25

	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Points	Place
Netball						
Armstrong	1st	2nd	2nd	1st	14	1st
Beresford	2nd	3rd	3rd	3rd	9	3rd
Darcy	3rd	1st	1st	2nd	13	2nd
Rokeby	4th	4th	4th	4th	4	4 th
Hockey						
Armstrong	3rd	1st	4th	X	7	3rd
Beresford	4th	4th	2nd	X	5	4th
Darcy	2nd	2nd	1st	X	10	1st
Rokeby	1st	3rd	2nd	X	9	2 nd
Football						
Armstrong	2nd=	1st	1st	1st=	15	1st
Beresford	1st	3rd	3rd	1st=	12	2nd
Darcy	4th	2nd	2nd	4th	8	3rd
Rokeby	2nd=	4th	4th	3rd	7	4th

TENNIS- Girls

1 st	Armstrong
2 nd	Darcy
3 rd	Beresford
4 th	Rokeby

House	Captains	Deputies
Armstrong	Grace Mawhinney / Orrin Miskimmons	Chloe Patton / Ross Lindsay
Beresford	Lucy Calvin / Tommy Robinson	Katie Dickson / Kuba Nasal
d’Arcy	Natasha Dorman / Charlie Shortt	Evie Hamilton / David Jamison
Rokeby	Niamh Smith / Harry Anderson	Eilidh Graham / Matthew George

1st d’Arcy

2nd = Armstrong & Rokeby

4th Beresford

DANCE

Ulster Fusion Schools Competition, Friday 7 February 2025, La Mon Hotel Belfast

Age group	Year	Genre	Title	Pupils	Result
Junior Team	8-10	DYS	Despicable	Polly Matchett, Ellie Spence, Mya Mason, Shelley Thompson, Edie Ratcliffe, Emma Anderson, Kerry McGrath	1st
	8	MOD	Don’t stop movin’	Edie Ratcliffe	1st
	8	BAL	Edelweiss	Madison Knipe	1st
Junior Solo	9	CON	Arcade	Poly Matchett	1st
	9	MOD	Survivor	Mya Mason	1st
	9	LYR	Start of time	Ellie Spence	2nd
Junior Duet	9	LYR	Helium	Polly Matchett and Sophie McBride	2nd
	11	LYR	Help	Hear Araja	1st
	11	DYS	Hit the road	Tilly Qua	2nd
Intermediate Solo	12	LYR	Zara	Zara Mason	1st
	12	TAP	Can’t take my eyes off you	Leah George	1st
	12	LYR	Lili	Lili Black	2nd
Intermediate Duet	12	MOD	Hit me up	Emily McConnell	3rd
	12	TAP	Another day of sun	Leah George and Emily McConnell	1st
	12	LYR	Remedy	Zara Mason and Hera Araja	2nd
Senior Team	12	MOD	Let’s get loud	Zara Mason and Lili Black	HC
		HH	Finesse	Grace Anderson, Sasha Ratcliffe, Lucy Qua, Bethany Anderson, Sophie Murugasu, Ruby Anderson, Lucy Montgomery	1st
	13	LYR	Lucy	Lucy Montgomery	1st
Senior Solo	13	CON	In this shirt	Ruby Anderson	2nd
	14	NHI	Highland girl	Emily Berry	1st
	14	LYR	Sasha	Sasha Ratcliffe	1st
Senior Duet	14	LYR	Grace	Grace Anderson	3rd
	13	NHI	The dark island	Ruth Fraser and Rebecca Fraser	1st
	14	LYR	You are the reason	Sasha Ratcliffe and Ellie Spence	2nd
Senior Quad	14	MOD	Grace & Lucy	Grace Anderson and Lucy Montgomery	3rd
	14	NHI	Bleaching cloths	Emily Berry, Ruth Fraser, Rebecca Fraser, Jessica Fraser	1st

Ulster Fusion Special Recognition Awards

Highest overall senior solo 2025	Sasha Ratcliffe
Highest overall senior quad 2025	Emily Berry, Ruth Fraser, Rebecca Fraser and Jessica Fraser
Highest overall small junior team 2025	Despicable

Northern Ireland Creative Movement and Aerobic Championships, Thursday 6th March 2025, Lisburn

Age group	Year	Genre	Title	Pupils	Result
Junior STR Team	8-10	AG	Despicable	Polly Matchett, Ellie Spence, Mya Mason, Shelley Thompson, Edie Ratcliffe, Penny Best, Kerry McGrath	1st
Junior Solo	8	AG	Don't stop movin'	Edie Ratcliffe	1st
	8	D	Edelweiss	Madison Knipe	1st
	9	CM - CON	Arcade	Poly Matchett	1st
	9	LYR	Start of time	Ellie Spence	1st
	9	D	Survivor	Mya Mason	3rd
Intermediate Quad	12	SD	X's and O's	Jessica Cai, Isla Dalzell, Coco Cheung, Rebecca Cai	1st
Intermediate STR Team	11	CM - LYR	Mirrors	Beatrice Agnew, Sophie Diffin, Elizabeth Guttridge, Mia Coppard, Amy Clarke	2nd
Senior Trio	14	D	Feather	Bethany Anderson, Emma Graham, Sophie Murugasu	3rd

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD

Over the past 12 months we have had one person achieve their Bronze Award, 61 their Silver and 27 Gold Awards. With 59 new Gold participants it is commendable they all manage to get a suitable physical, skill and volunteering activity organised providing significant assistance to the local community. The expedition section is catered for internally, with the spring term particularly busy for the expedition team. Although students are expected to get their Gold finished prior to leaving school, many remain in contact and finish the award during the first few years at university before attending a presentation at one of the Royal Palaces.

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Book Club

Book Club has continued to thrive this year, as Senior and Junior pupils meet monthly to discuss a variety of genres and authors they have been reading.

Creative Writing Club

Under the excellent leadership of our sixth form pupils, Creative Writing Club has also maintained a steady membership this year, as pupils have pushed their writing skills across prose, poetry and drama.

Junior Debate

Members met every other Monday in MC2. Working in teams, pupils compiled research upon and debated various political and social issues including education, technology and gun laws. They competed in regular in-house debates and developed their skills in challenging and rebutting.

Junior Drama

On alternate Monday afternoons, pupils met in MC2 to fine-tune their skills in performing dramatic monologues, improvisation, and scriptwriting. They created their own characters and plots, and performed extracts from works such as Matilda, Barbie, The Hunger Games, and Harry Potter.

Trip to Seamus Heaney Homeplace

In March, the English Department took a group of Year 13 students to the Seamus Heaney Homeplace in Bellaghy. This offered the A Level English students a unique opportunity to get an up-close insight into the life of one of the poets they are studying as part of their course.

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Year 14 - Exploring Ethnic Segregation in Belfast

Pupils explored areas of a city, Belfast shaped by division and historical conflict to investigate how segregation and multicultural communities continue to influence ethnic diversity. The visit offered valuable insight into the challenges of managing shared urban spaces and the social effects of providing parallel services for different groups. It was an engaging and thought-provoking experience that deepened pupils' knowledge of case study content.

Year 13 and Year 11 - Fluvial Environment Fieldwork

As part of their AS and GCSE Geography fieldwork data collection, pupils spent two days investigating the changes along a river's course from its source to its mouth. The field study involved collecting primary data at multiple sites to test a series of hypotheses based on river processes and characteristics. Investigations included measuring changes in river width, depth, bedload size and shape, as well as calculating discharge and velocity. A classic part of the practical work involved timing the speed of an orange floating downstream to measure surface velocity, a simple but effective field technique. The trip provided valuable hands-on experience of geographical enquiry, data gathering, and analysis in a real-world environment, reinforcing classroom theory with field-based evidence.

Year 9: Coastal Trip to Newcastle

In June, our Year 9 pupils visited Newcastle in County Down to enhance their understanding of coastal environments. The visit allowed them to practise and refine a range of data collection techniques, including measuring longshore drift and creating detailed beach profiles. Pupils also had the chance to observe and evaluate various coastal management strategies during a guided tour of the seafront, applying what they had learned in class to real-world examples. In addition, they investigated the role and influence of tourism in Newcastle by carrying out public questionnaires. The trip not only deepened their geographical knowledge but also provided valuable opportunities to strengthen teamwork, communication and fieldwork skills.

Year 13 & 14 Translink Youth Summit

The summit provided a platform for young people to express their views, share experiences, and offer ideas about the future of public transport and its importance in society, education, and tackling climate change. The event featured a series of interactive workshops led by NI Youth Forum youth workers, focusing on key themes including climate action, safety, and mutual respect. Pupils had the chance to engage in meaningful discussions with peers from schools across Northern Ireland and contribute their feedback directly to Translink representatives.

COP 29 Event

On 19th November, Francesca Stevenson and Lily Dougan had the exciting opportunity to participate in the British Council's COP29 Climate Negotiation Simulation, held at Belfast City Hall. Timed to coincide with the United Nations COP29 Summit in Baku, Azerbaijan, the event brought together over 150 students from a range of local and international schools, offering young people a chance to experience the complexities of global climate negotiations.

Students assumed the roles of key figures present at real COP summits, including UN Secretary-General representatives, national negotiators, climate activists, lobbyists and journalists. They debated many of the same pressing issues currently being discussed on the global stage.

Central to the simulation was the first "global stocktake" of the Paris Agreement — an assessment of how countries are progressing in reducing greenhouse gas emissions and keeping global temperature rise "well below" 2°C, as agreed in 2015.

In Belfast, participants worked collaboratively to determine emission reduction targets, strategies for supporting nations most affected by climate change, and practical ways to adapt to environmental challenges to protect communities and infrastructure.

Representing Egypt, Francesca and Lily were tasked with balancing environmental priorities alongside economic and social challenges. Both girls performed their roles with great insight and diplomacy, demonstrating strong negotiating skills and representing their country with conviction. They were outstanding ambassadors for the school and contributed fully to the success of the event.

Rocking Geothermal Roadshow

A group of Year 10 geography pupils were kindly invited to City of Armagh High School in November to participate in the Rocking Geothermal Roadshow delivered by GeoEnergyNI. This event educated pupils on different rock types and how we could harness geothermal energy here in Northern Ireland. This was an informative and interactive way of discovering all things geology.

Year 8 Antarctica Flag Competition

For the second year running, the Year 8 geography cohort were entered into the annual Polar Network Antarctica Flag competition. Pupils were taught about Antarctica in class and then in preparation for the competition, advised on how to create an effective flag. As only two flags could be sent from RSA, there was an internal competition run within the department. Each flag was meticulously judged by the departmental teachers and the top three for each class were awarded a participation certificate. The top three flags from each class were then considered for the final two flags. Isabella Jones and Isabella King from 8C were awarded the top spots. Their flags were taken to Antarctica by Freya Alldred who travelled as a scientist on board the Viking tourist ship *Polaris*, she is also a doctoral student at Durham University in the Earth Sciences Department researching polar seaweed forests and the carbon and nitrogen cycles in the Arctic and Antarctic. These photographs were taken at half Moon Island. The large rock face is Edinburgh Hill, a basalt rock formation from a volcanic magma chamber. The icebergs are at Chiriguano Bay. Both girls received an official Polar Network Certificate which are displayed proudly in the geography corridor. Well done to all of the Year 8 pupils who gave their utmost effort.

Worldwise Quiz

Three Year 12 GCSE geography pupils - Lydia Crawford, Luke Murdy and Hannah Watterson were entered into the annual Geographical Association 'Worldwise Quiz' in Queen's University Belfast. Here, pupils competed with a range of different schools across the country in a variety of different geographical themed rounds. Their knowledge about OS Map Skills, Physical Geography, Fieldwork and a 'Local' round was put to the test. Although they didn't come away with the top prize, our pupils did the geography department proud with their determination and exemplary behaviour. What wonderful ambassadors for our school!

HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE DEPARTMENT

Guest Speaker from Women's Aid: Year 14 pupils were given a presentation from Leona Whyte about domestic violence in preparation for their controlled assessment task. The pupils were given the opportunity to present a donation of £250 which was raised by running a bake sale.

Work placement: Year 13 pupils completed a two-day work placement in a health and social care setting of their choice. Some attended their local primary school or care home. This experience was beneficial in assisting the pupils with completing their controlled assessment tasks as it allowed them to observe and develop their understanding on how each setting promotes quality care and communicates effectively with staff and service users.

HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

LMC Demonstration: The department availed of the opportunity to welcome guest speakers from LMC to give cookery demonstrations to the year 11 and 10 classes. Leanne Mulholland carried out a cookery master class for year 11 pupils. This provided guidance on how to incorporate red meat into their diet. Leanne prepared and cooked Tikka mince which was thoroughly enjoyed by all the pupils. Hilary Stevenson visited the year 10 lessons between January and April and cooked a variety of dishes for the pupils to taste test. Hilary discussed the nutritional benefits of each dish and potential careers within the food industry. Recipe booklets were provided to the pupils encouraging them to trial new recipes. The demonstrations were very informative and the pupils involved benefited greatly from this experience.

Afternoon Tea: Year 11 Food and Nutrition pupils were set the challenge of preparing and serving afternoon tea for the staff in preparation for their GCSE practical examination next November. Their chosen dishes were mini quiches, sausage rolls, scones, apple crumble tarts, lemon cake, vanilla and raspberry profiteroles, pavlova nests, and raspberry and white chocolate cheesecake. The pupils adapted some of these dishes to cater for all dietary needs. We are very proud of how well they worked when carrying out this task focusing on improving their time management, presentation, organisational and teamwork skills. Their final outcomes were incredible, and they tasted amazing too! The staff thoroughly enjoyed being treated by the year 11 pupils. We are very excited to see what they will prepare, cook and serve for their three-course meal next year.

HOCKEY

Team achievements

1stXI	Ulster Stevenson Senior League Champions Belfast Telegraph Ulster Senior Cup Runners-up Daphne Hall Irish League Winners Tournament Runners-up
2ndXI	Ulster McDowell Cup Runner-sup
3rdXI	Ulster Gibson Cup ¼ finalists
Mid Ulster League joint winners	
4thXI	Ulster 4thXI Cup ½ finalists
Mid Ulster League joint winners	
U14XI	Ulster Stevenson Junior League ¼ finalists
Ulster Junior Cup ¼ finalists	
Mid Ulster League joint winners	
U13XIA	Mid Ulster Cup runners-up
U13XIB	Mid Ulster Cup runners-up
U12XIA	Mid Ulster League runners-up
RSA 8 aside Tournament Winners	
MCB 8 aside Tournament Runners-up	

Individual honours

Scarlett Taylor	Ulster U18 & Irish U18 Captain
Katie Herron	Ulster U18 & Irish U18
Joni Cunningham	Ulster U18
Rhianna Gillespie	Ulster U18
Mia Taylor	Ulster U17 Development
Daisy Nicholson	Ulster U17 Development
Hannah Redmond	Ulster U17 Development
Maggie Scott	Ulster U16 Captain & Irish U16
Kate Livingstone	Ulster U16
Sophia Simmons	Ulster U16
Cadence Gillespie	Ulster U16 Training Panel
Emma Sloan	Ulster U16 Development
Faith Ferris	Ulster U15 TDP & Ulster U13
Pippa Scott	Ulster U15 TDP & Ulster U13
Abi Ross	Ulster U15 TDP & Ulster U13
Nadia Weglarz	Ulster U15 TDP & Ulster U13
Katie Morton	Ulster U15 TDP

MATHEMATICAL CHALLENGES

- Four AS/A2 further maths pupils completed the senior maths challenge in October
- Year 8 took part in Math Week Ireland in October in collaboration with the music department
- Year 10 completed an in house Team Challenge event on international Pi day in March

MUSIC

EA Music Service Award Winners:

- Timothy Forster (Most Promising Double Reed Player)
- Brooke McCarragher (Most Promising Clarinet Player)
- Sophie Murugasu (South Ulster Youth Orchestra Cup)
- Charlie Shortt (Music Service Bursary for undergraduate studies at a Conservatoire)
- Abby Jackson, Brooke McCarragher and Jonathan Wilson (Friends of the Music Service Bursary)

Participants in National Ensembles:

Orchestral:

- Sophie Murugasu (Ulster Youth Orchestra)
- Lucy Qua (National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and Ulster Youth Orchestra)
- Charlie Shortt (National Youth Orchestra of Great Britain and Ulster Youth Orchestra)

Choral:

Peter Finch (National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland Senior Choir)

Matthew Herron (National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland Senior Choir)

Robin Loughlin (National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland Senior Choir)

Louise Morrow (National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland Senior Choir)

Sasha Todd (National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland Senior Choir)

Lydia Weir (Charles Wood Girls' Choir)

Performances:

- Senior Chamber Choir - Speech Night (September 2024)
- Year 14 Choristers - Headmasters' and Headmistresses' Conference Annual Service in St Anne's Cathedral (September 2024)
- String Quartet - Background Music at 'An Evening with Kenny Hooks' (October 2024)
- Senior Chamber Choir - Service of Remembrance (November 2024)
- The Sound of Music Band (November 2024)
- Senior Chamber Choir - St Mark's Christmas Tree Festival (December 2024)
- Senior Chamber Choir - The Mall Baptist Church Carol Service (December 2024)
- Year 12 Musicians - Hockley Lodge Private Nursing Home (December 2024)
- Year 11 Musicians - Green Park Private Nursing Home (December 2024)
- Junior Musicians - Hockley Nursing Home (December 2024)
- EA Music Service Christmas Concert in Island Arts Centre (December 2024)
- Senior Chamber Choir - Armagh Elim Church Carol Service (December 2024)
- Chamber Orchestra - Background Music at Rushmere (December 2024)
- String Quartet - Background Music at Old Armachians' Dinner (February 2025)
- Daniel Anderson, Reuben Berry, Emily Hawthorne, Grace Hawthorne, Abby Jackson, Brooke McCarragher and Jonathan Willson - New Irish Youth Orchestra (February 2025)
- Senior Chamber Choir - Hamilton College Choir Tour in St Patrick's Cathedral (March 2025)
- Opera Youth Chorus - The Pied Piper of Hamelin with Ulster Touring Opera in St Patrick's Cathedral (March 2025)
- Lucy Qua and Charlie Shortt - Finalist and Runner-Up, respectively, in Northern Ireland Young Musician of the Year (March 2025)
- Senior Chamber Choir and Chamber Orchestra - Armagh Cathedrals' Partnership Event in Market Place Theatre (March 2025)
- EA Music Service Gala Concert in South Lakes Leisure Centre (April 2025)
- Year 11-14 musicians performed at LADIA Secret Gardens of Loughgall Event (June 2025)

Trips and Events:

- Year 13 & 14 Music classes attended Lunchtime Concert by the Ulster Orchestra in the Ulster Hall (September 2024)
- Presentation from Director of Choristers at St Patrick's Cathedral, Armagh, to Year 8 boys (October 2024)
- GCSE Students attended William Kennedy International Piping Concert in First Armagh Presbyterian Church (November 2024)
- National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland Workshop with Senior Chamber Choir (November 2024)
- Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols (December 2024)
- 12 Days of Christmas (December 2024)
- London Trip for Year 11-13 students to see NYO (January 2025)
- Open Night (January 2025)
- Senior Recital Evening (February 2025)
- Charles Wood Summer School Workshop with Junior Choir (February 2025)
- NI Opera Workshop in Market Place Theatre with Junior Choir (March 2025)
- Careers in Music Event for Year 11-14 Music students (March 2025)
- Music Students attended Commonwealth Service in Westminster Abbey (March 2024)
- Spring Concert (April 2025)

RELIGIOUS STUDIES DEPARTMENT EVENTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

A group of 14 Sixth Form Philosophy and Ethics students attended The United Nations Association 'Hope for Our World' event at the Hill of the O'Neill and Ranfurly House to hear past pupil Laura Hampton present on her trip circumnavigating the globe.

A group of 18 GCSE students celebrated International Women's Day with ABC Council at Craigavon Civic Centre on the theme of AccelerateAction.

In June Year 9 had an interesting and informative tour of St Patrick's Church of Ireland Cathedral where they learnt about the spread of Christianity in Ireland and the importance of Armagh as the Ecclesiastical Capital of Ireland.

RUGBY

Personal Achievements

Boys' Rugby

Ulster U19: Thomas Dougan, Sam Gray, Cameron Cummings
Ulster U18: Ryan Hamilton, Nathan Hamilton, Alex Stinson, Charlie Reaney, Harry Dougan
Ulster U17: Gus Grimley, James Flanagan
Ulster U16: Ben Best, Zach Halligan, Will Sleeth, Rory Lewis, Thomas Willis

Girls' Rugby

Ulster U18 Schools: Lucy Calvin & Lily Reaney
Ulster U16 Schools: Ellen Lindsay

Team Achievements

Boys' Rugby

1ST XV: Runners up to Wallace HS in the Danske Bank Schools Cup Final losing 15-24 at Kingspan Stadium.
2ND XV: Winners of the Danske Bank 2nd XV Shield defeating Ballyclare HS 28-18 in the final at Wallace HS.
3RD XV: Quarter finalists of the Danske Bank 3rd XV Plate losing to BRA 20 to 7. The 3rd XV had five competitive fixtures last year.
U16 The U16s finished runners up to Ballyclare HS in the Danske Bank U16 Shield. They lost 16-15 in the final played at Friends' School Lisburn.

Medallion XV: Defeated ERGS 14-3 to win the Danske Bank Medallion Bowl at Royal School Dungannon.

- Under 14 XV:** The boys won 7 of their 16 games.
Under 13 XV: The boys won 8 of their 17 games.
Under 12 XV: The boys played in 3 blitzes and had 4 fixtures last season.

Girls' Rugby

- U18 Sevens:** The girls played in 4 qualifying blitzes and competed in the Ulster finals at Rainey RFC losing in the semi-finals to ERGS by one score.
U 16 Sevens: The girls played in 4 qualifying blitzes and competed in the group stage at Ulster final at Cookstown
U14 Sevens: The girls played in three participation blitzes. Losing out in the Quarter Final to the eventual tournament winners, Omagh Academy by one score.

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Science Club

KS3 Science Club: Continued again this year after school with large numbers at each meeting. Activities included making cheese, egg parachute challenge and festive themed activities.

Biology

In October 50 AS biology students completed two days of field work on the shores of Carlingford Lough.

SCRIPTURE UNION

- Two weekends for students at Kilbroney – approximately 90 pupils at each weekend
- Dinner Dance at Four Seasons Hotel Monaghan – 300 attended
- Social and Games night
- Celebrate Service in St Mark's Parish Church

SKI TRIP

In March 70 pupils and staff enjoyed a week's skiing in the beautiful Italian resort of Andalo.

SENIOR DEBATING SOCIETY

The Senior Debating Society competed in the 1608 Debating Competition at Royal School Dungannon. Eva Robinson and Gabriellah Rwanga gave excellent speeches opposing the motion that 'This House believes that Artificial Intelligence is more of a threat to society than an opportunity' and were runners up to The Royal School Cavan.

A team from The Senior Debating Society competed at Queen's University in 'The Future Ethicist's Shield'. They gave strong debates on a variety of topical issues.

SWIMMING (RSA)

The swimmers from RSA were very busy representing their school, respective clubs, and Ulster. Below are the highest level galas where they competed.

Swim Ulster Primary Schools Cup and Championships 2024- Bangor

At this gala swimmers from across the primary school age group and year 8 compete against each other to qualify to represent Ulster at the Irish Minor Schools Gala. RSA competitors were:

- Catherine McWilliams - 50 freestyle PB & 50 backstroke PB
- Ella Rose Parks – 50 free PB & 50 breaststroke PB. Performance in 100 breaststroke secured qualification for Irish Minor Schools Gala.

Irish Minor Schools Championships 2025 - National Aquatic Centre Dublin.

- Ella Rose Parks 100 breaststroke- PB placed 17th

Swim Ulster Senior Schools Championships 2025- Bangor

RSA competitors were:

- Leah Jacobs 100M Fly, 200 IM Backstroke-Reaching the finals in the 100M Fly-1st and 6th in the 200IM. Senior Girls 200M Medley relay 2nd & Senior Girls Freestyle relay- 4th place.
- Iona Beattie 100M Backstroke, 100M Freestyle. Senior Girls 200M Medley relay 2nd & Senior Girls Freestyle relay- 4th place.
- Reuben McDowell 100M fly and 100M Freestyle. Reaching the finals in the 100M Fly- 7th
- Ylenia Gillanders 100 breaststroke reaching finals and placed 8th. Senior Girls 200M Medley relay 2nd & Senior Girls Freestyle relay- 4th place.
- Samuel Murdock 100 breast, 100 free PB.
- Jakob Slebiada 100 back and 100 breaststroke.
- Isabella Kindred 100M backstroke & 100M breaststroke- securing PBs. !2-14 200 Medley relay- 8th and 200 Free- 8th.
- Hope Dougan 100M backstroke, 100M Fly. Reaching the finals in the 100M Fly-4th and 7th in the 100 back. Senior Girls 200M Medley relay 2nd & Senior Girls Freestyle relay- 4th place.
- Hanna Zlonik 100M backstroke & 100M freestyle. Reaching the finals in the 100M Free-8th and 11th in the 100 back. !2-14 200 Medley relay- 8th and 200 Free- 8th.
- Dara McKenna PB'd in 100M backstroke & 100M freestyle. Boys 15-16 200M freestyle relay (placed 8th) & Boys 15-16 200M medley relay 9th place.
- Enzo Gillanders Boys 15-16 200M freestyle relay (placed 8th) & Boys 15-16 200M medley relay 9th place.
- Jude McDowell 100 breaststroke and 100 free- Boys 15-16 200M freestyle relay (placed 8th) & Boys 15-16 200M medley relay 9th place.
- Leah Jacobs was selected for the Ulster Interpro team based on her performance at this gala.

Irish National Age Group Championships 2025 - Limerick

The swimmers below qualified to swim in the Irish National Age Group Championships which was held in the University of Limerick.

- Sophia Vergnano achieved national qualification times to swim in the 400IM (PB- finals- 5th), 200 breaststroke (PB- finals- 7th), 100 breaststroke (PB- finals- 10th), 200IM (PB- finals- 11th), 100 back (PB- finals- 12th), 200 back (PB- 20th). She also received silver & bronze level certificates for time improvements in the 200 and 100 back.
- Ella Rose Parks achieved national qualification times to swim in the 100 breaststroke & 200 breaststroke. She reached the finals in the 200 breaststroke and placed 16th as well as achieving PB times.
- Hannah Zlotnik achieved national qualification times in 1500 free (finals 2nd), 200 free (finals- 7th), 200IM (finals- 8th), 400 free (finals- 11th), 100 free (finals- 13th) and 50 free (finals 18th).

Irish Youth and Senior Summer Nationals 2025- Irish Aquatic Centre, Dublin

- Reuben McDowell achieved national qualification times to swim in the 100M Fly and the 50 freestyle.
- Leah Jacobs achieved national qualification times to swim 100 breaststroke (PB- finals-16th), 100 freestyle, 100 fly (finals- 3rd),100 back (finals- 14th), 50 fly (finals- 12th), 50 free and 3 club relays. Leah's performances have secured her a place on the Ulster Team for the 2025-2026 season.
- Hope Dougan achieved national qualification times to swim 200 free (PB- finals- 15th), 50 free (PB- finals- 5th), 100 fly (finals- 20th),100 back (finals-12th),100 free and 200 back.

Swim Ireland Regional Programme 2024-2025

Leah Jacobs was selected to be part of the Swim Ireland Regional Programme where she trained with national coaches and was part of the Regional Ulster Squad. Leah represented Ulster at the High Wycombe Aquatic Spring Long Course championship in 2025.

TAEKWON-DO

The club trains every Friday with some Saturdays and special seminars. It is instructed by Mr Brian Taylor (3rd Dan Black Belt National Instructor, qualified referee and judge).

Master Iqbal 8th Dan the Head of UTO TaeKwon-Do is a regular visitor to school as Chief Examiner. The Royal School was one of only 3 venues in the U.K. where he held seminars. The summer grading happened in June with all pupils successfully promoted to their next belt.

Mia Taylor previously attained a Black Belt and is now training for her 2nd Degree (Dan), a remarkable accomplishment that requires years of training. To achieve this rank at her age is truly remarkable. Mia also achieved a gold medal when representing the Royal School at the TaeKwon-Do National Championships in Manchester.

Pupils have been extremely successful over the year – all passed every grading, Competitively, students have travelled to Manchester to compete in the most recent UTO Championships attaining multiple gold, silver, and bronze medals.

TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN

Four of our Year 14 pupils travelled to Belfast to take part in the Sentinus Young Innovator Awards 2024. This competition is open to every school in the country and our pupils got to exhibit their STEM projects. The opportunity to network with leading engineering industries was fantastic and judges interviewed pupils about the design and development of their products. There was a rigorous mark scheme but Kayla O’Keeffe, Joseph Ferguson, Corey Whiteside and Kuba Nasal took to the challenge with ease. We are beyond delighted to announce that Corey Whiteside walked away with the overall prize for Most Innovative Project in the whole competition! Well done, Corey!

WILDLIFE CLUB

Two successful trips took place during the year:

- Oxford Island
- Ballinderry Rivers Trust.

OTHER ACTIVITIES/EVENTS

- 1) Remembrance Day Service
- 2) The charities which we supported in 2024 - 25 were:
Macmillan Cancer Support
 - Pretty ‘n Pink
 - Shoebox Appeal
 - Women’s Aid
 - NI Children’s Hospice
 - Asha
 - NSPCC
 - Save the Children
 - Simon Community NI
- 3) Open Night
- 4) Hockey & Rugby Start of Season Social & BBQ
- 5) Inter House Events



ANNUAL ACCOUNTS

1st April 2024 – 31st March 2025

The figures on Income and Expenditure shown in the Statements headed

1. Capital Account
2. Preparatory Department Account
3. Secondary Department Account

Are taken from the Accounts as audited by Moore NI, Chartered Accountants, and certified as giving a true and fair view of the School's affairs at 31st March 2025.

The Accounts have been accepted by the Board of Governors and the required Statement of Accounts forwarded to the Department of Education.

S T H McConnell

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS 2024/2025

1	CAPITAL FEES ACCOUNT			2024-25			2023-24
		£		£		£	£
1.1	Income:						
	Capital Fees			114,240			113,540
	Dept of Education Grant (DDA Works)						881,462
	2G Hockey Pitch						664,772
	Interest Received						3,950
1.2	Expenditure:						
	Bank Interest - Danske Bank	-				116	
	Bank Interest - Bank of Ireland					-	
	Capital Improvements					664,772	664,888
	Surplus for the Year			114,240			(664,888)
	Accumulated Surplus at 31 March 2024			150,682			587,307
	Transfer to Capital Reserves						1,546,234
	Accumulated Surplus at 31 March 2025			264,922			150,682
2	PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT						
2.1	INCOME:						
	Department of Education Grants	24,818				20,549	
	Fees and Charges	138,189				136,372	
	Other Income			163,007		773	157,694
2.2	EXPENDITURE:						
	Staff Costs: Teaching	177,662				158,582	
	Non - Teaching	37,137				26,613	
	Other Operating Costs (note 2.9)	34,454		249,253		23,139	208,334
2.3	OPERATING DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR			(86,246)			(50,640)
2.4	Bank Interest Receivable						
2.5	Bank Interest Payable			3			11
2.6	DEFICIT FOR THE YEAR			(86,249)			(50,651)
2.7	Accumulated Deficit Brought Forward			(123,454)			(72,803)
2.8	Accumulated Deficit at 31 March 2025			(209,703)			(123,454)
2.9	Other Operating Costs						
	Heat, Light and Power	5,712				5,433	
	Water Charges	534				403	
	Laundry and Cleaning Materials	880				761	
	Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds	4211				586	
	Maintenance of Equipment	98				207	
	Purchase of Equipment	1153				747	
	Stationery, Books and IP Materials	3669				2948	
	Travel - Education	3000				3120	
	School Prizes	497				455	
	Printing and Stationery	4435				4756	
	Postage and Telephone	370				338	
	Advertising	609				79	
	Insurance	984				879	
	Audit and Accountancy Fee	288				162	
	Bank Charges	100				56	
	Professional and Legal Fees	-				-	
	Miscellaneous	7,914				2,209	
		34,454				23,139	

ANNUAL ACCOUNTS					
3	SECONDARY DEPARTMENT ACCOUNT				
3.1	INCOME:		2024-25		2023-24
	Department of Education Grants		5,372,104		4,315,332
	Tuition Fees		99,800		121,411
	Consolidated Charge		153,661		151,414
	Letting of Premises		500		500
	VAT reclaimed		134,090		113,524
	Other Income		86,755	5,846,910	22,075
					4,724,256
3.2	EXPENDITURE:				
	Staff Costs: Teaching		3,857,904		2,882,414
	Non - Teaching		1,049,390	4,907,294	953,005
	Other Operating Costs (note3.9)		1,147,431	6,054,725	1,233,248
					5,068,667
3.3	OPERATING SURPLUS (DEFICIT)			(207,815)	(344,411)
3.4	Bank Interest Receivable				
3.5	Bank Interest Payable			893	4,716
3.6	SURPLUS/(DEFICIT) FOR THE YEAR			(208,708)	(349,127)
3.7	Accumulated Deficit Brought Forward			(601,483)	(252,356)
3.8	Accumulated Deficit at 31 March 2025			(810,191)	(601,483)
3.9	Other Operating Costs				
	Heat, Light and Power		141,005		154,480
	Water Charges		9,086		6,843
	Laundry and Cleaning Materials		14,590		13,094
	Rent and Rates		3,485		26,681
	Maintenance of Buildings and Grounds		190,963		235,090
	Maintenance of Equipment		12,261		9,611
	Purchase of Equipment		124,674		42,323
	Stationery, Books and IP Materials		33,145		40,472
	Sports and Games		10,717		25,077
	Rugby Coaching Staff		63,346		60,381
	Examination Fees		95,141		95,775
	School Prizes		4,766		4,548
	Mid-May Meals (Operating Deficit)		42,863		15,463
	Printing and Stationery		29,747		42,219
	Postage and Telephone		20,444		18,623
	Advertising		3,462		3,387
	Hospitality/School Functions		1,428		2,155
	Subscriptions		13,131		13,567
	Insurance		60,290		55,984
	Audit and Accountancy Fee		7,651		7,910
	Bank Charges		2,694		3,149
	Travel - Education, Sports and Games		55,076		65,539
	Minibus Expenses (excluding insurance)		3,853		10,208
	Professional and Legal Fees		41,576		151,502
	Miscellaneous		27,947		15,643
	VAT claimed		134,090		113,524
			1,147,431		1,233,248

**THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS
2022 - 2025**

A FOUNDATION GOVERNORS

5 Governors elected by the Council of the Diocese of Armagh

The Most Revd F J McDowell, The Archbishop of Armagh (Chairman)
Very Revd S Forster*, Dean of Armagh
Revd M Kingston
Dr P Reaney
Mr M Dickson*

3 Governors elected by the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland

Rev E P Gamble * (Vice Chairman)
Revd A McNeely
Mr W H Scott

1 Governor elected by the Conference of the Methodist Church in Ireland

Mr H McMullan

B 6 CO-OPTED GOVERNORS

Mr T Edgar
Lord Kilclooney of Armagh
Mr D R D Mitchell
Mrs K Reaney*
Mrs K Taylor*
Mr I Lewis*

C 6 GOVERNORS APPOINTED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND THE EDUCATION AUTHORITY

3 Department of Education

Mr I Hutchinson*
Mr R Wilson

3 Education Authority

Mr I McCall
Mrs S Ross
Vacant

D 3 PARENT GOVERNORS

Mr B Taylor
Dr K King
Mr N McCool

E 3 TEACHER GOVERNORS

Mr S Cardwell
Mrs G L Montgomery

F ex officio Governor

Mr G G W Montgomery*

H SECRETARY TO THE BOARD

Mr S T H McConnell*

**Denotes member of the Management Committee*

TEACHING STAFF 2024 - 2025

HEADMASTER

G. G. W. Montgomery, B.A., P.G.C.E, P.Q.H. (N.I.)

VICE-PRINCIPAL (Curriculum)

Mrs E. Murray, B.A., H. Dip, M.A.

VICE-PRINCIPAL (Pastoral)

S. W. Cardwell, B.Sc., M.Ed., P.G.C.E.

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M. T. Scott, B.Sc., P.G.C.E.

D. Cunningham, B.Sc., M.Ed., P.G.C.E. PG Cert. Counselling, P.Q.H. (N.I.)

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Mrs H. Kerr, B.A., P.G.C.E.

G. R. G. Beggs, B.Sc., P.G.C.E.

Dr K. G. G. Carson-McClenaghan, Ed.D., M.Ed., B.Ed., P.Q.H. (N.I.)

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G. Thompson, B.Sc., P.G.C.E.

S. Maclaine, B.A., P.G.C.E.

Mrs N. McCrory, B.A., P.G.C.E.

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Mrs S. McDonald M.A., M.Ed., P.G.C.E.

L. Forrest, B.Sc., P.G.C.E.

O. Millar, B.A., P.G.C.E.

P. McClure, M.Eng., P.G.C.E.

Mrs R. Morrison, B.Sc., P.G.C.E.

Miss J. McBride, B.Sc., P.G.C.E.

P. Graham, B.A., M.A., P.G.C.E.

Mrs N. O'Hare, B.Ed.

Miss S. Cullen, B.Sc. P.G.C.E.

Mrs C. Kingston, B.Eng., M.Teach, P.G.C.E.

S. Butler, B.A., P.G.C.E.

R. Moore, B.Th., P.G.C.E.

Miss H. Logan, B.Sc., P.G.C.E.

Miss G. Nugent, B.Sc., P.G.C.E.

Miss C. Heatrick, B.Sc., P.G.C.E.

Miss S. Hughes, B.Sc., P.G.C.E.

Mrs C. Gordon, B.Ed.

Miss K. Boyle, B.A., M.Ed., P.G.C.E.

A. Irvine, B.Ed.

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P. du Toit, B.Comm, H.E.D., F.D.E.

Mrs L. Quinn, B.A.

A. Sweeney, B.A., P.G.C.E.

Mrs R. Belshaw, B.A., P.G.C.E.

Mrs E. Weir, B.A., M.Ed., P.G.C.E.

Mrs F. D. Millar, M.A., P.G.C.E.

N. Gamble, B.Sc., P.G.C.E.

Ms A. M. Prescott, B.Ed., M.Ed.

Foreign Language Assistants:

FRENCH – Miss Clara Lécaudé

SPANISH – Miss Noelia Mena

SUPPORT STAFF 2024 - 2025

Bursar

Mr S. T. H. McConnell, LL.M., M.A., M.B.A., F.C.C.A., FCG.

Bursar's Assistant

Mrs M. Elliott

Headmaster's Secretary

Miss S. Lynd

Finance Officer

Mrs E. Black

Senior Clerical Officers

Mrs S. Chambers

Mrs A. Diffin

Mrs C. Hazelton

CCF – SSI

Mr M. Braddon

Librarian/Sixth Form Study

Mrs D. Cloughley, R.D.T., Lib.Asst.Cert.

Study Supervisors

Mr S. J. P. Lawson

Mrs H. Gray

Mrs H. Ferguson

Laboratory Technicians

Mr P. Clarke

Mr A. Morrow

ICT Technician

Mr C. Cooper

Reprographics Technician

Mrs S. Irwin

Mrs H. Reynolds

Building Supervisors

Mr C. Magwood

Mr D. Elliott

Groundsman

Mr B. Laing until June 2024 and Mr R. Olsen from September 2024

Rugby Development Officer

Mr J. Gillespie

Rugby Coaches

Mr R. Best, Mr J. Graham, Mr I. Millar, Mr J. Sturgeon

Head of Boarding

Mrs N. Mann, M.A. P.G.C.E.

Housemaster – Junior Boarding

Mr A. Sweeney, B.A., P.G.C.E.

Housemaster – Senior Boarding

Mr P du Toit, B.Comm, H.E.D., F.D.E.

Housemistress – Junior Boarding

Miss E. Burnett B.Th.

Wardens - Boarding Department

Mr B. Clunie, M.A.

Mrs F. Towers

Matrons

Mrs A. Gillanders

Mrs S. Rooney

Mrs M. McRoberts

Catering Manager/Cook

Mrs A. Frazer

Cook

Mr D. Coulter

Catering Assistants

Mrs L. Elder

Mrs D. Adams

Ms M. Taseva

Mrs H. McSkeane

Mrs L. McDonald

Miss V. King

Mrs J. Taylor

Cooks - Boarding Department

Mr D. Mathers

Mrs L. Dunwoody

Mrs L. Averall

Mrs S. Lynas

Domestic Assistants – Boarding Department

Mrs F. Towers

Mrs A. Burrows

Ms A. M. Martin

Miss R. Klovaite

Mrs L. Nesbitt

Classroom Assistants

Mrs L Dunwoody

Mrs M. McStravick

Mrs S. Kinnear

Mrs H. Gray

Mrs J. Heron

Mrs C. Flannagan

Mrs P. Mitchell

Mr S. Karlsen

Mrs A. Watson

Common Room Supervisors

Mr J. Sturgeon and Mr M. Bradden

Mid-day Meals Supervisors

Mrs V. Stewart
Mrs P. Nesbitt
Mrs F. Towers
Mrs A. Burrows

Domestic Assistants

Miss R. Klovaite
Ms C. McArdle
Mrs M. McStravick
Mrs M. Taseva
Mrs V. Bucinskiene
Ms I. Kiausiene
Mrs S. Bunting

Royal School Armagh Limited

Mrs S. Chambers - Manager

Royal Playgroup

Mrs M. B. Elder - Leader
Mrs C. McCartney - Assistant

Examinations Officer

Mrs H. Ferguson

Chief Examinations Invigilator

Mrs F. Lawson