



ST PATRICK'S
ACADEMY
DUNGANNON

THE ACADEMY PROSPECTUS 2021

ACHIEVING EXCELLENCE TOGETHER



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Achieving Excellence Together





Dear parents and P7 pupils

I am delighted that you are considering transferring to St Patrick's Academy in September 2021. The past few months have brought many challenges for everyone and at the Academy we have worked together to keep the school opened and to maintain continuity of learning.

The ethos of the school comes to the fore in times of challenge – putting the children first and going the extra mile to meet their needs. So, on-line learning with live lessons accessed from home have become the norm when so many pupils have been in isolation. The changes of the past year have brought some unexpected benefits and we are now working to integrate these into our daily structure for September 2021.

We are all looking forward to the full richness of Academy life resuming when our sports, music, drama, debating and all of the other extra-

curricular activities are permitted to re-start and we have every reason to expect that our new Year 8s in 2021 will be able to experience the best of Academy life.

At the Academy we blend tradition with progress. The fundamentals of the Catholic Ethos and Gaelic culture remain core values of the school combined with enlightened attitudes to learning, outward looking ambitions and tolerance for diversity.

We are a school that never stands still; we are always striving to improve what we do and to offer the best of everything. I am confident that if you choose the Academy you will not be disappointed.

Principal Fintan Donnelly

A Rich and Varied Curriculum

The Academy's curriculum is broad and balanced. We want to ensure that all pupils, no matter their starting points, backgrounds, or individual needs, are afforded the same ambitious curriculum and an equal chance to succeed.

Our provision goes beyond the requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum whilst, at the same time, maximising opportunities for the greatest number of students. We are able to accommodate the choices of the vast majority of pupils. You will be reassured to know that in an era of great change, we maintain a solid grammar school curriculum with a strong emphasis on English, Mathematics, the Sciences, Languages and Humanities, but we complement this with one of the widest ranges of new courses available locally. We embrace areas such as: IT, Business, Media, Performing Arts, Social Sciences, Health & Social Care, Environmental Technology and Engineering, so as to equip our young people for the future with the right blend of knowledge, understanding and skills.



A Rich and Varied Curriculum

Subject options at KS4 are fully flexible, affording pupils the opportunity to take the subjects most suited to their needs and aspirations. This is supported by our extensive careers education programme which aims to support pupils in recognising their skills and qualities and matching them to the most suitable courses. We spend a lot of time with pupils discussing subject choice both at GCSE and A Level. Subject options at post-16 are designed (i) to ensure that the subject requirements of all third level courses are met (ii) to reflect pupil demand and (iii) to provide opportunities for each pupil to develop the skills and attributes needed to contribute fully to society in adult life.

The majority of our pupils will take nine subjects to GCSE, but there are opportunities for students to take ten or more subjects.



As a grammar school we continue to place a strong emphasis on academic rigour and on preparing our pupils for quality university courses, yet we equally encourage pupils to consider the new opportunities that are open to them such as apprenticeships and foundation degrees.

KS3

| |
|------------------------------------|
| Art & Design |
| Careers Education |
| Drama |
| English |
| French |
| Geography |
| History |
| Home Economics |
| ICT |
| Irish |
| Mathematics |
| Music |
| Physical Education |
| Personal Development & Citizenship |
| Religious Education |
| Science |
| Technology |

GCSE

| |
|----------------------------------|
| Additional Mathematics |
| Art & Design |
| Business Studies |
| Careers Education (not examined) |
| Digital Technology – Multimedia |
| Digital Technology – Programming |
| Double Award Science |
| Drama |
| Engineering |
| English Language |
| English Literature |
| Food and Nutrition |
| French |
| Further Maths |
| Geography |
| History |

| |
|--------------------------|
| Irish |
| Italian |
| Journalism |
| Learning for Life & Work |
| Mathematics |
| Media Studies |
| Music |
| Physical Education |
| Religious Education |
| Single Award Science |
| Spanish |
| Technology and Design |
| Triple Award Science |

A Level

| |
|----------------------------------|
| Accounting |
| Applied Health and Social care |
| Art & Design |
| Biology |
| Business Studies |
| Careers Education (not examined) |
| Chemistry |
| Digital Technology |
| Economics* |
| Engineering (BTEC) |
| English Literature |
| Environmental Technology |
| French |
| Further Mathematics |
| General RE (not examined) |
| Geography |
| Government & Politics |
| History |
| Irish |

| |
|-----------------------------------|
| Information Technology |
| Life & Health Science |
| Mathematics |
| Media Studies |
| Music |
| Nutrition and Food Science |
| Performing Arts |
| Physical Education (not examined) |
| Physics |
| Psychology |
| Religious Studies |
| Sociology |
| Software Systems Development |
| Spanish* |
| Sports Studies |
| Technology and Design |

*Subject available through ALC

THE ART OF SUCCESS



Achieving Excellence Together

The Academy has a long tradition in producing academic excellence and we pride ourselves in maintaining that tradition.

We achieve it by nurturing relationships and creating an environment where children are happy. We know that when children are happy, they thrive. With supportive teaching and innovative approaches, we develop a culture of learning that produces outstanding results year after year. We work hard to raise the standards for every child regardless of his or her particular strengths and we work to add value to the performance of every pupil. We are always responding to changing economic conditions as the skills and qualifications needed for the 2020s and beyond are very different from those that were needed a generation ago.

We strive to maintain high standards of performance and our pupils continue to

produce excellent results year on year. While the rigour of traditional A' Level subjects has undoubtedly increased, it is pleasing to see so many of our pupils still performing at a high level and gaining access to the most competitive university courses and apprenticeship degree programs.

While examination results are not everything, we all know that good results greatly improve a young person's life chances, so academic excellence is something that we will not compromise on. At the same time, we are conscious that life chances are enhanced through the development of wider skills in teamwork, communication, decision making, interpersonal relations and personal presentation. We invest in all of these for our pupils and any young person coming out of the Academy will have the academic achievement but will also have the skills and qualities needed to succeed in life.

In 2020, 100% of our GCSE pupils achieved A* - C in English and Maths.
At A' Level we continue to have great success with 96% of all grades in the A* - C band.



Pathway to success

We believe that it takes more than good grades to achieve success in life and we believe that through our tailored careers programme, we can help students develop the knowledge, skills, qualities and attitudes which give them a strong foundation for lifelong learning and work in a rapidly changing economic environment.

The school has strong and ever-widening links with both universities and local business and offers work-related learning opportunities through a range of industry visits and in-school talks and events. A school-based work experience programme is in place for all Year 13 pupils. Job applications and interview skills play a prominent role in careers lessons from year 12 onwards and our own mock interview programme has been hugely successful in helping our students secure places in the most competitive university courses including those in Oxford and Cambridge, where a number of our past pupils are currently studying.

◀ Past pupil and Ryanair pilot **Niall Colgan** made the perfect landing in the Academy to give our students a superb presentation on what it takes to make it in the aviation industry.



Pathway to success

STEM

At St Patrick's Academy, we continue to invest in the workforce of the future; raising young people's skills, aspirations and knowledge of STEM.

It is envisaged that as the world becomes more dependent on technology that the range of businesses and industries involving science, technology, engineering, and maths will grow significantly. Therefore, in St Patrick's Academy, 'Success through STEM' is a key focus from Key Stage 3 through to Key Stage 5. We aim to develop in our student's skills, knowledge and understanding in STEM related subjects in order for them to take advantage of job opportunities in the future and so contribute to the economy. The majority of our pupils study at least one STEM subject at A-level, a recognition of the value which our students place on studying STEM for future careers.

A portfolio of innovative and exciting programmes and activities are organised to enthuse and engage our students in STEM;

- Career mornings 
- ALMAC student placements 
- W5 Analysing DNA workshop 
- RSC/QUB 'Chemistry in a Suitcase' 
- Irish Biology Olympiad 
- International Chemistry Olympiad 
- KS3 Salters Festival of Chemistry 
- W5 LEGO Mindstorms 
- Sentinus Research Projects 
- CREST awards 
- Build a Plane project 
- QUB Maths competition 
- UKMT Maths Challenge 
- JP Mc Manus Award 
- Hans Sloane Awards 

MEGA

This year, the school is delighted to be taking part in the MEGA Ambassador programme. Manufacturing & Engineering Growth & Advancement (MEGA) has been established to ensure the manufacturing and engineering industry in Mid-Ulster has a continuous skilled talent pipeline and that our young people are aware of the range of careers in this field. Our school has now been allocated its own MEGA ambassador who, in conjunction with Sentinus, will deliver a programme designed to enhance students' awareness of the opportunities available in local industry.

Unifrog

In keeping with our commitment to provide students with tailored careers guidance and support when choosing their next step after school, we are using Unifrog; an award-winning, online careers platform. All students in Years 10, 12, 13 and 14 now have access to this highly valuable website. Unifrog makes it easy for students to compare and choose the best university courses, apprenticeships or further education courses. They can also explore exciting opportunities further afield by looking at English-taught undergraduate programmes available in Europe and the USA. In addition, it now offers a range of online webinars and virtual work experience opportunities to help students explore future pathways.

Hans Sloane & Sloane McClay Awards



Inspiring
Through
Science



ALMAC
Partnering to Advance Human Health

National
Museums
Northern
Ireland
explore/engage/enjoy

almacgroup.com/sloanemccclay



Hans Sloane Awards



Inspiring
Through
Science



Seadhna Campbell was awarded The Sloane McClay Award for achieving the third highest combined results in GCSE Double Award Science and Mathematics in Northern Ireland 2019.

almacgroup.com/sloanemccclay

Past Pupils

Aideen Duffy – *Foreign Direct Investment researcher*



On a fresh Autumn day in September 2016 I moved into St Peter's College to begin my study of Economics and Management at the University of Oxford. My emotions were remarkably similar to what they had been seven years previously, when I started my journey at the Academy. Feelings of expectation and excitement combined with fears of fitting in and making friends, yet in both cases I felt straight at home after mere days. The Academy's focus on community spirit, academic excellence and hard work equipped me with the skills I needed for my new start.

My extra-curricular activities at university which included being a member of the rowing team and assisting on a project for a microfinance NGO helped me achieve summer internships in financial services and consultancy.

I am currently working as a researcher in foreign direct investment, and am planning on relocating to London in 2021 to further my career.

My wonderful university experience is in part thanks to the incredible support I received at the Academy. The Academy encouraged me in every step of my university application, from personal statement guidance to interview practice and more. The Academy's promotion of extra-curricular activities was a huge benefit, and my time on the debating society and the Erasmus+ Programme gave me excellent foundation skills for university. I feel truly grateful to call myself an Academy alumna.

"The Academy's focus on community spirit, academic excellence and hard work equipped me with the skills I needed for my new start."

Past Pupils



Owen McCaw – *Macquarie
Infrastructure and Real Assets*

Whilst primary school was important for my initial learning and development, it was my secondary school experiences and education that determined the type of person I am today. With the encouragement of my teachers and mentors, the Academy provided me with the confidence to think bolder and aim higher. In addition to my academic qualifications, experiences such as being a Senior Prefect and winning the Bioscience Olympiad improved my leadership and critical thinking skills. Equally important are the social aspects including school trips, which saw me being able to visit Paris and Lublin in Poland, and ski alongside my peers on the Italian Dolomites; a memorable way to finish Year 14 and my school years!

The attributes and self-confidence I gained throughout my time at the Academy, combined with an existing interest in finance and mathematics, encouraged

me to study Actuarial Science and Risk Management at Queen's University Belfast. The technical ability I gained through studying maths and science at A-level allowed me to hit the ground running. Even though I enjoyed my time in Belfast, I was keen to try something different, so I completed a placement year in London at Allianz Insurance. This opened my eyes to the exciting and fast-paced world of finance, especially in London. Recently I was able to leverage the skills I developed during my time at school and built upon at university to secure a role in the Infrastructure Private Equity division at Macquarie Group, an Australian investment bank. After only a few months at Macquarie, I'm already working on complex corporate acquisitions for its infrastructure funds, often valued in the billions of euros.

"I am grateful for the mentoring, advice and knowledge I gained at the Academy and am proud to call myself a past pupil."



Uniform

The Academy uniform is designed to be practical, smart, comfortable, affordable and easily available. Wearing the correct uniform shows commitment and pride in being an Academy pupil and is clearly associated with our high standards, expectations and school ethos.

All Students

School blazer with crest

Clip-on school tie

Years 8 -12 blue Trutex/Banner blouse/shirt

Years 13 & 14 white Trutex/Banner blouse/shirt

V-neck jumper (school regulation only)

Girls' Clothing

*Navy pleated skirt worn below the knee (school regulation only)

Plain black leather school shoes - heel height must not exceed 2.5cm; 'sling-backs', mules, boots, trainers and so on are not permitted

Navy tights

Years 13 & 14 white Trutex/Banner blouse/shirt

V-neck jumper (school regulation only)

Boys' Clothing

Plain black trousers

Black Socks

Plain black leather shoes

Outdoor Clothing

School scarf

Outdoor jacket: navy waterproof jacket with the school crest may be worn over, not instead of, the blazer

PE Uniform: Years 8 – 12 Boys and Girls

School crested football shirt, shorts and socks

Trainers, football boots, swimwear

Hair Styles

Hair should be neat and tidy at all times. Students must not adopt hairstyles which are extreme, with regard to length or colour

Hair should not be cut more closely than 'Number 3'

Boys' faces must be clean shaven

A full copy of the uniform policy including our position on make-up, jewellery and hair styles is available on the school website.

** A new design for our school skirt will be introduced in September 2021 for yr8, 11 & 13*



Pastoral Care

When you entrust your child to us, you can be confident that he or she will be treated with respect and every effort made to help develop friendships.

Our Year 8 pupils have many wonderful opportunities to establish new friendships beginning with events such as Seal Scléipe in June followed by our Yellow Brick Road Programme in September. We have introduced a 'Settling In' form to enable each child to tell us a little bit about themselves so that they can be placed in a class with like-minded children with similar interests and hobbies. This should enable pupils to find new and lasting friendships.

To support students and their parents in their transition, we have created an induction microsite. This enabled us to hold a virtual induction programme that provided students and parents with key information for September, a welcome video, an opportunity

to meet key members of staff and offered parents a help desk facility.

Our Year 8 pupils have the school to themselves on their first day and our senior prefects are on hand to show them around. At lunch time all Year 8 students get out five minutes early to give them priority in the dining room and to give them the additional opportunity to explore all the facilities available. For the month of September, they get out of class five minutes early at home time so that they have a little more time to familiarise themselves with the bus system in place. We always maintain a strong teacher presence around the Academy – on the corridors, in the playgrounds and football pitches and at the bus waiting areas. This keeps good order for everyone and there will always be an adult to ask if your child has a problem.



We believe in creating a happy and supportive environment and find that this leads to better learning and greater personal achievement as your child progresses through the school.

Pastoral Care

We place great emphasis in our pastoral programme on the formation and nurturing of friendships and as a consequence when we ask our pupils what they liked best about the Academy they placed friends and teachers at the top of the list. Our pupils find their own space to grow and develop and we work hard at resolving differences when they arise. We believe in creating a happy and supportive environment and find that this leads to better learning and greater personal achievement as your child progresses through the school.

Early in Year 8 our pupils experience the unique “Find, Follow and Connect on the Yellow Brick Road” programme which helps young people develop perspective and resilience, while building lasting friendships. You will be reassured to know that, should your child need additional support, we provide a very comprehensive counselling service, which goes far beyond that which you

will find in most schools. Our counsellor is a trained psychotherapist and Trauma-Informed Counsellor. We are Northern Ireland’s first Trauma- Informed school and as a school community we have exhibited the ability to work together as a strong unit to support all the children in our care. We invest a lot of time and energy into our pastoral care provision to ensure the personal development and well-being of each child.

From their first day in Year 8, every effort is made to make the transition to the Academy an enjoyable and stress-free process. We have a teacher who specialises in working with primary schools so that we have a better understanding of how pupils have been learning in KS2 and we can make the progression to KS3 as successful as possible.

Bigger and Better

A bigger school means more for everyone;

- More subject options
- More extracurricular opportunities
- More facilities
- More friends
- More specialised staff
- More career and business opportunities
- More success

Our size has made the management of social distancing and safe movement on corridors much easier. We have revised classroom layouts, provided students with access to hand sanitisers, and face masks. Protocol for pupils and staff with COVID-19 symptoms, including contact tracing have been put in place and numerous risk assessments have been carried out to ensure that we can protect all members of our school community.



Bigger and Better

"I love the Academy; I especially like the new facilities. Being in a new, modern school helps me to learn and stay focused."

Aoife O'Hagan,

"I am really enjoying my time at the Academy so far. I like our school uniform and I love the PE kit – also it makes me feel like I am part of a team. While it has been different for year 8's this year, I feel really safe as each form class stays together in a bubble form room. I am enjoying a range of new subjects including Technology, Irish, French and Science. I enjoy getting the bus with my friends and I am looking forward to taking part in extracurricular activities throughout the year."

James Guilfoyle, St Patrick's P.S. Armagh

"Starting a new school is daunting, even more so in the middle of a pandemic but everyone was very kind and welcoming, and I have made lots of new friends. Tá mé iontach sáota gur roghnaigh mé Acadamh Naomh Pádraig"

Ceallagh Rafferty, Gaelscoil Uí Néill

"I really love our school. The size of the school is amazing. During Covid-19 this is really good because you aren't really clashing with other classes in the

hallways. The new subjects are amazing: I love all of the science experiments, Technology is fun, and we will be making fan cars and other inventions soon, French is C'est fantastique! Irish is also fun as we use kahoot games to learn and so many more exciting subjects. The teachers are really amazing and are always willing to help you with anything you need."

Cara O'Neill, St Patrick's Annaghmore

"Coming from a small Irish medium school with only 100 pupils, I was quite nervous about going to a new school with double that in my year group alone! However, once we went for our induction the teachers and senior pupils made us feel welcome and like we had been there forever."

#Bigger and Better #Academy life"

Conán Gormley,
Gaelscoil Eoghain





**DESIGNERS
OF THE FUTURE**

Dining Facilities

We have two very modern dining areas in the Academy, serving a wide range of snacks and meals at breakfast, break and lunchtime.

We also have a coffee shop for older students available in the Ardlann. Ask any pupil and they will tell you that the dining areas are great places to catch up with your friends over breakfast, break or lunch.

A balanced diet is essential to allow all students to learn and participate fully.

From a school perspective, we take great pride in producing food that is nutritious, delicious, imaginative and attractively presented, with the emphasis being on healthier choices. We have a range of menus to ensure that our pupils always have plenty of choice.



BREAKFAST MENU
UNFORTUNATELY, BREAKFAST HAS NOT BEEN SERVED THIS YEAR DUE TO COVID-19 RESTRICTIONS.

8.15AM - 8.50AM
Free Bowl of Porridge (for all year groups) in the Canteen between 8.20am and 8.45am
Plain Omelette or Toast/
Poached Egg - 75p

MORNING BREAK
10.30AM - 11.10AM
Ham/Cheese Bagel - 75p
Soda Bread Pizza - 75p
Hot Dog - 75p

LUNCH MENU
12.45PM - 2.00PM
A choice of;
Chicken & Vegetable Pie with Vegetables and Potatoes - £2.19
Lasagne & Salad - £2.19
Vegetable Noodles - £1.53
Smoked Haddock - £1.65
Handheld items such as meat/salad ciabatta: £2.19
A wide selection of scones, bread rolls, wheaten bread, yoghurts, cheese, sandwiches, and wraps are available at all service times.

A BALANCED DIET IS ESSENTIAL TO ALLOW ALL STUDENTS TO LEARN AND PARTICIPATE FULLY.

Online Learning at the Academy

The high standards of classroom teaching and learning are reflected on our online platforms.

Our teachers are highly skilled and competent in the delivery of online learning, making use of the digital platforms Google Classroom and Google Meet.

Live lessons are provided to pupils' working remotely due to self-isolation, whereby we aim to provide equity of access to learning. Pupils working from home take a "digital seat" in the classroom and can avail of the same expert instruction, modelling, explanation and the same opportunity to have their learning guided and misconceptions responded to early in the learning process.

All teachers have their own iPad which they use to develop creative resources and

innovative lessons for their Google Classrooms. Learning online is highly personalised.

Digital inking using the iPad enables individual feedback to be annotated directly onto the pupils work and swiftly returned. Lessons are engaging, varied and interesting, they provide challenge and also support.

Through the use of pre-recorded videos, the pupils have access to their own teacher, instructing and modelling the core concepts of a lesson. Pupils can use these videos to learn at their own pace, going back and re-watching, skipping and accelerating through concepts as they choose.

Pupils are encouraged to have learning conversations with their teachers in the private comments section of Google Classroom,



Online Learning at the Academy

enabling our teachers to be responsive and to provide rich, personalised feedback. This develops in our pupils a sense of responsibility and ownership of their learning.

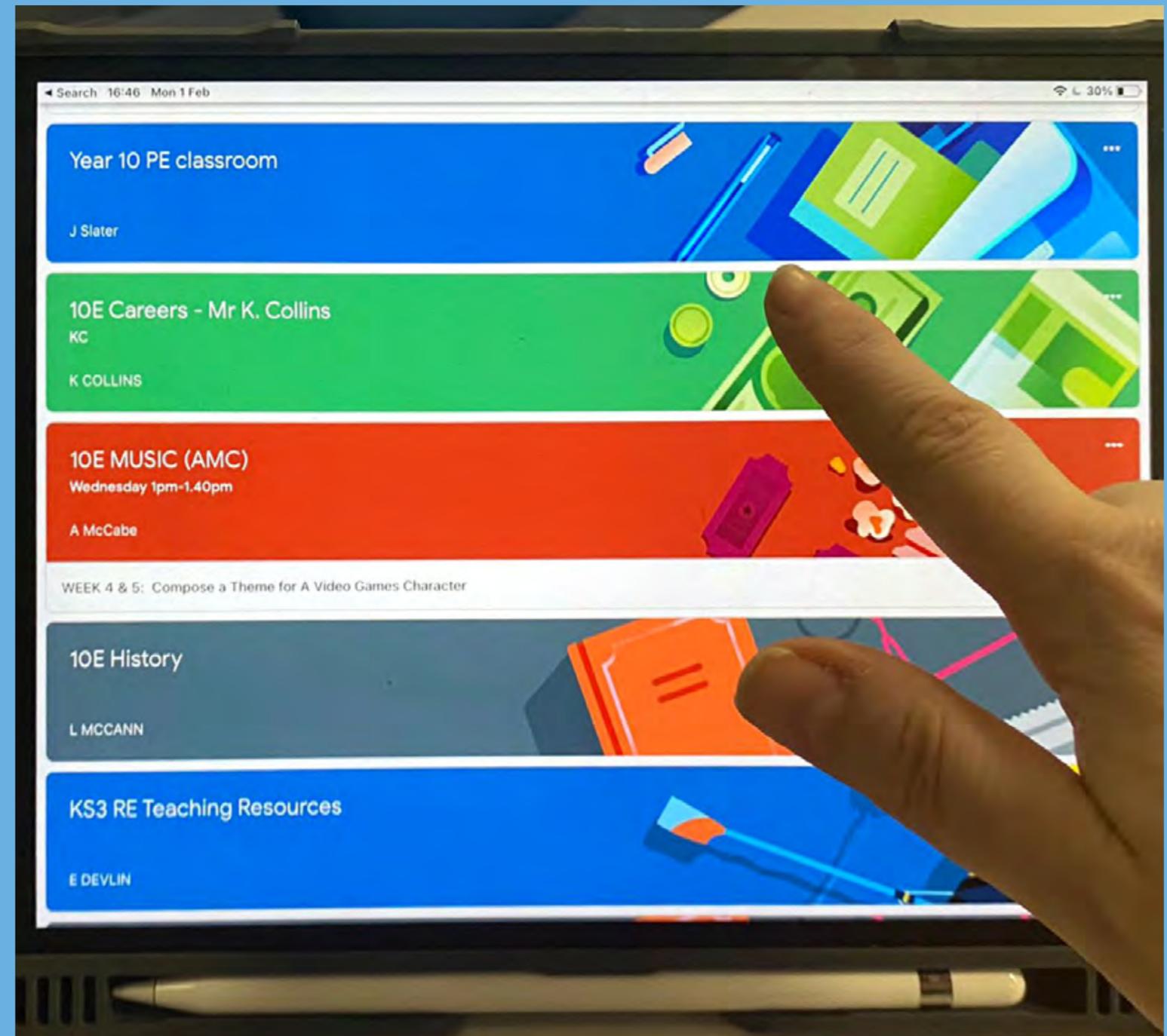
We know learning is social and our online classrooms provide opportunities for collaborative projects which support problem-solving and self-led research. Team work and communication skills develop intrinsically and etiquette in behaviours for working digitally are exemplified and practiced.

To further develop future-ready skills, this year, we conducted parent teacher meetings using video calls with Google Meet. This provided an opportunity for our pupils to develop confidence in front of the camera and to experience how a professional video call is conducted, preparing many for the subsequent video interviews required by universities.

This has been an exciting year for digital learning, accelerating the development of digital skills and developing values vital for success in the emerging digital world.

"I had to self-isolate for two weeks and was able to join my class from home as the lesson was live-streamed using Google Meet. I was able to participate fully in the class and wasn't able to escape having to answer any questions! I came back to school reassured knowing that I wasn't behind in my A Level subjects and was able to continue at the same place as everyone else and was even ready to do the class test."

John McAtamney



Parental Partnerships

When you entrust the Academy with the care and education of your child, we see that as the beginning of a partnership with you in the nurturing and development of your son or daughter until they leave us as young men and women.

For this partnership to work effectively, we provide many opportunities for parents to become closely involved with their children's education and development.

- We begin with a Parent Information Morning in August of Year 8 where you will get the opportunity to meet with your child's Form Tutor and other key members of staff such as the school counsellor, both of whom will play an important role in ensuring the well-being of your child.

- We host parent teacher meetings each year to provide you with the opportunity to get a first-hand report on your child's progress and development with each teacher.
- We have an "open door" policy and we encourage you to contact us and meet with us should you be concerned about any aspect of your child's progress or development.
- Equally, we do not wait for problems to arise and we will contact you if we have any concerns about your child's progress or happiness.
- We provide you with progress statements twice each year as well as full written reports once a year and we follow these up with individual meetings where appropriate.



State-of-the-art Facilities

Our school is one of the largest in Northern Ireland with all the latest facilities.

Our science and technology suites are modelled on the latest educational thinking with classroom layouts and equipment. All classrooms are designed around the needs of learners and are equipped to facilitate the most effective teaching and learning approaches.

Opportunities to work with the equipment and facilities used by professionals are some of the best ways of inspiring young people to aim high and to develop a clearer sense of possible career paths at an early age. This is why we complement our facilities with extensive input from professionals in the world of work.

We use the same approach in music and media studies, where pupils can work with iPads and Apple Mac suites, experiencing the professional world of music technology and video editing. The new suites for the creative and expressive elements of the curriculum are extensive and of the highest quality.





State-of-the-art Facilities

Our Sports Pavilion is at the centre of our outdoor facilities including:

- Two full sized Gaelic pitches
- One full sized soccer pitch
- Four hard court tennis courts
- One 3G pitch and one gravel pitch.

Indoor sports facilities include:

- A fully equipped matrix fitness suite
- One spinning/dance studio
- A full-sized netball/basketball sports hall, and
- One gymnasium.

These facilities allow our pupils to access a full range of sporting activities on the school site ranging from traditional sports to all health-related activities.

Those who are interested in astronomy have access to a rather unique facility in the school observatory with a rotating dome and 14-inch telescope.

Our technology department have thirty designated computers used for computer aided design and manufacturing as well as electronic simulation and programming software. We are delighted to have the very latest equipment including two laser cutters, three 3D printers and three CNC routers for our students to use. The department availed of this equipment to manufacture and assemble 1200 face visors for distributions to residential and care homes during the early stages of lockdown in March and April 2020.



COACHING FOR SUCCESS

Sporting Life at the Academy

Gaelic Sports

The Academy prides itself on a well-earned reputation in sport. Our sporting pedigree is something we value and celebrate as a school community and we have a number of experienced and dedicated members of staff that coach and manage teams in a wide variety of sports. All our pupils are encouraged to develop their sporting interests and talents and can avail of a number of opportunities on a recreation and/or competitive basis. We encourage pupils to participate in whatever way they can, as it is a great source of enjoyment and an opportunity to build lasting friendships.

Camogie

Our Year 8 girls are encouraged to pick up the camán early in their first year. Our Camogie teams have a proud record in Ulster competitions at all age groups but the Senior Camogs made the breakthrough on the National stage in 2019 finishing as runners-up in the All-Ireland Final. Promoted in Ulster the 2020 senior team went on to win back to back Ulster titles and following an All-Ireland semi-final went on to lift the All Ireland title for the first time in our history. Emma Donnelly and Regan Fay were recognised

with All Star awards for the 2019/20 season, bringing the number of total awards to eleven.

Girls Gaelic Football

Our Year 8 girls are encouraged to represent the school in Ladies Gaelic football and the Year 8 team play in the Ulster Championship with their last title in 2015. **Our senior ladies took pride of place in 2019 making the breakthrough on the National stage. Winning a highly contested Ulster Championship the senior team went on to win the U.20 All Ireland title for the first time in the school's history.** Promoted to the top flight in Ulster football in 2020, the girls reached the semi-final of Ulster, suffering a narrow defeat to Cavan.



In 2020 our senior camogie team won the All-Ireland title with **Regan Fay** being awarded an All Star.

Sporting Life at the Academy

Boys Gaelic Football

The MacRory Cup is the blue ribbon event of Ulster Colleges sporting calendar for boys. We are proud to have a strong record in this competition, achieving success in 1991, 1997, 2004, 2008 & 2009 and finished as runners-up in 2011 & 2016. In 2020 our journey ended at the semi-final stage at the hands of St. Patrick's College, Maghera. Our team were inaugural winners of the Brock Cup at senior level defeating St. MacCartans in the final. The hard work and commitment displayed by our students has been recognised at Ulster Colleges level in Boys Gaelic football and in total **27 All Star Awards** have been awarded to individual players in recognition of their contribution.

Every boy coming into Year 8 is encouraged to attend after school GAA coaching from the start of their school year. The emphasis at this stage is on fun, participation and enjoyment.

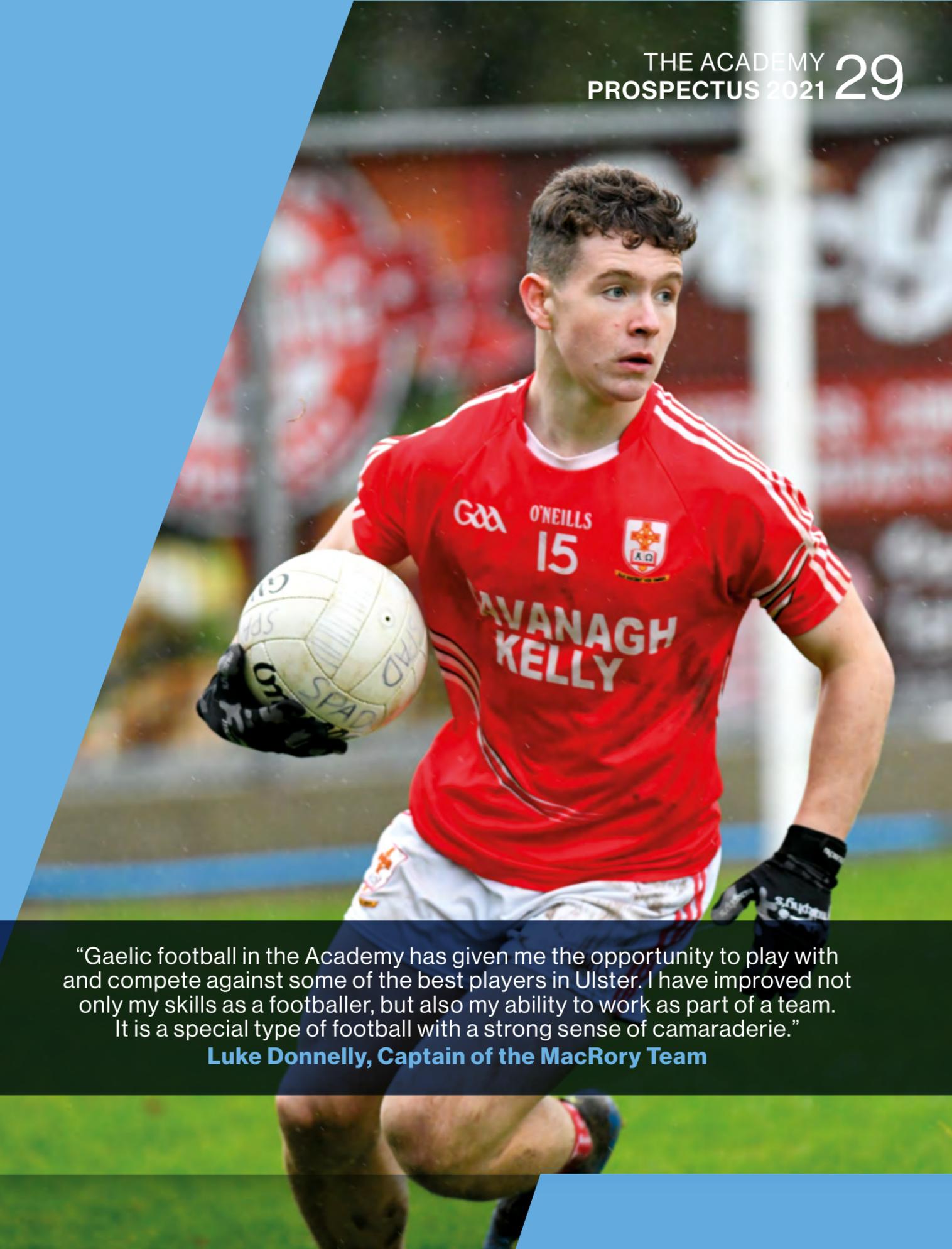
As the boys move through each year they are entered into a variety of competitions:
Year 8: The Martin O'Farrell Blitz,
Year 9: D'alton Cup, Nannery Cup
Year 10: Corn na nOg
Year 11: Oisin McGrath Cup
Year 12: Rannafast Cup
Year 13 & 14: Mac Cormack Cup,
Brock Cup, MacRory Cup

Hurling

Hurling is also a prominent sport in our school life, with numerous successes over the years. Teams play at Ulster Colleges level and over the years several of our students have been recognised with Provincial All-Star awards with Fionn Devlin being the latest recipient.

"Gaelic football in the Academy has given me the opportunity to play with and compete against some of the best players in Ulster. I have improved not only my skills as a footballer, but also my ability to work as part of a team. It is a special type of football with a strong sense of camaraderie."

Luke Donnelly, Captain of the MacRory Team



Sporting Life at the Academy

Basketball & Netball

One of the most popular sports in the Academy, basketball, is offered to boys and girls in all year groups. We have had notable success at both provincial and All-Ireland level in 2019/20 with our basketball teams. Our under 16 and under 19 boys' teams competed well in their leagues, narrowly missing out on playoffs. The under 16 girls team reached the All-Ireland cup semi-final and won their regional league title. Our under 19 girls team won the All-Ireland league title. **A number of our players have been selected for the Basketball Northern Ireland team and we had one international player last year, Abigail Rafferty who played for the under 18 Irish team.** School Netball also attracts many participants from various year groups with teams competing in the Mid-Ulster competitions and the N.I. League at junior level.

Athletics

If you are interested in cross country and athletics, our recently formed club has gone from strength to strength with increasing numbers of participants and growing success. The club consists of students from Year 8 to Year 12, with boys and girls competing at Local, District and Ulster level. In 2019 the team competed in the MUSA and Shared education cross country events with podium finishes in the U13 and U15 events. After a successful day at E-District championships 15 students qualified for the Ulster Cross-Country Championships in Mallusk. Two Year 8 girls Aliyah Rafferty and Hannah Symlie made the top 15 in the Mini Girls race within a field of 130 runners.

Soccer & Golf

Our Year 10-14 students also have the opportunity to train with our soccer teams who enter the N.I Cup and Mid Ulster Cup, and our Golfers have the opportunity to enter a number of competitions such as the Ulster Championship and the Darren Clarke Schools' League.



Enriching the Curriculum

Our extracurricular programme is designed to prepare our pupils for employment, active citizenship, and leadership. Pupils are encouraged to join at least one club or society while at school. In a large school such as ours, we can cater for a wide range of individual tastes.

In addition, the school participates in a wide range of competitions, including public speaking contests in English, French and Irish, creative writing competitions, art competitions, feiseanna, quizzes at local and national level as well as environmental competitions.

June 2019 saw the inaugural Academy 5k Run/walk. This was a truly memorable event. In glorious sunshine, approximately 600 students, teachers, parents, friends

of the school and athletes completed the course in times ranging from 16 minutes to nearly an hour! Our plans for 2020 were interrupted but we hope that this all-inclusive event will become an annual event when current government restrictions are lifted.



Deep River Rock and Belfast
Marathon School Cook Off winners with
Cool FM presenter Melissa Riddell

Enriching the Curriculum

Extracurricular Activities

Astronomy Club

Academy 5K

Book Club

Build a plane

Chess Club

Choir

Cookery Club

Coding Club

Debating/Public Speaking/ Mock Trial

Duke of Edinburgh Award

Jiu Jitsu

John Paul 2 Award

Lego Club

Liturgy Group

Mandarin

Orchestra

Pioneer Club

School Bank

School Nutrition and Action

Group (SNAG),

Sentinus R & D Engineering

Speech & Drama

Sports Clubs (see previous section)

St Vincent de Paul Society

Traditional Group

UK Maths Challenge

Young Enterprise Group



Music and Drama

The value of music in the Academy lies in its contribution to the enjoyment and enrichment of our pupil's lives.

The high-quality music education we offer enables lifelong participation and enjoyment of music, as well as providing the foundations for those who choose to pursue a career in music.

With a choice of instrumental and vocal ensembles, St Patrick's Academy offers students a range of opportunities to develop their talents.

The school orchestra, string ensemble, Irish traditional groups and senior and junior choirs foster the musical talents of our pupils and provide entertainment at various school functions. Their talents are also appreciated by the wider community, as we participate in Carol Services, Spring concerts, and many other events and competitions.

"It's almost impossible for me to imagine a life without music and drama. Many of the best moments in my life have been onstage, rehearsing and performing. Not only have I forged real friendships, I have challenged myself and achieved successes I never knew I was capable of. For all the right reasons, performance is addictive."

Ronan Johnson



Music and Drama

Being a member of these groups offers many opportunities for unforgettable experiences and lifetime memories. In the past, the Academy Senior Choir had the opportunity to perform in Carnegie Hall, New York.

The Music Computer Suite provides GCSE and A Level students with opportunities to be creative and expressive and experience the professional world of music technology with access to Apple MacBook's and iMacs. In preparation for their exam performances our music students take part in evening recitals and are encouraged to take every opportunity to develop their talents to the full.

The music department is delighted to be involved with the EA Music service project called Music Makers. This hugely successful project involves the music department, instrumental tutors and local primary schools

coming together to make music fun as well as educational and aims to help each young musician to develop their abilities and confidence in playing and performing. The project culminates in an annual concert which has been hosted by St Patrick's Academy.

All Year 8 pupils take a drama module. The focus of lessons is on developing physical and vocal skills, working in pairs and groups. Techniques such as improvisation, mime, role-play, hot-seating and freeze-frames are practised; participation and enjoyment of drama is very much the aim in Year 8. Classes take place in the Drama Suite which is fully equipped with blackout curtains, tiered seating, Green Room, lighting and sound.

Many past Academy Drama pupils have gone on to become great performers, most notably, Fra Fee (who studied A Level Drama and Theatre

Studies and starred in the school production *The Secret Garden*). Fra has performed on film (*Les Misérables*), on Broadway (*The Pillowman*) and in the West End (*Dirty Dancing*).

St. Patrick's Academy has a wonderful tradition of producing top class dramatic and musical productions, most recently: *Les Misérables*, *Twelve Angry Men* and last year Seán O'Casey's great play, *Juno and the Paycock*. Being an active member of the music and drama departments offers opportunities of a lifetime which are not to be missed!





**TAKING
CENTRE STAGE**



Opportunities Near and Far

In St Patrick's Academy there is a world of opportunity awaiting our students.

Every year, there are a wide range of trips and educational adventures on offer that cut across all age groups and areas of interest. In the Academy we value international opportunities. Since 2012 our school has participated in the Erasmus+ scheme where junior and senior students have the opportunity to work and communicate with pupils from across Europe. Languages are well catered for, with frequent sojourns to France and the Gaeltacht regions. As soon as is permissible, the staff and students will be off again, in an effort to bring the pupil's learning to life with trips to Europe, the USA and even further afield in the pipeline.

Our school ski trip to Europe is also a highlight in our international year and whether you are a novice or a veteran, the trip of a lifetime is assured. Pupils are provided with the opportunity to

experience a new and thrilling sport; it also gives them the chance to build resilience, improve their health and fitness and experience local cultures. These experiences may be on hold at the moment but will resume as a valuable learning experience for students when it is safe to do so.

We are very proud to have a young skier in our school, Adam Brown, who represented Team Ireland in the U16 category for the Trofeu Borrufa competition in Andorra. We couldn't ask for a better role model for our aspiring skiers.

"I have been skiing since I was four years old. I love skiing and I wish I could ski every day! Competing for Team Ireland was an amazing experience and I felt so proud to be representing my country. If you have not tried skiing, why not give it a go? You could go on the annual school ski trip. I hope to see you on the slopes!"
Adam Brown





Leadership and Personal Development

“I cannot believe that it has been seven years since I made the huge transition from my rural primary school, St Mary’s Maghery, to the Academy. Now as I prepare to leave school and begin the next chapter of my life, I feel that I am able to do so knowing that I bring with me many memories, friendships and life skills. I have no doubt that these are as a result of the opportunities I have had to develop self-confidence and ultimately to assume the leadership role and honour of being Head Girl.

St Patrick’s Academy motto “Ille Docebit Vos Omnia” translates as “He will teach you everything”. School life has been for me, a chance to learn from all the opportunities on offer at the Academy. These opportunities have ensured that I have been able to develop skills and qualities throughout my seven-year journey. I know that for all of

you starting out, the school ethos of support and encouragement will help you as much as it helped me to develop self-confidence along the way.”

Bláthnaid Hendron, Head Girl

“The Academy has constantly challenged me to be better in all aspects of school life. From giving me the tools to ensure I reach my potential in the classroom to giving me the opportunity to compete against the best in Ulster to develop my sporting talents. I am very proud to be an Academy student and I will leave with many cherished memories and friendships.”

Luke Donnelly, Head Boy

Religious Education and Spiritual Growth

Catholic schools are called to recognise and respect the uniqueness of all individuals, to enable them to reach their full potential and to help create the world as God intends it to be. (John Paul II).

As a Catholic school, our aim is that the pupils in our care are nurtured in 'a lived and living' Faith. We endeavour to provide spiritual nourishment which is meaningful and enhancing in the face of ever-increasing materialism and the erosion of traditional values.

The school strives to work in harmony with the Church and with parents to help to create and sustain a vibrant sense of spiritual awareness in our young people. Programmes include promoting active participation in assemblies, collective worship, retreats, fundraising for charity and community work, together with frequent visits from our school chaplain. We also offer two programmes which promote faith in action among

pupils – the Muiredach Cross Award and the Pope John Paul II Award.

Our school prides itself not only on academic success, but also on creating a school ethos with relationships and community at its heart. As part of this, we actively encourage all our pupils to get involved in fundraising activities for both local and international charities. Through this work we see our pupils grow as confident and responsible young people with a strong sense of social justice. We are grateful for our parents' support in this work and the very fine young people they are raising in a spirit of charity towards those less fortunate than ourselves.

Central to religious life in the school is our new oratory which was officially blessed and dedicated by Archbishop Eamonn Martin in 2019. This sacred space provides a quiet place for prayer and reflection for pupils amidst the hustle and bustle of school life.



School Prayer

St Patrick, Patron of our school, Inspire us to bring out the best in everyone. Encourage us to use our talents to the full. Help us to respect others as much as we respect ourselves. Through your intercession, Amen.



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