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INTEGRATED COLLEGE

20  
comment 20

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# Welcome



## Welcome to Comment magazine 2019/20

I am delighted to endorse this latest edition of Comment magazine in what has been a very surreal year here at Parkhall integrated college. The unfortunate outbreak of Covid-19 resulted in school finishing prematurely in March and pupils engaging in remote learning from home. I would like to say a huge 'well done' to all our pupils and their parents for adapting to this new way of learning and to our staff for all their efforts in producing these different resources.

Despite these unique circumstances, our pupils have still been involved in a wide range of activities and events within subject areas, including a large number of subject trips, visits and speakers. Details of these opportunities can be found in this publication and on our website- [www.parkhallintegratedcollege.org](http://www.parkhallintegratedcollege.org).

The work of the Senior and Junior Prefects, the Junior Mentors and the School Council have contributed greatly to the life of the school and particularly assisted the junior members of the school. I would like to thank Jack and Zoe, our Head Boy and Head Girl and their deputies: Rachel, Emily, Cameron and Shay for the huge contribution they have made to school life this year. We wish all of our year 14 pupils every success as they move to the next stage of their lives and we hope that you keep in touch as things develop for you.

We also send our best wishes with those year 12 pupils who are leaving us for other opportunities and we look forward to welcoming many of the year group back into post 16 study in September. The highlight of year 12 is of course the school formal, another great night enjoyed by all!

I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the pupils for their tremendous contribution to school life, the parents for their continued support, and the staff for the many hours of commitment that they devote to the pupils. Finally we are again indebted to our business partners who are sponsoring our rewards programme and to the many local companies who annually support the college through sponsorship of this publication.

**G. BEATTIE  
PRINCIPAL**





**PUPILS AT PARKHALL INTEGRATED COLLEGE CELEBRATED RECEIVING GCSE RESULTS YET AGAIN IN AUGUST AND WITH GOOD REASON!**









# FIRST DAYS









## INTEGRATION WEEK

### YEAR 8 DRUMMING

All year 8 pupils were given the opportunity to experience African drumming and learn about different cultures from Joe at The Gathering Drum. Our pupils learned about the various types of drums on display and the techniques involved in playing different beats. Under Joe's guidance, they put all their energy into playing the rhythm sessions in a fun-filled atmosphere, which resulted in a finale of drumming resounding around the assembly hall. Many of the year 8 pupils discovered they had hidden musical talents, and all thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to give African drumming a go.





# GEOGRAPHY

Mrs McKee's 8MB Geography class created and delivered PowerPoint presentations from different locations around the world. They chose the countries based on where they were born and/or where family or friends lived. They provided a variety of information on the country including its flag, capital city, currency, location on a map and famous people from there.

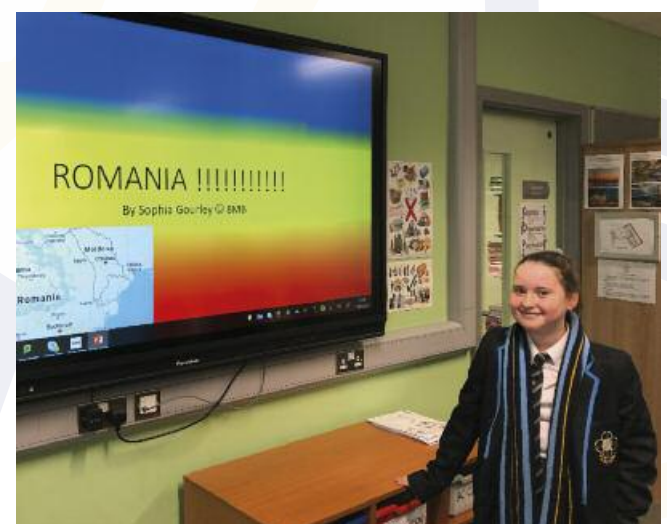
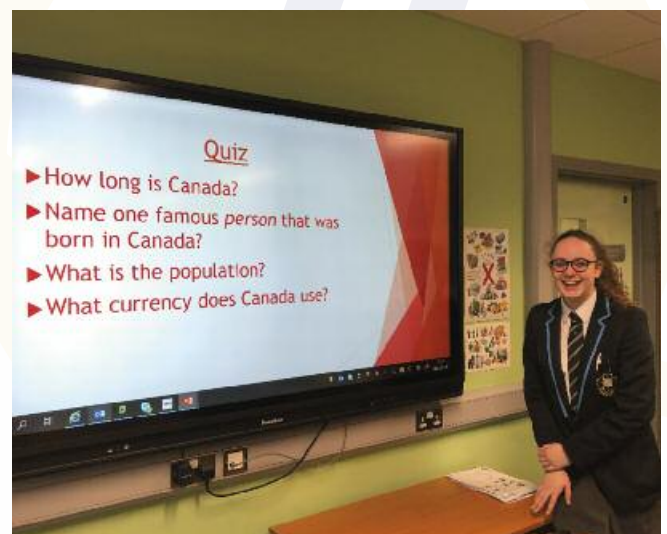
Molly Anderson - Malaysia as her school friend was born there.

Grace Anderson – South Carolina as she was born there.

Mollie Bowden – China as her primary school friend was born there.

Erin Coombes – Canada as she was born there and so were her cousins.

Sophia Gourley – Romania as her grandparents currently live there, having fallen in love with the country while on honeymoon





# INTEGRATION WEEK

## LANGUAGES

We discussed the differing education systems between France and NI, with a focus on France having a secular education and NI having a variety of religious influences in schools. We looked at the significance of being an integrated school, what this means in a NI context and how it benefits our young people now as pupils and how they will benefit from having received an integrated education when they are adults in the future, looking forward with '20/20 vision'. They designed paper people with one side representing themselves currently, with a statement of why they enjoy integrated education, and the other side was a future them (20/20 vision) with a skill they will have learned from integrated education.





## YEAR 14 VISITS TO QUEEN'S AND UUU



Year 14 students had the opportunity to attend open days at both Queen's and Ulster Universities. They were able to get a real feel for what it would be like to be an undergraduate, attend informative course talks and check out facilities such as the sports centres, libraries and accommodation. They had the opportunity to ask questions of the staff and student guides about topics such as course content and entry requirements. Everyone left keen to face the challenges of their last year at school and excited about where their futures might lead.





## Blackout at Parkhall Integrated College



Parkhall Integrated College were proud to host a Lyric Theatre production called Blackout by Davey Anderson.

Our senior pupils watched with interest as the amazing actors showed how drugs, grief and bullying lead to a frightening downward spiral with shocking consequences.

Blackout doesn't tell you what to think; it just asks you to imagine if all that happened to you, what would you do?

The actors were so believable in their roles and all who watched it found the production incredibly compelling and thought-provoking.

The performance was on the assembly hall floor, surrounded by the audience on three sides. This gave a feeling we were all part of the action.

There was a Q&A session at the end when pupils could ask questions about the issues raised, further developing these themes, including experiences of custody and coping with life afterwards.

Thanks again to the Lyric Theatre and the sponsorship organisations for visiting us with this powerful production, the main message of which is that if you are going through a difficult time, please talk to someone.



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## Year 8 Shared Education

Year 8 Irvine and O'Neill classes took part in their next wave of Shared Education at Antrim Grammar School in January. The focus for this session was teamwork, including activities which explored what makes a good team, how we contribute to a team and the importance of listening and communication skills for effective teamwork. Pupils got competitive as they raced to be the most effective team, with some very entertaining moments.



Year 8 Irvine and O'Neill pupils met their peers from Antrim Grammar School and St. Benedict's College for their third shared LLW lesson. Our focusing thought for the activities was the issues our pupils face as young people in today's society, and we explored healthy coping mechanisms to ensure that these issues don't spiral out of control. Pupils had the opportunity to work in small groups to discuss issues and influences in their lives, and we discovered that everyone has common problems, regardless of which school they go to.



Year 8 Irvine and O'Neill took part in a Shared Education induction day alongside our partnership schools, Antrim Grammar School and St. Benedict's College, on Wednesday 2nd October. They participated in workshops which were facilitated by UberHeroes, Young Enterprise and Flexible Teaching. The pupils had the opportunity to be reunited with some old friends from primary school and also to begin to build new friendships.

On Wednesday 6th November, we travelled to St. Benedict's College for our first LLW Shared Education lesson. Pupils got to learn more about their peers in their group and explored the theme of individuality, goal setting and the importance of being yourself. We are already looking forward to our next meet-up.





# TRANSFER EVENING

## Full House at Parkhall Integrated College Transfer Evening



The annual Transfer Evening at Parkhall Integrated College on Thursday 9th January attracted a huge turnout of prospective pupils and their parents. The school assembly hall was packed to capacity as visitors were given the opportunity to view the facilities and to meet teachers, support staff and pupils.

The evening began with a DVD outlining what life is like at Parkhall. The DVD is designed to give prospective pupils an insight into both the year 8 curriculum and wider school life, alongside a review of many of the primary liaison programmes that Parkhall offers.

In his introduction, Principal George Beattie emphasised the school mission statement, the aims of the school and the strong pastoral care system and extensive induction programme, which is designed to ensure that the transition to post-primary education is as smooth as possible for year 8 pupils.

In highlighting how well the year 8 pupils had settled into school life, Mr Beattie emphasised the continued growth within the school, with 199 year 8 pupils joining last year from twenty-seven different primary schools. The provision of year 10 mentors for each year 8 class ensures that the newest additions to the school community have a familiar face to support them at all times. The college also use the services of junior school prefects in year 10, and they too have an important role to play in helping the younger pupils within the school.

Mr Beattie commended the young people who completed A-level study and wished every success to each of these pupils as they progress to university here and in the mainland, further education or employment.

He congratulated those completing GCSE study last June, many of whom gained excellent A\*-C grades at GCSE and have returned to

sixth form, training or employment. He gave a special mention to a number of pupils who each had obtained nine, ten or eleven A\*-C grades at GCSE in 2019. He outlined the additions to the key stage 4 curriculum to ensure that pupils are provided with the breadth of choice suitable to their needs and aspirations, including allowing the pupils to remain at Parkhall to complete their education. Mr Beattie expressed his delight that fifty-four pupils had begun sixth-form studies in September.

The importance of extra-curricular activities was highlighted, and the range of opportunities to experience educational visits was of particular interest to the young people. In the past few years, pupils had visited Paris, London, Barcelona, Madrid and Italy alongside trips to Dublin and many local visits.

Mr Beattie outlined his delight at the current state of the Art classrooms, Science labs, specialist workshops for Art, Technology and HE, canteen facilities and youth and community facilities. The sporting provision includes an AstroTurf pitch and five tennis courts, a fitness suite, a gym, a four-court sports hall and the recently completed football and rugby pitches.

The impressions of the current head girl, Zoe Kirkpatrick, and head boy, Jack Kilpatrick, were well received by the large audience.

Parents and prospective pupils were then given a comprehensive guided tour of the school, highlighting the type of activities being undertaken by year 8 pupils.

Anyone who missed Open Evening or has any further questions about the college is invited to contact the principal on 02894468556 or to make an appointment at the school office to arrange a tour.







# CHARITY

## Cash for Kids NI Schools Challenge

On 30th September 2019, we were selected as one of twenty schools in Northern Ireland to compete in the Cash for Kids NI schools challenge. Our challenge was to raise as much money as possible throughout the month of October, and all money raised was guaranteed to be invested into our school. We had several events, such as a quiz night, bingo, soak the teacher, bun sales, a big breakfast... the list goes on. Our aim was to raise £2000 to support the development of a sensory room in our school to provide a safe environment for all pupils when they are feeling overwhelmed or struggling with their emotions. We smashed this target and raised a whopping £4472.88. This was amazing work from everyone, and we are extremely grateful for all contributions received.





## Parkhall Spreads Joy and Kindness to Eastern Europe



The pupils and staff at Parkhall Integrated College are once again to be congratulated on their efforts and involvement in the world's largest children's Christmas project Operation Christmas Child.

The school's junior prefects did an amazing job, overseeing the entire project from start to finish and they were totally overwhelmed with the schools' response to it: 120 shoeboxes, filled with thoughtful gifts and beautifully written messages, as well as monetary contributions, totalling £1200 worth of donations. The shoeboxes will be distributed to children in Belarus in Eastern Europe.

This project once again highlighted the kind and generous nature of our pupils. We are extremely proud of them, coming together as a school community for such a worthwhile project, by helping to bring joy to the lives of less fortunate children around the world.





# SUBJECTS

## Art and Design

On October 18th, our year 13 Art and Design pupils had the honour of decorating the windows of Starbucks at The Junction for the Spooktacular celebrations. They planned out the decoration in groups and completed the work on a fun Friday afternoon out of school, bringing art into the community. The pupils did an outstanding job and had great fun interacting with customers while representing our school.



## Year 13 & 14 Trip to Belfast

On Thursday 26th September, year 13 and 14 Art and Design students travelled to Belfast to visit both the University of Ulster Art College and The MAC Gallery to meet Senior Curator Hugh Mulholland and view the work of local artist Mark McGreevy. Our pupils also spent some time photographing local landmarks and street art from Culture Night in the city centre.

## Year 13 Art & Design Antrim – My Town

As part of the year 13 Art course, the pupils completed a drawing unit themed "Antrim - My Town". On Tuesday 25th February 2020, the class, accompanied by Mrs Cochrane, spent the day exploring their town. We started our tour in the Castle Gardens and followed the route of the Antrim Town Heritage Trail. During our walking tour, we enjoyed exploring the local landmarks and discovering much beauty within our local environment. We made sketches, took photographs and gathered resources to use in our classroom studies. The trip generated much inspiration to help us with our personal artwork.





## Yr 9 Exploring Enterprise Programme

Some year 9 pupils had the opportunity to take part in the Exploring Enterprise Programme to complement classwork in Careers classes. This was facilitated by Stephanie and Ruth from Young Enterprise NI. During the session, pupils found out what it takes to become enterprising and looked at famous entrepreneurs and how they became successful. They then put their creativity to the test when they formed teams to invent a new board game. Communications skills came into play when they then had to market the game with their business plan. Stephanie commended all the pupils on their enthusiasm and innovative ideas.



## Year 10 Young Enterprise Project Business

Developing enterprising skills is of major importance to our economy in Northern Ireland. With this in mind, our year 10 pupils participated in the Young Enterprise Project Business programme on Wednesday 5th February 2020. In this practical business session, pupils completed a production and sales simulation, in which they had to produce beaded bracelets, which they then had to sell. Pupils also had the opportunity to develop a marketing plan for a new product, considering product name, USP (unique selling point), pricing and marketing strategies. All in all, it was a very enterprising day.



## Joint Student Council Visits Mid-Antrim Animal Sanctuary



Our joint student council is made up of three pupils from each year group at key stage 3 and works alongside other pupils from our Shared Education partnership schools, Antrim Grammar School and St. Benedict's College. In the past year, the joint student council focused on building community connections and so has selected a local charity, Mid-Antrim Animal Sanctuary, for whom they are going to fundraise. Our first meeting as a joint council involved some ice-breaker activities as the students got to know each other and then the much-anticipated visit to the animal sanctuary. There we had a fantastic workshop on animal behaviours, led by Robin Bates. We then had a tour of the sanctuary and got to see first-hand the amazing work they do and even met some of their cutest residents. This was such an inspiring visit.





## Careers - Year 13 Visit - Skills NI

In November, all of year 13 had the opportunity to attend Skills NI in the Titanic Exhibition Centre. This was an amazing opportunity for our young people to experience the jobs of the future all in one place. The events were interactive and allowed them to try new skills and make the connection between those skills and what they could potentially follow as a career. With over 80 exhibitors, students were able to have meaningful encounters with employers, further and higher education establishments and training providers.



## English - Beam Creative Project

In January, we welcomed pupils from Riverside Special School, St Benedict's, and Antrim Grammar to our school to take part in the wonderful Beam Creative film workshop. Pupils joined together to complete freeze frames, exploring topics around diversity, inclusion and respect. This was part of the eight-week programme that ran until March. The end product was a film scripted and produced by the year 10 pupils involved. Congratulations to everyone for their participation in a very enjoyable and valuable learning experience.





## BBC Young Reporters Report for Duty on Transfer Evening

During Parkhall's Transfer Evening, in the English department, the Young Reporter Club members gathered a lot of interviews from prospective parents and pupils.

As helpers on the night, we enjoyed our role, and it was great to see so many smiling parents and people so happy to come and see our school. The English department had films, games, a VIP area, popcorn, the sorting hat from Harry Potter and us interviewing everyone.

Here is a selection of our interviews:

Casey-Lee from St Joseph's Primary said that she was excited to meet new friends when she got to secondary school. Her favourite part of the school was Art. Her friend Cassidy, who also attended St Joseph's Primary, said that her favourite part of the school was English and she was excited to make new friends and have new teachers.

Ethan from Carnaghts said he was surprised at how big the school was and that his favourite part of the school was the English department.

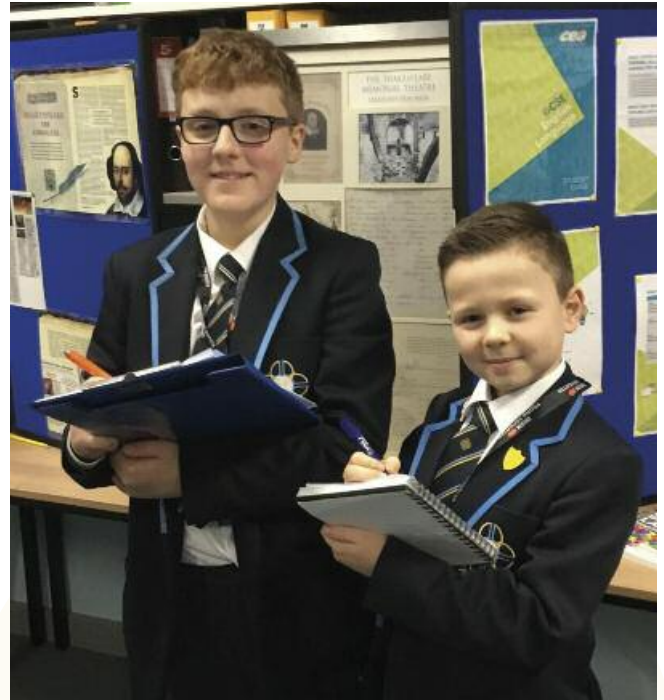
Sam and Lucas from Templepatrick Primary said that their favourite parts were the library, and Lucas said that he was looking forward to the canteen when he came to secondary school.

Alfie from Round Tower Primary School said, *"I am looking forward to sport in Parkhall"*.

Jill from Ballyclare Primary School said she liked the library and is looking forward to seeing her big sister.

Natalie from Ballyclare Primary enjoyed Science. She is looking forward to *"a fresh start"*

Amy from Carnaghts Primary school enjoyed drama and is looking forward to making new friends.



Chloe Abbie from Templepatrick thinks *"Parkhall is a great school"* and is looking forward to different classes like HE.

We thoroughly enjoyed our first interview duty as reporters and hope you enjoy our article.

Courtney Rollins Year 10, Matthew McGrath Year 8 and Joseph Wylie Year 8

## World Book Day



To celebrate World Book Day, we hosted a special assembly for year 8 and year 9 pupils. Colm from Antrim Library told us all about the new teen reading group hosted at Antrim Library (with free tea and biscuits) and the fantastic facilities that our pupils can utilise.

Some pupils led the assembly, sharing their favourite books and why they love to read. Our very own star guest, Mr Moody, talked about his favourite book *The Book Thief*, which is the next book for the teen reading group.



Finally, Sarah from Cancer Fund for Children NI told us all about the wonderful work that the charity does for children whose lives have been turned upside down by a diagnosis of cancer. Everyone in year 8 and year 9 can get involved in our sponsored Read On event in school and raise money for such a deserving cause.

So get involved, pick up a book and escape from reality.





# World Book Day



In celebration of World Book Day, all year 8 students immersed themselves in the wonderful world of literature. Teams battled against one another to be crowned the winner of the quiz. Each round saw them challenge and compete against their opponents in categories which led them to discuss books, authors and characters, all whilst enjoying some sweet treats. A fun experience was had by all.



The winning teams are pictured below receiving their book tokens, to allow them to continue their magical journey into the world of reading at home.



# Spanish/French QFT Trip

Year 10 Clotworthy pupils attended the Queen's Film Theatre at Queen's University Belfast to watch a film in Spanish called *Miriam Miente* (*Miriam Lies*), a drama about teenagers and the acceptance of different races in Spanish-speaking countries. Year 10 Irvine pupils also attended the QFT to watch a film in French called *Comme des Garçons* (*Let the Girls Play*), a comedy about girls playing football and the creation of the first French women's football team.

The films were organised by NICILT, an organisation promoting language learning affiliated to Queen's University, and were very much suited to our pupils studying Spanish and French in year 10. It was a wonderful opportunity for our pupils, and they all enjoyed their language-learning enhancement experience very much.





# Geography - Year 11 Trip to Magilligan

Our year 11 GCSE Geography students travelled to Magilligan on Friday 11th October to take part in a study of the Curly Burn River. On arrival, we were greeted by our field officer for the afternoon, Natalie, who gave us a health and safety talk before we changed into our outfits for the day's activities. We were taken by bus to four sites along the river, where we measured and recorded the width, depth and speed of the river, as well as the size and shape of the load. This information was then taken back to school, where it will be used to create tables and charts for use in our unit 3 exam. Thankfully, we had dry weather for our outing, and a great day was had by all.





# Year 10 Christmas Market Trip

Pupils in year 10 had an opportunity to visit the Belfast Continental Christmas Market with their Home Economics class during the last two weeks of term. This is excellent preparation for their "foods around the world" tracking, which will take place in the new year. Crepes, churros and kangaroo burgers were among the cultural delights sampled by the pupils, and the festive atmosphere and hustle and bustle made a perfect end to the school term.



# Home Economics - GCSE Practicals





## RE - Northern Ireland Humanist Debate

On Thursday 16th January, Iain Deboys came in from Northern Ireland Humanists to speak to students about prejudice, discrimination and inequality, a module currently being studied as part of their GCSE.

From a humanist perspective, Iain looked at the issue of gender identity, and how individuals today are prejudiced, how and why they may discriminate and how as individuals all should be treated as equals.

Students were actively involved in all discussions and thoroughly enjoyed looking at this topic from an alternative perspective.



## New Junior Prefects and Mentors Train with Young Enterprise

The new junior prefects and mentors were welcomed back to school in September with an exciting and challenging training session with Young Enterprise.

The two dedicated teams undertook a course to help build their leadership skills, confidence and problem-solving abilities. They

were involved in a series of challenges and exciting activities which encouraged them to work as a team and to assign roles of leadership.

The pupils had an enjoyable morning and gained lots of new skills which help them in their new posts.








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**Year 10 Junior Class Prize-winners**  
 Back row (L-R): Courtney Ledamun, Hannah McGrath, Marcel Javorsky, Ian Irvine, Lucy Taggart  
 Front row (L-R): Ben Cherrington, Samara Surgenor, Katlin McBrien, Megan Williams-Yates, Katie Mitchell, Reece McKenna



Lee Morgan, who achieved grade 1 drumkit with Trinity College



**Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music.**  
 Back row (L-R): Laura Barancova (flute, grade 3), Ellie Wilding (clarinet, grade 1), Hannah Carson (flute, grade 3),  
 Front row (L-R): Grace Connolly (clarinet, grade 3), Katie Mitchell (clarinet, grade 5), Rebekah Kun (cello, grade 1), Cara Morgan (clarinet, grade 1).



**Year 8 Junior Class Prize-winners**  
 Back Row (L-R): Scarlett Mulholland, Tyler Andrews, Auguste Ratautaite, Latisha Green, Miriam Donaldson, Eve Kirkpatrick  
 Front Row (L-R): Rhys Barnes, Darcy Loughlin, Alexandra Carnwath, Jordan Thompson, Chloe McCreight, Grace Connolly



**Year 9 Junior Class Prize-winners**  
 Back row (L-R): Joshua Milliken, Jane Speirs, Jacob Boyd, Katie Harte  
 Front row (L-R): Leah Harvie, David Alexander, Ella Foreman, Amy Davidson, Brooke Davis, Cameron Alexander



**Dickson Cup for Excellence at GCSE**  
 Madison Grayson and Tyler Rushe-Givens with special guest Walter Lambe MBE



Shannon McDonald Western with the Abbey National Cup for Business Studies.

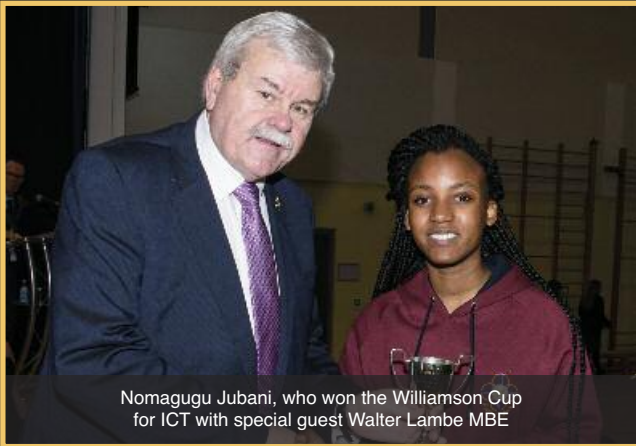


Madison Grayson with the Dickson Cup for Excellence in GCSE.



Leah Harvie with the Blackwell Cup for Art





Nomagugu Jubani, who won the Williamson Cup for ICT with special guest Walter Lambe MBE



Maria Stan receiving her GCSE certificate from Walter Lambe MBE



Marcel Javorsky with the Walker Award for Science.



Zoe Kilpatrick (head girl), Mr M Alexander (chairman of the board of governors), Mrs L McKibbin (vice-principal), Mr G Beattie (principal), Mr W Lambe MBE (special guest), Jack Kirkpatrick (head boy)



Katie Young with the Thompson Award for History.



Shannon McDonald Western and Niamh Faulkner receiving the Abbey National Cup for Business Studies



Rachel Shiels with the Gary Ireland Memorial Shield for Technology and Design.



Bradley Cooke receiving the McNie Cup for Achievement in the final year of KS4 from Walter Lambe MBE

# PRIZE NIGHT





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**HUTCHINSON AT HOME**



## Knife Crime

On 21st January, we received a talk on knives. Two policemen came in and talked to us about the dangers of carrying a knife into school and in public places. They explained that there are some laws on what size of a knife you can carry and what type of knives you can carry. For example, you can't have anything that is over 3 inches (7.62cm) long and that locks into place. They explained that butterfly knives and flick-knives are all illegal in the UK, whatever age you are, although you can buy a kitchen knife when you are eighteen years old, but if the police stop you and ask you about it, then you have to have proof that you just bought it. It is against school rules to carry a knife at Parkhall Integrated College. If you know of someone who is carrying a knife or has intent to use one to harm someone, just tell a teacher or someone in the school you trust.

Jake Brady 11R



## Invictus Play

Invictus, performed by AlterEgo, was received well by a range of pupils from year 10 up to year 14. This play aims to raise awareness of the differing forms of childhood adversity, to identify core skills that can be nurtured to mitigate the damage of toxic stress and help to overcome a whole host of critical life moments. It aims to inspire hope and resilience amongst young people that may be experiencing adversity in their lives and sign-post where young people can go to for help and advice.

"My take on the Invictus play is that it dealt with some very serious topics, but put it in a way that anyone can enjoy, especially teens. It didn't feel forced to relate to people our age as some presentations and other things like this may do. I loved the different sections of the different stories, as each one drew you in, especially for the characters who were reluctant to share their stories in front of the others, to finally express their struggles, which can be very relatable to some people. The power of the repetition of the Invictus topic was really powerful."

Hannah Neeson, Year 13



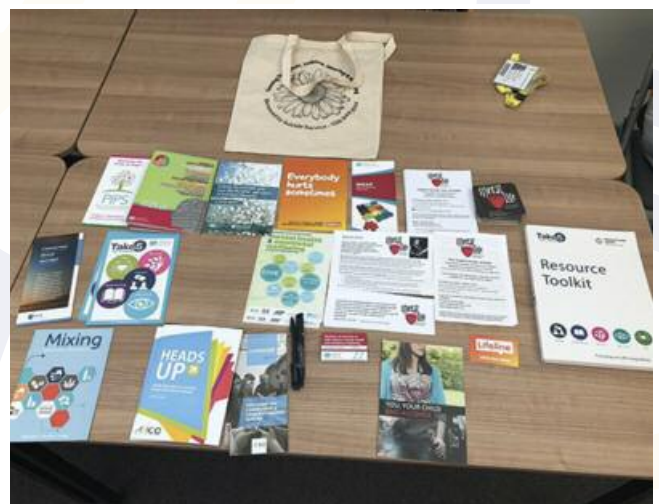
## Mental Health for Life

The mental health talk hosted by Gillian Kansanaho was very informational and inspirational and taught me a lot about what mental health is about and how depression can affect a person and the people around them. The talk informed me about the symptoms of mental illness and how to deal with these problems. It also taught me how to possibly identify someone that is going through mental illness.

During this talk, I learned the tragic story of Mrs Kansanaho's son, a bright young boy who had sadly taken his own life. This allowed me to see mental illness from a different perspective and taught me that not everyone is as fine as they seem.

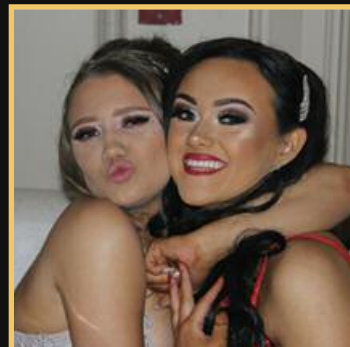
After today's talk, I felt encouraged to help others around me that may be suffering from mental health issues and to provide help with anything that they may need. This talk also taught me that it is important to listen to others' feelings, as people may be hiding what they truly feel, and listening to them may be a way to help them.

Luke Devonald, Year 13





# YR12 FORMAL 2020





# YR12 FORMAL 2020





# Year 14 Prize Giving





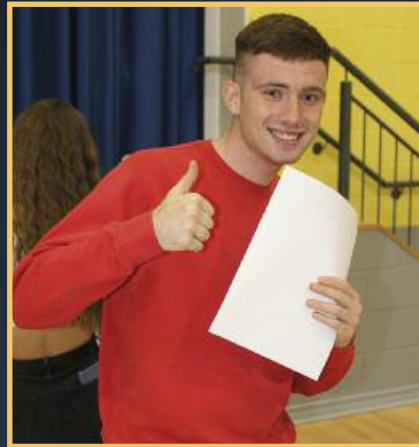




# Year 14 Results Day









# Year 14 Leavers







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# SPORT

## First-ever U18 Girls' Hockey Match for the School.

Parkhall Integrated College played their first-ever under-18 hockey match. The team was made up of girls from the newly formed sixth form. They took to their home pitch to play Carrick Academy in the East Antrim League. The focus for them was having fun and getting active and trying to recapture some of their skills from under-16 matches a couple of years ago. Under the leadership of Rachel Douglas, the following girls turned out superbly for the school's inaugural game: Hollie Kane, Ellie McFadden, Amy Adams, Amy Francis, Jade Brownlee, Rachel Douglas, Zoe Kilpatrick, Nicole Clyde, Katlyn Rooney, Emily Wilson, Kiah Sullivan, Jessica Graham-Matthews, Charley Robinson, Katie Hunter and Katie Wilson.

The game turned out to be very competitive and full of end-to-end play. The final score was 4-2 to Carrick, but it was a good start to the under-18 campaign, considering some of our girls had not played hockey since year 10. The girls ran for every ball and competed in every tackle as if they had been playing every week. The Parkhall goals came from Nicole Clyde in the first quarter and Jessica Graham-Matthews in the final quarter. Congratulations to all the girls.





## Antrim and Ballymoney Cúchulainns



To conclude this year's Cúchulainn Initiative and as part of Good Relations Week, Ulster GAA President Oliver Galligan hosted the Antrim and Ballymoney Cúchulainns who participated in the programme in 2019 and represented Ulster at the All Britain Competition in London in July.

Speaking from the event held at the ECOS Centre in Ballymena, Ulster GAA President Oliver Galligan said, "We are delighted to recognise the efforts and commitment of the four schools, Parkhall Integrated College, Crumlin Integrated College, Dalriada School and Our Lady of Lourdes School to the Cúchulainn Initiative. This is the first time that we have included a girls' team in the initiative, and we are delighted how well they have embraced the ethos of the project. The schools, the boys and girls and their parents have all shown real leadership and commitment to good relations. The Antrim and Ballymoney Cúchulainns have represented themselves, their schools and their towns with distinction throughout the Cúchulainn Initiative and also in London at the All Britain Competition."

Congratulating all those who took part, the mayor of Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council Councillor Sean Bateson said: "The Cúchulainn Initiative is an inspiring example of good relations in action, and I was delighted to have this opportunity to meet with some of the recent participants. Taking part in sport encourages young people to develop life-long skills and values including team

work, communication and resilience. This project goes beyond this by bringing people from different backgrounds together, developing shared objectives and showcasing the unifying power of sport."

Also, in attendance, the deputy mayor of Antrim and Newtownabbey, Councillor Ann Marie Logue said, "It was an honour to attend this event to celebrate the achievements of the programme. We are extremely proud of those pupils from Parkhall and Crumlin Integrated Colleges who represented our borough in this inspirational programme. It's fantastic to see our young people from different community backgrounds coming together and building relationships."

Ulster GAA's Cúchulainn Initiative is supported by The Executive Office through the Central Good Relations Fund, and speaking at the event, Andy Cole, director of Good Relations & T:BUC said, "Young people are a key focus of the executive's Good Relations strategy 'Together: Building a United Community'. One of its main aims is to create the conditions where young people can play a full and active role in building good relations. The young people who participated in the Ulster GAA Cúchulainn Initiative are putting into practice that vision of reconciliation through sport."

For more information on the Cúchulainn Initiative please contact Fionntan O'Dowd on 028 (048) 37521900 or email [Fionntan.odowd.ulster@gaa.ie](mailto:Fionntan.odowd.ulster@gaa.ie).





## Football Trip Treat

A thank-you lunch was laid on to reward the effort made by the fifty boys going on the planned football tour to Milan in their Tesco bag pack. Unfortunately, of course, due to unforeseen circumstances, this trip did not take place.



## GAA Talk

Pierce Caherty, the community sports development officer for the Ulster GAA came in to talk to the prospective team in a “getting to know the GAA” presentation. He spoke about the background of the GAA and wanted to promote a greater understanding of the organisation and also highlighted their ongoing links with Ulster Rugby and the Irish Football Association. Pierce and Miss Rankin spoke about their experiences of being involved with last year’s Cúchulainn team and competing in the All-British Championships in London.

The Cúchulainn initiative aims to engage young people from different backgrounds into sport and promote greater understanding and respect for other cultures.





# Parkhall Integrated College Hosts Inaugural Primary School Futsal Tournament

On Friday 7th February Parkhall Integrated College hosted its first ever futsal competition for six local primary schools.

This type of indoor football is what many European and South American players – the likes of Ronaldo and Messi – grew up honing their skills on and have used to learn their trade.

The college was pleased to invite its own business partners in to sponsor the event, giving the tournament a professional feel with many prizes and goodies on offer for the pupils to take away with them.

Paul Kirkpatrick of Islandbawn Stores, a long standing supporter of sport at the college, came laden with a goody bag for the fifty-plus participants, and the college's newly established partner, Martin of Subway at Castle Mall was very pleased to be invited along for the first time to establish his sponsorship of the college with free Subway vouchers for the lucky winners. Local junior football coach Samuel McIlveen was on hand to help supply the futsal goals and award the player of the tournament a complimentary one-on-one coaching session.

The schools that took part included Antrim Primary, Ballycraigy, Greystone, Maine Integrated, Six Mile Integrated and St. Joseph's. The tournament followed a round-robin league format culminating in the all-important final with silver medals presented to the runners-up and gold medals and a shiny new trophy to the winning school.

Glenn Martin, who organised the tournament on behalf of the school was most impressed by the response of the local primary schools and was impressed by the standard of talent on display from many of the young players. He made a point of thanking their schools and teachers for allowing them the opportunity to play.

Mr Martin also paid thanks to all the contributors who helped make the event that extra bit special with their kind acts of generosity and said that he was delighted to see them come along and support the event.

Parkhall Integrated College's intention, due to the success of this inaugural event, is to widen the invitation next year to more local primary schools who unfortunately were unable to attend this first tournament and extend it to include an outdoor competition to celebrate the opening of its new outdoor sports pitches and to allow the local children the opportunity to play there as well.

Paul Kirkpatrick of Islandbawn Stores, Samuel McIlveen and Mr George Beattie (school principal) presented the medals to:

1st place gold medal and trophy winners Greystone Primary School

2nd place silver medal winners Antrim Primary School

3rd place bronze medal winners Maine Integrated Primary School

This was a great day and a successful event, which was ably assisted by the college's sixth-form students, who helped out as referees, table officials and assistant supervisors.







## Year 13 Pupil Nicole Clyde Enjoys Boxing Success

Nicole started boxing when she was ten years old back in October of 2012 and is a member of Antrim Boxing Club, which is based in Springfarm. Two years later, in October 2014, she entered her first championship, the Ulster Novice Championship, held in Banbridge. She weighed in at forty-six kilos, but unfortunately there was no suitable opponent, so she had no contest that day and therefore received the Ulster title in a walkover. During the first year of her competing in boxing, she entered many different championships from the County Antrim Novices to the Ulster Novices and various open competitions but was unable to find a contest due the limited number of girls taking part in the sport not being the same age or weight as her.

Going into her second year of competing (2015/16), she was able to take part in more and more contests and had the opportunity to compete in the Ulster Open and Belfast Open and then went on to win the County Antrim Open. These successes led her to qualify for the All-Ireland Championships, where she was drawn against the Irish champion in the quarter-final. Nicole put on a good show and was unfortunate not to receive the decision. This was a great experience which set her up really well for the 2016/17 season, when she took part in the international Esker All Female BoxCup, the Ulster Open, Belfast opens, County Antrim opens and then the Irish Junior Championships. Nicole came out as the winner in all of these. During this season, she represented Ulster on two occasions and Ireland at international level.

Her 2017/18 season was not as successful as the previous season, but Nicole still came away with titles in the Belfast opens and claimed the titles at the County Antrim and Ulster Championships. However, she was unfortunate to be beaten by an Irish champion in the Irish semi-final. This all led onto her most successful season to

date (2018/19), when she started off the season winning the Esker BoxCup, Belfast opens, Ulster, County Antrim and an Irish title, all at 52 kilos.

During the summer of 2019, Nicole competed in the Irish under-18 championships when she was only 16 and the youngest in her category. She was therefore not expected to take the title; however, she won the semi-final in a unanimous decision, putting her into the final, where she boxed against a girl from Limerick and stopped her in the third round.

Nicole was then invited to the Irish high-performance training, where she found out that she was going to box in the European Championships for Ireland in Sofia, in Bulgaria, at 51 kilos. In Bulgaria, she was drawn against a girl from the Netherlands in the last sixteen, whom she beat in a unanimous decision to move into the quarter-final and a chance to box for a medal. All she needed to do was beat a European silver medallist from England. This was a close contest where the first and second rounds could have gone either way, so she knew she needed a big third round to win the decision, which is what she produced. Her coaches thought she had done enough to take the win. All that was left to do now was await the result, which seemed to take forever. In the end, it was a 3-2 split decision awarded to England. There was only one point splitting the two of them, which saw the end to a very successful first European championship.

Nicole says of her boxing:

“I have had the opportunity to box against a range of different countries, including England, the Netherlands, Russia, India and many more. Currently, I am training hard and hopeful that I will get back onto the Irish high-performance squad. In the future, I hope to get the opportunity to represent Ireland at as many European and world championships as possible and someday get to go to the Olympic games. I am also targeting the Commonwealth Games in 2022, where I will get to represent Northern Ireland.

“I have gained a lot since I started boxing over seven years ago, with the thing I’ve gained most being confidence. I walked into that boxing club shy and not wanting to talk to anyone, whereas now I have built an unbelievable bond with my coach, Eamon Gillen, and have made a lot of lifelong friends. I now have the confidence to speak up for myself and to put across my ideas in the club.”

## Cricket Success for Year 14’s Rachel Douglas

Rachel started playing cricket around April last year when it was first introduced to the girls in Parkhall Integrated College. Her PE teacher, Miss Logan, asked her to stay behind for the first week of the training to try it out, and it quickly became her number-one focus where sport was concerned. She played in the first-ever Parkhall girls’ cricket team against Wallace High School, scoring 29 runs and also had a chance to bowl a few overs. Miss Logan, along with the Muckamore coach, took the school training and encouraged her to join the local team, Muckamore Bluebellies. She played her first season of cricket at Muckamore over the summer, competing in the Premier League and reaching the final of the Challenge Cup. From then, she was put forward for an NCU (Northern Cricket Union) training programme in October and November of last year. This was something Rachel felt was too advanced for her, and she was out of her comfort zone, but this was not the case; she enjoyed each session and was invited back for additional training. Following these sessions, she was chosen for the NCU girls’ U17 performance winter training squad. So far, she has been to the strength and conditioning training sessions and undertakes a set programme and she will soon be starting the cricket sessions in Lisburn. Rachel is really pleased to have been selected for this squad and hopes to continue to train with the NCU leading into the new cricket season. She has been involved in sport all of her life, but cricket has definitely been her best experience so far.





## Year 8 NEBSSA Hockey Blitz 15/11/19

### Game 1 – Parkhall vs Sperrin

This was Parkhall's first competitive game together. They started off strong and pressed up towards goal from the starting whistle. Many crosses came in from the right side from Lois, creating numerous goal chances. The first goal came from Fern, controlling a cross from Lois well and slotting it past the keeper. Many more presses towards goal came from Erin and Rihanna, putting Sperrin under pressure. Sperrin broke through at the half-way point, forcing first-time goalkeeper, Jessica Bell, to come out and clear the ball well. The defence were strong for the entire game, keeping the ball wide and making affective passes down the lines. Left-midfielder Fern got her second goal of the game, set up by Rihanna. This match was a positive start, and the girls showed impressive skills and quick thinking on the ball.

### Game 2 – Parkhall vs Antrim Grammar

The second match was a lot tighter for Parkhall against Antrim Grammar, with both teams playing great hockey throughout the entire game. The defence had a lot more work to do compared to their first game; with help from the midfield tracking back the ball was cleared and kept away from the goal with control and accuracy. Lois created many opportunities through her spatial awareness during long corners, but the Grammar team defended strongly each time. Game two was a very even game, and a lot of new tactics and ideas were taken from it.

### Game 3 – Parkhall vs Sperrin

This was another positive game against Sperrin. The girls pressed up towards the goal from the start and forced the Sperrin defence to be alert at all times, with crosses and shots on goal coming from all angles. Parkhall's top goal scorer, Fern, got another two goals, keeping control of the ball and handling the pressure from the goalkeeper well. Our back three performed well again, creating opportunities up towards the goal each time. A third goal came from Rihanna, and Parkhall were playing comfortably now. Lois set up many chances throughout the tournament and finally scored an impressive reverse shot bang on the whistle. All the girls were very impressive throughout the game and took all advice on board.

### Game 4 – Parkhall vs Antrim Grammar

A second game against Antrim Grammar was very important, as both teams had performed well during the tournament. Antrim Grammar put pressure on Parkhall from the start, but Parkhall's defence and goalkeeper kept them in it. Chances were created from both sides throughout although neither could get that important finish. Midfielders and forwards pressed up, but unfortunately Antrim Grammar were able to bring the score to 1-0 first. Parkhall kept their heads up and continued to put pressure on their opponents. An impressive run from Fern was put in the back of the net but it was unlucky to be ruled out from a foul. The score finished 1-0, and both teams displayed good sportsmanship at the end.

*Lois – "I enjoyed playing for the school. I like my position and I'm happy to get lots of crosses in on goal".*

*Jessica – "I enjoyed playing keeper for the first time and I'm pleased at myself for only letting one goal in. I cleared the ball well and liked the position".*

*Hannah – "I enjoyed playing for the school and think we all played well".*

*Rihanna – "Our tournament went well, and I think our team will be able to improve a lot during the season. I enjoyed playing my position and getting chances on goal".*



### Rachel Douglas – Year 14 Sport Student







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Specsavers in Antrim recently celebrated its seventh anniversary operating in Castle Mall. In that time, owner and store director Davin Quinn, has significantly grown the business, which now employs fifteen local staff and holds the prestigious Platinum Employer status.



Davin has over sixteen years' experience as an optometrist. Good service and top quality care are his top priorities, and Davin leads by example. He holds the Professional Certificate in Glaucoma as well as the WOPEC Glaucoma level 2, the WOPEC Minor Eye Conditions Services level 2 and the WOPEC Cataracts level 1.

Davin further recently enhanced his services to local customers following successful completion of the Professional Certificate in Medical Retina from Ulster University and is NI PEARS qualified.

Supporting Davin as manager is Ita Armour, who has been with the store for seven years. As well as managing the staff, Ita is herself an HCA qualified hearing clinician and also holds a Cert. 3 dispensing qualification.

Helen Woodside graduated from Ulster University and has been an optometrist alongside Davin for two years. She is NI PEARS qualified and holds the WOPEC Glaucoma level 1 qualification, the WOPEC Minor Eye Conditions Services level 2 and the WOPEC Cataracts level 1.

When optometrists graduate from university, they are obliged to complete what is known as a "pre-reg." year in full-time work before they are regarded as fully qualified. As a pre-reg. optometrist, Roisin Magee is now only a couple of months away from reaching that final goal.

Whilst an optometrist is qualified to test and examine eyes, an optician fits, measures and dispenses eyewear. Mairead McCann is a pre-reg. dispensing optician with Cert. 3 and Cert. 4 dispensing qualifications.

Also on the Antrim team are three optical assistants: Aine Devlin, Adam Boyd and Joseph O'Hare, who is also a trainee lab technician.

The on-site lab is an important part of Antrim Specsavers' customer offer, as the one-hour service greatly reduces waiting times for both new single-vision glasses and repairs. Andrea Patterson, who also has Cert. 3 and Cert. 4 dispensing qualifications, manages the lab, supported by lab technician Dean Kelly.

Completing the team is supervisor Lynsey Murray, who is also a contact lens specialist and Samantha Crawford who, as a frame consultant, guides customers in their choice of spectacle styles and colours.

Davin Quinn says, "Our aim in Specsavers is to provide the most comprehensive eye-care service possible. It is therefore very important that we employ the best of staff, demonstrating a wide range of skills, and that we continually update and enhance those skills with ongoing professional training. Customers in our store can expect the optimum service from a team of which I am very proud."

## Antrim Specsavers – Meet the Team



Store director Davin Quinn (centre), surrounded by his team (from left), Samantha, Helen, Andrea, Courtney, Ita, Aine, Adam, Lynsey, Roisin, Dean and Mairead.

The Specsavers store in Castle Mall is open six days a week with late-night opening on Thursday and Friday until 8.00 pm.

For added convenience, from 3rd June, the store is open at 8.30am each morning.

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