



**Parkhall**  
INTEGRATED COLLEGE  
**Magazine 24-25**



# PARKHALL

## INTEGRATED COLLEGE

## Our vision

To provide an inclusive, caring learning environment where we all feel valued and respected and are empowered to reach our full potential.

## Our core values



### Achievement

striving to be the best that we can be



### Community

contributing positively to our college and local community



### Kindness

being kind, helpful and polite in all we do



### Respect

respecting ourselves, each other, and our environment



### Responsibility

working hard, being committed, and taking responsibility for our own actions and development

## To help realise our vision we will:

- ✓ Place the core principles of Integrated Education at the heart of our college, through promoting equality, faith and values, parental involvement and social responsibility in all we do.
- ✓ Promote academic excellence through a challenging and ambitious curriculum and evidence-informed pedagogy.
- ✓ Give high quality pastoral care to meet individual needs and support the development of the well-being of our students.
- ✓ Offer a range of enrichment opportunities which develop life skills and character beyond the classroom.
- ✓ Provide high quality professional development for all our staff to ensure ongoing continuing personal and college improvement.

# Welcome



As we conclude the 2024/2025 academic year, it is with immense pride and gratitude that we reflect on the journey we have shared at Parkhall Integrated College. As you will see from the following pages in this magazine, this college year has been filled with countless achievements and highlights that have helped to shape our college community.

As ever, I extend my thanks to the staff and students who have contributed to this year's magazine and also to the many local businesses who, in choosing to advertise with us, continue to support our college.

Throughout the academic year, our students have demonstrated resilience and determination, embracing new opportunities both in and out of the classroom. As a college, we seek to encourage our students to strive consistently for excellence, embodying our core values of Achievement, Community, Kindness, Respect, and Responsibility. The support from our dedicated staff and the involvement of our families have been instrumental in creating a caring environment where every student can thrive. This year, we celebrated numerous milestones, including the opening of our new extension in the autumn term. This state-of-the-art facility marks a pivotal moment in our commitment to providing an exceptional educational experience for all students at Parkhall Integrated College.

As we look back on the year, we are reminded – above all else – of the importance of community. The partnerships we continue to build with parents/guardians, local organisations and alumni serve to foster a sense of belonging for all as we seek to work towards fulfilling our vision, which is to create an inclusive, caring learning environment where we all feel valued and respected and are empowered to reach our potential.

I hope you enjoy the 2024-25 edition of our annual magazine.

Best wishes.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'N Owen'.

**Mr N D Owen**  
Principal





# YEAR 8 FIRST DAY

















# New Senior Prefects

Our head boy, Harrison, and head girl, Rachel, for the 2024/25 academic year, welcomed our new head boy and girl to the student leadership team for the next academic year. Harrison, Rachel, and their team finished up their duties in June as they prepared for their final exams. We thank Harrison, Rachel and all the students on our student leadership team for their great service.



## Year 12 Pathway to Exam Success Workshop

We hosted an excellent examination preparation workshop for our year 12 students entitled The Final Study Runway. This course was specifically designed to help students effectively prepare for their exams by providing them with practical study strategies, time management skills, and techniques for managing stress. With expert guidance and interactive sessions, the workshop empowered students to approach their exams with confidence and clarity, ensuring they were equipped for success.





# Student Council

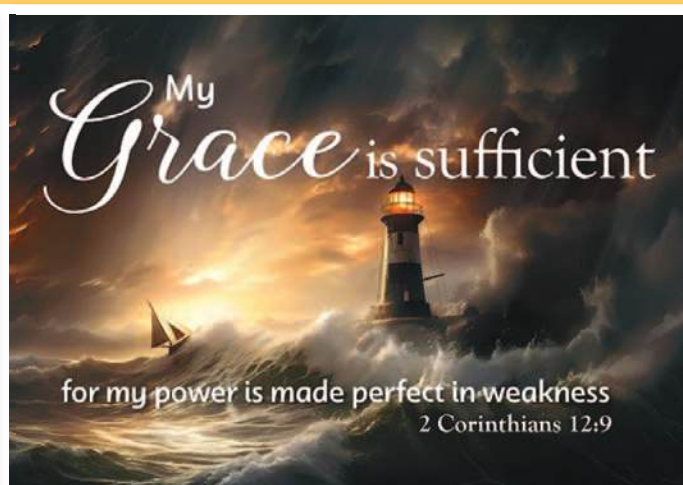
Our Student Council was formed during the first term, following successful elections held in each form class. This initiative gives students a voice in our college community, representing their peers and contributing to important discussions about college life. The Student Council had a positive impact in enhancing our college environment and fostering a sense of community among all students.





# Scripture Union

We are thankful for another busy year with our Scripture Union and all the staff, students and visiting speakers who have contributed to it. Thank you to Josh Orr from Antrim Baptist. Josh focused on the promise of grace in 2 Corinthians 12:9. He spoke about how God shows us grace even when we don't deserve it.



We want to take this opportunity to thank Rev. Paul Thompson, who was our guest speaker at both our senior and junior SU. Paul shared with us God's promise of his presence in our lives in an ever-challenging world (Isaiah 4v10).

Rev. Stephen Lockington who lead our Junior Scripture Union session. Students enjoyed a fun Pictionary activity, followed by a meaningful discussion about God's promise of peace in our lives. It was a fantastic opportunity to reflect and connect with one another.





# Scripture Union Christmas Party

On Thursday 19th December, Parkhall Integrated College's Senior and Junior Scripture Union gathered for a festive party to celebrate the Christmas season. The students enjoyed delicious pizza, hot chocolate, and cookies, creating a joyful atmosphere.

Rev. Paul Thompson shared an inspiring Christmas message, reminding everyone that God gave us the ultimate gift of His Son. He emphasised that a gift only truly becomes a gift when we choose to receive it. Mrs Davison also shared a thoughtful reflection on the true meaning of the candy cane, highlighting its symbolism and the message of hope it carries during the Christmas season.





# Students' Attendance Journey

At Parkhall Integrated College, we strive to promote an ethos and culture that encourages good attendance. To support this, in September, we launched our new 100% Attendance Club in our assemblies. This attendance journey recognises good attendance for the year ahead. Pictured are some of September's prize-winners with their Amazon vouchers.





# Special Recognition Reward

This year, we introduced a new end-of-half-term special recognition reward for students with 100% attendance and zero conduct points on their SIMS profile. Each student was rewarded with an ice cream from Syd's Ice Creams, an additional fifteen achievement points as a bonus, and an hour off their timetable, of course. This was a special thank-you from the college's rewards programme and a great way for these students to end their half-term.





# Take 5 Photography Competition

As part of being a Take 5 for Wellbeing College students were invited to look around their community and take notice of the beauty that surrounds them on the streets, in the countryside or their back garden, then to take a photograph of something that they found interesting, inspiring, beautiful or funny and submit up to three photos for our Take Notice Competition.

There were many excellent entries. The winners were Izzy Waring, Jemimah Hughes, Robbie Massey, Lucas Keys and Karen Barnes. Here are the winning photographs, along with some which were highly commended.



Izzy Waring



Jasmine Talbot



Rachel Foster

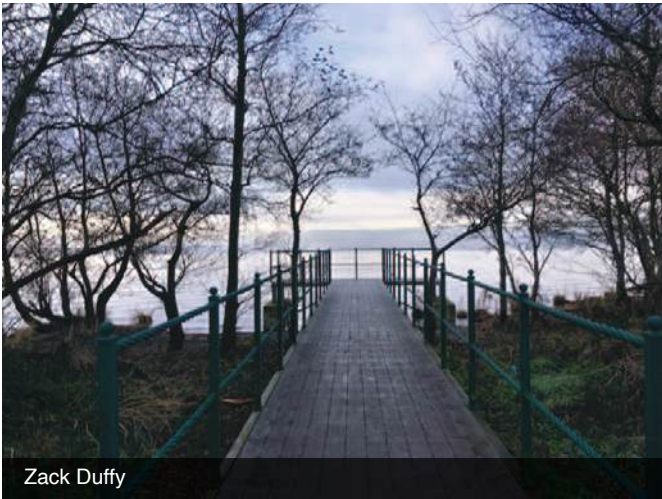


Jemimah Hughes



Robbie Massey





Zack Duffy



Filip Konik



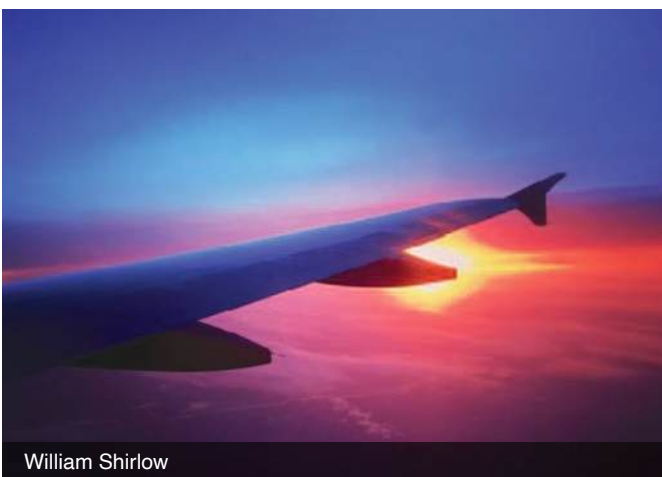
Lucas Keys



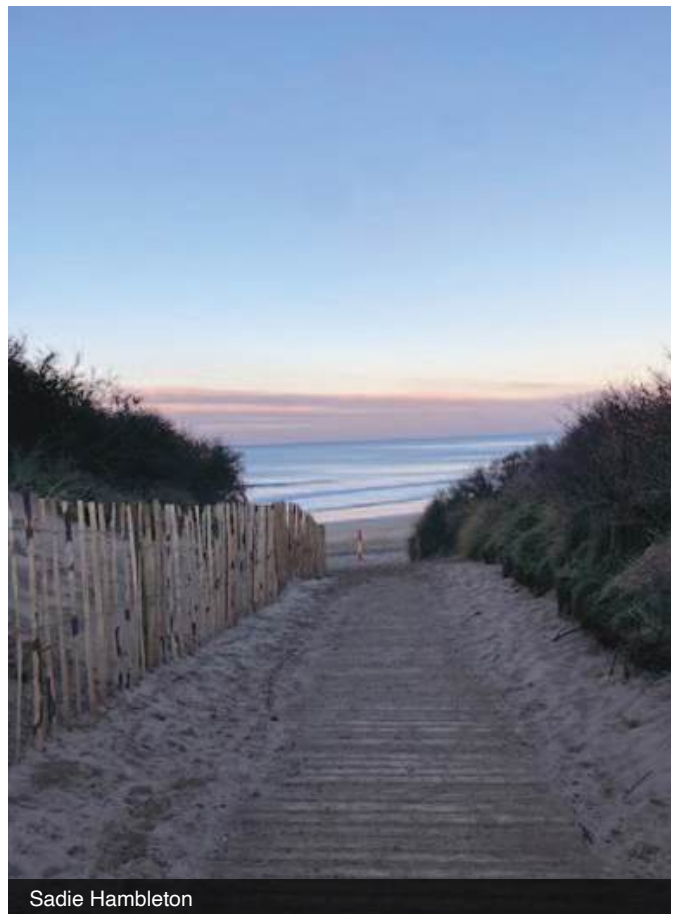
Victor McClelland



Zarah Mooney



William Shirlow



Sadie Hambleton



# Saphara - Be the Change

We were delighted to welcome Saphara's education director, Paula Stronge, into the post-16 assembly to present the Be the Change Awards to members of last year's Be the Change team. Rachel Foster, Eve Kirkpatrick and Ellie Wilding received their award after their yearlong commitment to the programme.

Saphara is a Northern Ireland-based charity passionate about the power of education to change the world. They work in partnership with schools in India and alongside newcomer children in Northern Ireland to provide education to some of the most marginalised children. Last year, our Parkhall Integrated College team raised an exceptional amount of money, allowing Saphara to provide education for fourteen children in its partner schools in India. Now, we are ready to do it all over again.



Paula also launched the award to our current year 13s, who could become part of this worthwhile project. The award is set to inspire and equip our students to be local and global citizens, bringing students from different communities and backgrounds together to empower them to Be the Change they want to see in the world. Students involved will explore local and global issues of poverty, social justice and equality; fundraise to provide access to life-changing education for children living in some of India's poorest and most marginalised areas; and engage with newcomer children from across the world living here in Northern Ireland.

On Monday, 27th January, the Saphara: Be the Change team travelled to St Malachy's in Belfast for their second workshop. The students worked in groups, discussing what they considered a good life and exploring how this can look very different for the young people in India with whom Saphara works. Home was also explored, and the students began to understand why people may flee their homes, even if that means putting themselves and their loved ones in further danger.





# Saphara workshop

Our Year 13 Saphara Be the Change team attended the first of three group workshops at Dominican College. Parkhall Integrated College was paired with Dominican College, St. Malachy's and Ashfield Boys in Belfast this year. Our team developed various skills and qualities throughout the year to help them become leaders who can change the world. Our first workshop focused on using your head, and students spent some time delving deep into what divides and unites us, locally and globally. They learnt some new and interesting facts about the partner schools of Saphara in India and newcomer children at home in Northern Ireland. Our annual Christmas jumper day on Thursday 19th December was the first of these events, and our team led assemblies to inform the college community about Saphara and their work to help marginalised students both here at home and in India.



## Fundraising

On Thursday, December 19th, we held our annual Christmas jumper day with all money raised going to the Saphara Be the Change Award. This year, we raised a total of £575.

This is the first of our Saphara fundraisers which help to raise vital funds for children in Saphara's partner colleges in India and newcomer children at home in Northern Ireland. In the new year, we will hold several other fundraisers, which will allow us to meet both our individual and team fundraising targets.





# Saphara - Europa Abseil

On Sunday, 2nd March, three of our brave Saphara, Be the Change team, Emogene, Bethany and Katie, abseiled down the Europa Hotel in Belfast. The girls did extremely well, and we are proud of their dedication to raising vital funds for Saphara and the marginalised children they support both here in Northern Ireland and in their partner schools in India.



## Saphara - Be the Change

On Saturday, 29th March, Saphara Be the Change team members and other courageous friends and staff braved the cold and rain to complete Ireland's longest zipline at Colin Glen Forest Park.

The cold weather didn't deter them. Everyone enjoyed the quick flight over the forest canopy but wasn't so keen on the march back to the top of the mountain.

A massive thank-you to year 13 students and team members Grace Gibson, Bethany Park, Emogene Patterson, Mollie Bowden and Emily Cosgrove, who used this as an opportunity to top up their fundraising and help the team reach their target. Alongside the team, these brave students, Paige Beattie, Eve Kirkpatrick, and Lily Michael, stepped up to support their friends and help with fundraising efforts. However, the most enormous thank-you has to go to our brave staff: Michelle Harrison from the canteen, Ms Fegan, Ms Logan and Mr Hill, who gave up their Saturday morning to help the team raise vital funds for the Saphara: Be the Change award



## Saphara - Easter Hamper Raffle

Our junior prefect team were busy selling raffle tickets for the chance to win an Easter hamper. From their sales, they made £65, which was donated to our fundraising efforts for the Saphara group. Well done to all those involved. Congratulations to Mrs Hamill, who was the winner of the Easter raffle.



# Parkhall Integrated College

## KS3 Study Skills - Learn Spark

As part of the college's drive to foster a culture of independent study, we once again recruited the fantastic team at Learn Spark to deliver study skills programmes for students in all year groups. The hugely popular sessions empowered students to study independently and effectively, enabling them to reach their full potential. They left the session ready to take on the exam challenge.

During the sessions, students explored areas such as: organisation and time management, interrogating key notes, memory and retrieval practice, and wellbeing and resilience.



## GCSEPod Success

Congratulations to Harvey Montgomery in year 12 for his exceptional engagement with GCSEPod during September.

### SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD THROUGH THEIR GCSES

GCSE examinations can be a worrying prospect for your child and they will be under a great deal of pressure with deadlines and examination preparation. Here's how you can help.

#### POSITIVE START TO THE DAY

The beginning of the school day can be a rush for everyone. Here are some tips for a routine in the morning and evening to help the day start smoothly and with minimum stress.

##### The night before

Encourage your child to pack their school bag and lay out their uniform before going to bed each evening.

##### On weekdays

Try to make sure your child eats breakfast. This provides essential energy and will help him or her perform better at school.

#### ENSURE YOU ARE KEPT INFORMED

Signing up to the schools Facebook, Twitter, text and email communications can ensure you have a better understanding of what's actually going on in school and what teachers are communicating to both students and parents.

#### PROVIDING ALL-ROUND SUPPORT

The best way to support your child during this stressful time is to make home life as calm and pleasant as possible. Try not to nag or make too many demands. Arguments are counter productive and will only add unnecessary stress. Make sure there are plenty of healthy snacks in the fridge and try to provide good, nutritious food at regular intervals. Encourage your child to join family meals, even if it's a busy revision day - it's important to have a change of scene and get away from the books and computer for a while. Also encourage your child to take regular exercise to help clear the mind.



#### HOMEWORK

Homework can often feel like a chore, and there are a million things your child would rather be doing! However, in years 10 and 11 your child should aim to do from 90 to 150 minutes of homework per day. Though this work is done independently, your interest and input is still important and helps your child to do well. Ask your child if there's anything you can do to help with homework. If your child has several assignments due in on the same day, suggest they space the work out rather than leave it all until the night before.

- ✓ Set up the perfect study space
- ✓ No homework right before bed!
- ✓ Choose the best time to work
- ✓ Start with the most difficult
- ✓ Plan ahead



#### REVISION

The secret to doing well in exams lies in planning. You can help your child to create a clear revision plan and method of studying that will make them feel in control of their work.

- ✓ Work out a revision timetable for each subject
- ✓ Break revision time into small chunks - hour-long sessions with short breaks at the end of each session often work well
- ✓ Condense notes onto postcards to act as revision prompts
- ✓ Buy new stationery, highlighters and pens to make revision more interesting
- ✓ Go through school notes with your child or listen while they revise a topic

#### THE DAY OF THE EXAM

It's important to get a good night's sleep before an exam, so discourage your child from staying up late to cram. Make sure he or she eats a good breakfast on the morning of the exam and get them there with plenty of time. Reassure them that although you want them to do well no matter what happens you are very proud of them.



"I can genuinely say that my daughter could not have managed without GCSEPod. I only wish that I'd known about GCSEPod when her GCSEs began, as I knew that if she'd used it to reinforce her learning after each topic area, the impact would have been even greater!"

Lisa Chappell, Parent

#### HOW CAN GCSEPOD HELP?

We understand how important it is for you to support your child during their GCSEs, so we've created a page full of useful advice, guidance and resources, especially for you!

- ✓ GCSEPod makes it easy to understand the subject knowledge your child is learning.
- ✓ Log into your child's account to monitor homework and any areas in which they may be struggling.
- ✓ Monitor your child's progress for every subject.
- ✓ Our support team is on-hand to answer your questions even during school holidays.
- ✓ The parents page on our website is packed full of useful resources to help and support both you and your child.

[www.gcsepod.com/parents](http://www.gcsepod.com/parents)





# Parkhall in Bloom

Earlier this year, Parkhall Integrated College was successful in receiving a bursary from the Mrs Joan Christie CVO OBE Legacy Bursary Scheme. Using some of this bursary, 9OR visited Coleman's Garden Centre in December, where they were taught and encouraged to plant their flowers from seeds and bulbs. Our flowers have now bloomed, and some have been distributed to others within our college community. 9OR are so proud of what they have grown, and they sat proudly at the front doors of our college for all to see.



# Blue Bins

This year, 9OR took on the whole-college responsibility of blue bin duty. This duty required all the students in the class to collect and drop off the entire college's blue recycling bins every fortnight and then return them once they have been emptied.

The students in 9OR thoroughly enjoyed the responsibility they have gained this year and the independence this duty brings. We were pleased to see them embrace this duty, which promotes independence and encourages good manners and courtesy to everyone in college.





# Gardening Lessons

Class 9OR planted bulbs purchased from Coleman's Garden Centre. The students thoroughly enjoyed getting their hands dirty in our greenhouse and were looking forward to watching these beautiful flowers bloom.





# Autism Acceptance Week

As part of Autism Acceptance Week, our year 8 classes each had an information session on autism: what it is, how it can affect students in college and how we can help.

The Autism Acceptance celebrations continued the following day with a coffee morning for staff and a coffee afternoon for parents. The sale of fidgets and raffle tickets also continued. Thank you to all who donated to Autism NI.

Also, to celebrate Autism Acceptance, our autistic students and friends participated in an activity day. Students developed their skateboarding skills with Push & Progress, learned how dogs are trained (and had a cuddle) with Glen-Craig Dog Training and brought out their artistic side with painting ceramics.

They then finished a great day with snacks and fun in the youth area.







# Autism NI Fundraising

We were delighted to welcome Keith Pyper from Autism NI to our college to receive a cheque for £ 1,413 raised during Autism Acceptance Week in April.

Thank you to all the students, parents, and staff who contributed to this grand total.





# Aspire Club - Event 1

Aspire Club started again in October for our new year 8 students. Everyone had a great time creating delicious Rice Krispie buns. Some students couldn't wait to tuck in. Our students showed fantastic teamwork. A huge thank-you goes to Mrs McCreary for organising the activity.





# Aspire Club

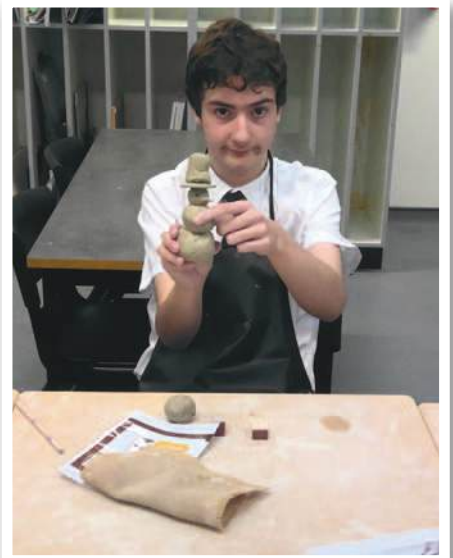
During the Autumn term, Students completed autumn arts and crafts and had a great time.





# Aspire After-college Club

Everyone had an amazing time in Aspire Club in November with Mrs McFerran and Mrs Cochrane showing the students how to make snowmen from clay. All had great fun, and some fabulously quirky snowmen were produced, ready to be fired in the college kiln.





# Aspire December Club

Aspire Club participated in its last two activities for term one. On the 3rd of December, the group showed great teamwork and had fun playing frisbee with Miss Logan. Then, on the 10th of December, they had their Christmas party, where they finished their ceramic snowmen and decorated cupcakes to look like reindeers. Thank you very much to Sammy and Mrs Jackson for baking a delicious cake to share at the party.

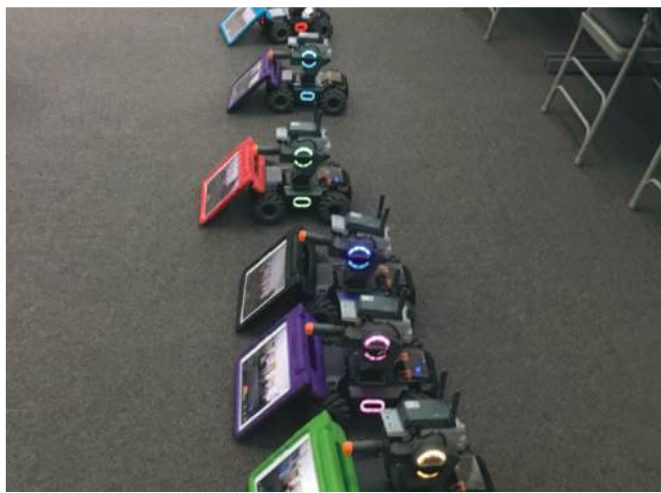




# Robot Friends

Some robot friends visited Aspire. Everyone had the opportunity to learn some coding and operate the very cool and impressive robots, after which students waged battle on each other's robots.

Congratulations to Sammy, who emerged as the champion in the robot wars. We thank Chris from Max Coding, who helped facilitate the event.





# Dave Pettard Photography

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Weddings

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Always choose a full time insured professional photographer.





# Christmas Selection Box Appeal

We thank all staff and students for their help and support with our annual Christmas Selection Box Appeal. In just four weeks a grand total of three hundred and eighty selection boxes were collected.

These were distributed to Riverside Special School, Steeple Nursery, Massereene Manor Care Home, Antrim Hospital Children's Ward and Antrim Hospital Children's A&E.





# Community Christmas Party

We were delighted to host our third annual Community Christmas Party for invited guests from our local nursing homes, Steeple Nursery School, Six Mile Integrated PS, and our own choir and orchestra. There was even a special visitor from the North Pole. We had over two hundred visitors, and there was a very clear sense of Christmas spirit in the room, with all the generations looking forward to Christmas together.





# Open Evening 2025





# Matilda Jr Production

February saw the successful run of our production, Matilda Jr. The enchanting musical, based on Roald Dahl's famous book, showcased our students' incredible talent and hard work, who brought the story of a remarkable young girl to life on stage.

We are all so proud of our students' industry, commitment, and talent. Thank you to our Drama and Music departments, which led the production, and to all staff who supported it. The production of Matilda Jr. was a testament to our college's commitment to the performing arts and the supportive community that surrounds it. We thank all the parents/guardians, staff, and friends of the college who attended the performances and contributed to the success of this production.



## Green Flag Award

We were thrilled to announce that Parkhall Integrated College has been awarded the Green Flag Award. This recognition highlights our commitment to environmental sustainability and our efforts to create a greener, more eco-friendly college community.

A huge thank-you goes to Mrs Shannon and all colleagues involved in this award process, and to all our staff, students, and parents/guardians for your support and participation in our sustainability initiatives.





# New Driver NI Presentation

New Drivers NI were in college to deliver a workshop to the year 13 students.

During this presentation, the students had the opportunity to learn about keeping safe on the roads, obeying speed limits, not using their mobile phones while driving, different penalty points and the consequences of these, various types of car insurance and lots of discussion around the increase in road deaths, especially in R drivers.

They also learnt about the new law on discarding R plates and the speed limit on dual carriageways for new drivers. Students also had the opportunity to scan a QR code to enter a competition for a chance to win £250. This was a very informative session from New Drivers NI, during which students gained a wealth of knowledge on road safety.



## Aware NI

Aware NI came to college to deliver extremely informative sessions for our year 13 students as part of the Mood Matters programme. They discussed mental health, what can affect it, and how to improve it. They were able to discover more about their own well-being.

Mood Matters Young People is an evidence-based programme which introduces the Five Areas Approach based on cognitive behavioural concepts. Participants use practical examples to learn that by challenging and changing unhelpful thinking and behaviours they can make a positive difference to their lives.

Mood Matters Young People also features Take 5 for emotional well-being, which focuses on the five most evidence-based ways of looking after our mental health (connect, be active, take notice, keep learning, and give). Participants take part in group activities and discussions that highlight ways that they can build Take 5 into their lives just by making some simple changes.







# FOR COMMUNITY

**NOT PROFIT**

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## BCCU

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### OPENING HOURS

MON: 10AM - 4PM\*\*  
TUES: 9AM - 1PM\*  
WED: 10AM - 4PM\*\*

THURS: 9.30AM - 4PM\*\*  
FRI: 9.30AM - 4PM\*\*  
SAT: 9AM - 12NOON

\*PHONE LINES ONLY  
\*\*CLOSED FOR LUNCH 12.30PM - 1PM



# Gambling Awareness Workshop

The sixth-form students were delighted to welcome Mark from GamCare to deliver a Gambling Awareness workshop in the sixth-form centre on Thursday, 20th February. Students learned about the facts of gambling and gaming while also building their critical thinking skills and digital resilience. Mark discussed that this is key in helping young people make informed choices about their participation in gambling in the future and preventing further harm.



## NI Chest Heart Stroke Well Schools

We welcomed representatives from the NI Chest Heart Stroke Well Schools branch, who gave a talk to all year groups on the dangers of vaping and the effects it has on the body. This very informative



## Sparx Stars

It is lovely to see all our Sparx stars. Regular completion of Sparx Reader and Sparx Maths can boost students' knowledge and progress in these subject areas. These home learning platforms are a great way to help learning stick.





# Rest Assured, You're In Good Hands

**Hutchinson At Home** has been providing high quality care at home for over 10 years and now they've gained recognition of their investment in staff and training with the win of the IHCP 2024 Care Team Award.

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## Hutchinson Community Nurses

We are delighted to announce our upcoming Community Nursing service - Hutchinson Community Nurses. Let's discuss how we could support you in providing exceptional nursing care, tailored to suit your needs, all in the comfort of your own home.

Contact: [maria@hutchinsoncarehomes.com](mailto:maria@hutchinsoncarehomes.com)  
02894548512 Ext 6012



**Hutchinson Care Homes** is a local family run business, operating 6 Nursing Homes in Antrim, Randalstown and Ballyclare areas. We have over 30 years' experience in providing exceptional care across County Antrim. Each of our six private nursing homes offer its own unique character, charm and setting with bright airy rooms and tranquil gardens

As the first Gold Standard Investors In People Nursing Home Group, we are proudly committed to investing in our staff teams, striving to continue to provide excellence in all that we do.



## Current Vacancies

- **Twilight Care Assistant** - Glenkeen Nursing Home, Randalstown and Ballyclare Nursing Home
- **Care Assistant** - Ballyclare Nursing Home & Clareview Nursing Home
- **Twilight Nurse** - Massereene Manor, Antrim
- **Night Nurse** - Glenkeen Nursing Home, Massereene Manor

To find out more information and a full job description on these roles, contact [general@hutchinsoncarehomes.com](mailto:general@hutchinsoncarehomes.com)

## Hutchinson at Home Home Care Team Award Winners 2023



For more information on our services visit  
[www.hutchinsoncarehomes.com](http://www.hutchinsoncarehomes.com)





# Sixth form fundraising

Our sixth-form formal committee organised a non-uniform day on Friday 21st March for all sixth-form students to raise funds for the year 14 formal. They also held a series of events in the afternoon, including a staff-student football match and an ice bucket challenge. The staff team were triumphant in the football match with a 2-0 win, with goals from Rodney and a penalty from Mr Martin. There was a great atmosphere on the pitch, and the staff team were awarded medals for their win, which they were very proud to receive and wear.

The students collected votes from staff and students to pick two staff members and two students to take part in the ice bucket challenge, with £1 per vote which went towards the fundraising. Thank you to everyone who voted and to Mrs Feeney and Mr Miller, who stoically accepted the ice bucket challenge. The students who accepted the challenge were Layana and Harrison. Thank you to all staff and students who put themselves forward. It was a lovely day for all involved. Thank you to everyone who participated. The event was very informative for all, and we hope that the message of safe driving remains with our sixth form students as they embark on their driving career.





# New Modular Accommodation

Our new modular accommodation comprising two classrooms and additional toilet spaces has now been completed this year. Classes which were previously timetabled in the sixth-form centre and the new library were timetabled in these new classrooms. We thank the Education Authority for providing us with these additional classrooms.



## Force Atlantic Team

We welcomed the first all-female armed services team to row across the Atlantic into our senior assembly. The team, representing the British Army, talked to students about the team-building and resilience skills they acquired throughout this challenging expedition, even including the problem-solving skills they had to use when two sharks circled them.

It was inspiring to hear about the fantastic achievements of these dedicated women, and students gained some insight into pushing and challenging themselves, something they can consider as they approach their summer examination series.





# Cool FM PSNI Roadsafe Roadshow

Our sixth-form students received a hard-hitting road safety message at the Police Service of Northern Ireland's Roadsafe Roadshow at Mossley Mill, in conjunction with Cool FM.

The roadshow relayed how thirty seconds of 'fun' while driving or as a passenger can end in tragedy, highlighting that we should never take risks on the road.



## Antrim Library visit

Our junior prefect leadership team were fortunate to be invited to Antrim Library to meet the Children's Commissioner, Chris Quinn. During the afternoon, the prefects had the opportunity to hear about their various rights within education and to discuss what changes they would make to college life. It was interesting to listen to some of their viewpoints and to meet other leadership teams across Antrim.





# The Integrated Colleges Debating Competition

Our sixth-form students received a hard-hitting road safety message at the Police Service of Northern Ireland's We were delighted to be invited to participate in the Integrated Colleges Debating Competition hosted by Queen's University Belfast. The Integrated Colleges Debating Competition, held in collaboration with QUB The Literific and the Integrated Education Fund (IEF), brings integrated colleges together in a friendly competition to debate and discuss contemporary issues.

Rachel and Abbie (Team A) were commended for their impressive use of rhetoric and their presentation of unique arguments for the opposition. Eve and Lydia (Team B) were praised for their strong persuasive delivery and rebuttal of points of information from other teams. Well done to both teams who won their heats and made it through to the final, with Team A, in collaboration with Lagan Integrated College, winning the final debate. Congratulations to Eve, who received individual recognition for her compelling closing speech in the final debate.

Rachel, Eve, Abbie and Lydia demonstrated fantastic teamwork and excelled in their performances throughout the competition.

The event was very informative for all, and we hope the message of safe driving remains with our year 13 students as they embark on their driving careers.





# Languages and Careers Festival at Queen's

Seventeen of our GCSE French and GCSE Spanish students travelled to Queen's University Belfast for a Languages and Careers Festival. They listened to key speakers from various businesses, such as PWC, Tourism NI and GLG, who talked about the transferable skills that are developed when learning a language and how keen they are to employ candidates with a language-learning background.

They heard from current and past students from QUB, who spoke about their experiences during their year abroad in Portugal, Spain, and France and the skills they developed that are now useful to them upon their return. Key speakers from the French and Spanish embassies, the British Council, and the QUB Careers service spoke to the students about the wide range of career and cultural opportunities available when learning languages. QUB offers over twenty courses that can be studied alongside a language.

Students then had a tour of the campus. They particularly liked the Students' Union Lounge, the various eateries, The McClay Library and Queen's Film Theatre.





# Leadership Lunch at Slemish College

Our head boy, head girl and their deputies enjoyed attending the leadership lunch hosted by Slemish College in Ballymena. During the day, the prefects had the opportunity to meet our leaders from various schools. Students discussed what they felt made a good leader and explored their qualities.



## Senior Prefect Training



Our senior prefects took part in their follow-up training session with Legal-Island. Our prefects explored the various strengths and weaknesses they have as leaders of the college. They carried out a personal SWOT (strengths,





# Tree Festival

On Thursday, 12th December, our 9OR class visited First Antrim Presbyterian Church's Tree Festival to preview the forty Christmas trees decorated by a range of organisations and charities within the Antrim community. The students thoroughly enjoyed a visit out in the community and had great discussions about what they decorated their trees with.





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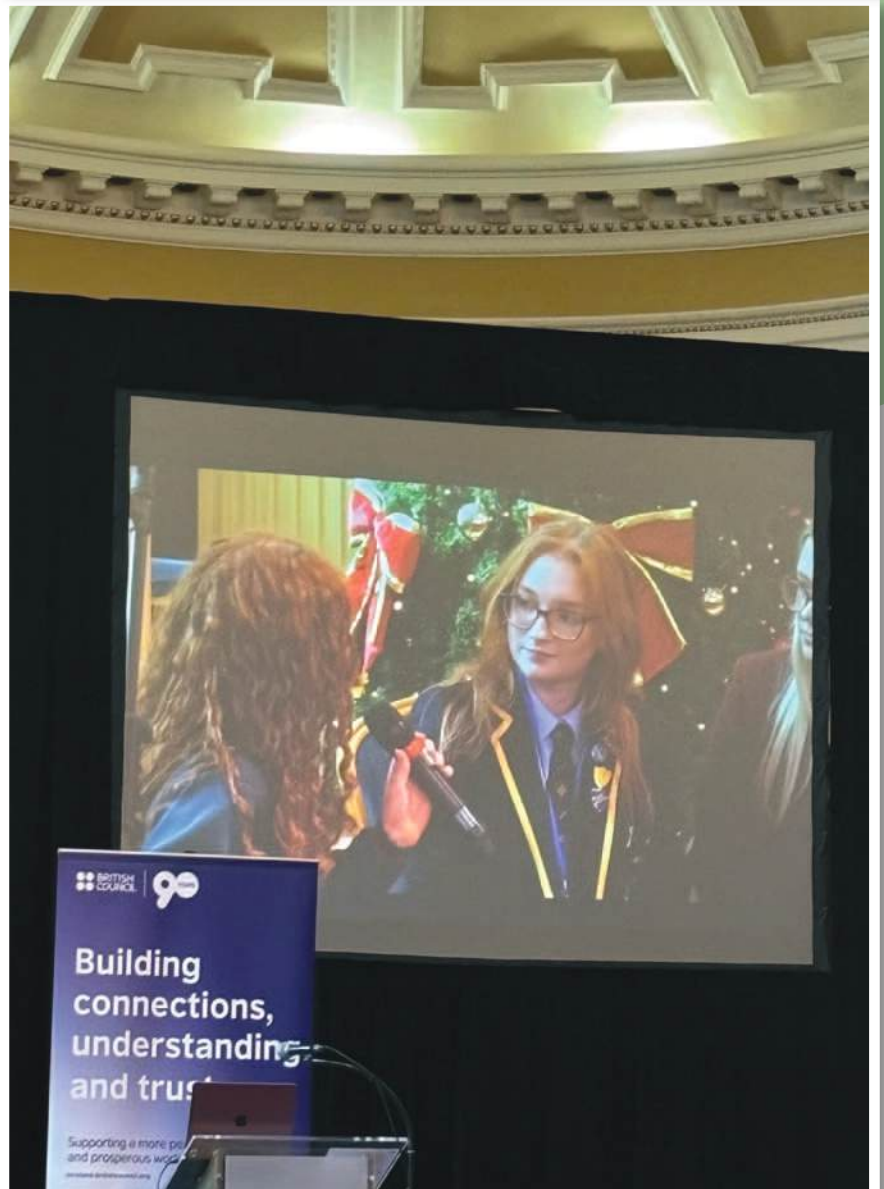
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# Visit to Belfast City Hall

Our head boy and head girl had the privilege of attending the climate negotiation simulation event organised by the British Council at Belfast City Hall. Harrison and Rachel represented the college by taking on the roles of various world leaders and creating a global agreement to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.







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# Senior Book Buddies

Our senior Book Buddies headed to Antrim Library during their enrichment time. The students signed up to the library, browsed the shelves, and sought out some reading material to share with their junior Book Buddies. These students volunteered each week to support junior students who find reading challenging. They offered our junior Book Buddies reading support, friendship, and fun. The students are all looking forward to their next trip to the library with their junior Book Buddies.



# Sustainability Leadership Summit

Mr Owen has had the privilege of attending the International Education and Sustainability Leadership Summit at the International School of Monaco alongside our head boy and head girl. This summit focused on critical global issues related to education and sustainability, reinforcing our commitment to preparing our students to be responsible global citizens. The insights gained from this summit and our continued partnership with Sustainability Education will further enhance our work at Parkhall Integrated College.





# Open Evening Prizes

Following our Open Evening, Mr Owen visited some local primary schools to award prizes for the competitions we ran that evening.

Congratulations to Chloe from Loanends Primary School, Luke from St Comgall's Primary School, Antonia from St Joseph's Primary School and Amelia from Antrim Primary School.



# Massereene Manor Visit

In December, some of our year 13 students headed to Massereene Manor to visit residents, help them write their Christmas cards, have a chat, and spread some Christmas cheer. This is the beginning of a new intergenerational project that will see our young people build bonds with residents in Massereene Manor and support those living with dementia.





# Ski Trip 2025

In January, Students had a fantastic week in Italy, where they learned to ski, sampled local Italian cuisine, and took in the incredible mountain views. Our students were complimented on their determination and excellent manners — a really positive representation of our college abroad.









# Visit to The Royal Agriculture Winter Fair

Our GCSE Agriculture class had the opportunity to attend The Royal Agriculture Winter Fair at the Eikon Centre. This visit proved to be an immensely educational experience.

During the fair, the students explored the fascinating world of farm technology, gaining insights into the latest advancements and innovations in the agricultural sector. They also had the chance to view various cattle breeds, enhancing their understanding of livestock management and breeding practices.

Furthermore, the fair provided a unique platform for the students to engage with representatives from numerous companies and discuss potential career opportunities in the agriculture industry. These interactions were invaluable, offering the students a glimpse into the diverse career paths available within this vital sector.

A highlight of the day was the visit from HRH Prince Edward, adding a touch of royal excitement to the event. His presence highlighted the importance of the fair and the agricultural industry as a whole.



## GMG E-Farm speaker

It was lovely to have Gareth McDonald from GMG E-FARM to speak to our year 12 Agriculture class. He provided valuable insights into agricultural technology and sustainable practices, which immensely helped with career advice and the students' research tasks. Working with a local young entrepreneur made it a truly enriching experience for everyone involved.





# Year 11 Animal Care Trip

In January, some of our year 11 Animal Care students had a great trip to a local equestrian centre as part of their studies.





# Robert Peters Workshop

The Art department invited Robert Peters into college to work with our talented year 12 GCSE Art students. Robert shared his experience of working as an artist as he guided students through dry-point printing. The workshop was very successful, and each student produced a number of high-quality prints that formed part of their own exhibition of work in May 2025.





# Introduction to colour

In November, all year 8 art students started an introduction to colour. This six-week project explored the formal element of colour, and students learned about primary, secondary and tertiary colours as they completed a colour wheel.

Students also improved their painting techniques through a number of fun learning activities that supported their development. This part of the year 8 curriculum always proves very popular with year 8 students.





# Year 13 and 14 Art Trip

Our year 13 and 14 students had an action-packed art day in Belfast. First, the group walked around the grounds of Queen's University before taking part in a print workshop with the artist Declan Byrne. After the workshop, the group viewed the 143rd Royal Ulster Academy art exhibition in the Ulster Museum, which was outstanding. The exhibition provides artists and emerging talent a unique platform to showcase their work in their national museum. Our years 13 and 14 saw a full range of visual arts, from painting, sculpture and audiovisual works to ceramics, textiles and mixed media. After lunch, the group visited Botanic Gardens and the Palm House.





# Artists of the Future

The composer Debussy, the Star Wars film score and Blade were highly inspirational in January as our year 8 students listened to the rhythm and tempo of four different musical scores and responded using a wide range of mark-making techniques to create personal original responses. This fun activity was a great way to start 2024.

The Art department would like to congratulate the following Artists of the Future:

Year 8 students Georgia McNally and Logan Magill, year 9 students Samanta Martinaviciute and Max Prenter, and year 10 students Farrah McGrath and Andrew McCormill

Each student was given an art pack and a certificate to celebrate their remarkable creativity and outstanding artwork produced throughout the term, both within and beyond the classroom.

The Artists of the Future accolade is awarded each term to six students who exhibit exceptional talent in Art and Design and a deep dedication to developing their artistic skills.

## Art Exhibition

We are incredibly proud to showcase the fantastic talent and creativity of our GCSE Art students. Their hard work, dedication, and imagination have genuinely shone through in this year's exhibition.

Well done to all our young artists. You have done yourselves and your college proud. We can't wait to see where your creativity takes you next.





# Year 13 Art and Design

Our year 13 students were back into creating art after the Christmas break, specifically ceramics. In this unit, students explored how 3D artists respond to themes, investigated different 3D materials, and progressed to producing high-quality final 3D outcomes.



Galaxy S23



# Ceramic Workshop

Our year 13 artists made significant progress this year. We had the pleasure of having the talented ceramic artist Jakki Trainor in college to share her stylistic techniques with the students. Jakki designed a workshop on textures, creating surface texture using found dried flowers, twigs, and heather. The malleability and consistency of clay allow for endless options for tactile surfaces, and this is evident in the work produced by our students.





# Roald Dahl Day

On Friday 13th September, year 8 students spent the day wishing Roald Dahl a very happy birthday. Students took part in a Roald Dahl Day quiz, answering questions about his life, films adaptations of his stories and taking a deep dive into the magical world of his novels. The winners were awarded with a certificate, sweets and bragging rights and finished the day with a reading from *The Twits*. Students enjoyed the chance to show off their knowledge and explore the exciting world of Roald Dahl's novels.



# Book Week NI

To celebrate Book Week NI, we visited Reading Club for a few recommendations on books we must read.

Reading Club ran every Wednesday in the library. It was a time to sit back, relax, and enjoy a good book.



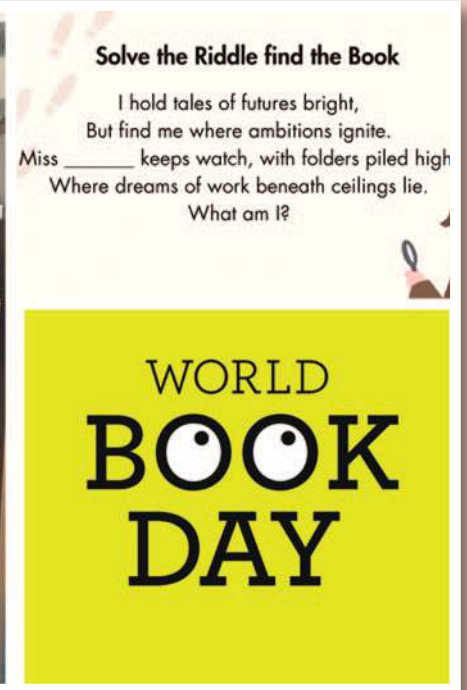
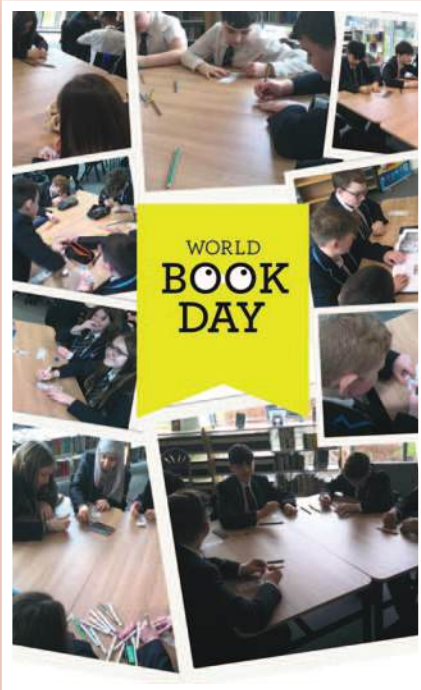


# World Book Day

World Book Day was in full swing in Parkhall Integrated College. Key stage 3 students had a special assembly all about the benefits of reading. Students visited our brand new library to take part in some serious book talk, debating the best genres, the best spies, and even the best food we've ever read about. Students then spent some time designing their own bookshelf bookmarks.

In year 9, Lillie-Anna was a riddle-solving genius yesterday, solving two out of the six riddles for World Book Day, which led students to a free book, with the most difficult one leading to a book voucher.

Well done to everyone who took part, and a special well done to Lillie-Anna for her exceptional puzzle-solving skills.



## Jack Kells success

Congratulations to year 9 student Jack Kells, who won the Top 10 Best Authors Best Seller Award for his book *The Forest Fighters* in the National Young Authors' Fair 2024. This is a tremendous achievement, and we look forward to hearing about Jack's next creation.

Well done, Jack.





# Year 14 Recruitment Interview

Year 14 Business Students completed their recruitment and selection interviews for their BTEC Business Assignment. Students had to complete three interviews as interviewers, interviewees, and observers for a job at Asda. All the students rose to the challenge, developing skills and knowledge they will take to study further or employment. Well done to all those who were involved.

Every student received their World Book Day £1 voucher. With this, they were able to purchase a free book or get £1 off a book of their choice.



## Business Enrichment

Our year 13 and 14 business enrichment group were delighted to represent the college at the last trade fair at Abbey Centre. The students had the opportunity to meet mystery buyers and pitch their latest products to business investors. All in all, it was a very successful day, with a lot of money in the till.





# Young Enterprise Digital Masterclass

To celebrate Global Entrepreneurship Week, year 12 Business and Communications Systems, students attended a Young Enterprise Digital Masterclass in Mossley Mill, Newtownabbey, on Thursday, 14th November. Students had the opportunity to hear from digital leaders from local businesses about the use of ICT in their businesses. Within groups, students then had the challenge of creating a business plan for a new app which had to be pitched to a group of entrepreneurs.

We had two groups which excelled on the day. FitQuest, who designed a sports reward app, were placed in the top four plans and had to present their idea to all those present. A second group, Woof, with their Pet App deservedly won the award for the Best Business Canvas.

Well done to all those who participated in this excellent enterprising activity. Thank you to Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council for funding this event





# Money Smart

As part of our sixth-form enrichment program, year 13 and 14 students participated in interactive sessions delivered by MindWise to empower young minds for tomorrow's financial world. These workshops focused on building confidence and resilience in the face of financial challenges, enabling our students to approach money-related topics with a resilient mindset.

We were also delighted to welcome Danske Bank to Parkhall Integrated College to deliver their Money Smart workshop, which focused on credit and debit cards, mortgages, and fraud prevention.

Students found the sessions very helpful in preparing them for the future.



# It was All Business in December

## Young Enterprise Big Market

Well done to the three companies that participated in the annual Young Enterprise Big Market in St George's Market in Belfast on Wednesday, December 11th. The companies involved were Seasonal Wonders (Year 14), Trend Hub (Year 12), and The Tenner Club (Year 10).

This was the first opportunity for the companies to sell their newly developed product range of Christmas t-shirts, Christmas Eve gift boxes, mobile phone holders, candy cane sleighs, chocolate delights and hand-crafted wooden tree decorations and coasters. The students engaged with customers and achieved good sales in a very competitive environment, considering there were 120 companies in attendance. Students gained valuable experience of team working, meeting customer needs, customer service and money management. Well done to all the budding entrepreneurs.

## Year 10 Young Enterprise Project

Year 10 students participated in the Young Enterprise Project Business on Friday 6th December. In this practical business session, students took part in a production and sales simulation in which they had to produce beaded bracelets. Students also had the opportunity to develop a marketing plan for a new product. It was a very enterprising day.





# University Visit

Year 13 and 14 students and parents/guardians enjoyed the University Roadshow hosted in the college in October. They heard about the university application process in the UK and Ireland and explored the financial side of studying at university. They then had an opportunity to meet representatives from some universities in England, Scotland, and Wales to explore subject and facility offerings as they finalised their choices in year 14 or began their explorations in year 13.



# National Careers Week

We celebrated National Careers Week with events including a C.V. and interview skills workshop for year 12, science careers presentations for years 10, 11 and post-16, and a visit from the Royal Navy to develop the teamwork and leadership skills of our sixth-form Uniformed Protective Services classes, which are so in demand by employers in today's economic climate.





# Year 10 Careers Day

Year 10s attended a careers talk with different public sector members to help with their decisions with STEM choices.

Students heard from various members of the public sector, sales executives, sports personnel, a dental nurse, and representatives from agriculture and machinery engineering, who shared their experiences and insights about working in STEM fields. Each speaker discussed their roles, challenges, and the skills required for success in their respective careers.

Overall, the day was a great success, leaving students motivated and better equipped to make informed decisions about their future in STEM.



## UCAS Exhibition

Year 13 students enjoyed an educational visit to the UCAS Exhibition. They had the opportunity to speak to facilitators of higher education, further education, apprenticeships, and employers. Students were able to explore the wide range of options available to them, beginning to make decisions about their future career pathways and next steps as they approached the final year of their educational journey. We ended the day with Domino's pizza, celebrating the start of their subsequent journeys together as we look to the future.





# Drama Trip

The year 13 Drama and Theatre Studies cohort attended the Mac Theatre, Belfast, to see Bruiser's production Wasted. Afterwards, students availed of a private Q&A session which provided an excellent opportunity to meet the actors and director, enabling them to ask vital questions to contribute to their final exam. All had a great evening.



## Drama

After completing their GCSE devised pieces, Miss McEvoy's year 12 GCSE Drama group were treated to some hot chocolate. The students' dedication and commitment was reflected in their exemplary performances.





# Exploring Geography: Year 8's Fantastic Farm Trip

On Friday, 9th May, year 8 students embarked on an exciting educational trip to Streamvale Open Farm as part of their Geography studies. The day was filled with fun, learning, and hands-on experiences that everyone thoroughly enjoyed.

The highlight of the trip was the "farm to fork" journey, where students learned about the fascinating process of milking cows and how the farm transforms this fresh milk into delicious ice cream. This practical lesson gave students a deeper understanding of the food production process and the importance of dairy farming.

Throughout the day, students had the opportunity to see and interact with a variety of farm animals. They learned about animal husbandry processes, gaining insights into the care and management of livestock. This interaction not only educated the students but also allowed them to appreciate the hard work and dedication involved in farming. In addition to traditional farming activities, the students discovered how Streamvale Open Farm has diversified into tourism. They explored the glamping pods and visited the on-site ice cream parlour, learning about the farm's innovative approach to attracting visitors and generating additional income.

The trip also provided a comprehensive look at the different stages of industry. Students observed the primary sector of farming, the secondary industry of processing milk into ice cream, and the tertiary industry of tourism and retail. This holistic view helped them understand the interconnectedness of various economic activities.

Overall, the trip to Streamvale Open Farm was a fantastic experience. The students returned with a wealth of knowledge and wonderful memories. We look forward to taking next year's Year 8s on this fantastic trip.

Parkhall Integrated College is excited and privileged to commence this partnership with Bruiser Theatre Company as the first-ever affiliate college.





# GCSE Field Trip

Our Year 11 Geography GCSE students embarked on an exciting field trip to the Curly Burn River to conduct a river study. They had the opportunity to witness geography in action, observing how erosional processes transform the river's shape. Fortunately, the weather was perfect, and they enjoyed a sunny day along the north coast without needing waterproofs.





# Tayto Factory Visit

On Wednesday 9th October, year 11 and 12 Food and Nutrition classes and their teachers went on a trip to The Tayto Factory in Tandragee. As part of the GCSE Food and Nutrition course students cover topics on food provenance and food production and processing. Over the course of the day, students learned about the origin and variety of the potatoes and why they are used, as well as the importance of supporting the local economy by purchasing the majority of the potatoes from Northern Ireland, with twenty different farmers supplying potatoes to the company.

Students also saw the whole process from the potatoes being brought into the factory to the end product, where they were ready for dispatch to the shops.

Throughout the trip, students and staff had the opportunity to sample a range of different crisps and snacks, from crisps which had just been fried and had no flavouring to their seasonal limited-edition range, including roast gammon party mix and turkey, ham and stuffing crisps. At the end of the visit, everyone had an exclusive chance to taste a brand new product which has not been launched in the shops yet: a limited edition hot chocolate popcorn. By all accounts, it was absolutely delicious.



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# Food and Nutrition

## GCSE Practicals

Congratulations to our Food and Nutrition GCSE class, who completed their practical assessments. They put tremendous time, effort, and creativity into each dish. We are very proud of them all for their outstanding achievements.





## Year 9 - Preventative Education Programme

As part of our Learning for Life and Work curriculum, year 9 welcomed the Smashed Project for an interactive alcohol-awareness workshop. They enjoyed a drama performance and discussed the following themes:

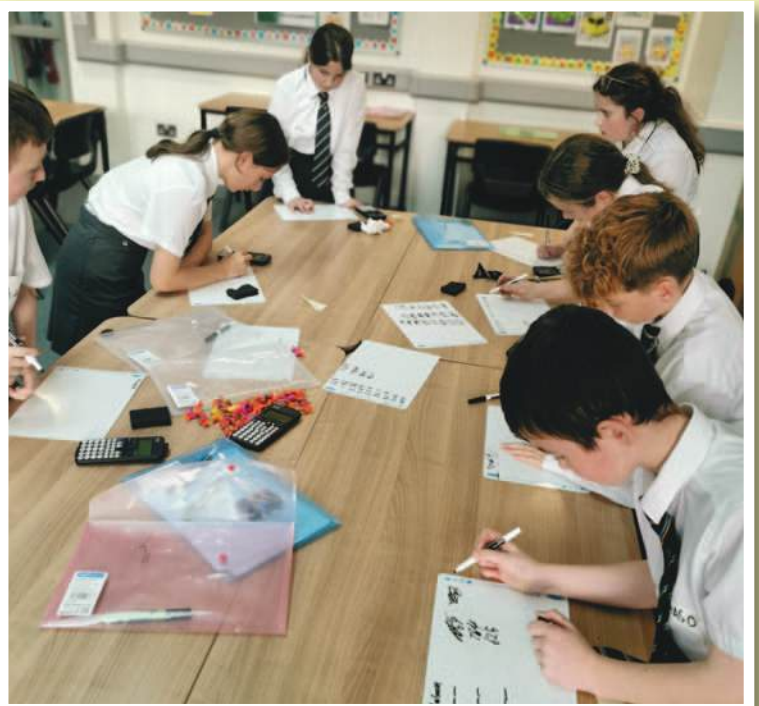
- The social and emotional causes of underage drinking
- The impact of alcohol on young lives
- Social influence and decision-making
- Where and how to seek help for yourself and others





# Axiom Maths Circle

Our inaugural Axiom Maths circle met for the first time in October, celebrating with a pizza party. For the first time, they worked as a team to solve puzzles involving squared numbers and congruent shapes. It wasn't all hard work, though, as they also had some festive sweets and chocolate.





# Spanish Trip to Barcelona

Spanish Trip to Barcelona

Barcelona Tour 2025 by Sophie James and Peyton Duffy

(Day 1) Our day started at 4:00 a.m. when we met at the college to catch the bus to Dublin Airport. Once we arrived at the airport, we checked in and went through security. We were given some free time to eat breakfast before boarding the plane. It was our first time flying with Vueling Airlines. The flight was enjoyable because we were all excited to arrive. Once we had arrived in Barcelona, we were greeted by lovely weather. We then went on a tour of Barcelona, and it was great because the tour guide pointed out many of the city's famous landmarks. We saw the Gothic Quarter, Arc de Triomf, Port Vell, Las Ramblas, Sagrada Familia and Casa Batlló. It was a great way to see the city. The guide was very friendly and taught us a lot about the city. He took us on the cable car ride at Montjuic, so we could see how big and beautiful the city is from above. After the tour, we headed to the hotel. The hotel room was lovely and we were able to share it with our friends. The food was excellent!

(Day 2) We started our day off at the Barcelona Aquarium, after a swim in the pool. We saw many different types of sea animals, including sharks and many kinds of fish. One of my favourite fish is the clownfish, as it reminds me of the movie Finding Nemo. The highlight was the penguins! My friends and I also got to feed the fish, which was an unforgettable experience. After the aquarium, we headed to the CosmoCaixa Science Museum. I am a big fan of science, and all the interactive activities made it easy to understand how science works and its impact on everything around us. After the science museum we headed to Parc Guell, another unique creation by Gaudí. This place is terrific, and I would recommend visiting it. We then headed back to the hotel for the night. We weren't back until 10.30 pm.

(Day 3) Thursday was my favourite day because we got to go to Port Aventura Theme Park. It is amazing! My favourite ride was the 'Dragon Khan', which has two loops. Despite having a fear of heights, I went on the 'Shambhala', which has a height of 76 meters (249 ft). Having my friends there to support and encourage me helped me overcome my fear. After visiting the theme park, we headed back to the hotel for dinner and then went bowling, which provided a great way to enjoy some friendly competition.

(Day 4) The last day was filled with sightseeing, shopping, and travelling. We visited the Sagrada Familia, a place that had been on my bucket list. We were taken on a tour of the inside by a lovely Spanish lady who told us about the building's history and its symbolic representations. An interesting fact we learned was why some of the windows are green and blue and why some others are red and orange (the green and blue windows face east and represent the cool of the morning light, while the red and orange windows face west and reflect the colours of the sunset). After our tour, we visited a large shopping centre for some shopping, and there was a tapas restaurant where we had the opportunity to try tapas if we wanted to. We then travelled to the airport to catch our flight home.

The Barcelona trip was an unforgettable experience that we were lucky enough to share with our friends. I would recommend it to anyone interested in travelling with friends, learning more about other cultures and having fun!











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# Music Trip to the Ulster Hall

Year 11 and 12 GCSE Music students and some instrumental students joined Mrs McCarthy and Miss Brown on a trip to the Ulster Hall to hear a concert given by the Ulster Youth Jazz Orchestra and the Ulster Orchestra. The main concert was directed by Irish French violinist Fiona Monbet and accompanied by her jazz trio of piano, bass and drums.

Our students were able to experience professional live music to widen the students' analytical listening skills in preparation for their GCSE listening paper; to bring music to life and to experience a live concert given by excellent young people and professional musicians.

To make the experience even better, the students enjoyed a delicious pizza during the break between the two concerts.



# Music Trip to Antrim Library

GCSE Music and String students enjoyed a lunchtime trip to Antrim Library to hear four members of the Ulster Orchestra perform as a string quartet. The repertoire included Caroline Shaw's Entr'acte and Haydn's String Quartet in Bb Major Op.76 No.4.

Many of our students had never heard live music performed by professional musicians. The students asked the Ulster Orchestra players many excellent questions, particularly about playing technique and how much practice they had.





# Sport Guest Speaker

Our BTEC Sport and year 12 Occupational Studies classes had the privilege to hear from guest speaker Nigel Jones, who visited the college to deliver a presentation on coaching in a performance environment as well as being a professional athlete. Nigel's background in cricket is second to none, as he is a very experienced coach and player in New Zealand, Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, among other countries. Nigel's current role is Youth Talent Pathway Coach for Cricket Ireland. Nigel's knowledge has helped further the students' knowledge in a professional sporting environment, which helped them complete parts of their coursework.



## Sports Recognition

Our PE department has been trying to encourage the number of girls who love and play sports.

We have recognised several of our new year 8 students who have been involved in extracurricular activities and sports and awarded them with bronze attendance certificates.

We would love to see many more girls take part in a range of sports and represent our college at competitions.

If anyone would like to get involved but is unsure how, please speak to someone in PE.



## New Cricket Uniforms

Thank you to Islandbawn Stores and Paul Kirkpatrick for their continued sponsorship of sport at the college. In May, we unveiled our boys' new senior cricket uniforms. Our cricketers looked fantastic as they played their best cricket.





# Under-12 Boys' Rugby

The year 8 boys took part in their first under-12 Ulster Rugby Blitz at Coleraine Rugby Club. Fifteen boys played some impressive rugby for their first matches of the year. With five games played against other Antrim schools and eight tries scored throughout the tournament, it was a great start to their rugby days at Parkhall Integrated College.



## Rugby

The rugby season kicked off this year for the U16 and U14 rugby teams with Ulster Rugby putting on local X7 Blitz tournaments around the province.

Our teams went to Ballyclare RFC to compete against other local teams such as Bangor Academy, Integrated College Glengormley and Strangford College.

Both teams had a great day out, showing their try-scoring abilities with over eighteen tries scored by both teams. The under-16s got to the third-place play-off, narrowly losing 4-3 to Ballyclare after being 4-0 down.

The under-14s won one of four games but showed great grit and determination to only lose by a try in each game. The year 9s who stepped up to the next level got a great taste of what's to come. This was a great way to start the season for both teams with preparation for fifteen-a-side games throughout the rest of the year.





# Year 13 and 14 Enrichment Programme

The year 13 and 14 students who selected PE as part of their enrichment were given a fantastic opportunity to complete their IFA Introductory Football Coaching Award.

Nigel from the IFA is coming to the college to deliver the award to enhance the students' coaching skills in sport. Coaching provides many benefits for the students, including improving their confidence, knowledge, and potential for employment opportunities.



## IFA Introductory Coaching Award

In October, our sixth-form PE Enrichment students began their practical aspect of the IFA Introductory Coaching Award. This was a great opportunity for them and will benefit them enormously.





# Primary School Football

We were delighted to welcome eight local primary schools for a seven-a-side blitz. On a beautiful, fresh day, students took part in three rounds of games, showing great enthusiasm and ability. Students, staff, and parents had a great day.



# Primary School Football Blitz

We were delighted to host another primary school blitz in December. In a week of bad weather, we were lucky that the sun came out for a couple of hours and helped make for an enjoyable afternoon with lots of quality football and more importantly, smiles on faces.





# Lidl Programme and the Youth Sport Trust

We welcomed Dr. Michael McKillop MBE, an Athlete Mentor for the Lidl Sport For Good Programme and Paralympian, into college to deliver an assembly to our year 8 students, sharing his journey and delivering key messages.

During the day, he delivered a workshop to our year 11 BTEC students, who will develop their skills to organise an event that will use sport to mentor and support younger peers. The students thoroughly enjoyed their time with Michael and are excited to get planning their event.





# Sport Enrichment Programme

Congratulations to our year 13 and 14 Sport Enrichment students who completed their first-aid training as part of their National Coaching Course. It is wonderful to see our students acquiring this vital skill.



## Sixth-form Enrichment

In February, our Year 13 and 14 Enrichment students moved on to hockey, having completed their football assessments with the IFA.

We were delighted to invite former student and International Irish hockey player Jonathan McMeekin to college to talk to the students and introduce their initial hockey umpiring qualification.





# Sports Day 2025









# Gideons International NI

Before the end of the first term, we welcomed Robert Armstrong from Gideons International NI to our year 8 assembly. Robert spoke to our year 8 students and presented them with an individual copy of the New Testament with Psalms and Proverbs.





# Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies Trip

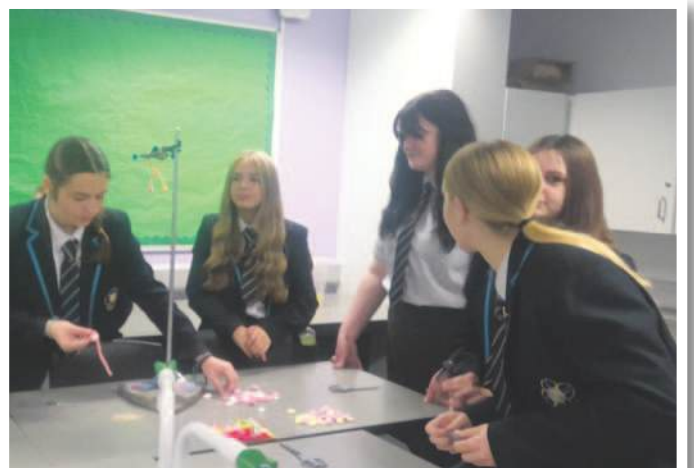
The year 11 Road Traffic class took part in the transport and logistics masterclass at Mossley Mill. Students were allowed to sample some of the careers in the motoring industry, such as lorry driving and apprenticeships based on mechanics—special congratulations to all our winners for the different activities throughout the day.





# Year 10 Science

Students in the year 10 Science class studied DNA. Miss McMath showed them how to recreate the double helix using sweets. We have to wonder how many sweets made it into the double helix and how many provided energy to the students while they were completing their tasks. Whatever the answer, Miss McMath reports that the class did admirably.



## Science Visit to Queen's University

On Wednesday, 28th May, our year 11 Science students attended The Salters Festivals of Chemistry at Queen's University Belfast.

Students listened to a keynote speech from Dr Jonathan Carroll of the Irish State Laboratory, spent the morning making and purifying their Aspirin using a range of advanced scientific techniques, and took part in a careers panel with scientists across various industries, learning about their career pathways through studying science.





# A Technology and Design Christmas

Our year nine students were set for a merry Christmas. Here are some of them with their finished Christmas trees.





# Uniformed Protective Services Trip

The year 14 Uniformed Protective Services class took a trip to Palace Barracks as part of the teambuilding and leadership aspect of their current coursework module. The morning's army assault course was a real baptism of fire for students under the command of a drill sergeant as they faced their fears, built resilience, and reached nerve-wracking heights in windy conditions. Students then participated in teambuilding activities and weapon handling. Ellie and Imogen were the first females on the course to take home both awards for most "kills" in the weapon simulation.





# Our College's Wellbeing Hub

In the heart of our college lies a quiet yet powerful force for good: the Wellbeing Hub. More than just a room with cosy furniture and calming colours, this dedicated space has become a vital part of our college community—offering students a safe haven to recharge, reconnect, and rediscover balance amid the hustle and bustle of as college life.

The Wellbeing Hub supports the mental, emotional, and social health of our students. Equipped with mindfulness tools, and resources on managing stress, the Hub is supervised by trained staff members who are always ready to listen and guide.

In December this year, the students in the wellbeing hub hosted a coffee morning for staff, allowing them to build trust in a safe space. It was an enjoyable morning and the students showcased their hospitality skills with some delicious treats. All of our hub students really enjoyed their roles of hosting and welcoming staff to their Hub. It was lovely to see students and staff enjoy each other's company in a more relaxed setting outside the classroom.

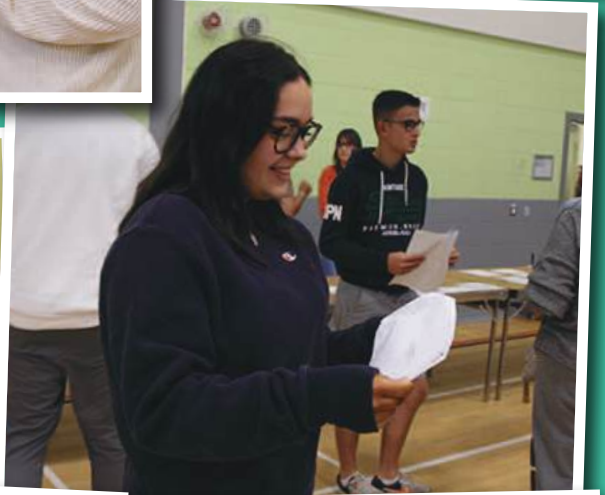
In April, our students took the opportunity to continue with Take 5 steps to wellbeing initiative in college. The students in the Hub delivered an Easter treat to an 'eggs-tra special' member of staff, showing an act of kindness.

Our goal is to keep building a community where every student feels heard, valued, and supported.

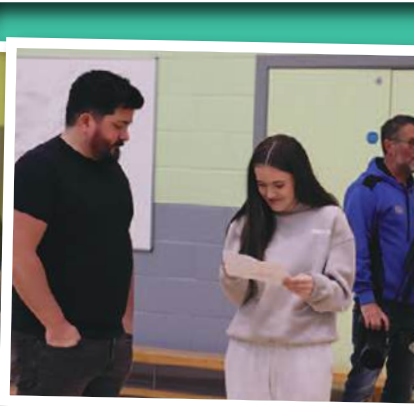
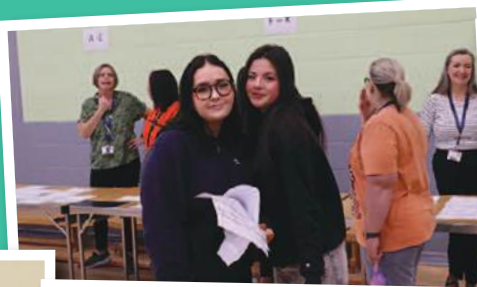




# GCSE Results









# PRIZE GIVING

One of the highlights of the annual college calendar here at Parkhall Integrated College, the annual prize distribution, took place on 28th September. It was wonderful to see this celebration of success where students, parents and guardians, staff, governors and community guests come together to recognise the range of academic and extra-curricular achievements.









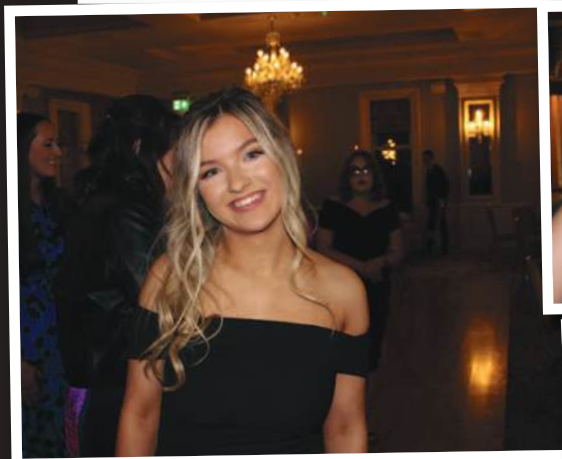








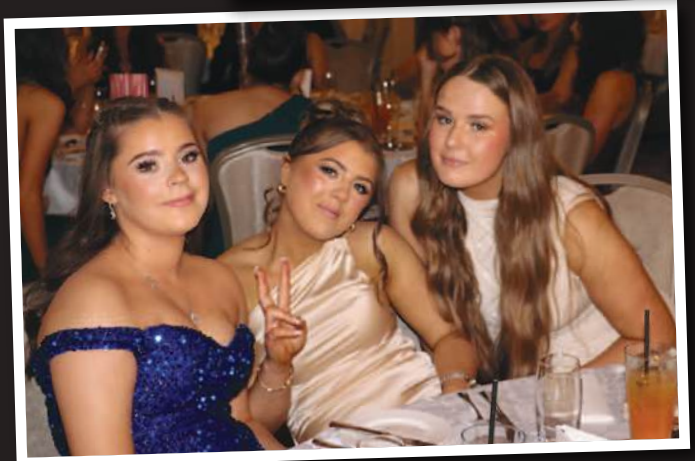
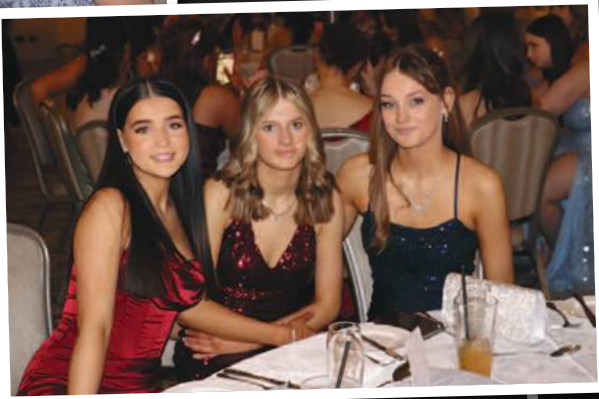
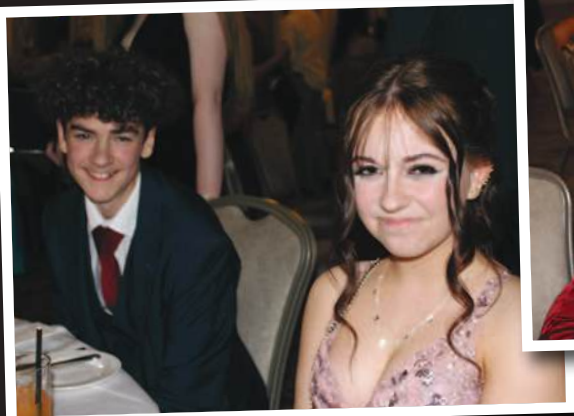
# Year 12 **Formal**

















# Macmillan Coffee Morning

Many thanks to the staff and sixth-form students who contributed to our Macmillan Coffee morning. Our total raised in September was a fantastic £280.00.



In November, representatives from our sixth-form charity committee presented Pat McHenry with a cheque for £280, which the staff and students raised during our September Macmillan Coffee Mornings.

Thank you to everyone involved and to Pat for coming in to accept it on behalf of Macmillan Cancer Support.





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# Shared Education

Some of our year 8 students enjoyed their first shared education event of the academic year in September. They met their peers from Antrim Grammar School and St. Benedict's College to celebrate Good Relations Week. Students explored the skills needed for transitioning from primary to secondary school and enjoyed some time in the sun with their burgers and chips.



Some of our year 8 students participated in their second shared education activity of the academic year. They travelled to St. Benedict's College, one of our partner schools, and Antrim Grammar School, where they participated in teambuilding games. The focus of our partnership this year is to build upon the common Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing approach, adopted by all three partnership schools. This session focused on connecting and keeping learning. The students demonstrated excellent teamwork skills, resulting in some fabulously spooky outcomes.





# Shared Education

Some Year 8 students met with their peers from Antrim Grammar and St. Benedict's College for their next shared education activity. The focus of this session was to be an active strand of the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing initiative.

Students played and trained together in hockey, football, Gaelic football, and rugby - sports they all voted for. It was great to see students working together outside the classroom.





# Student Success

## Ellie Bingham



Year 9 student Ellie Bingham showed her superb equestrian skills at the TRI Inter Schools Showjumping League (week 2) on Saturday 28th September. Ellie competed in two competitions and was placed second in the Premier Open Individual 1.10m category on her pony, Little Pretender. She also placed third in the Open Individual 1m category with her pony Drumree Willow.



## Marko Bates

Year 10 student Marko Bates made a remarkable achievement by scoring a century (100 runs for those who don't follow cricket) in a match for the college cricket team. This is the first century in the 53-year history of the college. The young batsman is a star in the making.



## Erin Winters

Year 9 student Erin Winters has had a busy few weeks. She travelled to Birmingham on the 4th of October to compete in the British Championships, where she finished a fantastic fifth in her age group at an elite level on a double mini-trampoline. She also had the fantastic opportunity to meet Olympic gold medallist Bryony Page. She was also awarded a certificate at the Mary Peters Athletes Academy for 2024 and met our very own Olympian, Mary Peters.



## Mason Mercer

Mason Mercer was the only competitor from the college who competed in the District C cross-country competition in Raphoe. It was worth the trip as Mason finished sixth out of over a hundred competitors - the highest-ever finish by a Parkhall Integrated College student.



## Ariana Lupascu

Congratulations to Ariana Lupascu in year 13 who was awarded first prize in this year's Carson Awards for her brilliant piece of art entitled Integration Blooms for All.





## Jessica Patterson & Evie Fawcett



Congratulations to Jessica Patterson and Evie Fawcett who were selected for the NW Hockey Development Programme. Evie was selected for the second year running as a goalkeeper, while Jessica attended trials for the first time and was put through her paces on a very busy Sunday morning with over eighty girls trying out and was selected to join the team this year.

## Katie McCormill

Congratulations to Katie McCormill, now a young Northern Ireland Netball ambassador. Katie went through a stiff selection process, and we are delighted to see her picked. She has put a great deal of work into creating a netball team at Parkhall Integrated College.



## Tegan McKeown

Year 11 student Tegan McKeown 11MP performed fantastically at the British Ice Skating open competition in Sheffield on the 3rd of March, resulting in her achieving a new personal best score.



## Bethany Park & Harry Cubitt

Well done to Bethany Park and Harry Cubitt, who raised an amazing £1580.30 for the charity Just4Children (RCN 1164473) which Mr Cunningham and Mrs Cunningham's daughter Penny has been supported by.

Just4Children provides support for families to help their children with disabilities and sickness. They provide and assist in the provision of services and grants to enable them to obtain medical treatment, therapies and equipment which would not otherwise be available to them. Bethany and Harry sold raffle tickets and completed a Guess the elf's name competition to win a bike kindly donated by Halfords.



## Reuben Goudy

Year 8 student Reuben Goudy is a Templepatrick and Loanends Jujitsu club member, led by Sensei Lorraine Gault. Reuben took part in a national grading on Saturday, March 23rd, at the Seven Towers Leisure Centre in Ballymena and achieved his blue belt.





# Student Success

## Abigail Molloy



Congratulations to Abigail Molloy in year 10, who participated in trials against stiff competition from many players in other schools to become part of the Ulster Under-15 Talent Development Programme.

Abigail also umpired at Ulster Hockey School Blitzes

## Lara Melly



For the past eight weeks, year 11 student Lara Melly has been participating in a Royal Life Saving Society UK Rookie Lifeguard Awards programme in Antrim Forum and completed the bronze stage. Congratulations, Lara, on this tremendous achievement.

## Bethany Kirk



Congratulations to Bethany Kirk who passed her grade 3 violin exam in November.

## Grace B, Evie F, Izzy W & Keavie R

Well done to four Parkhall Integrated College students who took part in the RELEVE 2025 Dance Event, held at the Marketplace Theatre in Armagh on Saturday, February 22nd. This event was open to dancers from all over Ireland.

Photographed: Grace B (U11 Hip Hop), Evie F (3rd place U11 Hip Hop), and Izzy W (2nd place U14 Lyrical).

Not photographed: Keavie R (U14 1st place Hip Hop and 1st place Lyrical).





## Lucy Johnston and Sophie Hoey



Well done to Lucy Johnston and Sophie Hoey, who attended the NEEBSA athletics finals and were placed second and third in the high jump, clearing 1.25m and 1.3m.

Well done, girls, on a fantastic achievement.

## Emily Wray



Congratulations to Emily Wray, who joined Miss Logan in the Randalstown Ladies' first eleven team in the senior cup final at Stormont.

Well done, Emily.

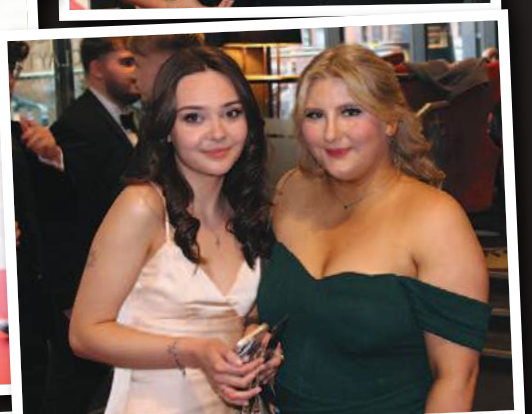
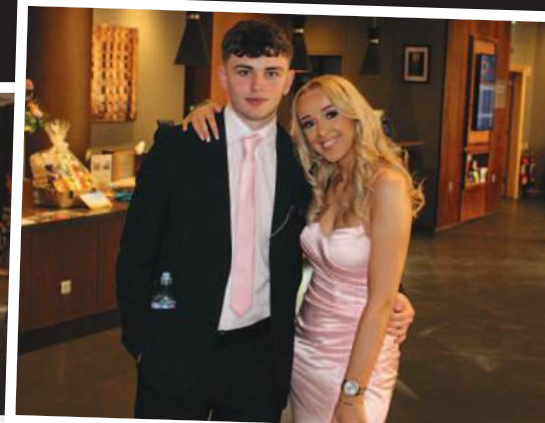
## Katie McCormill

Well done to Katie McCormill in year 13, who has been selected as Massereene Golf Club's Junior Captain for this year. Katie takes on this role from our former student, Brooke Davis.

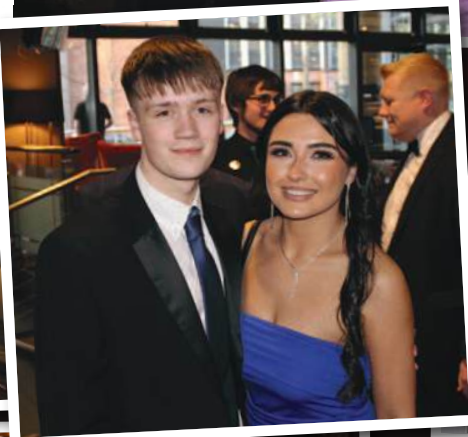
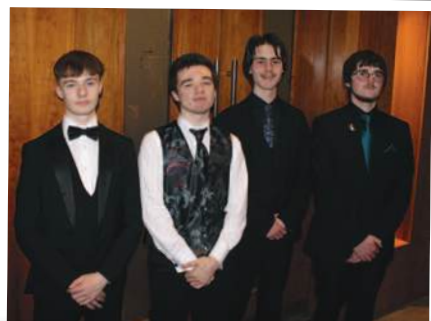




# Year 14 **Formal**









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