



OMAGH ACADEMY



AUTUMN TERM NEWSLETTER



Season's Greetings from all at Omagh Academy



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to the Young Enterprise Team, 'Emerge' on finishing as runners-up in the 'Best Overall Company Category' at the recent Young Enterprise Trade Fair at St George's market, Belfast. Team 'Emerge' competed against 70 Young Enterprise companies from across the province with their product, 'The Ouch Pouch', a medical kit for children.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Armour Young in Year 12 won Joint First Prize in the Schools' Bible Project Competition and was the only prizewinner from a Northern Ireland school. Students were invited to imagine themselves actually present at an event in one of the Gospels and to write about it. Armour travelled to the House of Lords on Monday 14th December where he was presented with his prize. This was first time that the RE Department has entered the competition.



SPEECH DAY 2015



Head Girl, Amber McFarland and Head Boy, Luke Hanson.



Zara Hamill and Sarah Wallace were the recipients of the Academy Award for excellence at GCSE.

On Wednesday 16th September, our annual Speech Day ceremony occurred. We had the pleasure of Rev Selwoode Graham MBE in attendance as the guest speaker. Pupils from Years 8-14 were presented with prizes for a wide variety of achievements including service to the community, enterprise and subject awards for GCSE, AS and A2 performance. The Head Boy and Head Girl reported on the extensive range of activities and events that had taken place over the course of the previous academic year.



Jenny Hemphill and Rebecca Sharkey with the T Ross Henderson Memorial Award presented to the French Debating Team.



Top Achievers at GCSE Level.



Prizewinners at AS Level.

Photographs courtesy of Mrs McColgan



MATHEMATICS UPDATE

MATHS WEEK IRELAND 2015

Once again in October, Maths week hit Omagh Academy and the department, with the help of Year 13 mathematics students, organised a successful range of exciting and challenging mathematics events each day for all Year Groups with great prizes on offer.

Events that took place included: Mathsletics, Bingo, 'Whose room is it anyway', Mangahigh, mathematics snapchat competition, #iusemaths, STEM presentations and the infamous Pi competition. A full description of events will be outlined in the end-of-year school magazine.

Mrs Trimble



SECOND PLACE IN GCSE MATHEMATICS IN NORTHERN IRELAND



Congratulations to Sarah Wallace who was placed joint 2nd (out of 17,241 candidates) in GCSE Mathematics in Northern Ireland. Well done, Sarah.

Sarah Wallace is pictured with her Mathematics teacher, Mrs McColgan



MATHS CLINIC

Just a reminder, to encourage your child in KS3 to avail of the 'Maths Clinic' at lunchtime Monday - Thursday, if they are encountering any difficulties with particular topics in mathematics.

UK SENIOR MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE 2015

On 5th November, 67 (approx. 10 absent) of the Year 13 and Year 14 mathematics students took part in the UK Senior Mathematics Challenge.

Thirty nine students were successful in receiving certificates with eight gaining silver certificates and thirty one students receiving bronze certificates. Congratulations to all pupils who took part and especially to Daniel Anderson who received 'Best in School' certificate and Sarah Wallace who came second in school and achieved top place in Year 13.

Mrs Trimble



ECO- SCHOOLS

It has been another fun and busy term for the Eco-School committee. Every Monday lunchtime we meet to take part in a range of various activities. We carried out a leaf identification activity in September to familiarise ourselves with the trees in the school grounds. During October we took part in the World Days of Action. Firstly the Eco-school committee spent time weeding two areas in the school grounds which we had planted up last year. Then we planted different bulbs for the spring. These included crocuses, daffodils, alliums and muscari, as these plants are good pollinators.



Our Eco-schools committee were successful in being accepted for a place on the International Eco-Schools Litter Less Campaign funded by Wrigley Company Foundation. On Friday 27th November we participated in a litter pick both around the school grounds and at the playing fields at Campsie. The Eco-Schools committee along with Mrs Braden, Mrs McColgan and Mrs Lennox collected 11 bags of rubbish weighing a total of 21kg. We are aiming to highlight the issue of litter in school and the local community and to make a positive impact on it.

Mrs McColgan

STAFF NEWS

We extend a warm welcome to the following members of staff who have joined us in a temporary capacity:

Mr L Gillespie (Technology & Design)
Miss E Hunter (Classroom assistant)
Miss A Kidney (Classroom assistant)
Mr R Mitchell (Intern)
Dr R Rees (History)
Mr N Stewart (English)
Mr W Stewart (Technology & Design)
Miss L Toner (Biology)
Miss S Wilson (PE)
Mr R Woods (English)

Miss L Acheson (RE) has joined the ranks of the permanent teaching staff.
Best wishes to Mrs Cobane, Office Manager, on her retirement.

Congratulations to the following members of staff who have recently added to their families:

Mrs Dickson (Joey)
Mrs Keown (Daniel)
Mrs Cuddy (Hudson)
Mrs Gregg (Reuben)

Congratulations to Mrs Thompson formerly Miss Farrell on her marriage in June.

Congratulations to Mr Arbuthnot on being appointed as the Ireland U18 Girls' Hockey Manager.

Thank-you to Mr Forker for covering Mrs McConnell's maternity leave.

YEAR 9 GORTATOLE FIELD TRIP

On the 22nd and 23rd of October a very excited Year 9 headed to Gortatole Activity Centre in Co. Fermanagh to study rivers. After meeting our instructor and getting kitted out in water-proofs we headed straight to the bus to travel to our first stop.

Throughout the day we stopped at three different sites in the river with A LOT of walking in between each one. At each stop different groups measured the cross-sectional area of the river, the velocity, the gradient, the bedload size, the pH and the temperature.

We were extremely lucky as somehow the rain held off! It was really fun investigating all of the things we had learnt about in the classroom in a real life setting. Thanks to all of the Geography teachers and instructors involved; it was a fun day for everyone!

Emma Hamilton (9A)



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES



European Day of Languages in September is always a whirlwind of excitement in the Modern Languages Department of Omagh Academy. This year was no different with year 8 pupils and staff dressing up in European costume, whole school French breakfast served in the canteen and much more.

Pupils in Years 9-11 competed in an Extreme European Quiz, while GCSE students watched French and Spanish movies.



Taste fests of many different European foods were held in several classes with prizes for the most adventurous tasters!

All through the day the importance of language learning was highlighted; essential skills in a society where our need to do business with other countries and communicate with our fellow global citizens has never been greater.

Mrs Henderson



YEAR 12 BUSINESS STUDIES CONTROLLED ASSESSMENT

Our Year 12 Business Studies have to complete a piece of Controlled Assessment. This involves the pupils researching a business - this year we focused on Danske Bank - and other sources to investigate the areas of Production, Stakeholders, Technology and Training. We were very grateful to Shona Taggart from Danske Bank who came to Omagh Academy and answered our questions. She invited our classes to the bank and we were grateful to have a tour of the branch, to see the coin counting machine in action (you can bring unbagged money to the branch, pour it in to the machine and it counts and lodges your notes and coins) and to find out how technology has transformed the ways in which you can organise a mortgage. We were also grateful to the staff of the branch who completed our questionnaires about training in the bank. The pupils have to write up their reports in the weeks before Christmas.



From left: Mr Bingham, Shona Taggart, Jake Irvine, Cara McQuaid and Sylvia Patton (the incoming branch manager).

YEAR 10 PUPILS ENJOY VISIT FROM AN AUTHOR



On Tuesday 29th September the author Patricia Forde came into school. She gave a talk to Year 10 pupils on her new novel 'The Wordsmith' and gave pupils advice on how to begin writing stories. She also signed copies of her novel. Her presentation was very well received by both pupils and teachers.

Mrs Fleming

SENIOR SU WEEKEND

Thirty one members of Senior SU travelled to the Faith Mission Centre in



Ballymena for a two night residential during the first weekend of December. Thanks must be extended to Mr Bingham for organising the residential, to the staff who accompanied the pupils, and to Paddy and Jill Crozier (CEF) for catering.

YEAR 14 FORMAL

The Year 14 Formal took place at Corick House Hotel on Friday 20th November.



SHOW JUMPING SUCCESS



The show jumping squad's first inter-schools show for this term was on 24th October at Ecclesville Equestrian Centre which was organised by Omagh High School. Our team of Hannah Leonard on Mulvin Blue Moon, Sarah Dunlop on Anaghmore Beach Babe, Jeni Lyons on Katie and Naomi Charters on Megan were placed second. Jeni Lyons had a super, fast time in the jump-off and was the worthy winner of the Individual Competition.

Our own show was at Ecclesville Equestrian Centre on Thursday 12th November and we had a record number of entries. Each competition was keenly contested and 'The Dream Team' from Omagh Integrated Primary School narrowly beat the team from McClintock Primary school by a mere 0.7 of a second to win the Omagh Academy Cup.

Our Intermediate Team: Caitlin Platts on Earls Ross Dun, Lucia Patterson on Betty, Cara Moore on George and Emma Quigley on Perfect Promise were in outstanding form. The Intermediate Class was the biggest class of the day so they were up against tough competition but the team held their nerve in the jump off against the clock and deservedly won the Waterson Family Perpetual Cup.



The final class of the day was the Open Class. Our team of Sara Dunlop on Anaghmore Beach Babe, Ella Duncan on Lough Allen Dancer, Jeni Lyons on Katie, and Hannah Leonard on Blue Moon were one of only four teams from the twelve entries to qualify for the jump off. They won the competition through their teamwork and some superb individual rounds against the clock. The team was presented with the Semple Family perpetual Cup by Morgan Semple, a former pupil of Omagh Academy, who returned to assist with the running of the show.

Team captain, Hannah Leonard, was delighted and very proud to bring the cups home to Omagh Academy and to present the spoils to Mr Hill!

Hannah and the Show jumping squad would like to thank all parents and friends who so willingly gave their time to ensure our show was successful. In particular we would like to thank Hannah's Mum, Jennifer Leonard, who worked very hard in the background before, during and after the show.

Mrs Waterson

ART AND DESIGN NEWS

Top Candidates in NI CCEA Examinations

Rachel Sproule, Jeni Lyons, Chloe Hagan, Rebekah Gibson and Naomi Charters, are amongst the top achieving candidates in the CCEA Summer 2015 GCSE Art and Design examination for attaining maximum marks. Each pupil will receive a certificate from CCEA in recognition of their exceptional achievement. At AS Level Stuart Harpur achieved a Top Candidate award in the CCEA examination.

(Photograph courtesy of The Ulster Herald)



School Christmas Card Competition

The Art Editor of the School Magazine, Rebekah Gibson, worked in conjunction with the Art Department to promote the School Christmas Card competition. The overall winner was Zach Murphy in Year 8. Well done, Zach! Zach's design which was created using oil pastel features a winter landscape study of a lake. His design has been used for the official School Christmas Card. All of the prize winning entries will be reproduced in the 2015-16 Magazine.

Results:

Overall Winner - Zach Murphy 8D

Year 8

Winner - Leah Bogle

Runner Up - Sophie Bradshaw

Year 9

Winner - Georgia Pentland

Runner Up - Alice Brunt

Year 10

Winner - Bethany Younger

Runner Up - Zara Crawford



Zach Murphy being presented with his award by Rebekah Gibson.

YEAR 10 GORTIN GLENS FIELD TRIP

On Tuesday 4th November Year 10 pupils went on the annual Geography Trip to Gortin Glens. While being guided around we looked at various features of the forest like, for example, what wildlife inhabit it, what trees and plants grow there and what the conditions are like in the forest! We also found out a lot about conifers, which there are no shortage of in the Glens. We studied a podzol soil profile, which is found in this forest. We really enjoyed this as it was a completely different experience than just learning about it in class as we could see it for ourselves.

Over all the trip was a great day out, for many reasons such as, the temperature was above freezing (a big change) and the pine trees reminded us of Christmas. But apart from that, our tour guide was extremely helpful and ensured we learnt a lot about coniferous forests and Gortin Glens itself.

We want to thank Mrs McKinney, Mrs Lennox and Mr Forker for organising the trip and also to the Forestry Service for ensuring we had a great day!

Leah Neill and George Donaghy (10A)

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

Another school year, another bunch of eager participants for the Duke of Edinburgh award scheme! The first training weekend took place at Gortatole from 16th-18th October and thankfully, Fermanagh brought us perfect hiking weather instead of the torrential rain which last year's group experienced. On Friday night, an introductory meeting was held to allow us to meet the leaders and volunteers who would be training the pupils during the weekend. After a fairly comfortable night's sleep and a delicious Trangia made breakfast, each group had to repack their rucksack. Then it was time to get down to business and get hiking! With all groups taking different groups, some climbing Trien, others Benaughlin and round forests, all under the watchful eyes of the experienced Gortatole staff and Academy teachers. For many of the participants it was their first time navigating, orientating a map and even climbing a mountain! Despite the climb, spirits remained high as the thought of dinner became a reality and we settled down to another night outdoors. On Sunday, a short walk and some first aid training brought us back to Gortatole where each group had to prepare a short presentation showing what they had learned over the weekend. Recognition should be given to Mrs McKinney for organising the weekend as well as Mr Gillespie and Mrs Lennox who gave up their weekend to accompany the group.



YEAR 11 CINEMA TRIP

On Tuesday 20th October Omagh Academy's English Department organised a trip to the cinema to watch the new film version of 'Macbeth'. Pupils in Year 11 enjoyed the experience, affording them a great opportunity to see a modern interpretation of a text they have been studying for their English Literature Controlled Assessment.

Macbeth is a 2015 Scottish war drama film directed by Justin Kurzel and written by Jacob Koskoff, Todd Louiso, and Michael Lesslie, based on William Shakespeare's play 'The Tragedy of Macbeth'. The film stars Michael Fassbender in the title role and Marion Cotillard as Lady Macbeth. The film was a great success and much enjoyed by pupils and staff alike.



Miss Fahy

CONTRIBUTING TO THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

Year 11 pupils worked in the Art and Design department afterschool to create a Christmas Tree for the 'Light of the World' Christmas Tree Festival, which was held in Lislimnaghan Parish Church at the end of November.



Pupils focused on the symbolism of the star to represent the Christmas Carol 'It was on a Starry Night'. The star is central to the Christmas story as it directed the Magi to the birthplace of Christ. The paper folding technique of origami was used to make the stars. The music manuscript for the Christmas carol was also integrated in the design of some stars. The origami stars were then decorated using metallic coloured embellishments, reflecting the ornate gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh which were presented to Christ.

The festival raised funds for three charities, St Vincent de Paul, The Bishops Appeal and Pancreatic Cancer as well as church funds.

Miss McFarland

YEAR 8 MERIT PRESENTATIONS NOVEMBER 2015

On Wednesday 25th November those Year 8 pupils who had accumulated 25 merits were presented with Bronze certificates by Mrs Smith. Mrs Smith is one of our Vice Principals and oversees pupil progress in Key Stage 3.



As the year goes on there will be further presentations of certificates and pupils can gain Silver, Gold and Platinum Certificates. At the end of the year those pupils who are awarded the most merits will be rewarded with a trip. Last year the pupils visited Brunswick Superbowl - plenty of incentives to work hard and give of your best!

Mr Bingham

DIARY DATES



Monday 4th January
 Tuesday 5th January
 Thursday 7th January
 Thursday 21st January
 Monday 25th January
 Thursday 4th February
 Thursday 11th February
 Friday 12th February
 Monday 15th & Tuesday 16th February

Spring Term begins
 Year 11 Parents' Meeting
 Year 12 Mocks begin
 Transfer Open Night
 Year 13 exams begin
 Year 14 exams begin
 Year 12 Parents' Meeting
 Staff Day
 Mid-term Break

GEOGRAPHY PHOTOGRAPHY AUTUMN 2015

The Geography Photography Competition this term has been a huge success thanks to all the pupils who have shown such a keen interest in photography.

Due to the high volume of entries this term we decided to have 3 winners within each year group at Key Stage 3. The quality and variety of photographs entered was outstanding making shortlisting a challenge. Miss McFarland from the Art Department kindly helped to shortlist the winners. All prize winners received a certificate, prize and merits!

Well done to our winners!

Mrs Lennox

Year 8

- 1st - Lucy Giles 8C "Drumragh River in Omagh"
- 2nd - Jessica Hamilton 8D "Rainbow scene"
- 3rd - Jill Liggett 8A "Landscape in"

Year 9

- 1st - Joel Smyth 9C "Panorama in Gortin"
- 2nd - Jack McMaster 9B "Frog in a field"
- 3rd - Lucy McQuaid 9C "Sunset at the coast"

Year 10

- 1st - Gavin Short 10C "Ploughing the fields"
- 2nd - Cassie Lagan 10B "The Alps en-route to Italy"
- 3rd - Rhys Gray 10B "Gortin Trees"

Year 11

- 1st - Lucia Patterson 11B "Footprints in the sand"

Highly Commended

- Zara Crawford 10B "Butterfly Scene"
- Sarah Liggett 10C "Wind turbine at Corbo Farm"



Gavin Short's winning entry

PUNCTUATION OF SCHOOL TEXT MESSAGES

Parents are asked to note that the punctuation of some school text messages will be incorrect owing to the fact that our text messaging program does not permit the use of apostrophes.

SPORTS ROUND-UP

FOOTBALL

Omagh Academy has once again entered an U18 and U16 team into the NI Schools Cup.

The U18 team opened their campaign with an outstanding performance against North Regional College and won 3-2 in extra time. A 2-0 defeat away to De La Salle halted the progress in the main completion and pushed the U18s into the plate where they defeated Rainey Endowed by 4 goals to nil to move into the Quarter Finals.

The U16 team met an excellent Fort Hill College side in the first round of the Cup and lost 5-1. They have received a bye in the first round of the plate competition and await the draw for the next round.

GOLF

The Golf team set about defending the Passmore Shield in early September. A number of new players were added to the squad this year having lost a number of senior players from last year's squad. Unfortunately these changes and lack of experience contributed to a defeat to Omagh CBS who won back the trophy. While the score of 11 - 2 sounds like a comfortable victory for CBS it was by no means this way. All of the Foursomes matches went to the last hole and the morning session finished 2 - 2. The afternoon singles were also close in nature with 7 of the 9 matches going to the 18th hole.

AQUATHON AND SWIMMING

A number of Year 10 and Year 11 pupils entered a local schools Aquathlon event comprising of a 500m swim and 3K run. Ella Duncan and Ryan Armstrong both qualified for the Ulster finals, which were held at the Templemore Leisure complex in Londonderry. Both finished in a very respectable 6th place in their respective events.

RUGBY REPORT

The 2015-16 rugby season is now in full flow and for some teams, they have been in action since mid August. The TC Autos sponsored Senior Rugby Squad took on a tough, yet enjoyable pre season training programme before starting the season with a worthwhile blitz tournament at Campsie involving local rivals Portora, Foyle College and Sullivan Upper. The Senior Squad recorded one win, one draw and one loss.



The 1stXV, captained by Matthew Clyde, have made a very promising start to their campaign, recording 10 victories and 3 losses. The 2ndXV have also been in scintillating form, recording an impressive 8 victories and 3 losses. One of these defeats was away to Down High School in the 2ndXV Cup.

The 1stXV are once again entering the Schools' Cup at the 3rd Round stage.

The Medallion squad have had a difficult time with injuries to date, with up to nine players injured since September. It is great to see some of those players returning to action and hopefully they can build upon their 5 wins from 9 games as they head towards their Medallion Shield game away to Belfast High School on 5th January 2016.

The U14 and U 13 squads have had some positive results, even in defeat. The U14's have recorded wins against Campbell College Belfast, Wallace and Rainey while the U13's have overcome Lurgan College, Limavady Grammar and Rainey Endowed amongst others.

It has been fantastic to get an U13B team out on a few occasions this year and they have recorded wins against Rainey Endowed and Limavady Grammar School.

We look forward to the rest of the season and hope for many more positive performances from all teams.

Mr Hunter

HOCKEY REPORT



The 2015-16 Hockey season is now well underway. The senior teams began training at the end of August and were put through their paces during some tough pre-season work. Fixtures began on the first weekend in September with two senior and two junior teams facing Cookstown in the West of Ulster League. It was a promising start with all four teams taking the win.

For the first time in the history of Omagh Academy the 1st XI is co-captained by Claire McFarland and Chloe Frazer. Their leadership has been evident to date with an overall successful start to the season. So far the 1st XI squad have won 9, drew 3 and lost 4 matches. In their West of Ulster League campaign the girls have scored a total of twelve goals and conceded a mere one, putting them on course for a win in the league. The girls have had a very successful start to the opening of the Belfast Telegraph Senior Schools' Cup. An opening draw away to Glenlola Collegiate resulted in a significant victory for Omagh with a final score of 7-0. Both Holly Swann and Chloe Frazer scored twice with the rest of the goals coming from Christine Donaghy, Lucy Brunt and Jenny Hemphill. This was a great display of hockey from all involved and the girls must be congratulated on their effort. A bigger challenge was ahead when Coleraine Grammar School travelled to Campsie for the second round. An evenly contested match which was hampered by a significant injury to one of the away teams players resulted in a long delay in play. Omagh came back the stronger of the two teams and excellent team play resulted in a goal from Jenny Hemphill which sealed the win with a final score of 3-1. A tough third round draw sees the 1stXI take on Ballyclare High School in an away fixture. Christine Donaghy leads the goal scorers for the 1XI with a total of 6 goals.

The 2nd XI team were unlucky to exit the McDowell Cup with a 1-0 loss against Strathearn. This does not reflect their successful season to date with 8 wins, 1 draw and

4 losses. Current top goals scorer is Chloe Hood who has is in fine form scoring 5 this far. Similarly the 2B's team have been unlucky in their cup rounds. A round robin group stage resulted in a 3-0 win against Cookstown High School, but unfortunately, in extra time were beaten 2-1 by Portadown College.

The U14 and U13 squads have had some very positive results. The U14's have led the way with a clean sheet of victories. They have won 10 out of 10 games, scoring a colossal 46 goals along the way and conceding only 1. An excellent start to the season allowed them full preparation for the Junior Cup in which they met a tough Ballyclare High School opposition. However, Katie Ballantine's finishing ability at a penalty corner secured the win.

The U13 teams have also had a number of victories and have made a lot of progress this term. Clara Harper is the top goal scorer with 6 goals this far. Most recently the girls secured a 6-0 win against Foyle College.

We are looking forward to the remainder of the season and are hoping for more positive performances and victories from the all the teams at Omagh Academy.

Miss Wilson

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

SCHOOL CLOSURE IN THE EVENT OF EXTREME WEATHER

Parents are asked to note that in the unlikely event of the school having to close owing to extreme weather conditions a notice will be displayed on the school website www.omaghacademy.com and, if possible, a text message sent to parents. The school will **not** use the BBC notification service.

PUPIL APPOINTMENTS

Parents of pupils who have an early morning appointment are reminded of the school's procedures for monitoring attendance. Pupils are expected to bring a note from their parents addressed to their Year Head on a day before their appointment. The note requesting permission to be absent from class should inform the Year Head of the nature, time and period of absence needed. As far as is practical parents are asked to restrict appointments to after school.

PARENTAL APPOINTMENTS WITH TEACHERS

Parents are reminded of the following protocols for Parents' Meetings:

1. Parents are asked to use the seats in the middle of the Assembly Hall (if there are vacant seats) while waiting for a teacher to be free and not 'hover' close to the teacher's table.
2. Parents are asked to use the seats outside the Library and the Staff Room while waiting for a teacher to be free and not 'hover' close to the teacher's table inside the Library or Staff Room. When a teacher is finished talking to parents, they will check outside the Library or Staff Room and call the next parent or parents in.