

OMAGH ACADEMY

WINTER NEWSLETTER 2019



WELCOME

Welcome to our Winter Newsletter which provides us all with a wonderful opportunity to reflect on an action-packed term here at Omagh Academy. We continue to provide for the holistic development of our pupils within and beyond the classroom and that is evidenced by the vast range of activities undertaken by our pupils and staff. At the start of term we warmly welcomed our Year 8 pupils, as well as a number of pupils in Years 9-13, and we are delighted that they have settled in well and have fully embraced our school ethos. We believe passionately that all of our pupils thrive here in Omagh Academy and that their personal growth, enhanced by the values of kindness, respect and responsibility, will empower them to be the very best that they can be. During this term we welcomed Mr Reaney and Mrs McConnell to the Geography Department and Mrs Schweidler to the German Department, we welcomed Mrs Jackson back to the Mathematics Department and Mrs McKinney back to the Geography Department. We said goodbye to Mr Buchanan and Mr Strain, both of whom leave the Mathematics Department with our sincere best wishes. Our warmest congratulations are extended to Mrs Lennox of the birth of her baby son, Lewis. I thank you for your continued support of Omagh Academy and I take this opportunity to wish you a very happy Christmas.

Mrs Maxwell, Principal



DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- **Spring Term begins:** Monday 6th January.
- **Transfer Open Night:** Thursday 16th January.
- **Mid-Term Break:** Monday 17th and Tuesday 18th February.
- **Year 12 Post 16 Subjects evening:** Thursday 20th February.
- **Spring Concert:** Thursday 5th March.
- **St Patrick's Holiday:** Tuesday 17th March.

See Parent Evening dates and senior exam dates inside the Newsletter!

BEST IN CLASS



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PRIZE DAY 2019

with guest speaker Dr Dennis McMahon.



The staff and governors of Omagh Academy wish to warmly congratulate all of our GCSE, AS and A2 pupils on their exam results in August. Kyle Sawyers and Samantha Crawford deserve particular mention for their fabulous achievement of 4A* grades at A level. At GCSE level, Grace Hawkes, Nathan McClure and Georgia Pentland individually achieved an amazing 10A*/A grades. We wish all of our pupils every success in the future. The families of our pupils must be thanked for all of the support and encouragement that they have given over the years.



CCEA EXAMINATION SUCCESS

We were delighted to learn that former pupil, Nicole Catterson, was awarded second place in Northern Ireland in two Advanced Level Subjects: Digital Technology and Health and Social Care. Originally from Castlederg, Nicole is now studying at Queens University. Year 13 pupil, James Hawkes was placed first in Northern Ireland in GCSE Agriculture and Land Use. We congratulate the pupils on their fantastic achievement and acknowledge the commitment and support from both parents and teachers.

Pictured are James and Nicole with Mrs Lennox (Teacher of Agriculture), Miss Faris (Teacher of Health and Social Care), Mrs Clarke, (Head of ICT), Mrs Maxwell (Principal) and Mrs Braden, (Head of Health and Social Care).



SCHOOL COUNCIL: ANTI-BULLYING COMPETITION

One of the activities during Anti-Bullying Week was a competition to design a poster promoting the theme of this year's campaign, 'Change Starts With Us'. Well done to Scarlett, Erin, Irish, Samantha & Teoma who were awarded prizes for their posters.

OMAGH ACADEMY PLAYERS PRESENT *Blithe Spirit*

Congratulations to Mr Michael Murphy and the cast and crew of 'Blithe Spirit' on a successful production. A sincere thank you to the teaching staff & non teaching staff who worked behind the scenes, guiding and supporting. OA Key Stage 3 pupils and pupils from Omagh schools attended matinee performances on Wednesday and Thursday respectively. Evening performances were staged on Thursday and Friday for the public. Well done to all involved! Full report and pictures will be in our end of year school magazine!



SCHOOL COUNCIL: 'SECRET SANTA'

Our school council recently organised a 'Secret Santa', to raise money for School Council funds. First prize was won by Archie King 8A, second prize was won by Lydia Condy 9D and third prize was won by Hannah Johnston 10A. Also in the picture are School Council Reps Sarah Dickson, Jessica McCutcheon and Rebecca Haire.

2019-2020 HEAD BOY/ GIRL AND DEPUTIES



STRULE STUDENT COUNCIL

Recently, a meeting of the Strule Student Council for the 2019-2020 school year was held. Representatives from Omagh Academy's School Council together with representatives from our Strule partner schools were in attendance. Further meetings are scheduled to take place throughout the year.



SHARED STRULE HE PROJECT

In November 2018, Mrs Braden selected eight pupils to take part in a Strule Shared Education Home Economics Project. The pupils were tasked with creating a recipe book together with pupils from Arvalee School and Resource Centre, Christian Brothers Grammar School, Loreto Grammar School and Sacred Heart College. Year 10 pupils then cooked 'Honey Chilli Chicken' in class using the recipe book, 'Fabulous foods for the family'. The recipe that they used was contributed by Chantelle from Arvalee School and Resource Centre. The dish was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



YOUNG ENTERPRISE

Let us introduce you to 'Bam!'



This year, Year 13 have decided to name their Young Enterprise company "Bam!" Taking inspiration from comic strips, the company name neatly reflects the energy, enthusiasm and imagination brought to the 2019-2020 Young Enterprise Company. This links to the company's central aim:

'to present a product range that enables children to increase their use of a practical, sustainable, eco-friendly product in their daily lives.'

Named "Hungry Heroes", the company's product range features a choice of sturdy, dishwasher proof bamboo lunchboxes. Each lunchbox is being presented to children as a capsule which has come to Earth from another planet. Additionally, each lunchbox contains a plush super-hero bear, who has travelled to Earth on a mission to help children make our planet more sustainable!

The company members have displayed great team spirit over the three months spent developing their product. Now they are ready to attend numerous fairs and shows over the next few months!



Welcome to our YEAR 8 FORM CLASSES



We welcome our new Year 8 classes this term. It has been a busy term settling in, starting brand new subjects, gaining new friends and attending various school trips. The year group have had the opportunity to attend Castle Coole, a Manchester United trip as well as an informal and fun induction night in August. Pupils have also had lots of opportunities to take part in competitions, try out new sports and join lunch time clubs. We trust that pupils will continue to enjoy the year and take opportunities to fully immerse themselves into school life!



PUPIL VOICE

Year 8 School Council representatives, Jack, Grace, Ewan and Grace met with the Principal, Mrs Maxwell to discuss their experiences to date of Omagh Academy.

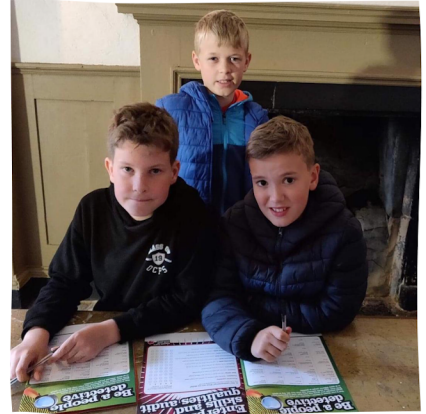


LUNCH TIME CLUBS

- Monday:** Junior Choir
- Tuesday:** Junior SU
- Wednesday:** Eco Schools and Mandarin
- Thursday:** Junior Drama (Begins in new term.)
- Friday:** ICT Club



YEAR 8 *events*



YEAR 8 THOUGHTS SO FAR THIS TERM!

THE PANINI'S
IN THE
CANTEEN ARE

the best!



"I love doing
new subjects
such as Art and
Music"



TEACHERS ARE
HELPFUL, KIND
AND
SUPPORTIVE!



I love having so
many extra
curricular
activities to
choose from

HISTORY TRIP TO DUBLIN

by Rebecca Haire

On the 5th and 6th November, Year 13 & 14 History and Politics students enjoyed a trip to historic Dublin. We were joined by Mrs Gregg, Mr Mitchell and Dr Rees who all provided brilliant commentary at each location. On the first day we arrived at the GPO where we went on an interactive tour focused on the 1916 Easter Rising. After lunch we went to a public viewing in the Dail Eireann- which is the lower house of the Irish Parliament. In the Dail we viewed a section of the order of business where TDs and party leaders asked questions of Taoiseach, Leo Varadkar. After the viewing we were graciously given a tour of the Dail and Senedd Eireann. Upon conclusion of the tour there was just enough time to visit the National Museum of Ireland. The next day we had an early start to Howth- the location of the IVF gunrunning of 1914. At the quayside Dr Rees gave an informative lecture outlining the events of the gun running. The coach then followed the route taken by the IVF smugglers in 1914 with Dr Rees providing commentary of their actions along the way. The next stop was Collin's Barracks, a former British military base which now houses the largest museum in Ireland. The 3 floors contain a plethora of exhibits including; 'dressing- IB Jargensen', 'Kings and Chiefs', 'Ireland in the Wars' and the newly opened 'Proclaiming a Republic'. The museum also houses the Asguard (the Yacht used by Erskine Childers during the Howth gun running and renovated at a cost of 1.3 million Euros). The visit to Dublin was enjoyed by everyone. Special thanks is given to Mrs Gregg, Mr Mitchell and Dr Rees.

RE DEPARTMENT WORKSHOP

by Miss Faris

The RE Department welcomed Jacqui from the Diocese of Derry & Raphoe Mothers' Union to lead a workshop on '16 Days of Activism against gender-based violence' which is an international campaign. The workshop was well received by Year 14 pupils as it links with their study of Gender Justice (part of the A2 Global Ethics module). The 16 Days of Activism campaign takes place each year from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) until 10 December (International Human Rights Day). The school was also kindly gifted a copy of the Mothers' Union student cookbook, 'Curry in a hurry' for each Year 14 pupil.



COFFEE MORNING SUCCESS!

During the half term holiday, Mrs Cairns and Mrs McLaughlin presented a cheque for £360 to Nurse Mary Doherty at the North West Cancer Centre. A further donation was also made to Macmillan Cancer Support. The non teaching staff organised and hosted a coffee morning at breaktime on Friday 18th October. A sumptuous spread was enjoyed by all.



SUCCESS FOR JAMIE LYONS!

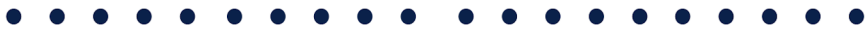
Congratulations to Jamie (Year 11) on being invited to participate in the Red Bull Rookies MotoGP selection event for 2020. Jamie will compete at the Guadix Circuit alongside 100 shortlisted riders from over 40 countries in the world. We are so proud of you Jamie!



PSYCHOLOGY CONFERENCE

by Mr Arbuthnot.

Wednesday 27th November, pupils from AS and A level Psychology prepared their own research to be presented and reviewed by QUB and UU lecturers. Sadly on this occasion we did not medal, with Banbridge Academy taking top spots in both sections. The standard of work was very high and the Academy pupils were commended for their level of detail and presentation skills. Pupils presenting were; Year 14 Amai Johnston, Alex Patterson and Molly Adams – Year 13 Holly Loughlin, Sinead O’Neill and Lucy Roleston. A big well done to these presenters and the wider group from the Psychology Society who helped them prepare for this big event.



SCHOOL COUNCIL PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

Led by Mrs Fleming

Year 13 recently took part in a Public Speaking Competition on Mental Health, on the 11th October. The winner was Jack McMaster. Speakers were also Kirsty Turner, Sophie Monteith, Lucy Roleston, Lucy McQuaid. This was to raise awareness of mental issues issues experienced by young people.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARDS, ST. JAMES' PALACE LONDON



● ● ● ● ●
Congratulations to all our former pupils on receiving their Gold Duke of Edinburgh certificates from HRH The Earl of Wessex in St James' Palace in September.



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS TRIP TO BBC TOP TABLE.

On Monday 21st October 2019 the Year 13 AS Government and Politics pupils went to BBC Blackstaff building in Belfast for the filming of the Top Table presented by Stephen Nolan. The format of the show sees a table of politicians' debate with young people and allows for the audience to get involved in the debate. This episode was a Brexit special which was shown throughout the UK on BBC Three and on BBC One NI. It included guests in the studio such as Edwina Currie, Jim Wells, Eilisha McCallion and Claire Hanna with figures were on camera from College Green in London such as Anna Soubry. The pupils thoroughly enjoyed seeing the politicians put through their paces, debating Boris Johnson's Brexit deal and making their cases to leave or remain in the EU and found the experience very useful for their A Level study.



A LEVEL HISTORY

*Lecture by
Dr Phoenix*

On Thursday 5th September Mrs Gregg and 8 A-Level History students attended a lecture given by the eminent historian, Dr Eamon Phoenix.

Dr Phoenix delivered a very informative address on 'Ireland in Transition- 1918-20'. The talk proved very useful to students- providing a synopsis of the Home Rule Crisis, Sinn Fein's success in the 1918 general election and the Government of Ireland Act of 1920.

Our thanks go to Miss A Hodge and the Omagh and District Ladies Probus Committee for inviting Academy students to share their meeting.

HOMWORK CLUB

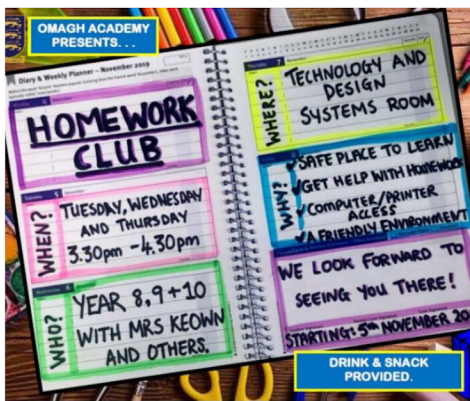
Homework Club is held on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday from 3.30pm until 4.30pm in the Systems Room over in the Technology and Design Department. The club can be accessed by all pupils in Years 8, 9 and 10.

SENIOR EXAMS

- Year 11 Exams: 12th- 19th March
- Year 12 Exams: 8th- 21st January
- Year 13 exams: 23rd- 24th January
- Year 14 Exams: 27th - 28th January

PARENTS EVENING

- Tuesday 7th January- Year 11
- Tuesday 11th February- Year 12
- Tuesday 10th March- Year 10
- Tuesday 24th March- Year 9



AS/A2 English Literature pupils attended a recent conference at Ulster University, Coleraine.

NEWS FROM THE MATHS DEPARTMENT

MATHS WEEK IRELAND 2019

Once again in October, Maths week hit Omagh Academy and the department, with the help of Y13 mathematics students, organised a successful range of exciting and challenging mathematics events each day for all year groups with great prizes on offer. Some events that took place were: Mathsletics, Bingo, 'Sudoku, Mangahigh, #iusemaths, Maths Heroes table quiz, our infamous Pi competition and many more. A full description of events will be outlined in the end of year school magazine



Tyler Buchanan broke an OA record during Maths Week. He recited Pi to 222 decimal places in the annual Maths Pi competition. Well done, Tyler!



UK SENIOR MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

November 2019

In November, Omagh Academy Y13 & Y14 mathematics pupils were most successful in the recent UK Senior Mathematics Challenge.

Twenty seven mathematics pupils were successful in receiving certificates with three pupils gaining gold certificates, five pupils gaining silver certificates and nineteen pupils receiving bronze certificates.

Congratulations to all pupils who took part but especially to Joshua Danton, (best), Warren Stewart & Nathan McClure who achieved gold certificates and were invited to take part in the Senior Kangaroo Competition. An amazing achievement!



REMINDER: GCSE Mathematics pupils will sit an external module in either M3 or M4 on Monday 13th January 2020



YEAR 9 GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP

Year 9 attended a field trip to Gortatole Outdoor learning centre on the 21st/22nd October. They spent the day conducting a river study in their groups and learning about the landscape from the instructors. We stopped and had a picnic lunch with hot chocolate along the way! The day was great fun for all and we are proud of how our pupils conducted themselves on the trip.



ECO SCHOOL UPDATE

The Eco-Schools committee continue to meet up every Wednesday lunchtime at 1.20pm. The pupils have been encouraging the whole school to recycle more by introducing a recycling box in every classroom. The items for recycling include paper, cardboard and plastic bottles. We are again involved in the recycling scheme 'Cash for clobber' and we would be most grateful of any donations of unwanted clothes, which can be left into the school office. Earlier in the term, the committee spent time in the Eco-School garden, both maintaining it and also learning about different flowers and wildlife living in it. We are feeding the birds through the winter months and will take part in the RSPB birdwatch at the start of next year!



YEAR 14 BIOLOGY TRIP

by Mr Cairns

Mr Cairns' Biology class travelled to the north-west on September 22nd to carry out fieldwork sampling exercises related to the ecology topics in the A2 course. This annual trip facilitated by the EA Magilligan Field Centre is designed to enable the students to gain valuable experience in practical methods and helps them to relate their theory lessons to real world situations.

A slight change of venue this year, saw the colourfully clad wind-swept group descend on the sand dune system of Magilligan Point. Several sampling procedures were undertaken to identify and record the plant species present as well as to measure the productivity of the sand dunes in relation to the process of succession. In differentiating Lady's Bedstraw from Common Vetch it became clear that not all participants were avid botanists, but enough data was gleaned to carry out a meaningful analysis of the ecosystem. It was a bright and breezy day thoroughly enjoyed by all. Thanks to MFC for hosting us and to Mr Bradshaw who accompanied us in order to

YEAR 12 GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO MAGILIGAN FIELD CENTRE

Year 12 undertook a 2 night residential field trip to Magiligan field centre with group A attending 16th-18th September and Group B 18th-20th September. This is a compulsory element of the course to prepare for their Unit 3 field work paper. The purpose of the trip was to conduct a river study on the Curly Burn River as well as learn essential fieldwork skills. Our pupils worked extremely hard over the 3 days and were treated to a study break to Benone Beach on the final morning! *Mrs Dalzell*



NEWS FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT



On Thursday 7th November it was a busy and productive day in the Art and Design Department. Year 11, 13 and 14 pupils enjoyed working with professional printmaker Fionnuala O'Neill, to learn the process of dry-point print. During the workshops pupils created a number of tonal and coloured intaglio prints, a specialised printmaking process that requires a printing press. The finished outcomes were fantastic and will enhance their experimentation within their coursework units.

On Saturday 11th November Year 13 and 14 Art and Design pupils enjoyed working with professional printers from Seacourt Printing Studio. During the workshop pupils created a number of tonal and coloured intaglio prints, a specialised printmaking process that requires a printing press. The finished outcomes were fantastic!



Omagh Academy pupils Robyn Crawford, Emma Hamilton, Clara Harpur and Leah Smyth, are amongst the top achieving candidates in the CCEA Summer 2019 GCSE Art and Design examination for attaining maximum marks. Each pupil will receive a certificate from CCEA in recognition of their exceptional achievement.



Photograph Courtesy of Tyrone Constitution Newspaper

Pupils left to right: Emma Hamilton, Clara Harpur and Robyn Crawford. Missing from photograph – Leah Smyth.

SCHOOL CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION



*From left to right, back row: Sophie Boyd, Lena McCann, Esther Rutledge and Eleni Schizonikas
From left to right, front row: Irish Briones, Samantha Harpur and Blake Mawhinney.*



Mrs Maxwell presenting Samantha Harpur with her prizewinning printed Christmas Card.

The entries for this year's School Christmas Card competition were very high. The Art and Design Department and School Magazine Team would like to thank everyone who participated for their contributions.

YEAR 8

Winner: Irish Briones
Runner Up: Lena McCann

YEAR 9

Winner: Sophie Boyd
Runner Up: Eleni Schizonikas

YEAR 10

Winner: Esther Rutledge
Runner Up: Blake Mawhinney

OVERALL WINNER

Samantha Harpur

ENGLISH: YEAR 8 PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION



Year 8 English classes recently took part in a public speaking competition, speaking about 'My Prized Possession'. First prize was awarded to **Charlie McFarland** while **Roman Kostadinov-McCabe** came second and **Eleanor Davidson** came third. Well done to all pupils who took part in what was an enjoyable and fun morning! Thanks also to our judge, Mrs Waterson.

AGRICULTURE



This term the Year 12 GCSE Agriculture group have been busy conducting various types of research on renewable energy on farms. On the 3rd of October we visited Hall Donnell's farm in Strabane. His dairy farm and dwelling house are powered using solar panels. Not only did we get a very informative tour but an array of delicious home-baked goodies on arrival!

We then moved on to Greenville Energy – a 700-cow dairy farm in Ardstraw. Jason Mitchell kindly hosted us for a second year; This time our focus was on finding out more about his growing energy company. We were given a tour of the state of the art facility that produces thousands of kW of green electricity every year through Anaerobic Digestion. Not only can Jason power his farm with the biogas but he sends extra to the national grid, produces CO2 used for ice blasting offshore oil rigs, heat energy for the dairy farm and has replaced chemical fertiliser with digestate organic fertiliser. The potential for renewable energy use is truly fascinating! You can find out more about the company at: www.greenvilleenergy.com

Well done to the Year 12 Agriculture group for their hard work in conducting an excellent research project.



AGRICULTURE CLUB

This term we introduced an Agriculture Club at Omagh Academy. It has been an informative and enjoyable term, with over 40 attending each month. The agri-food industry is *one of the most important and fastest growing industries in Northern Ireland, with around 40,000 people employed.*

Through this new club we hope to provide:

- A variety of expert speakers who will broaden students' knowledge of the industry
- Up-to-date and current Agri-food industry issues and topics
- Factory and farm visits to broaden students' knowledge of the 'field-to-fork system' and potential career pathways within these industries
- Competitions and farming/agri-food news.



MUSIC



CHRISTMAS EVENTS

*in the Music
Department*

Tuesday 17th December: Carols by Candlelight in St. Columba's Church at 7.30pm.

This is Omagh Academy's official celebration of Christmas as we join together for readings, reflections and carols celebrating the birth of Jesus. The Junior and Senior Choirs, Orchestra and Brass Band will be taking part. This year all proceeds will go towards the work of 'Madlug': giving dignity and worth to children in care.

Friday 20th December: School Carol Service at 11am in St. Columba's Church of Ireland.

Other more informal Christmas music performances by our brass and string ensembles took place at Omagh Library and Knockmoyle Nursing Home.



OMAGH ACADEMY BRASS BAND

The Brass Band was delighted to perform in the school's Remembrance Service on Monday 11th November. They played a beautiful piece entitled 'Remembrance Suite' which was written and arranged by Bob Quick. The 'front row' cornet section also performed the Last Post and Reveille.



Preparations are well underway for the Brass Band's performance at the Strule Arts Centre on Thursday 12th December. The Band will share the programme with just Sing Choir and Strabane Concert Brass.

YEAR 10 STRING QUARTET

The String Quartet recently provided music in the school foyer as guests arrived to see performances of 'Blithe Spirit'. Well done and thank you to Iona, Jenna, Izabella & Amy.



SPRING CONCERT

*Thursday 5th
March 2020*

Tickets are now on sale for one of the most talked about events of Omagh's Arts calendar! Come to either the 2pm or 8pm performance in the Strule Arts Centre. Tickets are available from the Box Office at the Strule Arts Centre.

Orchestra, Junior Choir, Senior Choir, Brass Band, String Orchestra, Woodwind Ensemble, Guitar ensemble, Pipes & Drums will all be in attendance,

PIANO RECITAL *with Cahal Masterson*



GCSE and ALevel Music classes were treated to a fantastic piano recital by Cahal Masterson recently. He performed extracts from Beethoven, Granados and Prokofiev followed by a Q+A session, discussing music as a career.



Congratulations to OA musicians who joined with pupils from Omagh & Strabane post-primary schools for an EA Music Service concert recently. All the Tuesday rehearsals were worth it! Many thanks to the tutors who rehearse & conduct the ensembles. These music ensembles really do highlight 'shared education' in practice.

MODERN LANGUAGES

AILO COMPETITION

The All Ireland Linguistics Olympiad (AILO) is a contest in which secondary school students develop their own strategies for solving problems in fascinating languages from around the globe. Students must use their ingenuity to solve puzzles such as deciphering Egyptian hieroglyphics, decoding numerical spy codes, and interpreting ancient Mayan poetry. No prior knowledge of linguistics or a second language is required, as even the hardest problems require only logical ability, patient work, and a willingness to think around corners.

AILO introduces students to linguistics (i.e. the study of human language) and to the application of logic to problems of language understanding and translation. The goal is to develop students' problem-solving skills and to inspire them to consider the fascinating range of careers at the intersection of computing, linguistics and language.

Round 1 of the competition takes place at the end of January and usually attracts 1300+ pupils from across Ireland. Practice sessions take place each Wednesday after school in the Modern Languages classrooms and all ages are welcome.



SUCCESS IN MANDARIN

Congratulations to all students who were successful in the Spring and Summer Mandarin exams.

YCT Level 1: Charlie Farrell, Ellie McIvor, Priya Mehra and Claudia Morey-Guijarro.

YCT Level 2: Anton Onufrijevs. HSK Level 2: Simran Mehra



Mandarin classes with Ren, our Chinese tutor, are running after school (3.30-4.30pm) with YCT Level 2 class every Wednesday and YCT level 1 class on a Thursday. It's not too late to join up! See Mrs Henderson, if you are interested.

OUR NEW LANGUAGE ASSISTANTS!

Omagh Academy is very pleased to welcome our three Foreign Language Assistants for this academic year. Julie Cerizier from Dijon in France, Daniel Hernandez Rodriguez from Tenerife, Spain and Petra Schweidler, originally from Hannover, but, who now lives locally. All three Assistants bring so much to our modern language teaching. Each language learner in school sees the language Assistant at least once a fortnight, with A level students spending over an hour a week with the Assistant, perfecting their conversation and discussion skills. Our pupils very much enjoy their input to classes and their contribution to school life.



SPANISH TRIP

Barcelona
October 2019



At the start of October an excited group of year 12 Spanish students headed off in the 'wee' hours to spend a few memorable days in the North East of Spain. We started in the magnificent city of Barcelona where we saw the city from on high as we took a cable car from the mountain down to the sea. This was followed by a tour of the Camp Nou stadium and some obligatory shopping before heading south and the hotel Calypso. During our jam-packed trip we visited a monastery high up in the Prades mountains, we cycled as a group from Cambrils to Salou, we participated in a murder mystery treasure hunt in Tarragona, we experienced the thrill of the rides in Port Aventura and we even swam in the sea! It was a trip full of fun and enjoyment and a great reward after four years of Spanish learning. Many Thanks to the accompanying teachers Mr Suarez, Mrs Henderson and Mrs Maréchaux.

ADVANCE NOTICE

Mrs Henderson is now taking deposits for our 4-day trip to the French Capital, on 5-8 October 2020, which is aimed at GCSE students, and will take in all the amazing sights of Paris with many opportunities to speak the language and absorb authentic culture.



SCRIPTURE UNION

Junior Scripture Union were busy this half-term packing shoeboxes for the Samaritan's Purse Operation Christmas Child appeal. A group of enthusiastic Year 8-10 pupils were able to pack and send 45 boxes to the charity. Junior Scripture Union meets on a Tuesday lunchtime at 1.20pm in the Lecture Theatre.



Senior SU came back in September with a games week, where pupils from year 11 to 14 got to know each other fun and fellowship. Since then, we have welcomed many guest speakers, including past pupil Abby Gallagher and Gareth Carrothers who works as a full time Youth Leader and Assistant Pastor in Enniskillen Elim. We have enjoyed working with the new E3 Omagh and Castleberg team, led by Sarah Emerson and two interns; Seth Palmer and past pupil Ellie Aspinwall. On Saturday 30th November, E3 Omagh and Castleberg held the first Inters event in First Omagh Presbyterian, where pupils from schools in Omagh and Castleberg gathered to take part in challenges, worship and of course enjoy some donuts afterwards! This Christmas season we look forward to holding a Shine event, where SU will serve free tea, coffee and Christmas treats.



HOCKEY

Keep to date with latest news on the OA Hockey facebook page.

We congratulate past pupil and hockey captain Shirley McCay on firstly winning her 300th cap for Ireland, and secondly on her part in Ireland's qualification to the Olympics next summer in Tokyo! What amazing achievements for Shirley whose sacrifices, hard work and dedication over the years have paid off!

Senior hockey honours ties- awarded to pupils in Year 14 who have dedicated 6 years to school hockey and have represented the 1stXI. Congratulations to Katie Ballantine, Amy McCollum, Nadine Hunter, Lauren Armstrong, and Amy Sproule!



Introducing our hockey committee 2019-20
Captain- Lauren Armstrong Vice captain- Amy Sproule Secretary- Mia Nethery and Emma Hamilton Treasurers- Katie Beattie and Lauren Warnock
PRO- Alice Brunt and Lauren Armstrong.



ULSTER HOCKEY SUCCESS FOR LAUREN!

In September, Lauren Armstrong travelled to Cork to compete for Ulster U18s in the interprovincial competition. Her inclusion to the squad came as no surprise following an excellent summer of hockey which saw her captain the Irish U17s in Germany and play many times in Ulster friendlies.

Following a very wet weekend, Ulster emerged victorious following 4 wins from 4 games vs South East - won 2-1 vs Leinster - won 1-0 vs Connacht - won 5-0 vs Munster - won 5-1 A fantastic achievement and an experience never to be forgotten for our Head Girl and 1stXI captain! Both the school hockey club and wider school community are very proud of her achievements so far and wish her all the best for her hockey future.

HOCKEY

Report of the term so far..

YEAR 8



Year 8s recently played their first ever match against Royal School Dungannon with the A and B team winning their games whilst the C team draw. A great start to their hockey career!

UNDER 13S



The U13As have endured a tough start to the season. Since introducing a number of Year 8s, the squad have begun to improve and have enjoyed a 1-1 draw with Strabane, (E. Sproule), and a 4-0 win against Cookstown (S. Boyd, E. Sproule, J. McCaskie x 2).

JUNIOR CUP

Under14As recently played in the 3rd round of the junior cup, successfully winning their nail biting game. They will now play the winners of Friends HS and Lurgan JHS after Christmas. Well done to the squad- a great achievement so far!

Omagh Academy recently welcomed touring teams from Subiton High, London to play our junior teams. The U13s played 7 a side matches with one team losing and one team drawing. Both U14 teams narrowly lost 1-0, but took plenty of positives from the game.



SCHOOLS CUP- 1ST XI

1st round- Down High School: Won 5-0
2nd round- Royal School Dungannon: Won 2-1
3rd round- Rainey Endowed, Magherafelt in the new year. Well done girls!



1ST XI SQUAD

SUPER LEAGUE RESULTS- 1ST XI

1st game: Ballyclare HS- Lost 1-0
2nd game: Regent House- Won 3-1
3rd game: Methody- Drew 1-1
4th game: Victoria College- Lost 3-1

A great effort by the team, finishing 3rd in the group.

U14BS LEAGUE GAMES

In the league, the U14Bs drew 1-1 (E. Hamilton) with Strabane Academy, and beat Omagh High School 1-0 with Sarah Fair scoring a late goal with 30 secs left on the clock following a very good performance.

MCDOWELL CUP

The 2XIAs also recently played in the second round of the McDowell Cup, with the game ending at 2-1 in Strathean's favour. Well done to the entire squad for their excellent performance, despite the disappointing result.

GIBSON CUP

The 2XIBs played their first Gibson Cup match recently, against BRA, narrowly losing out despite many chances to score. The squad look forward to two more games at group level- we wish them all the best!

FOOTBALL

GAMBLE CUP TOURNAMENT

Our Year 8 boys recently took part at the Gamble Cup 9 a side football tournament at Castledearg High school. The boys played 7 teams, won 4, drew 2 and lost the last one 1-0. The boys were very unlucky not to progress to the semi final losing out only on goal difference in the end. Some great football was played throughout and special mention to goalkeeper Matthew McIlwaine who only conceded 1 goal all tournament and Daniel Beatty who assisted and scored many crucial goals. Well done to all the boys who took part!



IFA FUTSAL COMPETITION

In October, two year 8/9 teams and two year 10/11 played at the IFA Futsal competition at Omagh Leisure centre.

The year 8/9 teams had mixed results with the A's narrowly losing their games but finished the day with an excellent 3-2 win against Castledearg. The 8/9B team had some great results beating Drumglass 3-0 thanks to Year 8s Harry Olivers stunning hat-trick. They also beat RSD 2-0, and drew with Cookstown 2-2.

The Year 10/11 teams did brilliantly both qualifying in their groups. Team 10/11B won two games beating RSD 6-1. They also beat Aughnacloy 2-0,

Team 10/11 A won four games, beat Drumglass 1-0, RSD 4-2. Cookstown 1-0 - and last game of the group they beat Devenish 2-0. The boys went on to the final to play Holy Cross but unfortunately couldn't score despite several efforts at goal.

Great effort from the boys and to all who took part. They did their school proud!!

NORTHERN IRELAND SCHOOL PLATE COMPETITION

U16 TEAM

Our U16 football squad travelled to Armagh recently, to play Shimna Integrated in the first round of the Northern Ireland School plate competition. Although the squad was missing players due to illness they managed to win on penalties to secure a place in the last 16. A special mention must go to Joshua Keys who saved the first three penalties, claiming man of the match. The boys will now face Fort Hill in the next round. Well done to the squad!

U18 TEAM

- Our U18 football team also travelled to Armagh to play Shimna Integrated College in the first round of the Northern Ireland School Plate Competition. Despite playing against a tough team, our U18s won 1-0 to secure a place in the second round. James Hawkes, who played as left wing, was named man of the match closely followed by Dylan Deery and Zak Young who kept control of the ball at all times. Well done to the boys involved. They will either face Cullybackey College or Cambridge House in the second round.

Thanks to Mr Suarez and Mr Stewart for coaching the teams!

FOOTBALL

NI SCHOOLS CUP

On 27th November, our Junior Girls football team played Kilkeel High in the school's cup. It was a dramatic from start to finish with Omagh Academy finally winning the game on penalties (5-4: Well done to McFarland, Hunter, Huey, Dopson and Dixon for scoring!).

Congratulations to the team and all the best for the next round!

A huge thanks to Mr McCrossan for all his hard work with the girls' teams so far.



NI SUCCESS FOR AMY!

Amy McFarland (year 11) was recently selected to represent Northern Ireland away in a match against Manchester City. Well done Amy!

IFA FUTSAL TOURNAMENT

In October, our junior girls took part in a fun and competitive IFA Futsal tournament in Omagh Leisure Centre.

Two year 8/9 teams and two year 10/11 teams played matches throughout the day against local teams, with some great performances. Special mention goes to Katie Hunter, who scored four goals throughout the day.

Well done to all teams who took part!

NISFA TOURNAMENT

In November, our junior girls attended an 11 a-side NISFA football tournament at Omagh Leisure Centre. After 6 tough matches the girls made the final but unfortunately lost on penalties to Castledearg. Their efforts must be commended throughout the day and congratulations achieving your silver medals!



SHARED EDUCATION FOOTBALL EVENTS



Our Year 8s and 9s have participated in various shared education events so far. Both boys and girls took part in a 'Game of 3 Halves', during which everyone had a blast learning new skills and playing new sports! Thanks to coaches from the IFA, Ulster Rugby and GAA for running such a fun event!

RUGBY

Keep to date with latest news on the OA Rugby facebook page

2019/20 rugby season. All school teams have had a number of games and produced some memorable performances along the way. The 1stXV produced an outstanding performance to beat Cambridge House 7-0 in the Schools' cup recently. The 2ndXV and MedXV will play their cup games before the Christmas holidays. The junior school have struggled to win many games in a very tough fixture list but are showing great signs of improvement with every training session and match they complete. We look forward to more rugby in the new school year.

A squad of our Year 8s were in Magherafelt recently for an 8 team blitz hosted by Ulster Rugby. The boys produced some excellent running rugby and went on to win 2 of their 4 games.

The games were scored in a trialed format where elements like offloading, accurate passing and kick & chase were all rewarded.



Following a very long period, we were delighted to be back using our pitches at Campsie at the start of October. We have been very pleased with the condition of the pitches which will benefit all our pupils! We thank parents and pupils for their patience during the works on Campsie playing fields.

RUGBY SPONSORSHIP

The 1stXV maintain their long standing relationship with TC Autos. We thank their for their continued support and contribution to the rugby department.

SOUTH AFRICA

Preparations are ongoing for the 2021 South Africa Rugby Tour. We have completed a number of fundraising activities including an Abseil down the Europa Hotel in Belfast, a four week draw and the Rugby Shack continues to provide tea, coffee and other snacks for supporters on Saturday mornings. We thank everyone for the support.



ULSTER RUGBY SUCCESS



Great to see David Braden (U18 schools), Joel Smyth & Joshua Kyle (U17 Schools/Clubs) getting presented with their Ulster representative shirts recently at Malone RFC before going to watch the Ulster vs Scarlets game with their squads. The boys all played in a tournament at the end of August down in Limerick- a great achievement. Well done!

SHOW JUMPING SUCCESS

Recently, Omagh Academy's intrepid showjumpers participated in an Inter-Schools event hosted by Omagh High School in Ecclesville, Fintona. The Novice team which was comprised for four Year 8 pupils Grace, Nancy, Kate and Zoe, finished fourth place... a super achievement! Year 9 pupil, Alanna took part in the Newcomers category. Open Team members, left by Deputy Head Girl Saskia, were fortunate to have had a walk around the course with well known showjumper Nigel Smith, prior to competing. Showjumpers Tia and Lori were awarded prizes in the Ride and Run competition. Zara (Year 11) was placed first as an individual in the 1m-1.10 class. Well done to the pupils and Mrs Waterson. We are proud of your efforts!



Congratulations to the following pupils who were selected to be part of the sports committee for 2019-2020.

CAPTAINS:

Mia Nethery and Matthew Keys

VICE- CAPTAINS:

Emma Hamilton and Jamie Wood

COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Holly Loughlin, Katie Beattie, Carter Halliday and David Braden.

SPORTS COMMITTEE 2019



OTHER SPORTS NEWS

SWIMMING SUCCESS

In November, a large number of pupils competed in the swimming gala at Omagh Leisure Centre. Results are as follows:

JUNIOR

50m Breaststroke

Teoma Mills- 2nd

Leah Ross -3rd

50m Freestyle

Erin Sproule 1st

50m backstroke

Sarah Archibald- 3rd

INTERMEDIATE

50m backstroke

Iona Mills -1st

25m backstroke & freestyle

Alana Fleming- 1st & 2nd

50m breaststroke

&freestyle- Zara Hamilton

3rd & 1st

SENIOR

25m breaststroke & freestyle

Ava Moore- 1st & 2nd

50m backstroke & freestyle

Reece Sproule- 2nd & 3rd

25m backstroke- Robbie

Mitchell- 3rd

OVERALL WINNERS

The girls team came 3rd place overall.



Well done to Erin Sproule, Reese Sproule and Zara Hamilton who took part in the Ulster Swimming Gala in Bangor in October. Congratulations to Erin who qualified in both her 100m and 50m Freestyle. She will now compete in Dublin in the Irish Minor Schools Championship.



CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS

More success for Cassie Lagan who was chosen to represent Northern Ireland at the British Athletics Cross Country Challenge held in Cardiff on Saturday 12th October.



ULSTER MULTI EVENTS

Our multi event athletes endured a long and wet day at the Ulster Championships at Antrim recently. Despite the conditions everyone enjoyed the experience and put in some excellent performances! Well done!



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Christmas

AND A
HAPPY
NEW YEAR!



•VERITAS VINCET•