



# OMAGH ACADEMY

## SPRING TERM NEWSLETTER



### YOUNG ENTERPRISE TEAM ARE SUCCESSFUL AT EUROPEAN TRADE FAIR

We came, we saw, we conquered!

Omagh Academy's team 'Emerge' with their product the 'OUCH POUCH' a medical kit for kids won the **BEST OVERALL COMPANY AWARD** on Saturday 13th March at the **JA Europe Trade Fair** in Vienna, Austria. They competed against around 40 schools across Europe and were delighted to win the top prize. Selling out of their products, presenting their pitch and working with other schools across Europe was an exciting opportunity for Omagh Academy students Naomi Charters, Jenny Mc Gowan and Chelsea Colton. Miss Fahy, Teacher-in-charge of Young Enterprise accompanied the trio to Vienna.



### MUSICAL EXTRAVAGANZA!

The Annual Spring Concert was staged in the Strule Arts Centre on Wednesday 2nd March. 160 pupils from across the school displayed their array of musical talents to a full house. Songs from the Sound of Music and a Ukulele Orchestra were particular highlights. This year for the first time, a matinee performance was held such was the demand for tickets. The evening performance was sold out weeks ahead of the event! Congratulations to Mrs Bingham, Mrs Melarkey and the twelve music tutors involved on a wonderful evening's entertainment.





Photographs courtesy of Jude Browne Photography

## Eco-SCHOOLS



The Eco-Schools committee had a very busy Spring term with plenty of different activities. We have been feeding the birds every week in two locations around the school. We also took part in the RSPB Big Schools Birdwatch in February. This involved us learning about, counting and recording all the different birds we saw in the Eco-garden. This information was then sent to the RSPB for their records.



We continue to maintain the Eco-garden and to weed the areas which were planted out last year. These plants will be used by insects as pollinators in the Spring and Summer.



Currently we are working hard to reduce the litter around the school. This is in conjunction with the Wrigley's Litter Less Campaign we are participating in. We have purchased litter pickers, gloves and other items with the funding we received. We produced a PowerPoint which was shown to the whole school to highlight the problem with litter in Northern Ireland and in our own school. A visual display entitled a 'Litter Lifespan' was created and this is displayed on the Eco-Schools table in the corridor. Our fellow pupils have been shocked at the decomposition rates of everyday items so we are encouraging everyone to reduce, re-use and recycle.



For Eco-Schools to continue to be a success we need your help. Therefore we are asking if you have any old clothes, bags, shoes etc please donate them to our 'Cash for Clobber' scheme. We are also recycling old batteries.

Carolyn McDowell, 8D

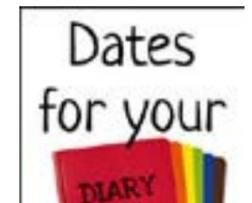


## STAFF NEWS

Congratulations to the following members of staff who have added to their families:  
Mrs McGarrigle - Daithi.  
Mr Hunter - Isla.

Best wishes to Miss Sproule on her forthcoming marriage. We will welcome her back after Easter as Mrs Colwell.

We extend our thanks to Mr Gillespie for covering Mrs Keown's maternity leave and Miss Wilson for covering Mrs Dickson's maternity leave. After Easter Mr Suarez will join us to cover Miss McMurray's maternity leave.



Start of the summer term: Monday 4th April (8.55am).

Bank Holiday: Monday 2nd May

Staff day: Monday 30th May

Last day of term: Thursday 30th June



## NEWS FROM THE ART DEPARTMENT

### Creative Talent is showcased in CCEA's True Colours Exhibition

Congratulations to Rachel Sproule, Stuart Harpur and former pupil Brooklyn Cathers. Their Art and Design coursework was selected for CCEA's True Colours Exhibition in the Ulster Museum. The exhibition is a contemporary and unique display of exceptional artwork created by students from schools across Northern Ireland.

Miss McFarland



Rachel Sproule with her GCSE coursework which is on display at the True Colours Exhibition.



Elle Murphy and Jessica Bogle view Stuart Harpur's AS coursework.



Lucia Cathers admires her sister Brooklyn's A2 art work at the True Colours Exhibition

### Art and Design Trip to the Ulster Museum

On Tuesday 9<sup>th</sup> February, Art and Design pupils from Year 11 and 13 visited the Ulster Museum in Belfast. As Northern Ireland's treasure house of the past and present, the museum is home to a rich collection of art, history and natural sciences. Pupils also had the opportunity to view CCEA's True Colours exhibition.



## STEM QUEST 2016



Congratulations to our StemQuest team who reached the final stages of the competition. The team of Matthew Patterson, Tyler Buchanan, Ryan McKane and Patrick Hanlon won their Regional heat with a convincing score of 72/75. They progressed to the Northern Ireland Final in Titanic, Belfast on Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February.

The boys performed well in the early rounds and were placed in the top 4 teams out of a total of 84 entries. The 4 remaining teams battled it out in a 'University Challenge' style buzzer round. Unfortunately the boys were narrowly defeated by a strong Lumen Christi team in the semi-final. Mrs Thompson would like to thank the boys for representing the school in such an impressive manner and thank parents and family members who travelled to Belfast to support the boys in the final.



## LINKS WITH LOCAL PRIMARY SCHOOLS



During February and March, Year 13 ICT pupils Matthew Hill, Laura-Jayne Campbell and Gary McCrossan attended McClintock primary school with Mrs Donnelly on Wednesday mornings to teach P6 and P7 programming skills. The pupils enjoyed coding Minecraft activities and writing their own Python code using a Raspberry Pi.

Mrs Donnelly



## MATHEMATICS UPDATE

### NSPCC Number Day

On the 5<sup>th</sup> February, all Year 8 pupils at Omagh Academy participated in mathematical games and puzzles, including 'Who wants to be a Mathionaire' in aid of the NSPCC. An outstanding amount of £1501 was raised. Well done to all Year 8 pupils!



### Success in the UK Intermediate Mathematics Challenge

In February, Omagh Academy Year 11 pupils took part in the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge. Over 200,000 pupils from across the UK sat this competition and our pupils were most successful in receiving 1 gold, 7 silver and 13 bronze certificates. Special mention must be given to Dean Rainey who achieved the only gold certificate, 'Best in School' and qualified for the 'Pink Kangaroo' competition which is only offered to the very best students.

Well done to all students and their teachers.

Mrs Trimble



Gold Award winner, Dean Rainey

Silver Award winners



Bronze Award winners



## LITERACY WEEK 2016

Literacy Week took place between the 29<sup>th</sup> February and the 4<sup>th</sup> March. Pupils took part in a range of fun and educational activities. Year 8 pupils dressed up as their favourite characters for World Book Day. Year 9 pupils took part in the 'Play in a Day' where they performed 'Romeo and Juliet.' There was also a 'Super-spellers' competition for pupils in Year 8 and Year 9. Year 10 pupils took part in a story-writing competition and there was also a 'Book Swap Sale' in the library. This was a very successful week for the English Department. Thanks to everyone involved in making it such a success.

Mrs Fleming



Year 8 pupils who won prizes for their costumes on World Book Day.



Year 9 pupils participated in a 'Play in a day' workshop.



Year 8 Super Spellers!



Year 9 pupils enjoyed playing board games in the Library at lunchtime.



English Department staff and Mrs Waterson (Librarian) dressed up as their favourite book characters.

Mrs Keown, Mrs Durkin and Miss Kidney dressed up as the character 'Where's Wally?'



## HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL LECTURE



Year 13 Religious Studies students were given the opportunity to attend a talk by a survivor of a Nazi Concentration Camp. Holocaust survivor, Henry Schachter shared his childhood experiences. RS students are required to consider other aspects of human experience as part of their taught course.

## SUPPORTING CHARITY



*Thank you*

A cheque for £1360 was presented to Nuala Bannon, Communications Manager for the Friends of the Cancer Centre at Belfast City Hospital. The money was raised through the freewill offerings at the two school Carol Services in December.

## MODERN LANGUAGES TRIP TO BARCELONA

Fifty five pupils accompanied by five members of staff recently spent four days in Barcelona.



Pupils visited a monastery as part of their cultural activities.



Cycling in Barcelona!

## YEAR 8 VISIT TO THE SYNAGOGUE



On Tuesday 9th February, the RE department took Year 8 pupils to the Jewish Synagogue in Belfast. It was an informative visit and pupils were able to see things that they had learnt about in class. We are grateful to Mr Black, Chair of the Belfast Jewish Community for facilitating our visit.

## AS/A2 SPANISH DEBATING SUCCESS

Defending the motion that reality TV shows are a waste of time, the Omagh Academy team consisting of Jenny Hemphill, Rebecca Sharkey and Beth Hamilton took second place out of 8 schools, with an accurate use of Spanish and high levels of enthusiasm both in their own delivery, and in defending themselves against the opposing stance. Beth was also crowned 'best speaker' during the debate.

Special thanks must go to Marina, our Language Assistant, for all her hard work in the lead up to the competition.

Mrs Marechaux



## OMAGH ACADEMY GIRLS TAG RUGBY SUCCESS

Omagh Academy entered a senior and junior tag team into the regional qualifiers at Clogher Valley Rugby Club on Tuesday 23rd February. The seniors were narrowly beaten by Omagh High school and Royal School Dungannon who would eventually go on to win the section. Their last game against Enniskillen Collegiate was much more positive where they scored 6 tries to end the day with a win.

The junior team won all their games against Fivemiletown College, Sacred Heart College Omagh and Enniskillen Collegiate to win their section and qualify for the semi finals at Cookstown.

Our girl's tag rugby team played in the semi finals today at the Mid Ulster Arena at Cookstown. Led by Nadine Hunter they put in great performances to draw their first group game vs Royal School Cavan 2-2. They won the remaining group games vs St Bricans Belturbet, Limavady Grammar and Down High with notable tries coming from Lauren Armstrong, Chloe Frazer, Claire McFarland, Jenny Hemphill and Lauren Kilfedder. This set up a final vs the mighty Enniskillen Collegiate who have been Schools' Cup winners for the past few years and were definitely going to be a challenge! However, it was Luci McKeown who surprised the Collegiate with an early try. The well coached Collegiate side did not panic however and scored a quick leveller to make the score even at half time. The second half was very tight again when scores were level again at 2-2 but it was the experience of Enniskillen who scored the deciding try to leave the score 3-2! We wish Enniskillen all the best in the final at Kingspan stadium in a couple of weeks! Our team should be extremely proud of doing so well considering they have only played tag for a few weeks!



Team members: Nadine Hunter, Lauren Kilfedder, Sarah Dickson, Cassie Lagan, Lauren Armstrong, Katie Ballantine, Luci McKeown, Claire McFarland, Chloe Frazer, Rebekah Creane, Jenny Hemphill, Rachel Bleakley.

Mrs Dickson



CROSS COUNTRY 2016

E District Cross country results 2016

The following pupils qualified from Necarne E District cross country to the Ulster cross country at Mallusk

Teams

Mini boys - 3rd place overall

- Corey Wood
- Joshua Keys
- Joshua Kyle
- Deen Chariot
- Alex Colhoun
- Carl Logan
- Kenny McCormack
- Joshua Clarke



Mini Boys Team

Junior girls - 2nd place overall

- Lauren Armstrong
- Cassie Lagan
- Nicole Nethery
- Danielle Nethery
- Charlotte Evason
- Sarah Dickson



Junior Girls Team

Individual -

- Anna Beth Beattie Mini Girls
- Mia Nethery Minor Girls
- Anna Dixon Minor Girls
- Tom Cowan Minor boys
- Emma Hagan Inter Girls
- Neave Nethery Inter girls
- Troy Booth Inter Boys

Congratulations to Lauren Armstrong who was our top finished at Mallusk, placing 23rd.

Mrs Dickson

RUGBY ROUND-UP

As we draw the curtain down on another rugby season we can reflect on a number of promising results across all of the age groups.

The 1stXV, sponsored by TC Autos were defeated in the 3rd round of the schools cup to eventual semi finalists Dalriada. The squad then went on to reach the semi finals of the Schools' Bowl. A below par performance ended in a disappointing defeat. The deflated squad picked themselves up for an excellent victory over an Ulster Clubs U18 squad while the Senior 7s team reached the Quarter Final of the Ulster School's 7s tournament at Campbell College, losing to Sullivan Upper in Extra Time.



The 2nd XV were ousted at the 1st round stage of the 2nd XV cup by Down High School. This, however, set up an excellent run of results in the subsidiary competition with victories over BRA and Portadown to set up a semi final against Sullivan. This would prove to be the end of the road as the boys came up against a very strong side who were very clinical on the day. The 2nd XV regrouped and with the aid of a few Medallion players they defeated an Ulster Clubs U17 side by 15-7. An excellent achievement!

The Medallion squad, sponsored by Gardencare @ Stephen Hunter Lawnmowers Ltd Omagh were the most successful squad in terms of Cup progress this season, reaching the Quarter Final stages of the Medallion Shield. Victories over Belfast High (34-7), Dromore High School (28-3) and Limavady Grammar (22-3) set up the Quarter Final game against Wallace High School at a boggy Campsie. Wallace proved to be too strong for our boys and would go on to reach the Medallion Shield Final.

A fine season for this squad and their coaches Mr Clive Porter and Mr Mark Rainey

The U14 and U13 squads have had difficulty in getting matches played due to the very poor weather conditions and pitches being affected right across the province. Notable victories include a 42-12 demolition of Regent House U13s and a convincing 31-7 victory away to Banbridge U14s.

The U12s have had some excellent performances during their short season. The A team won a local schools tournament organised by Omagh RFC. Victories for the A and B teams against Foyle College, Royal School Dungannon and Rainey Endowed followed. We look forward to seeing this squad of talented young pupils develop over the coming seasons.

The biggest occasion of the rugby year was when we welcomed Ulster Rugby and Irish internationals Tommy Bowe and Dan Tuohy to school.

The players took part in a Question and Answer session with over 300 pupils before donning their kit to lead a coaching session for the senior rugby team. This was a fantastic event and one a number of the pupils will remember for years to come. The players were great with our pupils, giving away hats, signing autographs and even posing for 'selfies'. We must take this opportunity to thank the players, Ulster Rugby and Danske Bank for



their contributions, making the day so successful. Mr Hunter

## HOCKEY UPDATE



The 2014-15 hockey season is drawing to a close with all fixtures due to be completed before Easter.

The 1stXI made it to the semi final of the senior shield, following wins against Grosvenor in the quarter final. Dungannon hosted the game vs Victoria college who played an excellent game to win 3:0. The 1sts now look to retain the West of Ulster league vs Foyle in the final.

The U14s - who are the most promising side in the school, having won every game since year 8 were confident of getting far in the Junior Cup. Wins against Foyle and Rainey in previous rounds, this set up a quarter final vs Methody in Belfast at the end of January. The girls, as always enjoyed the majority of the possession but chances passed them by. With 4 minutes to go, Methody went on the counter attack, leaving GoalKeeper Nadine Hunter with a 3 on 1 situation. Methody scored the decider despite a final onslaught from Lauren Armstrong's side. A gutting result for the team who should have won had they taken their chances, and even more disappointing knowing that they have beaten both the Junior Cup finalists! Nevertheless, a very exciting future lies ahead with these players progressing into senior hockey next year.

All teams are still finishing their West of Ulster matches and positions will be decided in the coming weeks.

Well done to the following pupils who have been selected to represent the Western Board in the upcoming Ulster Area board tournaments.

### U17

Hannah Roleston  
Luci McKeown  
Chloe Hagan  
Christine Donaghy  
Sophie Smyth  
Holly Swann  
Amy Forbes



### U15

Lauren Armstrong  
Katie Ballantine  
Amy McCollum  
Amy Sproule  
Nadine Hunter  
Jess Hood  
Neave Nethery  
Emma Hamilton  
Mia Nethery



This is a super effort from Omagh Academy hockey players, especially the U15 girls who make up most of the squad!

Please see the Facebook page for details of an Ulster hockey Easter camp at Campsie.

Mrs Dickson

### U13AXI won the Raphoe tournament

The U13s played in a tournament hosted by Royal and Prior Raphoe on Thursday 10th March and after drawing with Castleterg, they went on to beat Strabane, Raphoe and Omagh High School. This meant they topped the table to play the final against the hosts. Despite dominating possession, it looked as if the trophy was going to be shared. However, Clara Harper saved the day, when with 15 seconds left on the clock, she ran onto a loose ball and with no hesitation scored the winner. Alice Brunt as captain lifted the trophy and thanked her team for a great season.

Mrs Dickson

### FINALISTS IN SCHOOL BADMINTON TOURNAMENT

Winner Amy McCollum and Runner-Up George Donnell.



### FOOTBALL REPORT

The U16 and U18 teams both reached the Semi Finals of the Northern Ireland Schools Plate competition. Convincing victories at the Quarter Finals day at Mallusk against Laurelhill U18s (6-2) and Methody (9-1) set up semi finals against Corpus Christi U18s and Rainey Endowed U16s. Both games were played at the same time at Meadowbank sports arena.

The U16s kicked off in confident mood, however, they were soon shocked to see some 250 supporters arrive to cheer on the Rainey Endowed side. The boys put in a spirited performance, but in truth lost out 3-1 to a better footballing side. Scott Ballantine scored the Academy's only goal with a 20 yard wonder strike.

The U18s had a much more competitive game. They fought back from 1 goal down to level the game entering the last half hour. The boys bombarded the Corpus Christi goal but just couldn't find the decisive goal. Corpus Christi broke downfield and rather fortuitously scrambled the ball over the line for a scrappy winner against the run of play.

Both squads and their coach, Mr Stewart can be pleased with their efforts and must be congratulated on reaching the last 4 of both competitions.



SKI TRIP 2016



A group of Year 9 and 10 pupils travelled to Italy to ski in January. The ski trip is an annual feature on the school calendar.



MORE HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE SPRING CONCERT



Photographs courtesy of Jude Browne Photography

