



# THE ABBEY *Way*

THE ABBEY CHRISTIAN BROTHERS' GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## The 'New' Abbey Opens its Doors



### INSIDE THIS EDITION

- *Past pupils visit Courtenay Hill*
- *Present pupils get their first glimpse of the New Abbey*
- *MacRory team draw Dungannon in the quarter final*
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- *'A' Level and GCSE results continue to break records*



August brought yet more good news for the Class of 2009. The Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry, celebrated yet another exceptional set of A-Level results.

The most significant statistic from these results was that more pupils at the Abbey obtained the top grades. Almost 50% of all results were grade A, 78% grades A or B and 93% grades A-C.

A total of 21 boys achieved 3 or more grade A's.

Eight pupils achieved 4 'A' grades. David Burns, from Warrenpoint, obtained his 'A' grades in Business Studies, Government and Politics, History and ICT. He has begun studying Law at Queen's University, Belfast. Christopher Cunningham, from Newry, obtained his 'A' grades in English Literature, French, Government and Politics and Psychology. Christopher is currently studying Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Queen's University, Belfast. Michael Doherty, from Jonesborough, obtained his 'A' grades in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics. He has taken up a course in Veterinary Science at University College, Dublin. David Fitzpatrick, from Burren, obtained his 'A' grades in Biology, Chemistry, Geography and Mathematics. Following a gap year David will be studying Medicine at Queen's University, Belfast in 2010. Michael Lynch, from Dromintee, obtained his 'A' grades in Biology, Chemistry, Mathematics and Physics. Michael is currently studying Medicine at Liverpool University. Cathal MacDhaibheid from Newry obtained his 'A' grades in Biology, History, Irish and Spanish. He is studying Common and Civil Law with Spanish at Queen's University, Belfast. Declan Magee, from Mayobridge, obtained his 'A' grades in ICT, Irish, Music and Construction. He is currently studying Quantity Surveying at the University of Ulster. Paul Mallon, from Bessbrook, obtained his 'A' grades in English Literature, Government and Politics, Religious Studies and Psychology. Paul is studying Psychology at Queen's University, Belfast.

Another 13 pupils achieved at least 3 'A' grades. Michael Campbell, from Mallaghbawn, obtained his 'A' grades in Biology, Mathematics and Physics. He is studying Physics at Queen's University, Belfast. David Cunningham from Warrenpoint, obtained his 'A' grades in Biology, Geography and Spanish. He also

# A Level Students Leave Courtenay Hill With Outstanding Results.



Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, congratulates pupils that achieved at least 4 'A' grades in their A-Level examinations at the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School. Included are: Christopher Cunningham, Michael Doherty, David Fitzpatrick, Michael Lynch, Cathal MacDhaibheid, Declan Magee and Paul Mallon. Missing from photo is David Burns. Also included are Vice Principals, Mr Paul O'Shea and Mr Ronan Ruddy.

got a 'B' in Business Studies. David is now studying Common and Civil Law with Spanish at Queen's University, Belfast. David Digney, from Newry, obtained his 'A' grades in History, ICT and Irish. He is currently attending St Mary's University, Belfast pursuing his teaching degree. Sean Donnelly, from Silverbridge, obtained his 'A' grades in Physics, Technology and Design and Construction. He also got a 'C' grade in Mathematics. He is studying Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Queen's University, Belfast. Daniel Keenan, from Newry, obtained his 'A' grades in Geography, History and Applied ICT. He has begun studying Social Policy and Sociology at Queen's University, Belfast. Christopher McAteer, from Newry, obtained his 'A' grades in Biology, Mathematics and Physics. He also got a 'B' grade in Chemistry. Following his gap year Christopher wishes to study Medicine in Queen's University in 2010. Liam McGahon, from Dromintee, obtained his 'A' grades in History, ICT and Spanish. He shall be studying Computer Science at Queen's University, Belfast. Christopher McKnight, from Killeavy, obtained his 'A' grades in History, Psychology and Applied ICT. Christopher is now studying Accounting at Queen's University, Belfast. Eamon McNulty, from Newry, obtained his 'A' grades in ICT, Mathematics and Physics. He shall be studying Structural Engineering with Architecture at Queen's University, Belfast. Michael McVerry, from

Mullaghbawn, obtained his 'A' grades in Government and Politics, History and Irish. He shall be Teacher Training at St Mary's University, Belfast. Niall O'Donnell from Warrenpoint obtained his 'A' grades in English Literature, History and Drama. He also got a 'B' grade in Applied ICT. He shall be studying Psychology in Queen's University, Belfast. Thomas O'Hagan, from Jonesborough, obtained his 'A' grades in Biology, History and Physics. He also got a 'B' grade in Chemistry. He shall be taking a gap year and studying Medicine at Queen's University, Belfast in 2010. Daniel Sutherland, from Warrenpoint, obtained his 'A' grades in English Literature, History and Drama. He also got a 'B' grade in Spanish. He shall be studying English Literature and Creative Writing in Warwick University.

Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster congratulated this exceptional group on their results. He indicated that virtually every boy achieved his first choice university place. He paid tribute to his hard working staff and thanked them for all their efforts and dedication to the welfare of their students. He also acknowledged the strong school-parental links that helped the boys to achieve their best.



Pupils that achieved at least 3 'A' grades in their A-Level examinations at the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School are congratulated by Headmaster, Mr Dermot McGovern. Included are: Christopher Cunningham, Michael Doherty, David Fitzpatrick, Michael Lynch, Cathal MacDhaibheid, Paul Mallon, Michael Campbell, David Cunningham, David Digney, Christopher McAteer, Liam McGahon, Christopher McKnight, Eamon McNulty, Michael McVerry, Niall O'Donnell, Thomas O'Hagan and Daniel Sutherland. Missing from photo are: David Burns, Daniel Keenan, Declan Magee and Sean Donnelly. Also included are Vice Principals, Mr Paul O'Shea and Mr Ronan Ruddy.

# GCSE RESULTS BREAK ALL RECORDS.

In early September, the fifth year students at the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry learned that they had created their own little piece of history when they received their GCSE results. This group achieved a new record for the greatest number of students obtaining the top grades in GCSE examinations. Three years ago, 24 students achieved at least 8 'A' grades or above; this increased to 31 last year and has increased again to a magnificent 35 students this year!

'Top of the Class' was Jack Bradley with 12 A\*/A grades (6 A\* and 6 A's). Another eleven students achieved at least 11 A\*/A grades. They included: Patrick Burns, Dean Carolan, Kevin Gribben, Hua Jian Lui, Adam Magill, Callum McLoughlin, Paul McNulty, James O'Gorman, Conor O'Hare, Conor P O'Neill and Ryan Walsh. Hua Jian Lui achieved A\* grades in each of his eleven subjects.

Following the top performers above, fifteen students achieved at least 10 A\*/A grades, including: Stephen Beattie, Aodhan Byrne, Bernard Cooper, James Dickson, Stephen Doherty, Conor Doran, Cian Gallagher, Owen Jones, Mark McAlinden, Gregory McChesney, Daniel McCullagh, Garbhan McKeivitt, Dermot McVeigh, David Richmond and Conor Savage.

Mark Cox and Shane Finegan achieved at least 9 A\*/A grades and another six students achieved at least 8 A\*/A grades. They include: Gavin Donnelly, Ryan Kearney, Rory Keenan, Aidan McGauley, Conor McVeigh and Daniel Mullan.

Students chose three or four A levels from a range of 28 subjects available, including: History, Geography, Art, Drama and Theatre Studies, Business Studies, Economics, Accounts, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Irish, French, Spanish, ICT, Chemistry, Physics, Biology, Design and Technology (Systems and Control), Design and Technology (Resistant Materials), Religious Studies, Government and Politics, English Language, English Literature, Physical Education, Music, Sociology, Psychology, Applied ICT and Construction.

A delighted Headmaster, Mr Dermot McGovern, thanked staff and parents and congratulated all the students who received GCSE results – not only the boys who had done exceptionally well, but also the boys who had done as well as they possibly could. He believes that a number of factors have combined to help with this year's success, including a very dedicated, committed and highly professional staff who got the best out of this year group. The most valuable gift any teacher can give a pupil in the Abbey is their own time and this was given in abundance.



*Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School, Newry congratulates Jack Bradley who was the school's top performer in this year's GCSE examinations. Jack achieved 12 A\*/A grades.*

Support from parents was another area highlighted by Mr McGovern that facilitated these results, working in harmony with the Abbey by attending Parent/Teacher meetings and helping to implement recommendations that were agreed at 'Progress Meetings' that were set up to support students.

This new group of Lower Sixth started their A Level courses at the Courtenay Hill site and have now moved to the brand new 'state-of-the-art' building at Castlewen on the Ashgrove Road to continue courses.



*Abbey Grammar School 'Top Achievers' in this year's GCSE examinations are congratulated by Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, and Vice Principals, Mr Paul O'Shea and Mr Ronan Ruddy. Twelve students achieved at least 11 A\*/A grades. They included: Jack Bradley, Patrick Burns, Dean Carolan, Kevin Gribben, Hua Jian Lui, Adam Magill, Callum McLoughlin, Paul McNulty, James O'Gorman, Conor O'Hare, Conor P O'Neill and Ryan Walsh.*

### Abbey pupil is first in Northern Ireland in GCSE Art and Design



Earlier this term, Ryan Kearney received news from CCEA that he has been awarded joint first place in last summer's GCSE Art and Design examinations. Ryan achieved maximum marks in his examination and the examining board sought to recognise his exceptional achievement and celebrate his success by awarding him a special certificate. Congratulating Ryan is Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, and his Art and Design teacher Ms Orla Hughes.



### Second Year pupils win Council Art Competition



Mr Dermot McGovern, Headmaster, congratulates two Second Year pupils in the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School for winning prizes in the Newry and Mourne District Council Environmental Calendar Art Competition. Caolan Magee, Breffni 2, and

John Catterson, Oriel 2, designed an environmental poster that shall be printed by the Council in their calendar for 2010. Also included in the photograph is their teacher Ms Orla Hughes.

## EU Mock Council 2009

It is perhaps no surprise that these three 'politicians-in-the-making' grabbed the best seats in the house at Stormont. Killian Feehan, Turlough Tinnelly and James O'Gorman were the delegates for The Netherlands at October's EU Mock Council debates in Stormont. With topics such as the current economic crisis, energy security and climate change – ever more significant with the UN climate change conference in Copenhagen in December – the debates not only addressed pertinent issues, but also allowed student delegates to experience EU council debating and its practice of qualified majority voting. Twenty eight schools from across Ireland participated in the debates, each representing a Member State or the European Commission. The event is organised by the British Council in partnership with the European Commission office in Northern Ireland and a short extract of the day's proceedings can be viewed at the following link: <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TuR30z2eZxo>



### Abbey pupils present shoe boxes to Samaritans

This year in the Abbey Grammar School, our year 10 pupils, under the guidance of the Religious Studies department, have been involved in 'Operation Christmas Child'. This is an international project sharing the good news of Jesus and the true meaning of Christmas with children around the world. Pupils have brought in shoe boxes, wrapped up in Christmas paper and filled with lovely gifts for boys and girls from a variety of age groups. This act of generosity will give hope and comfort to many children who live amidst the turmoil of war, natural disasters and poverty. In the Abbey, we would like these children to know they have not been forgotten.



Year ten class representatives pictured with their teachers:  
From Oriel 3: Stephen Mc Kay, Conor Mc Cann, Leo Gorman, Ben Hughes. From Donard 3: Andrew Hughes, Dylan Trainor, Declan McCabe. From Stlemish 3: Declan Cranny, James Meehan, Conladh Quinn.  
And from Breffni 3: Aidan Donnelly, Ryan Hughes, James O'Hare.  
Teachers involved: Mrs Lisa Mc Keever (Head of RS Department), Mrs Mary Mc Evoy, Mrs Teri Donegan.

## Marking the Move:

### PAST PUPILS RETURN TO BID FAREWELL TO COURTENAY HILL.

On Saturday 7th November 2009, a large number of past pupils accepted the invitation in the local and provincial press to avail of a final opportunity to walk the corridors of their Alma Mater, before it finally closed its doors on the 15th January. The open day was organised by a specially convened committee of Abbey staff, who have been tasked with 'Marking the Move' to the Castleown site.

Past pupils, representing generations of Abbey pupils arrived to relive some of their fondest memories of their school days and in some cases, meet up with former classmates. The committee was delighted with the attendance as a steady stream of past pupils trickled in when the doors opened at 10am. There to greet them were members of the Abbey's senior management team, as well as teachers past and present. Roll books dating back to the 1960s were available for pupils to be reminded of the names of their classmates, some samples of pupils' work, as well as a vast store of photographs, were all had available for the visitors to view. The photographs included: school football teams from the last four decades, school drama productions, trips and many other memorable events. One past pupil, who attended the Abbey in the eighties, and now lives in Belfast, decided to make his return to the Abbey as nostalgic as possible as he informed Sli na Mainstreach that he had even retraced the way he used to walk to school, including a stop off at Bennett's shop and a walk through the famous 'tunnels' under the New Road.



By the time the open day ended at 2pm, hundreds of past pupils had walked the corridors of the new school. In some cases several generations of the same family, who had all attended the Abbey at different stages were seen reliving past glories and stories.

There is a follow up day planned for those who attended this open day, when the past pupils will be given a tour of the New School building to view the new state-of-the-art facilities on offer.

The 'Marking the Move' committee is made up of: Mr J Rath, Mrs M Rafferty, Dr S Fee, Mr M Mc Mahon, Mr A O Rourke, Mr M Grogan, and Mr S Gallagher, plan to publish a commemorative booklet in May to mark this historic year for the Abbey.

Pictured above are some of the past pupils who attended the open day.

## LAST DAY ON COURTENAY HILL



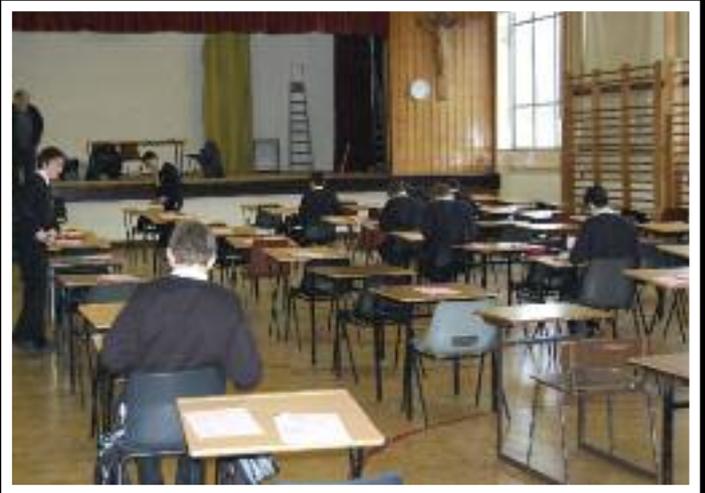
Mr D Mc Govern, Headmaster, pictured with the current staff of the Abbey Grammar School on the last working day on Courtenay Hill.

# THE BEGINNING OF A N

## *From This...*



*The canteen staff pictured in the Courtenay Hill Canteen.*



*Exam modules in the Assembly Hall.*



*Lunch time for the boys in the yard.*



*Sixth Years making use of the Old Study Hall.*



*Slemish 2 studying hard in an Irish lesson on Courtenay Hill.*



*The Mac Rory Cup squad are put through their paces on the Old Pitch.*

# NEW ERA FOR THE ABBEY

*To This...*



*The canteen staff in their new surroundings on their first day in the new school canteen.*



*The Mac Rory Cup squad enjoy their first session on a flat pitch.*



*Slemish 2 still studying hard in brighter surroundings.*



*Exam modules in the Assembly Hall don't change much; the hall certainly has!*



*Sixth Years enjoying the new Study Hall.*



*The 'Jewel-in-the-Crown' of the New Abbey is the Oratory. This prayer room will serve as a long lasting memory of the Christian Brothers' influence in Newry and of the Courtenay Hill site. The stained glass windows have been taken from the Monastery on Courtenay Hill and placed here at the Heart of the New Abbey.*

# JUNIOR AND MIDDLE SCHOOL PUPILS SEE THE ABBEY FOR THE FIRST TIME



4th Year pupils wave to Mr Ruddy through the school CCTV system



Breffni 3 visit the Technology Block



Iveagh 2 relax in their new form class



Mr Mc Mahon gives his form class a tour of the Sports Hall



Donard 1 are 'blown away' by the Sports Hall on their arrival in the New School.



Mr Ruddy addresses the 4th year group on their arrival in the New School.



First Year pupils visit the Oratory

# First Years tell their Ghost Stories

On a very stormy night in 1833 a large number of people flocked to the steamship, the Lord Blaney which was docked at Warrenpoint's north pier. It was one of the first steam powered ships that traded between Ireland and England.

There was a flurry of activity as both passengers and crew loaded the goods and livestock for the crossing. As the ship pulled away from the pier and the people on the dock waved and shouted goodbyes to their friends and family onboard some passengers felt wary of the voyage that they had started. As they crossed the open sea the wind rose to a gale and waves grew in size until they seemed like mountains compared to the ship.

All through the night the ship was battered by wind and water. In the very early morning the Lord Blaney came up to the mouth of the river Mersey but there was dense fog and so it was still nearly pitch black. Suddenly, there was a jolt and the boat immediately came to a stop, the masts snapped and the passengers were all thrown to the deck. The ship broke in half and the two pieces sank below the waves leaving no survivors except for a race horse called Monteagle who swam heroically to shore.

Ever since the Lord Blaney sank in 1833 people have claimed to have seen it. One person said that it was a calm and peaceful night on Carlingford Lough and the moon was shining. As midnight drew nearer, he and his friends saw a mist develop on the surface of the water and as the vapour of cloud moved towards Warrenpoint, masts and a funnel emerged from the depths until eventually the rest of a ship had appeared. As it sailed toward the docks it began to submerge beneath the waves again. At first the captain thought he had seen a ship going down but when he got to the place he had last seen the ship he found no wreckage. The older boatswain on the ship claimed it was the

## The Ghost of the Lord Blaney



ghost of the Lord Blaney.

The Lord Blaney appeared a number of times before and after each appearance. A few days later, other ships associated with Warrenpoint went down and more lives were lost. The Ghost Ship has become a messenger of death and destruction.

The end  
By Eimhin Duffy  
Slemish 1

## GHOST STORY

My Auntie Jenny was the 'events organizer' at Narrow Water Castle and told me this story about the Narrow Water Castle ghost which happened about two years ago.

There was a wedding in the castle that day and the package that the bridal party picked included having the privilege of staying in the couple's suite. When this happens the caretaker and his wife stay in the staff suite.

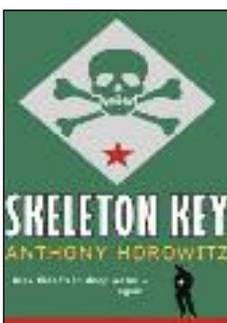
In the middle of the night the bride woke up and the room was freezing so

she rang the caretaker's wife and she rushed over immediately and instantly noticed how cold it was. So she contacted her husband who went up into the roof space of Narrow Water Castle.

When he was up there he looked in the hot water tank; he didn't think that there was anything wrong but there was. He accidentally knocked his torch into the tank.

He could see his torch shining up through the water and then... suddenly, his torch went off and a thumping sort of noise, like an army marching, grew louder and louder. The noise continued to get louder until it felt like it went right past him and he could even feel a breeze. It started to get quieter and quieter.

by Sean Lane  
Slemish 1



**Book:** Skeleton Key

**Author:** Anthony Horowitz

**Publisher:** Walker Books

**Date of Publication:** 2002

**Plot:** My book is about a fourteen year old spy who works for MI6 which is based in England. The spy is called Alex Rider.

One day when Alex was playing football for his school, Brookland, he saw Smithers (the man who makes gadgets for MI6). Smithers was walking with his dog and after the match Alex went over to Smithers. He told Alex that he was needed for a mission. Smithers told him that people had broken into Wimbledon. Alex had to be a ball boy at Wimbledon and report back to Smithers if he saw anything. Alex found out that a man was putting drugs into the water that the tennis players were drinking.

While Alex was staying at his friend's house members of the gang that Alex had put down attacked him. Mr. Blunt and Mrs Jones (who are the main people at MI6) decided that Alex had to go on a mission to make it look that Mrs Troy, Mr Trevor and Alex were just a normal family going on a holiday to Skeleton Key in Cuba. Mr. Blunt and Mrs. Jones said that Alex would not need any gadgets but, just in case, Smithers gave him three gadgets; a packet of bubblegum that would blow up if saliva was added to it, a stud grenade and a mobile phone that when the digit 9 was pushed a bullet would be fired.

One night Troy and Trevor were going on a mission to see if they could find the nuclear bomb General Sarov had purchased from the sales man. As Alex was in the boat he noticed that Troy and Trevor had been gone a very long time. Alex decided to put on a wet suit and go and look for them. While Alex was searching for Troy and Trevor a shark was attracted to him because of a cut on his leg. Alex tricked the shark by enticing it into a cave. Alex kept searching for a while longer but while he was searching he noticed that the shark had not come out of the cave. He must have set off one of Sarov's traps. When Alex got back onto

the boat he noticed that the man who had taken them here was dead. Then Alex felt a sharp pain in his arm and he collapsed on the floor of the boat. He had been drugged with an injection.

A few hours later Alex woke up tied to a conveyer belt he felt the conveyer belt moving towards the crusher but when Alex was just centimetres away from the crusher the conveyer belt stopped. It was General Sarov; he had saved Alex's life and he wanted him to come up to his room for a talk.

General Sarov told Alex that he would like to adopt him. He also told Alex that he wanted to see Russia return to communism and that there was a nuclear bomb. Sarov was planning on taking the bomb to a docking station in Russia. He said that the submarines at the docking station were full of explosives and that the bomb would damage most of the world. Once the Russian Government had seen what a mess they had caused they would have no choice but to make Sarov president.

A few days later they were on the plane to Russia. They stopped to get fuel for the plane and Alex slipped off the plane but was quickly apprehended by Sarov. When they finally arrived in Russia Alex was hand cuffed to a pole by Sarov. Alex used the bubble gum Smithers had given him to break free from the hand cuffs. Then Alex sprinted over and de-activated the bomb. Once Sarov had seen what had happened he decided to shoot himself. Sarov had been defeated.

### KEY FACTS ABOUT THE BOOK:

**Main Event:** I think the main event in the story was when Alex deactivated the bomb.

**Main Characters:** Alex, General Sarov, Troy and Trevor.

**Setting:** The main setting is Skeleton Key in Cuba but this changes throughout the story.

**Favourite Moment:** when Alex sneaked off the plane.

**Genre:** Action.

**Rating:** 10/10 I gave it this rating because it was very interesting.

Jordan Connolly  
Slemish 1

# FIFTH YEAR PUPILS WALK FOR ZAMBIA



**£800 RAISED BY  
YEAR 12  
STUDENTS.**



An amazing total of £800 was raised by Year 12 students when they undertook a sponsored walk on Friday 18th September. The students, along with their form teachers – Mrs Fearon, Mr Mc Cann, Mr Mc Mahon, Mr O Rourke and Mr Gamble – and Year Head, Mrs Elmore, set off at 9:00am and

walked from Courtenay Hill to the tow path for approx. 2 hours. It wasn't all hard work as the afternoon was spent at the Sheepbridge Complex where the pupils were treated to some lunch and bowling. Many thanks to the Year group and their form teachers for all their hard work and

commitment in making this day a very successful one. The money raised will be split between The Zambian Immersion fund and the New School Fund.

Mrs A Elmore.



Pictured above are the members of the Irish department, Mr. Maurice Mc Kevitt, Mr. Seán Gallagher, Mrs Pauline McClean and Mr. Desmond Tennyson with the winners of the annual Abbey oral awards for the most fluent speakers of Irish in each year group.

The trophies are dedicated to former members of staff who either taught Irish, or contributed to the promotion of the language in some capacity or in one case to a former student who excelled in the subject.

The first year trophy (Bás Chuchulainn), dedicated to the late Brother Beausang, was awarded to Ruairi Campbell.

The second year trophy (Méabh agus an Donn Chuaigine), dedicated to the late Mr. Patrick Arthur Crinion, a former teacher of Irish and the Classics, was jointly awarded to Sean Cooper and Connlaodh Quinn.

The third year trophy (Corn Durkin), dedicated to the late Matt Durkin, was jointly awarded to Paul

McKeever and Shea Hanratty. Following the sudden and unexpected death of this former Abbey student, his classmates decided to present an award to the school in his memory. Ever since, it has been presented annually to the best Gaeilgeoiri in third year and indeed it led to the decision to present similar awards to each of the other year groups.

The fourth year trophy (Clann Lir) dedicated to Brother Aidan Quinlan, who during his time in the Abbey was a founder member of Féile Scoildrámaíochta an Iúir, was awarded to Conor Hogan.

The fifth year trophy (Bás Chuchulainn) dedicated to the late Brother W. O. Murphy, former Head of Irish and Vice-Principal of the Abbey, was awarded to Conor O'Neill.

The sixth year trophy (An Lóchrann) dedicated to Mr. Hugh Murphy, Lislea poet and former Head of Irish, was awarded to John McCaul.

The award for the best 'Gaelscoláire' (An Lóchrann Beag), was awarded to James Meehan.

**DUAISEANNA  
DO NA  
GAEILGEOIRÍ IS  
FEARR SA  
SCOIL.**



Having previously achieved an A\* Grade in GCSE Irish in Year 9 both Caolán Magee and Tiarnán Jackson have excelled again in Irish, this time at A-Level. Last year Caolán and Tiarnán completed their AS Level Irish exams in Year 11 and they both obtained an A grade. As well as completing their remaining GCSE subjects next summer they will also complete their A2 Irish modules. Both Caolán and Tiarnán are past pupils of Bunscoil an Iúir. Included in the photograph are the Headmaster, Mr Dermot McGovern, and Head of Irish, Mr Desmond Tennyson.

## Basketball:

# ABBEY UNDER 19 WIN AN ULSTER BASKETBALL TITLE

On Friday the 27th of November the Abbey Under 19 basketball team travelled to Antrim Forum for their Ulster final against St Michael's, Lurgan. Abbey were favourites to win having already beaten a strong St Michael's team previously. St Michael's had a point to prove. St Michael's started strongly, scoring the first basket of the game. The abbey boys matched each score and by the end of the first quarter the Abbey were down by 2 points.

During the second quarter St Michael's came out strongly and went ahead by four points. The Abbey boys began to fight back but St Michael's kept them at bay, with Connor Campbell and Niall McArdle fighting for baskets but St Michael's defence was just too strong. At the half time point the Abbey were down by four points. After a team talk and change in tactics from zone to man-to-man defence by Mrs McClean, the Abbey boys came out strong with Tian yu Guo, and Niall Byrne running fast breaks and getting the scores. Centre, Niall McArdle, fought strong for rebounds and put two baskets on the score board for the Abbey. Conleth Cull got several defensive rebounds and put another 2 points on the scoreboard for the Abbey. By the end of the third quarter St Michael's had only managed to score 1 point from the free throw line while the Abbey took 11 points.

With defence strong the Abbey settled back into a zone defence in the final quarter, with Niall McArdle



and Tian yu Guo getting some superb rebounds and getting the outlet pass to Connor Campbell and Niall Byrne who continued to add scores to the board. After a tense quarter and excellent defence by the Abbey boys the match finished on a score of 42 – 27 to the Abbey. Abbey captain, Niall Byrne, was named MVP. Ulster schools basketball coordinator Adrian Fullerton congratulated both teams on what he said was a

superb display of basketball. The Abbey now move on to the All-Ireland playoffs on January the 21st in the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght, Co. Dublin. The Abbey team included: N. Byrne 11pts (Capt.), C. Campbell 12pts, T. Guo 8pts, N. McArdle 8pts, C. Cull 2pts, A. Burns, L. Gray, J. Davis, P. McConville, C. Doran, B. Campbell, R. McCorry, N. Brady, H. Liu, B. Sutherland. Coach Mrs P. McClean.



## Ryan Walsh is World Kick Boxing champion.

*Ryan Walsh returned back to school in the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar after the Halloween break with the honour of a World title in Kick boxing. He won this in Spain; in the Under 70kg category. The Abbey Way first featured Ryan's Kick boxing exploits 3 years ago and we are delighted to see his continued progress. Well done Ryan!*

# ABBEY UNDER 16 BASKETBALL MISS OUT ON AN ULSTER TITLE

**The Abbey Under 16 Basketball Team travelled to Antrim Forum for their Ulster final against St Patrick's College Dungannon. The Abbey were the underdogs in this match having already been beaten by St Patrick's in a previous league match. St Patrick's came out very strong scoring 20 points in the first quarter with the Abbey unable to sink the baskets despite winning rebounds. The Abbey boys were having great difficulty in making the hoops, scoring only 4 points in the first quarter.**

St Patrick's had a very comfortable lead going in to the second quarter but the Abbey came out fighting, scoring 14 pts, 6 of which were made by team captain Paul Quinn, making St Patrick's work hard for their 11 points. The Abbey had found their feet in the game. The third quarter saw the Abbey score 19 points to St Patrick's 8, with Paul Quinn, Jonathon O'Hare, Sean Fearon and Henry McLaughlin sinking some strong baskets.

By the start of the fourth quarter the Abbey had closed the gap on St Patrick's

and were now only 2 points down. A nail biting final quarter saw the Abbey match St Patrick's basket for basket, with newcomer Donal O'Neill finding the net twice. The clock was ticking with only 45 seconds to go and St Patrick's number 23 made an excellent play intercepting an Abbey ball and making a fast break with St Patrick's number 20 scoring a vital basket. With only 20 seconds left on the clock St Patrick's played a full court press and denied the Abbey any chance of getting near the basket. The whistle was blown with the Abbey down by 5 points in what was an exciting game. Final Score St Patrick's College 60 – Abbey Grammar 55. The Abbey were presented with their medals by Adrian Fullerton, the Ulster School's Basketball Coordinator who was impressed by the determination of the Abbey players. Scorers and players: Paul Quinn 14pts (Capt.), J. O'Hare 12pts, S. Fearon 11pts, H. McLaughlin 10pts, P. O'Hagan 4pts, D. O'Neill 4pts, D. McGovern, C. Murphy, C. O'Reilly, P. Doran, R. Cull, P. Delahunt. Coach Mrs. P. McClean

# ABBEY DRAW DUNGANNON IN THE MAC RORY CUP QUARTER FINAL

**The Abbey are back in the knock-out stages of the Mac Rory Cup for the first time since 2007.**

The class of 2010 bounced back from their opening day defeat to St. Colman's, Newry to qualify for the quarter final in February, where they will meet the current Holders of the Mac Rory Cup, double winners, St. Pat's, Dungannon.

The Abbey went into their opening game with St. Colman's in confident mood, following an unbeaten pre-season programme that saw good victories over St. Pat's Maghera, this year's Mc Cormick Cup finalist, St. Mary's Magherafelt, and their quarter final opponents, St. Pat's Dungannon. The league season, however, got off to the worst possible start as the Courtenay Hill boys were out-played and out fought by St. Colman's, eventually losing to a score line of 1-15 to 1-6. To make matters worse, the Abbey lost their influential half-back, Niall Mc Cartan, who sustained a serious arm injury following an off-the-ball incident. It was a game that everyone connected with the squad would want to forget, as none of the Abbey men produced a performance of which to be proud.

A week later, the Abbey took on a strong Armagh side, who were playing their first game of this year's competition. Abbey manager, Jody Gormley, got the desired response from his wounded team as his charges blitzed Armagh with three first half goals; two from an unlikely source, the hard working Ryan Hudson, and a third from midfielder, James Mc Clean. Despite Armagh's second half revival the Abbey ran out comfortable winners by 3-2 to 0-7. The win came at a cost, however, as influential midfielder, Pete Carragher was harshly sent off in the 28th minute and was destined to miss the remainder of the league stages.

Next up were St. Eunan's, Letterkenny, the side who had dismissed the Abbey from the previous two Mac Rory Cup campaigns. This game proved to be a very tight affair for the first half, at the end of which the Abbey held a slender one point lead. The second half however, turned out



to be a much more comfortable one for the Abbey as goals from Oisín Lynch and corner back, Gerard Mc Govern, saw the Newry men home with six points to spare.

With a victory sure to guarantee the Abbey's place in next February's quarter final, St Mary's Belfast stood in the way in the next game. Last year's beaten semi finalists were backboned by players who had suffered the heartbreak of last year's defeat to Omagh. Patrick Quinn finally rediscovered his preseason form and his personal tally of 1-8 ensured that the Abbey would be playing Mac Rory Cup football in the new year, with a league game to spare. The final score of Abbey 1-15 to Belfast's 3-3 did not do justice to the Abbey's dominance in this highly sporting and

entertaining contest.

That left Mac Rory favourites, Omagh, in the final league game. With the Abbey safely through to the quarter final, Jody Gormley gave a well earned rest to Armagh minor star, James Morgan, and the Abbey fielded with a few squad members staking a claim for a starting spot in the new year. Omagh proved that they are worthy favourites and powered to a comprehensive victory on a score line of 2-11 to 1-3.

Attention now turns to the quarter finals and a much anticipated clash with Dungannon, who are aiming for their third title in a row. Let's hope that the new facilities available to the squad will help them to give a good account of themselves in the knockout stages.

## ABBEY BOYS ARE IN ALL-IRELAND HEAVEN

*Pictured with Mr Mc Govern, Headmaster, are the Armagh minor contingent from the Abbey who won the All-Ireland Minor Football Championship, in Croke Park, in September. Current seventh years, Peter Carragher and James Morgan are joined by last year's Mac Rory Cup captain, Niall Rowland and team member, Eugene Mc Verry. All four players were starting players in the final and were a credit to themselves, their families and the school. The last time the Abbey had four All-Ireland Minor medallists standing on the front steps of the school with the Headmaster, they went on to collect Mac Rory Cup medals the following March. Everyone connected with the school hopes that history might just repeat itself.*

