

The Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School



*Annual Report to Parents
For School Year 2011/2012*

Prayer of Edmund Rice

O God, we thank you for the life of
Edmund Rice.

He opened his heart to Christ present in
those oppressed by poverty and injustice.

May we follow his example of faith and
generosity.

Grant us the courage and compassion of
Edmund as we seek to live lives of love
and service.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

STAFF LIST 2012-2013

	NAME	Code	RESPONSIBILITY
001	McGovern, Mr Dermot	DMG	Headmaster
002	O'Shea, Mr Paul	POS	Vice Principal/Psychology/SDP/Staff/MIS/ROTA/Transfer/Yr 13&14/EMA
003	Ruddy, Mr Ronan	RR	Vice Principal /French/Discipline/Year Tutors/Pupil Progress/Yr 8 - 12/Prize Givings
004	Brady, Mr Kevin	KB	Senior Teacher/ Physics/ Welfare of School Community/ Chaplaincy/ H&S/Pastoral Care
005	Rath, Mr John	JR	Senior Teacher./Technology/P.R./External Exams/SENCO(backup)
006	McCavitt, Dr John	JCT	Senior Teacher/Politics/EF Coordinator/Curriculum/UCAS/APTA/Staff Induction/EPD's
007	Wadsworth, Mr Dominic	DW	Senior Teacher/Data Tracking/New Students (foreign)/SENCO/Head of Music (Temp)
008	Rooney, Mrs Mildred	MR	History/Library/ASA/Prefects
009	McCartan, Mr Jim	JMC	P.E./Junior Gaelic Football
010	O'Neill, Mr Patrick	PON	French/Religion/Internal Exams/PTMs
011	Patterson, Mr Gervase	GP	Management Team/Head of Physics
012	Trainor, Mrs Grace	GT	Home Economics
013	McKeever, Mr Padraig	PMK	Head of Spanish/Year Tutor
014	McCann, Mr Dwyer	DMC	Head of Computing/I.T. Coordinator
015	McMahon, Mr Mel	MMM	Head of English
016	Burns, Mrs Sinead	SB	Head of Mathematics
017	McAreevey, Mrs Fiona (Grant, Mrs Jayne)	FMC(J62)	Art
018	Lane, Mrs Margaret	ML	Head of Biology
019	Mooney, Mr Tony	TM	Management Team/Head of Technology & Design
020	Simpson, Mrs Denise	DS	Head of Geography
021	Tohill, Mrs Bernarde	BTO	Maths/Year Tutor/Numeracy, Using Number
022	Hamill, Mr Brian	BH	Physics
023	McKeever, Mrs Lisa	LMK	Head of RE
024	McGrath, Mrs Catriona	CMG	Business Studies/Head of Careers/Year Tutor
025	Elmore, Mrs Annette	AE	Geography/Year Tutor
026	Grogan, Mr Mark	MG	Computers/Web-site, E-Communications/Year Tutor
027	McGinley, Mrs Orla	OMG	Biology
028	Smyth, Mr Joseph	JS	Head of Drama
029	Morgan, Mr Gerald	GMO	English/Head of LLW
030	Quinn, Miss Mairead	MQ	Head of French
031	Savage, Mr Gerard	GS	Head of Construction/Buses
032	Tennyson, Mr Desmond	DT	Head of Irish
033	Gamble, Mr Colin	CG	Head of Chemistry/Quizzes
034	Rodgers, Mr Mark	MRO	Technology & Design/Year Tutor/Literacy & Communication Coordinator
035	McCorry, Mrs Deirdre	DMU	KS3 Science Coordinator/Biology
036	McGivern, Mrs Joan	JM	Spanish/English/RE
037	Gallagher, Mr Sean	SG	Irish/Year Tutor/School Newsletter
038	Boyd, Mrs Gail	GB	Mathematics
039	Reynolds, Ms Annelise	ARE	English/Debates
040	McMahon, Mr Rory	RMM	Geography
041	McClellan, Mrs Pauline	PMC	Irish
042	Gormley, Mr Jody	JG	Head of PE
043	Evans, Mr David	DE	Head of History
044	McParland, Mr Paul	PMP	Drama/Religion
045	Hughes, Mrs Anne (Palmer, Mrs Lorna)	AM(LP)	Music
046	Fearon, Mrs Theresa	TF	Head of Accounts/Business Studies
047	Hughes, Ms Orlagh	OH	Head of Art (Temp)
048	Doherty, Mrs, Karen	KM	Maths
049	McGivern, Mr Eddie	EM	Religion
050	Murphy, Mrs Mary	MML	Maths
051	Gordon, Mr Dan	DG	PE
052	Toner, Ms Ursula	UT	Careers/LLW/Geography
053	Cranston, Mrs Kim	KC	Technology/Construction/LLW
054	McGinley, Mrs Seaneen	SD	English
055	Downing, Mr James	DJ	ICT
056	Carey, Dr Maeve	MC	Chemistry/DAS
057	Gilloway, Miss Karen	GK	English

SUPPORT STAFF

Colleen McAvoy	Bursar, Support Staff Supervisor, Building
Mary Rafferty	Headmaster's Secretary, Assistant Bursar, Accounts, Intake Admin
Tess McKernan	Administration, MIS Support, Exam Entries
Patricia McKinley	General Office
Fiona Flynn	General Office
Natasha Stokes	Science Technician
Roger Clifford	Science Technician
Carmel Hetherington	Reprographics
Pat McGovern	Librarian
Conor McCormick	Music/Art Technician
Robbie Hannon	PE Technician
Sean Higgins	Technology Technician, Electrical Maintenance
Neil Clarke	Information Technology Technician
Willie McCullough	Caretaker, Minibuses, Cleaning Staff Supervisor
Malachy Small	Caretaker, Minibuses, Cleaning Staff Supervisor
Annette Breen-Mallon	Classroom Assistant
Anne McCoy	Classroom Assistant
Rita McGinn	Classroom Assistant
Joan Jackson	Classroom Assistant
Anne Collins	Classroom Assistant
John Manley	Canteen Supervisor
Claire McGahan	Assistant Cook
Sheila Goodwill	Assistant Cook
John Sinton	Assistant Cook
Bernie Mallon	Canteen Staff/Cleaning Staff
Margarita McGivern	Canteen Staff
Bridie Doran	Canteen Staff
Linda Kennedy	Canteen Staff
Elizabieta Wrobel	Cleaning Staff
Agata Obresbska	Cleaning Staff
Mary McKevitt	Cleaning Staff
Rosin McDonald	Cleaning Staff
Wioletta Sienkiewics	Cleaning Staff/Canteen Staff
Marzana Miller	Cleaning Staff/Canteen Staff
Kasia Chudoba	Cleaning Staff/Canteen Staff
Malgorzata Pszczolkowska	Cleaning Staff
Magdalena Garncarz	Cleaning Staff
Auriela Myszor	Cleaning Staff
Noreen Ashby	Cleaning Staff

Nurse/Counsellor

Mrs Jane McGinn

Counsellors:

Ms Fiona Hughes (9.00 – 1.00 daily)

Mrs Vicki Sherlock (Counselling4Youth) (Monday 1.00 - 3.20 p.m.)

SMT Responsibilities

Mr D McGovern

- Full/Total responsibility for the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School
- Care of SMT
- Contact with all outside agencies (SELB, DENI etc.)
- Transfer procedure
- Retention/Consolidation of Christian Brothers' links and ethos
- School Fundraising
- School Development Plan
- PRSD
- Mentor: Politics, Psychology, Home Economics, Science Coordinator

Mr P O'Shea

- School Development Plan
- Staff – Overview of SMT Mentor/HOD's, Staff Days, Staff Induction - EPD
- Policy and Implementation of Staff Development
- Time-Table, Options (Subject Choices)
- Managed Information System, Trips documentation, Rota, Statistics (DENI, Trustees, BoG), Parents AGM Booklets
- Deputy Designated Child Protection Teacher
- Transfer Procedure
- Students Years 13/14, including EMA
- Mentor: Art, Irish, Physics

Mr R Ruddy

- School Development Plan
- Students – Overview of Pastoral provisions, Prefects, ASA, Behavioural/Academic Progress
- Students Years 8/9/10/11/12
- Year Tutor Coordinator
- Leaving Ceremony, School Publications, BoG Report
- Prize giving – Achievement, GCSE, Graduate
- Open Night – Primary School Links – Induction Mass
- Transfer Procedure
- Mentor: Drama, Music, Religion, Technology

Mr K Brady

- Welfare of the School Community including Chaplaincy
- Pastoral Care and Counselling / Designated Child Protection Teacher
- Health and Safety (backup to C McAvoy, Bursar)
- Mentor: Business Studies, Geography, ICT, Physical Education

Mr J Rath

- SENCO (backup to D Wadsworth)
- P.R.
- External Examinations
- Mentor: Biology, Construction, French, LLW

Dr J McCavitt

- Curriculum & Assessment
- Staff Days
- APTA Link
- UCAS
- E.F. Coordinator
- Staff Induction – EPD’s, Student Placement
- Mentor: Junior Science, History, Mathematics

Mr D Wadsworth

- Oversee Data Tracking
- SENCO
- New Students (foreign)
- Mentor: Careers, Chemistry, English, Spanish

Upper Middle Management Responsibilities

Mr T Mooney/Mr G Patterson

- Data Tracking
- Staff Handbook/Parent Handbook/School Calendar
- Primary School Visits
- Reports
- Assistant to Exams Officer
- Rota Cover – Backup

School Enrolment YEAR 2012/13

1ST YEAR

BR 1	27
DON 1	26
IV 1	28
OR 1	26
SL 1	26

TOTAL 133

5TH YEAR

12DE	27
12DG	28
12EMG	28
12LMK	26
12PMC	28

TOTAL 137

2ND YEAR

BR 2	26
DON 2	27
IV 2	25
OR 2	26
SL 2	26

TOTAL 130

6TH YEAR

13GS	23
13JMC	24
13ML	25
13MMM	26
13PMCP	25

TOTAL 123

3RD YEAR

BR 3	26
DON 3	26
IV 3	25
OR 3	26
SL 3	26

TOTAL 129

YEAR 14

14BH	25
14DC	23
14GB	24
14GM	22
14MR	25

TOTAL 119

4TH YEAR

11ARE	28
11CGA	29
11MC	27
11RMM	26
11TF	27

TOTAL 137

TOTAL 908

INTAKE 2012-13

APPLICANTS

A	104
B1	17
B2	28
C1	23
C2	12
D	14
X	3
Statemented	<u>3</u>
TOTAL	204

INTAKE

A	104
B1	17
B2	8
C1	1
C2	0
D	0
Statemented	3
TOTAL	133

Total Enrolment = 133

❖ **Includes**

- 1 Special Circumstances upgraded to A Grade
- 1 Appeals upheld

**GCE A2-LEVEL SUMMARY ANALYSIS BY DEPARTMENT - SUMMER
2012**

SUBJECT	Entrants	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	% A* - C	% A* - E	NI% A* - C
ACCOUNTS	8		4	4					100	100	77
ART AND DESIGN	7	3	1	2	1				100	100	92
BIOLOGY	14	2	5	4	1	2			86	100	83
BUSINESS ST.	5		2	1	1		1		80	100	83
CHEMISTRY	12	3	3	4	1	1			92	100	83
CONSTRUCTION	28	10	11		7				100	100	
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - NI	7		2	4			1		86	100	86
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - RM	7		1	4	2				100	100	68
DRAMA	9		2	5	1	1			89	100	89
ENGLISH LITERATURE	6	3		2	1				100	100	85
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	7		1	3	3				100	100	82
FRENCH	6	2		1	3				100	100	84
FURTHER MATHS (A/S)	2	2							100	100	94
GEOGRAPHY	23		8	6	8	1			96	100	84
HISTORY	40	13	22	4	1				100	100	88
ICT	35	3	14	11	5	1	1		94	100	80
IRISH	5	1	4						100	100	91
MATHEMATICS	29	5	8	6	8	2			93	100	88
MUSIC	3	1	1	1					100	100	90
PHYSICAL ED. STUDIES	5		1	3		1			80	100	71
PHYSICS	17	2	5	3	4	2	1		82	100	79
POLITICS	6	1	3	2					100	100	89
PSYCHOLOGY	13		1	7	3	1		1	85	92	55
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	37	5	13	15	2	2			89	100	87
SOCIOLOGY	9			1	4	1	3		56	100	74
SPANISH	5	2	2	1					100	100	84

% of Students getting 3 Grades A*-C at A level is 86%

% of Students getting 3 Grades A*-C at A level for Northern Ireland is 77/78%

GCE AS-LEVEL SUMMARY ANALYSIS BY SUBJECT - SUMMER 2012

SUBJECT	Entrants	A	B	C	D	E	U	% A- C	% A- E
ACCOUNTS	10	2	3	4	1			90	100
ART AND DESIGN	4	2	2					100	100
BIOLOGY	32	9	11	6	4	1	1	81	97
BUSINESS ST.	13	3	5	4	1			92	100
CHEMISTRY	20	7	2	6	2	3		75	100
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - NI	9	5	4					100	100
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - RM	6			5	1			83	100
DRAMA	11	4	5	2				100	100
ENGLISH LITERATURE	22	1	4	10	4	3		68	100
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	12	3	7	2				100	100
FRENCH	3		2	1				100	100
FURTHER MATHS (A/S)	2	2						100	100
GEOGRAPHY	27	8	6	9	4			85	100
HISTORY	37	12	4	9	9	3		68	100
IRISH	18	6	6	4	1	1		89	100
ICT	56	25	12	9	7	3		82	100
MATHEMATICS	31	17	10	4				100	100
MUSIC	7		3	3	1			86	100
PHYSICAL ED. STUDIES	8	2	2	4				100	100
PHYSICS	26	8	6	4	4	2	2	69	93
POLITICS	10		4	3	1		2	70	80
PSYCHOLOGY	20	3	2	4	5	5	1	45	95
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	22	17	4	1				100	100
SOCIOLOGY	16	1	2	3	5	1	4	38	75
SPANISH	19	2	10	5	1		1	89	95

GCSE Results by Department 2012

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A*-B	A*-C	NI% A*-B	NI%A*-C
Art and Design	14	3	9	2						100	100	73	94
Biology	44		13	12	15	3	1			57	91	70	94
Bus Studies	29	3	5	9	7	3	2			59	83	59	83
Chemistry	20	4	8	5	2				1	85	95	73	93
Construction	26	2	10	10	4					85	100		
Drama	22	1	4	10	5	2				68	91	81	95
English Language	126	8	27	57	31	2	1			73	98	69	94
English Literature	125	7	23	60	31	4				72	97	67	92
French	23	5	5	8	5					78	100	54	78
Geography	59		25	23	7	4				81	93	67	87
History	65	8	23	20	11	2	1			78	95	76	94
Irish	47	6	9	22	7	3				79	94	71	93
ICT	69	15	17	20	12	4	1			75	93	85	94
Life and Work	10		3	4	3					70	100	74	90
Maths	125	12	36	51	21	4	1			79	96	77	97
GCSE Maths in one Year	60	21	27	11	1					98	100		
Add Maths	44	4	13	13	11	3				68	93	75	91
Moving Images	5			3	1	1				60	80		
Music	8	1	1	3	2				1	63	88	88	98
PE Studies	31	4	12	9	4	2				81	94	82	94
Physics	47	4	13	11	13	6				60	87	70	91
Religious Education	121	15	37	37	14	14	4			74	85		
Science (Double Award)	61	12	12	15	19	3				64	95	62	92
Spanish	60	11	10	22	12	5				72	92	60	85
Technology	42	3	24	8	6	1				83	98	70	92

	Abbey	NI Grammar School Average
% of students obtaining 5+GCSE	95%	97%
% of students obtaining 7+ GCSE	90%	92%

ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS STUDIES

Accounting and Business Studies

Collaboration with the Sacred Heart

September 2012 saw the first cohort of Sacred Heart students complete their A2 in Accounting. The overall results were pleasing with 58% achieving grade A and the remaining 42% achieving grade B. The arrangement continues to work well. There are currently 7 girls continuing from AS to A2 and 8 new students have joined the AS class.

Competitions

Year 13 Business Studies

The Belfast Telegraph Rensburg Sheppards Fantasy Share Race

In October 2008 a group of 7 AS Business Studies Students - Niall Burns, Christopher Kenny, Padraig Hillen, Tadhg Murdock, Darren Mc Govern, Lee Ruddy and Donal Burns – invested a fantasy £100,000 in a portfolio of companies from the FTSE 350. A number of rules had to be strictly followed including only being able to hold a maximum of 10 stocks and a minimum of 5, at any time and a minimum initial investment of £5000 and a maximum of £20,000 permitted per stock. The team could buy and sell stock on the last trading day of each month up until 13th February 2012.

The team invested the full £100,000 in the shares of the 8 companies listed below:

BAT
Daily mail
Diageo
Halfords Group
Heritage Oil
Premier Oil
Sainsbury (J)
Sports Direct INTL
Tesco
Tullow Oil

At the end of the competition in February our team finished a very disappointing last!! - from a pool of 33 schools. The team made a negative return of 2.59% on their investment.

Year 11 Business Studies

Industrial Visit

On Wednesday 9th May 2012 thirty year 11 Abbey students accompanied by their teachers, Mrs C McGrath and Mrs T Fearon, were welcomed by Emma Armer to the Coca-Cola Visitors Experience. The visit gave the boys an insight into the

remarkable 125 year history of Coca-Cola from when it was invented by John Pemberton back in 1886, its growth to becoming ‘the worlds favourite soft drink’, to how the pioneering vision of Northern Ireland businessman Tom Robinson, first brought Coca-Cola to the island of Ireland. The boys also enjoyed a tour of the production facility where they had a bird’s eye view of how the products were made, bottled, packaged and stored.

Stock Market Challenge

Friday 9th March saw the arrival at the Abbey of 10 Lane Learning headed by Martin Barnes. This company had set up an impressive mock stock exchange trading floor for the launch of the interschool ‘Stock Market Challenge’ competition. Two teams from the Abbey, each made up of five year 11 students, had qualified to take part in this first ever challenge. They were not only competing against each other but also another 18 teams from the area and the aim was to see which team could make the most capital gain in a day from their portfolio of shares. Students experienced the excitement of buying and selling shares on a real trading floor. The two Abbey teams finished a commendable third and fourth.

Careers

A continued focus was made this year for careers within business and accounting and to complement the accounting syllabus we invited a past pupil, Darren Fegan into school to speak to the year 13 accounting students about his career path. Darren spoke openly and enthusiastically about his time at work since leaving school and his current career with FPM Accountancy.

Mrs T Fearon (Head of Accounting and Business studies)

DEPARTMENT OF ART & DESIGN

Art & Design Results:

Another excellent year for the department across GCSE, AS and A levels with 100% A*-C at A Level, 100% A-B at AS Level and 100% A*-B at GCSE. At moderation the department was complimented on its high level of organisation and on the superb standard of work exhibited. Students were noted to have shown excellent skills across the assessment objectives, producing sensitive, creative and personal interpretations. The high standard of work produced by students in the department was endorsed by the moderators at GCSE, AS & A2 who recommended a student from each year for the “True Colours Exhibition”. This prestigious exhibition at the Ulster Museum, Belfast, showcases the best student artwork in Northern Ireland. Selection for this is a fantastic achievement for any student.

All A2 Art & Design pupils have successfully gained their University places, with 1 having chosen to study Art & Design at the University of Ulster and another undertaking a BEd at St Mary’s University College specialising in Art & Design.

Moving Image Arts Results:

2011/12 saw Abbey students' first qualification at GCSE Level in Moving Image Arts. In this regard the department is very satisfied with the results achieved gaining 100% A* - D. Students in Yr 11 also successfully completed the required module and achieved 100% A* – C.

Awards:

The “Texaco Children’s Art Competition” is an extremely prestigious competition throughout Ireland. Our success from previous years has continued with Colin Rice (Yr 13), Francis Murphy (Yr 14) & Alex Thompson (Yr 14) being awarded “Certificates of Commendation”. We are extremely proud of their achievements which we believe is an endorsement of the quality of work produced in the Department.

For the 5th consecutive year, Year 8 pupils from the Abbey Grammar have achieved competition success in the Newry Credit Union poster competition. Ryan McAteer was awarded 2nd place, while Ruairi McCormack and Ethan Lennon were awarded joint 3rd place in the 11-13 years category. These accomplishments are achieved despite significant competition from other local schools.

The department continues to recognise its commitment to working with the local community and in promoting environmental issues. To this end Year 9 students were set a task by Newry & Mourne District Council to present designs for the School's Environmental Calendar. Daniel Catterson’s poster design won the prestigious award of overall winner and is featured on the front cover of the 2012 calendar. Daniel’s design is based on the theme “Keep Newry & Mourne Green” and features the strong image of the Town Hall with a message reminding us to “Reduce, Reuse, Recycle.”

Yr 9 students were also actively involved in celebrating the Jubilee year of the Newry Drama Festival. Practicing artist Ciara O’Hara worked alongside Br9 & IV9 assisting in the production of decorative masks to mark this important milestone for the Arts in Newry & Mourne.

The Department is extremely proud of the continuation of our strong cross curricular links. Year 9 Art & Design students’ were again successfully involved in the Irish Proverb Poster Competition which is held as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge. Adam Gajda achieved 1st place, while Rory McCormack and Conor Poucher were awarded 2nd & 3rd place respectively.

Yr 11 Art & Design students were involved in the National Museums Northern Ireland Titanic Schools Poster Competition. The department was delighted when Niall Grant was selected as the highly commended submission in the GCSE category. Niall’s submission has formed part of the “Winners Exhibition” which is touring the National Museums of Northern Ireland from 3rd July – 7th October 2012.

Trips:

On 14th February all senior Art & Design Students had the opportunity to visit the “True Colours” Exhibition at the Ulster Museum, Belfast. This trip is an invaluable resource which allows students the opportunity to see the best of GCSE, AS & A2 work in Northern Ireland. This visit is hugely beneficial in demonstrating the level each student should aim to achieve. In addition to visiting this exhibition students were involved in a workshop with practicing print maker Anushiya Sundaralingan where under her guidance each student produced a series of prints based on their own

individual theme. This was a superb experience for the students, allowing them to work with an artist who has successfully made a career in Art & Design. Students also had the opportunity to visit the Street Art exhibition at the museum with the day's experience proving hugely beneficial in helping them achieve success at GCSE, AS & A2.

Careers:

During Term 1 past pupils Cormac McAteer & Paul Toner were invited to speak with the AS & A2 Level student about their experience during their first and second year studying BA (Hons) Architecture at Queens University. In addition past pupil Gerard Begley who is studying Theatre Design at Cardiff was invited to relay his experience of his course to date. This proved hugely beneficial for the students in relation to career choices. The boys presented a power point outlining the structure of their course along with their portfolios of work, illustrating projects they have been involved in both as individuals and as part of a team. Cormac, Paul and Gerard spoke on a one to one with many of the students afterwards who benefited greatly from their knowledge and experience.

Yr 14 students enjoyed collaboration with Newry High School who hosted a workshop presented by print maker and University of Ulster lecturer Bill Penney. The students learned from his printing expertise, producing individual vibrant screen prints based on their own theme. In addition students benefited greatly from Mr Penney's advice regarding portfolio content and interview techniques for admission to the University of Ulster at Belfast. This was an extremely positive experience for the students allowing them to work alongside someone who has successfully pursued a career in Art & Design.

Professional Development:

The department's continued professional development in 2011/12 focused greatly on Moving Image Arts in order to gain experience and develop expertise in this new subject to the Abbey. In addition teachers were also independently involved in courses focusing on printmaking and ceramics in a continued effort to utilize facilities within the department. Training courses continue to strengthen the department, helping to ensure that our students receive the richest art education.

The Art & Design department continues to promote the Abbey through the creative work presented at primary school visits, parent evenings, GCSE & A Level exhibitions and Open Day. This affords us the opportunity to celebrate our students' significant accomplishments and to encourage potential students to join the Abbey and strive to contribute to its success.

Ms O Hughes (Acting Head of Art and Design)

BIOLOGY DEPARTMENT

The Department is delighted with the continued improvement in grades at examination level and with the increased number choosing the subject at all levels. .

Correcting behaviour in the woodlouse

Two year 10 students Sean Lane and Cormac Rea were placed first in the Biological and Ecological Junior group category at the 2012 BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition in Dublin. Their project was a study of ‘correcting behaviour in the woodlouse’ and a culmination of a four month research period.

Correcting behaviour is where a forced turn in a maze by a woodlouse would be followed by a turn in the opposite direction. The students investigated the effects of many factors including the angle of the forced turn and the distances walked before and after the forced turn.

A comparative study of adults and juveniles suggested this was an instinctive form of behaviour in the woodlouse as opposed to a learned response.

The behaviour of the woodlouse in mazes designed by the students, indicated that memory had little influence on the routes taken. Overall, correcting behaviour was found to be instrumental in preventing the woodlouse going in a circular pattern and allowing forward movement which would be vital for their survival. By changing directions woodlouse could maintain a linear path out of a hostile environment. The judges congratulated the two young Abbey scientists on their excellent project which has brought the understanding of the common woodlouse to a new level.

At the Sentinus young innovators competition in June they were regional winners and go forward to represent N Ireland at the Big Bang Fair in London in March 2013.

Bronze Crest Awards:

Crest awards is a national accreditation scheme designed to recognise individual achievement in science projects. It is organised by the British Science Association and managed by Sentinus.

The biology department implemented the award scheme as an initiative to acknowledge the high standard of coursework of fourteen year 12 students produced in Double Award Science.

Nuffield Science Bursaries:

This is the twelfth year the Biology Department has been affiliated with this prestigious Bursary scheme. Bombardier Belfast, Norbrook Laboratories, Queens University Belfast, Daisy Hill Hospital and Armagh Observatory have accommodated our AS students in the past.

The bursaries are designed to give the opportunity to work in leading scientific industries, research institutes and universities. The experience has been fundamental in assisting participants in making decisions regarding career paths.

This year two students were successful in obtaining placements in Queen’s university. James McCartan was placed in the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology and worked on Computational Biology and Biostatistics with Dr Fran Emmert- Streib.

Abeer Shahid worked with Dr H McCarthy in the McClay Research centre. His research project was the Characterisation of a Bio-inspired delivery system [RALA]

for treatment of prostate cancer by gene therapy. Darren Brady was selected by BT to work with Mr Peter Cunningham on Telecommunications in the 21st Century.

Field studies:

Year 11 GCSE students participated in woodland studies in SMA College at Dromantine. Thanks to Fr Denver for allowing the school to avail of the facility.

AS students participated in a field studies programmes at SELB Killowen Outdoor Education Centre which included rocky shore studies, hedgerow management and agri-environment management schemes.

All of the year 8 pupils took part in field studies at the end of May organised by the biology department. In the sunshine the boys visited the Oakwood of Kilbroney Park. The woodland's canopy, shrub, herb and ground layers were investigated as a means of understanding the biodiversity of this ecosystem. This was followed by a study of the upper foreshore of Carlingford Lough. The wide range of producers and consumers was the focus with food chains being identified. The boys got an insight into the adaptability and interdependence of living organisms on the rocky shore. A great time was had by all.

Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM)

The government has identified STEM as a national priority, to increase students' STEM skills and the Biology department has contributed to this important initiative.

This year all AS Biology students participated in the Biotechnology module offered by the mobile STEM unit. The digestion and analysis of DNA with the potential application of these techniques in Forensics was the main focus. The workshop afforded the students the opportunity to use a range of restriction enzymes to cut DNA into pieces and carry out gel Electrophoresis producing genetic fingerprints.

Dr Adrian Fegan, a past pupil, graduate in Natural sciences of Trinity College Dublin and post graduate of Cambridge returned to his Alma Mater in September to give a presentation on his Postdoctoral research in College of Pharmacy in University of Minnesota. He gave a presentation of his work in the field of DNA Binding Ligands which can be used to target Drug-Resistant Bacteria in the treatment of disease.

Mrs. Margaret Lane (Head of Biology)

CAREERS DEPARTMENT

SEPTEMBER:-

- Successful visits to QUB and UUU Open Days by all Upper Sixth students. Students were offered the opportunity to discuss admission requirements and future plans for student fees with Higher Education faculties.
- Fifteen Year 14 students attended St Mary's University College, Belfast open morning.
- Year 12 students completed 'Getting Connected' Careers work – in partnership with the Department for Employment & Learning (Newry Careers Service)

OCTOBER:-

- The CEIAG Department hosted the NEELB STEM Module Bus for the second time. The programme addressed Year 13 students (Biology – DNA Testing).
- 8 Year 13 students attended Daisy Hill Hospital’s Health Care Symposium
- UCAS application system continued.
- Year 14 students received an informative presentation on Further and Higher Education progression routes by Dundalk Institute of Technology
- Twelve Year 12 students completed a Work Placement.
- Year 13 students completed a five day Work Related Learning Programme / Work Experience.
- Term 1 – CEIAG Department Newsletter published on the school website.

NOVEMBER:-

- Finalising of UCAS system – 104 (Internal) applications processed via the school system.
- Careers Department prepared 14 students for interview for St. Mary’s University College, Belfast.
- 47 Year 14 students completed a ‘Success Skills / Mock Interview programme – delivered by Young Enterprise Northern Ireland in preparation for Higher Education selection process.
- Term 1 – **Employability Week** (Week commencing Monday 14th Nov – Friday 18th Nov inclusive)
 - Year 11: ‘Learning for Life’ one day seminar (Sentinus)
 - Year 13: ‘Learning for Life’ one day seminar (Sentinus)
 - Year 12 ‘Learn to Earn’ Programme (Young Enterprise N I)
 - Year 14 – SRC – Higher /Further Education Progression Routes Presentation
- 1 Year 13 student was successfully selected and completed a 5 day programme with Sentinus, NI : ‘Insight Into Engineering’ as part of their Work Related Learning Experience.

DECEMBER:-

- CAO application process completed – 15 students completed applications online.
- 6 students completed FE applications to Dundalk Institute of Technology
- 10 students completed FE applications to the local SRC and BMC Belfast.
- Past pupil currently serving at the Bar in Dublin delivered a presentation to lower sixth students interested in a career in Law.

JANUARY:-

- All Year 10 students received a one-to-one Careers Guidance Interview prior to February KS4 Subject Choice.
- Final mock preparation with 6(2) students for St. Mary’s University College. – Interviews planned for February.
- Video Conference Link set up and delivered with two Year 12 Careers Groups on options Post GCSE available in the SRC, Newry.

- Successful Year 10 & Year 12 Options Day with input from the local Careers Officer (DEL) and a highly successful presentation from Student Marketing of Queens University Belfast to both Year 10 and Year 12 students.

FEBRUARY:-

- Year 14 students received a presentation and information session on Student Finance NI and applying for financial support on progressing to FE and HE.
- Head of CEIAG travelled to St Louis' Kilkeel with 7 Year 13 students for a presentation by Oxford University Admissions Team.
- 22 Year 12 student's application forms for SRC processed and submitted.
- Head of CEIAG and teacher of Careers involved in observation of SEN Transition Meetings.
- Term 2 CEIAG Department Newsletter published on the school website

MARCH:

- Application for Art & Design courses (Route B) took place.
- 6 Year 13 students attended Daisy Hill Hospital's Medical Careers Symposium.
- 1 Year 13 student secured a Dentistry Placement with Queen's Dentistry
- Head of Department attended annual Careers Advisers Morning held by Queen's University Belfast.
- Year 13 One-to-one Careers Guidance Interviewing commenced and continued throughout the month of April and May.

APRIL:

- FPM Chartered Accountants and Past Pupil Mr D Fegan in joint collaboration with the CEIAG Department and Business Studies Dept successfully engaged in a live video conference to all A Level Accounting Students.
- Year 13 worked on developing their sample personal statements alongside their Careers Guidance Interview.
- Term 3 – Employability Week 2:
 - Year 8 students – Young Enterprise NI : 'Your School Your Business'
 - Year 9 Students – YE 9 – Employability Programme – Young Enterprise NI
 - Year 10 Students – 'Project Business' – Young Enterprise NI
 - Year 11 Students One Day Placement : 'Take Your Son To Work Day'

MAY/JUNE:-

- Careers Department in co-operation with Lower Sixth Form Tutors commenced the administration work for the forthcoming UCAS Cycle 2012-2013.
- Term 3 CEIAG Department Newsletter completed and published on the website.
- Head of Newry Careers Service and two Careers Officers completed end of year evaluation of the School/DEL Partnership agreement with the Headmaster and Head of CEIAG.

AUGUST:- Results of Yr 14, Year 13 and Yr 12 students.

C McGrath
Head of CEIAG

CHEMISTRY

During the week of October 24th to October 28th the RSC held its annual *Meet the Universities* Event. Picking the right chemistry course and university has become bewildering for school students. However this event gave the 6th Year Chemistry students in the Abbey the opportunity to find out directly about chemical sciences courses and universities. The students were able to take part in interactive online chat sessions with University Lecturers and were able to access student blogs getting a first hand knowledge of chemical sciences degree courses and University Chemistry Departments. 6th Yr student comment about the online event. *"I found the depth of chemistry courses to be very interesting and the versatility offered by studying chemistry makes it a tempting course for me"*

December Terry Guo entered the International Chemistry Olympiad held at Queen's University Belfast. The competition is organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry and there were some 4,000 international entries. He received a certificate for his fine performance however he wasn't placed in the top five percent.

The Department now subscribes to the excellent *Education in Chemistry* and *The Mole* magazines; these have been made available to 6th year chemistry students.

The number of Yr 10 pupils who opted to study chemistry at GCSE remains healthy approximately 86 pupils will study chemistry as part of the Double Award Science Course, there will also be 2 GCSE (discrete) Chemistry classes an increase on recent years.

Lastly I would like to thank Mr Gary Moan for his excellent contribution to the Abbey Chemistry Department over the last 2 years, and to wish him well in the future. I also equally would like to welcome Dr Maeve Carey to the Department.

Mr C Gamble (Head of Chemistry)

CONSTRUCTION DEPARTMENT

The Department is delighted with the continued improvement in grades at examination level and with the increased number choosing the subject at all levels. It is particularly satisfying to witness the success of the GCSE Construction course. The course which initially had been offered solely to young men who were experiencing difficulty with Modern Languages has now been extended to allow anyone who wishes to study the subject at GCSE to do so. The grades this year for this expanded group were excellent with the group of 28 students collectively attaining 12 A*/A , 12 B and four C Grades.

The BTEC 'A' Level Construction Course has undergone some major changes in recent times and had been restructured as the new Subsidiary Diploma and for the first time offered our 'A' level students the opportunity to attain an 'A*' grade. The first cohort has just completed the first two year cycle and the grades were excellent. The grades within the group were as follows: 10 A*, 11 A and 6 C grades. In total 100% A* to C grades.

It has been another very busy year for the subject as the numbers choosing it continue to rise year on year. We welcomed Mrs K Cranston to the Construction Department in the last academic year and she is delivering two specialist units namely Technology & Design and Building Technology. We also welcome back Mrs D. Simpson Head of Geography to our team for the incoming year. This yet again shows our commitment to the boys by providing the best expertise available to enhance their educational experience in this vocational course.

Quality Assurance visit by Edexcel

In January of this year we received our now annual visits from Edexcel's Quality Assurance team. The purpose of their visit was to quality check our course, its delivery and our administrative procedures. We received an excellent report.

'A' Level Construction.

Students through study of the carefully chosen core and the specialist units will continue to be provided with a greater awareness of the skills, qualities and knowledge that particular occupational areas require and empowered to make informed choices for third level study.

The newly named 'Subsidiary Diploma course' delivered to our 'A' Level students consists of the following units.

Core Units

Health Safety and Welfare Delivered by Mr G. Savage HOD Construction.

Construction, Technology & Design Delivered by Construction Department members
Mr G. Savage & Mrs K. Cranston

Construction Science and Materials Delivered by The Physics Department members
Mr B. Hamill & Mr K. Brady.

Construction and the Environment Delivered by Geography Department members
Mrs A. Elmore & Miss U Toner.

Specialist Units

Building Technology Delivered by Construction Department members
Mr G. Savage & Mrs K. Cranston

Mathematics in Construction Delivered by Mathematics Department members
Miss K. Doherty & Miss M. Murphy

Careers in Construction

Mr Savage as part of the Construction Department's School Development Plan focus has collated all the University course offers made to our students last year and is presenting the findings to the incoming 7th year Construction group. This information will help the 7th year cohort analyse the individual unit grade requirements set by each University and help the students make informed and realistic course choices.

As a department we intend to enhance the student experience even further by continuing to invite guest speakers to the Construction department. These specialists will discuss their professional roles and work closely with students in 'real life' work related tasks at various junctures throughout the year.

In summary, the subject to date continues to exceed all my expectations and I look forward to another exciting year.

Mr. G. Savage (Head of Construction)

DRAMA DEPARTMENT

September: The Drama Club reconvenes with Mr. McParland working with the juniors on an array of drama workshops and small production activities. Some of the pupils were entered for the Warrenpoint Feis in May. Rehearsals for Carmen Jones began in late August with extra intensity and focus as circumstances dictated that we were many weeks behind schedule. From August to the opening of the show was a very difficult period in terms of coordinating all our resources to ensure that Carmen would open on time and open to great applause.

October: Carmen Jones continued to absorb every living moment of the school life as we approached the opening night. Weekends were never free and the Drama and Music departments pulled out all the stops to guarantee a successful week. The effort was doubled every day as we were very conscious that this was the first major show to be staged in the new school, and in the new assembly hall. There was always a fear that the show may not work given the myriad of issues around it. However, this apprehension drove us forward and cemented our relationships so strongly that Carmen Jones was a massive hit for the whole school community. The audiences were huge and the reactions justified all the endeavour.

November: AS and A2 students visit 'The Abbey Theatre,' Dublin for an exciting performance of 'The Government Inspector,' as part of their Unit 1 and Unit 4 from the new Edexcel Theatre Studies course. The trip was vital in opening up issues of theatrical devices and imaginative use of space for the students. This was a rare opportunity for the students to experience C19th. Russian theatre at such a high level of professionalism.

December: Drama Club reconvenes after school in preparation for The Open Day in January.

January: The Open Day was a great success with 1st – 3rd year groups performing with tremendous confidence and energy for the prospective pupils and their parents. It was great to see the main drama room being used so effectively. The pupils presented monologues, duologues and group scenes, and again, this was a great opportunity for them to display their work in a public environment.

March: The GCSE classes presented their practical work for moderation in the main drama room. The performances of ‘Hidden Curriculum’, ‘Bald Prima Donna’, ‘Blackout’ and ‘Us and Them’ resulted in each pupil attaining their highest mark possible. Both groups excelled and the department was given very high praise for the quality of teaching and assessing.

April: The AS students presented their interpretation of ‘Dogg’s Hamlet’ and ‘Ollie Deasy’ for Unit 2 examination in the new assembly hall on Holy Thursday. As part of the new specification the students also had to present a polished monologue for the examiner. The productions were warmly received by family and friends in the auditorium and most students were awarded a grade A.

May: Due to some technical problems the A2 students delayed their Unit 3 Devised performance until early May. The work was of the highest order, and again, family and friends were in the auditorium to witness quality work.

June: The Department had a series of detailed meetings to finalise our School Development Plan, complete new units of work and to prepare ourselves for the possibility of a school inspection. We are very confident that the department and staff are ready in every respect to meet the demands of an inspection. The department conducted a series of meetings with Cinemagic Ireland and we were linked up with The Newry High School. For a first-time project this was a very successful adventure and it is hoped to continue the process next year. An Education Inspector visited to discuss the success of the project and he was highly impressed with the pupils interviewed.

August: Results for GCSE, AS and A2 students were received and the high standard over the past 10 years was maintained. We had 89% A-C at A Level and 100% A-C at AS Level. At GCSE we achieved 90% A-C.

The additional Schemes of Work to support the Revised Curriculum for Year 10 were implemented and the Drama Department continued to search for and incorporate new texts and material into the new schemes and units of work. We continued to adapt our teaching practice to the new facilities and spaces provided by the new school to ensure the Department is ready to meet the challenges ahead.

Mr. J. Smyth (Head of Drama)

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Abbey Press

Although the Abbey Press did not publish any new titles last year, its books continue to be ordered.

Writing Competitions

Students were entered for local and national writing competitions last year. Internal writing competitions are a feature of the English classroom with prizes being awarded for the best and most improved work. Students from year 8 and year 10 were involved in writing poetry for a 'Young Writers' competition. 26 of the students had their poems published in the regional anthology 'Express Yourself' through 'Poetry across the Globe' which is kept at The British Library.

School Magazine

The English Department contributes regularly to the many articles, stories, poems and book reviews that appear in *The Abbey Way*.

Library

The English Department continues to promote the use of the library by taking pupils in Years 8-11 there once a week to choose fiction and non-fiction texts. Senior pupils at GCSE and A Level are also taken to the library frequently to research information for their exams and coursework. Each First Year also undertakes an induction programme to help with the use of the library in term one.

Debating (Ms A. Reynolds)

Br McFarland Senior Debating Trophy

- Over 200 in attendance – parents, friends and pupils, especially in Years 9 & 11 to collect awards. Highest attendance figures to date.
- High number of initial debaters again this year so semi-final rounds were maintained.
- Noted guest speaker: Mr Tom McCaughren, career journalist and author attended debating final as guest adjudicator.
- Continued sponsorship: Mr Rory McShane

Debating Matters

- The Institute of Ideas run this Pfizer-sponsored debate which is judged by a panel of three. The level of research and logical reasoning required is high and the adjudicators included William Crawley (BBC) and Professor Bert Rima (School of Medicine, Dentistry and Biomedical Sciences). Peter Delahunt was named best individual speaker.

EU Mock Council

- Fourth time to participate in this debate with 3 senior students. This year Abbey students were part of a film done by the British Council. The film crew were in school for part of the day and continued filming the boys in Stormont. The video link was made available through the British Council on video and You Tube. We had a new country to represent and will take part in this mock debate again in October of the new academic year.

In-house Debates

- Year 9 & Year 11 debates run in English classes. These debates form the base from which senior debaters develop and have been successful in developing interest and talent in students.

Scholastic Book Club

Each month pupils in Junior School are given copies of the Scholastic Book Club magazine. Many pupils purchase books from these newsletters and discounted books are often ordered to build up libraries in English teachers' classrooms. Ms.Reynolds co-ordinates this.

Extra Literacy Assistance

Mr. Rodgers provided extra literacy assistance to those pupils who have weaknesses with their written English. Ms. Sara Millar also comes in to assist pupils who have problems with literacy. Mr. McMahon takes those boys who have not achieved a pass grade in GCSE English Language for extra classes. These boys sit the winter repeat exam. Last year they all passed. English teachers regularly give up many free periods to assist pupils and take support classes after school coming up to exams.

World Book Day and National Poetry Day

Competitions were run last year on this day with boys being awarded prizes by the Department for their efforts.

Writing Club

The English Department continues to help those pupils in the school who show an interest and a flair in writing. This is often done during non-teaching periods or after school. Two seventh year pupils (Michael Haddad and Connor Hogan) took a writing class last year after school on a Thursday.

First Year Reading

The English Department continued its annual literacy presentation to the parents of First Years. This presentation involved Mr. Rodgers talking to parents on how best to promote reading with their sons. Booklets, offering advice, were distributed to parents.

Spelling

Last year the school continued its promotion of spelling with the English teachers running internal class competitions with the best spellers at Key Stage Three competing against each other in the school assembly hall. This event involves all of Junior School and was co-ordinated by Mr. Rodgers, Teacher in Charge of Literacy. Mr. Rodgers also entered a Junior team in the Sunday Times Spelling Bee Competition.

Reading Week/Careers Focus

A reading week took place in January last year. Mr. McMahon also took a group of seventh year English Language and English Literature pupils to a talk by Billy Keane who discussed the writing of a memoir on his father, J.B.Keane. Year 10 pupils also undertook a careers programme at the end of term three.

Mr. M McMahon (Head of English)

FRENCH DEPARTMENT

September 2011 – the French Department welcomed Adrien Blondel back as language assistant for another year.

2) January 2012– the French Department welcomed primary school pupils from local primary schools and their parents as part of Open Day.

3) January – June 2012 – the French Department investigated interactive websites available for French. On many occasions we brought full classes to the ICT suites. The availability of these facilities has greatly enhanced the teaching and learning of French in the Abbey. Pupils continue to enjoy the opportunity to use these facilities. M Quinn trialled a number of tasks for the new KS3 ICT accreditation scheme with pupils in years 8 -10 and these tasks will be rolled out to be completed by all pupils in Yrs 8 & 9 in the next academic year.

4) June 2012 – As with previous years, this was a very busy time for the French Department. As part of our continued monitoring and evaluating within the department we revised the Year 9 booklet, new GCSE resources and placed additional resources on to the school VLE and RM Shared which pupils can access for additional, independent study.

5) August 2012 – the academic year 2011 - 2012 was an excellent year for the French Department. The pass rate at both GCSE and A Level was 100%. Sean Rooney and Ciaran Davies, in particular, excelled at A2 level achieving A* grades. Both students showed great flair for the language from 1st year and we were delighted with and congratulate them on their success. Ciaran has gone on to continue his French studies at QUB.

Miss M. Quinn (Head of French)

GEOGRAPHY

All Geography 6th year students took part in a river study to the White Water River in Killowen as part of their AS level coursework. This was a whole day visit which took place in October 2011.

All Year 11 Geography students took part in a river study of the White water River in April 2012 as part of their GCSE Controlled Assessment.

At key Stage 3 the revised curriculum is being actively followed, pupils have become more active learners by participating in group work and presenting their work to the class through power point presentations. A variety of active learning strategies were implemented to help pupils improve on their thinking skills and problem solving. Pupils are also assessing their own work along with the work of others and evaluating what they have learnt throughout the unit taught.

At AS and A2 level the new specification was implemented, pupils are encouraged to partake in independent learning by researching a variety of case studies.

Year 13 students attended a Geoscience careers day at Sacred Heart School on Wednesday 7th March. Pupils were introduced to a variety of careers linked to Geography. One of the key speakers was Dr Dermot Smith, a past pupil of the Abbey, who spoke about his work as a geologist. The students also enjoyed presentations on subjects as diverse as the water problems in Uganda to how Geography aids law enforcement agencies locate human remains.

Mrs D Simpson (Head of Geography)

HISTORY

The academic year 2011-2012 was an excellent one for the History Department. The results both at GCSE level and A level were excellent. The second year of Controlled Assessment proved to be very successful, with the majority of students obtaining excellent marks. Students also commented on how much they enjoyed the controlled assessment tasks they had worked on.

Open night was very successful and it drew large crowds to the History Department. Parents and prospective pupils alike commented on the various projects on display and the enthusiasm of the pupils in the department.

Work has also been ongoing with the Key Stage 3 curriculum. In Year 9 the History Department has been pioneering a curriculum initiative over the past two years entitled PRESIDENTS which is highlighting the profound historical links between Ireland and the USA. Besides highlighting the many American presidents with Irish blood in their veins, the project is also focusing on the local dimension to the War of 1812 and in particular the army led by General Ross from Rostrevor who captured Washington in 1814. Many of his men were Irish while many on the American side were also Irishmen. Opportunities are being explored to work with other departments in the school, including Art, Geography and Religion in a themed learning approach. There was also a major focus on the development of ICT across Key Stage 3, with teachers and pupils alike using a variety of new technologies, ranging from Pod casting to the use of Google Sites.

Mr D Evans (Head of History)

ICT DEPARTMENT

Information to Parents:

We have used our ICT Blog and School VLE to outline useful websites outlining the dangers of the Internet. Both parents and Year 8 students have completed an updated student Internet policy and Internet Permission form agreeing to comply with the school rules on Internet use.

New Syllabus information:

Work is ongoing with respect to the implementation of the new syllabus at GCSE, AS and A2 level. All course materials have been uploaded onto Moodle. It is our intention to use these on Line Courses with all our GCSE and A Level students.

Key Stage 3 Accreditation scheme:

In the academic year 2011-2012, ICT core leaders used their Key Stage 3 departmental approved tasks for years 8, 9 and 10. Following their experiences of these tasks, meetings have been scheduled during the months of September and October whereby the core team can re draft (if needed) tasks for the Key Stage 3 Accreditation scheme. It is essential we use these and be well-prepared in advance of statutory assessment of Using ICT in 13/14. Subjects currently using approved department tasks include Geography, French, Spanish, LLW, English, Irish, French, Art and Mathematics.

Learning NI:

In line with the demands of the new curriculum the ICT department have revised and updated our Year 8 and 9 ICT courses on Learning NI. These are in-house, Abbey produced courses which meet the needs of our pupils and equip them with the skills to fulfil the needs of ICT in the Revised Curriculum.

Examination results:

This year the GCSE and A Level results in the ICT department were very good. In Year 12, 93% of our pupils achieved Grade A-C at GCSE. At AS Level, 82% of our pupils achieved Grade A-C and at A2 Level 93% of our pupils achieved Grade A-C.

Professional Development:

March 2012: ICT Coordinators day: Preparation for the Assessment of Using ICT. This becomes statutory at the end of key stage assessment in 2013/14.

May 2012: Attended the C2k Education road show in the Canal Court Hotel, Newry. There were nine companies exhibiting at the exhibition, all of whom with a product or service that is integrated with the new C2k Education Network. This information afternoon was useful and informative

Careers Education:

This year as part of our whole school development plan we took as our focus Careers education within the department. This involved bringing the Bring IT On road show to the Abbey Grammar School Newry on Wednesday 8th February 2012. The first of four planned in-school Bring IT On events this year. This careers event targets pupils aged 14 to 16 years and is focused exclusively on providing information and advice on Northern Ireland's dynamic IT industry. Girls from Sacred Heart Grammar joined the boys from Abbey Grammar for the event, working together in teams to compete for prizes. They heard senior ambassadors Russell Kane from Queen's University and Fergal Downey from Cybersource talk about their career paths and the opportunities available within the IT profession in Northern Ireland.

The department used an on line discussion forum with Mr Quinn a graduate from a Queens University Computer Science course on issues relating to job opportunities and information concerning this degree course in Queens. We also continue to populate our ICT blog with information concerning ICT job opportunities within Northern Ireland. This has proved a very useful resource.

During the month of February teachers from the ICT department visited all third year classes with a department prepared video highlighting job prospects within ICT, and information concerning CCEA GCSE ICT course. Our efforts have been repaid in that we have four GCSE ICT groups in year 11, and three ICT groups in both AS ICT and A2 ICT.

After School Supervision:

Organised and administered by members of the ICT department. This gives GCSE and A' Level students the opportunity to work on coursework.

Resources :

In June 2012, the school acquired fifteen Ipads, these have been given to members of SMT and ICT core team to explore and evaluate in preparation for the new C2K contract.

Dwyer McCann

Head of ICT

IRISH DEPARTMENT

Best Public Speaker of Irish in Northern Ireland



James Meehan in Year 12 was crowned Under 16 Irish Public Speaking Champion on Friday 30th April 2012, in the Ulster Final at the Morgan Athletic Grounds in Armagh. Gael-Linn's prestigious public speaking competition 'Abair' witnessed the highest standard in the competition for a number of years. Students from across the North of Ireland, Monaghan and Donegal impressed the judges with their wide range of topics and varying styles of delivery.

Andrew McAteer, a Year 11 student, opened the competition with his speech on the Olympic Games in London 2012. The judges felt that James Meehan, who came second in the competition last year, was worthy of the award as he presented a satirical speech on 'Lent and Nomophobia'.

Connor Hogan, last year's U18 winner, spoke about 'Fracking' in the senior section in an extremely competitive section with his own personalised brand of public speaking that Gael-Linn competitions have come to expect.

'Comhghairdeas' to the three Abbey students for reaching the final and many congratulations to James on his success.

2 Annual Abbey oral awards for the most fluent speakers of Irish



The first year trophy (Bás Chuchulainn) dedicated to the late Brother Beausang was jointly awarded to Daniel Kehoe and Ryan McKeown.

The second year trophy (Méabh agus an Donn Chuailgne) dedicated to the late Mr. Patrick Arthur Crinion, a former teacher of Irish and the Classics, was awarded to Ronan Reel.

The third year trophy (Corn Durkin) dedicated to the late Matt Durkin was jointly awarded to Joseph McKeown and Niall Rafferty. 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 Gaeilgeoirí 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 jointly awarded to Peter Reel and Aodhán Gregory.

The fifth year trophy (Bás Chúchulainn) dedicated to the late Brother W. O. Murphy, former Head of Irish and Vice-Principal of the Abbey, was jointly awarded to Sheá Hanratty and Lee Ruddy.

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

The award for the best 'Gaelscoláire' (An Lóchrann Beag) was jointly awarded to Ger Feehan and Cormac Donnelly.

3 Brother Beausang Shield Presentation

In recognition of their respect and affection for the late Br. Beausang, the local branch of Conradh na Gaeilge (Craobh an Iúir) presented a perpetual trophy to the Irish Department in the Abbey Grammar school which is awarded annually to the top oral student in sixth form. This is the tenth and final year for the trophy to be presented and this year's recipient was James Meehan. The trophy is presented together with a cheque for £200 to go towards a three week course in the Donegal Gaeltacht and James intends to go to Machaire Rabhartaigh. The first winner of Sciath an Br. Beausang was Antaine Ó Cuaig (RIP), followed by Seán Ó Cearbhaill in 2002, Diarmaid Ó Diolúin in 2003 Macdara Ó Graham in 2004, Seán Mac Labhraí in 2005, Pádraig Ó Tiarnaigh 2006, Pilib MacLabhraí 2007, Deaglán Mag Aoidh 2008 and Seán MacCathmhaoil, 2009, Cian Gallagher 2010 and Connor Hogan who sat his A level examinations in the Summer received this prestigious award last year.

4 Seachtain na Gaeilge

Year 9 – Year 9 Students took part in a cross-curricular Art Competition on Irish Proverbs.

Year 11/13/14 - Ciaran Mackin, Irish Language Interpreter and Professional Translator, and past pupil of the Abbey, present Silver Fáinní to Year 11 students. He spoke at length to AS/A2 Students on his job in the EU Parliament.

Staff - Gerry Savage received the most votes from students for making the most effort during Seachtain na Gaeilge and received a £50 Meal Voucher for the Canal Court.

5 Irish Week Art Competition Winners

All Year 9 Abbey Students were invited to participate in an art competition depicting various Irish Proverbs through Art. Prize money for the competition was provided by Foras na Gaeilge, as part of the Irish Department's reward for being in the top ten schools in Ireland for promoting spoken Irish. The following students were presented with a small financial reward to recognise their success.

1st Place Adam Gajda
2nd Place Rory McCormack
3rd Place Conor Poucher

6 Gaeltacht Students and Scholarships 2012

Despite the economic downturn at least 117 Abbey students attended a Summer Course in Machaire Rabhartaigh, Donegal. As a department we advise the students which courses are most suitable, based on this pupils make their choice and bring in their applications and money. We are extremely grateful for the level of support provided by both Gael- Linn and Feis an Dúin who regularly provide 4000 scholarships to Abbey students every year. Thanks to the generosity of Gael-Linn we were able to redistribute over £8000 of scholarships to those registered students.

Mr. D. Tennyson
Head of Irish

LEARNING FOR LIFE AND WORK DEPARTMENT

Year 8 – students in Year 8 were involved in a Love for Life presentation on October 24th. The seminar, entitled 'Who's Choosing' focused on issues and decisions facing our young students, including: the real me; healthy living; influences; smoking/alcohol/drugs; relationships.

Year 8 and 9 students were also involved in a competition organised by Newry and Mourne Council. Students had to design a storyboard on a choice of themes including:

Racism, Road Safety and Cyber Bullying.

Several students won prizes in each category and attended an awards night in Bellini's, Newry.

Year 10 students were involved in a Love for Life presentation on October 24th. The workshop, entitled Icebergs and Babies, looked at a range of issues facing young people, including: sources of pressure, self-image, media and sex and virginity as a healthy life choice.

Year 11 – a number of students were involved in an inter-schools' discussion organised by Newry and Mourne District Council on October 13th. The discussion allowed students to question local councillors on issues of importance in the student's area. The students asked questions on a range of anti-social behaviour issues, provision of facilities for young people and future council plans. Students were able to meet local councillors and members of the local D.P.P. The meeting was part of the council's Local Democracy Week initiative.

Inset training days:

September - Mr. Morgan attended a GCSE Agreement Trial in Cookstown.

Revised Curriculum, Non-Exam KS4 LLW, GCSE LLW

The department had a very busy year reviewing and updating the schemes of work and assessment tasks for the forthcoming academic year. The revised KS3 schemes of work are now fully complete and have been updated onto the LLW departmental folder.

New resources and schemes of work were also produced for Non-exam KS4 LLW.

The first two-year cycle of the new GCSE specification was completed. The students attained the following grades: 3As, 4Bs, 3Cs. Year 11 students also completed their module exam with the following grades: 7As, 10Bs, 9Cs.

Mr. Gerald Morgan
(Head of LLW)

MATHEMATICS DEPARTMENT

Once again the students were entered into CCEA's Two Tier Modular GCSE Mathematics without coursework exam. 11MM and 11KD completed their full GCSE in one year as in previous years. All remaining 4th year students sat 45% of their GCSE with reasonable outcomes. 12SB, 12KD & 12MM sat their completion paper in June, with some students also opting to repeat their module from 4th year, in January to try to improve their grade.

High levels of entry at AS Level were repeated again this year with all students bar one having completed Additional Maths at GCSE with pleasing results.

Additional Mathematics entries were still high and results here were pleasing.

At KS3 the New Revised Curriculum was actively followed while still preparing Year 10 pupils for their KS3 Mathematics exam. The interactive whiteboards have provided the department with the facility to use a variety of resources.

Mathematic Challenges

Students are invited to enter Mathematic Contests organised by the United Kingdom Mathematics Trust. These are as follows:

- The U.K. Junior Mathematical Challenge
- The U.K. Intermediate Mathematical Challenge
- The U.K. Senior Mathematical Challenge

Students for these competitions are selected according to performance in house examinations and ability at Mathematics.

Gold, Silver and Bronze Certificates are awarded, depending on results. Last year's results were as follows:

Senior Challenge

SILVER

Xiaotian Cui	Neil M ^c Conville
Tianyu Guo	Stephen Grant

BRONZE

Sean Rooney	Aaron Beattie
Cailum Finnegan	

Best in School:

Xiaotian Cui

Intermediate Challenge

GOLD

Matthew Freeman	Sean M ^c Ateer
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SILVER

Leo Gorman	Niall Jennings
James Haughey	Peter Reel
Eoin Monaghan	Liam Brady

BRONZE

Niall Mackle	Luke Bradley
Killian Thornton	C.J. Powell
James M ^c Kevitt	

Best in School:

Matthew Freeman

Due to his outstanding score in the Intermediate Challenge, Matthew was invited to partake in a follow-up round called the Pink Kangaroo, which is a one hour multiple choice paper which is also taken by over 25 countries throughout Europe. This is to be commended!

Junior Challenge

Unfortunately due to this occurring on the day after the KS3 Mathematics exam, the Junior Maths Challenge did not take place in the Abbey this year.

BP Trading Roadshow

In May, all Year 10 students from the Abbey Grammar, Newry participated in the BP Trading Challenge Roadshow where they had the opportunity to put applied mathematical and enterprise skills into action through an exciting simulation of real-life trading.

Students worked together in teams, competing against each other to trade oil and make a profit, demonstrating skills and values that can contribute towards success in business.

World Maths Day – 7th March 2012

World Maths Day is an online international mathematics competition. Question sets have come under five categories: addition, subtraction, multiplication, division and simple equations. In each game, the student has one minute to answer as many of these questions of a random category as they can. The level of difficulty is approximately age appropriate.

All Year 8 students were registered for this event and where possible participated during their Maths class and/or at home.

Numeracy Workout

A greater emphasis was placed this year on learning Mathematics through ICT with the purchase of the Numeracy Workout packages. Years 8 & 9 students were frequently taken to LG15 to make use of this resource. Students also had the opportunity to avail of this resource before school and/or during afternoon study to enhance their revision.

Mrs S. Burns
Head of Mathematics

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Traditional Group (Anne Hughes) performed at the following events:

- School Mass (September)
- Open Day (January)

Abbey Choir (Dominic Wadsworth) performed at the following events:

- Ulster Youth Choir Workshop (October)
- Carol Singing in the Buttercrane (December)
- “A Christmas Story” – concert/fundraiser (December)
- Warrenpoint Feis (February) – **1st in Church Music & 2nd in Secondary Choirs**
- Newry Feis (April) – **1st in Hymn Singing & 2nd in Boys Choir**
- Lenten Meditation presentation as a part of Newry Cathedral’s programme “Thoughts for Easter” – combined choirs with Newry Cathedral Vigil Choir
- Choral Concert including Rutter’s “Requiem” in **St Peter’s Lurgan** to aid funds for church renovations
- Choir & Brass Trip to Rome – **Sung Mass in the Irish College, Rome and Choral Concert in Basilica of San Clemente** (May)

Jazz Band (Dominic Wadsworth) performed at the following events:

- Newry Business Christmas Charity Lunch (December)
- “A Christmas Story” – concert/fundraiser (December)
- Graduate Prize giving (December)

Senior Brass Ensemble (Dominic Wadsworth)

- “A Christmas Story” – concert/fundraiser (December)
- Warrenpoint Feis **1st in U18s** (February)
- Newry Feis **3rd in U16s** (April)
- Joined choir in trip to Rome (May)

Junior Brass Ensemble (Dominic Wadsworth)

- Warrenpoint Feis (February)
- Newry Feis (April)

Main Events of the Academic Year 2011– 2012

- **Guitar & Drum Night (February)** (Mickey Murphy, Fergal Hughes & DW)
- **“Thoughts for Easter” – Newry Cathedral (March)** (DW)
- **Choral & brass Concert - St Peter’s Lurgan (April)** (DW)
- **Choir & Brass concert tour of Rome (May)** (DW, Padraig McKeever, Kim Cranston & Conor McCormick)

Staffing

- **Conor McCormick (Music & Moving Images Technician)** has continued to thrive and evolve in his job. The technical support and advice given to GCSE & A level musicians for their recordings as well as the technology options of Multi-Track Recording and Sequencing. Conor was also a major asset in recording “Thoughts for Easter” as a DVD for parents and on the choir tour to

Rome produced a fantastic product in the Rome Tour DVD, again for parents and the boys

- **Maeve Carberry (long term sub for TD)** delivered KS3 Music and helped generously with the Abbey Choir taking regular Alto rehearsals and vocal training as well as performing in A level multi-tracking recordings and the staff choir
- **Lorna Palmer (long term sub for AM)** delivered KS3, GCSE, AS & A2 Music as well as assisting with the running of the department, administration to extra support for exam pupils, especially with the singers and their recitals as well as performing in A level multi-tracking recordings and the staff choir

SELB Tuition

SELB instrumental tuition on offer includes **upper & lower strings, brass, woodwind, percussion, & recorders**. This continues to be very successful with many excellent and committed tutors from the board who give over and above of their time and professionalism – assisting with Feis entries, exam recitals, etc. The numbers taking lessons was around 55 pupils. Senior (grade 5+) attend the Music Centre and receive (and pay) for their lessons directly. The costs of the lessons were met by the parents. £170 per annum

Private Instrumental Tuition

This service is offered in order to allow all pupils the opportunity to receive instrumental tuition who cannot obtain it through the SELB Music Service. The system operates alongside the excellent SELB service but the pupils pay the tutors directly, the quality of service is monitored by the HoD.

Mr Murphy	Guitar (classical & rock)	25 pupils
Mr Hughes	Drums	15 pupils
Mr Mulholland	Woodwind	3 pupils

Fergal Hughes also facilitates the Rock School Grade Exams using the school as a public exam centre for internal and external candidates, this has proved a very successful process.

Best Pupil at A2

Sean Rooney *

Best Pupil at AS

Shane McCormick

Best Pupil at GCSE

Andrew Hughes

* **Sean Rooney** not only scored **full marks** in his paper 1 (Performing & Composing) at both **AS and A2** he has taken up a place at the **Royal Academy of Music** (London) to further his studies in piano performance.

Dominic Wadsworth
(Acting Head of Music)

PHYSICAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

In the past academic year the Abbey Grammar School was represented in a wide range of sporting activities including Gaelic football, hurling, basketball, rugby, athletics, golf and cross country.

Over 200 pupils represented the school at various levels in Gaelic football and our hurling teams won two competitions for developing schools. The Brock Cup team was defeated in the final by an outstanding St Patrick's Cavan team. All teams fought hard for the Abbey in a disciplined manner. Our Mac Rory Squad also fund raised for Action Cancer in term 1.

Ciaran Mc Cartan was awarded an Ulster Colleges All-star award at centre half back and was also one of six students throughout the Ulster Colleges catchment to receive a BT scholarship.

Abbey athletes represented the school in both district and All Ireland competition in the past year in Field events and cross country. The 1st Year team finished second in the team event, with a host of Abbey runners placed highly in the overall classification. The under 15's placed first in the team event, with Oisín O'Callaghan winning the under 15 race.

At the Down Championships in February the 1st year team placed 2nd overall, thereby qualifying for the Ulster Championships. Oisín O'Callaghan won the third year race and qualified for the Ulster Championships along with Jason Sloane

The Ulster Championships witnessed a superb display by the first year team who finished third overall in the team event with credible performances from Oisín O'Callaghan and Jason Sloane in their respective individual races. Oisín Mc Kinsley had the honour of being nominated and selected to carry the Olympic torch.

Sport and Extra curricular activities continue to play an important role in Abbey life; with the dedication and commitment of staff we can teach our pupils the value of teamwork, discipline and industry in the pursuit of excellence on and off the field of play.

Mr. Jody Gormley (Head of PE)

POLITICS DEPARTMENT

Politics Posters:

Senior students once again maintained the Politics notice board throughout the year with a selection of displays of work as well as the ever popular, amusing, satirical, political cartoons reflecting political developments as they happen. Students of all age groups regularly keep an eye on the notice board.

6th Year work experience.

A number of Yr13 Politics students opted to undertake their work experience alongside local MLAs.

Politics Society

Led by the Chairman of the Politics Society, Sean Fearon, meetings of the Society occurred at lunch time and then were also formalised to take place on period 8 one day a week when many senior students are free. There were large attendances at these meetings and an impressive range of topics ranging from local to international politics were discussed.

Speakers

The Abbey Politics Society was active in seeking prominent speakers. Efforts to get Conal McDevitt and Martin McGuinness to the school did not succeed. Abbey students attended an after school workshop with local MLAs organised by the Sacred Heart. A number also attended a political discussion forum held in Newry Town Hall. Photos of students involved in local Politics events displayed in classroom and corridor notice board.

Student Activists

A number of Abbey Politics students are participating in local party politics with several involved with Sinn Fein and the SDLP.

Dr J. McCavitt (Head of Politics)

PHYSICS DEPARTMENT

Our links with the Armagh planetarium have been maintained and we are made aware of up coming events which may be of use to our students. We have continued to contribute to the world famous SETI project (Search for Extra Terrestrial Intelligence) a topic that generates huge interest in the classroom.

The department continues to maintain our affiliation with the Institute of Physics which supplies us with regular educational periodicals and cutting edge reports on the fast changing world of professional research, including the recent discovery of the Higgs boson at the LHC. These are all made available for the use of students.

For many years now our A Level students are encouraged to subscribe to the excellent Physics Review magazine which is specifically written for A Level students.

The notes created by Mr Hamill last year have now been placed on the learning resources for the use of our AS and A2 pupils. These notes will be adapted by the three Physics teachers this year to make them more useful for students.

The department continues with an excellent record of academic success. We also continue to buck the national trend of a continuing decline in the numbers of students taking Physics at GCSE and A Level. We have 35 students in the present lower sixth year which compares very favourably with any of our competing subjects. We also have two discrete Physics classes in the present Year 11.

Mr. G. Patterson (Head of Physics)

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

This is the third year of collaboration with Sacred Heart. The collaboration is proving to be very successful. The mix of girls and boys in the class proved to be beneficial for both. Girls exemplified the overall trend in A level results by out performing the boys at both AS and A2. This year again the AS class consists of twenty Abbey students and 10 Sacred Heart Students

Part of the focus of the Psychology Department this year is to focus more on how students learn and to provide a greater range of activities in the classroom to facilitate greater engagement. There will also be a continuing focus on careers and data tracking.

Mr. P. O'Shea (Head of Psychology)

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Our Vision as a Department:

Our aim as a Religious Studies Department is to nurture the faith and spirituality of each of the pupils in our care. We as a department strive to do this by promoting Gospel based values - encouraging our pupils to care for and support one another, respect themselves, each other, their teachers and the environment. For some of our pupils, the only faith development they receive, is what we, their Religion teachers teach them. Therefore it is essential through our leadership, that we lead by example and make a lasting impression on them.

How Do We Put Our Vision Into Practice?

- Particularly in Junior school, spontaneous prayer is an important aspect of our lessons. We teach pupils how to pray. The availability of the new school Oratory allows us the opportunity to take pupils at least once per month to this beautiful room which creates the perfect ambiance for prayer.
- Over the past three years third year pupils have been involved in the 'Samaritan Christmas Child Project', whereby the Religion teacher of a year group distributes information to each pupil. Each pupil then has to wrap up a shoe box with Christmas paper and fill it with items for children of a variety of ages. The boxes are then sent off to disadvantaged children throughout the world. The pupils take great pride in filling their boxes. This year, we intend to continue with this project with Year 8 pupils as we believe it is important that our pupils are aware of the needs of those less fortunate than themselves.
- 1st, 2nd and 3rd year pupils also present displays in the school foyer at important liturgical dates in the school year. We feel that it is our responsibility as a department to take the lead in celebrating important feast days and bringing them to the attention of others e.g. all pupils in Junior school make St. Brigid's Crosses in class to celebrate St. Brigid's Day. Pupils really enjoy this activity. A large number of pupils also take part in the 'Give it up for Trocaire Day' which traditionally is held in March. During the month of May, the RE department create a display outside the Oratory in honour of Our Lady.

- Each year, all Junior pupils take part in the celebration of ‘Catholic Education Week’ which takes at the end of January. A range of activities are organised in Religion class and a display board is put up along the Religious Studies corridor.

Academic Achievements:

This year we were delighted with the GCSE, AS Level and A2 Level results. The Religion Department has grown over the last few years in popularity with 40 pupils currently studying Religion at AS Level and 19 pupils studying Religion at AS Level.

Mrs. L. McKeever (Head of RE)

SPANISH DEPARTMENT

This year the Department of Spanish welcomed Sra Priscilla Suárez García as our Language Assistant. We continued our policy of making the assistant available not only in Senior School but across all year groups. We believe that contact with the Spanish Assistant makes the language much more real for all of our students.

This year we began cohort 2 of the new format GCSE Spanish. In our department we drew up new Controlled Assessment tasks following the guidance issued by CCEA. These will be used in our department over the next two years.

At GCSE we continued internally to mark and moderate our oral examinations. Again this year we received confirmation from the CCEA moderation team that they were happy with our moderation practices and thus our marks were not adjusted.

We continued our focus on Careers Education within the department. This year we invited two past students Benjamin Reynolds and Rory Mackin to speak with our Year 10 pupils prior to their choosing their GCSE subjects.

Benjamin is studying “Business and Spanish” at QUB and he has spent a year in Bilbao as part of his course. Rory Mackin works as a translator in The European Parliament.

Both of these students gave excellent presentations on their career paths and this motivated a great number of our Year 10 students to continue Spanish onto GCSE.

Our Department continues to enjoy a healthy uptake at GCSE and A level. This year we have 85 students in year 11, our highest number ever and 16 students in year 13.

We will aim to maintain this positive trend in future years.

Mr P McKeever
(Head of Spanish)

TECHNOLOGY DEPARTMENT

Young Engineers Club/Young Innovators

The Technology Club is open to all pupils throughout the school from years one to seven. The Young Engineers is an annual competition that enables young people aged 11-25 years to demonstrate their ingenuity and inventiveness. It is the biggest event of its kind in UK and offers a showcase to education and industry of the wealth of innovation and creativity amongst young people in UK schools and colleges offering a platform for pupils to put ideas into practice. The club meets several times a year as events demand.

The Young Innovators has now become a regular annual event at the Abbey, enjoyed by teachers and pupils alike. It is organised regionally by SENTINUS. It was held in the Odyssey and is the biggest of its kind in the UK. For the fifteenth year in succession the Abbey Christian Brothers' Technology Club has enjoyed success.

SENTINUS AWARDS JUNE 2012

We entered three projects. There were 240 projects entered in total.

Details:

Pupil(s)	Award(s)	Prize	Staff
Ryan Savage Ronan Lavery Venkatesh Kamath	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Award to attend Big Bang Fair• Innovation Award• 1st KS3 Group• Crest Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Award to attend Big Bang in London and represent Abbey in National Final• Trophy +£125• Trophy +£100• Certificate	G.Savage/S. Higgins
Matthew Mee	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2nd in KS4• Crest Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Award and £75• Certificate	M.Rodgers/S. Higgins
Zain Shahid Cody Magill Rafael Ali	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• NIHE Energy Efficiency Award• Crest Award	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Trophy + £125• Certificate	T.Mooney/S. Higgins

BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition

The BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition was held in the RDS Dublin in January 2012. Mr Savage and Mr Higgins attended the project with two of our pupils Ryan Savage and Ronan Lavery they secured a Highly Commended Award.

Sentinus Secondary Robotics Roadshow

A new event occurred in the Abbey Technology Department this year which was a one day robotics programme which gave all our first year pupils the opportunity to engage in programming and control of autonomous vehicles within the context of space exploration. Supported by trained fourth year mentors the first year pupils learn to write their own programmes and download these to the robots to perform tasks at the end of the day. The programme aim was to enhance the understanding of robotics

and give our pupils a hands on opportunity to develop their programming skills and enhance their technological skills. This event happened at the start of the academic year allowing our new pupils to mingle and meet new friends in a 'fun' environment outside their form group. Mr Mooney, Mrs Cranston and Mr Higgins facilitated this event.

Bombardier Flight Experience

This year, for the second time, all our KS3 pupils had the opportunity to take part in the Bombardier's Flight Experience programme. This is an educational outreach for schools across Northern Ireland, its key objectives are to encourage pupils to consider STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) subjects as exciting and creative processes of discovery and invention, and to inspire and inform them about possible career choices in these subject areas. Mr Mooney, Mr Savage and Mr Higgins worked with pupils during their spare time and took 15 pupils to take part in this 'Flight Experience' held in the W5 Centre in Belfast in April.

After school supervision

Organised and administered by all members of the Technology Department. This gives GCSE and A Level pupils the opportunity to work on coursework.

Mr T Mooney (Head of Technology)

Abbey Parent Teacher Association (APTA)

- ICT Evening 21st November 2001. Seminar and practical workshop demonstrating to parents the merits and pitfalls of the Information Superhighway. This was a very worthwhile exercise, though it was poorly attended. This type of education programme needs to be revisited on an on-going basis and some thought is being given to involving pupils as a means of boosting parental turnout.
- Very successful quiz night December 2001. There was a big turnout for this annual event which continues to prove an enormous success.
- The major development planned by APTA during the course of the academic year was a pioneering Parenting course for 4th Years which dovetailed with the School Development Plan. The course lasted four weeks running during January and February 2002. There was a good turnout for the course.
 - Feedback from the parenting course resulted in decisions to concentrate our parenting course on First Years next year, with occasional events for other years. There will also be better coordination between parenting educational programmes and the issues covered by pupils in their pastoral care classes in order that parents and pupils are getting the same message about issues such as drugs, teenage relationships.

- Chess club inaugurated with the help of a parent, Mr Paul Cable, assisted by three teachers: J.McCavitt, Rory McMahon and Sean McClory. 30 to 40 pupils involved. Availing of the expertise of parents in extra-curricular activities is an area worth pursuing.

J.McCavitt
Chairman APTA

BASKETBALL

September 2011 brought about the start of another very successful year for the Abbey basketball teams. We had teams at U19, U16 along with teams in second and third year. There was a big response to the teams and many pupils tried out. This year both the U19 & U16 teams were involved in basketball Ireland leagues. The junior teams did not have a BI league to enter but participated in a series of inter provincial games to great success. It was a great experience for all involved.

The under 19 team won the Ulster title this year in fantastic fashion having not lost a game. They then went on to the All-Ireland playoffs in Kildare, they played 3 games and won all three by considerable margins to move on to the All-Ireland semi finals. They were to play the 2012 schools cup champions, St Vincent's CBS in Finglas. The Abbey went in as the under dogs but eventually won a very tight game by 1 point which was scored by Terry Guo in the last second of the game. The St Vincent's team may have had the home advantage but the bus load of supporters from the Abbey really helped the team to victory. The next stop was the national basketball arena in Tallaght for the All-Ireland final. The U19 team came up against a strong team Coláiste Críost Rí from Cork. The game was a thriller and it was basket fro basket right up until the whistle. The Abbey boys had to make do with silver medals as the game finished with Coláiste Críost Rí winning by 1 basket.

The Under 16 also had an undefeated season in the Ulster league and they moved on to the all Ireland qualifiers. The Abbey had the opportunity to host the playoffs in our fabulous basketball hall. The Abbey boys held on to their winning streak winning each game easily to qualify for the All-Ireland semi-finals. There was another long trip to Kildare for the All-Ireland semi finals which was easily won by the abbey boys 68-32. They now were also on their way to the National Basketball arena for an All-Ireland final. In the Final the boys came up against Christian Brothers High school from Clonmel. The Abbey got off to an amazing start and led the first quarter 23 – 7. The Clonmel men never recovered from this deficit and the Abbey U16 boys were crowned All-Ireland champions with a final score of 55-37. Aaron Miller was awarded the Most Valuable Player award for his outstanding performance on the day. The Abbey basketball teams have now been promoted to the B division and hope for another successful season.

The 2nd and 3rd year teams enjoyed fixtures against several schools in Ulster. It is hoped that this year will see the return of the BI league for junior teams. In the coming year I intend to continue coaching all 5 basketball teams in the Abbey. My thanks to Mr. McGovern and Mr O'Shea for their help with covering classes and organising supporter's buses.

Mrs. Pauline McClean

COUNSELLING

This school year approximately sixty pupils have used the counselling service.

Presenting issues;

Bullying

Relationship/ family/ Friendship problems

Anxiety/ Panic attacks

Sadness//depression

Anger management

Self-confidence, low self-esteem

Transition/ change, adapting to Grammar School from primary School

Thoughts of self-harm and suicide

Bereavement

Coping with illness of a parent

I feel the counselling service is an invaluable service. The fact that the Abbey Grammar School has their own counsellor on site is a great asset.

The open door policy enables the boys to have someone available to listen and offer support immediately. In a crisis situation this is crucial. I feel that this is very important,

Throughout the year I have dealt with numerous young people whom I had concerns about child protection issues which I have discussed with Mr Brady.

It also means that the boys can tap into the service to meet their needs as and when they feel they need an extra bit of support.

When pupils avail of the counselling service I have noted that after a break they have no hesitation in availing of the service again if any issues arise. I have worked with a number of boys who have complex issues and require ongoing support!

I am essentially trained in the Person-Centred School of counselling, I believe that each person is essentially good and given the right conditions each person will move toward self-actualisation and reach their full potential.

Throughout the year I have continued to increase my knowledge and personal development!

Child Protection Training	2011
BOUNCE	2011
STORM (suicide risk management)	2012
STORM (self-injury)	2012
Legal Highs	2012
Sexual Abuse (Nexus)	2012
Child Protection training	2011

I have trained as a Colour Breathing Practitioner. This is a deep relaxation technique which is used to treat stress, anxiety and depression. Colour breathing has also physical benefits as breathing correctly increases blood circulation, reduces high

blood pressure and increases alertness and concentration. Approximately 100 pupils have availed of colour breathing between September 2011 and June 2012. The demand for Colour breathing is still evident however pupils are having problems availing of this relaxation technique, as understandably teachers are reluctant to let the boys out of class.

The pupils I have worked with have loved it and found this technique really helpful and boys have requested it combined with counselling, as they found it really beneficial. This technique is effective with both individual and group work.

This time with the boys has also proved invaluable as it gives me a chance to get to know them individually. I have insight into their family lives and issues that may be causing them concern.

Several staff have availed of counselling. Others have accessed information. Some have participated in colour breathing. I feel counselling / colour breathing should be promoted to teachers and used as part of staff care.

Mr Kevin Brady, and myself continue to meet up for weekly consultation on any concerns / progress of pupils. I continue to attend pastoral care meetings on Fridays.

Policies and guidelines on underage sexual behaviour are currently being developed.

The need for the counselling service is evident this year by the large number of boys who have availed of the service. I feel there are a lot of problems and issues out there in the classroom and more pupils will benefit from counselling. In 2010 approximately 40 pupils accessed the counselling service, a noted increase in 2011 60+ pupils accessed the counselling service. In 2012 approximately 60 + young people have accessed the counselling service. Approximately 45 new referrals this School year, this is an increase of 30% from last year's statistics. Student's self-referral has increased to 25%, last years self referral rate was approximately 10%. To date 148 pupils have availed of the counselling service.

Ms Fiona Hughes (School Counsellor)

ABBNEY GOLF 2011/12

The Abbey Golf Team participated in this year's Darren Clarke Schools' Golf League with some success. The competition involved over 40 teams from all over the North and was played over several different golf courses. The boys won their games against St. Colman's, Newry, Sacred Heart Grammar School and St. Louis, Kilkeel. In the quarter-finals they defeated St. Paul's, Bessbrook but unfortunately they were beaten by Strabane, in the semi-final, played at Dungannon Golf Club. Michael McGurk was nominated as this year's All-Star, as the most improved golfer of the year. Four of the squad played in the finals' day at Banbridge Golf Club. Each invited school sent 4 students who are then matched with students from 3 other schools into mixed teams. Ronan McGrath's team finished in second place. The squad this year was: David Price, Ronan McGrath, Sean Patterson, Ronan Lavery, Kevin McCumiskey, Joe Rock, Michael McGurk, Conor McManus, Rory McCormick and Ruairi McCormack.

Aside from the competitions, there is a weekly after - school outing to Burren driving range. Because of the high level of interest, it is necessary to alternate the year groups, with year eight attending one week and years 9 and 10 the following week. The students availed of some coaching from Mr. Morgan and Mr. Moan and the resident coach Mr. Dougie Bell. There were over 40 year 8 students who registered interest in golf last year and 38, year 9,10 and 11 students.

To finish the year, a 9 hole pitch and putt competition was organised for some of the junior golfers with prizes provided by Kelly's Golf Centre.

Mr G Morgan

LITERACY AND COMMUNICATION

During the second term the English department run spelling tests within each junior class, the best speller in each class goes on to represent their peers in our in-house competition: The Abbey Spelling Bee. It is an exciting and fierce competition, with the final 15 receiving trophies and the final 3 receiving cash prizes and winners' trophies.



The Abbey's top 3 junior spellers in 2011/12

The Times Spelling Bee!

Any pupil interested in spelling in first year is invited to the Spelling Club which takes place in the mornings towards the end of the second term. The pupils go through X-Factor style heats until we are left with the final 4. This year the final 4 went to represent the Abbey in an on-line Northern Ireland heat, here the boys finished in the top ten and were invited to the live Northern Ireland finals in the Odyssey, where they came third out of all Northern Ireland's post-primary schools.

M Rodgers (Head of Literacy)

HURLING

This year there were 3 hurling teams in the Abbey, in years 9, 10 and 11. It was a very successful inaugural year for the sport, as the Year 10s went on to win their league and took home Ulster Colleges medals and the Mallon Cup. The Year 11s won the Noone Cup and an Ulster Colleges medal each. The years 9s got to the final of the Rehill Cup, but were unfortunately beaten by one point by Coláiste Feirste.



Year 11 team; Noone Cup winners 2011/12

M Rodgers (Hurling coach)

QUIZZES

The Abbey Quiz Teams had another successful year competing in schools quiz competitions.

The Senior Challenge Quiz Team of Daire McAteer, Sean Rooney, Eoin Monaghan and James McKeivitt again won the Northern Ireland Senior Schools Competition, convincingly beating St Colman's College in the final. They then travelled to Westminster School in London during April for the UK finals. Unfortunately in the first round they were beaten by the eventual finalist Haberdashers Aske, however they then won their way to the final of the plate competition where in a very exciting quiz game they lost out 520 to 530 to Devonport.

The Junior Quiz Team also won the Northern Regional Final of the Junior Challenge. Karl Gray, Cathal Nugent, Ryan Walsh and Rory McParland beat St Colman's College in the semi-final and then went on to topple Loretta Coleraine in the Final retaining the shield for a 3rd year in succession.

In the Credit Union Quiz for 1st years the Abbey Team of Billy Campbell, Turlough Shields, Cathal Gorman and Conor Finnerty won the local Newry Quiz, came tied 1st in the regional Armagh/Down Area Quiz and therefore went to the RDS in Dublin for a great day on 1st April for the All Ireland Finals. Out of 300 teams that originally started this quiz they ended up coming a very commendable 10th place.

Mr. C. Gamble

ABBEY RUGBY

Abbey Rugby is in its 7th year of development. There were three teams again this year; U12, U14 & U16 involving around 75+ boys. All three teams trained for 8-10 weeks, played some 'friendly' fixtures against Kilkeel HS & Banbridge HS and entered the Ulster Regional Qualifiers. Unfortunately this year none of the teams proceeded through to the finals. Mr Wadsworth was supported by Mr Colin Gamble who assisted with junior training sessions. There were also 1st, 2nd & 3rd year 7s competitions in preparation for the Edmund Rice Fun Day.

Mr. D. Wadsworth

CHAPLAINCY

The spiritual experience of pupils and staff continued to expand and deepen this academic year with the steady development of chaplaincy activities.

Liturgies

There was one whole school Mass at the end of September to mark the start of the school year. This was a rich celebration of all aspects of Abbey life and saw the involvement of every staff and pupil grouping in the liturgy.

Ash Wednesday was marked by a series of short services of distribution of ashes. Throughout the year Fr John Byrne celebrated Mass once with each year group, their form teachers and their year tutor. Bishop John McAreavey celebrated mass for the Upper Sixth students before they finished classes to prepare for their A Level examinations. The final mass of the year was in June and was the central feature of induction of the new group of first years who would begin in September 2012.

Retreats

Lower Sixth Form students attended the now annual Kairos retreat in Drumalis, Larne. This was the largest group to date (32) to complete the 3 day event during which they enjoyed an experience, very new to these young men, in which they shared in a very personal way how their Christian faith impacts on their lives. The work was facilitated by 6 Upper Sixth students who were trained in retreat leadership, three members of staff each of whom made a personal contribution and Fr J Byrne.

Lenten Prayer

Lenten prayer was attended by staff and pupils each morning and during two lunchtimes throughout Lent. Pupils and staff contributed to these short, but very meaningful daily oases of peace.

Prayer during the Exam Period

Prayer in the oratory was made available each morning and lunchtime during the summer exam period.

HEADMASTER'S DIARY OF EVENTS 2011-12

August 2011

Examination Results
University Entrance
Public Relations – examination results
Meetings with Parents and new students into Year 13
Staff Day
Induction of all year groups – parents present for Years 8,11,12,14
Year Tutor and Form Teacher Meetings
SMT Meetings
Heads of Department and Departmental Meetings.

September 2011

Headmaster, SMT Mentor, Head of Department Meetings
Area Learning Community Meeting
Open Days QUB, UUJ
Meetings with teachers who hold responsibility points
Interviews / meetings with individual SMT members
Interviews/Meetings with new staff
Finance Committee and Board of Governors meeting
Begin PRSD with SMT

Staff Meeting
St Mary's Open Day
6 (1) Year Meeting with Parents
6 (2) Year Meeting with Parents
Catholic Heads Meeting
Staff Day – Malahide Trip
PPTC Meeting

October 2011

Meeting with parents of Year 8 pupils and APTA Quiz
Achievement prize giving
First Year Trip
Area Learning Community Meeting
Work Experience for 6(1)
School Mass

UCAS begins
Catholic Heads Meeting
Year Masses begin
PPTC Meeting
Celebration for St Mary's High School
School Show
Year 14 PTM

November 2011

Key Stage 3 Reports
6(2) Mock Careers Interview
Year 13 PTM
Year 12 PTM
Finance Committee and Board of Governors meeting
PPTC Meeting
Year Mass

Year Mass
GL Assessment Tests
Area Learning Community Meeting
Staff Day
Kairos Retreat
GBA AGM

December 2011

Charity Function – Canal Court
Rathore Christmas Party
Year Mass
Catholic Heads Meeting
Primary Schools Christmas plays
Prizegiving

Staff Day
SMT & HOD Meeting
ERST meeting
6 (1) and 6 (2) Christmas Reports
Staff Meeting

January 2012

ESAT Science and Technology Competition
Primary School Visits
Christmas Reports (4th,5th,6(1),6(2))
Pupil Progress follow-up to Reports
ETI Training
Catholic Heads Meeting
GL Assessment – Special Provision
PTM Year 11
PTM Year 10

Year Mass
Catholic Schools Week
AS/A2 Module Exams
Open Day
Area Learning Community meeting
Year Mass
Staff meeting
PPTC Meeting
DENI Governors' Conference

February 2012

Year 8 PTM
Year Mass
Careers Week
Catholic Heads Meeting
PTM Year 9

Area Learning Community Meeting
Transfer Results and Meetings
Staff Day
3rd Year and 5th Year subject choices

March 2012

ETI Training
Christian Brothers Principals Meeting
Finance Committee and Board of Governors Meetings
Catholic Heads Meeting – Catholic Principals Association
Area Learning Community
Hard Spell Competition
Stock Market Challenge
Year Mass
Internal Audit

Transfer – Preference Forms
Irish Week and Irish Night
PPTC Meeting
ERST Annual Mass & Foundation Lecture
Zambia Immersion Parents Meeting
SMT/Mentor/HOD Meetings
Bishop's Visit
ERST Meeting

April 2012

Year 8 Trip
Spring Concert
Key Stage 3 Exams
Staff Day

Debate Final
Catholic Heads Meeting
AS Biology field trip

May 2012

Edmund Rice Feast Day
Release of 5th, 6 (1) and 6 (2)
Staff Day
Headmaster, SMT Mentor and Heads of Department Meetings
Rathore Annual Prize giving
Area Learning Community

PPTC
Teacher Interviews
Induction Mass

June 2012

Meetings with Parents of new 1st Year Students
Staff Function
Summer Examinations and Reports
Finance Committee & Board of Governors Meetings
Information to Parents regarding new school year
Primary Schools Visit the Abbey
Area Learning Community
Appeals regarding Transfers
School Development Plan

SMT Conference
Teacher Interviews
Catholic Heads Meeting
Headmaster's PRSD

Financial Report for the year ended 31st March 2012

	£	£
<u>Income</u>		
Budget Share	3,873,339	
Other Income	647,342	
	<hr/>	
Total Income		4,520,681
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Teaching Staff Costs	3,057,457	
Support Staff Costs	768,876	
Premises Running Costs	165,170	
Teaching Resources	39,998	
Other Operating Costs	450,262	
	<hr/>	
Total Expenditure		<hr/> 4,481,763 <hr/>
Surplus/(Deficit)		<hr/> 38,918 <hr/>
<u>Represented by:</u>		
(Deficit) Revenue Account		-26,324
Surplus General Revenue Account		65,242
		<hr/> 38,918 <hr/>
Zambia money collected	£7189	
Mission Money	£1844	
Non uniform days	£354	
Total		£9387

Appendix A

SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS (SEN)

Special Educational Needs Co-Ordinator (SENCO) - Mr Wadsworth
(assisted by Mr Rath)

The Special Needs Code of Practice introduced by DENI in 1998 identifies a number of areas which should draw attention. These can be grouped as follows:

1. Learning Need

- Low ability
- Specific learning difficulties e.g. spelling, handwriting, mathematics, dyslexia, dyspraxia, ADHD, Asperger's Syndrome.
- Needs arising, for example, due to absence from or new arrival at the school.

2. Physical Need

- Medical e.g. asthma, diabetes, epilepsy or needing constant medication or regular absence.
- Hearing problem
- Sight problem

3. Behavioural / Emotional Need

- Persistent, disruptive behaviour requiring regular attention.
- Emotional need related to domestic / school circumstances.
- School refuser

The most appropriate way in which to address these categories continues to develop in the Abbey. However, at the outset it is important that all teachers become aware of Special Needs in the broad context defined above and within the requirements of the Special Educational Needs and Disability Order (SENDO) and take the necessary action.

Action

- When concern has arisen, seek advice from the SENCO and inform the pupil's Form Teacher.
- The SENCO will decide whether the pupil should be on the Special Needs Register.
- The teacher(s), including Form Teacher and Year Tutor, involved with the pupil will be informed by the SENCO.
- Individual Education Plans (IEP's) will be constructed by the teacher(s) and / or SENCO, depending on the stages 1 to 5, (see below) at which the child is placed. Assistance from external agencies may be called upon.
- Regular reviews will be carried out and documented.
- Movement up or down the stages, or removal from the register will be considered.

The SENCO will provide 'user friendly' documentation to assist the above action and guidance on all aspects of it.

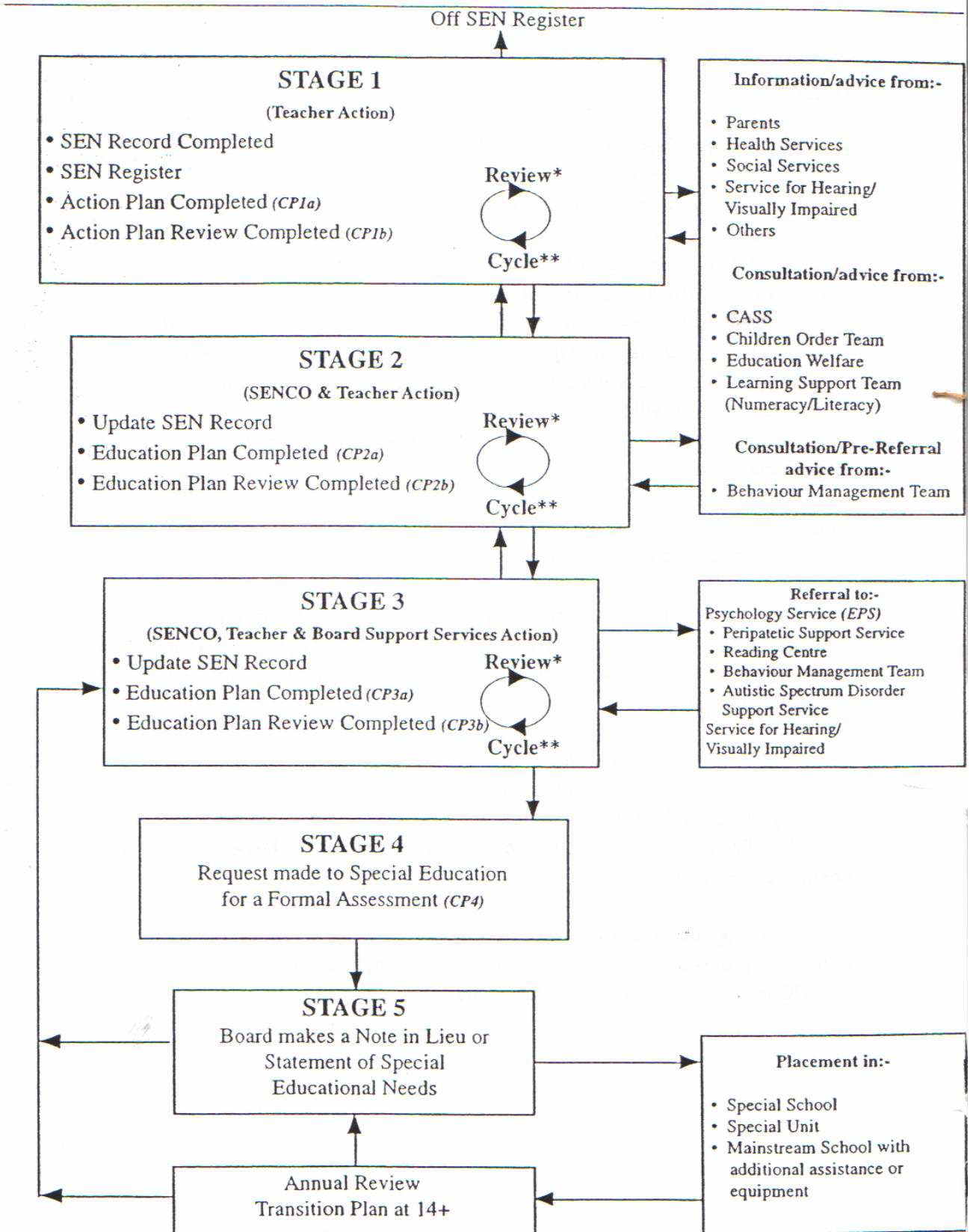
The Code of Practice specifies 5 stages, beginning with action from class teacher only, (stage 1) to statementing (stage 5) designed to address all levels of special need. These stages and their inter-relations are illustrated on the next page.

It is important that teachers are aware that involvement of external agencies (e.g. Educational Psychologist) other than in a broad advisory capacity is dependent on movement through and documentation of stages 1 and 2. **It is crucial that teachers ensure that these stages are completed properly.**

The Pupil Progress system, although not part of Special Needs, does form an element of assessment and evaluation which may signal the necessity for SENCO involvement for particular pupils.

All teachers and particularly form teachers and year tutors should consider whether an under-performing pupil might have a Special Educational Need. the SENCO, Mr Wadsworth, should be consulted where there are concerns.

SPECIAL NEEDS FIVE STAGE MODEL



* Pupils may remain at the same stage of the Code of Practice for as long as necessary. Usually two reviews will precede a move to another stage.
 ** In exceptional cases a fast track may be possible. Refer to Code of Practice paragraphs 3:17 & 3:18 and the SELB Stage 4 Statutory Assessment Guidelines.

Appendix B

TRUSTEE / BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Trusteeship

The trustees of the Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School are the members of the Edmund Rice School Trust for Northern Ireland (ERSTNI).

Board of Governors

Trustee Representatives:

Mr S McAteer

Mr M Brady

Mr A Morgan

Mrs B Rafferty

DENI Representatives:

Mr B Reilly

Mr A Murdock

Mr C Mackle

Elected by Teachers:

Mr M Rodgers

Elected by Parents:

Mrs A McAteer

Co-opted Member:

Mr D Gillespie

Secretary / Correspondent to the Board:

Mr D McGovern - Headmaster

The Headmaster is correspondent to the Board of Governors and all correspondence to that body, must be made through him.

