

The Abbey Christian Brothers' Grammar School



*Annual Report to Parents
For School Year 2010/2011*

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STAFF LIST 2011-2012

	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/ Welfare of School Community/Physics/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/Music/Data Tracking/New Students (foreign)/SENCO
008	Rooney, Mrs Mildred	MR	History/Library/ASA/Prefects
009	McDonnell, Dr Arthur	AMD	History
010	Donegan, Mrs Teri	TD	R.E./Music
011	McCartan, Mr Jim	JMC	P.E./Junior Gaelic Football
012	O'Neill, Mr Patrick	PON	French/Internal Exams/PTMs
013	Patterson, Mr Gervase	GP	Management Team/Head of Physics
014	Trainor, Mrs Grace	GT	LLW/Home Economics
015	McKeever, Mr Padraig	PMK	Head of Spanish/Year Tutor
016	McCann, Mr Dwyer	DMC	Head of Computing/I.T. Coordinator
017	McMahon, Mr Mel	MMM	Head of English
018	Burns, Mrs Sinead	SB	Head of Mathematics
019	McAreavey, Mrs Fiona (Grant, Mrs Jayne)	FMC(JG2)	Art
020	Lane, Mrs Margaret	ML	Biology
021	Mooney, Mr Tony	TM	Management Team/Head of Technology & Design
022	Simpson, Mrs Denise	DS	Head of Geography
023	Tohill, Mrs Bernarde	BTO	Maths/Year Tutor/Numeracy, Using Number
024	Hamill, Mr Brian	BH	Physics
025	McKeever, Mrs Lisa	LMK	Head of RE
026	McGrath, Mrs Catriona	CMG	Business Studies/Head of Careers/Year Tutor
027	Elmore, Mrs Annette	AE	Geography/Year Tutor
028	Grogan, Mr Mark	MG	Computers/Web-site, E-Communications/Year Tutor
029	McGinley , Mrs Orla	OMG	Biology
030	Smyth, Mr Joseph	JS	Head of Drama
031	Morgan, Mr Gerald	GMO	English/Head of LLW
032	Quinn, Miss Mairead	MQ	Head of French
033	Savage, Mr Gerard	GS	Head of Construction/Buses
034	Tennyson, Mr Desmond	DT	Head of Irish
035	Gamble, Mr Colin	CG	Head of Chemistry/Quizzes
036	Rodgers, Mr Mark	MRO	Technology & Design/Year Tutor/Communication/Literacy
037	McCorry, Mrs Deirdre	DMU	KS3 Science Coordinator/ Head of Biology (Temp)
038	McGivern, Mrs Joan	JM	Spanish/English/RE
039	Gallagher, Mr Sean	SG	Irish/Year Tutor/School Newsletter
040	Boyd, Mrs Gail	GB	Mathematics
041	Reynolds, Ms Annelise	ARE	English/Debates
042	McMahon, Mr Rory	RMM	Geography
043	McClellan, Mrs Pauline	PMC	Irish
044	Gormley, Mr Jody	JG	Head of PE
045	Evans, Mr David	DE	Head of History
046	McParland, Mr Paul	PMP	Drama
047	Hughes, Mrs Anne	AM	Head of Music
048	Fearon, Mrs Theresa	TF	Head of Accounts/Business Studies
049	Hughes, Ms Orlagh	OH	Head of Art (Temp)
050	Doherty, Mrs	KM	Maths
051	McGivern, Mr Eddie	EM	Religion
052	Murphy, Mrs Mary	MML	Maths
053	Gordon, Mr Dan	DG	PE
054	Toner, Ms Ursula	UT	Business Studies/ Careers /History
055	Cranston, Mrs Kim	KC	Technology/Art
056	Moan, Mr, Gary	GM	Chemistry
057	Slater, Miss Olivia	OS	English
058	Donnelly, Ms Seanine	SD	English
059	Quinn, Mr Jude	JQ	ICT

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
Elizabeth McArdle	Librarian
Natasha Stokes	Science Technician
Kate Burns	Science Technician
Conor McCormick	Music/Art Technician
Robbie Hannon	PE Technician
Rosemary Dunne	Technical and Clerical
Killian Higgins	Study Hall Supervisor
Sean Higgins	Technology Technician, Electrical Maintenance
Neil Clarke	Information Technology Technician
Pat Daly	Caretaker, Minibuses, Cleaning Staff Supervisor
Willie McCullough	Caretaker, Minibuses, Cleaning Staff Supervisor
Annette Breen-Mallon	Classroom Assistant
Anne McCoy	Classroom Assistant
Rita McGinn	Classroom Assistant
Joan Jackson	Classroom Assistant
Carmel McCartan	Canteen Supervisor
Claire McGahan	Assistant Cook
Sheila Goodwill	Assistant Cook
Bernie Mallon	Canteen Staff/Cleaning Staff
Loretta Pentony	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(Mrs Geraldine Gallagher and Mrs Mina Hanratty covering maternity)

Counsellor

Ms Fiona Hughes (9.00 – 1.00 daily)

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.)
- New School including new working practices
- Transfer procedure
- Retention/Consolidation of Christian Brothers' links and ethos
- School Fundraising
- School Development Plan
- PRSD
- Mentor: Politics, Psychology

Mr P O'Shea

- School Development Plan
- Staff – Overview of SMT Mentor/HOD's, Staff Days, Staff Induction and EPD
- Policy and Implementation of Staff Development
- Time-Table, Options (Subject Choices)
- Managed Information System, Trips documentation, Rota, Statistics (DENI, Trustees, BoG), BoG Report, Parents AGM Booklets
- 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, Behavioral/Academic Progress
- Students Years 8/9/10/11/12
- Year Tutor Coordinator
- Leaving Ceremony, School Publications
- 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
- Pastoral Care and Counselling
- 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

CLASS TOTALS 2011-2012

1ST YEAR

BR 1	26
DON 1	27
IV 1	25
OR 1	27
SL 1	<u>25</u>

TOTAL 130

5TH YEAR

12GS	26
12JMC	26
12ML	26
12MMM	28
12PMCP	<u>24</u>

TOTAL 130

2ND YEAR

BR 2	26
DON 2	26
IV 2	26
OR 2	26
SL 2	26

TOTAL 130

6TH YEAR

61A	24
61B	26
61C	25
61D	23
61E	26

TOTAL 124

3RD YEAR

BR 3	29
DON 3	30
IV 3	27
OR 3	30
SL 3	20

TOTAL 136

YEAR 14

14A	27
14B	21
14C	22
14D	18
14E	21

TOTAL 109

4TH YEAR

11DE	27
11DG	27
11EMCG	28
11LMK	27
PMCC	27

TOTAL 136

APPEALS

4

STATEMENTED

1ST YEAR	1 James Maginn
2ND YEAR	1 M Hillen
3RD YEAR	2 A Clarke/P Maguire
4TH YEAR	4 D Hillen/J Hughes/D Feenan/C McCann
5TH YEAR	4 D McCabe/ S Milner/ D McClean/J McVeigh
6TH YEAR	1 J Johnston
7TH YEAR	1 G McAteer
TOTAL	14

**ENROLLMENT
TOTAL**

895

INTAKE 2011-12

APPLICANTS

A	82
B1	25
B2	26
C1	15
C2	10
D	9
X	1
Statemented	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	169

INTAKE

A	81
B1	25
B2	15
C1	4
C2	1
D	3
Statemented	<u>1</u>
TOTAL	130

Total Enrolment = 130

❖ **Includes**

6 Special Circumstances upgraded to at least B2 Grade
4 Appeals upheld

GCE A2-LEVEL SUMMARY ANALYSIS BY SUBJECT - SUMMER 2011

SUBJECT	Entrants	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U	% A- C	% A- E
ACCOUNTS	5		1	4					100	100
ART AND DESIGN	9	2	6	1					100	100
BIOLOGY	25	8	13	2		2			92	100
BUSINESS ST.	8	1	4	3					100	100
CHEMISTRY	18	5	8	4	1				100	100
COMPUTER STUDIES	25		7	8	8	2			92	100
CONSTRUCTION	22		21	1					100	100
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - NI	4	1	2	1					100	100
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY - RM	7		1	3	1	2			71	100
DRAMA	6		3	2	1				83	100
ENGLISH LITERATURE	11		3	7		1			91	100
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	22		3	10	6	1			95	100
FRENCH	2			1	1				100	100
FURTHER MATHS (A/S)	7		5	1	1				100	100
GEOGRAPHY	19	1	2	9	6	1			95	100
HISTORY	30	6	15	5	3	1			97	100
IRISH	7		4	2	1				100	100
MATHEMATICS	31	4	10	8	8	1			97	100
MUSIC	7		1	2	4				100	100
PHYSICAL ED. STUDIES	6		4	1	1				100	100
PHYSICS	27	6	6	7	5	3			89	100
POLITICS	12		8	4					100	100
PSYCHOLOGY	16	1		4	6	3	2		69	100
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	17		5	6	6				100	100
SOCIOLOGY	10	1	2	3	2		2		80	100
SPANISH	7		5	1	1				100	100

% of Students getting 3 Grades A*-C at A level is 85%

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

GCE AS-LEVEL SUMMARY ANALYSIS BY SUBJECT - SUMMER 2011

SUBJECT	Entrants	A	B	C	D	E	U	% A- C	% A- E
ACCOUNTS	9	5	2	2				100	100
ART AND DESIGN	9	3	3	2	1			89	100
BIOLOGY	20	9	6	2	2	1		85	100
BUSINESS ST.	5	1	3	1				100	100
CHEMISTRY	17	6	2	3	5		1	65	94
DESIGN & TECHNOLOGY – NI	7	4	2		1			86	100
DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY – RM	8	1	2	3	2			75	100
DRAMA	9	6	3					100	100
ENGLISH LITERATURE	9	3	4	2				100	100
ENGLISH LANGUAGE	9	2	2	4	1			89	100
FRENCH	6	2	2	2				100	100
GEOGRAPHY	37	12	9	8	4	4		78	100
HISTORY	45	36	6		2	1		93	100
COMPUTER STUDIES	50	13	12	10	8	5	2	70	96
IRISH	6	2		3	1			83	100
MATHEMATICS	30	18	7	3	2			93	100
MUSIC	3	2	1					100	100
PHYSICAL ED. STUDIES	6	3	2	1				100	100
PHYSICS	28	8	2	8	6	1	3	64	89
POLITICS	9	4	3	1	1			89	100
PSYCHOLOGY	19	3	8	2	2	3	1	68	95
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	41	32	5	3	1			98	100
SOCIOLOGY	19	1	1	7	3	3	4	47	79
SPANISH	7	3	2	1	1			86	100

GCSE Results by Subject 2011

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	A-C	A-E
Art and Design	17		10	6	1					100	100
Biology	48	5	13	13	15	2				96	100
Bus Studies	34		9	15	7	2	1			91	100
Chemistry	23	3	13	5	2					100	100
Construction	7	2	4	1						100	100
Computer Studies	73	13	37	13	5	4	1			93	100
Drama	28	4	12	8	4					100	100
English Language	128	10	35	58	21	4				97	100
English Literature	127	8	55	46	16	2				98	100
French	18	3	5	3	4	3				83	100
Geography	66	4	20	23	14	4	1			92	100
History	74	13	38	16	7					100	100
Irish	57	11	15	22	8	1				98	100
Maths	128	10	38	47	33					100	100
Music	10	2	5	3						100	100
PE Studies	26	5	11	6	3	1				96	100
Physics	53	3	9	14	10	10	5	1	1	68	100
Religious Education	128	21	37	39	25	5	1			95	100
Science (Double Award)	54	1	13	20	20					100	100
Spanish	68	18	14	24	9	3				96	100
Technology	34	3	15	13	3					100	100

N.I. Average

5+%

97%

7+%

92%

Abbey

100%

96%

- 2 students excluded – 1SEN/ 1 Left in February of 5th Year

4th Year GCSE Results by Subject 2011

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C	A-C	A-E
Maths	60	12	30	17	1	60	60

ACCOUNTING AND BUSINESS STUDIES

Year 13 Accounting

September 2011 was the first year of collaboration with the Sacred Heart for accounting. A group of 10 girls joined the year 13 class of 10 boys. This has provided a good boost in numbers for the subject and the department. Overall the arrangement worked very well and everyone appeared to settle in fairly quickly. It was just the odd day when the weather wasn't so agreeable that the girls were a little unhappy! There was only one Sacred Heart Student who did not complete the course as she left sixth form altogether. The results were very good overall and the girls' results were fairly comparable with the boys.

Competitions

Year 13 Business Studies

The Belfast Telegraph Rensburg Sheppards Fantasy Share Race

In October 2008 a group of 5 AS Business Studies Students, James Murdock, Gavin Mc Ateer, James Connolly, Sean Curran and Cathal Mc Cartan – 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 10th February 2011.

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

Thomas Cook
Investec
Heritage Oil
Easyjet
Halfords Group
Ferrexpo
Vodafone Group
BP

At the end of the competition in February our team finished 10th overall - having held 2nd position for several weeks - from a pool of 33 schools. The team made a 2.3% return on their investment.

Year 12 Business Studies

This year saw the implementation of the controlled assessment at GCSE. In completing the work, all students had to conduct research with Boots plc. It was very pleasing to see that the Boots branch in the Buttercrane Shopping Centre were very accommodating in allowing the boys to conduct their primary research there. The students carried out a survey on motivation at work.

Careers

This year saw a new focus for careers within business and accounting and to complement both the accounting and business syllabi we invited a past pupil, Sean Sloane, into school to speak to the students about his career path. Sean spoke openly and enthusiastically about his time at work since leaving school and his current career as an investment banker. Speaking to the boys afterwards, the general consensus was that they found it as inspirational as we the staff did.

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*-B at A Level, 100% A-D at AS Level and 100% A-C at GCSE. At moderation the Department was complemented on the extremely high standard of work and on the professional way in which the work was exhibited.

There was one large class of GCSE Art students this year [17], which conveys the ongoing enthusiasm the Abbey pupils continue to have for this subject. They were rewarded with a majority of A grades.

All A2 Art & Design pupils have successfully gained their University places with 3 having chosen to study Art & Design at the University of Ulster.

Moving Image Arts:

2010/11 saw great changes in the department with the introduction of a new course at GCSE - Moving Image Arts. In this regard the department is delighted to report that all pupils successfully completed the required module in Yr11. A great interest has been shown in the subject with 10 students having selected to study MIA in 2011/13.

Awards:

The “Texaco Children’s Art Competition” is an extremely prestigious competition. Our success in 2010 when Shane Finegan was awarded overall winner has continued, with Eoin Hughes receiving a “Special Merit” award, while 7 other students were awarded “Certificates of Commendation”. We are extremely proud of this achievement which we believe is an endorsement of the quality of work produced in the Department.

Year 8 pupils also achieved competition success. For the 4th consecutive year the Abbey students have been placed 1st, 2nd and 3rd in the Newry Credit Union poster competition. This is 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. Ronan Lavery’s winning design for the 2011 calendar was based on the theme “Mother Nature is Calling.”

Strong cross curricular links are evident, with the Year 9 art students’ involvement in the Irish Proverb Poster Competition which is held as part of Seachtain na Gaeilge. In

addition Slemish 9 while studying the Bayeux Tapestry in History, then creatively reproduced this in Art class using the textile skills they had acquired.

Trips:

In November, the Department organised an educational visit for both Yr 11&12 Art & Design students. The boys visited the Newry & Mourne Museum at Bagenal's Castle where they met Sean Hillen, a local artist who specialises in photo montage. This allowed the students the opportunity to work with a practicing Artist, an important fulfilment in their assessment at GCSE. The department also organised 2 Saturday workshops for Yr 14 students with practicing ceramicist Trevor Woods.

In addition to this, all senior Art Students had the opportunity to visit the "True Colours" Exhibition at CCEA headquarters in 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.

Careers:

During Term 1 past pupil Cormac McAteer was invited to speak with the A Level student about his experience to date in his second year studying Architecture at Queens. This proved hugely beneficial for the students in relation to career choices.

Professional Development:

The department's continued professional development in 2010/11 focused greatly on ceramics and Moving Image Arts in order to utilize the kiln and prepare for the introduction of a new subject. The many training courses have strengthened the department, helping to ensure that our students receive the richest art education.

The department continue to promote the Abbey through our work for 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.

Genetics, Risk and Lifestyle; can I blame it on my genes?

Biology students from Years 13 and 14 attended a one day workshop in W5 at the Odyssey in Belfast supported by the Wellcome Trust. Students learnt more about how we inherit traits and diseases and how lifestyle choices can play a major role in determining the fate of our genes. The lifestyle and genetic influences on common diseases such as skin cancer and heart disease were considered. Students had the opportunity to observe a Polymerase Chain Reaction and carry out a gel electrophoresis activity with the genetics of Hyper Cholesterol anemia. Overall this was a great experience for the students and staff who accompanied them.

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 sixteen year 12 students produced in Double Award Science.

Nuffield Science Bursaries:

This is the eleventh 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.

This year Ciaran McCartan was placed at the QUESTOR Centre QUB and Ben Sutherland was matched to a project at AES Kilroot Power Station.

Gold Crest awards were made by Sentinus in recognition of the commitment given to the project.

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.

Field studies

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.

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.

Year 10 students produced power point presentations which highlighted careers which required science subjects. They were encouraged to cover careers outside traditional areas such as medicine, pharmacy, dentistry and veterinary science.

Dr A McKeivitt from NUU visited the school in March to speak to year 12 and 13 students about the range of courses available in NUU which are on offer to students studying AS/A2 biology. The School of Biomedical Sciences was the main focus for this presentation.

Mr Anthony McGrath from QUB also visited and gave a presentation on the courses in QUB which have science entry requirements.

Dr Adrian Fegan, a past pupil, graduate of Trinity College Dublin and post graduate of Cambridge has been working closely with the department in the field of genetic engineering. Presently working in America Adrian will be returning to his Alma Mater in September to give a presentation on his research in September.

Mrs. Margaret Lane (Head of Biology)

CAREERS DEPARTMENT

SEPTEMBER:-

- Successful visits to QUB and UJ 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.
- QUB and ULSTER Admissions & Marketing teams deliver successful presentations to all Year 14 students.
- Past Pupils of Class of 2010 delivered an informal guidance session to current Yr 14 students on applying to Schools of Medicine, Dentistry and Veterinary Science.
- Twelve Year 14 students attended St Mary's University Belfast Open morning.
- Year 12 students completed 'Getting Connected' Careers work – in partnership with the Department for Employment & Learning (Newry Careers Service)
- Term 1 – **Employability Week** (Week commencing Monday 20th Sept-Friday 24th Sept inclusive)
 - Year 11: 'Learning for Life' one day seminar (Sentinus)
 - Bi-Annual Careers Convention – Year 10 – 14 inclusive
 - Year 13: 'Learning for Life' one day seminar (Sentinus)
 - Year 12 'Learn to Earn' Programme (Young Enterprise N I)

OCTOBER:-

- Friday 01st October – all Year 12 students completed 'Take Your son to Work Day' – a one day Work Related Learning Initiative.
- 8 Year 13 students attended Daisy Hill Hospital's Health Care Symposium
- UCAS application system continued.
- Small number of Year 12 students completed a Work Placement.
- All Year 13 students completed a five day Work Related Learning Programme / Work Experience.

NOVEMBER:-

- Finalising of UCAS system – 121 applications processed via the internal school system of which 8 were external applicants.

- Careers Department prepared 7 students for interview for St. Mary's University College, Belfast.
- Year 14 students received two informative presentations on Further and Higher Education progression routes from Dundalk Institute of Technology and the Southern Regional College Newry.
- 50 Year 14 students completed a 'Success Skills / Mock Interview programme – delivered by Young Enterprise Northern Ireland in preparation for Higher Education selection processes.
- 2 Year 13 students were successfully selected and completed a 5 day programme with Sentinus NI : 'Insight Into Engineering' as part of their Work Related Learning Experience.
- New CEIAG Department Newsletter launched as a new medium of informing Parents/Staff and Parents/Guardians of developments in Progression Routes, Career Management and the Labour Market.

DECEMBER:-

- CAO application process completed – 17 students completed applications online.
- 9 students completed FE applications to Dundalk Institute of Technology
- 3 students completed FE applications to the local SRC and BMC Belfast.

JANUARY:-

- New departure for the Careers Department – 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.

FEBRUARY:-

- 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 all Year 10 students.
- Year 14 students received a presentation and information session on Student Finance NI and applying for financial support on progressing to FE and HE.
- Careers Department hosted the Annual Oxford University Careers Talk inviting all local schools to attend with Yr 13 students.
- Past Pupil Mr P Sloane delivered a talk to all A Level Maths/Accountancy and Business Studies students on possible career progression routes connected to their A level choices.
- The Department again hosted the Scottish University Tour Admissions Talk for all Year 13 students and invited all local schools.
- Ten students were selected and represented the school from KS3,4 and Post 16 at the Interactive Careers Event for IT, hosted in St.Mary's High School Newry and organised by Newry & Mourne Labour and Education Forum. (Part of the STEM Initiative for the local Newry & Mourne ALC).
- Term 2 – CEIAG Department Newsletter completed and circulated.

MARCH:

- Application for Art & Design courses (Route B) took place.
- Biology A Level students received presentations from two HE Institutions on the possibility of progression routes with A Level Biology (STEM Targets).

- 4 Year 13 students attended Daisy Hill Hospital's Medical Careers Symposium.
- 1 Year 13 student secured a Dentistry Placement with Queens Dentistry School.
- 15 Year 12 & Year 13 students (Possible Leavers) and the HoD of CEIAG attended Newry & Mourne Enterprise Agency's 'Work 4 U Event'.
- Head of Department attended annual Careers Advisers Morning held by Queens University Belfast.
- All Year 9 students travelled to St Pauls High School, Bessbrook to receive the SELB Funded STEM Performance delivered by Production company: 'Theatre@'
- Year 13 One-to-one Careers Guidance Interviewing commenced and continued throughout the month of April.

APRIL:

- Queens Computing & Engineering Faculty in joint collaboration with the CEIAG Department successfully engaged in a live video conference to all A Level Maths students.
- Year 13 worked on developing their sample personal statements alongside their Careers Guidance Interview.
- The Department hosted the NEELB STEM Module Truck as part of the STEM Development Plan – with a day's programme on 'data logging'. KS4 students were involved.
- Year 14 received an informative Powerpoint presentation on preparing for the transition to Higher Education from the NI Housing Executive and Queens University Chaplain.

MAY:

- 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 11 Students – One Day Placement : 'Take Your Son To Work Day'

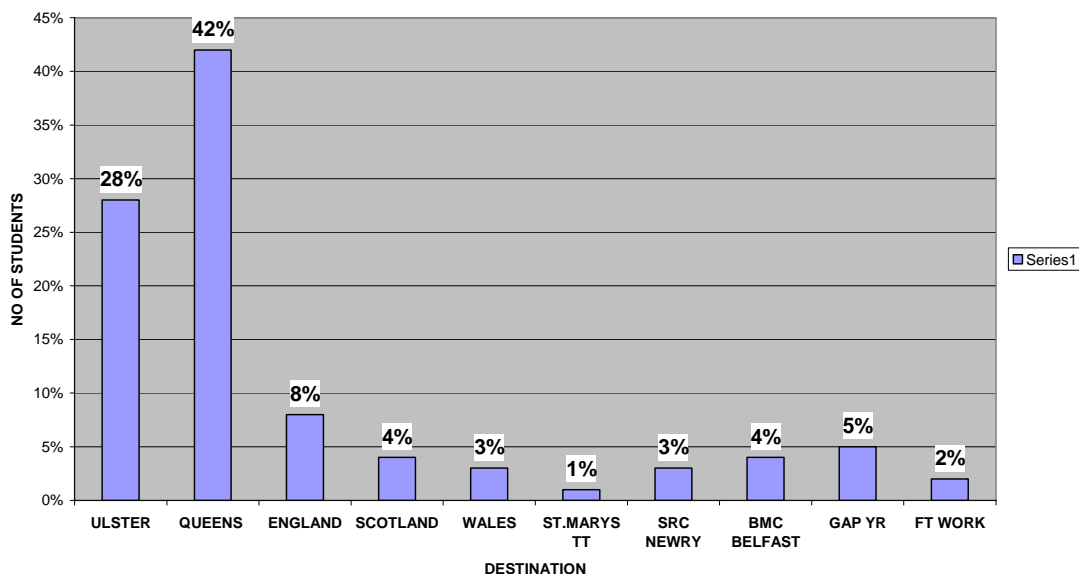
JUNE:-

- Careers Department in co-operation with Lower Sixth Form Tutors commenced the administration work for the forthcoming UCAS Cycle 2011-2012.
- All Year 10 students engaged with Young Enterprise NI in 'Project Business' Employability Programme.
- 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.

LEAVERS DESTINATIONS – CLASS OF 2011

OVERVIEW OF LEAVERS DESTINATIONS - CLASS OF 2011



Mrs C Mc Grath Head of CEIAG

CHEMISTRY

November, A small group of Yr13 and Yr 14 pupils took part in an open day at ALMAC a world class pharmaceutical company based in Craigavon. The purpose of this was to provide information of career opportunities in ALMAC and associated chemical companies.

December; two Yr14 pupils Ryan Walsh and Hua Jian Liu entered the International Chemistry Olympiad held at Queens University Belfast. The competition is organised by the Royal Society of Chemistry and there were some 4,000 international entries. The boys received a certificate for their fine performances however none of the pupils were placed in the top five percent. With recent changes in the chemistry specification it has become more difficult for our pupils to achieve the success of previous years.

January; John McKenna a past pupil of the school came back to the Abbey to give a presentation to a group of about 20 pupils from Yr 12 & 13 on studying and careers in Chemical Engineering. The guest speaker received lots of questions after his talk proving it to be both interesting and stimulating for the pupils.

June; Mr Gamble spent 5 days at Norbrook Laboratories as part of the STEM Teacher in Industry Initiative. It was provisionally agreed Year 12 & 13 Abbey pupils would have a half day visit to Norbrook annually.

Key Stage 3; The number of Yr 10 pupils who opted to study chemistry at GCSE rose, 92 pupils will study chemistry in Yr11 as part of the new Double Award Science course offered by GCCE, and 18 will study GCSE Chemistry.

A new scheme of work was produced at Key Stage 3 incorporating the revised curriculum and the STEM initiative. Now a double lesson in career options in science/chemistry is built into the Yr 10 scheme of work.

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 which has been offered to young men who were experiencing difficulty with Modern Languages. The grades this year for this group were excellent with the group of 7 students collectively attaining 6 A*/A and 1 B Grade.

The BTEC 'A' Level Construction Course has had undergone some major changes in the last year as the course has not only been rebranded but now offers the 'A' level students the opportunity to attain an 'A*' grade for the first time.

It has been a very busy year with Mr Savage successfully completing External Verification examinations which has resulted in the Abbey and Mr Savage in particular being granted Lead Internal Verification status. We also this year as a department in conjunction with the departmental Mentor Mr Rath formulated a new departmental policy.

Quality Assurance visit by Edexcel

In January of this year under the restructuring of the course we received the first of 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 Mr G. Savage HOD Construction.

Construction Science and Materials Delivered by Mr B Hamill & Mr K Brady
Physics Dept.

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

Specialist Units

Building Technology Delivered by Mr G. Savage HOD Construction.

Mathematics in Construction Delivered by Miss K. Doherty & Miss M. Murphy
Maths Dept.

Twenty two students in Upper 6th have just completed their course and the grades are as follows: 21 Distinctions (A' Grades) and 1 Merit C' Grade. Numbers continue to be very healthy in the subject and the incoming lower 6th group contains 27 students.

GCSE Construction

The grades this years fifth Year group were excellent with the group of 7 students collectively attaining 6 A*/A and 1 B Grade. There are 24 students moving into fifth year and a new intake into 4th year consisting of 14 young men and they too have settled well.

As a department we intend to enhance the student experience even further by inviting 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, in particular, working with the juniors on an array of drama workshops and small production activities. Some of the pupils were entered for the Newry Feis in May.

October: AS and A2 students visit 'The Abbey Theatre,' Dublin for an exciting performance of 'John Gabriel Borkman' 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. Realism at such a high level of professionalism.

November: The seventh year pupils perform their major A' Level devised production of, 'Tours of Duty'. This was an excellent production performed to an audience of family and friends with all students achieving a grade A for their endeavour.

January: The first Open Day in the new school was a great success with 1st. – 3rd year groups performing with tremendous confidence and energy for the prospective pupils and parents. It was great to see the main drama room being used so effectively.

March: The GCSE classes presented their practical work for moderation in the main drama room. The performances of 'Clevinger's Trial', 'Teechers', 'The Last laugh' and 'Bouncers' resulted in each pupil attaining their highest mark possible. Mr. McParland's group were particularly excellent and possibly delivered some of the finest presentations in a number of years.

May: The AS students presented their interpretation of 'Hidden Curriculum' and 'The Bald Prima Donna' for Unit 2 examination in the new assembly hall. 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 each student was awarded a grade A.

June: The School Show is announced and we have decided to perform 'Carmen Jones' in October. This will be the first major production in the new assembly hall and we have assembled a very strong cast on Principals and Chorus. Final casting will be completed for September. Mr. Wadsworth is taking control of the music and the band, and Mr. McParland will work alongside Mr. Smyth on direction and production. This is a major challenge for the company and the whole school but early rehearsals indicate that this challenge will be met with enthusiasm as we strive to create something that will live up to our previous productions.

The department conducted a series of meetings with Cinemagice Ireland to discuss linking up with Newry High School next year in a series of workshops which will culminate in a small film production that will be screened throughout the country. The workshops will commence in September.

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

The new 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.

The year also saw the further implementation of the new specification for the CCEA, GCSE Drama course and the Edexcel A2 course. This was not always an easy challenge but Paul and I now feel relatively secure in delivering exciting and successful courses to the students.

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.

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

Br McFarland Senior Debating Trophy

- Record numbers and great attendance from parents/pupils, especially in Years 9 & 11 to collect awards. Highest attendance figures to date.
- High number of initial debaters led to the need for semi-final rounds.
- Noted guest speaker: Ms Naomi Long MP, Alliance Party Deputy Leader attended debating final;
- Continued sponsorship: Mr Rory McShane

EU Mock Council

- Third time to participate in this debate with 3 senior students. Very enjoyable and beneficial debate that runs as an EU Council would. Students are delegates of a designated country and have ministerial roles. They contribute to the forum by putting forward their 'country's' interests.

In-house Debates

- Year 9 & Year 11 debates run in English classes – very successful in encouraging several Year 11 pupils to start the senior debating cycle.

(Ms A. Reynolds)

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. A reading partnership scheme was also run with the assistance of Ms Donna Healey. Ms. Sara Miller also comes in to assist pupils who have trouble with literacy. Mr. McMahan and other English teachers also gave up many free periods to assist pupils in this area.

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.

First Year Reading

The English Department continued its annual literacy presentation to the parents of First Years. This presentation involved Mr. McMahan 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 that won their regional heat and went on to represent N.Ireland in the Sunday Times Spelling Bee Competition in England.

Reading Week/Careers Focus

In February seven past pupils were invited into the Abbey to speak to classes in the school about their careers during our annual Reading Week. These talks involved journalism, media work, PR, law and film making. Fifty five visits took place.

Mr. M McMahan (Head of English)

FRENCH DEPARTMENT

- 1) September 2010 – the French Department welcomed Adrien Blondel as language assistant for the year.
- 2) October 2010 – the HOD attended CCEA run agreement trials on the new Controlled Assessment at GCSE. These courses provided very useful guidance on the marking of the new GCSE orals. This information was shared with the other members of the department who all participated in the moderation of the French orals.
- 3) January 2011– the French Department welcomed primary school pupils from local primary schools as part of Open Day. We were delighted to have the opportunity to show prospective pupils and their parents the fantastic facilities we now have at our disposal.
- 4) January – June 2011 – the French Department investigated interactive websites available for French. On many occasions we brought full classes to the new 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 new facilities.
- 4) June 2011 – 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 drew up new teaching materials for the second cycle of the new revised GCSE specification. These materials are now in place and ready for teaching in September 2011.

Miss M. Quinn (Head of French)

GEOGRPAHY

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 November 2010.

All Year 11 Geography students took part in a river study of the Yellow water river in April 2011 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 powerpoint presentations. 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.

An eco group has been set up through the Geography Department to encourage recycling within The Abbey. The Geography Department entered the school into a competition known as The Best Kept Schools competition in which we were awarded Runner Up.

Mrs D Simpson (Head of Geography)

HISTORY

The academic year 2010-2011 was an excellent one for the History Department. The results both at GCSE level and A level were, as usual, excellent. We had a 100% pass rate at GCSE with 69% of candidates obtaining an A* or A grade. A Level results this year were very pleasing, with 68% of grades being A* or A. The first 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. A huge effort was made; with the department producing its own set of resources for first teaching in September 2011 across years 8 -10.

Mr D Evans (Head of History)

ICT DEPARTMENT

Staff Training

During the academic year 2010 – 2011 a core ICT leader from each of the following departments –History, Mathematics, Careers, Music, Drama, PE, LLW and Construction met for one period each week to address ICT training needs. It is expected that relevant departments, will design tasks for use with the Key Stage 3 Accreditation in the academic year 2011 – 2012.

The focus of this training involved the following areas of ICT. Wiki, Google sites, Comic Life, Powerpoints with Podcasting, Moviemaker, VLE (Moodle), Yacapaca and the Key Stage 3 Accreditation scheme

Information to Parents

All Year 8 parents received advice outlining the dangers of children using the Internet. Both parents and students completed an 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

Currently ICT core leaders are running with their departmental approved tasks for year 8,9 and 10 for the current academic year 2011 -2012 before we go live with this scheme in 2013. Only when core leaders have sample pupil Abbey tasks for all year groups should we expect all department members to deliver the tasks. 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. Seventeen Key Stage 3 tasks ranging from levels 3 to 5, have been designed and approved by CCEA. These will be implemented from Years 8 to Year 10.

Learning NI

In line with the demands of the new curriculum the department 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.

ICT Staff Training Day 22nd June 2011

The staff ICT training day on 22nd June 2011 was the result of a survey conducted February 2011 on staff ICT training needs. Staff were split into interactive whiteboard groups depending on their ability. Members of the interactive whiteboard core group (Annette, Brian, Gail, Annelise Bernarde, Sinead and Dwyer) facilitated this training. The group examined the use of the interactive whiteboard and techniques that could be used in the classroom. Following ICT training of Department ICT core leaders over the past two years the group took the opportunity of sharing good ICT practice with the rest of staff. Contributors and areas examined were :

Moodle	Mc Cann Dwyer, Reynolds, Ms Annelise
On Line Discussion Forums	McKeever, Mr Padraig, Hughes, Mrs Anne
Live Desk	McCann Dwyer
Video Conferencing	C2k representatives
Website Design	Elmore, Mrs Annette
Yacapaca Quizzes Eportfolio's	Tennyson, Mr Desmond, Toner, Ms Ursula
Update on the Key Stage 3 Accreditation Scheme	Mc Cann Dwyer

Finally, in the afternoon, staff were introduced to our school VLE moodle. Staff were given guidance on how to set up moodle courses and how to populate courses with resources.

Group 1 (F6) DMcCann Moodle	Brady Kevin, Hamill Brian, McCavitt John, McMahan Mel, O'Neill Patrick , Quinn, Mairead, Tohill, Bernarde, Simpson Denise, McMahan Rory, Morgan Gerard
Group 2 (F6) DMcCann Moodle	Gamble Colin, Moan Gary, McKeever Lisa, McParland Paul, McCorry Deirdre McGinley Orla, Fearon Kerry, Lane Margaret, Fearon Teresa

Mr. D. McCann (Head of ICT)

IRISH DEPARTMENT

1. National Award for Promoting Spoken Irish



For the second time in four years the Abbey have been Nationally Recognised for their promotion of Irish within the School community. The 2011 presentation of Foras na Gaeilge's GLEO Award took place in the Hogan Suite of Croke Park.

This year's presentation was made by Míchéal Ó Muireartaigh Former RTÉ GAA Commentator and Irish Language enthusiast. During his speech M Ó M spoke about the importance of treating Irish as more than a School subject and he was delighted by the renewed enthusiasm of young people for the language. He spoke passionately about praising the youth in their efforts to speak more Irish.

Ferdie Mac an Fhaili, Chief Executive of Foras na Gaeilge congratulated all 19 schools that were being awarded for their promotion of the Irish Language.

Of the 19 schools presented only 7 of those were Post Primary schools and the Abbey Jointly shared the award with Our Lady of Mercy Belfast.

Mr D Tennyson, Head of Irish and four students, Connor Hogan, Seamas McGeough, James Meehan and Conall Havern represented the school at the awards ceremony.

2. Best Public Speakers of Irish in Northern Ireland



While the Irish Department have a history of producing excellent public speakers for Gael-Linn's ABAIR Public Speaking Competition, 2011 will undoubtedly go down as one of the most successful years. Four Abbey students took part in the Ulster Final of ABAIR which took place in Leabharlann Uí Fhiaich in Armagh in April.

With two students represented in each section, James Gallogly and James Meehan in the GCSE section and Seamas McGeough and Connor Hogan in the A-Level section, the competition was tough with competitors from every Ulster County.

By the time the competition was over James Meehan came 2nd in the GCSE Section and Connor Hogan and Seamas McGeough were awarded 1st and 2nd respectively. All three students were also awarded a £270 scholarship to the Gaeltacht.

James Meehan will now take part in the Irish / Scottish Public Speaking Finals which will be held in Dublin in September.

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

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

The first year trophy (Bás Chuchulainn) dedicated to the late Brother Beausang was awarded to Ronan Lavery.

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 Gareth Deane.

The third year trophy (Corn Durkin) dedicated to the late Matt Durkin was awarded to Peter Reel. 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 Scoil Drámaíochta an Iúir, was awarded to Sheá Hanratty.

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 awarded to Connor Hogan.

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

The award for the best 'Gaelscoláire' (An Lóchrann Beag) was awarded to Oisín O'Callaghan.

4 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 ninth year for the trophy to be presented and this year's recipient is Cian Gallagher. The trophy is presented together with a cheque for £200 to go towards a three week course in the Donegal Gaeltacht and Cian 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 who sat his A level examinations in the Summer received this prestigious award last year.

5 Seachtain na Gaeilge

Year 8 – Year 8 classes took part in an internal Irish Language quiz.

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

Year 10 - All Year 10 Students took part in a Gael-Linn Quiz in Newry Sports Centre earlier in the Year

Year 11 - Year 11 Irish Students were awarded Silver Fáinní for oral proficiency in Irish based on their Christmas Tests.

Year 12 All Year 12 Students took part in an Irish Language with the Sacred Heart School.

Year 13/14 - Ursula McAteer, Irish Language Officer from Newry and Mourne Council and Ian Murphy who is a former pupil and is currently working with TG4 spoke to AS and A2 classes about Irish Language services provided in Newry.

Staff - Niamh McAvoy received the most votes from Keystage 3 Irish students for making the most effort during Seachtain na Gaeilge and received a £50 Meal Voucher for the Canal Court.

6 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	Callum O'Neill	£20
2nd Place	Michael Fitzpatrick	£15
3rd Place	Tasib Muhammed	£10

Runners Up: (£5 each)

Conor Foster
Dáire Rooney
Myles McGeeney
Mark Hanna
Ronan Lavery
Rossa MacCarráin.

7 Gaeltacht Students and Scholarships 2011

Due to the current economic crisis a smaller number of Abbey Students attended courses in the Gaeltacht during the summer. 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 provided approximately £4000 worth of scholarships to Abbey students last year.

Gael-Linn (13)

Feis an Dúin (approx 8)

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 20th. 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:

Alcohol and Drugs – What does the future hold?

Personal Safety – You’re special – stay safe

999 Emergency Services – What stops them getting here?

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 20th. 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 12 – 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:

November- Mr. Morgan attended a GCSE Agreement Trial at CCEA in Belfast.

January – Mr. Morgan attended a Citizenship training session on the role of NGOs.

Revised Curriculum:

The department had a very busy year reviewing and updating the schemes of work and assessment tasks for the forthcoming academic year. The KS3 Revised Curriculum is now fully complete and has been updated on the Curriculum Mapping software.

New resources and student booklets were also produced for Non-exam KS4 LLW.

The first year of the new GCSE specification was introduced for the first time in LLW and was included as an option for students this year.

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. S1A and S1B completed their full GCSE in one year as in previous years. All remaining 4th year students sat 45% of their GCSE with reasonable outcomes. S2C, S2D & S2E sat their completion paper, with some students also opting to repeat their module from 4th year to improve their grade. Results were excellent – 100% pass rate.

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 is being 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

GOLD

Tianyu Guo

SILVER

Xiaotian Cui

David Richmond

Daniel M^cCullagh

BRONZE

Conor Devlin

Ryan Walsh

Stephen Grant

Patrick Burns

Ben Sutherland

Best in School:

Tianyu Guo

Intermediate Challenge

SILVER

Adam O'Rourke
Conladh Quinn
Donagh M^cAleenan

Matthew Freeman
James Haughey

BRONZE

Abeer Shahid
Cailum Finnegan
Patrick Tiernan
Cormac Begley

Matt Kinsella
Ryan Mathers
Tiarnan Byrne
Michael Hasson

Best in School: Adam O'Rourke

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 January, 60 Year 11 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.

The winning team, pictured with Mrs B. Tohill and Mrs G. Boyd, comprised of Ben Hughes, Stephen M^cKay, James M^cNulty & Rory Watterson.



Video Conference with Computing and Engineering Faculties at Queens’.

On April 15th, the Maths department in conjunction with the Careers department successfully piloted a video conference with the above faculties and Lower 6th Mathematics students. We hope to expand this link with other faculties at Queens’ this year

Mrs S. Burns. (Head of Mathematics)

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Abbey Orchestra (Anne Hughes) performed at the following events:

- Newry Feis (April)
- Spring Concert (April)

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

- Official School Opening Mass (September) & A Hughes
- Ulster Youth Choir Workshop (October)
- Warrenpoint Feis (February)
- Newry Feis (April)
- Lenten Meditation presentation as a part of Newry Cathedral’s programme “Thoughts for Easter” – combined choirs with Newry Cathedral Vigil Choir
- Spring Concert (April)
- Music Quiz Night – fundraiser for Rome Tour (June)

Senior String Group (Anne Hughes) performed at the following events:

- Official School Opening Mass (September)
- GCSE Prizegiving (October)
- Princes Trust Event at Hillsborough Castle (December)
- Open Day (January)
- Warrenpoint Feis (February)
- Ash Wednesday Mass (February)
- Warrenpoint Feis (February)
- Newry Feis (April)
- Leaver’s Ceremony (June)
- New First Year’s Mass (June)

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

- Ulster Youth Jazz Showcase – Blackbox Theatre Belfast (February)
- Warrenpoint Feis (February)
- Newry Feis (April)
- Graduate Prizegiving (March)
- Spring Concert (April)

Recorder Group (Mr Barry Murphy, SELB) performed at the following event:

- Spring Concert (April)

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

- Official School Opening Mass (September)
- GCSE Prizegiving (October)
- Open Day (January)
- Warrenpoint Feis (February)
- Newry Feis (April)
- Spring Concert (April)
- Leaver's Ceremony (June)
- New First Year's Mass (June)

Brass Ensemble (Dominic Wadsworth)

- SELB "New Starts" promotional concert (October)
- Warrenpoint Feis (February)
- Newry Feis (April)
- Spring Concert (April)

Main Events of the Academic Year 2010– 2011

- **Guitar Night & Drum Night (February)**
- **Spring Concert (April)**

Achievements

The choir and brass ensemble under the direction of Mr Dominic Wadsworth won first place at the Warrenpoint Feis and the choir won first prize at the Newry Feis. The Irish Traditional Group under the direction of Mrs Anne Hughes won first prize at the Warrenpoint Feis.

SELB Tuition

SELB instrumental tuition on offer includes **upper & lower strings, brass, woodwind, percussion, & recorders.**

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

Best Pupil at A2

Laurence McGivern

Best Pupil at AS

Sean Rooney

Best Pupil at GCSE

Jonathon Kehoe & Cailum Finnegan

Mrs A. Hughes (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, swimming, golf and cross country.

Over 200 pupils represented the school at various levels in Gaelic football. The Dalton Cup team was defeated in the semi-final. Ranafast Cup team was defeated by Maghera in the final. The Abbey was also represented at a year 9 Hurling Blitz.

All teams fought hard for the Abbey in a disciplined manner.

18 Primary schools took part in a Gaelic football blitz over a two month period Ballyholland P.S emerging as victors.

P.E department also organised two Primary School Sports Days which were very successful.

Abbey athletes represented the school in both district and All Ireland competition in the past year in Field events and cross country and gave a good account of themselves.

With our move from Courtenay Hill we have also been able to expand the range of activities on offer. Strength and conditioning classes take place in the school from 8.15 am. Badminton on a weekly basis 3.30 – 3.40 pm.

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.

Yes Minister

Friday Lunch-time showing of episodes of the classic political sitcom attracted a number of students from Yr 11 to Yr 14.

6th Year work experience.

For the fourth year in a row several Politics students opted to undertake their work experience alongside local MLAs.

Recreational Soccer

Based on senior Politics students, this facility was opened to other senior students on Thursdays after school and there was an uptake by c20 students.

Politics Society

The 7th Year students enjoyed a range of discussions during meetings which occurred at break-time.

Visiting Speakers

The Politics Society were active in seeking prominent speakers. Lord Laird addressed a large group after school which included pupils from Newry High and the Sacred Heart. Mrs Margaret Ritchie, the SDLP leader also addressed students after school. Again, Sacred Heart girls also attended.

Student Activists

A number of Abbey Politics students are participating in local party politics with several involved with Sinn Fein and the SDLP, helping out for example in the recent Assembly elections.

A Level Results

For the fourth time in the last five years all A Level Politics students scored an A or B grade.

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. 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 have now been placed on the VLE part of the Abbey's website for the use of our AS/2 pupils and GCSE and KS3 pupils. These notes have been 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 29 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 and three discrete classes in Year 12.

Mr. G. Patterson (Head of Physics)

PSYCHOLOGY DEPARTMENT

This is the second year of collaboration with Sacred Heart. The first year of this collaboration proved 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 in both modules. 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 use Data Tracking in year 13 and to place more emphasis on providing the students with information regarding careers. To this end it is hoped that a number of past pupils studying Psychology will come in and speak to the AS and A2 class.

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. We intend to continue with this project as 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 made St. Brigid's Crosses in class to celebrate St. Brigid's Day. Pupils really enjoyed this activity. A large number of pupils also took part in the 'Give it up for Trocaire Day' in March which raised over £1200.00. In May time the Religion department created a display outside the Oratory in honour of Our Lady.

- 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 the GCSE and A Level results in the Religion department were outstanding. In Year 12, 95% of our pupils achieved Grade A-C at GCSE. This was a superb achievement as the Northern Ireland average was 89.6%. At AS Level, 98% of our pupils achieved Grade A-C and at A2 Level 100% of our pupils achieved Grade A-C (N.I. average 86.7%) The Religion Department has grown over the last few years in popularity with 42 pupils currently studying Religion at A2 Level and 24 pupils studying Religion at AS Level.

Mrs. L. McKeever (Head of RE)

SPANISH DEPARTMENT

This year the Department of Spanish welcomed Sr Tomas Sordo Fuentes 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 completed the first cohort of the new format GCSE Spanish with the related 60% content based on Controlled Assessment. Within the Department we drew up a policy on the delivery and procedures relating to the four separate Controlled Assessments. We also produced new teaching and learning materials relevant to these four Controlled Assessments. We were very happy with the results achieved by our GCSE students in these Controlled Assessments as confirmed by August 2011 statistics.

This was the first year of internal marking by our centre of the GCSE Oral. We spent a lot of time as a department comparing each others’ marking practices to ensure parity across the three teaching groups. We received communication from CCEA stating that the level of marking across the Department was “excellent”. We will adopt the same collaborative approach to standardisation of marking next year.

This year as part of our Whole School Development Plan we had a focus on “Careers” within our department. This involved some of our past language students coming back to the Abbey to speak with our present students. Martin Davidson who is currently studying in Salamanca spoke with our 6(1) and 6(2) students and Paul Lambert, currently employed with KPMG Madrid engaged in an email forum with our 6th form language students on issues relating to job opportunities with languages.

We continued to focus on cultivating a healthy uptake at GCSE and AS Level. Our efforts have been repaid in that we have 68 students in Year 11 and 21 students in Year 13. We will aim to maintain this positive trend in future years.

Padriag 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 Fourteenth year in succession the Abbey Christian Brothers' Technology Club has enjoyed success.

The Big Bang National Science + Engineering Competition 2011

At [ExCel](#) in London's docklands in March 2011 schools and companies from across the world of Science Technology Engineering and Maths (aka STEM) came together for the [Big Bang Science Fair](#), the culmination of educational science and technology competitions from across the UK. The Abbey CBS Technology Department had great success with pupils Caolan Magee, Gavin Fox and Shea Quinn: winning every major award at KS3 with their project CPR Assistant (Mr T Mooney). The awards included: Big Bang Engineering & Technology Overall UK winners KS3 (£1000 + Trophy + Certificate); British Science Association CREST Award Overall UK Winners KS3 (£875 + Trophy + Certificate) Young Engineers for Britain Overall UK Winners KS3 (£500 + Trophy + Certificate)

Paul McKeever and Bryan Murphy acquitted themselves well with their project, Spec Detector(Mr G Savage), claiming The Big Bang Engineering & Technology UK Runners Up KS4 (£500 + certificate)

A special word of thanks to Sean Higgins, Kim Cranston, Jane McGinn and Fiona McAreavey for their help.

SENTINUS AWARDS JUNE 2011

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

Details:

James McCartan & Abeer Shahid	Overall Winner Northern Ireland Young Engineer – KS4	Trophy + £100 for pupil + Framed Certificate	T.Mooney/S.Higgins
Connor McAteer & Declan Cranny	Overall Winner CREST Technology Award – KS4	Trophy + £100 for pupil	M.Rodgers/S.Higgins
Glenn Mooney	Overall Winner CREST Technology Award – KS3	Trophy + £100 for pupil	T.Mooney/S.Higgins
Joe Rock & Hugh Tiernan	Runner Up Northern Ireland Young Engineer – KS3	£75	T.Mooney/S.Higgins
Colin Rice	Sentinus Young Innovator KS4	Highly Commended	M.Rodgers/S.Higgins
Matthew Cole	Sentinus Young Innovator KS3	Highly Commended	M.Rodgers/S.Higgins

Esat Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition

The BT Young Scientist & Technology Exhibition was held in the RDS Dublin in January 2011. Our Engineering Club was there once again securing awards and building links with industry to help all our pupils benefit from strong links made with some of the many companies sponsoring this event. These strong links prove especially useful at A Level and will only serve our pupils well in the future. Awards won:

The Big Idea Competition.

Mr Rodgers helped a team of our A Level Pupils; James Dixon, Eoin Colgan, Connor Devlin and Owen Jones to compete at The Big Idea Competition in Belfast the A Level boys came second over-all winning a total of £1000, £500 for the Department and £500 for the boys. Their idea was the iCan and they were highly commended by the minister for enterprise and also received a plaque.

Bombardier Flight Experience

This year all our KS3 pupils had the opportunity to take part in the Bombardier's Bombardier's The 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 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)

Committee

APTA has concluded another successful year. A healthy committee exists comprising of eleven members, including four teachers (Mr McCavitt, Mrs McGrath, Mr Rory McMahon, Mr Gary Moan). Members are loyal and hard-working.

Committee meetings

As always APTA provides a conduit for parental views on topical issues in the school. This year opinion was sought on the important matter of First Year Parent Meetings. A series of meetings discussed this issue and after an exchange of information with SMT an online questionnaire was formulated. 61 parents completed the questionnaire and an Action Plan was drawn up on the basis of it, including a commitment to revisit the area of First Year Induction. APTA will continue its innovative approach to garnering parental views, not least on important Teaching and Learning issues.

Fun Quiz

The quiz was held once again during the past year and it was an enjoyable night. Following consideration of the First Year Parent Meetings questionnaire it has been decided to hold the Fun Quiz on 11th October 2011, the same evening as parents are scheduled to come to the school for Induction.

Miscellaneous activities

APTA was represented at the annual Prize-giving and Open Day. On Open Day members play a vital role interacting with prospective parents and their contribution to 'marketing' the school cannot be praised highly enough. Mrs Adrienne Feenan and Mrs Siobhan Murray fulfilled this role.

Dr. J. McCavitt (Chairman APTA)

BASKETBALL

September 2010 saw another successful year for the Abbey basketball teams. We had teams at U19, U16 along with teams in first, second and third year. There was a big response to the teams and many pupils tried out. This year our teams at both under nineteen and under sixteen level were successful as were our first and second and third year teams. 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 in the league they were firm favourites to win their game against St Michael's Lurgan. After what was a surprisingly tough game the team won the final by 15 points and went on to the All-Ireland playoffs. Unfortunately they narrowly lost out on a semi-final place when they were beaten by 4 points in the final playoff.

The Under 16 team came runner up in a very intense Ulster final against Dungannon, they were trailing by 22 points at half time only to recover and come within 2 points of the Dungannon team but time was against us and the Under 16 team had to settle for silver. They moved on to the all Ireland qualifiers and won what can only be described as the game of the season, against a very strong cavan team. The game went into double overtime with the Abbey winning by 1 point thanks to a huge three pointer from Aaron Miller. The team then progressed on to the playoffs only to loose out to the home team.

The third year basketball team who were coached by Mr. D Evans won their Ulster title also this year, with great flair and style they had an undefeated season. The second year team were very successful coming third in their group. Our first year team went on to the Vincent O'Halloran tournament and played 3 games and lost 2. The team however enjoyed the experience and plan to come back fighting next year. This year I was greatly assisted by Robert Hannon the PE technician at games etc. and would like to thank them for all their efforts. In 2011 I will continue to coach the 1st and second year teams along with the under 19 and 16 teams. Mr David Evans will take on the third year team. My thanks to Mr. McGovern and Mr O'Shea for their help with match fixtures.

Mrs. Pauline McClean

Evaluation Report Counselling Service June 2011

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 have 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.

Although Person-Centred is my foundation theory I work from an eclectic approach, bringing in Cognitive Behaviour theory and Solution Focused theory to meet individual needs.

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

Cognitive Behavioural Therapy (1 unit)	2010.
Child Protection Training	2010
B Positive	2011
Mind Out	2011
Bounce	2011
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.

Doctors in England currently recommend 6 sessions of colour breathing as an alternative to prescribing anti-depressants.

Approximately 100 pupils have availed of colour breathing between February 2011 and June 2011.

The pupil's I have worked with have loved it and found this technique really helpful and the boys have requested it again 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.

The charter group also has been a great tool in helping promote the counselling service, the boys have the opportunity to get to know me as well and I feel the stigma from counselling is minimised as they realise I am approachable, understanding and supportive.

I feel the role of counsellor within the School has huge potential for both pupils and staff! Continual development and promotion of the counselling is the key to the way forward. My objective is to promote positive mental health to pupils through the B positive and Mind out programmes next year. I have a range of presentations and information which I also intend bringing into the class rooms.

Bereavement Care
Self-harm awareness
Bullying awareness / coping strategies
Self-awareness / Self-value
Friendship skills
Drugs and alcohol awareness
Anger management

I also feel in my role I am privileged that the boys respect and trust me to share their worries and experiences. Counselling provides a safe place whereby pupils can talk about their feelings and problems.

I continue to work within the ethical framework of the BACP, I have clinical supervision monthly. I also continue to do volunteer counselling with PIPS. I am also a member of the management committee with PIPS.

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, Mrs Jane Mc Ginn 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 pupil's will benefit from counselling.

The importance of promoting the counselling service as positive and beneficial is a key element in reducing stigma and allowing counselling to be integrated as part of normal School life. Over the next few weeks I will be calling in to all the 1st year classes, I am hoping to find a way to implement the B positive programme over three periods possibly working with LLW teachers. It may be a future consideration to allocate a slot in the timetable for Counselling to enable me to do various workshops and presentations with all year groups.

Ms Fiona Hughes (School Counsellor)

FIRST YEAR SPORT

I organised a five-a-side soccer competition . A total of sixteen teams took part over a period of eight weeks. Some skilful games were played and the winners won trophies and the runners-up won plaques. This is the fifteenth year that this has been organised. I would also like to thank Rory McMahon of the geography department who has helped me with this activity for the last seven years.

P O'Neill

ABBEY GOLF 2010/11

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 courses. The boys won their first game against the St. Colman's, Newry and also defeated Sacred Heart Grammar School. Unfortunately they were beaten by St. Joseph's, Crossmaglen in the quarter final. Joe Rock 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. Sean Patterson's team finished in second place. The squad this year was: Ryan Treanor, David Price, Ronan McGrath, Sean Patterson, Gavin Fox, Ronan Lavery, Kevin McCumiskey, Joe Rock, Conor McManus, and Ruairi McCormack.

The senior golf team competed in the Ulster U-19 matchplay competition in Dungannon Golf Club on October 9th. The team consisted of Neil McConville, Gareth Rooney, John McGivern and Danny Mullan.

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 avail 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 30+ year 9 and 10 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

Hardspell – the Abbey Spelling Bee!

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: Hardspell - 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 a winner's trophy.

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 the regional heat in the Odyssey, where they won and went on to win the national semi-final in Manchester. The boys were now in the Grand Final in the O2 in London; they got to the final 10, which is a remarkable achievement considering over 1200 schools were involved in the competition.

M Rodgers (Head of Literacy)

QUIZZES

The Abbey Quiz Teams had a successful year competing in schools quiz competitions. Within the school, inter-form class quizzes ran during lunchtime for Years 8, 9 & 10. These proved to be both very competitive and fun.

In the Senior Challenge Quiz the Abbey team of Garbhan McKevitt, Daire McAteer, Eoin Monaghan and James McKevitt won the Northern Ireland Senior Schools Competition, beating Loreto College Coleraine in the final. They then travelled to Westminster School in London during April for the UK finals, where they performed very admirably, only being beaten in the semi-finals by Westminster School the eventual winners.

The Junior Challenge Quiz Team of Michael Jordan, Cormac Rea, Kevin McCumiskey and Ronan Lavery won the N Ireland Junior Quiz Competition beating Sacred Heart Newry in the Final. They travelled to Winchester to the UK finals where they were unfortunately knocked out in the first round when the quiz went to extra time after a tied score at the end of normal time.

In the Credit Union Quiz (a table quiz for 1st years) the Abbey Team performed very well just losing out to the winners by 10 points (one question).

Eight pupils from 2nd year to 6th year also represented the Abbey in the Newry Council Quiz. Eoin Monaghan was part of the winning team and Daire McAteer was part of the runners up group.

Mr. C. Gamble

THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD



The President's Award Programme was introduced in the school in 2009. Ten pupils were selected to undertake the Bronze Award. The programme is co-ordinated in the school by Mr Gerry Savage. The boys found that doing the President's Award was a real adventure from beginning to end. Along the way they picked up experiences, friends and talents that will stay with them for the rest of their lives. At Bronze level you create your own personal programme with the help of your leader and set about completing the four sections of the award: Volunteering, Physical, Skills and Expedition.

In 'Volunteering' the boys had a chance to make a real difference by helping someone in the community. They chose to work with the Samaritans to gain a better understanding of society and to help promote their work in school by organising an assembly for Year 11.

In the 'Physical' section they chose a sport or fitness activity to help them get fitter and which they enjoyed. Sports included: gaelic football, keep fit, skirmishing, basketball, swimming and tennis. Over a six month period the boys developed their skills in their chosen sport.

The 'Skills' section was very varied and allowed the group to get better at a current skill or develop a new hobby. Most of the boys chose to develop their skills in music or drama. Once again they were required to practise this area over a six month period. Areas chosen included playing guitar, banjo, piano and drama.

Finally the boys had to plan, train for and complete an adventurous two day journey in the Mourne Mountains. They took part in four practice walks during the year and completed a Practice Expedition with their leader before finally undertaking their own unaccompanied expedition. The 2010 group set out on their final two day expedition in the Mournes on the 19th and 20th of June 2011 and all students successfully completed their Bronze Award.

The experience was tremendous and they experienced many highs and lows, had great laughs and most of all amazing memories.

Mr G Savage

ABBEY RUGBY

Abbey Rugby continues to grow in numbers and teams. The U12s (30+ 1st years) played and won three friendly matches and took part in the Ulster U12s regional competition, winning their group and going forward to the Ulster U12s Final where they came second in their group. The U14s (25+ 2nd & 3rd years) came second in their group in the U14s regional competition and qualified for the Ulster Finals where they won one and lost one (to the eventual champions). The U16s (25+ 4th & 5th years) were not so successful losing in the Pollick Cup Qualifiers as well as the High Schools Cup 1st round match. The U18s (25+ 6th & 7th years) played only one match, losing closely to BRAI 4th team. Unfortunately due to timetable constraints Abbey pupils found it difficult to commit themselves to further matches as the only U18s fixtures to be found are against other grammar schools whose friendly fixtures take place during Wednesday afternoons/senior games sessions. The good links made across the community might be difficult to sustain next year. The link with Newry Rugby Club continues to be successful with Abbey boys joining and the club supporting us in return. Mr Wadsworth was supported by Mr Colin Gamble who assisted with junior training sessions.

Mr. D. Wadsworth

SOCIAL SPIRITUALITY IN THE SEVENTH YEAR

This year we continued with our programme of Social Spirituality in The Upper Sixth. The purpose of this programme remains two fold: on the one hand we aim to equip our students with the information they will need, successfully to undertake university life and on the other hand we are conscious that senior students in The Abbey should be sharing their talents and skills with the less advantaged in our local community.

To this end two groups of students accompanied by their teachers Mr Jim McCartan and Mrs Deirdre McCorry visited Rathore Special School each Wednesday of term. In Rathore the senior pupils studied science with Mrs McCorry and her students whilst pupils from Rathore Middle School engaged in P.E. activities with Mr McCartan and his students. On a number of occasions Rathore pupils came over to The Abbey to study with Mrs McCorry's students using the facilities available in her lab.

In April our Upper Sixth students hosted an afternoon for Rathore pupils in The Abbey. They had lunch together in The Senior Common Room, they engaged in Art and Music activities and the afternoon ended with a concert featuring pupils from both schools.

We welcomed a number of speakers to our Sixth form Social Spirituality forum in the 2010/2011 school year. This year the speakers included:

1. Admissions officers from both University of Ulster and Q.U.B.
2. Mr David Scott., The orange order, Grand Lodge of Ireland.
3. Constable Warren Todd PSNI, Safe Driving.
4. Alcohol Abuse – 3 speakers from Sr. Concilio's Newry, led by Mr Oliver Conlon.
5. Mr Mark Tegggarty, Drug and Alcohol Project SELB.
6. Fr. Gary Toman, Catholic Chaplain QUB.
7. Mrs Jannet Montgomery – Student Finance SELB.
8. Ms Mary Rainey, Student Housing Officer, Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

Each of these speakers addressed the full year group and then answered questions posed by our students. The students found the sessions both interesting and useful. We intend to continue to develop our links with Rathore Special School in 2011/2012 School Year as we feel that by so doing, our students are continuing to contribute to the legacy and vision set out by The Christian Brothers over many years.

Mr P McKeever

ZAMBIA IMMERSION PROJECT

‘If you give a man a fish he’ll eat for a day, but teach him how to fish and he’ll eat for a lifetime’

A quote found in Lubasi Home Children’s Orphanage



On April 6th 2011, a group of fifteen people from the Abbey Grammar Christian Brothers’ Grammar School left for Livingstone, Zambia; after months of preparation we were ready to start our Immersion Project.

Zambia is a land locked central African country surrounded by six other countries; Botswana, Zimbabwe, Angola, Zaire, Tanzania and Mozambique. It is approximately a ten-hour flight from the UK, and around eleven times the size of Ireland, having a population of eleven million. There are seventy-three different tribes each having their own language; in the area we stayed there were the **Bemba**, **Tonga** and **Selosi** tribes. The Zambezi River, which runs through the country, is 2700 km long, about eight times longer than the longest river here in Ireland, the River Shannon.

The preparation started on the Edmund Rice feast day in May 2010 when forty year 12 and year 13 students applied for a place in what would be the fifth trip of its kind from the school. By October from this group, eleven students were chosen. In the following months, we had meetings every week where we arranged fundraising, practised cooking meals (as we would be cooking for ourselves in Zambia) and generally prepared for what would be the experience of a lifetime. It was over these months that we really bonded and became a group.

These months flew by, and it wasn’t long before we were waiting in the Abbey car park on our bus to take us to Dublin Airport. We set off; our slight anxiety at what lay ahead being overwhelmed by our sheer excitement at the amazing journey we were about to embark on. Our journey from Dublin began with a sign. The pilot of our Aer

Lingus flight, shamrock 164 was a past pupil of the school. Captain Joseph May navigated our airbus 320 with safety to Heathrow where we waited for a few hours, before boarding our ten-hour flight to **Lusaka**, the capital city of Zambia, the country that would be our home for the next two and a half weeks.



We got off the plane at 6:30 am local time and were hit with a gust of 30-degree heat, our first experience to the hot African heat. Br. Joe Mosley welcomed us at the Christian Brothers' Spiritual Centre and after a quick breakfast we headed into a local compound, our first real insight into developing world poverty. It was a heart rending experience and the smiles on the children have been imprinted on our minds forever. We were given an unbelievable welcome, how many of us would welcome total strangers at 8am on a Thursday morning. We quickly realised we weren't total strangers as any friend of the Brothers was a friend of theirs, a true tribute to the work of the Brothers.

We said our goodbyes to Br Joe and left for the Irish Embassy. Marylee Wall welcomed us and gave our group a great insight into the work of the Irish Government in Zambia. We left Lusaka and began our seven hour bus journey south. During our journey to Livingstone we were shocked to be the centre of people's attention. The people were so friendly and would go out of their way to wave and smile at us. In spite of the heat, we managed to get some sleep on the journey but were woken frequently by the thud of the many potholes in the road. We eventually arrived at our destination- 'Fawlty Towers', Livingstone. It had everything we needed, and was a luxury compared to the places in which we saw other people living, over the following two and a half weeks. Martin Hearty, a seventh year participant, shares his personal experiences.

It was hard to describe my first reactions when arriving in Zambia but all I can say is that the city Lusaka was a lot better than what I thought it would be, but I don't know what I was expecting to see, maybe elephants and lions patrolling the streets and poverty and death around every corner. But we had a long 7 hour bus journey in the smallest bus possible, which showed us the true Zambia. There were small stalls lining the country roads selling anything and everything, we stopped a couple of times on the way down to Livingstone to stretch our legs and buy water. It was surreal realizing we had arrived in Africa.

On arriving in Livingstone we set up our home for the remainder of our days in Zambia, a youth hostel called Fawlty Towers. The first day was really just for us getting our bearings and getting used to Zambia life. I got my first real insight into poverty and sick people on the first morning when Mr Grogan, Patrick and myself went over to let Sister Mary Courtney, our main contact in Zambia, know that we had arrived safely. She was a great woman and was glad to see us. She brought us to a clinic down the road in Libuyu compound. Just before we went in Mark told us to be

prepared for the smell of concentrated sweat but really nothing could prepare anybody for that. We entered seeing young mothers lining the walls with sick babies dying in their arms. But then we were shown exactly what people would do for money, when sister Mary asked a young paralysed man where was the watch that one of the other nuns gave him, he answered quickly that it was broken, but sister Mary turned to us and said obviously he has sold it. It was quite humorous.

We were all separated into three different community schools. I was in Linda along with Ciaran and Paul. We started off with no pupils but once the word spread that there was 'Mzungus' or white people in the school, the crowds steadily increased. I loved the teaching because knowing that you were one of the stepping stones for some of these children to escaping utter poverty. Compared to Ireland it is amazing the children actually want to learn and love going to school. They always are trying to be the teacher's pet lifting out the books in the morning and wiping the chalk off the board from the day before. We were told that men have no respect for women in Africa and that they would hit the women, so one day at break I caught a lad Rodger in my class hitting other girls in the class and putting them in headlocks so I snuck up behind and grabbed Rodger and held him and let the girls hit him back - there is no child protection over there. The girls couldn't believe that a man was respecting them and especially a white man.



Over the course of the few weeks that I was teaching, young children only 9 or 10 years of age would come up to me complaining of being sick. I told them that I would get the principal to take them home but they said no very quickly, they wanted to stay, I thought that really showed dedication and love for education. There was a small lad called Jackson in my class who was a real character. I noticed he really wasn't at himself one of the days. Mark the adult in our school was away on a day-care visit so I hadn't got him to ask what I should do. So I brought Jackson outside and asked what was wrong. He was slow to reply but he told me that he hadn't had anything to eat in three days. I froze on the spot, his family hadn't got the money to provide any food for him. I also asked him where he lived and he told me about an hours walk away, so I realised that this was a boy who was absolutely starving still walked for an hour that morning in his bare feet to get to school. I was gutted, so I reached into my pocket and gave him everything I had in it. At first he refused and that was what struck me the most, but after me restraining his hands and putting it in his pocket, he accepted it and said thanks sir and shook my hand. The next day Jackson came in like a lunatic, jumping around back to his normal self. That's Poverty and injustice that we say in the Edmund Rice prayer.

In Linda Community School our principal Catherine brought us to see where the pupils from the school came from. This was a great chance to meet their parents and see the living conditions. A real eye opener, and it helped me to relate to the members of my class. I gained a sense of what these people's everyday lives were really like. The walk itself took us about an hour to reach the last pupil house, away up high in the hills. We were struggling to walk this journey in our comfortable trainers, so I wondered how young Gift beside us was coping in his bare feet, on dry stony ground. These were the types of challenges that the people are faced with. Then we got to their homes. You can only have so much of an imagination as to what these people really live like, until you're actually standing there in front of them.

A child in my class called Martin, lived in a house with his father and brother, as his mother had died a few years ago from HIV/AIDS. The father, a very proud man, let us have a look around his humble house. Martin slept in a little room of his own, detached from the main house, probably around the same size as a kitchen table. He slept on the hard red soil every night, with a simple blanket to keep him warm. In the rainy season, the roof he told us, would not cope with the rain. The holes in the wall would make the room have a little river, running through it as he slept. We then had a look around the kitchen area, again we stooped low to get in the gap where the door should have been. This area was probably half the size again of Martins bedroom, with the only utensils for cooking being an old spoon and some sort of metal dish.

This is the reality, this is how these people have to live. As I took a step back and stopped to think for a brief moment, I thought to myself, 'well this is hard to look at and imagine people trying to live like this, but Martin and his family do have to live like this'. This was the everyday reality for him and his family. I felt depressed and for a moment lost. How can there be such a difference in the way people live? Mark recognised his father as a caretaker for Linda school. We, the Abbey, actually pay Martin's father a wage every month. It was honestly a pleasure to be able to see how our money in school actually goes the long way to help a family in real need out.

On our long walk back towards our school, we met a young girl balancing a huge container of water on her head, and carrying another container in each hand. She had probably walked a few miles to fill up the container and now had to walk back. This was quite hard to deal with, and although we had good craic at watching Paul struggling to fill up the bucket with the pump, it only really hit me when Catherine told us that these were the types of jobs that women were expected to do. We turn on a tap and expect clean water, we waste this water, but these people labour for this water. Unjust world.

Catherine took us for a walk on another occasion and we went to a blind and disabled village not far from Linda school. We came across a blind man, who was the father of one of the students in our class. He was such a feel good guy, and made us feel happy being around him. Although he was blind and lived in squalor conditions, he seemed so positive considering his situation. He played a guitar and had composed a song about HIV and AIDS. When we asked if we could hear it he told us that it was not fully finished and there were a few finishing touches but he would try his best. This was a very moving 3-4 minutes listening to this man sing about the effects of HIV/AIDS but they're were positives about life as well. To see Mark's reaction, who has been there lots of times before, showed that even he was moved by this man. He

had never experienced anything of this sort previously in Zambia, and I think it had a profound effect on him.

The quarry area was hard to take in. Probably one harrowing things I have ever people there had a daily which was to get up, break day, go to bed, get up break, go to bed.....and if they were to be a child they might get somewhere in the middle of hours. One particular image in my head was old woman



extremely of the most seen. The routine, stones all break stones, lucky enough to go school, it all, for few that sticks out whose hands

had been worn out by the constant manual labour of her life. She went to work every day with her grandchild strapped to her back, as her own children had died. She would fill wheel barrow full of tiny stones and if she was really lucky she might make 60p. There really was no escape for the people here. They lived on the land beside the quarry. Again we could see the impact of Abbey money. As part of the previous groups fundraising they had provided the means to build a bore hole, water pump near by, something that seems simple to us could be the simple difference between them living or death. This 'water hole' provided much needed crops and again meant a 2 hour walk to a water pump was reduced to less than 2 minutes. They were so appreciative towards us. The normally don't allow 'tourists' to take pictures of them and it quickly became evident that we were not viewed as tourists but friends.

Every evening we went to the Lubasi Home, which was my favourite activity in the whole Immersion programme. Lubasi is a children's orphanage that was founded by the Brothers'. Just simply laughing and playing with the little kids, was unreal. When we entered the Home every day, the children would come running to greet us, shouting our names. We brought great joy and hope to them in such a short space of time. A young Congolese boy called Damas was one of my favourites. He was always so happy climbing on up our backs and was always looking a sneaky sweet out of the back of my bag. Basically he was looking to be loved. The story behind Damas, like all of the children, was pretty sad. He was originally from the Congo and his desperate family had tried to sneak into Zambia illegally but got caught and thrown in jail.

Damas and his brother Ali were taken in the Lubasi home. I was told by one of the older girls that their parents have no money to pay the bail to let them out of jail so until then the two boys will never see their parents again. I'm not sure who it was I asked but I mentioned to someone that I would pay the bail because it wasn't that expensive to let these parents reunite with their children. I was told that the parents have no money to support the children or buy them food, at least in the Lubasi home they have food water and education. They would have a better life without them. It is hard to accept but I know that is the reality in Africa and Damas is very lucky to be in such a safe environment. I knew that our time in Africa wouldn't change Zambia but just by being there we gave them children something to reach out for. We gave them love and that was humbling for me. No amount of money could do that, these children got much more from us than money could ever give. There was not a dry eye amongst our group the day we left. That was hard experience to live.

At the weekends we tourists. It was important balance between the Zambia and the extreme country. The first visited 'Musi O Tuyna' that thunders - The Falls. I couldn't wait to thought that it would my attention for a couple because let's face it, be so interesting and



became to get a poverty of beauty of the Saturday we the smoke Victoria go but I only hold of minutes what would special

about water flowing over a cliff, but by God I was wrong. It is a truly special place and one which I shall never forget. The sheer size and power of the falls are something that is difficult to take in. It is considered to be the largest waterfall in the world. 625 million litres of water per minute rush over the falls. It is a majestic 108m in height as well as being 1708m wide. As you get closer and closer to the falls, things get wetter and wetter, louder and louder and at times nothing can be seen due to the misty spray which rises 1000ft and which can be seen up to 25 miles away. This spray is so large that it is only possible to see half of the falls at this time of the year and basically soaks everywhere surrounding the Falls.

The feeling of being completely drenched and the loud grumble that fills your ears only adds to the experience of visiting this world heritage site along with also seeing breathtaking rainbows in the mist, exceeded all of our expectations. While at the falls we took a walk down to the boiling pot which was another wonderful experience. This walk was through a tropical rainforest climate that has obviously been created by the mist of the Falls and the high temperatures. This was a really beautiful place and something that surprised me because this of the dry environment that is typical to southern Zambia. All in all I was left in awe by the falls and the landscape that surrounded it. We also visited Chobi National Park in Botswana on the second Saturday and although it is not in Zambia it is a true representation of the beauty of southern Africa. It is home to 120,000 elephants so you can be assured we saw plenty of them but we also saw giraffes, hippos, impalas, buffalos and many types of birds and lizards. A different contrast to the poverty based compounds and the struggling human life that we witnessed during the week.

The fact that the people in Zambia enjoy life with what they have, without making a fuss and how they just get on with things, gave me the strength to make the most of the time I had, with the wonderful people of Zambia.

I can remember a quote that stuck out to me from the last group: 'If you give a man a fish he'll eat for a day, but teach him how to fish and he'll eat for a lifetime'

I have experienced this, we also got to see first-hand how the money we have raised in the past has helped people. However, no amount of money can give the personal attention we gave to the people who we came in contact with. To see the crying faces of the children at Lubasi as we left for the last time, we had obviously meant so much to these people and given them so much in such a short time. To date we provide education in Abbey refurbished schools, provide water at the quarry, we care for the hospice and have provided a much needed chapel and more. But most of all we have

made friends for life in Zambia. They see us as their family and we truly have a family to care for in Livingstone, Zambia.

Blessed Edmund Rice's seed has grown into something that I don't think he could have imagined. Ireland at that time was poor and Edmund Rice, as we all know helped the poor and gave them an education. We in turn have learned from him and in a sense have done exactly as he intended.

'Education is the most powerful weapon that you can use to change the world' Nelson Mandela:

We have used the power of that weapon, in the hope of providing a little relief for our family of Livingstone, Zambia.

The Immersion Team 2011 – Patrick Burns, Conor Devlin, Stephen Grant, Martin Hearty, Cormac Linden, Sean McCaffery, Ciaran McCartan, Shane McCartan, Neil McDonald, Séamas Mc Geough, Paul McNulty, Mr Mark Grogan, Mr Kevin Brady, Mrs Teresa Fearon and Mrs Mags McGivern

For further information please go to www.abbeycbs.co.uk/zambia

Overall Aim

To foster a greater understanding and awareness of the situations of poverty, injustice and oppression, of unequal distribution of the earth's resources and of selfish vested interest prevailing over global human needs, and to empower the participants to respond at a personal, communal, national or international level. This takes place in the context of the core Gospel values of respect, dignity, love, justice and tolerance.



Mr Mark Grogan
Zambia Immersion Project

HEADMASTER'S DIARY OF EVENTS 2010-11

August 2010

Examination Results
University Entrance
Public Relations – examination results
Meetings with Parents and new students into Sixth Year
Staff Day
Induction of all year groups
Year Tutor and Form Teacher Meetings
SMT Meetings
Heads of Department and Departmental Meetings.

September 2010

Headmaster, SMT Mentor, Head of Department Meetings	Staff Meeting
Area Learning Community Meeting	St Mary's Open Day
Open Days QUB, UUJ and Young Enterprise	
6 (1) Year Meeting with Parents	
Meetings with teachers who hold responsibility points	
6 (2) Year Meeting with Parents	
Meeting with parents of first year pupils	PPTC Meeting
Interviews / meetings with individual SMT members	Catholic Heads Meeting
Interviews/Meetings with new staff	
Finance Committee and Board of Governors meeting	
Begin PRSD with SMT	

October 2010

Official Opening of New School	UCAS begins
Achievement prize giving	Catholic Heads Meeting
First Year Trip	Year Masses begin
Area Learning Community Meeting	PPTC Meetings
Work Experience for 6(1)	
6 (2) Day Out	

November 2010

Key Stage 3 Reports	School Mass
6(2) Mock Careers Interview	GL Assessment Tests
7 th Year PTM	PPTC Meeting
Area Learning Community Meeting	Catholic Heads Meeting
5 th Year PTM	GBA AGM
Area Learning Community Training Day	
6 th Year PTM	

December 2010

Charity Function – Canal Court	Staff Day
Rathore Christmas Party	SMT & HOD Meeting
PPTC	Staff Meeting
School Closures (weather)	
Finance Committee & Board of Governors meetings	
6 (1) and 6 (2) Christmas Reports	
Primary Schools Christmas plays	

January 2011

ESAT Science and Technology Competition
Primary School Visits
Christmas Reports (4th,5th,6(1),6(2))
Pupil Progress follow-up to Reports
Staff Function
Area Learning Community meeting

Visit of Analog Devices
Catholic Schools Week
AS/A2 Module Exams
Open Day
Catholic Heads Meeting

February 2011

Reading Week – English Dept
Area Learning Community Meeting
Guitar & Drum Night
Staff Day
Transfer Results and Meetings
Careers Week
Catholic Heads Meeting
3rd Year and 5th Year subject choices
Kairos Retreat
New School meetings with Architects/Builders

1st Year PTM
3rd Year PTM Meeting of
4th Year PTM

March 2011

2nd Year PTM
Transfer – Preference Forms
Christian Brothers Principals Meeting
Irish Week and Irish Night
Finance Committee and Board of Governors Meetings
Catholic Heads Meeting – Catholic Principals Association
Area Learning Community
Zambia Immersion Parents Meeting
Hard Spell Competition
SMT/Mentor/HOD Meetings
AS/A2 Module Results
Spiritual Assemblies
Internal Audit

PPTC Meeting
ERST Annual Mass
Bishop's Visit

April 2011

Year 8 Trip
Spring Concert
Catholic Heads Meeting
AS Biology field trip
Child Protection Training
ERST Meeting

Debate Final
Zambia Trip
Key Stage 3 Exams
Staff Day
Prizegiving

May 2011

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
Edmund Rice Charter Meeting

ETI Training
Teacher Interviews
Induction Mass

June 2010

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
Meeting with Residents/Councillors re Traffic
Biology Field Trips
Primary Schools Visit the Abbey
Area Learning Community
Appeals regarding Transfers
School Development Plan

SMT Conference
Teacher Interviews
Catholic Heads Meeting
ICT Training Day
Headmaster's PRSD

Financial Report for the year ended 31st March 2011

	<u>£</u>	<u>£</u>
<u>Income</u>		
Budget Share	4,085,317	
Other Income	<u>432,842</u>	
Total Income		4,518,159
<u>Expenditure</u>		
Teaching Staff Costs	3,008,433	
Support Staff Costs	630,648	
Premises Running Costs	166,885	
Teaching Resources	32,906	
Other Operating Costs	<u>631,973</u>	
Total Expenditure		<u>4,470,845</u>
Surplus/(Deficit)		<u><u>47,314</u></u>
<u>Represented by:</u>		
(Deficit) Revenue Account		-42,229
Surplus General Revenue Account		89,543
		<u><u>47,314</u></u>

Donations To Charities up to 31st March 2011

	£
Trocaire	£ 3,797.00
Bro T McDonnell	£ 408.00
Southern Health & Social Care	£ 1,000.00
Breakthrough Cancer	£ 500.00
Alzheimers Society	£ 500.00
Zambia Immersion	<u>£ 11,634.00</u>
Total	<u>£ 17,839.00</u>

