

St. Patrick's Academy is dedicated to enabling its students to become people of integrity and discernment who will serve in the world as confident, competent and caring individuals.

WINTER 2014



# A touch of CLASS

[www.stpatricksacademy.org.uk](http://www.stpatricksacademy.org.uk)  
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Achieving Excellence Together

## The theatre of reasonable doubt



### TWELVE ANGRY MEN

Emotion runs high and prejudice runs deep as Jury Service comes to the Academy.  
Verdict: Utterly compelling.

## Dear Parents/Guardians

I am delighted to bring you our first newsletter of 2014-15. Following a busy Summer with ten of our students in China studying Mandarin and six members of our boys' choir performing in Warhorse at The Royal Albert Hall in London, September began with our new intake of Year 8 pupils and I have been most impressed with the way they have settled in and embraced Academy life. It is a pleasure to see young people so confident and interested in learning.

This has been a busy and productive term for all of our pupils and it is pleasing to see them embracing their studies and contributing so extensively to Academy life and to the wider community. With our first Assessment Phase just completed, you now have an opportunity to review your son's or daughter's progress and you can discuss this with us should you have any concerns.

I would like to thank all who have contributed so generously to our Year 8 and Year 12 charity events and to the many parents, pupils and friends of the school who came out to support our very successful school production of *Twelve Angry Men*. It was gratifying to see such talent and commitment from our students in staging a production of this quality and I eagerly await our next production.

October 25th was a special day for the Academy with the return of former MacRory Cup players

to the school for a celebration match, talk show and dinner. Our alumni is an important element of school life and it is pleasing to see former pupils having achieved so much since leaving the Academy, but still willing to come back and contribute something for the benefit of current pupils, as well as meeting up with old friends. If you are a past pupil, why not make contact with us and become a member of the Academy Alumni.

Planning for our new school building is now nearing completion and staff have been working with the school architects to design the best possible teaching and learning facilities. We expect excavation work to begin before the end of this academic year.

Over the coming weeks, you will have opportunities to see our pupils perform in the Academy's Got Talent show organised by our Sixth Form Apprentice team and I look forward to seeing you at the Academy Carol Service on December 18th. I hope that the approach to Christmas is a time of peace and fulfilment for you and your families.

As always we keep an "Open Door" policy and should you have any concerns about your son or daughter, we encourage you to contact us. In order to enhance communication with you, we have just launched our new website, [www.stpatricksacademy.org.uk](http://www.stpatricksacademy.org.uk) and I recommend that you check it regularly so as to keep up to date with Academy life.

Fintan Donnelly, **Principal**

## Outstanding!

It has been another term of exceptional curricular and extra-curricular achievement for the students of the Academy with the annual prize-giving ceremony rewarding academic success at the highest level. Lending exceptional gravitas to the occasion was guest speaker, Professor John R Higgins, the Head of the College of Medicine and Health at University College Cork. Professor Higgins switched off his politically-correct mode and boldly recalled his own formative experiences at the Academy with a nostalgic and sometimes eyebrow-raising insight into just what you got away with in the seventies. Collecting the top award on the night was Sean O'Neill who achieved 5 A grades, (including 3A\* and a second place in the CCEA rankings in Irish), followed by Ellen McGrath, who achieved four A grades, with two top-three slots in CCEA History and Government and Politics. Both Sean and Ellen are pursuing their studies at Hertford College, Oxford, and Homerton College, Cambridge, respectively, and we wish them well. Closer to home, there was outstanding success for both the Art and ICT departments with Mark Mullan and Sean McGirr coming first in the CCEA rankings and Emma Hurson making it into the top three in A level Geography. More success in recent days for A level student Caroline Campbell who had the last word in the local heat of the Soroptimist International Public Speaking Competition with her deliberations on the merits of an apprenticeship versus a degree. Caroline will now turn things up a degree or two when she takes part in the NI Final next term. And last, but by no means least, is Year 14 kickboxer, Jason Bell, who has just returned from Italy with double gold success at the World Unified Kickboxing Championships. The Academy's very own hitman.



### The Patrick Henry Memorial Cup

Aisling Henry presents the Patrick Henry Memorial Cup for Excellence in Maths to Niall Maguire. We thank the Henry family for this fitting tribute to the memory of Patrick, a highly gifted mathematician and an outstanding young man.



As Good as Gold... Jason Bell

## A department with Grand Designs

It has been another creative and exciting term for the Art department following on from the highly successful joint exhibition with the Royal School at the Ranfurly House and Visitors Centre. Past pupil Stephen Hughes, whose work recently featured on Channel 4's Grand Designs, was welcomed back to the school to deliver a presentation to the A level students based on his computer generated imagery for the programme. Stephen highlighted the need for creative and imaginative employees in the workplace and the importance of art and design in shaping the creative student. He also spoke of the importance of holding on to and developing your artistic skills both in education and at work. Stephen is pictured with his former teacher Mrs Bronagh McVeigh, who unearthed Stephen's old A level dissertation, 'It's About Time', just in time.



## I spy with my little eye... STEM



Year 11 and 12 students were given the opportunity to attend an Introduction to Forensics workshop when the STEM bus spent a far from clueless day around the Academy. The range of activities on offer included footprint analysis as well as the sampling of blood and fibres. More chemistry on offer every Monday afternoon when the A level students lend a hand to the GCSE students as part of the Academy's mentoring programme and Year 13 Maths students are doing their bit for numeracy in Primate Dixon PS, Coalisland.

## Going places...



A level students Greta Slajute and Lukas Sertvytis sign up for one third off their bus and rail travel as part of the Translink yLink scheme.



It was a truly cross-curricular and inter-cultural day on the 26 September when the Academy celebrated European Languages Day across all departments. The centre piece of the day was the multi-lingual celebration of the Mass in the oratory with the choir's beautiful rendition of *Esto Les Digo*. Food was also on the menu with Exit 14 pursuing an Italian theme whilst the canteen provided a delicious array of international dishes to suit every palate. The Science department highlighted the work of Pasteur and Einstein, whilst the English department featured Greek tragedy and the Business department featured the Euro - or is that one and the same thing? The Art department, as ever, brought its own colourful extravagance to the occasion and Miss Kelly her own unique and relentless enthusiasm.



## The presence of mind!

Year 14 students Patrick Corr and Danielle O'Neill, attended the Sixth Form study skills seminar held by Mr Brian Yeats. The students explored a range of revision techniques including memory skills and the use of mind-mapping to make sense of complex information and help with the planning of essays, assignments and projects. Keep an open mind.

## You can bank on us!



First Trust staff Evaline Crooks and Leanne McElroy conducting interviews at the Academy for leadership roles in the new school bank. Still able to smile during the daunting interview process is Year 13 applicant, Bróna MacOscar. The newly appointed bank manager is Laura Kelly with Orla Gormley, second-in-command. The women holding the purse strings!



## Fashionistas!



Year 14 starlettes Teri O'Neill and Aoi bheann Swail pictured during a Media assignment at Belfast Fashion Week with commercial model Jayne Higgins.



## Just bags of fun!

Year 13 entrepreneurs Gabriele Juozaityte and Carrie Coary market some of their latest 'Mi Bag' accessories as part of the Academy's Young Enterprise scheme. The personalised jute bags will make the ideal gift in the coming weeks...so, go on and bag yourself a bargain!

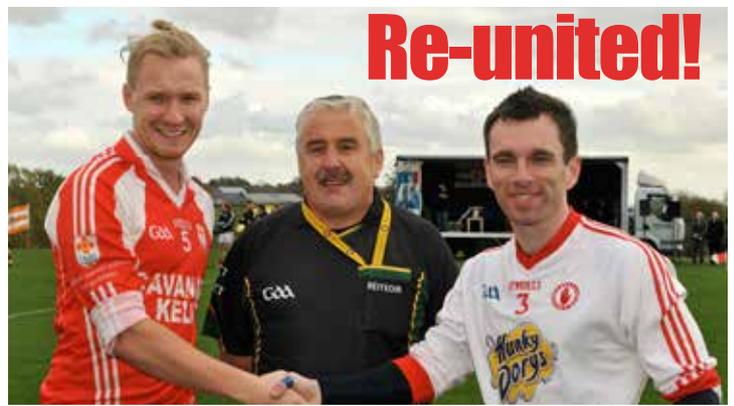


Another outstanding year of charitable contributions from the Academy students with over £27,000 being donated to a range of good causes. The current charity initiative is up and running with the Southern Area Hospice, Breakthru, Breast Cancer and the Michaela Foundation benefitting from the generosity of the Year 8 Fancy Dress, pictured above. Year 12 boys recently held their annual soccer tournament whilst the girls spent the day learning to jive. The Shoebox collection has now reached over three hundred boxes with the Year 13 students generously giving of their time to help 'bag pack' in Tesco for 'Save The Children'. The Year 13 Charities' Committee is also collecting old, unused and foreign coins to donate to charity. Thanks to everyone for the unfailing generosity.



Environmentally-friendly, Ella Herron, Elizabeth Mullan and Millie McClure.

Key Stage 3 students took part in a Recycling Competition organised by Dungannon and South Tyrone BC. The aim of the event was to promote recycling by producing a piece of 3D art made entirely from recyclable material. The judges –Judith Wilson (Recycling Officer), Mark Edgar (Biodiversity Officer) and Angela Hackett (past pupil and local artist) were most impressed by the imagination and effort put in by all the participants. The winning entry was an eye catching flamingo by James Roche (10B) and James will now spend an adrenaline-filled day out at Todds Leap. The runner up was a cute eco bear named Eddie who sported a jacket which had been crocheted entirely from plastic bags by Year 8 student Francine Farley. Francine won herself a mountain bike package for Blessingbourne Estate and a mountain bike skills session provided by Mourne Bikes. Well done, to all.



## Re-united!

Pictured at the dedication of the Academy's new playing field are former MacRory Cup captains Ciaran Donnelly and Paul McGurk. The Academy reunion event was a wonderful success with former and current students and staff coming together to mark the opening of the new facility, Pairc Mhic an tSagairt, named in memory of Monsignor McEntegart. The successful MacRory teams of 1991, 1997 and 2004 took part in a thrilling exhibition game followed by a question and answer session hosted by Adrian Logan. Many thanks to Owen Coyle for his outstanding contribution to the event and to the members of the McEntegart family for their presence on this very special occasion.

## The sweetest thing



GCSE Home Economics practical... the home of exceedingly good cakes!



With the summer holidays and July came the opportunity of a lifetime for ten Academy students who headed for Beijing and a three week summer camp and an amazing experience of Chinese life and culture. The trip included daily Mandarin classes as well as a tantalising menu of Chinese cultural events. Anyone wishing to discover China can join the Mandarin classes after school on Tuesdays with the more advanced lessons taking place on Wednesdays. Pictured with Mandarin tutor Mrs Liu Yaoyao are Academy students Padraic Hamill and Domy Scutaru and the Academy's Ambassador to China and new Head of Student Services, Mrs Kiera Boyle.



The Academy is one of only eleven schools in Ireland selected to take part in the Juvenes Translatores competition organised by the European Commission's Directorate-General for Translation (DGT). Good Luck to all our linguists and thanks to Mrs Coyle for overseeing the event.

## Keeping the tradition alive



The Academy where Trad is alive and well

## Called to the Bar



Getting dressed for the occasion is Year 13 student Vivian Donnelly as she prepares to take part in the NI Final of the Bar Mock Trial competition. Thanks to Mr Tony Lunny QC, as ever, for allowing us to court his arresting legal mind.

## The sporting life

Well done to the three Camogs who recently took part in the All Star trials – Siun Devlin, Catherine Casey and Rona Mallon. On the field of play, the U-16 team finished as runners-up in their section and take on St. Paul's, Kilrea in the Ulster semi-final next week. The Year 8 students recently took part in the Queen's Blitz competition and congratulations to Reagan Fay who was selected as one of the top players at the event. The Ladies' football is, also, up and running with the U-20 team winning the Plate in the Armagh Invitational 7-a-side blitz. Special congratulations go to Chloe Corr who has been awarded an All-Star and will collect her award in the new year. For the U-16 team, further progress in the competition now depends on a must-win game against Enniskillen to reach the play-offs. The MacRory panel is, also, in must-win mode with a vital clash against St. Mary's, Magherafelt, in the New Year. The winners will proceed to the quarter-finals. Game on!



The Onatti French play entertained the Year 10 and 11 French students. Pictured is Head of French, Mrs Teresa Morrison with the performing artists and Year 10 students.



Talk Talk... Caroline Campbell, top public speaker.

### Mock Parliament

Three A level Academy students, Orlaith Cross, Rachael Cassidy and Dairine Rice, took part in the EU Mock Council held in the Senate Chamber of the Parliament Buildings, Stormont. Thanks to Mr John Heatley, ever the parliamentarian, for his contribution. And congratulations to Orlaith Cross, also, this year's winner of the Dungannon Youth Leadership competition.

## Learning on an industrial scale

A group of Year 14 students recently visited TEREX, Dungannon, to receive their British Science Association Gold Crest Awards, as an acknowledgement of their efforts in the Sentinus R&D project. The students worked closely with TEREX over a seven month period and gained invaluable hands-on experience and benefitted greatly from the expert advice of Mr Robert Graham, the Business System Manager and Mr Barry Maguire, manufacturing engineer. The students – Maire Kane, Michael Toal and Aaron Loughran – are all set on careers in the field of engineering and this collaboration with TEREX is an outstanding example of the Academy's engagement with the world of industry. Thanks to everyone at TEREX for engineering such a wonderful opportunity.

In September we introduced some changes to parking arrangements around the school and I am grateful for your cooperation with this as it has been beneficial to all school users. If your son or daughter drives to school, I would urge them to avail of the designated student parking facilities in the school grounds rather than parking on the public road. I am very conscious of our neighbours on the Killymeal Road and I would ask you to be mindful of traffic markings when dropping off and collecting your child each day. In the interests of pedestrian safety we ask that parents do not drive into the school car parks between 8:30am and 8:50am. Fintan Donnelly, **Principal**

## Playing Your Part

POP stands for 'Playing Our Part' and that is just what the Year 13 Enrichment group does as part of its citizenship activities. The group aims to make a difference in the local community by helping in the fight against social injustice. Recent fundraising activities have allowed the group to make a donation of £176 to two local charities, Cancer Focus and Whizz-Kidz. The group will be in evidence at their stall at the craft fair in Dungannon Convent on Sunday 7th December where there will be lots of crafty gifts and goody bags aplenty. Molly Morgan and Jack Hughes are your crafty contacts.



### The Nail Academy

A range of diverse and highly appealing courses are currently on offer in the South West College to our Year 13 students as part of the Academy's Enrichment Programme. The ten week courses offer the essentials of car mechanics, carpentry and electrical work with the possibility, if you are interested, of a total make-over in Total Beauty.

## Mark My Words

Accelerated Reader (AR) is a powerful tool for monitoring and managing independent reading practice and it allows teachers to create a reading programme which meets the needs of every individual student. It produces an average of two years' reading age growth in just one academic year whilst at the same time promoting reading for pleasure. Home Connect is now available for students and parents to view via the Academy's VLE and you can access AR by logging in using the student name and password. Academy students are currently busy taking the Star Reading Test with reading ranges and targets set and lots of quizzing just about everywhere you look. Certainly not lost for words.