



R.E.A.C.H.



My name is Isabella McErlean and I am one of the Deputy Head Girls on the Junior Prefect Team. This year our prefect team was given the opportunity to take part in the REACH programme, which started in September. REACH stands for: Resilience Education Assisting Change to Happen. As a team our task was to promote a positive outlook on the challenges of life. Each week, the Junior Prefect Team meet up with an area youth worker from the Education Authority and work together to share and create ideas on how to help improve the well-being of our peers and younger year groups to find ways for people to deal with the challenges of school and home. In our group discussions we talk about the issues that most year 8, 9 and 10 pupils face in today's world and possible ways to deal with them. This enables us to take our advice back into our classrooms and share our ideas, to create a more comfortable environment.

This year the Junior Prefect Team was given the role of REACH champions and throughout Children's Mental Health Week we had an amazing opportunity to organise and run our own well-being workshop for the year 8's. This provided support to guide them through our programme, where they expanded on life and independent skills through a range of enjoyable activities. Attending our workshop has allowed the year 8's to share their experiences and broaden friendship circles while removing social isolation throughout the year group.

Throughout our workshop we included the five steps of well-being, which are: (Connect, Keep Learning, Be Active, Take Notice and Give) these steps contribute to overall positive well-being, both physically and emotionally, where people feel good and function well. REACH has delivered a very valuable programme and has given the Junior Prefect Team the opportunity to become REACH champions and work together to improve the quality of school life for everyone. We would like to thank Shauna, our area youth worker for all her help and guidance throughout the programme.

Isabella McErlean (Year 10)





Saturday Revision School

Our Saturday Revision School recently commenced (Saturday 25th February 2023) and is open to all Year 11 to 14 students to help facilitate independent study in preparation for their external exams. The revision school will run every Saturday from 9:30 until 12:30 up until the Easter Break. Everyone is welcome!



THORNHILL COLLEGE
SATURDAY REVISION SCHOOL

COMMENCES: SATURDAY 25TH FEBRUARY
TIME: 9:30-12:30
VENUE: SIXTH FORM STUDY



YOUNG REPORTER

COMPETITION

Got a story to tell?

CLOSES
FRIDAY
31ST MARCH
2023

Share it with the BBC and it could be seen or heard by people all over the UK!

If you're aged between 11-18 the BBC Young Reporter Competition wants to hear from you.

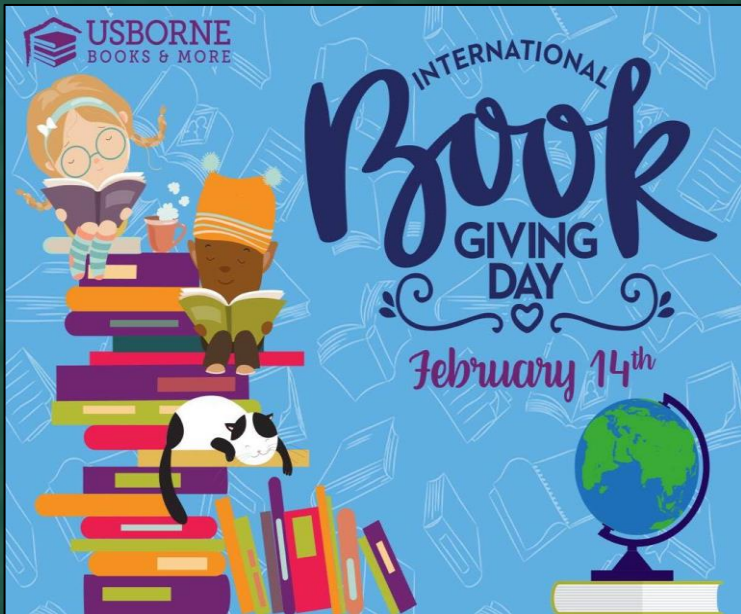
For full T&Cs, Privacy Notice and to apply:
bbc.co.uk/youngreportercompetition

World Book Giving Day

Our Year 12 student Elena Perchani has taken the initiative this year to promote World Book Giving Day in connection with Children in Crossfire. The official day was Tuesday February 14th when we were on our half term break, but Elena lead an appeal within our school community, asking students and staff to donate books to the cause in the week leading up to the day itself so they could be donated to others to read.

Elena noted, "World Book Giving Day, a day we shouldn't forget or ignore. There are thousands of children who would love to read a book but can't afford to. We should classify ourselves very lucky to be able to read every book that we want to, many children across the UK don't have that privilege. So this year I thought it would be nice of us to use this day as an opportunity to help those in need, and spread the joy of reading."

Well-done Elena on showing such great initiative, leadership and indeed care for others!



GIVE A BOOK AWAY TODAY
WHAT A GIFT YOU'LL GIVE
TO SHARE A STORY WITH A FRIEND
WHAT A LOVELY WAY TO LIVE!



B. SAITBERG 12

World Book Day

World Book Day was celebrated in our school on Thursday 2nd March, with a wide variety of events including: a book swap, anagram quiz and emoji quiz. Well-done to everyone who got involved in these activities and Miss Huey for co-ordinating them.

WORLD
BOOK
DAY

2 MARCH 2023



Travel & Tourism

Our thanks go to past pupil Hailey Quinell from Digi Media who joined our Year 13 Travel and Tourism students on Friday 8th February to give a talk about her job as a Social Media Marketing Consultant. She spoke to the girls about how she works with numerous companies across the globe from Derry to Dubai and how she helps them market their products and services on social media to increase their profitability. This was an invaluable talk because the girls will now be able to use the information that they learnt to help them produce their portfolio work in their Unit 3 section of the course as well as opening their eyes to this type of career opportunity.



Year 9 Technology

Year 9 have been busy designing and making clocks as part of their mechanisms unit. There have been some lovely outcomes. Well-done everyone!



Love is All Around us in Spanish

8H celebrated Valentine's Day in Spanish developing their origami skills making paper hearts.



Young Enterprise Trade Fair

The 'Peace of Mind' Young Enterprise group took part in a Trade Fair in Foyleside on 10th of February 2023. A great day out was had by all and the team was delighted to bring home two prizes. Kara, one of the groups Managing Directors received a Special Recognition award and the group also received an award for Best Instagram. Here are a few words from Kara about the group's big day out.

"Hey, this is The Peace of Mind Team! On Friday 10th February, all of us Peace of Mind girls attended The Company Programme Trade Fair with Young Enterprise in Foyleside. We prepared our special edition Valentines care packages, during our enrichment lesson to sell at the fair. We were delighted to have sold the majority of our packages and we all had a great day out.

We really enjoyed taking part in this event and interacting with the other groups. Throughout the day we learned so much more about the world of business and developed so many more skills that we will be able to utilise further in the competition. Whilst being in the company of the judges and other experts in the business world, we were given some great advice and feedback which we have taken onboard.

The trade fair gave us a great taste to what working in a successful business would feel like and we are all so grateful for the opportunities that we have been given whilst taking part in The Young Enterprise programme so far!"



BOOK LAUNCH DATE



To My Younger Self

A Collection of
Personal Experiences

To My Younger Self

The very best of luck to our Year 13 Young Enterprise Team, To My younger Self on the official launch of their book on Wednesday 8th March – which is also International Women's Day! The team have created a fantastic resource with valuable advice on a wide range of subjects including consent, relationships and spiking etc.

The team were awarded 'Most Innovative Product' and 'Best Marketing' at the recent Young Enterprise Trade Fair in Foyleside on Friday 10th February.

We wish you all the very best of luck with the launch of your book ladies!!!!



We are so happy to announce that our official launch date for our To My Younger Self educational booklet is this **Wednesday the 8th**, International Women's day! We believed this was appropriate as our book is aimed at empowering young women, and changing the narrative surrounding women's issues.

we also want to take this time to thank you for your continued support throughout this journey. thank you for giving us the platform to spread awareness, knowledge and love to our younger selves



Junior School Reward Steps

Congratulations to the pupils in Years 8, 9 & 10 who have reached 10 points or more in the Junior School Reward Steps during February. These points were rewarded for the students' positive contribution to the life of the school. Congratulations to all of you and keep up the good work!

YEAR 9

9F: Dervla Cassidy, Chloe Kerr & Alexa Mooney

Year 10

10D: Alannah Gormley

10E: Ava Curran

10G: Emily Barr, Katie Callaghan, Broghan Doherty, Laurie Glenn, Ava Kerlin, Grace Mc Bride, Meghan Mc Daid, Eoibhlin Mc Sherry, Sophie Nash & Eabha Redden

10H: Kayla Callan & Shannon Condren



Congratulations Natalia

Our congratulations go to Natalia Effirul Ikhwan (9G) whose hard work and commitment was recently recognised by achieving 20 points in the Junior School Rewards Steps. Well-done Natalia and keep up the fantastic effort!

31 Mile Challenge!

We wish our Year 13 Pope John Paul II pupils the very best of luck with their social activity The 31 Mile Challenge which they have opened to our school community during the month of March. We are encouraging everyone to get more active during the month of March by walking 1 mile each day! Students and staff can motivate each other by sharing images of their walking adventures through our Google Classroom page.

Any member of our school family who wishes to participate in the challenge can meet with fellow participants every Wednesday at 1pm in the Foyer to get walking in aid of Children in Crossfire.

We are looking forward to Richard Moore, from Children in Crossfire, joining us on our walk on Wednesday 15th March.

We would be most grateful to anyone who is able to make a small donation to our Just Giving page which can be accessed using the link below:

<https://www.justgiving.com/page/children-in-crossfire-31milesamarch>



Home Economics

Our congratulations go to our talented Year 12 Food and Nutrition students who produced the most amazing dishes as part of their GCSE practical. They tasted every bit as wonderful as they looked. Well done: Faustina, Sophia, Nicole, Katey, Ava, Aoibheann, Niffy, Sarah, Bebhinn, Eimhear and Enya!!!!





Pope John Paul II Award Group

Our congratulations go to the Year 13 Pope John Paul II Award Group and team of staff volunteers who recently participated in the charity Dodgeball event. The event raised £42.39 for local charities. Well-done everyone!!



BEING ENTREPRENEURIAL



SCHOOLS COMPETITION

OVERVIEW

Future leaders need to be like explorers. They need to embrace the unknown, be open to new ideas, and change course as the world around them evolves. 'Being Entrepreneurial' can be applied in a range of contexts including solving social and environmental challenges, delivering public services, as an employee as well as starting your own business. The key is to solve problems and create value. This programme will introduce you to what it means to be entrepreneurial and to come up with an idea that solves a problem and creates value.

THE BRIEF

"Your challenge is to develop a 5 slide PowerPoint presentation to pitch your idea for a new business or product. There is no such thing as a daft or silly idea... but... your idea must offer a solution to an issue facing your identified customer."

PRIZES

1st Prize: £75 Amazon Voucher
2nd Prize: £50 Amazon Voucher
3rd Prize: £25 Amazon Voucher

TIPS

To give yourself the best possible chance in this competition it is highly recommended that you complete the Being Entrepreneurial Course which is available through the Ulster University Discovery Academy.

To enrol on the course please follow these instructions:

1. Scan the QR code.
2. Click 'Enrol Now' on the Ulster University Discovery Academy: Being Entrepreneurial Course & follow the instructions on screen.



- Consider carefully how you structure the presentation.
- Define the idea & the need for this type of business/product for your identified customer.
- Why did you decide on this type of business/product?
- What are the aims & objectives of the business?

CONTACT

For more information, contact us here:
✉ schools@ulster.ac.uk
🐦 @UlsterFlexEd

BEING ENTREPRENEURIAL SCHOOLS COMPETITION

TERMS AND CONDITIONS

We recommend all entrants read the rules carefully before entering. By entering the Competition, you confirm that you accept the terms of entry below, and that you are eligible to enter.

RULES: GENERAL

1. The competition is open to all Year 12-14 pupils in schools across Northern Ireland.
2. The closing date of the competition is midnight Friday 31 March 2023.
3. Only one entry per person is permitted.
4. Under no circumstances can alterations be made to presentations once entered.
5. The judging panel's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered into. The judging panel is unable to comment on individual entries. All entries will be considered anonymously by the judges.
6. The copyright of each presentation remains with the author. However, authors of presentations, by entering the competition, grant Ulster University the right in perpetuity to publish and/or broadcast their presentation.

RULES: ENTRY

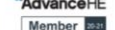
1. Your entry should be produced on no more than 5 PowerPoint slides including title slide and must be saved and converted to a PDF format.
2. The document and file name should contain your name and your school name.
3. Entries should be submitted by midnight Friday 31 March 2023 via email to schools@ulster.ac.uk
4. When submitting entry via email please ensure the pupil(s) first name, surname, email, pupil year group and the school name, address and postcode are noted clearly within the message sent.

RULES: PRESENTATIONS

1. All presentations must have a title and must not be more than 5 PowerPoint slides in length. Longer entries will be disqualified. The file must be saved and converted to a PDF format.
2. Presentations must be entirely the entrant's own original work and must not contain any material written by anybody else or copied from elsewhere and has not been published before.
3. Entries must not have been published, self-published, published on a website or made public on social media, broadcast or featured among the winners in another competition before.

RULES: WINNERS

Prize winners will be notified in April 2023.



For more information, contact us here: ✉ schools@ulster.ac.uk 🐦 @UlsterFlexEd



Talk by Sir Keir Starmer

A number of our Year 14 students recently enjoyed an audience with Sir Keir Starmer (Leader of the Labour Party) along with pupils from the Foyle Learning Community, hosted by St Columb's College.



National Apprenticeship Week

During National Apprenticeship Week 2023 (6th-12th of February 2023) we celebrated the success of a number of our past pupils who have enjoyed success by following a Higher Level Apprenticeship pathway. Apprenticeships are a great way for employers to nurture their own talent as well as providing an excellent route for young people to enter the labour market allowing them to train on the job whilst gaining a qualification at the same time....earning while they are learning. Our thanks also go to Carron from Crowe Ireland and Mark and Caolán from E.F. McCambridge who took time out of their busy schedules to talk to our students about a career in Accountancy and following a Higher Level Apprenticeship in Accountancy.



HLA Pathways Past Pupil Profile **CARRON HEFFERNAN**

Company: PwC

HLA: Flying Start Programme
Business Accounting & Finance
BSc Hons

Position: Risk Consulting Manager

I completed the 4-year Flying Start Programme that provides an innovative fast track route into chartered accountancy, with integrated paid work placements at PwC. It meant that when I graduated, I left university with both my degree and my chartered accountancy qualification. I was guaranteed a full-time job with PwC as a Senior Associate. I would highly recommend to anyone looking to study accountancy as it opened so many doors for me. I'm certainly not your typical 'dull' accountant having travelled all over the world with my job to places such as America, India, and the Philippines.

**It's National
Apprenticeship
Week #NAW2023**



Congratulations!

Our congratulations go
to our Year 14 students

**Sinead Fearon
& Emma Sheerin**

who received offers this week
for a place on the Brightstart
Higher Level Apprenticeship with
Deloitte in the area of Human Capital



**It's National
Apprenticeship
Week #NAW2023**



HLA Pathways Past Pupil Profile **AINE FEARON**

Company: Deloitte

HLA: BrightStart Programme

Position: Senior Analyst Service
Management

A-Levels Studied: History, Biology
& Digital Technology

I am in my fourth (and final) year of studying for a Business Technology degree at Ulster through the Deloitte BrightStart programme. I have absolutely loved my HLA experience with Deloitte so far. I have developed so much personally and professionally; growing in confidence and building industry skills, whilst studying, working on impactful projects, and having the opportunity to travel. I would definitely recommend the apprenticeship route for anyone!

**It's National
Apprenticeship
Week #NAW2023**



HLA Pathways Past Pupil Profile **DARRAGH DOHERTY**

Company: Deloitte

HLA: BrightStart Programme

Position: BrightStart Senior
Analyst

A-Levels Studied: Geography,
Maths & Physical Education.

I am currently in my 4th and final year of Deloitte's HLA, the BrightStart Scheme. It's an absolutely fantastic programme, and a real no brainer in terms of having it all - a mixture of both university life and work / corporate experience and coming out with a degree qualification with absolutely zero debt. An apprenticeship will set you apart from everyone else. I have learnt valuable skills, gained many qualifications and my life skills / qualities have developed.

**It's National
Apprenticeship
Week #NAW2023**



Online Safety Guide on Spotify

With around 60,000 songs added to its online library every day, Spotify is a vast treasure trove of audio dating from some 19th century recordings through to giants of the download age like the Weeknd and Ed Sheeran. Factor podcasts, audiobooks and videos into the mix, and the Swedish-based streaming platform quite literally offers something for everyone. Not everything is Spotify's depths is universally suitable, however. The sheer mass of music and content on the platform mean that, naturally not all of it is intended for younger listeners. With an audio chat service available and media reports of predatory activity, the following guide highlights other aspects of Spotify which trusted adults ought to be in the loop about.

At National Online Safety, we believe in empowering parents, carers and trusted adults with the information to hold an informed conversation about online safety with their children, should they feel it is needed. This guide focuses on one of many apps which we believe trusted adults should be aware of. Please visit www.nationalonlinesafety.com for further guides, hints and tips for adults.

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about

SPOTIFY

Spotify is a digital music, podcast and video service which gives users access to millions of songs and other content from creators all over the world. Since launching in 2008, Spotify has revolutionised the way music is listened to: it now offers the ability to manage and share more than 100 million tracks and five million podcast series, plus personalised recommendations, new release updates and the option to create collaborative playlists. As of February 2023, it is the world's most popular audio streaming subscription service with 489 million users globally.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

EXPLICIT LYRICS

As per Spotify's terms and conditions, people need to be at least 13 to use it. That said, the platform doesn't censor lyrics unless instructed to do so in the settings – so it's worth noting that young teenagers could still be exposed to age-inappropriate songs which contain explicit references to sexual behaviour, violence, discriminatory language and swearing.

GROOMING TACTICS

Although Spotify doesn't come with dedicated chat functionality, concerns were raised in January 2023 after reports of an 11-year-old girl being coerced into sharing explicit pictures of herself on the platform. The case highlighted predators' tactics of sharing empty playlists with other users: their messages were being exchanged undetected through edited song titles and descriptions, bypassing security measures.

OVERSHARING

Spotify provides a perfect way to play music, with the ability to connect to another device, such as a Bluetooth speaker or an in-car stereo. While this is a useful feature, it's also easy to forget your surroundings and inadvertently play content which isn't appropriate for all listeners (especially those under the age of 18), potentially causing alarm or distress.

AGE-INAPPROPRIATE PODCASTS

Spotify's podcast community has grown exponentially and it's become a popular base for millions of users to listen to shows, stories, interviews and more – with content covering an array of topics. This includes some material which isn't suitable for minors, including audio which is obviously adult-themed, but can be just as easily accessed as everything else.

ACCESS TO SPOTIFY LIVE

If your child has a Spotify account, they'll also be able to access the platform's audio-only chat service: Spotify Live. While it's a separate stand-alone app, Spotify Live allows people to listen to live discussions on the main Spotify platform and, more notably, lets users enter virtual rooms to chat with other users, opening up direct conversations with strangers and individuals who might not necessarily be there for the right reasons.

Advice for Parents & Carers

SWAP TO SPOTIFY KIDS

If you're concerned about what your child might hear while streaming music, Spotify Kids is a separate, ad-free service specifically designed for children aged 12 and under. It allows younger users to enjoy human-curated, child-friendly content (such as music and audiobooks) and is available to users with a Spotify Premium Family subscription – meaning that parents can view and manage the content their child listens to.

CENSOR EXPLICIT CONTENT

Regardless of what type of account your child uses to access Spotify, there is an option to turn off explicit content in the settings – greying out all songs marked with an 'E' tag. If your child has their own individual account, it's easier for them to turn it back on – whereas with a family plan, you're in control and your child can't alter the setting without knowing the password.



TALK ABOUT THE RISKS

As with any platform, it's good practice to talk to your child about what they should be aware of when using Spotify. For instance, it's important they're aware never to share any personal information with strangers, and what they should do if they're exposed to inappropriate content. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear so that they feel comfortable raising any concerns with you.

KEEP AN EYE OUT

If you're concerned that your child is spending too much time on Spotify or you've noticed they're being particularly secretive about how they're using it, encourage them to talk about what they're listening to. It's always prudent to show an interest in their online habits from the outset – so you're confident they're using apps and services in the right way, for the right reasons, and they're not being drawn into anything they shouldn't be.

Meet Our Expert

Carly Page is an experienced technology journalist with a track record of more than 10 years in the industry. Previously the editor of tech tabloid *The Inquirer*, Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



Source: <https://newsroom.spotify.com/company-info/> | https://www.spotify.com/privacy/files/Parental_Guide.pdf | <https://www.spotify.com/us/live/> | <https://www.manchestereveningnews.co.uk/news/greater-manchester-news/police-confirm-investigation-launched-after-25916035>

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