



*Congratulations to Our Senior Chamber Choir*



Our congratulations go to Mrs Elizabeth Quigley, Mr Louis Fields, Mr Nicky Morton and all members of the Thornhill College Senior Chamber Choir who won the Sacred Music Post Primary Award at Feis Ceoil 2023 in Dublin on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2023. In addition to this our choir had great success in the Derry Feis on Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April 2023, winning 2 competitions and being awarded the best choir for accumulating the highest overall points. Well-done everyone on your great success, it is well deserved. We are immensely proud of your choral talents and these fantastic achievements.



🎵🎵 *Congratulations Aimee-Grace* 🎵🎵

This March, St. Columb's School of Music hosted The Swingles as part of their 2023 Gala Concert in St. Columb's Hall, Derry and St. Patrick's Cathedral, Dublin. As part of an on-going tradition, the Roy Adams Memorial Piano Scholar performs at the Gala Concert and this year, the recipient of the scholarship is Thornhill College's Aimee-Grace Doherty, currently in Year 12. Aimee-Grace performed Chopin's Nocturne No.2 in E-flat major to over 300 audience members before The Swingles took to the stage. Congratulations Aimee-Grace!








## Congratulations Katelyn

Our congratulations go to Year 14 student, Katelyn Austin who recently attended the CISI (Chartered Institute for Securities and Investment) 2023 Global Financial Services Exam Awards in Mansion House, London to recognise her achievement of obtaining one of the highest scores in her exam. Well-done Katelyn, what a fantastic achievement!

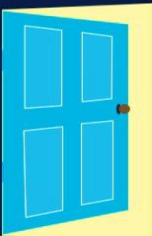
**CISI**  
CHARTERED INSTITUTE FOR  
SECURITIES & INVESTMENT





# AN OPEN DOOR

POETRY COMPETITION



**Ulster University, Department of English, would like to invite Year 8-14 pupils to participate in our Poetry Competition.**

**BRIEF - 'AN OPEN DOOR'**

Doors figure prominently within Heaney's work as thresholds to new possibilities. What does the concept of "An Open Door" mean to you?

Is it a new opportunity, new pathway, a building or location, where does the doorway lead you to? Is it a physical door or a memory of one, is it a time in your life or moment that you felt that you were entering into...?

The concept is open to your own interpretation. The competition asks entrants to take inspiration from the theme 'An Open Door' and show us what it means to you.

Explore the theme of 'An Open Door' and incorporate its elements into your poem. We want you to be imaginative and creative!

**YOU WILL PRODUCE:**

One poem on the theme of 'An Open Door', no longer than 30 lines in length with a title.

**SUBMITTING YOUR ENTRY**

The competition is open to Year 8-14 pupils in schools and colleges across Northern Ireland and will be judged by a panel from the Ulster University English Literature department.








The closing date is **midnight 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023**. We recommend all entrants read the rules carefully before entering.

Entries should be emailed to - [schools@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:schools@ulster.ac.uk)

All entries will be exhibited at Ulster University Coleraine campus. A selection of entries will be published online and in hard copy.

**PRIZES**

- **1<sup>st</sup> Place** - £75 Voucher and a writing set. **PLUS** the Winner's school class will also be invited to attend Seamus Heaney HomePlace. Prize donated by Seamus Heaney HomePlace. Transport covered by Ulster University (max. 35 pupils).
- **2<sup>nd</sup> Place** - £50 Voucher and a writing set.
- **3<sup>rd</sup> Place** - £25 Voucher and a writing set.

## An Open Door - Poetry 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 8-14 pupils in post primary schools and colleges across Northern Ireland.
2. The closing date of the competition is **midnight 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023**.
3. Only one entry per person or per group is permitted.
4. Email submissions to [schools@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:schools@ulster.ac.uk).
5. Under no circumstances can alterations be made to submissions once entered.
6. The judging panel's decision is final and no correspondence will be entered. The judging panel is unable to comment on individual entries. All entries will be considered anonymously by the judges.
7. The copyright of each concept remains with the author. However, authors of concepts, by entering the competition, grant Ulster University the right in perpetuity to publish and/or broadcast their idea/ concept via University PR and social media channels.

**RULES: ENTRY**


1. Your entry should be produced on **1 A4 page**.
2. The document and file name should contain your name, year, school name and address.
3. Entries should be submitted by **midnight 19<sup>th</sup> May 2023** via email to [schools@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:schools@ulster.ac.uk) and include 'Poetry Competition' in the subject field.
4. When submitting entry via email please ensure the pupil(s) first name, surname, email, pupil year group and the school/college name, address and postcode are noted clearly within the message sent.

**RULES: POEMS**

1. All poems must have a title and **must not exceed 30 lines in length** (excluding title) and be written on the competition theme. Longer entries will be disqualified.
2. Poems must be entirely by the entrant's own original work and do 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**

1. Prize winners will be notified by the end of May 2023.
2. All winners will have their work printed, framed and displayed at Ulster University Coleraine.



Contact us online: [@UlsterFlexEd](https://twitter.com/UlsterFlexEd) [schools@ulster.ac.uk](mailto:schools@ulster.ac.uk)



## Foyle Poetry Competition 2023

Congratulations to the poets of Thornhill College who have recently had their work published in the 2023 Rhyme and Reason anthology. The students below went to Rathmor Centre to attend the Foyle Schools Poetry Competition Prizegiving Ceremony.

Congratulations to first prize winners Anne McGinley and Nadine O'Neill who performed their winning poems and won a Samsung Tablet.

All selected poems have been published in the anthology which can be viewed in the school library.



Winners at K34, Post 16 and Highly Commended at KS3, From L to R: Alannah Kelly (2<sup>nd</sup> KS4), Anne McGinley (1<sup>st</sup> KS4), Lauren Devine (Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> post-16 category), Molly Phelan (Joint 3<sup>rd</sup> post 16 category), Ava McBrearty (2<sup>nd</sup> post-16 category) and Nadine O'Neill (1<sup>st</sup> post-16 category).



Anne McGinley reading her poem, 'Hidden Gem'.



Nadine O'Neill reading her poem, 'The Village'.

## Congratulations Aíngel

In collaboration with the School of Arts, English and Languages, NICILT (NI Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research) recently hosted a poster competition for Year 9 Language pupils to help them redesign their Languages for Employability posters. Pupils were asked to design a poster on one of two themes; 'Why choose a language for GCSE' or 'The Importance of Languages in the Global Workplace'.

Our congratulations go to Aíngel Lijo 9H who was awarded a commendation prize for her entry.  
Well-done Aíngel!





# WORLD BOOK DAY

2 MARCH 2023

## Thornhill College World Book Day 2023

This year, Thornhill College celebrated World Book Day with a variety of activities and competitions. All Key Stage 3 pupils were given a book token to redeem against a number of World Book Day titles. There was an Anagram and Emoji quiz for all pupils, and competitions for pupils in Years 8-10. All pupils were invited to take part in a successful Book Swap in the Library over lunchtime, where many interesting books were donated and new treasures were acquired.

# WORLD BOOK DAY

2 MARCH 2023

### Emoji Quiz

1. 🧒 🍫 🏭
2. 🧒 ⚡ 🏆 🔥
3. 🏠 🐎
4. 🧒 📖 📖 📖
5. 🧒 🐎 🌃
6. 🐷 🐷 🐷 🐷 🐷 🏠
7. 🦁 🧙 🚪
8. 🧒 🍑 🐛 🐞
9. 🗡️ 💣 🛡️ 🐎
10. 🤔 🔑 🏠 🌸 🌸 🌸 🌸 🌸

### Anagrams

Can you work out the titles of these famous books from the anagrams below?

The number in brackets indicates the number of words in the title.

1. Amino Goldbrick Kilt (4)
2. Chatterer Niche They (5)
3. Inlet Two Elm (2)
4. An Awed Recap (3)
5. Steep Inexact Argot (2)

### Year 8 Competition Winners Design a Literary 'Roll' Model

**First Place:** Ava Doherty 8J

**Second Place:** Sophie Hutchinson 8F

**Third Place:** Beth McLaughlin 8F

**Highly Commended:** Aoibhin Foster 8C, Darcy Gibbons 8C, Neve Tillcock 8C, Alex O'Donnell 8C, Robyn McCloskey 8D, Eimear O'Callaghan 8E, Megan McLaughlin 8F, Abi Kennedy 8F, Erin Gillespie 8F



Thornhill College  
World Book Day 2023

Book Swap  
Token





## Year 9 Competition Winners Design a Poster to Promote Reading



**First Place:** Leah McDaid 9B

**Second Place:** Jovita Biju 9G

**Third Place:** Melissa McErlean 9D

**Highly Commended:** Ella Connolly 9D, Grace O'Donovan 9H, Lily Corns 9D, Aoife McNicholl 9D, Natalia Effiral 9G, Faye Collins 9B, Tammie Harper 9G, Lucy Gray 9G, Niamh Mzimba 9H



## Year 10 Competition Winners Re-design the Cover of a Famous Book



**First Place:** Kayla Callan 10H

**Second Place:** Carol Bolton 10H

**Third Place:** Amy Burns 10D

**Highly Commended:** Katie O'Donnell 10H, Farrah McDermott 10H, Evie McLaughlin 10B, Alannah Gormley 10D, Ava Hegarty 10D, Anna Wilson 10D, Hannah Devine 10D





# To My Younger Self

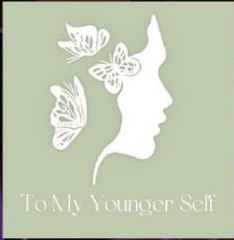
Our Young Enterprise group, 'To My Younger Self' are so thankful to have won the #YEBrandForSuccess competition, the #MeetTheYEBoard competition as well as Best Marketing and Most Innovative Product awards at the recent Young Enterprise Trade Fair at Foyleside in February.

We have just recently been announced as the Young Enterprise North West Regional winners and have advanced to the Northern Ireland Final which will be held in Belfast City Hall in April. These awards have given our team a great deal of confidence. We are so proud to represent Thornhill, and advocate for improved relationships and sexual education for young girls across the country.

Our TMYS team also conducted an interview with past pupil Anna McAree from Belfast Live recently, where she wrote an article about our experience working on our project so far, and the impact and legacy our project will leave behind. The article is named 'Derry Young Enterprise students launch inspiring booklet tackling taboo topics women face.'



#YEBrand4Success WINNER 2022



**TO MY YOUNGER SELF**  
THORNHILL COLLEGE

**ye company**  
programme

#YEBRAND4SUCCESS JUDGES FEEDBACK

"THE OBJECTIVE OF THIS BRAND/ENTERPRISE IS VERY PURPOSE DRIVEN AND THE WAY THAT THEY HAVE REFLECTED THIS WITHIN THEIR LOGO IS EXCELLENTLY DONE. IT IS DISTINCT, SHOWS EMOTION, WARMTH, AND USAGE OF A SILHOUETTE IS REALLY STRIKING AS IT CAN REPRESENT ALL WOMEN. AMAZING JOB!!"

**ye company**  
programme

## Good Luck

Wishing the very best of luck to the 'To My Younger Self Team' in the upcoming Northern Ireland Young Enterprise Final.





## The Official Opening of 'The Hub' in the Technology & Design Department

On Tuesday the 7<sup>th</sup> of March we had the pleasure of welcoming Dylan McCallion, the Architect who designed our 6<sup>th</sup> form study space and Megan Colreavy, Health, Safety and Environmental Manager from Glenturas to say a big thank you for the wonderful facility they put in place for us.



It has been a point of discussion over the past few years within the department “Wouldn't it be great if we had a space for pupils to work during their frees and have easy access to the workshops when needed.”

We wanted to create a place to inspire and for pupils to want to use, but with limited time and budget we were unsure which way to go. So late last May our very own Miss Casey approached Gerard McCallion at Glenturas Construction who thought that they might be able to do something to help us and they enlisted some design expertise from Dylan, who then went away to develop the design.

We met the team at Glenturas in September to see their design idea and were thrilled with their proposed solution. Then in January (just as our school exams started) the team from Glenturas arrived here at Thornhill to assemble this fantastic work-space for our pupils.

Since its installation we have been making use of the space for our A-Level pupils to work on during their study lessons and it's safe to say we are all delighted with it. We have big plans going forward as to how we will decorate it and integrate it into our teaching.

There has been a lot of positive feedback from pupils about the space and we are very excited to see how this space evolves.

We were also delighted when Mr Jim McCauley, a former head of Technology and Design at Thornhill kindly offered to purchase some new chairs for the workspace. The seats compliment the space and help set the tone of our new creative space.

Our next objective was to suitably name the space. After much brainstorming (and even a survey) the team decided on a name and we would like to officially introduce our new work space as The Hub.

A hub is a common connection point – it's the heart / the centre / focus / core which really sums up in simple terms what we want this place to be for our pupils – and which is no less than what they deserve!

So finally we want to say a BIG thank you to Dylan, Gerard and all at Glenturas for creating this epic space for our pupils. To Mr Jim McCauley for all his support and providing us with our new chairs and the Senior Leadership team for allowing us to establish this space and the creative freedom (to paint the walls bright yellow) and make it our own.

We have been simply blown away by the generosity, the support and encouragement we have had to get this space off the ground!

Mrs Elaine Rooney  
Head of Technology & Design







*Seachtain na Gaeilge - Tráth na gCeist*

Comhghairdeas / Congratulations to 10G who took part in an Irish language quiz and careers talk at Cultúrlann Uí Chanáin. The girls had a wonderful morning and used as much Gaeilge as possible. A special well done to Anna, Meghan, Jenny, Oonagh and Kayla who won third place in the quiz – maith sibh!







## Year 8 Retreats

During the week of 20<sup>th</sup>-24<sup>th</sup> of March, our Year 8 pupils availed of a Lenten Retreat at Columba House. All pupils explored and navigated the stations of the cross and related this to the theme of sacrifice, to include the message about how Jesus carried the cross and was given a crown of thorns. Prayerful opportunities were provided to our girls as they also participated in some quiet time to write a prayer for a special intention as well as experiencing card and bracelet making which the girls got to take home.

A video was shown showcasing Nick Vujicic as an example of someone who exudes positivity and lives life to the full.

The retreat concluded with a treat of biscuits and juice and an enjoyable experience was had by all.





## Lenten Masses

Since Tuesday the 28<sup>th</sup> of February, we as a school community have embarked on our Lenten journey in preparation for the Easter season by hosting Holy Mass every week in our sacred Oratory. Each year 10 class were invited to attend a mass as part of their St Paul Ambassador Award, with pupils participating in the readings and prayers of the faithful each week.

As Christians, we are encouraged to use Lent as a time for prayer, fasting and almsgiving. Mass allowed us to hear the word of God, and we were reminded to challenge ourselves this Lent. The sacrifices and extra things we do for Lent, help us grow closer to Christ. We were reminded that it is not necessary to be perfect, but rather we should put forth a good effort this Lenten Season. These Lenten masses allowed our girls to receive the word of God and obtain the strength and grace that comes from receiving the Eucharist.

On Monday the 27<sup>th</sup> of March, we closed to our Lenten mass schedule with the Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament. Both Pupils and staff attended Eucharistic Adoration, which was a time to be still and experience the peace that comes from spending time in our Lord's Eucharistic presence, prior to celebrating Christ's Passion, Death and Resurrection.

## History Department

The History department were delighted to welcome Leanne Mc Cormick, Senior Lecturer in the School of Arts and Humanities at Ulster University, in to speak with Year 13. Leanne shared with us all the transferrable skills that studying History equips you with, as well as a bit about her research into the lives of Irish emigrant women in America in the nineteenth century.



## Anti-Bullying Forum

On Tuesday 14<sup>th</sup> March, Tiegahan and Victoria in Year 11 attended an Anti-Bullying Forum at the Guildhall which was organised by Black North Productions. Both students are involved in their anti-bullying productions and are seen here in their costumes from their school in the film "Saint Saviour's College". The event was the first of its kind and Joseph McCarthy who is the writer, director and producer of Black North Productions hopes it will become a yearly event to tackle bullying in our local area and beyond. The event was hosted by the Mayor of Derry City and Strabane District Council, Sandra Duffy and included a host of speeches from the Education Authority, students, teachers, local politicians, and religious leaders. A recital from the latest film was also performed during the event which reinforces the on-going work that is being completed by this fantastic group! Congratulations to everyone at Black North Productions and particularly to our Year 11 students, Tiegahan and Victoria.

*Miss L Cullen-Byrne*  
Head of Year 11





## International Women's Day

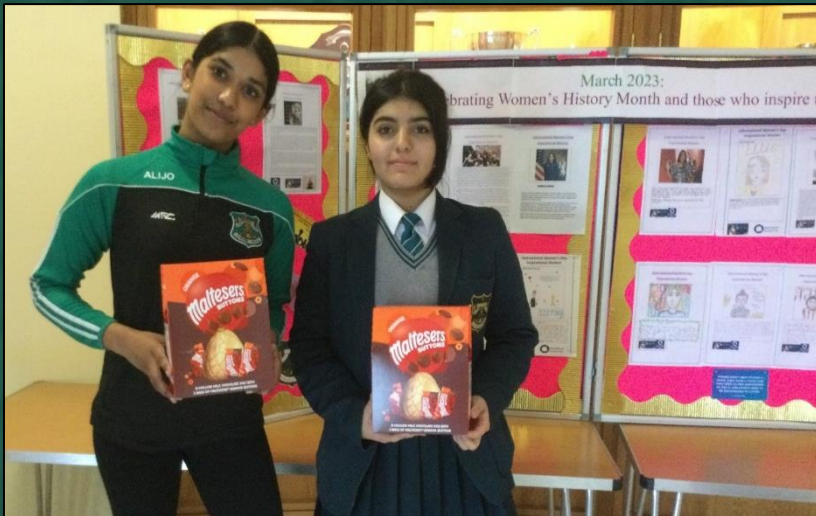
March is the month that we traditionally celebrate Women's History. This is because, for too long women's voices were not included in the histories that were being written of great events.

We marked the occasion in three ways. Firstly, our senior prefect team led the daily assemblies for each year group and shared with us the rationale behind International Women's Day, as well as telling us about women who inspire them.

For our junior school pupils, an IWD themed film club ran with the showing of *Hidden Figures* and they produced posters sharing who inspires them and why. These then went on display in the foyer. Roxsana 10A, Aingel 9H and Kaci 8H all received an Easter egg each for their fantastic presentations on: Shahbanu Farah Pahlavi, Kalpana Chawla and Amy Sharkey.



## International Women's Day



## International Women's Day - Inspirational Women

### The Edinburgh Seven



This International Women's Day I am celebrating seven inspirational women who paved the way in gaining access to further education for girls and the world of modern Medicine. These women have had a direct impact in allowing girls like me to gain equity in education, something we take for granted every day. The Edinburgh Seven are a group of women who were the first ever female undergraduates at a university in the U.K. The women comprised of Sophia Jex-Blake, Isabel Thorne, Edith Pechley, Matilda Chaplin, Helen Evans, Mary Anderson and Emily Bovell, were enrolled as medical students in 1869 at the University of Edinburgh and brought nationwide attention to their campaign for women to be able to attend university.

Sophia Jex-Blake's career as a trail blazer for the rights of women to practice medicine in Britain began when she wrote asking Professor JJ Balfour, Dean of the Medical Faculty at the University of Edinburgh, permission to attend medical lectures during the summer session. This was put to a vote and the University Court rejected her application because it would not accommodate a lone female in the faculty. Nothing daunted Jex-Blake, who advertised in national papers for other women to join her in her venture into further education, and so the Edinburgh Seven was born.

The Edinburgh Seven are pioneers in women's rights and have strongly influenced my decision 150 years later to follow in their footsteps and study Medicine at the University of Edinburgh, a university steeped in feminist history and successes. The work and dedication of those women all those years ago has given me the opportunity to advance to further education and put a stamp on the world through a vocation in healthcare.

*Emma Corns (Year 14)*



## Dr Jane Goodall



In the 1960s, with no formal academic training, Jane Goodall ventured into the forests of what is now Gombe Stream National Park in Tanzania, to observe chimpanzees in the wild. During her time there, she made several observations about chimpanzee behaviour that challenged conventional scientific theories held at the time, including chimpanzees are omnivores, not herbivores; chimpanzees make and use tools; and chimpanzees have complex social interactions. These insights altered the way we understood our place in the natural order and Jane's work opened doors for other women in science.

Although Jane stopped doing fieldwork in 1986, she is still hard at work today, traveling approximately 300 days a year, raising awareness and money to protect the chimpanzees and their habitat through her non-profit organization, the Jane Goodall Institute (JGI), and JGI's youth program, Roots & Shoots.

Dr Goodall continues to be a huge inspiration to me and has influenced my decision to pursue further education in historical research and discovery.

*Aoife Sargent (Year 14)*

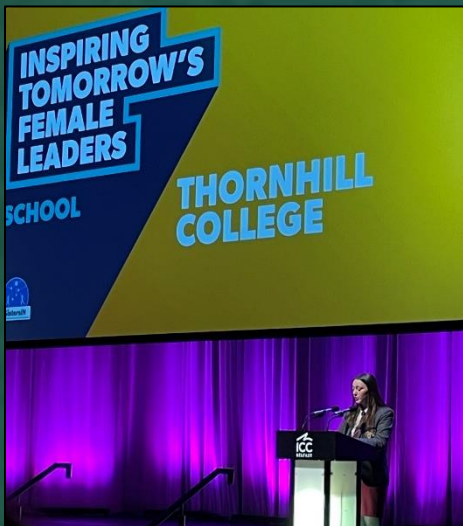
## Congratulations Hannah

Our congratulations go to Hannah Quigley (Year 14) who will have a selection of her original poetry published as part of the 'Words of Love' project. Well-done Hannah!



## SistersIN Celebration Event

Well-done to our Year 13 SistersIN team who enjoyed a wonderful day at the SistersIN celebration event at the ICC in Belfast on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> March 2023. The team enjoyed the opportunity to celebrate the leadership projects of the 10 SistersIN partner schools and hear from a number of inspiring female leaders across a range of career areas.





## Junior School Reward Steps

Congratulations to the pupils in Years 8 who have reached 10 points or more in the Junior School Reward Steps during March. 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!

**8A:** Aoife Canavan

**8C:** Maeve Hickey & Mya McDermott

**8D:** Keva Burke, Aoibh O'Donnell, Isabella Quigley, Bella Radcliffe, Rosie Roddy & Farrah Strawbridge- Porter

**8E:** Lucy Allison, Shannon Charlesworth, Emma Coyle, Niamh Crowe, Grace McAteer & Isabella McDonagh

**8F:** Kadie Carlin, Sophia Hutchinson, Molly Magee, Fallun McColgan, Beth McLaughlin, Lauren O'Donnell, Nia O'Hara, Olivia Sargent & Johanna Sebastin

**8G:** Erin Brown, Zara Cheung, Ruby Darmody, Eimear Garland, Heidi Gjordieski, Abbie Hutton, Phoebe Hutton, Taran Kaur, Ana Kirby, Sevanna Mallon, Kate McCann & Freya McCaul

**8H:** Irene Simmy

**8J:** Dara Campbell



## Study Skills

In preparation for the upcoming exams, GCSE and A-level students recently took part in study skills sessions. The sessions were led by Kelsey and Danielle from Northumbria University's Evolve programme. They covered a range of topics including time management, highlighting different learning styles, note-taking techniques, and effective revision strategies.

Throughout these sessions, students were encouraged to reflect on their current study habits and identify areas for improvement. They also received practical tips and strategies for staying organised, managing their workload, and techniques for managing stress. These strategies will be incredibly beneficial for our students' upcoming examinations and will be needed for success in their future studies and careers.

We would like to acknowledge the fantastic work of Evolve for helping our students in the preparation for their exams. Additionally, we would like to thank Mrs. Donnelly for putting together our beautiful study hampers which were raffled at the end of each session. Finally, we would like to thank all our examination students for their participation in these sessions. Remember to study smarter, not harder!

*Mr Liam Morgan*  
RE Teacher







### *31 Miles in March for Children in Crossfire*

Our Year 10 students had the pleasure of walking with Richard Moore as part of their engagement in the 31 Miles in March for Children in Crossfire. Our thanks go to Miss Eimear Lynch and the RE Department for co-ordinating the charity event and for all our students and staff who participated in the weekly walk irrespective of the weather.





## Year 11 Geography Fieldwork

Well-done to our fantastic Year 11 Geographers who worked alongside Mr McClafferty and Miss McIlroy to complete their GCSE fieldwork investigation on the Curly Burn. Our thanks go to Natalie from Magilligan Fieldcentre, for all her support and expertise in supporting the fieldtrips. Everyone enjoyed a fantastic day out in the field putting theoretical learning into practice.





## Year 10 Careers Fair

Our Year 10 pupils enjoyed an incredibly informative and insightful day at the Derry / Strabane Council Careers Fair. With an array of careers specialist on show and a special treasure hunt to participate in, the pupils added to their career knowledge that they have been building through their careers programme.

It was fantastic to see so many of our past pupils excelling in their chosen fields. Special thanks to Derry / Strabane Council for the organisation and smooth running of the day. It certainly inspired our Year 10 pupils and got them to really think about their career path in the future.

*Mr Brendan Deane  
Acting Head of Careers*





## Credit Union Awards

Congratulations to our runners up and prize-winners at the Derry Credit Union Young People's Awards which were held in the City Hotel. Thornhill College was well represented on the night by the number of our students who had been nominated for awards. A particular note of congratulations goes to our Year 12 student Sara Lindsay, who was one of the hosts for the evening and our former student Roisin Quinn who also presented awards.

### Business and Entrepreneurship

Runners Up  
Winners

Beth McConomy, Peace of Mind (Young Enterprise)  
To My Younger Self (Young Enterprise)

### Carer Award

Runner Up

Sarah Geary

### Leadership

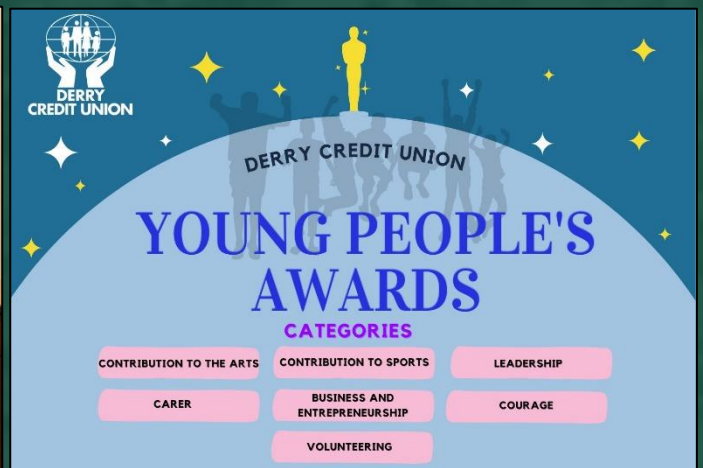
Winner

Jessica Nicholl

### Contribution to Sport

Winner

Sophie Parlour





## Year 8 Netball

Congratulations to our Year 8 Netball team on their win against Lumen Christi College. This is a great end to the season. Well-done to all the girls involved for your commitment to training and developing your skills over the school year.

Front row L-R

Abigail Kennedy, Sophia Hutchison, Niamh Crowe, Ava Doherty, Darcy Gibbons.

Back row L-R

Ana Kirby, Kaitlin Green, Clodagh Quigley, Shannon Charlesworth, Quinn Doherty Buchanan, Aoibhinn O'Neill



## Congratulations Veronica

Well-done to Year 13 student Veronica O'Neill on recently winning silver in the 60m hurdles National Juvenile Indoor Championships in Athlone.



## Saturday Revision Scheme

Well-done to all those students who have been making effective use of our Saturday revision scheme facilitated by Ms Mallett and Mrs Donnelly. We hope you all enjoy your Easter treat in recognition of your hard work!



## Wishing You All - A Very Happy Easter



It is hard to believe that the Easter holidays are upon us, and we are finishing our second term of the school year. It has been a busy and productive semester for our entire school community with lots of activities to foster the personal, spiritual and academic growth of our student body.

We gather together as a school community today for the celebration of our beautiful Easter Liturgies under the direction and talents of the RE Department and in particular Mrs Fionnuala Moran, Mrs Ciara Collins and Miss Eimear Lynch. Our liturgical reflections remind us that Easter is a time of hope, rebirth and new beginnings. May this Easter fill you and your families with hope and happiness, received through God's divine grace.

I hope you all enjoy a well-earned break and rest over the holiday season.

*Sharon Mallett*

Ms Sharon Mallett (Principal)





# What Parents & Carers Need to Know about iPADS

Apple debuted the first iPad in 2010, kickstarting the tablet market, and it remains the best-selling tablet to this day. Although Apple doesn't offer a child-specific version, iPads are hugely popular with youngsters due to their ease of use and endless choice of apps. There's a selection of models, with different-sized screens and distinct features – including the standard iPad; the iPad Air; the iPad Pro; and the iPad mini. Thankfully, they all offer parental controls so you can regulate how your child uses the device ... and how long they spend on it.

## WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

### PHYSICAL DAMAGE

While some tablets (such as the Amazon Fire Kids editions) come with rugged shock-proof cases, iPads aren't built for rough and tumble. They're also more expensive than most other tablets, and any damage your child's iPad suffers could be costly to repair. Buying a child-friendly case and screen protector for the device could be a wise move, especially if it's being used by younger ones.

### SCREEN ADDICTION

Like most digital devices, tablets have the potential to become quite addictive. You might find your child spending too long staring at their iPad, which could lead to irritability, mood swings and a loss of interest in more important tasks. If this happens, be sure to visit the built-in screen time settings and ensure you limit how long they're able to spend on the device each day.

### INAPPROPRIATE CONTENT

18  
CENSORED

Even if it would never occur to your child to go searching online for age-inappropriate sites, apps or information, there's always a possibility that something unexpected – perhaps a video that auto-plays or content incorrectly suggested by an algorithm – could appear on their tablet and upset them. You can help prevent this by adjusting the content settings (see our 'top tips' section below).

### SIRI SUGGESTIONS

The parental controls built into iOS (the fundamental operating system of Apple devices) enable you to block access to most age-inappropriate content – but your child could potentially still bypass these restrictions (either accidentally or deliberately) by using Siri, Apple's voice-activated digital assistant. To avoid this, toggle the 'Ask Siri' functions to 'off' in the iPad's settings menu.

## Advice for Parents & Carers

### ENABLE FAMILY SHARING

Before letting little ones loose on an iPad, it's a good idea to set up Family Sharing, as this lets you utilise the parental controls to manage exactly how your child is able to use the device. You can do this fairly easily by going into the iPad's settings; once there, you'll be able to add an existing Apple account (if your child already has one) or set one up from scratch.

### APPLY SOME LIMITS

The 'Downtime' function allows you to tell the iPad to lock itself at certain periods (at mealtimes or before bed, for instance), while 'App Limits' removes access to certain apps once they've been used for a specified length of time each day. The iPad can display a reminder when these limits have nearly been reached, letting your child mentally prepare for the end of their gaming or viewing time.

### STOP ACCIDENTAL SPENDING

To empower your child with an increased sense of freedom on their device (without giving yourself something else to worry about in the process) you could enable the iPad's 'Ask to Buy' feature. Whenever your child tries to download or buy an app, game or product, the iPad sends you a request to approve (or deny) it. This option only becomes available if you've set up Family Sharing.

### SET CONTENT AND PRIVACY RESTRICTIONS

The parental controls can stop the iPad from displaying explicit or age-inappropriate content (in apps like iTunes and Safari, for instance) when your child is signed into their account. You'll also be able to restrict the capacity to download and install apps, and you can specify permissions which prevent children from changing the iPad's privacy settings once you've selected them.

### TRACK IT DOWN

Just like the iPhone, Apple's iPads have 'Find My' software to help you locate your child's iPad – or indeed, any linked Apple devices that have gone AWOL, including phones, watches and AirPods. If you enable 'Find My' in the settings menu, it will display the last known location of an iPad that's been mislaid, as well as giving you the option to lock a missing iPad that you suspect has been stolen.

### 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 website The Inquirer. Carly is now a freelance technology journalist, editor and consultant.



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