



# Lagan College Newsletter

September/October 2018

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Please note that our Newsletter can be viewed in colour on our College website:  
[www.lagancollege.com](http://www.lagancollege.com)

**Editor  
Mrs D Hill**



**Closing date  
for Nov/Dec  
issue:  
Friday  
21st December**

## Principal's Foreword



It has been a positive start to the new school year with many of our students already engaging in the co-curricular aspect of school life, by participating in the wonderful school production of the Prince of Egypt, working with other schools in our Entwined Histories Programme or planting daffodils in aid of Marie Curie, the list goes on.

I hope you enjoy the first edition of our newsletter this year. It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge the hard work and commitment of our outgoing Year 12 students and Year 14 students. We were incredibly proud that 89% of our students achieved 5-10 A\*-C Grades in their GCSEs this year and 67% 3-4 A\*-C Grades in their A2 exams. In an all ability setting and in the ethos of an integrated school, we only ever hope that our young people do their best and get what they deserve. Thank you also, to all the staff and families for your help.

In September, Tara Mills was our special guest of honour at our Senior Prize Celebration event, and having literally made a 'dash' in between news programmes, Ms Mills kindly encouraged our students not to underestimate the importance of a kind and caring personality and the array of gifts and talents young people showcase every day in addition to their studies.

So, as the new year commences, I wish to welcome all of our Year 8, Year 13 and new students who have joined and look forward to all the wonderful opportunities and fun times that their school days will bring at Lagan College to one and all.

Mrs A McNamee  
Principal

## 'Casting Shadows'

Ciara Caldwell, Year 14, and Frederic Mathieu, past pupil, had their poems published in a recent poetry anthology entitled 'Casting Shadows'. This is a fantastic accolade for both writers who have always shared a passion for poetry and writing. We are incredibly proud of their achievement and look forward to hearing their work at our forthcoming literary extravaganza in December 'Winter Words' which will showcase literary talent.

Mrs Beckett



## CORE

CORE, a combination of our previous clubs, Genesis and Revelation now meet together after school every Monday in the Chaplaincy. EVERYONE is welcome to come along for hot chocolate and an hour of encouragement and challenge based on our Christian faith. So far we have formed our own worship team, challenges and have had discussions led by staff and students on topics such as using our talents, dealing with frustration, giving and the Father heart of God. Hope to see you there!



# Senior Prize Giving

Lagan College celebrated student success at our annual Senior Prize Giving in September, proudly watched by parents, staff, governors and guests. Special Guest of Honour, BBC Newsreader Tara Mills, presented an array of awards including those for: Excellence in Effort, Academic Achievement, Outstanding Service and Sporting Achievement. Mrs McNamee, Principal, spoke of achievements and successes throughout the year and the audience listened to Tara's comments and encouraging words. Congratulations to all of our award winners!



## Another Fantastic Entwined Histories Project for Lagan College Students!



A number of Year 10 students recently partook in the eighth Entwined Histories Project for Lagan in conjunction with Co Operation Ireland. This year's project focused on the 1918 period in our decade of centenaries series. The four areas explored the impact of the Spanish Flu, conscription, the end of World War One and the 1918 general election.

Students collaborated with other schools across a series of workshops which culminated in a residential at the Share Centre in Lisnaskea. Students worked in mixed groups with other students from Wallace High School, Holy Trinity and Ashfield Girls to produce four movie dramatisations.

During the initial workshops students explored what had occurred during the last year of the Great War. On an unusually warm Autumnal day, participants journeyed to Dublin to visit Glasnevin Cemetery to be introduced to the key figures in Irish History during this time period. In conjunction with the Glasnevin tour, students were able to explore the unique history of Dublin during this time with a superb historical walking tour of the city which brought to life this time period of the project.

During the residential at the Share Centre students scripted, acted, directed, filmed, produced and edited their movies. They also achieved an OCN Level One qualification in Editing and Sequencing of Movies by working alongside experts in this field, the Nerve Centre.

The finalised movies were showcased at Riddell Hall on Wednesday 17th October in front of the students' parents and peers to great acclaim from celebrated local historian, Dr Russell Rees.

As a school we have been heavily involved in this series of projects since 2012 and we would like to thank Co Operation Ireland for allowing the students of Lagan College to engage in such a worthwhile opportunity for our young people in developing key life and career skills as well as all the Lagan College staff who helped to facilitate this project.

The Entwined Histories project is a unique opportunity for the young people of Northern Ireland to look to their shared future together by exploring their shared history.

Mrs Grant  
Head of Junior School

## European Day of Languages

All year 8 classes took part in a fun quiz on the Day of European Languages in September. Competition was high and many teams were going for the top prize! Year 8 pupils loved exploring the school whilst learning about new countries and their language!



Ms Coudiere

## French Second Language Exam

Another successful year for last year's year 10 students studying French Second Language. They did themselves proud in the FCSE exam and all students achieved a certificate! Félicitation!!!!

Ms Coudiere



## Gael Linn Irish Quiz



A group of our Year 9 & Year 10 Irish students attended the Gael Linn Irish Quiz and Céilí in the Falls Road Leisure Centre. We competed against six other Belfast schools in an eight-round Irish language quiz and we won 1<sup>st</sup> place overall! This means that we are now through to the winners' round in Armagh in January. Pictured are the winning team from Year 10: Tiarnán Lyons, Evie McGettrick, Kirsten Beattie and Courtney Hamilton. Coláiste an Lagáin abú!

Mrs Quigg  
Head of Irish

## Year 13 Visit to Stormont Buildings

The Year 13 BTEC Public Services students enjoyed a presentation and a guided tour of Stormont Buildings on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> September to help them complete their Unit 1 Government, Policies and Public Services assignments.



## Ganaway

Year 8 students thoroughly enjoyed a recent trip to Ganaway where they had the opportunity to engage in a host of team-building activities plus outdoor events. The sun shone brightly over Millisle, as students spent time getting to know each other whilst showcasing their talents in archery and climbing. A real winner on the day was the zip-line...which had members of staff running back and forth requesting 'one more turn'.

Much fun was had by all! We are delighted with how well the Year 8s have made the transition from primary to post-primary education here at Lagan College.

Miss Smyth and Mrs Mills  
Heads of Year 8



## Year 8 Disco



Year 8 students had a great time busting out some dance moves at the recent annual Year 8 school disco. DJ Dave provided an awesome set of floor-fillers for us to shimmy to. From 'Flossing' to the 'Macarena', Year 8 students danced the evening away. There wasn't much time to sit down...even Miss Smyth and Mrs Mills tried their hand at 'Baby Shark'.

Special thanks to members of the Parents Council and staff members who gave up their time to assist with the event. If only every day was a disco day!

Miss Smyth  
Head of Year 8



## Year 8 Daffodil Planting



All of the Year 8 students gathered so as each pupil could plant their own daffodil. We also invited students from various year groups to participate, including the Sixth Form students. The daffodils were planted behind the science building in order to improve how the school grounds look, as well as an attempt to bring pupils together in a fun activity. Through planting the daffodils, we were able to raise £175 for the Marie Curie charity. Many thanks to everyone who was involved!

Ewa Aksenczuk and Saruttaya Thiankaew  
Year 14

# Prince of Egypt

At the end of October an impressive cast took to the stage to show of the infamous story of Moses with that unique Mr Gray twist! A mix of Hebrew slaves, Egyptian aristocrats and dancing spirits transformed the College into a spectacle of wonder and Egyptian magic. The students worked tirelessly for months with after school and Saturday rehearsals but all the work was worthwhile as it showcased the integrated spirit of the College and good fun was had by all. Mr Gray and Miss Hughes would like to thank staff, parents and students who helped with the show, drove students to rehearsals and contributed to the overall production. They would also like to thank the cast and crew for their dedication and being able to make the dream of Egypt come alive. Who knows what miracles you can achieve... when you believe!

*More photos are available on the College Facebook page.*



# Prince of Egypt



## KLQ

### The Kids' Literature Quiz 2018

Our Year 8 and 9 pupils have enjoyed another successful year of the Kids' Literature Quiz. As usual, teams from Years 8 and 9 formed to compete every week for the coveted Killen Cup. The questions were more challenging than ever and the teams were impressive in their knowledge of all things literature related.

The Final was held in our beautiful library and the 21 original teams were whittled down to just four teams: The Loughview Lits, The Question Marks, The Scribblers and The Hammerhead Sharks. Themed questions about animals and witches were just a few of the challenges posed. The addition of the 'Joker' created a more competitive buzz and the final round was particularly tough as the teams had to guess the title of the book using the blurb as their clue.

Our winning team were the Loughview Lits, who have proven victorious for the second year in a row. The team consisted of Heather MacFarlane, Lucy Waterson, Claudia Barrett and Georgia Deans. Well done, ladies!

Prizes included book vouchers, certificates and the winning team will have their name engraved on the Killen Cup. In addition, they will also compete in the NI Final in Wellington College. Good luck to all and we hope to generate even more interest in the KLQ next year.

Mrs McBreen and Mrs Halligan



## Year 14 Visit to The Policing Board

The Year 14 Public Services students visited the Policing Board on Wednesday 12<sup>th</sup> September to share their opinions as part of the Northern Ireland Policing Review. All students enjoyed this opportunity and actively got involved in the open discussion sharing their views and opinions.



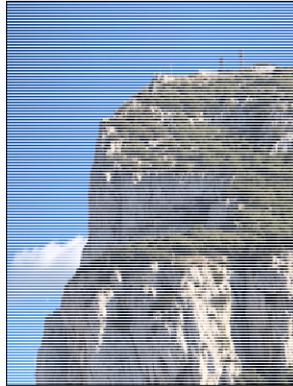
# Marbella Trip

This year the Sports Tour took place in Marbella. We had two fun fuelled days of hockey and netball in Gibraltar. We played the Hawks and Falcons U16 and U14 in 9 aside and 7 aside Hockey tournament, alongside a 5 aside tournament in both age groups. The Top Goal Scorer for U14 was Rebecca O'Brien and U16 was Shauna McKinley . The Most Valuable Players on the day for U14 was Alice Kelly and U16 Kerri Donnelly.

The netball was an exciting tournament on the Sunday playing against Brighton Bells from Chester, U14 and U16 Gibraltar squads. The U16 defeated both teams in two very exciting matches, with MVP for U14 Jessica Mc Geown and U16 Abbie Carson. Two of our students were also selected as the Players of the Tournament! Congratulations to Shauna McKinley and Amber-Rose Donaldson.

A great time was had by all, and the girls represented the College with great pride.

Miss Kennedy  
Head of Girls PE



## Business Studies

For our Unit 4 "Customer Service in Travel and Tourism", Mrs Connor took our class to examine how Belfast Zoo and The Old Inn, Crawfordsburn, as contrasting organisations, provide customer service on a daily basis.

It was an extremely interesting and informative visit as we learnt more than we imagined goes on behind the scenes in both organisations, in fact, The Old Inn, Crawfordsburn which is a family run hotel was awarded the AA 4\* Silver Award and was highly recommended. We were greeted with a very warm welcome there and a lovely hot snack during our tour.

It was a very worthwhile and memorable experience- now for the hard part- writing up our findings!

Laura Campbell and Jason Young Year 14



## Calendar

### November 2018

Monday 26 - Friday 30	Assessment 2 Window Year 8 - 10, 13 - 14	
<b>December 2018</b>		
Monday 3 - Tuesday 4	Assessment 2 Window Year 11 continues	
Monday 3 - Friday 7	Assessment 2 Window Year 12 continues	
Tuesday 11	Student Council	
Thursday 13	Carol Service	7pm
Friday 14	Year 13 Parent Teacher Meeting Year 14 Parent Teacher Meeting (Students do not attend school)	AM PM
Friday 21	School finishes for the Christmas Break	11.40am
Monday 24 - Friday 4 January 2019 (inclusive)	Christmas Holidays	