



September/October 2021

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Editor
Mrs D Hill

Principal's Foreword



Welcome to our first edition of the Newsletter in our special 40th Anniversary Year!

Whilst we continue to be mindful of school start up, set against the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, it was wonderful to welcome all our students and staff back with special assemblies and treats for all. We are so appreciative to our parents and staff for the support given last year to help our young people navigate a very disrupted period - especially for those undertaking GCSE and A Level examinations.

This year we welcomed 228 new Year 8 students and 150 new Year 13 students into our school community. Years 9-11 are thoroughly enjoying moving around the school site again and all our extra-curricular activities have resumed, which is wonderful to see. We continue to feel very hopeful and optimistic about the future.

In recent weeks, our students have enjoyed hosting a range of special guests to the College including the Secretary of State Rt Hon Brandon Lewis CBE, Baroness May Blood, Education Minister, Ms Michele McIlveen and the Children's Commissioner, Mrs Koulla Yousama, to name but a few.

Our 40th Anniversary events throughout the year will enable us, as a school, to celebrate our journey from 1981 to date, but more importantly will provide a platform for our student leaders to remind politicians and public figures of the benefits of educating all children together, irrespective of faith background or none, of all cultures and all abilities.

Our 40th Anniversary theme for this year is that, 'great things can come from small beginnings,' just like the mighty oak from a small acorn or the idea of an all ability, integrated school from a few committed and pioneering parents in the All Children Together Movement.

I hope you enjoy reading about some of the events and activities that our young people have been involved in as we begin 2021-22 together.

Mrs Amanda McNamee
Principal

Secretary of State Visit

In October we welcomed the Secretary of State, Brandon Lewis, to the College. As usual, our students were a credit to us. He was very complimentary about Lagan College and is committed to supporting the opportunity for more children to attend integrated schools if that is their parents' choice. He was very personable and happy to engage with a few challenging questions from the Politics students. Mr Lewis was also very candid about his dyslexia and how he started in his family business - helping out at a Special School in Dagenham before getting involved in public service through his local London Council and fast forward to his position as Secretary of State.

We were also glad to have our Chairman, Francis Martin, NICIE- Roisin Marshall and IEF-Paul Caskey on school site with Hugh Audling Smees – an early year student. Both Martha Audling Smees (Year 8) and Andy Caskey (Year 8) were able to meet and greet our guests with their parents there too.

We intend on having a number of 40th Anniversary events with special guests this year and our hope is for a wide variety of students and staff to meet and interact with them in our special year.

Mrs McNamee
Principal



40th Anniversary Celebrations

In September, Lagan College hosted a tree planting ceremony to mark 40 years of integrated education in Northern Ireland. It was attended by The Lord Mayors of Belfast and Lisburn & Castlereagh, Minister for Education, Michelle McIlveen, two of the original 28 pupils, Richard Sherry and Claire Bailey (MLA and Leader of the Green Party NI), Baroness May Blood, members of the IEF, NICIE and many others. An oak tree was planted at the front of the school and each integrated school in Northern Ireland will receive an oak tree during the course of the year to mark the anniversary.



40th Anniversary Lunch & Staff Wellbeing Afternoon

Staff were treated to an early Christmas lunch in the dining hall, followed by a wellbeing afternoon as part of the 40th Anniversary celebrations during an inset day in October. We were joined by former Chairmen of the Board of Governors, Dr Ian McMorris & Dr Ken Dunn and their wives. Many activities were offered, including, golf, yoga, dance, baking, painting, clay making, singing and walking. An enjoyable afternoon was had by all.



ALLiance Halloween Party

Just before half term the ALLiance group had a spook-tacular time celebrating our diversity and inclusivity with a Hallowe'en party. There was Monster Mash, brain cupcakes and even a T-rex showed up to the party. A deliciously frightening time was had by all and here's some photos to show it!



A Level RE Trophy

Mrs Betty Flannigan presented the College with an A Level RE Trophy, donated in honour of her husband Mr Terry Flannigan, a former Principal of Lagan College.

Many thanks to the Flannigan family for this very kind donation.

We will be holding a Junior and Senior Prize Giving Ceremony later in the term to celebrate all the achievements by our students in 2020-21.



Music News

Lovely to learn that past student, Fiontan McIlleevy was supporting Bronagh Gallagher at the recent 21st Cathedral Arts Festival. The Music Department are delighted to see young people showcasing their talent.

Lagan College wishes to congratulate **Kwa Daniels**, our DJ tutor, on his extremely successful six part show on BBC Radio Ulster. Currently streaming on BBC sounds!! Well worth checking out! We would recommend Friday/Saturday evening listening! Party music: Up-beat funk, soul, disco & world music with an electronic twist. Sure to get the feet moving and lift the spirits.

RICE Outing to The Village



We had a lovely treat to celebrate our end of term at The Village café, Newtownbreda.

An autumn dander, hot chocolate, pizza and some thoughts about living out our Christian faith. If you would like to join our group we meet in school or on zoom every week. (Mondays or Thursdays). For more information speak to Mrs Cooke, Mrs Major, or any of our members.



Carson Awards Showcase

The English Department were delighted to be invited to the Carson Awards Showcase hosted by Lagan College on Thursday 14 October 2021. This event provided an opportunity for Mrs Michelle Beckett, Head of English, and Dr Raymond Cummings, Assistant Head of English, to display the project work they have been involved in after receiving grants from the Carson Awards and the Integrated Education Fund.

We were honoured to be in such prestigious company including Baroness May Blood, Mr Dan Glover and Mr Tony Carson, son of the late Frank Carson, a well-loved local comedian. It was the Carson family who set up the award scheme in memory of their father, Frank, as a means of supporting integration and the creative arts.

Special congratulations to John McGuire for his participation in the 'Tell Tales' project as well as his work with Shea McGlynn on the 'Lagan Underground' project which showcases three new ventures: The Nook (creative writing club), The Void (Dungeons and Dragons role play) and the Lagan Podcast which is a series of recorded stories by Lagan staff members about moments in their teaching career which define the ethos of integrated education.



Public Services

The Year 13 UPS class were very fortunate to have the company of Sgt. Al O'Connor from the RAF. He helped facilitate the class with their understanding of leadership styles in the RAF and other Protective Services. We are looking forward to working with Sgt. O'Connor in enriching the experience the students gain in this subject.

Mrs Kerr
Head of Public Services



Year 8 Me Boxes

As part of their introduction to English, Year 8 were given the exciting opportunity to prepare and present a 'Me Box'. They were asked to decorate a box and place in it objects of special significance to them; including those of a personal and sentimental nature. When showing their objects, Year 8 students described a wide range of places, hobbies and interests. It was lovely to hear about their proudest moments and achievements too. It also helped us to get to know one another as a class! Well done, Year 8!

Pictured are some examples from Ms Bell's 8BKT.



Read for Good

Read for Good has awarded Lagan College 'Outstanding Readathon School Status' with a special Readathon plaque to mark the achievement. This has been displayed in the English Department with pride.

Justin Daniels, Chief Executive of Read for Good said:
 "Congratulations! Lagan College has been one of Read for Good's best participants over the years. One in two schools has run Readathon at some point since they began in 1984, but only a handful have embraced it like Lagan College. This is a truly incredible achievement we believe should be celebrated."



Lagan College's grand total through 14 Readathons is £45,388. This has helped support school libraries and run Read for Good's unique programme of bringing the power of stories into all 30 of the UK's major children's hospitals via mobile bookcases and resident storytellers.

Year 14 Formal

Year 14 having a wonderful evening at their formal evening, held in the Culloden Hotel, in October.

A great night was had by all the students and staff who attended.



Coins for Change

Mrs Beckett's form class, 8BKT, have chosen the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children as their nominated charity for the rest of this year. The Year 8 group are involved with a 'Coins for Change' initiative where they donate any loose change between now and Christmas into a form class 'money-box'.

As you can see, there was a lot of excitement when the charity balloons, wristbands and badges arrived. The students also received a cardboard money box of their own to take home to keep them motivated and remind them of the big change that can come from small change.

I am delighted that my Year 8 tutor group have taken such an interest in this project as it supports our integrated ethos as well as developing links with outside agencies.



Game Making Club Returns

Our Game Making club returned this academic where students have been hard at work developing their problem solving and game making skills with the use of Gamemaker. Although the club is only back up and running some excellent work is being done in developing our skills.

Especially some of our Year 8 & 9's developing their skills so far. See the image below taken from Ethan Moore's (8QN) game.

The group will be developing their skills to create their one level game to enter a national competition; BAFTA Young Game Designer. We are extremely excited to see what our talent students develop in the weeks.



All newcomers welcome! Come and enjoy learning new skills and putting those ideas into action!

Mr C Mooney (ICT)



Football

Congratulations to Mia Little, Year 14, on her selection to the Northern Ireland Ladies U19 Football Team. Mia has been playing football from a very young age and is now coaching football to younger players. Mia is studying Sport and Physical activity at school. She has also has played for the school hockey 1st XI and senior netball squad.

Amazing achievement, Mia! We are very proud of you.



Hockey Camp

On the 23rd of August 120 Lagan College players attended our school hockey camp. For five days the girls trained for 90 minutes. They practiced skills, learnt new challenges, played many matches, reconnected with friends, made new friends and had a lot of energetic exercise outdoors. Wonderful effort, energy and excitement by all of the girls.



Busy half of a term of hockey. Lots of learning, playing and developing.
#LearnChallengeBuild #LCB

- 8 weeks
- 55 matches
- 11 opponents

- 8 draws
- 51 goals
- 2 hat tricks

- 110 Lagan hockey players representing
- 24 Year 8's
- 16 wins

Hockey

Our hockey season restarted with training beginning on the first day of school and the first match on Saturday 4th September. Commitment, attitude and effort has been excellent and this has been reflected in the teamwork, performance and goals displayed across all fixtures. Well done girls!!! Keep up the tremendous team work.



Hockey

On the last day of our hockey summer training week the coaches organised a water war for all groups. The weather had been scorching all week so this was a perfect opportunity to cool down and practice some fun 3D skills with water balloons. Lots of fun and an amazing end to a fabulous week of hockey.



Training Opportunity

Year 12 students, don't miss out on the opportunity to train with Trudi Harbinson (ex Northern Ireland, Chelsea and Manchester City soccer player) in the fitness suite every Tuesday after school.



Basketball

The U19 basketball team played St. Patrick's Armagh in the first game in 16 months due to the pandemic. Both teams played out a very sporting game and it was great to see sport being played indoors again. Lagan 67- 37 St. Patrick's Armagh.



Football



Sixth Form Football Team



Year 9 Football Team

Year 9 Lost 4-3 to Ashfield- friendly

Year 9 also lost heavily to De La Salle in the North Down league but they will bounce back!

Year 10 Lost 5-2 to OLSPK- friendly

Year 12 Lost 5-4 to Colaiste Feirste in The NI cup.

Year 13/14 Won 4-2 against Bangor Grammar in the NI cup. The 6th form team then also defeated Hazelwood College 6-1 in the next round of the NI cup.

Year 8s and Year 11s each have 2 games in early November and they are looking forward to it.

Calendar

November 2021

29 November - Friday 3 December	Christmas Assessments	Junior School
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December 2021

Thursday 9 December	Year 12 Exam Day	
Friday 10 December	Year 13/14 Parent/Teacher Meetings	Students do not attend school
Monday 20 - Monday 3 January (inclusive)	Christmas Holidays	

January 2022

Tuesday 4	Staff Development Day	Students do not attend school
Wednesday 5	School reopens for all students for Term 2	
Friday 14	Staff Development Day	Students do not attend school

All dates are subject to change in line with Covid regulations and restrictions which are out of our control. We appreciate your continued support and understanding.