



Lagan College

Newsletter

JAN/FEB 2022

Highlights

GCSE/A-Level
Option Events for
Year 10 & 12

Integrated
Education banner
presented to Lady
Mayoress

UI4 and UI6 XI in
NI High School
Cup Finals

Year 13 Sentinus
Winners trip to
Institute of Civil
Engineers

Achievement
Assemblies

Kitty McTear in
Soroptimist NI
Public Speaking
Final





Principal's Foreword

We hope you will enjoy reading our first edition of the newsletter for 2022 and wish Mr Smyth, our new Editor all the best in his new role.

It has been a busy start to the year, with plenty of opportunities for our students to engage in extra-curricular activities, events and competitions. Congratulations go to the Year 13 Sentinus group - Calum Macaskill, Calum Hutchins and Jess McAleer who travelled to London to visit the Headquarters of the Institute of Civil Engineers, as part of their prize. It is lovely to see students engage in design and innovation projects.

As part of our continued 40th Anniversary celebrations, we enjoyed a lovely reception with the Lady Mayoress of Belfast, Mrs Kate Nicholl, in January, which provided an opportunity to showcase our integrated education banner, designed by our Vice Principal, Miss Danielle Collins.

Over the next few weeks, we will be travelling around Northern Ireland and gifting each integrated school with an oak tree sapling to symbolise our hope for the future and desire to see the continued growth of integrated education.

Mrs Amanda McNamee MBE

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Important Dates

March

14 - 16: Year 11 Exams

17 - 18: Holiday for all

31: Year 9 Online Parent Teacher Meetings

April

7: Year 11 Online Parent Teacher Meetings

11 - 12: Staff Development Days

13 - 22: Easter Holidays

25: Year 8 Online Parent Teacher Meetings

May

2: May Bank Holiday

26 May - 1st June: Year 8 - 10 Exams

June

2 - 3: Queen's Jubilee Holiday

Year 10 Options Morning

On Wednesday 26th January, we held our Year 10 Options Morning. This enabled our young people in Year 10 to explore and get a taste of the subjects they can choose at GCSE. It is a really important time for students as they explore the various pathways ahead of them and make informed decisions. Thanks to all of our staff and external agencies who made this event so informative for our students. Following the Options Morning, Year 10 pupils had their parent teacher meetings and Options interviews in February, in order to guide them on what subjects they would choose to study in their GCSE pathway.



Year 12 Options Afternoon

On the same day as the Year 10 Options morning we held our Year 12 Options Fair. This was a chance for our current Year 12 students to find out more about the subjects which are offered in Sixth Form. There was also a range of external agencies who showcased their company and offered careers advice to our students.



Integrated Education banner presented to Lady Mayoress

Belfast's Lady Mayoress, Kate Nicholl kindly hosted our students in her wonderful parlour on Friday 28th January to celebrate 40 years of integrated education. Our talented Vice Principal, Miss Collins, designed an amazing oak tree banner that illustrates all the schools that have been involved in the story of Integrated Education in Northern Ireland over the last 40 years. Integrated Education's inception is rooted in Belfast and has continued to branch out across the province. This banner presentation follows on from the initial celebrations last September, when Lagan College planted an oak tree on its grounds to symbolise the growth and unlimited potential of integrated education.

To continue the celebrations, Lagan College will be gifting an oak tree to all the integrated schools in Northern Ireland.



Achievement Assemblies



Year 8

It was a pleasure to celebrate and recognise the success of our Year 8s as they received their achievement awards. Dr McConnell and Mr Mathison handed out their certificates during form class which included Excellence in Effort, Top in each subject, Ethos and Attendance. Well done everyone!



Year 9

Congratulations to everyone in Year 9 who attended their online achievement assembly. Normally they are done in assembly but it was held virtually by Year 9 Head of Year, Miss Wightman. Well done everyone and a big thank you to Miss Wightman and the Year 9 Team for organising it.



Achievement Assemblies



Year 10

The remarkable success of the Year 10 cohort was celebrated with another virtual Achievement Assembly, with Head of Years Mrs Hearty and Mr Ritchie. Well done and congratulations to all our prize winners.



Year 12

Year 12 had their Achievement Assembly via zoom with Ms Bell and Mrs Jones as hosts. Special mention must go to Rory O'Hagan who achieved a Silver Award for Top Pupil in 4 subjects – well done, Rory! Also, our proud Ethos Award winners are:

Lorcan Beard, Georgia Deans, Grace Adamson, Lewis Dempster, Stephen Harvey, Alicia Gourley, Connor Blair and Luke Townsley!



Student Council Update

Monday 18th January

A really successful meeting took place when a delegation from the Student Council met with Mr Fitzsimmons to try and improve everyone's experience of our canteen. Thank you very much to our Canteen Manager and our student representatives for giving up their time to help this important work. Students - look in your school email find out more about what was discussed/agreed including a potential wider range of drinks on Fridays!



Tuesday 22nd February

A wide range of topics were discussed at the most recent Student council meeting, jointly chaired by Mr Mulholland and the Student Council Prefects (Deputy Head Boy/Girl Team). The council discussed many matters including Religious Holidays, Rights Respecting School Award, Class Reps, Badges and Lockers. They also talked about a pull up bar for the fitness suite, the possibility of an after school late bus, Year 11 study leave and mixed gender PE classes.



Rudi Bowen

Congratulations to Rudi Bowen in Year 12 who was recognised as a winner in the University of Ulster Black History Month competition.

Rudi's digital illustration and collage of Bob Marley celebrates his life, work and legacy. We think that you will agree that Rudi has really captured the inspirational character of Marley!

Football Update

Year 10s beat Ballyclare Secondary 5-1 in the NI Plate. Goals from Jake Doherty (2), Pierce Hurley, Callum Black and Kyle Murphy. A notable save from Ben McCleery and man of the match was given to Tom Blower. Year 10s went into the next round but lost 2-1 to Bangor Academy. Two late goals won it for Bangor with one of them being a penalty. Lagan's goal scorer was Callum Black.

Year 10s lost 4-2 to a strong St. Malachy's team in the Belfast Cup. Goals by Kyle Murphy and an own goal which was forced by Brendan Seenan.

Friday 21st January.

Year 8s lost 4-2 to a very strong Laurelhill team in the NI Cup. They had three superb female footballers as starting players on their team which was great to see! Goals by Isaac Chibonda and Levi Stewart.

Top men for Lagan were Matthew Lowry and Lewis Parkinson with Kole Murray making some great saves.

Tuesday 22nd February.

Year 11 v Bangor Academy. A magnificent and superb result against a very good Bangor team. On a day with terrible weather, the Lagan team had to battle hard against the elements. They broke away and got two goals before half time. In the second half they had the wind on their backs and played superb football, scored good goals and prevented them from scoring. A hat-trick by Kenzie Beattie and two by David Thompson. As well as the goalscorers, Conor Nelson, Callum Murphy, Harry Smith and Rudi Little had notable performances.

Year 12 v Regent House in the NI Plate. Despite always being behind in the game, the team kept battling and did not give in. Regent deserved to go through. Top men for Lagan were Jonah Galbraith, Noah Mitchell, Callum Thompson and Toby Huish.

Basketball Results

Tuesday 8th February

Year 9

Lagan 30 – 28 Our Lady & St. Pat's Knock
MVP – Alexander Chibanda

Year 10

Lagan 21 - 39 Our Lady & St. Pat's Knock
MVP – Conn Blaney

Year 13/14 in Quarter-Final of N.I Cup

Year 13/14 lost 3-1 to Ashfield Boys in their big quarter-final of the N.I Cup on Wednesday 19th February at Henry Jones. They were down after five minutes but the team stuck at their task against the Ashfield/Glontoran academy team and the first half was pretty even. They started the second half with purpose but still went 2-0 down. This did not dampen the spirits and after the goalkeeper made a good save to deny Nathan Leckey, Nathan passed through to Daniel Schbotz who made it 2-1. The rest of the half was an end-to-end affair and we went close to equalising several times. The spirit of the team was fantastic as the game got a bit feisty but they never gave up. Ashfield got the third goal one minute from the end to finish the tie. A great team performance by all players who can be proud of their cup run this year.



Year 11 XI 2021/22 with Ronnie McQuillan and Ben Thompson

Hockey

The junior hockey teams continue to show an excellent level of effort, enthusiasm and energy as they train every Saturday morning. Keep it up, girls!



U16 in High School Cup Final

Congratulations to our U16 XI for their semi final 1-0 win against Banbridge. They have qualified for the Northern Ireland U16 XI HS Cup final on Tuesday 15th March at The Pavillion, Stormont. Everyone is welcome to cheer them on. All the best to the U16 XI and their coach Miss Murphy, one of our R.E teachers.

Goal scorer: Rebeka Malcolm

MVP: Tally Hines



U14 in High School Cup Final



A massive well done to our U14 XI for their 3-0 semi-final win against Castlederg. They have qualified for the Northern Ireland U14 XI HS Cup final on Monday 14th March at The Pavillion, Stormont. Good luck to the U14 XI and their coach Selina Lewis, a past pupil of Lagan College. Goal scorers: Eva Martin, Sophia Irwin & Amelie McKnight
MVP: Anna Caskey

Camogie

Year 9 and 11 girls were given the opportunity to participate in a 'Good Relations' programme with Ulster Hockey and Ulster Schools GAA. Coaches from Ulster Hockey and East Belfast GAA came to coach the girls in hockey and camogie. It is a great addition to the Girls' PE curriculum and we hope to see more of it in the coming months and years.



A big thanks to the **Parents Council** who have donated £1900 to sponsor the Camogie programme



Girls' Football

Congratulations to our U15 XI for playing a competitive and challenging match versus the current NI U15 XI schools football champions, Holy Cross Strabane. Our girls worked hard and had numerous chances, but the Holy Cross Goal Keeper and defence covered the goal area extremely well. Tough match but the girls showed a lot of potential. Goal scorer: Amelie McKnight. Referee MVP: Amelie McKnight



Year 14 Self-Care Day

We held the first of our self-care events for Year 14 on Friday 11th February. Clinical psychologist, Dr Chrissie Maguire, led the first session highlighting topics such as; how normal it is to struggle with our feelings, how our brain works, the importance of being kind to ourselves, reflecting on the coping strategies we use and how helpful or unhelpful these are. The students then enjoyed a range of self-care activities such as cross stitch, wellbeing walk, baking, calming clay and positivity pebbles, as well as a delicious afternoon tea prepared by our school catering team. Thank you to all the staff and external agencies involved in making it such a special day.



Year 14 Health Promotion Event

Year 14 Health and Social Care students hosted a health promotion event for our Year 10 pupils to attend on Thursday 27th January. This was part of the Options Fortnight, giving students an insight into the GCSE and A-Level options available at Lagan College. The Year 10 pupils enjoyed learning about a range of topics including bone health, sugar and fat in food, and sun safety. Our overall winners were Hannah, Chloe and Dionne with their impressive stand about bone health. Runners up were Robyn, Rosa and Lucy (sun safety) & Megan, Lauren, Niamh and Freya Mercelot (fat in foods). A huge well done to our winning groups and to all Health and Social Care students involved!



Year 9 Healthy Snack Meals

Before half term, Year 9 used their knowledge of healthy eating and dietary goals to prepare some healthy snack meals. They produced a wide range of colourful and tasty recipes including smoothies using their 5-a-day and high-fibre toasties – take a look!



Parents' Council

The next Parents' Council meeting is Tuesday 5th April at 6.30pm. All parents are welcome to come along, as they aim to encourage strong partnerships between the school, parents and pupils.

A big thank you to the council who have recently sponsored some school events. They have donated £1900 to the Camogie programme which the Girls' PE programme are participating in and £1000 to the 'Recognise & Reward' programme. This is our junior school reward scheme which enables students to receive stamps which they can cash in for sweets and treats at the end of the school term.

Fun Run

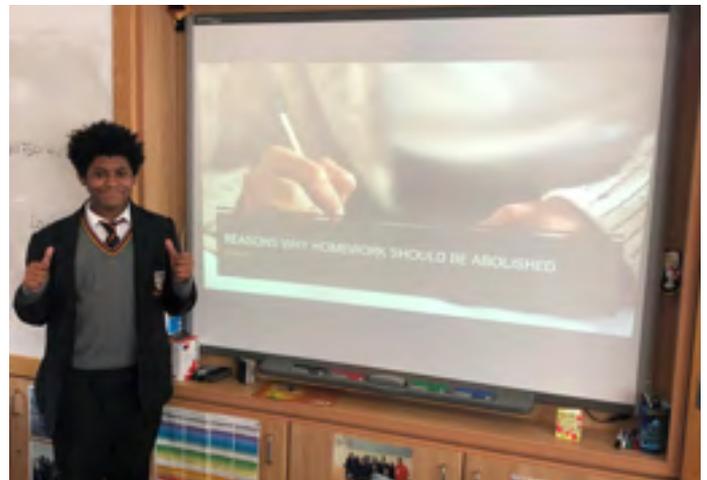
Sunday 10th April 2-4pm

The Parents' Council are holding a fun run/walk on site to celebrate our 40th Anniversary with some Easter events and a tea room. All proceeds from this event are going to our Ukraine Appeal.

**Want to be part of the
Newsletter team?
Contact Mr Smyth in the School
Office for more information**

Year 9 English Speeches

Ms Bell's 9BNO wrote and delivered speeches to their class on Friday 25th February based on a topic of their choice. The speeches were developed, engaging and confidently delivered. A range of spoken language techniques were employed and great craic was had during moments of audience appeal and participation!



Virtual Catch up with Ms Osorio

On Tuesday 22nd February, 9CMY had a lovely chat with their Classroom Assistant from Year 8, Ms Osorio, all the way from sunny Spain! Ms Osorio really helped look after them and get them settled into life in Lagan when they joined us last year. She left in June to return to Spain. Mr Mooney and the students enjoyed watching a video about her home town and hearing how her studying has been going this year. Ms Osorio enjoying hearing what they have been getting up and seeing how much they have grown since June. We wish Ms Osorio all the best in her studies.



On Wednesday 2nd February, the Year 12 Hospitality classes ran a coffee morning as part of their assessments. It came at the perfect time as everyone had done so well in healthy January(!). A special invite was extended to the Year 12 Form Tutors and there was cake and buns galore. Well done to all the Year 12s who did such a fantastic job.



BTEC Hospitality Coffee Morning

Stick Insects in 8LKR

Miss Kerr's Year 8 Form Class are the proud owners of three stick insects! Every morning during registration, the students provide them with fresh food for their class pets and clean out their terrarium



New Driver NI

Emma Duffy from New Driver NI came to talk to the Year 13s about how to go about learning to drive, getting the best out of lessons, taking their practical and theory test and then dealing with insurance. She also talked about how to drive safely and how to address friends who didn't drive safely. Thanks to Emma for such an informative presentation.



Grand Opera House

Mrs Jones and Mrs McNamee thoroughly enjoyed accompanying our Sixth Form Drama students on Wednesday 19th January to see a production of, 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time,' at the Grand Opera House.



Eco Code

The Eco-Schools Club has been running a school wide competition for students in the school to design our own Eco-Code. The Eco-Code is an eye-catching overview of what being Eco Aware means at Lagan College. A big congratulations goes to Rachel Wilson from our Year 13 who designed the winning entry as voted for by the students of Lagan College. Well Done Rachel!

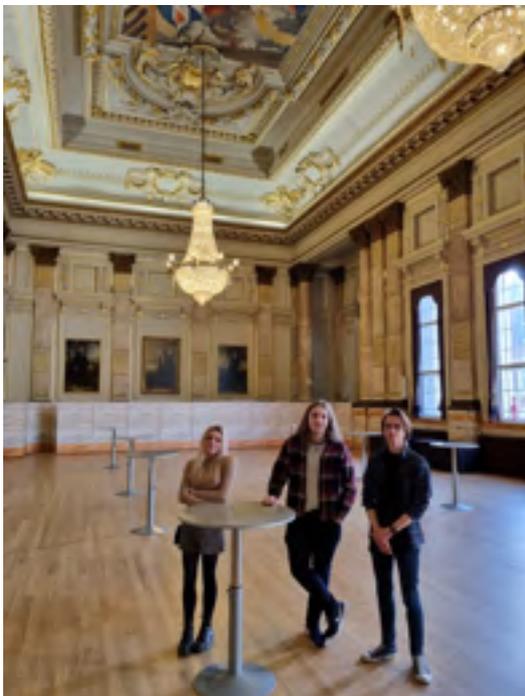
Scott Flanagan Jazz Trio

There was excitement at Lagan College as the Music Department welcomed the Scott Flanagan Jazz trio for a live performance. What an experience for the GCSE and A Level music students!



Year 13 Institute of Civil Engineers Sentinus Winners

On Thursday 24th February, Year 13 Students Calum Macaskill, Calum Hutchins and Jess McAleer travelled to London as part of their prize to visit the Headquarters of the Institute of Civil Engineers (ICE). They enjoyed a four course lunch with the two other winning teams and the President of ICE, Ed McCann. The pupils were able to learn about the great history of the building and the engineers adorned on the walls who helped to build Britain. Ed McCann provided an insight into his role as President and the Civil Engineering projects that he has, and is currently, involved in. After lunch, the group received an exclusive tour of the 200 year old building learning more about its historical and current role. A very enjoyable and informative trip that will hopefully inspire these pupils to consider a role in Engineering.



Kitty McTear in Soroptimist NI Public Speaking Final

Kitty McTear (Year 13) attended the Soroptimist NI Public Speaking Final on Saturday 5th February, in Hillsborough, where she competed against eleven other regional winners.

Kitty was awarded third place, after delivering a speech on the topic 'When Women Thrive All Society Benefits' and speaking for two minutes on a non-prepared topic (Extempore Speech). Kitty is no stranger to public speaking success - great work, Kitty! She is pictured alongside a proud Miss Smyth and Mum.



Ellie Cameron's success in WLDF All Ireland Championships

Big congratulations to Ellie Cameron on her recent success in the World Lyrical Dance Federation All Ireland Championships.

- 1st - School Performance
- 1st - Jazz Solo
- 1st - Pro Am Lyrical trio
- 1st - Pro Am Jazz Squad
- 2nd - Jazz Squad
- 2nd - Lyrical Squad
- 4th - Lyrical Trio
- 4th - Lyrical Duo
- 6th - Lyrical Solo



Please forward all Newsletter submissions to Mr Smyth via email

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