



November/December 2021

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Editor
Mr P Smyth



Principal's Foreword



It has been a very busy and exciting period in the run up to Christmas with our school community prioritising the care of others, through the Form Class Storehouse Hamper Appeal, Coins for Change Campaign and Non-Uniform Day in support of Daisy Lodge.

We continue to be so proud of the kindness and leadership shown by our students.

This term the Eco-Committee has led our Litter Legends Campaign and planted, not only our lovely 100th Centenary NI tree but also ten of our very own fruit trees. I look forward to sampling apple pie made from our very own home-grown fruit in the near future.

After two years of disrupted learning, it is encouraging to see many of our young people re-engaging in sport and extra-curricular activities both inside and outside school. It is important for each one of us to 'nurture' our wellbeing and enjoy exploring our gifts and talents, be that in music, the art, support, etc.

Finally, I wish to thank Mrs Deborah Hill for 12 years' service as the Editor of our school Voices Magazine and Newsletters. We look forward to working with Mr Paddy Smyth as we continue to highlight our good news via both publications.

Mrs McNamee MBE
Principal

School of Rock

On Thursday 11th November 2021 students attended the Grand Opera House, Belfast to attend the musical, School of Rock. It was great to get back into a theatre after restrictions have eased— a great night for everyone. A massive thank you to the cast, crew and all involved at the Grand Opera house.



Kenzie Beattie Football Trial

Kenzie Beattie (Year 11) was on trial at Rangers in November and was lucky enough to bump into Steven Gerrard while he was there. Kenzie has also been selected to represent Northern Ireland in the U15 National Squad to play against Chelsea and Southampton. We look forward to hear how he gets on. All the best, Kenzie!



Mrs McNamee MBE

Following the award of her MBE in the New Year Honours 2021 for Services to Education, we were delighted to see Mrs McNamee's achievement being recognised at Windsor Castle in December, where she received her MBE medal from Princess Anne. As a school community, we are all extremely proud of Mrs McNamee and really pleased that her 12 years as Principal and 27 years in teaching has been recognised in this way.



Alice Blackstock

Past pupil Alice Blackstock recently held an art exhibition in December in which our very own Miss Rogan featured. Alice invited five women who inspire her to share their adventures, trials, healing and decisions. The result was five portraits that map these moments in time. We wish Alice all the best in her exhibition and for the future.



Institute of Civil Engineers Competition Winners

Congratulations to Calum Macaskill, Callum Hutchins and Jess McAleer of the Year 13 Sentinus Enrichment group who placed in 3rd place in a UK wide competition run by the Institute of Civil Engineers. The group were tasked to think of a local/community problem which may need Civil Engineer intervention then come up with a design proposal. They designed a method of alleviating the traffic problem on the Manse Road at the start and end of the school day and made a model of how this would operate. The group have won £500, lunch with the Institute of Civil Engineers president and a tour of their building in Westminster. Their video entry is available on YouTube. Well done, folks!



Year 13 Sign Language

The Year 13 Sign Language class have just completed the practical lessons of their sign language course and have all passed. They will now do the written element of the course. Great work, everyone!



The King's Speech Play - NI 100

"The Irish people... shall work together in common love for Ireland upon the sure foundations of mutual justice and respect." King George V said this at the opening of the new Northern Ireland parliament at the Belfast City Hall 100 years ago.

It was fitting then that representatives of Lagan College's History and Drama departments were present in the City Hall to witness a live dramatisation of the continuing impact of this speech and the partition of Ireland.

Thanks to all who helped make this an afternoon to remember, including: Mrs Jones (Drama), Amy McFarland (Terra Nova Productions), David Robinson (Decade of Centenaries) and our great Year 12 and 13 students.



Coins for Change Campaign

In December Mrs Beckett's form class were delighted to welcome Rebecca Oates from the Northern Ireland Cancer Fund for Children to Lagan College. 8BKT have been collecting loose change as part of their 'Coins for Change' charity campaign this term and have raised a total of £209!

Mrs Beckett is very proud of her form class who have shown generosity and a great sense of team spirit in supporting such a worthy cause in the countdown to Christmas.



Year 8-10 Recognise & Reward Shop

The Year 8-10 'Recognise and Reward' credit shop has made a welcome return this term. All junior classes were timetabled to pay the shop a visit to cash in their well earned credits for an array of goodies; sweets, chocolates, stationery, colouring books and so much more. The student leadership team and their prefects manned the shop throughout the day. There was a real buzz about the place and it was a positive way to bring the term to a close. Well done to one and all!



Christmas Hamper Appeal

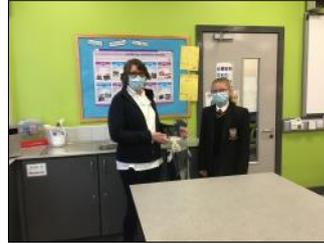
We are always blown away by the kindness and generosity of our staff and students when it comes to our Christmas hamper appeal – and this year was no exception.

They were gratefully collected by Storehouse—a charity which provides food, clothes and toiletry packs to families and individuals throughout Belfast who are experiencing extreme financial difficulty. Well done and thank you to all who contributed to the Christmas hampers this year.



Livestock & Meat Commission

Year 11 students enjoyed demonstrations by Hilary from the Livestock and Meat Commission, who prepared a colourful lamb curry. This was a great opportunity for students to learn more about nutrition, food provenance and food presentation, as well as useful skills for future practicals.



Litter Legends

This academic year we have launched the 'Litter legends' campaign in Junior School. Each week a form class takes on responsibility of helping keep our school tidy by taking 10-15 minutes out of their day to do a quick clean-up of our outside spaces. In return, the students receive 5 'Recognise and Reward' credit stamps which they can cash in at the 'Recognise and Reward' credit shop. The Year 8's have started off the campaign and have been doing a fantastic job. Well done!



9MCR Sunflower Growing Competition

9MCR recently had a sunflower growing competition. Well done to Daniel Gilmore and Ava Clifford on growing the tallest sunflowers!



Trees for Bees

Recently, the Eco-Schools club welcomed Eoin Lambkin as part of the Trees for Bees initiative. This is an initiative led by Host in Ireland to help save Ireland's declining bee population and aims to bring an industry together in a way that has never been done before. As you can see the Eco Committee, Mrs McNamee and Miss Collins weren't afraid to get their hands dirty to provide habitats for our dwindling bee populations on the island of Ireland. Hopefully some delicious fruit from the 10 trees will be here soon.



Promise to the Planet

Members of the Eco-Committee asked the pupils to make a "promise to the planet" on a leaf and then displayed these as a tree of promises showing the impact we can have when we work together. This was a project for Youth Day at COP26 in Glasgow on 5th November 2021. A great way to encourage their fellow students and raise awareness on how we can all make small changes that can have significant impact.



Harrison Gordon

Year 13 student Harrison Gordon created a beautiful calming Christmas ambience for Year 14 in the 6th Form Café before we split up for the Christmas break. A talented keyboard player and some great melodies.

Thank you, Harrison!



Public Speaking

A busy term for Public Speaking with three students taking part in some exciting competitions. A massive congratulations to public speakers Dara McNaughton and Casey Rix (Year 10) who have reached the semi-final of a public speaking competition, with the chance to represent Northern Ireland (with an all-expenses paid trip) at the 2022 World Expo event in Dubai! They presented a short video clip outlining what they would do if they were 'Chancellor' and 'Prime Minister' for the day. This has seen them secure a place in the Semi-Finals of the 'Expo-Factor' and a shot at winning an all expenses paid trip to Dubai, to represent Northern Ireland at the World Expo, 2022.

Kitty McTear (despite testing positive for Covid) competed in the online Regional heat of the very prestigious Soroptimist NI Public Speaking event was awarded First Place. Kitty is now through to the final in February. She spoke passionately and proudly about women's rights in society. All the best for the final, Kitty!

It has been great to see so many young people dedicated to staying behind in school, on a Friday, to practice their Public Speaking skills. Come along to F18 if you are interested in joining in.



First Aid

Lagan College is proud to say that we have 30 Year 13 students and 50 Year 14 students currently enrolled in our 'First Aid at Work' certification programme delivered by our newly appointed Health and Well-being Officer, Mr Beckett, who looks after the medical and wellbeing of our students and staff as well as being our college medic. We are delighted with the level of interest shown by our sixth form students in First Aid training and education.

Students will learn skills such as CPR, how to use a defibrillator, how to administer an epi-pen after an anaphylactic reaction and many more first-aid based skills. They will complete both written and practical assessments and upon successfully completing these will be awarded an HSE compliant 'First Aid at Work' Certificate which is valid for three years. 80 places have been made available for training up until December with a further 80 places on offer in the new year as part of our enrichment programme.

We are excited to hear from Stormont that as of next year, CPR training will be included in the curriculum for younger students. Lagan prides itself on setting trends and being at the forefront of educational initiatives which prepare our young people for their personal and working lives.

This is only the beginning of exciting opportunities in health and well-being training. Mr Beckett is also providing staff training as well as investigating interest and opportunities for parents and the wider community. A massive thanks to Mr Beckett for all his hard work.



One Kind Word!

This year's theme for Anti-Bullying week was 'One Kind Word' and as part of this campaign, students raised £1311.15 for the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice through a non-uniform day. The campaign reminded us all that kindness is more important today than it has ever been. The pandemic has shown us how little acts of consideration and compassion can break down barriers and brighten the lives of the people around us. Thanks to all the staff and students who took part in the campaign and contributed to this very worthy cause.



BTEC Travel & Tourism - Belfast Zoo

Have you heard about the recent arrival at Belfast Zoo? The BTEC Travel and Tourism classes, along with Mrs Bell and Mrs Mulholland got to meet the new gorilla baby on their visit to find out more about customer service at Visitor Attractions.



Megan McLornan – MCCNI

Congratulations to Megan McLornan in Year 14, on her recent success. She won the MotoCross Club of Northern Ireland Barley Stubble 85BW Championship. An amazing achievement on her first season of racing.

Well done, Megan!



U17' s Cross Country

On the 5th of December our three senior runners took part in the All Ireland Championship U17 uneven event in Kilkenny. Lily Moore in Year 13 (Willowfield Harriers) and Alanna Walker and Joanna Sherry in Year 12 (Lagan Valley AC) represented their clubs at international level. Well done, girls!



Cara Suckling – Ulster Cycling



Congratulations to Cara Suckling, Year 9, on her recent Ulster cycling success. Cara won the U14 Ulster Crit Series and the U13 Ulster Road Championship. She is also racing in the U14 Ulster Cyclocross League. Cara is also a talented footballer and plays hockey for the school. Super work, Cara!

Josh Anderson – Edinburgh Super Cup

Josh Anderson from Year 10 went to Edinburgh to represent County Down in the Edinburgh Super Cup. Josh was chosen last year at the IFA Select Trials and has been training with the team in preparation for a number of ongoing tournaments. Well done, Josh - we are all very proud of you!



Girls' Football

Lagan College girls' football teams played their first ever football match at Greenfield's pitch. It was a very exciting and monumental day for our U14 and U13 teams against Bloomfield Collegiate. Our U13's won and U14's drew their match, with both teams scoring 10 goals each. We are looking forward to seeing more of this in the future. Well done girls!



U21 Deaf Football Squad

Congratulations to Emma Rose Fuller in Year 13 who has been selected to play for the England U21 Deaf Football Squad. We wish her all the best in the international tournament in Rio. Emma also achieved the top mark in our Year 13 Sport and physical activity Christmas examination. Academic endeavour, hard work and silky skills!



Boys' Football

A busy term for the Boys' football over the last few months with plenty of nail-biting moments! Read on to see how they got on.

Year 8

A good start for the Year 8's who beat Blessed Trinity 6-1 in the NI cup. Goals by Josh McCracken 2, Leo Diver, Matthew Lowry, Isaac Chibanda, 1 x OG. Year 8 also lost 7-3 to Model A's. A hat trick for Isaac Chibanda with other top performers being Matthew Lowry and Lewis Parkinson.

Year 9

A determined Year 9 time bounced back to beat Laurelhill in an epic match. 0-0 after full time and won 7-6 on penalties. 40 of the Year 8 Football team were there watching and the atmosphere was electric! Next round of the Belfast Cup for them.

Year 10

Year 10 lost 4-3 in an very close game to Colaiste Feirste. They now play Ballyclare in the Plate and are hopeful of a good result.

Year 11

In the Belfast Cup at Rathmore Grammar, Year 11 lost 5-4 on penalties. The game ended in a 2-2 draw and was a real thriller. Lagan had put the same team out, 3-2, in Year 8 before going on to win the cup. Maybe it is their year? Our goals came from Rudi Little (2) with other top performances from Charlie Downey, Callum Murphy, Harry Smyth, Conor Nelson and Reece Magill.

Year 12

Year 12 lost 2-1 to St. Malachy's College in the Belfast Cup. Lagan took the lead through Jack McConnell and held their lead to the middle of the second half. They got the winner in the last minute which was heart breaking! Goalkeeper Jonas Galbraith was man of the match against one of the favourites for the cup. A great battling team performance by everyone

Year 13/14

Beat Aquinas Grammar 4-2 in a superb game and a super second half from Lagan. Goals from Nathan Leckey, JP McCallum, Tristan Barrett and Jay Murray.

They also had another great performance in the NI cup, eliminating the cup favourites OLSPK 3-2. One of the best all-round team performances you could see! Goals by Ryan McGoldrick and Dan Schubotz, topped by a late winner from Niall White. They are now drawn with Ashfield in the quarter final.



Year 12 Squad at Cliftonville's Solitude



Year 8 'A' Team

Hockey

The Year 8 girls had their first competitive fixture for Lagan College against Bloomfield and then Wellington College. All three teams were full of energy, endeavour and excitement. The U13, U14 and U16 XI played Carrick in the NI Cup and they all won their cup matches with 17 goals being scored between them. Follow 'Lagan College PE Department' on Facebook to keep up to date with the results and fixtures for all our matches.



U12's train every Saturday morning



Always time for a quick photo!



U16 XI



We love having past pupils back to coach the students!

Tally Hines

We are very proud that Tally Hines, Year 11, has been selected for the Ulster U15 Hockey Talent Development programme. Tally will be invited to an assessment day and assessed across different exercises. Tally is a dedicated BTEC Sport pupil, our 1st XI hockey GK and a talented football player for Rosario. We wish Tally all the best in this exciting opportunity.



Basketball

Year 8 and 9 Basketball squads came head to head in a challenge game recently. The Year 9's came out on top with the Year 8's giving a good account of themselves. All junior squads are preparing for their upcoming league games at the moment. Watch this space!



Calendar

January 2022

Tuesday 4	Staff Development Day	Staff only
Wednesday 5	Term 2 begins for all students	
Friday 14	Staff Development Day	Staff only
Wednesday 26	Year 10 + Year 12 Options Fair	

February 2022

Monday 14 - Friday 18	Mid Term Break	
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March 2022

Thursday 17	St. Patrick's Day Holiday	
Friday 18	Staff Development Day	Staff only
Thursday 31	Year 9 Parent Teacher Meeting (online)	Staff only

April 2022

Thursday 7	Year 11 Parent Teacher Meeting (online)	Staff only
Monday 11 - Tuesday 12	Staff Development Days	Staff only
Wednesday 13 - Friday 22	Easter Holidays	
Monday 25	Year 8 Parent Teacher Meeting (online)	Staff only

All dates are subject to change in line with Covid regulations and restrictions