



# Lagan College

Newsletter



MAY/JUNE 2022

## Highlights

Visit from NI  
Minister of State Rt  
Hon Conor Burns MP

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Great Integrated  
Bake Off with TV  
Chef Suzie Lee

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New Head  
Boy/Girl Team  
Announced

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Justice Group  
visit Coventry  
Cathedral

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£2500 raised by  
Parents' Council  
Raffle

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Platinum Jubilee  
Celebrations





## Principal's Foreword

We really hope you enjoy reading this edition of our newsletter as it encapsulates all the many wonderful and diverse events and opportunities that our students have been involved in during the summer term.

Miss Collins, Grace Murray and Imogen Carson had the wonderful opportunity to attend a NICIE led ceremony in the City Hall, hosted by the Lady Mayoress. It was very special to be there with representatives from all the other integrated schools and founding parents and students to draw our 40th Anniversary Celebration to a close.

We wish all our students well as they head into formal examinations in the summer period.

Finally, we wish to recognise the long service of Mr Philip Rossi (17 years) and Mr Simon Hare (21 years), who are leaving Lagan College to take up new adventures and in Mr Hare's case, retirement! Thank you Mr Rossi and Mr Hare - you will be sorely missed.

**Mrs Amanda McNamee MBE**

## Important Dates

### August

- 18:** A-Level Results Day
- 25:** GCSE Results Day
- 26:** Year 14 Induction
- 29:** Bank Holiday
- 30:** Year 13 Induction
- 31:** Year 8 only

### September

- 1:** Whole School returns
- 8:** School Photographs
- 20:** Parents' Council Meeting
- 28:** Year 13 Interview Skills
- 29-30:** Year 8 Team Building



## New Parent App

We have switched our parent app to '**School Gateway**'. Please stop using 'Iris Parentmail' and download the new app on your phone's app store. Contact the office if you have any issues signing up.

# Visit from NI Minister of State Conor Burns

Lagan College was delighted to welcome the Minister of State for Northern Ireland, Rt Hon Conor Burns MP, to meet with the Queer Straight Alliance (QSA) and learn more about the CITI LGBTQI+ Inclusive Schools' Charter which Lagan College were awarded in April 2022. We were also pleased that Jo Mc Parland, Cara-Friend's Education and Training Manager, and representatives from Citi, Cara-Friend and Danske Bank, joined us to enjoy an afternoon of celebration, recognising our student leaders and their inclusive practice in achieving the Platinum Award.



# Great Integrated Bake Off with TV Chef Suzie Lee

Pupils from Integrated schools across Northern Ireland gathered at Lagan College on Monday 19th May 2022, with TV chef and BBC Best Home Cook winner, Suzie Lee Arbuthnot. The event was held to congratulate the school pupils on their efforts as part of the 'Great Integrated Bake Off' competition, spearheaded by Northern Ireland Council for Integrated Education (NICIE).

The 'Great Integrated Bake-Off' challenge kicked off in March to celebrate 40 years of Integrated education. Pupils were invited to design or bake dishes which reflected the Integrated ethos of their school.

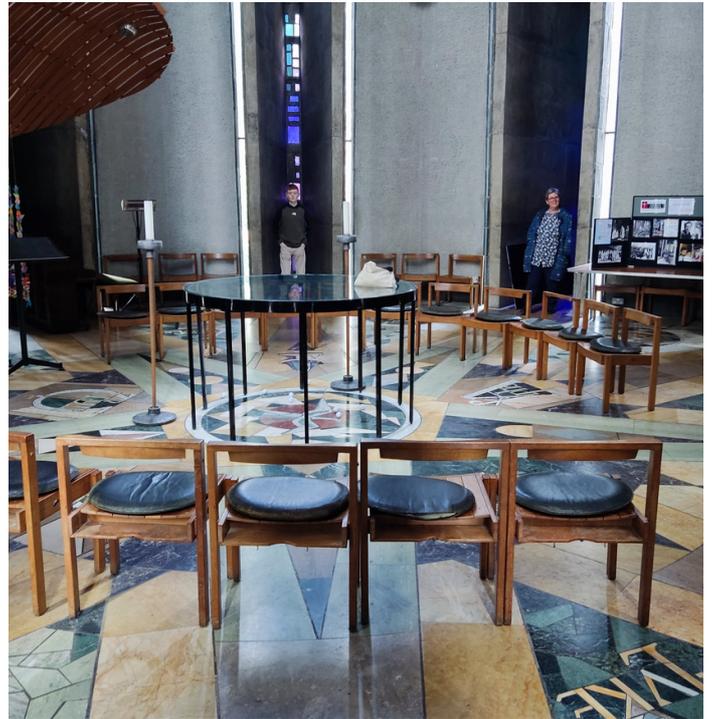


Mrs Amanda McNamee MBE said, "We were delighted to host the wonderful Suzie Lee at our school along with the talented winners of this wonderful competition, who were treated to some culinary masterclasses. Lagan College was the first Integrated school in Northern Ireland and the development and growth of the Integrated sector since 1981 is cause for celebration – and let's face it, no celebration is complete without cake! It was fantastic to see so many submissions as schools utilised this competition as an opportunity to showcase their talents in an uplifting and fun manner. Due to the success of the competition, we hope to revisit the Great Integrated Bake Off some time in the future!"

Speaking after the event, Suzie Lee said, "I was so impressed by all the fabulous submissions from the school pupils. It is amazing to see so many schools get involved in something that is great for furthering their skills in cooking and baking. We definitely have some future famous chefs and bakers in our midst here in Northern Ireland, watch this space."

# 'Cross of Nails' Coventry of Nails Visit

On 24th May 2022, Year 10 Student Council Representatives travelled to Coventry with Mr Mulholland and Mrs Killick to visit the Cathedral and strengthen our connection with the Community of the Cross of Nails. They spent the day exploring the ruins of the medieval Cathedral destroyed in World War II, the new Cathedral built alongside it, and thinking about their own role in reconciliation. They heard stories of forgiveness and peace-making illustrated through the art around the Cathedral and joined with other Cross of Nails schools for the Litany of Reconciliation, spoken every day at 12 noon. After years of restrictions, it was good for them to spend the time together in Coventry, a place of hope, reminding us that new life is possible after destruction and friendship can be restored after conflict.



# Platinum Jubilee Celebrations

At the start of June, Lagan College marked Queen Elizabeth II's Platinum Jubilee Celebration. As an integrated school, we recognise significant historical events together, in the spirit of respect and understanding. We acknowledged Queen Elizabeth's 70 years of service and involvement in reconciliation work around the globe, keeping with our integrated core values of respect, service, equality and reconciliation.

Our Chaplains and History department planned a number of events to mark what was an historical occasion for many. The Board of Directors provided staff with cupcakes (with silver icing of course!) to mark the end of the 40th Anniversary year and a free lunch for all staff and students. We had a historical display and special Jubilee history lessons as well as Jubilee assemblies led by our Principal and Chaplains.



# BAFTA Young Game Designer Finalists



Three Lagan College students are finalists for the BAFTA Young Game Designer Competition! Year 9 and 10 Coding classes alongside our Game Making after school club have been developing their skills this academic year.

We are delighted to announce that Conan McAleese (9BNO), Gracie McKelvie (9STK) and Aodhan MacCabe (10HLM) have been nominated as finalists. The competition is seeking to find the best young game designers in the country and all finalists are selected by industry experts - with only 10 nominations in the 10-14 Game Making category, our three students have done exceptionally well! We are very proud of them.

We are extremely proud of all our entries for this prestigious competition and congratulate them for putting the time and effort in, in developing these new skills.

## *Demon Bay Conan McAleese (9BNO)*

In being nominated Conan said: "I am absolutely blown away. I didn't think my game would make it that far in the competition. I am glad to be a finalist."

When asked what excited him most about his game, he said, "The animation. It was all from scratch and it would be good to hear good things about it."

## *Frogs Way Home Gracie McKelvie (9STK)*

"I'm a delighted to be a finalist" Gracie said. "I am really proud of 'Frogs Way Home' and I am glad that the judges liked my entry."

## *Jungle Heist Aodhan MacCabe (9STK)*

Aodhan said, "I am really surprised and thankful. I did not expect to make it so far."

The ceremony will be streamed on 30th June. We wish them well for the final!

# Highly Commended in ICT Excellence Award 2022

Lagan College is delighted to receive the Post Primary Highly Commended ICT Excellence Award 2022 from Capita and the Education Authority. Well done to our entire school community!



## Student Council Update

### **Student Council Meets Lagan's Tech Wizards\*, 21st June (\*may not be their official titles)**

Did you know that if you forget your iPad password, the school can reset it (if you have the school Jamf profile and are connected to the Wi-Fi)? This potentially saves you from having to wipe your iPad! This was just one of many useful things that were learned when Student Council representatives from across the year groups got a chance to talk to Mr Barry and Mr Kemps. Find out about this and the excellent work of the Student Council by reading the full update in your school email.

### **Launch of new Virtual Suggestion Box (VSB)**

Have you ever had a great idea to improve the school and never said to anyone? The Student Council want those ideas!

With Lagan's new VSB 2.0 it is even easier to send us your thoughts, big or small. Click on the link sent to your school email, make sure you are signed in to Google using your @c2ken account, and ping it in. A link to the VSB will soon be available on your iPads. Many thanks to Jude Hinds (Year 14) for creating and managing the first VSB.

# Year 14 Leavers

The long-standing tradition of Year 14 dressing up on their last day did not disappoint! They enjoyed ice cream and a BBQ before a guard of honour sent them on their way. We wish them all the best for their exams and for their future endeavours.



# Staff v Students Matches

A big thank you and well done to all the Staff and Year 14 students who went head to head in the annual Year 14 Students versus Staff hockey and football matches. Both games were keenly contested with some great individual displays. As we all know, we don't need to talk about the result, it's really all about the taking part...





# New Head Boy/Girl Team

Pictured below is our new Senior Prefect Team for the 2022/23 academic year. The team will be led by the Head Boy & Head Girl Team:

Head Boy – Christopher Cassells

Head Girl – Mirran Morrison

Deputies – Cohen Taylor, Emma Rose Fuller, Kitty McTear, Colin Crichton and Sophie Browne.

We wish them all the best of luck and look forward to the improvement work they have in mind to benefit the school community.



# Jewish and Arab Leaders visit Lagan College

On 1st June 2022, Lagan College welcomed Jewish and Arab civic and public leaders from Israel, involved in the Abraham Initiatives project. The Abraham Initiatives work to fulfill the promise of full and equal citizenship and complete equality of social and political rights for Israel's Jewish and Arab citizens. It was our pleasure to host them and tell them about integrated education in Northern Ireland.



## Fast Fashion Workshop

Members of the Eco-Schools club enjoyed a Fast Fashion Workshop delivered by Anna Green from Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, on Thursday 16th June 2022. Students learnt about the environmental and human cost of "Fast Fashion". They also looked at ways of repurposing our old clothes, making a bag from a pre-loved T-Shirt. Fantastic work!



## Year 14 Afternoon Tea

Following on from the Year 14 Girls Pamper Day in January, Year 14 boys enjoyed some afternoon tea before the Staff v Students hockey and football matches. Thanks to Mr Fitzsimmons and the Catering team for what was a luxurious spread!



# Robin Donnelly – Cancer Fund for Children Project

Mr Sowney, Mrs Killick and Ms Bell were given the great honour of being invited to a launch event in The Stormont Hotel, by Robin Donnelly and Cancer Fund for Children, for their new schools' resource booklet 'Bereavement Support Plan'.

Robin Donnelly (Year 12) is part of Cancer Fund for Children's Youth Advisory Group who have been meeting over the past few months. Robin has benefited from being part of #iWill Bereaved Advocacy Group, made up of young people aged 12-17 who have all been bereaved of either a parent or sibling to cancer, but who wanted to use their own experiences to create change for others.

Through exploring their own grief, consulting with other bereaved young people and completing desk research, they decided to focus their efforts on improving support for bereaved young people in schools. It is envisaged that the Bereavement Support Plan would be completed by a member of the school staff on a one-to-one basis with the young person.

Robin was tasked with making a speech to explain how the Bereavement Support Plan was devised and implemented. The audience felt Robin's presentation was powerful and poignant and applauded his achievement. Not only did Robin take the lead in the presentation but he also answered questions from the audience with thoughtful and reflective responses.

The chaplains and Ms Bell were impressed with the resource created and cannot wait to share it with other staff. We remain incredibly proud of you, Robin!





## '24' Maths Competition

The Maths Department recently ran the KS3 '24' Numeracy competition finals. Well done to all the competitors and winners and to Mr O'Donnell and Mr MacManus for organising this Numeracy initiative.



## French Competition at QUB

The French Department is very proud of the four Year 10 pupils who took part in the Francofest competition through NICILT at Queen's University. The girls produced a video in French selling a product that they created and marketed with the help of our fabulous French assistant, Emmanuelle.

Well done Elizabeth, Farah, Georgie and Neela. Travail superbe!



## Belfast City Marathon 2022

It was great to see big numbers run for Lagan's Staff and Student relay teams in the 2022 Belfast City Marathon. It was an amazing team effort that helped to raise an incredible £1000 for Cancer Focus NI. Thanks to the Board of Governors for supporting our participation and to Don Miguel for organising and motivating our team.



## R.E Revision Breakfast

The RE Department didn't quite feed the 5000 with their five loaves of bread and two bunches of bananas but they made a solid attempt at their pre-exam breakfast before their exam. Well done to our Year 11 cohort on completing their Mark's Gospel exam. "Do not be afraid, just believe." (Mark 5:36)



## Carson Award for Music Department

"I worked on a project for the Carson Award which enabled us to purchase two cellos for the Orchestra. The project was titled, "Voices over Forty Years". Jude Hinds and Kirsten Beattie helped compose the piece and the composition was planned and recorded, however, due to covid we could not add in the additional voices of past staff members.

This was a very exciting challenge for all of us and we all worked as a team and felt we have achieved a pretty respectable composition which reflected the journey of the school. I think we did very well, and I enjoyed getting a last minute role of adding a little bit of sparkle to our composition by playing the glockenspiel (in addition to the trumpet) and other additional instruments. The school has benefited greatly from the IEF Carson Award. The 2 cellos have already enabled 2 additional students to avail of lessons.

I am very thankful to the Mrs McCord for allowing me to be a part of the Lagan Orchestra as it has helped me grow in confidence and given me the opportunity to meet new people."

Jamie Kerr (Year 8)



# Year 10 Tuck Shop

"I am part of Mr Gardner's Year 10 Business Studies class and as a group, we wanted to set up an enterprise to raise money for the Ukraine Appeal. We have been learning from the start of the year how to create a functioning business and what the pros and cons are. All that was left to do was put that into practice, so as a class we voted to organise a 'Tuck Shop' for Year 10 students.

My role in the business was Marketing Manager. I had to create posters to go around the school so everyone knew about the 'Tuck Shop'. Before deciding what we were going to sell, we had to carry out research. We did this by creating a questionnaire and asking Year 10 students to complete it. We analysed the results and found what products students wanted. This would help ensure our enterprise was successful.

I enjoyed working together as a team and being responsible for making sure everyone's voices were listened to. I really enjoyed the experience and I think it was a big hit!"

**Sarah Lynch 10JR**



# Prince's Trust Enterprise

Year 11 Prince's Trust class ran a mini enterprise project based on the theme of 'Random acts of kindness'.

They sold cupcakes from French Village and hand-delivered them with a personalised card. There was a great response from staff and a proportion of their profits went to the Ukraine appeal.



# Parents' Council Raffle 2022

A massive thank you for everyone's support and help with the Parents' Council Raffle 2022.

The initiative raised approximately £2500 for the Parents' Council Fund which is given back to the school through schemes such as Recognise and Reward and Lexia Programme. Thank you to Gladys Wylie and the Parents' Council for organising it.

Prize	Top Ticket Seller Winners	Winner
£50 Podium Vouchers	Macauley Kelly	Miss Kelly
£30 Proctors	Ruby Carson	Ms S Carson
Corries Vouchers	Amelie McKnight	Mrs McKnight
Finlay Fuels	Oscar McMillen	Mrs Mc Millen
PT Session – Emilia Sanford	Andrew Wylie	Carol McWilliams
PT Session – Emilia Sanford	Corey Irvin	Calvin Irvin
McAtamaney's Vouchers	M McConville	Staff member
Aberfeldy Whiskey	Andrew Wylie	Kate McKay
Field Day Pamper set	Katie Rooney	Mrs J Rooney
Mortan Brown Set	Libby Todd	Lily Todd
Root Cube Vouchers	Matthew McGrillan	Mrs McGrillan
Vedra Therapy Vouchers	Tara Raetschus	Mrs Raetschus
Streamvale voucher and Body Shop Pamper Set	Ann McCluskey	Mrs McCluskey
Streamvale voucher	Conor Cupples	Mr Brookes
Seller of most ballots	Andrew Wylie	

Prize	Top Ticket Seller Winners	Winner
1st £300	Andrew Wylie Year 11 - £20	Jill Murphy
2nd iPhone SE	Euan Matthews Year 8 - £20	Mrs Matthews
3rd Voucher for Clayton Hotel	Jessica Carson Year 11 - £20	Mrs R Carson
4th Muddlers Club Vouchers	Caleb Maguire Year 8 - £20	Mrs Maguire



1st Prize Winner Jill Murphy with seller of most ballots Andrew Wylie (Year 11)

## LGBT Awareness Week

On Friday 20th May 2022, a contingency from Lagan College's Queer Straight Alliance (QSA) attended a Keynote Event at the MAC, listening to speeches and personal stories from the PSNI, Equality Commission, HERE Together Group, and members of the LGBTQIA+ community. They engaged in conversation with Alliance MLA's Eóin Tennyson and Andrew Muir about the importance of having a QSA within our schools, as well as Cohen Taylor (Year 13) delivering the final speech of the event. Well done to all involved in this fantastic occasion.



## Alex Lo – Table Tennis Success

A big shoutout to Alex Lo (Year 11) who has won 'Best Junior Boy' and his table tennis team won the Ards League. Alex plays for Ormeau Table Tennis, Ulster Juniors, and trains with the National Team in Dublin. Well done, Alex!



**Abigail Perry** (Year 9) played 11 a-side football with her team Ards Rangers on the 22nd May 2022 in a Cup Final and are the Winners of the U12 South Belfast Youth League Cup! A brilliant achievement for Abigail and all the team.



**Ben McConnell** (Year 10) captained the Carryduff Colts 2008 team who became Divisional Cup Champions in South Belfast Youth League Division 1 on 30th April 2022. Well done, Ben!

**Dylan Gardiner** (Year 9) participated in the ESF 2022 Football Festival in England – the biggest youth football festival of its kind in the UK. He was representing his club, Ards Rangers. They were undefeated in the group stages meaning they qualified top of their group. They won the semi-final on penalties and unfortunately lost in the final. Great effort, Dylan!



**Dylan Kelly** (Year 8) took part in the Blackpool Cup at the start of May. His team topped their group and won their quarter final and semi-final match, unfortunately beaten narrowly on penalties. A terrific achievement against teams from across the UK, Ireland & Poland to finish runners up in their age group.



**Jack Hassard** (Year 11) was part of Hilden Tennis Academy's Under 18 team who won the inaugural Challenge Cup Trophy on 25th–26th June, defeating Helen's Bay in the semi-final and Windsor in Sunday's final. A brilliant win for Jack and his team. Well done, Jack!



**Reese McCann** (Year 11) was selected to represent Ireland on the Under 16 Summer Cup Team. He then attended the Rafa Nadal Academy for specialised tennis training in Waterford. A great opportunity for Reese to showcase his talent. He is ranked 3rd in Ireland in his age group and is a Junior 1000 Tour Champion. Well done, Reese!

Well done to Year 10 student **Lucas Simons** on winning a silver medal in the 200 metres Firmus Energy Fab 5 event at Mary Peters Track. He also set a PB time of 25.08 seconds. Lucas runs for Lagan Valley AC. Congratulations, Lucas!



# Girls' Football



The Under 12's squad against Hunterhouse.  
 MVP: Rosie Mayes  
 Goals: Rosie Mayes x3, Ciara Lee, Connie McGowan x2, Ella McAuley & Eva Hume.

The U14 XI and U13 XI girls recently played matches against Breda Academy. Most Valuable Player (MVP) for U13 match was awarded to Izzy Carson and Under 14 match MVP was Abigail Perry. Goals in the Under 14 match were scored by Grace Stevenson & Amelie McKnight.



Congratulations to three of our junior football girls for winning the South Belfast Youth Football League (SBYFL) cup with their football clubs.

**Rosie McCall** (Year 10) won the U14 Girls SBYFL cup with Rosario Football Club Belfast.

**Rosie Mayes** (Year 9) won the U13 Girls SBYFL cup with Carryduff Colts FC.

**Abigail Perry** (Year 9) won the 2010 Boys SBYFL cup with Ards Rangers Juniors FC.

Well done girls. Lagan College is very proud of you!



Thank you to The Irish Football Association and Electric Ireland NI for hosting the 'Super Sevens' event. Some of the teams who played are pictured below.



Girls' After School football continues to have high numbers with players pushing for positions and places.

Thank you to Dominican College for the challenging, competitive and close matches. Dominican played against the Year 11 team twice before they went on study leave in May.

The Under 13 squad drew 1-1 with Rosie Mayes scoring the only goal for Lagan. The squad played fantastic attacking football and Niamh Tierney (Year 9) was awarded Most Valuable Player.

The Under 15 squad got beat 3-2 by Dominican. Dominican are the NI Under 15 champions so we were delighted with the girl's performance against the top team in NI. Both goals were scored by Amelie McKnight (Year 10) with Grace Stevenson (Year 10) being awarded Most Valuable Player.



## Athletics

There has been a great turn out at the Athletics club this term. Pupils have got the chance to practice, perfect and push themselves in their athletic events. Our new long jump facility on site is a great leap forward for sport at Lagan!



## Year 9 and Year 11 boys join in Belvoir FC success

Congratulations to players Jack and Sam Robinson (Year 11), Tyler Gould (Year 11), Tai McCann (Year 11) and Lewis Johnston (Year 9) who were Divisional Cup winners with Belvoir FC against Berlin Swifts. Tyler Gould scored from the halfway line to take the game into the lead. Berlin pulled a goal back sending the game into penalties with Jack Robinson (Year 11) making a superb save leading Belvoir to win. Well done, boys!



## Year 8 Basketball



The Year 8 basketball team competed in the Vince Halloran North Regional School Blitz on Tuesday 24th May 2022. The boys gave a very good account of themselves. Big thanks to Year 12 Coach, Joseph McFadden, who assisted Mr Connolly on the day.

# Sports Day

It was great to hold our annual Sports Day at Mary Peters Track after our last one was held in 2019. Check out some record breakers below!

Year 8 Boys' Javelin record: **Oscar McMillen**

Year 9 Boys' High jump record: **Lewis Johnston**

Year 10 Girls' Javelin record: **Eva Kennedy**

Year 10 Girls' 100m record: **Amelie McKnight**

Year 10 Boys' Shot putt record: **Matthew Scott**

Year 10 Girls' Relay record: **Forge**

**(Ruby Mitchell, Katie Murray, Nevaeh Currie & Amelie McKnight)**

Year 10 Boys' Relay record: Ardnavalley

**(Caleb Carson, Oliver Taylor, Brendan Seenan & Cillian Connolly)**



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

**Please forward all Newsletter submissions to Mr Smyth via email**

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