

# CGS NEWS



## 2024 Families First School of the Year for the Northern Region



## Ulster Intermediate Cup – Quarter Final Win!

**A huge performance from our 1XI as they made the long journey to Kilkeel and came away with a well-deserved final victory, to book a place in the Ulster Intermediate Cup semi-finals.** From the first whistle, CGS dominated possession, moving the ball calmly from defence through midfield and creating chances with some beautiful through balls. The pressure ramped up in the final quarter, but CGS showed real composure. After several corners, the breakthrough finally came — a well-worked penalty corner calmly finished by Olivia Jordan with just 5 minutes to go. Strong defending and an exceptional save from Bethany Wenlock sealed the win. *A superb team performance!*



## Year 8 'Dazzle Me' Project winners

**Our Year 8 pupils each created their own project based on their selected BookBuzz novel.** There was an amazing array of creative and innovative ideas. The overall Year 8 winner was Cohen Stewart 8Castle who made a fantastic dragon model from Lego model based on his chosen read, "Impossible Creatures", while Max Currie, also in 8Castle, was a very worthy runner-up creating a brilliant book, complete with leather bound cover and lock based on his novel. Both winners received Amazon gift vouchers and were allowed to select two books of their choice. *Congratulations boys!*

[illegible]

## Latest Exam Info

**Our upcoming February 2026 Year 11 exam timetables, are now online.**

**Find them at:**

<https://www.carrickfergusgrammar.com/exam-timetables>



**Composition Prize Winner!**

Huge congratulations to our very own Phoebe Savage in Year 13 on winning the inaugural Colin Mawby Composition Prize 2026 at the National Concert Hall, Dublin, on Friday! Congratulations also to Emily Duff, Anna Higgins (who was also shortlisted) and Anna Wright from Year 13 who also attended. Phoebe worked with her music teacher, Mr Craig, and her Contemporary Music Centre composer-mentor, Anselm McDonnell, on her piece, 'Time of Roses', a setting of text by Thomas Hood.

The prize is named in honour of the late Colin Mawby, founding Artistic Director of Chamber Choir Ireland (then called the National Chamber Choir). Thank you to Chamber Choir Ireland and the Arts Council for making this opportunity possible.

Thank you, also, to composer Anselm McDonnell for his advice. *It was incredible to hear the compositions from many schools across the island of Ireland: an amazing array of talent and supportive music teachers!*



We continue to make great progress with our Lego League team. Our fantastic group of Year 8-10 pupils, supported by a dedicated squad of Year 13 Technology students, are gearing up for the competition soon to be held at the W5 arena in February! #FirstLegoLeague #Stemheroes

# CGS ALUMNI ROLE MODELS



**REBEKAH  
CAVAN  
(NEE WILLIAMS)**

**CGS 2013-2020**

**WHERE IS SHE NOW?**

Library Assistant at Lisburn City Library

**TIME AT CGS:**

**FAVOURITE SUBJECT**

I enjoyed English Literature and Religious Studies



## MEMORIES

My standout memory is getting a tour of Stormont in Year 11!

## CAREER PATHWAY:

### SIXTH FORM CHOICES & HIGHER EDUCATION

I did English Literature, Religious studies and History for A Level. My English Literature A-Level meant I could study English with Creative Writing at Queen's University. Although you don't need any particular degree to be a library assistant, it did definitely help at the interview!

### DAY IN THE LIFE OF A LIBRARIAN

Being a librarian is about so much more than shelving books! Although that's part of it, I also on occasion lead a Rhythm and Rhyme group which involves singing nursery rhymes to babies and toddlers, as well as Storytime sessions and school visits. I also assist people with finding books that they'd like, as well as helping them print out and photocopy documents. It's a very rewarding job!

### STANDOUT CAREER MOMENTS

There are a lot of really rewarding 'little moments' in the job. For example, one day I recommended a book series to a young boy in the library, and recently I found out that he is really enjoying it and has read over ten of the books! There is also a sense of satisfaction when you help someone with a computer task that they've been struggling with and finding stressful, like getting insurance documents sorted.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

Follow what you're passionate about and don't be afraid to reach out to friends, parents or teachers if you're struggling or have any worries. I sometimes found aspects of school difficult due to my Asperger's Syndrome, and I think was worried about what my friends/peers would think if I asked for adjustments. Looking back, I think I could have made life so much easier for myself if I did!

**Think being a librarian could be for you? Find out more about it here:**

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/public-librarian>



**STEM Club and the Lego League**





## SU Weekend 2026

Our Scripture Union enjoyed its annual residential at Castlewellan Castle recently. With much fun, faith and fellowship, it was a weekend enjoyed by all. Many congratulations to the SU Committee and staff for organising such a great weekend.



## Junior Football success

#proud

Congratulations to our Junior Girls' Football team who have progressed to the next round of the Northern Ireland Plate. The girls have trained incredibly hard and shown real commitment and determination, and we are extremely proud of their achievement. We wish them the very best of luck as they face Devenish College in the quarter-finals.

## Home Economics News



A fantastic start for the new Home Economics department! Last week pupils had the opportunity to use the new Home Economics classroom for practical lessons. Year 8 made soda bread pizzas & Year 11 made burritos. Everyone really enjoyed using the great new facilities!



## Dates for your diary

- Monday 9<sup>th</sup> February-Friday 13<sup>th</sup> February (inclusive): Mid-Term Holidays
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February: Pupils return to school on a Week 1 timetable
- Monday 16<sup>th</sup> February -Tuesday 24<sup>th</sup> February: Year 11 mock exams
- Wednesday 18<sup>th</sup> February: Year 12 Parent-Pupil-Teacher Consultations via video call 3:50pm to 6:20pm.

