November 2026
ISSUE 183

CGS NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL



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2024 Families First School of the Year for the Northern Region



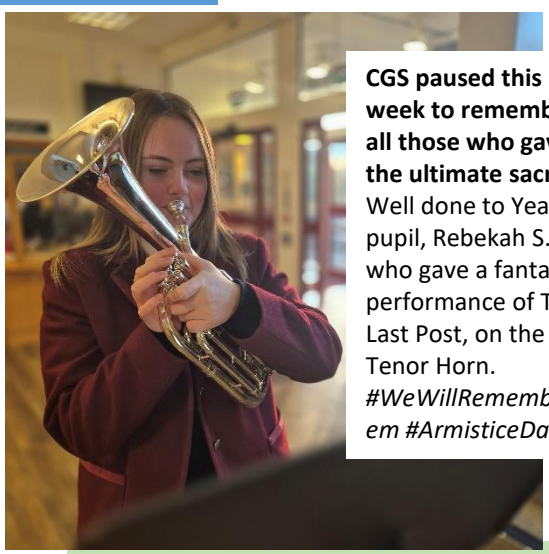
We are delighted to introduce and thank our Gold Sponsor, Carrickfergus' own East Antrim Sports Therapy, for supporting Carrickfergus Grammar School's upcoming production of The Sound of Music! We are incredibly grateful to local businesses like Kevin's, who are willing to invest in our young people and help us provide exciting opportunities and memorable experiences for our pupils. *We would encourage everyone in our local community to show these fantastic businesses some support in return.*

Get your tickets now at:
https://www.eventbrite.com/e/carrickfergus-grammar-school-musical-production-the-sound-of-music-tickets-2003571500292

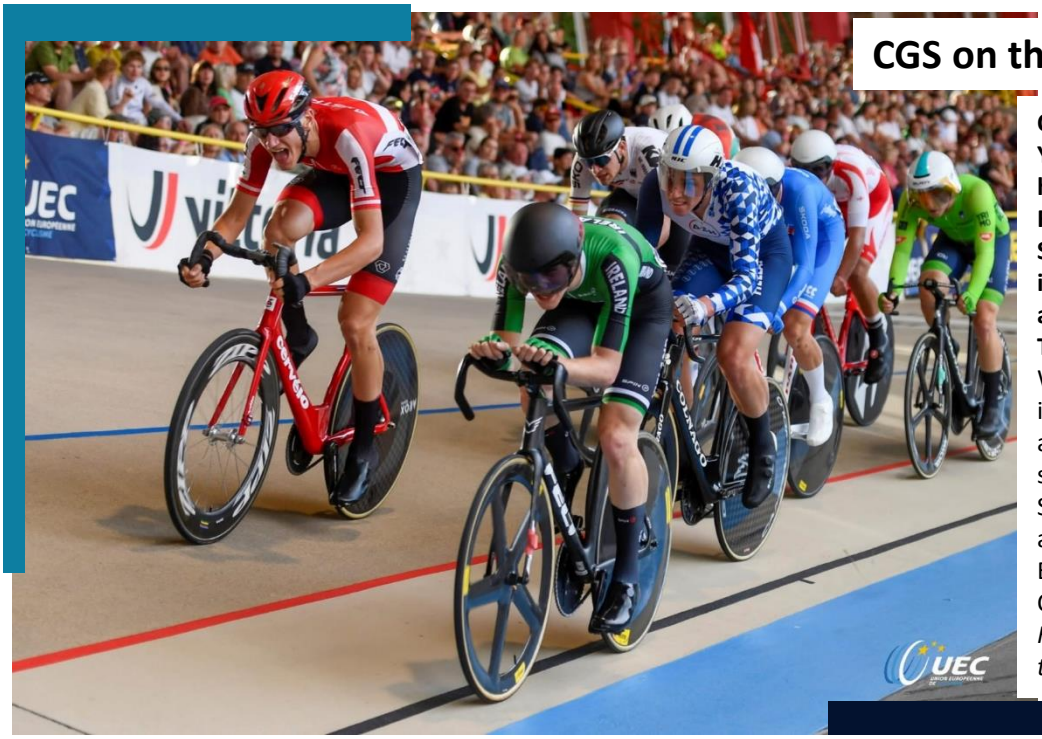




Remembrance Day 2026



CGS paused this week to remember all those who gave the ultimate sacrifice. Well done to Year 13 pupil, Rebekah S., who gave a fantastic performance of The Last Post, on the Tenor Horn. *#WeWillRememberThem #ArmisticeDay*



CGS on the International stage

Congratulations and good luck to Year 14 student Elliott Mck., who has been selected to ride for a Rest of the World team against South Africa at 'The Last Lap', an international track cycling event at the Bellville Velodrome in Cape Town this November.
With 3,000 spectator tickets sold, it's going to be a big atmosphere and Elliott will be racing alongside senior elite riders from Switzerland, Belgium, Luxembourg and Great Britain, including European champions and Commonwealth Games athletes. *He will be looking forward to testing himself at that level!*



Mary Peter's Trust for CGS Pupil

Year 12 wrestler Mark T. recently attended a special event for the Mary Peter's Trust. The Trust supports talented athletes in a range of sports by providing sponsorship to help them reach their potential. Mark has recently returned from Freiburg, Germany where he took part in an intensive four day wrestling camp. *This camp will serve Mark well in the upcoming coming Commonwealth Championships in South Africa this December.*



Box Cup Success

Congratulations to Year 11 student Zack R. for winning Gold at the Peter O'Donnell International Box Cup in Donegal. Zack had a unanimous victory in the semi-final and went on to win the final on a split decision. Zack was competing in the U17 54Kg category. *Well done, Zack!* 🥊

UK Maths Challenge



Congratulations to our AS and A2 level Mathematics students who took part in this year's Senior UK Maths Challenge. Congratulations to the following: Gold: Caleb Hazley (best in school) and Harvey Payne who both qualify for the next round in November. Silver: Ethan Hamilton, Milo Hudson, Elliott McKeegan, Nicholaus Obasi, Isaac Yau and Seth Powell (best in year 13).Bronze:Jack Camlin, Chloe Curran, Faith Herron, Alesha Kelly, Lucy McCormack, Sam Parsons, Calum Pollard, Lily Richards, Matthew Soeters, Callum Tweedie, Anamika Ullas Nair, Esther Bovill, Rhys Ellis, David Eyambe, Adam Keenan, Lois Kenny, Kayden Kilbride, Ethan McGrath, Ayaan Munawer, Caiden Patty, Jake Robb. *Well done, everyone!*



Food & Nutrition class visit

Year 12 GCSE Food and Nutrition pupils attended cookery demonstrations from the Livestock and Meat Commission. Arlene taught them about the nutritional benefits of eating red meat, labelling of food products, the importance of looking for the Farm Quality Assurance logo and how to style and present dishes. She then demonstrated how to make crispy chilli beef noodles. *Each pupil had the opportunity to taste the delicious dishes and were given a recipe book so that they could try out some more of the dishes at home!*



STEM work latest

On Wednesday afternoons, the school's STEM club meet to engage in hands-on engineering and robotics, as they prepare for the FIRST LEGO League Challenge. Working collaboratively around the competition table, the students design, build, and test their custom Lego creations to tackle various themed missions. *Guided by Mr Currie, the enthusiastic team combines creativity, problem-solving, and teamwork to refine their robots and strategies for the upcoming challenge.*

Our A-Level Geography & Biology enjoyed a fantastic residential recently, at Magilligan Field Centre. Students had great weather for the primary data collection, in the sand dune ecosystem at the Umbra Nature Reserve. Invaluable time in the field followed up with classroom time, processing results & exam prep. *Well done to everyone braving the weather!*

Geography & Biology Residential



SATURDAY HOCKEY ROUND-UP







Another busy Saturday of hockey for our CGS teams, with plenty of positives, goals and hard work across the board. The 1XI suffered a 2-1 defeat. After taking an early lead and looking comfortable, a lapse in concentration saw two quick goals conceded in the second quarter. Plenty to work on this week in training with this young team. The 3XI continue to show improvements week on week. Despite starting slowly and conceding an early goal, the girls battled throughout. They finished 1-4, with Chloe getting the goal for CGS. The 4XI also produced some great hockey, creating opportunities and showing plenty of determination. Unfortunately, they couldn't quite find the finishing touch in the circle and went down 3-0. A convincing performance from the U14As, who secured a fantastic win! Sky led the scoring with two goals, while Poppy and Annabel also got their names on the scoresheet. A closely contested match saw the U13As finish with a 0-0 draw. Both sides worked hard, but neither could find that all-important winning finish in front of goal. A great defensive effort from the team! The U13Bs were unlucky to come away with a 2-1 defeat in a game, after plenty of chances were created. Ava kept her composure in front of goal to get on the scoresheet, but unfortunately it wasn't quite enough this time.

Well done to all our players, coaches and supporters at the weekend. There were plenty of positives to take from the performances, with teams continuing to develop, improve and work hard for one another.





(pictured, right)

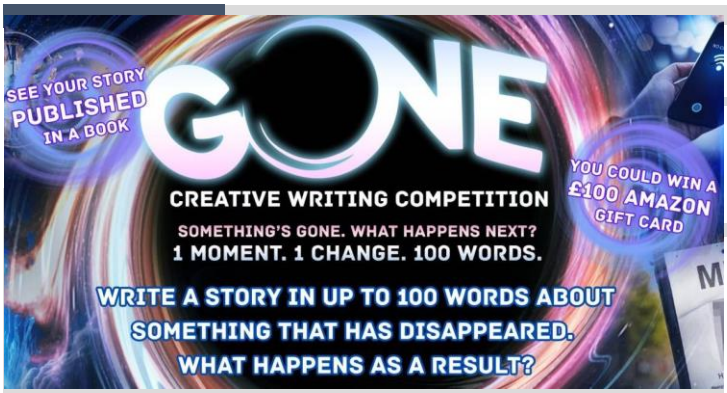






Ulster Championship news

The Irish Schools' Sailing Team Racing Ulster Championships 2026 took place recently at Royal North of Ireland Yacht Club with an amalgamated team of Carrickfergus Grammar School and Larne Grammar School pupils. Congratulations to our very own Rory, Calum and Aoife P. who were team racing for the first time alongside Freddie, George and Penny from Larne Grammar. *After a long, full day of racing the team came an impressive second place overall and now qualifies for entry to the National Championships next year!*



Creative Writing Opportunity

If you're interested in finding out more, speak to Mrs Wills and join the Creative Writing Google Classroom: **gs27fvh**.
Deadline: Monday 14th December



CGS ALUMNI ROLE MODELS



PHILIP BECKETT
CGS 2000- 2007

CGS ALUMNI 1962 - 2026

WHERE IS HE NOW?
working as an Associate Architect in Dubai

TIME AT CGS:

FAVOURITE SUBJECT
ITechnology and Design

MEMORIES
Mr Ross for Physics and Mr Nichol and Mr McMorris for Technology & Design A-Level

CAREER PATHWAY:

SIXTH FORM CHOICES
I studied Technology, Physics and IT for A Level. I studied Architecture completing a Bachelors and Masters at Queens University Belfast

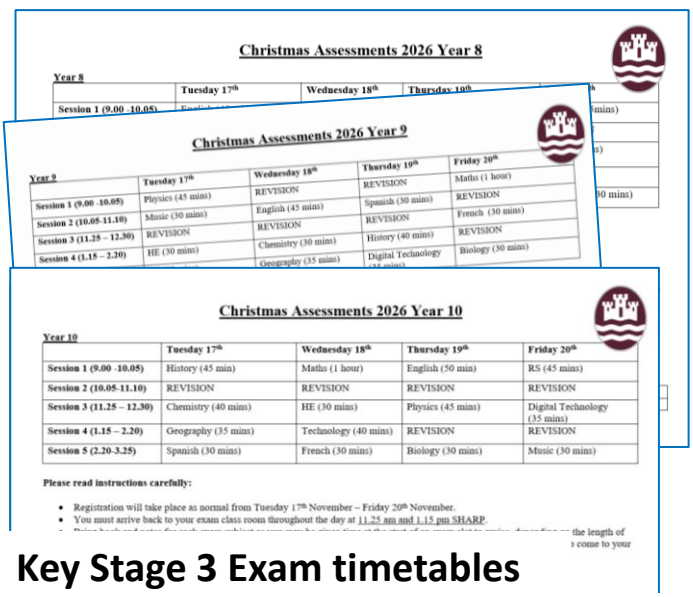
DAY IN THE LIFE OF AN ARCHITECT
I undertake concept design for high rise residential buildings, hotels, office buildings and shopping malls.
General planning massing of the building, designing the facades and overall look and feel.
I also lead a small team of architects from all over the world to deliver the design package to the client.

STANDOUT CAREER MOMENTS
I think every building you design is an achievement. To start with a blank page and end up with something you are proud of and have put a lot of effort into is rewarding.

WORDS OF WISDOM
Choose a career in something you enjoy!!

Think a career in architecture could be for you? Find out more about it here:

https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/architect/



Christmas Assessments 2026 Year 8

Year 8

	Tuesday 17th	Wednesday 18th	Thursday 19th
Session 1 (9.00 -10.05)			

Christmas Assessments 2026 Year 9

Year 9

	Tuesday 17th	Wednesday 18th	Thursday 19th	Friday 20th
Session 1 (9.00 -10.05)	Physics (45 mins)	REVISION	REVISION	Maths (1 hour)
Session 2 (10.05-11.10)	Music (30 mins)	English (45 mins)	Spanish (30 mins)	REVISION
Session 3 (11.25 – 12.30)	REVISION	REVISION	REVISION	French (30 mins)
Session 4 (1.15 – 2.20)	HE (30 mins)	Chemistry (30 mins)	History (40 mins)	REVISION
		Geography (35 mins)	Digital Technology	Biology (30 mins)

Christmas Assessments 2026 Year 10

Year 10

	Tuesday 17th	Wednesday 18th	Thursday 19th	Friday 20th
Session 1 (9.00 -10.05)	History (45 min)	Maths (1 hour)	English (50 min)	RS (45 mins)
Session 2 (10.05-11.10)	REVISION	REVISION	REVISION	REVISION
Session 3 (11.25 – 12.30)	Chemistry (40 mins)	HE (30 mins)	Physics (45 mins)	Digital Technology (35 mins)
Session 4 (1.15 – 2.20)	Geography (35 mins)	Technology (40 mins)	REVISION	REVISION
Session 5 (2.20-3.25)	Spanish (30 mins)	French (30 mins)	Biology (30 mins)	Music (30 mins)

Please read instructions carefully:

- Registration will take place as normal from Tuesday 17th November – Friday 20th November.
- You must arrive back to your exam class room throughout the day at 11.25 am and 1.15 pm SHARP.

Key Stage 3 Exam timetables

Our Years 8-10 Christmas exam timetables are now online **at:**
https://www.carrickfergusgrammar.com/exam-timetables



School choir meets Friday at lunchtime. New members in all year groups are still welcome to come along .

Dates for your diary

Saturday 7th November – SEAG Test 1.
Tuesday 17th – Friday 20th November – Key Stage 3 exams.
Saturday 21st November – SEAG Test 2.
Thursday 26th & Friday 27th November – The Sound of Music School Production. Ticket event. 7.30pm start.