November 2026
ISSUE
184

CGS NEWS

THE OFFICAL NEWSLETTER OF CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL



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Find out more here: https://perfectpetinsurance.co.uk/

Let's show our appreciation by supporting the businesses that support our young people!

Don't forget, The Sound of Music takes to the stage on 26th & 27th November at 7:30pm. We would love to see you there!

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





NI Assembly visit

Year 13 Government and Politics pupils visited the NI Assembly at Stormont on Monday 2nd November. The class met with staff from the Education Unit at the Assembly, one of the Statutory Committee clerks and a number of local MLAs, all of whom were quizzed as to the current effectiveness of the Assembly and Executive, *positives and negatives of devolution and a whole range of party policies.*



SistersIN latest news



Our Year 13 SistersIN students had a fantastic day in the opulent surroundings of Belfast City Hall for the 'INspiring Entrepreneurs' event, celebrating female entrepreneurial leadership and empowering the next generation. The girls listened to motivational presentations delivered by keynote speakers Alice Thompson and former CGS student, Ashleigh Averell, alongside an insightful panel discussion. *This event is only a part of the overall SistersIN programme in which the girls, alongside local female leaders, will complete projects that seek to develop their self-belief, confidence and leadership skills. #SistersIN*

CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

The top school in Northern Ireland for GCSE Results (Belfast Telegraph 2026)



KNOWLEDGE · OPPORTUNITY · RESPECT

OPEN EVENING

Carrickfergus Grammar school is a thriving school community with a warm, positive atmosphere which values the academic promise of each individual child who joins us.

Our Open Evening this year will be held on Thursday 14th January 2027, 6:30pm - 9:00pm.

Principal's talks will take place at 6.30pm and 8.30pm.

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World Wise Geography at QUB

Congratulations to Jake C. in Year 11, Alan D. and Rhys M. in Year 12, who finished in the top three teams at the *Queen's University World Wise Geography Quiz.* **#proud**

Sociology Conference at QUB







Our Year 13 and 14 Sociology students attended the annual AS and A2 Sociology Conference at Queen's University Belfast. Alongside 400 other students from across the province, our pupils heard talks on curriculum material and current research being undertaken by the university's School of Social Sciences, Education and Social Work. *They also took part in a student-led research challenge and got to explore the campus, hopefully inspiring their future university application decisions.*

Year 8 Cookery Club





It was great to see Year 8 Cookery Club pupils getting creative, when baking and icing their buns for the Halloween competition. There were some fantastic designs! In the end Scarlet K. (pictured) was awarded 1st place for her design. *Well done to everyone who took part!*

Enrichment success



Year 14 Enrichment Life Skills class continues to prepare our students for life after CGS. Recently, they had to plan and cook a 2-course meal for 2, for under £10! *Well done, everyone!*

CGS at the Nations Championship



Our Year 8 pupils made the trip to the Aviva Stadium to watch Ireland play Argentina in the recent Nations' Championship. The boys were treated to a superb display by the home team as they defeated Argentina 42-12. *After the game, the boys managed to get down to the pitch-side to see some of their heroes up close and to get some photos and autographs.*

The Year 8 boys played their first competitive fixtures in a CGS jersey recently, against Friends School Lisburn and Wellington College. Both squads played some great attacking rugby and demonstrated determination in defence. All the matches played were close affairs with CGS edging to wins over Wellington College and losing narrowly to Friends School. *Well done to all the boys who represented the school!*



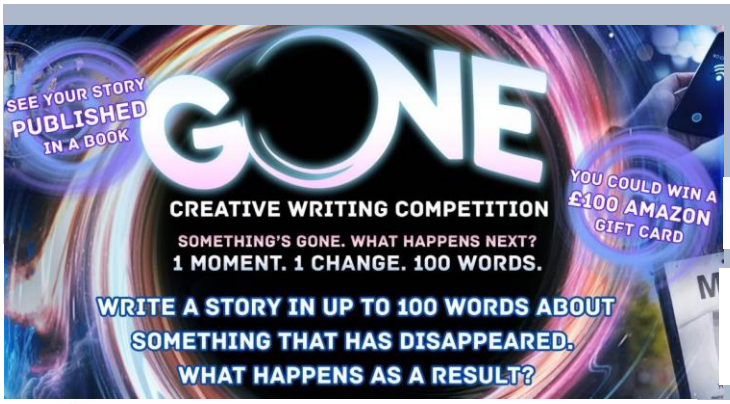
Year 8 Rugby News



Ulster Museum visit

Our GCSE and A Level Art & Design pupils recently enjoyed a visit to the Ulster Museum where they attended a guided tour of the Royal Ulster Academy Exhibition. They gained insight into the stories behind the diverse range of artworks on display, whilst learning more about the creative processes and artistic techniques used. They also attended a talk by the artist, Chris Wilson, who discussed his work and practices throughout his long and varied career as an artist.

The visit provided them with the opportunity to gather valuable research and inspiration for their practical coursework. *Our pupils thoroughly enjoyed this experience, helping them to nurture their creativity and artistic curiosity, taking learning outside the classroom environment and encouraging a lifelong appreciation of the arts.*



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



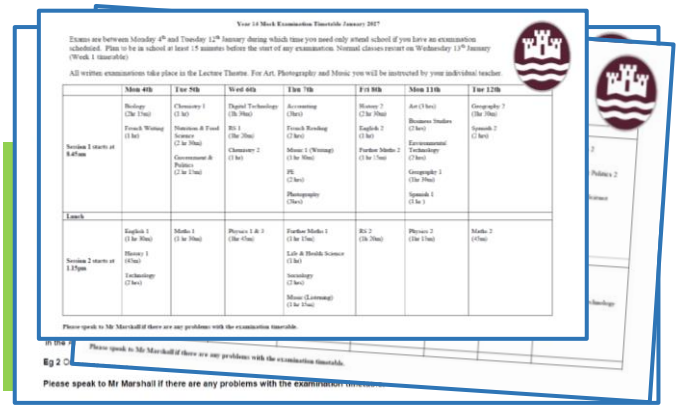
Find out more at the CGS PA Facebook page





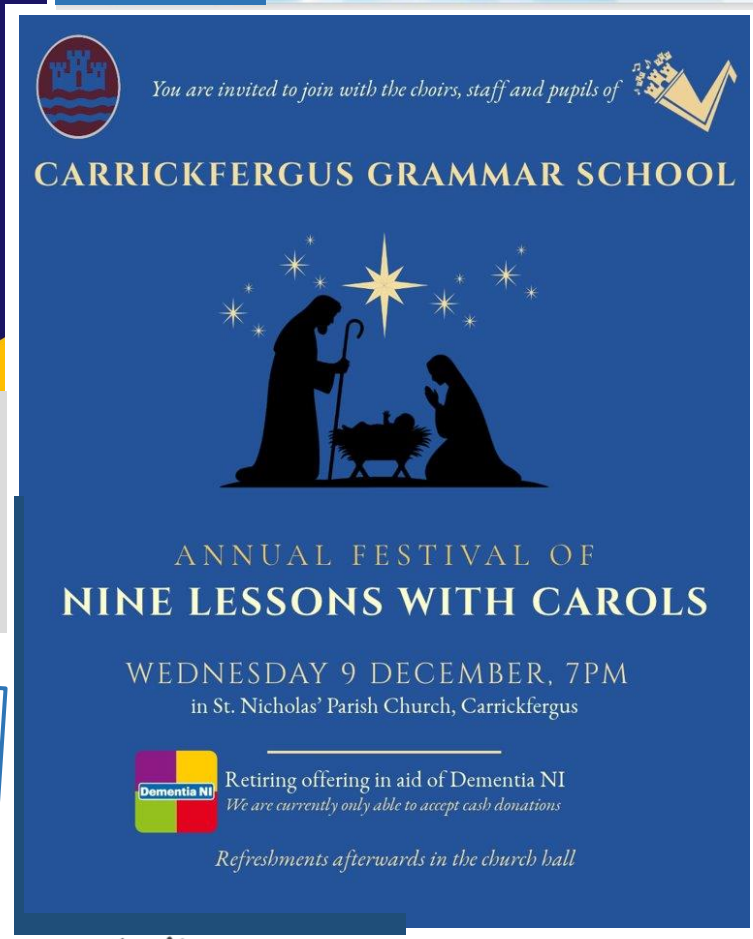
MRS KANE

The recent Anti-Bullying theme was 'Break the Silence' and pupils were encouraged to always speak up if they are being treated badly, or if they see someone else being treated badly. Prefect Buddies gave presentations to their KS3 classes on this theme. *Heads of Year encouraged pupils to think about the role that everyone plays in creating a school community where people feel able to speak up and ensuring that pupils know who they can speak to, if they are worried about bullying type behaviour. #awareness #AntibullyingWeek*



Mock Exam January 2027 timetables

***Our Years 12-14 Mock exam timetables are now online* at:**
https://www.carrickfergusgrammar.com/exam-timetables



Dates for your diary

Thursday 26th & Friday 27th November – The Sound of Music School Production. Ticket event. 7.30pm start.
Wednesday 9th December – Carol Service. St Nicholas' @ 7pm.
Friday 18th December - School finishes for Christmas holidays 12 midday. No canteen.