

CGS NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CARRICKFERGUS

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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2024 Families First School of the Year for the Northern Region



Sport and Music awards

Congratulations to all the Athletes and Musicians, whose incredible achievements were recognised at our Award Assembly this week. A huge thank you to former pupil and guest speaker Chris McKee, who spoke brilliantly about his experiences both at CGS and on the football pitch. ⚽



Christmas Assessments 2026 Year 8

Year 8	Tuesday 17th	Wednesday 18th	Thursday 19th	Friday 20th
Session 1 (9.00 - 10.05)	English (45 mins)	History (45 mins)	REVISION	Maths (45 mins)

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 - 11.00)	Music (30 mins)	English (45 mins)	REVISION	French (30 mins)
Session 3 (11.00 - 12.30)	REVISION	Chemistry (40 mins)	REVISION	REVISION
Session 4 (1.15 - 2.30)	REVISION	Chemistry (40 mins)	REVISION	REVISION
Session 5 (2.30 - 3.25)	REVISION	Geography (35 mins)	Digital Technology (35 mins)	Biology (30 mins)

Christmas Assessments 2026 Year 10

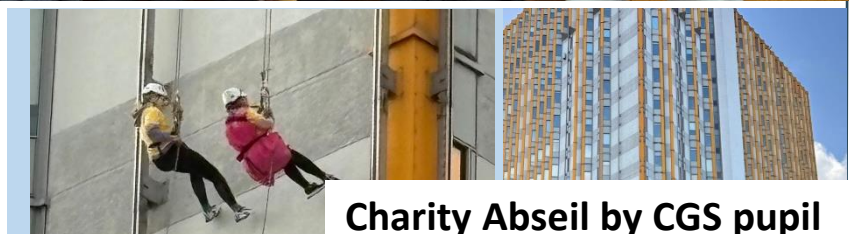
Year 10	Tuesday 17th	Wednesday 18th	Thursday 19th	Friday 20th
Session 1 (9.00 - 10.05)	History (45 mins)	Maths (1 hour)	English (50 mins)	RE (45 mins)
Session 2 (10.05 - 11.00)	REVISION	REVISION	REVISION	REVISION
Session 3 (11.00 - 12.30)	Chemistry (40 mins)	RE (30 mins)	Physics (45 mins)	Digital Technology (45 mins)
Session 4 (1.15 - 2.30)	Geography (35 mins)	Technology (40 mins)	REVISION	REVISION
Session 5 (2.30 - 3.25)	Spanish (30 mins)	French (30 mins)	Biology (30 mins)	Music (30 mins)

Please read instructions carefully!

Key Stage 3 Exam timetables

Our Years 8-10 Christmas exam timetables are now online at:

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



Charity Abseil by CGS pupil

Congratulations to our own Year 13 pupil Lucy Reid, who abseiled down the city hospital to raise money for Friends of the Cancer Centre. The hospital is the third tallest building in Belfast at a staggering 250ft tall and Lucy ended up raising £1,300 with the help of her friends and family for such an amazing cause. Well done, Lucy!





Local football success for CGS player



Congratulations to Year 13 student Harry T. who recently made his debut for Greenisland FC First Team (pictured right). Fantastic achievement, Harry! ⚽



Well done to the Carrickfergus Grammar School Parents' Association, for raising such a great amount of money to support opportunities for our pupils! Thank you!



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



Read On Charity Work



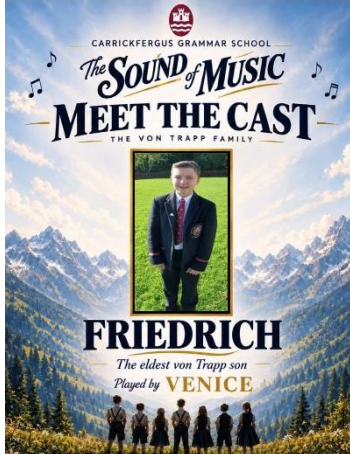
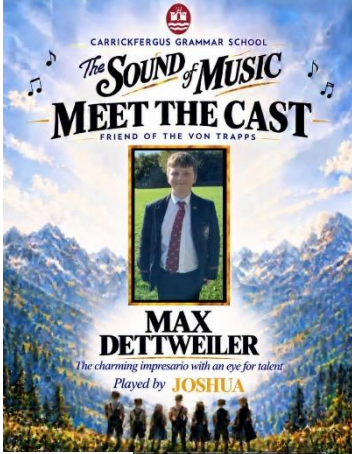
Last academic year, Year 8 and 9 pupils took part in the Read On event in June, raising a total of £2036.95 for The Cancer Fund for Children. It was great to see our KS3 pupils engage positively with the charity event and also enjoy some 'reading for pleasure' time. Well done to Logan Lindsay, Keeley Robinson and Lexi Bell who were our top fundraisers. A huge thank you to all our Carrickfergus Grammar School families who contributed to this charity event.

Great to see so many of our rugby and hockey players attending early morning weights. Sessions are being led by past pupil Alex, who recently qualified as an EPI Level One Strength & Conditioning coach. Keep up the great work!



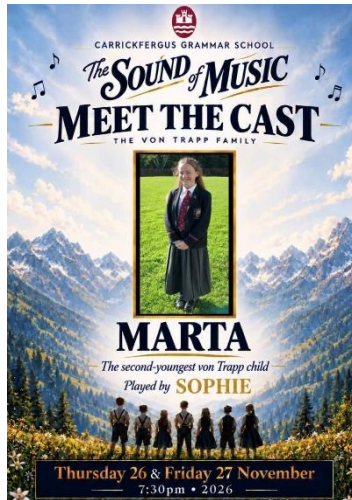
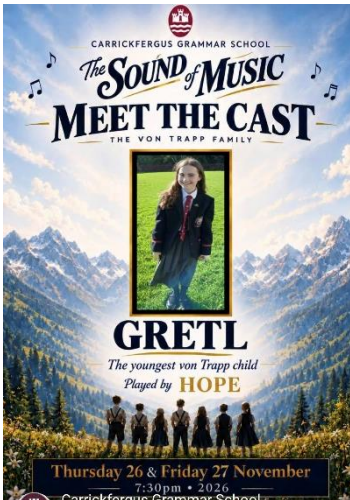
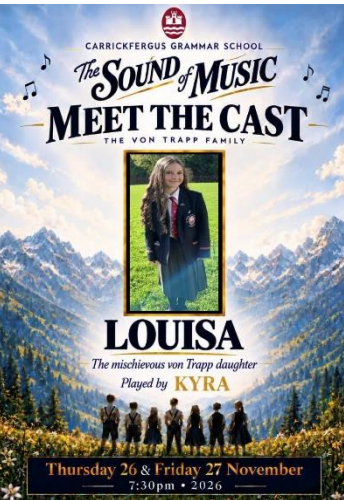
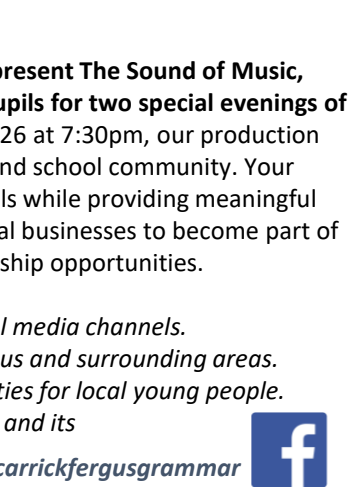
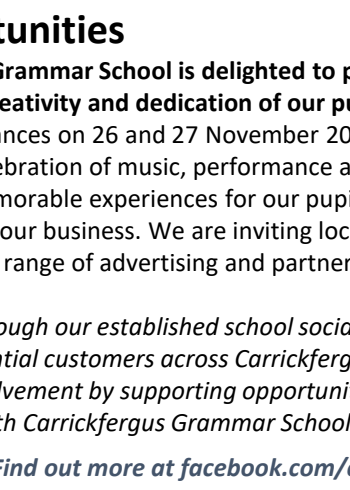
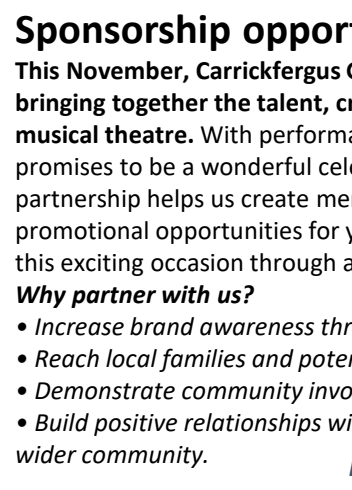
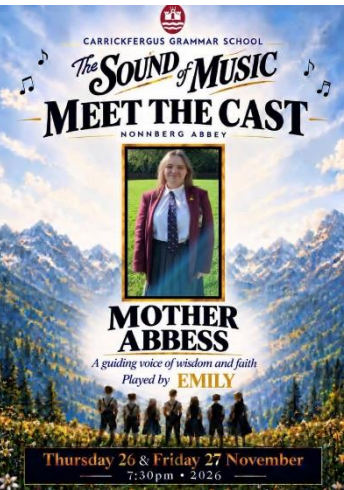
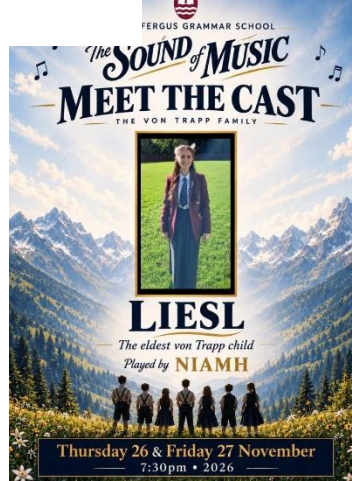
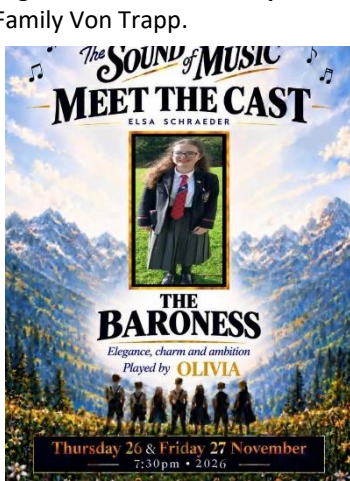
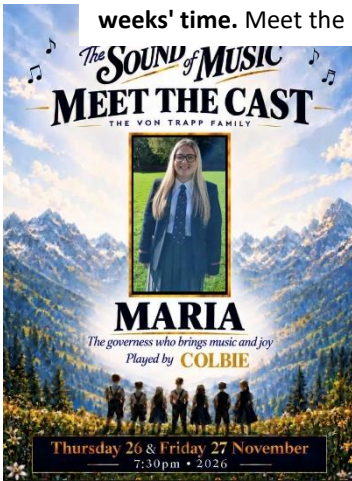
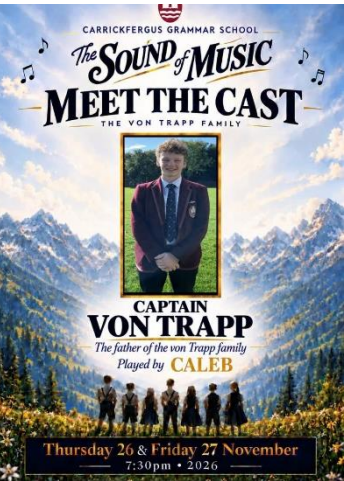
Health & Fitness at CGS





Meet the cast

The excitement is building towards our musical production in 6 weeks' time. Meet the Family Von Trapp.



Sponsorship opportunities

This November, Carrickfergus Grammar School is delighted to present The Sound of Music, bringing together the talent, creativity and dedication of our pupils for two special evenings of musical theatre. With performances on 26 and 27 November 2026 at 7:30pm, our production promises to be a wonderful celebration of music, performance and school community. Your partnership helps us create memorable experiences for our pupils while providing meaningful promotional opportunities for your business. We are inviting local businesses to become part of this exciting occasion through a range of advertising and partnership opportunities.

Why partner with us?

- Increase brand awareness through our established school social media channels.
- Reach local families and potential customers across Carrickfergus and surrounding areas.
- Demonstrate community involvement by supporting opportunities for local young people.
- Build positive relationships with Carrickfergus Grammar School and its wider community.

Find out more at facebook.com/carrickfergusgrammar



CGS Rugby latest

Congratulations to the Medallion Squad which recorded an impressive 43-19 victory over Royal School Armagh this week, at Irwin Park. The boys raced into an early lead and played some excellent attacking rugby to score five tries before half time. *Despite having to defend for large periods of the second half, the boys added two further tries to take the win.*



MEDALLION XV RESULT

43-19

CARRICKFERGUS GS
TOM FERRIS X 3
CHARLIE BARNETT X 1
MASON GOULD X 1
OLIVER TESTER X 2 & 4 CONV

RS ARMAGH

Duke of Edinburgh Gold success



Congratulations to the past pupils who have completed the Gold level of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme over the last year. Angelina Andronic, Emily Bell, Ruby Galvin, Sophie Hamilton, Lucy Hanna, Alex Hogg, Adam Kingston, Corey Millar and Joshua Millar. We wish you every success in the future and hope the experiences you had and the memories you made completing the award will provide valuable lessons and skills that will stand you in good stead. *Well done, everyone!*



A huge thank you to 'The Big Bridge' team and DesignID for delivering an unforgettable recent STEM experience for our Year 8 pupils. Transforming our gym into a giant engineering lab, our Year 8s took on the challenge of assembling and testing a real suspension bridge. Working together, they got a true taste of civil engineering in action—putting problem-solving, teamwork, and structural design to the ultimate test. *We are so grateful to both teams for inspiring our young people and bringing STEM learning to life in such an exciting and practical way!*

The Big Bridge comes to CGS



Year 14 Enrichment

Great to see the return of the Year 14 Enrichment classes this year. From Political debate to pasta bake. Mandarin to gardenin'. Cutting wood to crosswords. Pickle ball thrills to crochet skills. *There is something for everyone!*

CGS ALUMNI ROLE MODELS



REBECCA IRVINE
CGS 2013-2020



WHERE IS SHE NOW?

NHS doctor in stroke medicine and neurology researcher

TIME AT CGS:

FAVOURITE SUBJECT

I particularly enjoyed all 3 science subjects and maths!

MEMORIES

I was involved in the school choir throughout my time at CGS, and some of my favourite memories were going on tour and performing at our annual carol service!

CAREER PATHWAY:

SIXTH FORM CHOICES

I studied biology, chemistry, physics and maths at A-level.

HIGHER EDUCATION:

I completed a 6-year medical degree at Imperial College London. This included an intercalated BSc, which I choose to complete in Neuroscience and Mental Health. I personally loved having this dedicated research year, and I even got the opportunity to present my work at a conference in Brazil!

DAY IN THE LIFE OF A STROKE DOCTOR

My job in stroke medicine involves me assessing patients coming in from the emergency department with a suspected stroke, as well as supporting patients through their recovery following a stroke. I have also been a neurology researcher for over 3 years, working with various teams across London and the United States. In the US, I work with groups based in San Antonio and Boston, focusing on Parkinson's Disease and Alzheimer's Disease!

PROUDEST CAREER ACHIEVEMENT

As part of the final stage of my medical degree, I undertook a medical elective in the United States. Firstly, I completed a 1-month clinical rotation in neuroradiology at Stanford University, in which I was also researching arterial spin-labeling perfusion MRI for tumour progression vs post-treatment changes in aggressive brain tumours. Secondly, I undertook a 1-month clinical rotation in paediatric neurology at Cleveland Clinic, where I was able to see children with rare neurological and epilepsy disorders, as well as assisting in neurosurgery.

WORDS OF WISDOM

"Steady perseverance is better than intermittent flashes of genius"



Netball success

Congratulations to the Senior netball squad which defeated Belfast Royal Academy 17-9. The girls showed tremendous strength and excellent teamwork to play some attacking and exciting netball. This is their first league game in the NI netball Senior B league. *We'll done to Betty and all the squad!*

A frosty start for our 1XI and 2XI as they travelled to Antrim Grammar recently. With a frozen pitch on arrival, there was some uncertainty as to whether the fixtures would go ahead. Thankfully, the sun made a welcome appearance and, following a delayed pushback, both teams got underway!

1XI | CGS 0-0 AGS - Our 1XI produced some fantastic hockey from the first whistle! Excellent composure from defence allowed us to build confidently through midfield, with brilliant link-up play creating opportunities for our forwards. CGS continued to apply pressure and created several promising chances, but the outstanding AGS goalkeeper produced some fantastic saves to keep us out!

Despite our best efforts, we couldn't find the breakthrough, with the game finishing 0-0. Plenty of positives to take from another encouraging team performance.

CGS Hockey latest



POPPY

FORWARD



SASHA

MIDFIELD

Read the full report at facebook.com/carrickfergusgrammar



Dates for your diary

Friday 23rd October - SEAG Familiarisation 4-5.15pm.

Friday 23rd October - School finishes for Mid-Term 2.20pm.

Monday 2nd November - All pupils return to school.

Saturday 7th November - SEAG Test 1.

Tuesday 17th - Friday 20th November - Key Stage 3 exams.