

CGS NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF CARRICKFERGUS

GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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2024 Families First School of the Year for the Northern Region



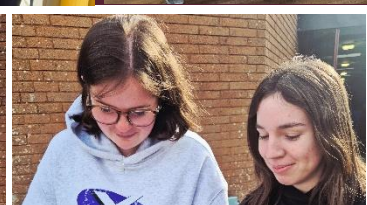
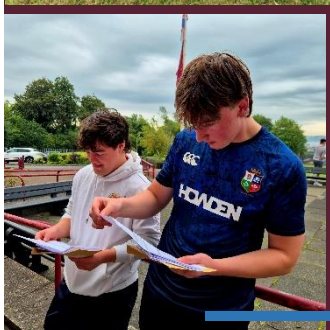
A-Level success in 2026



CGS has congratulated its pupils at AS and A2 Level on their exam results which have led to sustained high performance across all subjects and which see the school sitting 7% above Northern Ireland Grammar School averages from 2025. An impressive 62 pupils at the school achieved at least 2 'A'*/'A' grades in their A Level and AS profiles, representing almost 40% of the Sixth Form cohort. Particular congratulations go Year 14 pupils Jenna Clarke, Reece Dougherty, Naomi Hazley, Grace Magee, Charlie McCullough, Ellie-Rose McDowell, Molly Montgomery, Grace Nelson, Chloe Parsons, Beth Patterson, Olivia Shields, Hamzah Syed, Emily Winsby and Olivia Woodside who all received at least 3 'A' grades. Sam Taylor, Max Matuszewski, Marc Campbell and Matthew Withers all received at least 3 A* grades.

Read more at

<https://www.carrickfergusgrammar.com/a-level-exam-success-2026>

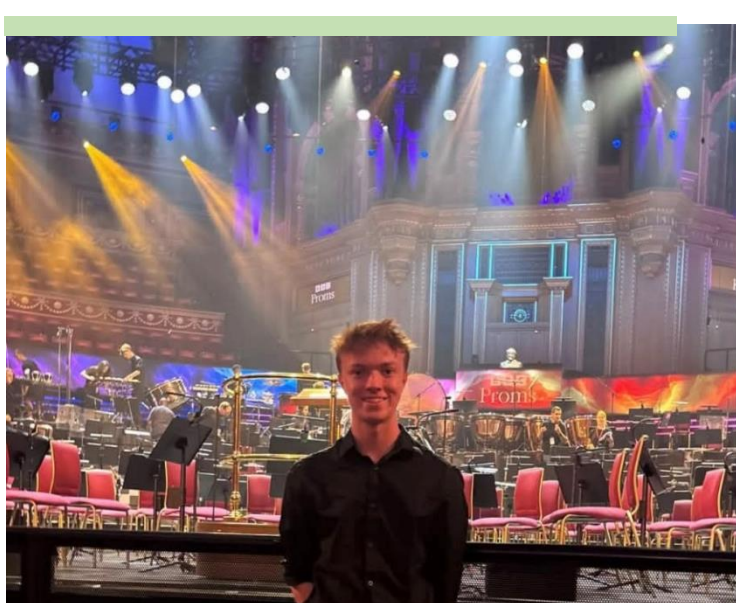


Congratulations to the CGS pupils, with 99.1% of pupils at the school achieved 5 or more A*-C passes at GCSE including English and Mathematics. Almost 97% of pupils at Carrickfergus Grammar School achieved 7 or more A*-C grades at GCSE including English and Mathematics. 34 pupils at the school achieved 7 or more A*/A passes in their GCSE profile.

GCSE success in 2026



Read more at <https://www.carrickfergusgrammar.com/gcse-exam-success-2026>



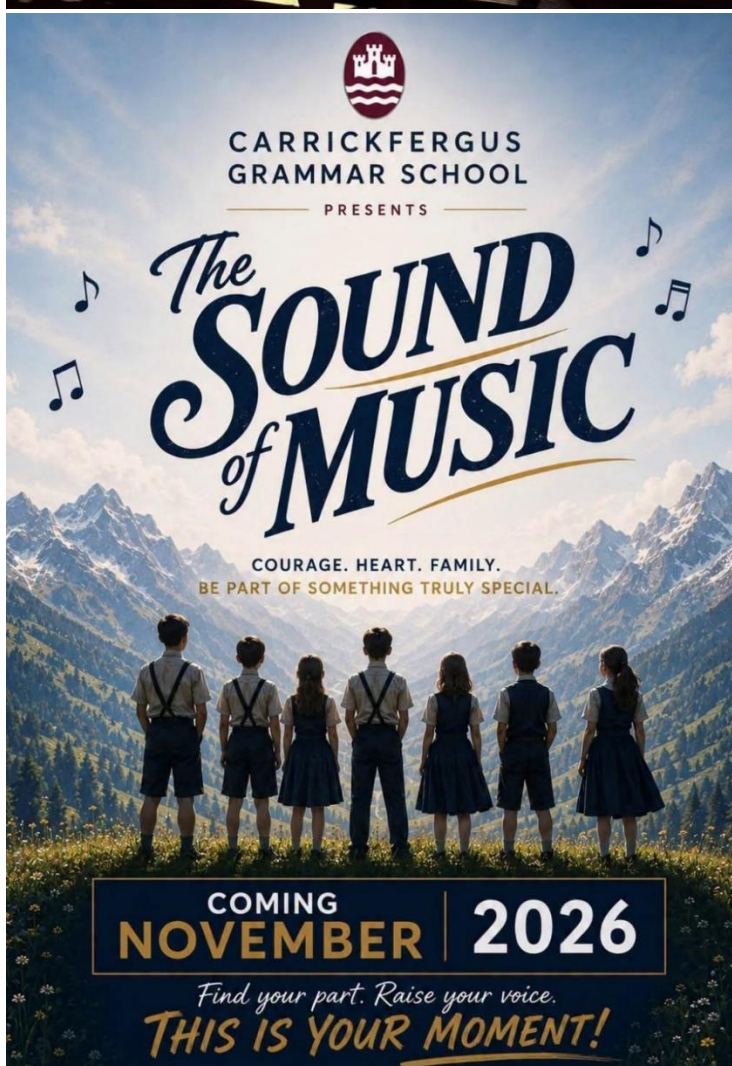
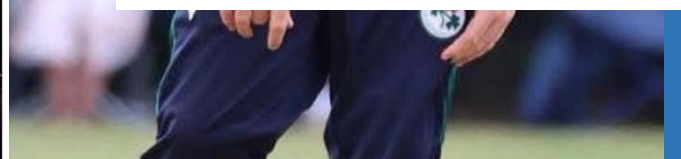
Royal Albert Hall performance

Huge congratulations to our very own Jude K. in Year 14, who performed at the BBC Proms in the Royal Albert Hall as part of the National Youth Orchestra. Under the baton of Thomas Adès, the concert was broadcast on BBC4 and will be available for the next few weeks at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/m00304wq> Well done, Jude!



Ireland Cricket debut

Congratulations to our very own Year 12 pupil Elliott Parkhill on his debut for the Ireland Under 15 Cricket Squad. Good luck, Elliott!



Our Year 8 pupils got a taste of all the many and varied extra-curricular activities on offer at school at the Extra-Curricular Fair. Lots of societies were on display from hockey, football, dance and ruby to SU, music, chess and boardgames there was something for everyone. We look forward to our new pupils getting involved with the CGS community!



Get Involved



Welcome to the new Year 8 cohort



As our new Year 8 pupils take their first steps at Carrickfergus Grammar School, we want them to dream big — to discover new talents, embrace new opportunities, build lasting friendships and become increasingly confident in who they are and what they can achieve. For parents, too, this is a significant moment. You have entrusted us with an important part of your child's journey, and we never take that responsibility lightly. There will be successes to celebrate, challenges to overcome and many memorable moments along the way. Our commitment is to walk that journey with them — encouraging, supporting and challenging every one of them to become the very best version of themselves.

Welcome, Year 8. Your journey starts here. Let's make a great footprint together, and let's ensure you reach the summit and achieve all your dreams and ambitions. We are so pleased to have you with us, and you are already making us so very proud.



Sailing Success continues...



Congratulations to brothers Calum and Rory P. (pictured below), who finished second in the RS200 fleet at Blessington Sailing Club earlier in the summer. *Well done, boys!*





CGS Hockey latest

CGS ALUMNI ROLE MODELS



RUTH CRAMPTON

CGS 1992 - 1999

WHERE IS SHE NOW?
Director of Let's Expand Communication LTD and highly specialist Speech and Language Therapist

TIME AT CGS:

FAVOURITE SUBJECTS

Maths

CAREER PATHWAY:

POST GCSE CHOICES

I studied Maths, Biology and Spanosh for A Level

HIGHER EDUCATION

I studied for a HND in Health and Social Care and attained a BSc HONS in Speech and Language Therapy from Ulster University.

DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SPEECH & LANGUAGE THERAPIST

I work with children and their family to support speech and language development. I also train teachers and classroom assistants in all things communication. I run a team of 13 SLTs across NI and as well as providing support to families we also provide regular sessions into local primary schools and nursery settings.

Between 2019 and 2023 I was chair of the Association of Speech and Language Therapists in Independent Practice UK wide and I am currently the NI representative in the board of trustees with the Royal College of Speech and Language Therapists.

Prior to setting up my independent practice I worked within the NHS for 10 years and lectured on the undergraduate degree course at Ulster University. I have also lectured on the undergraduate linguistics programme on child language acquisition.

WORDS OF WISDOM

If you want something don't let anything stop you. There may be bumps to navigate along the way but with determination you will reach that destination.

There is a place for everyone so never give up. Imposter syndrome will always manifest in even the most confident person, you are capable of more than you give yourself credit for.

Find more information on Speech and Language Therapy here:

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/speech-and-language-therapist>



Well done to our 1XI and U13A, who both secured convincing wins against Hunterhouse College recently!

1XI | 4–1 WIN

The 1XI continued their unbeaten run with some excellent passing play and attacking hockey. There was some fantastic passing into the right channel for Players' Player of the Match, Faith Herron, to run onto before driving towards the baseline. Megan O'Mahony also impressed with some lovely passes through to the forwards in the circle, while Esther Bovill had a fantastic game on the left, showing experience and patience in possession. This is an exciting young team and we can't wait to follow their progress throughout the season!

U13A | 4–0 WIN

The U13A dusted off the cobwebs for their first game of the season! After a slow start, the girls gradually built into the game and began creating some lovely attacking opportunities.

Annabelle Hamilton was dominant up front, scoring an impressive four goals! A special mention to the whole team, who continued to improve as the game progressed and showed some excellent hockey by the final whistle.

Well done to all our players!

Training resumes for ALL hockey players — we look forward to seeing everyone back on the pitch!

Duke of Ed Practice update

Well done to all pupils who completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Practice Expedition at the start of July. In very hot conditions, they worked really well together and will now go to the Lake District in August to complete their qualifying expedition. Congratulations, everyone!



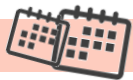
Ulster Rugby representation

Huge congratulations to Tom F. who represented Ulster against Munster recently at Banbridge RFC. Ulster won the game 38-12 with Tom putting in an influential performance from Number 8. Well done, Tom!



UK Biology Challenge

Congratulations to our very own Ben H. in Year 10, who finished top of the year group in the June UK Biology Challenge. Such was Ben's aptitude and knowledge in the subject, he performed at A Level standard in the competition. Thanks also to Mr Reaney for organising a great opportunity for our pupils.



Dates for your diary

- Thursday 24th September - Year 8 games and pizza evening. 7–9pm in school.
- Tuesday 29th September - Year 8 Parental Info evening 7pm.
- Various University Open Days running during the month.