

OMAGH ACADEMY

INSPIRE.EMPOWER.ACHIEVE

WINTER 23 NEWSLETTER



WELCOME

We're thrilled to present our latest newsletter and share all the incredible highlights from this term at Omagh Academy, most notably, celebrating our 120th anniversary year. Our students have excelled in Drama, Sports and Music, participated in enriching workshops, and enjoyed plenty of unforgettable trips across the country and beyond. Enjoy the snapshot over the next few pages!

We're also excited to welcome our new staff to the team and hope they're settling in well. This year, we had the pleasure of welcoming Year 8 pupils and several older students to our school, and we're delighted to see them thriving and embracing our ethos of kindness, respect, and responsibility.

As always, we're committed to fostering a supportive learning environment where pupils can grow and achieve their full potential. We wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, and look forward to all the wonderful opportunities that the next term will bring.



DATES FOR DIARY

- 4th January - Spring term begins
- 5th January - Year 12 Mock Exams begin
- 23rd January - Year 11 Parents' Meeting
- 1st February - P6 and 7 Open Night
- 7th March - Spring Concert



WELCOME YEAR 8

We extend a warm welcome to our new Year 8 classes this term. The first term has included a range of activities, including adjusting to new subjects, making friends, and participating in various school trips. Castle Coole, and an enjoyable induction night in August were some of the highlights of the term for the year group. Moreover, students had the opportunity to participate in various competitions, explore new sports, and join lunchtime clubs. We hope that pupils will continue to embrace school life and avail themselves of the many opportunities that come their way.

YEAR 8 THOUGHTS THIS TERM!

Fencing Club is one of the best clubs ever!

Braden

I like how we get to make food in Home Economics like Apple Crumble

Sophie

I like the Library because Emily is so helpful!

Jessica

The teachers are so good at explaining stuff!

Chloe

The baguettes and brownies are yummy!

Harry

The PE kits are so comfortable.

Angelina

PE is so much fun!

Aaron

YEAR 8 PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION



It has been lovely watching our Year 8 pupils settle in to OA life throughout the term. This week many students participated in the annual Public Speaking competition with the theme 'My prized possession'. Congratulations to all who took part and to Oscar, Joanna & Edith who were placed in the top 3. Well done!!



YEAR 8 FENCING

The Year 8 fencing club commenced in the sports hall on Wednesday, October 18th. The students are fortunate to receive coaching from the renowned Jonny Davis of NI Fencing. Jonny has represented Great Britain in fencing at the 1988 Seoul and 1992 Barcelona Olympics, and served as the Team GB Fencing Team Manager at the 2020 Tokyo Olympics. He has competed internationally more than 100 times and has earned three Commonwealth Medals for Northern Ireland. The students have really enjoyed their weekly sessions!

WATER WARRIORS

Recently, 30 Year 8 pupils from our Science club and Eco schools groups attended Water Warriors in the Strule Arts Centre, organized by the Loughs Agency. Pupils enjoyed learning about protecting our local environment and had fun with some great experiments. Some even made it onstage!



WELL DONE SOPHIE!

We extend our congratulations to Sophie, a Year 8 pupil, for being placed third in the post-primary school poster design competition organized by the Community Relations Council. Omagh Academy submitted several impressive entries, and Sophie was awarded an Amazon voucher for her outstanding achievement.

LUNCHTIME CLUBS

Monday- Eco Schools
Tuesday- Junior Choir and GrassRoots
Wednesday- Games Club
Friday- Junior SU/ Science Club



PRIZE DAY 2023

Our annual prize day took place on Wednesday 21st September, a day in which we were able to meet together and celebrate the success of our pupils. It was lovely to welcome back Mr. McBain (former Principal) and Mrs. McBain as they supported our guest speaker - their daughter, Professor Catherine McBain. The speeches provided opportunities to congratulate pupils and their families, publicly thank the staff for their commitment and diligence, comment on Omagh Academy's place within the education sector and to acknowledge the vast range of extra-curricular activities provided for the students. Well done to all for great achievements in 2022-23. We were also delighted to accept a new award which was donated by Mrs. K Clarke, who recently retired as Head of ICT. We look forward with excitement to the year ahead!



We are delighted to introduce the senior pupil team for 2023/24.

Congratulations to Head Boy, Oliver, and Head Girl, Sarah. They will be supported by Deputy Head Girls Erin and Eve, and Deputy Head Boys Jack and Joel.

We look forward to working alongside you all, plus the members of the Prefect Team. Best wishes for a great year ahead!

SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM 23/24



SCHOOL FORMAL

On October 20th, our sixth form pupils dazzled in their formal attire. The formal committee did an exceptional job organizing the event, and we couldn't be more proud of them. We want to extend our gratitude to Corick House for providing an outstanding meal. A special thanks to Emily for the fabulous decorations that made the event even more special.





2023 CORONATION YEAR SCHOOLS BIBLE PROJECT

Teoma and Ellie recently had a tour of Westminster Abbey as part of their prize for being overall winners in the 2023 Coronation Year Schools Bible Project.

Both girls, their parents and Mrs Beacom from the Religious Studies Department had their travel expenses paid to attend the prize giving ceremony at Mary Sumner House.

They received their prizes from Harry Spencer Smith (Trustee) and Joanna Bogle (Chairperson).

Congratulations girls! What an achievement to have your essay writing skills recognised at UK level.



THANK YOU!

Year 13 & 14 'SEAG Pupil Guides' were treated to a pizza lunch recently, as a token of appreciation for the care and guidance that they provided to visiting Year 7 pupils at the Familiarisation and Assessment mornings. Thank you, everyone! We hope the Year 7 pupils are enjoying a well earned rest this week!



BRITISH COUNCIL COP28

Four Year 13 geographers travelled to Belfast City Hall in November, to participate in the British Council COP28 simulation event. During the event, they gained valuable insight into the complexities of negotiating a climate deal involving multiple countries and stakeholders. The girls, who represented Japan and Canada, performed admirably and gained invaluable experience. Congratulations to them on a job well done!



ROTARY IRELAND



In the beginning of November, eight students from our A level programme participated in Stage 1 of the Rotary Ireland Youth Leadership Development Competition. This event provides a remarkable opportunity for young individuals to enhance their personal development, communication, and team-building skills, and to gain proficiency in public speaking and debate. We congratulate all students for their exceptional performance, and extend special recognition to Jessica Elise, who emerged as the winner from our school and will proceed to Round 2. We extend our gratitude to Omagh Rotarians, Iris Hanking and John Campbell, for conducting the interviews.

YEAR 14 INTERVIEW SKILLS DAY

Our Year 14s were dressed to impress during an Interview Skills Day in November. The day began with workshops led by Pat Jamison from Sentinus in which pupils focused on interview preparation.

Pupils then had the opportunity to practise their interview skills as they took part in mock interviews with local employers and careers advisors. It was great to see out past pupils returning to school to give timely advice to our pupils.

Thanks to all who conducted interviews:

Laura White (Irwin M+E)
Peter Alcorn (McAdam Design)
Brian McElroy (Terex)
Jennifer Kilpatrick (Careers Service)
Amy McWilliams and Meghane Browne (Health Trust)
Alan Johnston (CAFRE)
Mr Hunter and Mr Hamilton

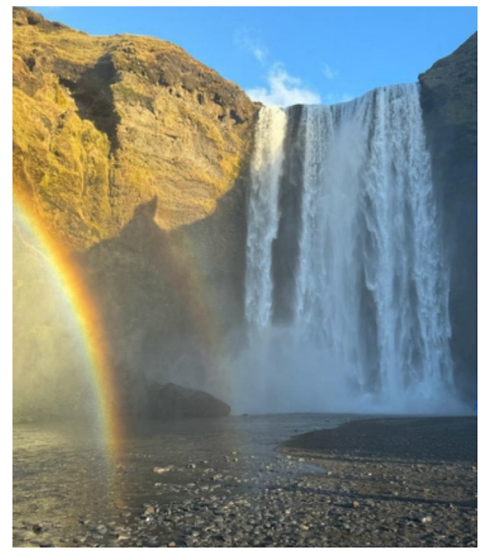


COOKERY DEMONSTRATION



The Home Economics Department were recently delighted to welcome Patricia Mitchell from the Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) to carry out a cookery demonstration for Year 12 Food and Nutrition pupils.

Whilst preparing and cooking 'Peppered Beef with mushrooms & pasta', pupils were educated about the work of the LMC, quality assurance, food safety and the nutritional benefits of Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured beef and lamb. Pupils got to taste the peppered beef dish at the end and they all reported that it was delicious! Thanks again to Patricia for her visit and to Mrs Braden for organising the event.



ICELAND GEOGRAPHY TRIP

Recently, 43 students and 5 teachers embarked on a thrilling Geography trip to Iceland. The Year 13 and 14 students gained insightful and hands-on experience with plate tectonics, coasts, and fluvial systems, which will be valuable for their upcoming exams in May. They also enjoyed breathtaking views of Reykjavik from the observation deck at the Perlan Centre, visiting the tallest building in Reykjavik, Hallgrímskirkja, and witnessing the Northern Lights. The trip also included visits to Skogafoss – an impressive 60-meter tall waterfall, black glaciers, other waterfalls, and lagoons.

We extend our gratitude to Mrs McKinney, Mrs Dalzell, Mrs McColgan, Miss Graham, and Mr Gillespie for making this an unforgettable trip for everyone involved.

BASIL BAYNE AGRICULTURE VISIT



Earlier this term, we had the pleasure of hosting Basil Bayne (Student Support Coordinator for Harper Adams in Ireland) for the presentation of the prestigious Harper Adams University Awards for Agriculture. The awards were presented to Lexi, the top GCSE student, and Kimi, the top A Level student. We're excited to announce that five of our A Level students, Allister, Ben, Charlie, Jessica, and Kimi, have enrolled in various Agriculture programs at Harper Adams University this year.



AGRICULTURE TRIP

Our Year 12-14 Agriculture students had an excellent time during their recent visit to the North Coast. The trip provided a wonderful opportunity to learn more about farming and food production, and everyone enjoyed themselves tremendously. We would like to extend a heartfelt thanks to our hosts who gave us a tour of their farms!

GRASSROOTS AGRICULTURE CLUB

This term has been a busy one for our Agriculture Club. We've had the privilege of hosting several experts in the field of farming. These include YFCU Vice President, Shannan Vance, Sammy Hawe from Devenish Nutrition and Jonny and Natasha from Dukes' Icecream. We're thrilled with the turnout and the knowledge that was shared. Don't forget that our club runs every Tuesday at 1:20pm in the Lecture Theatre. We hope to see you there after the holidays!

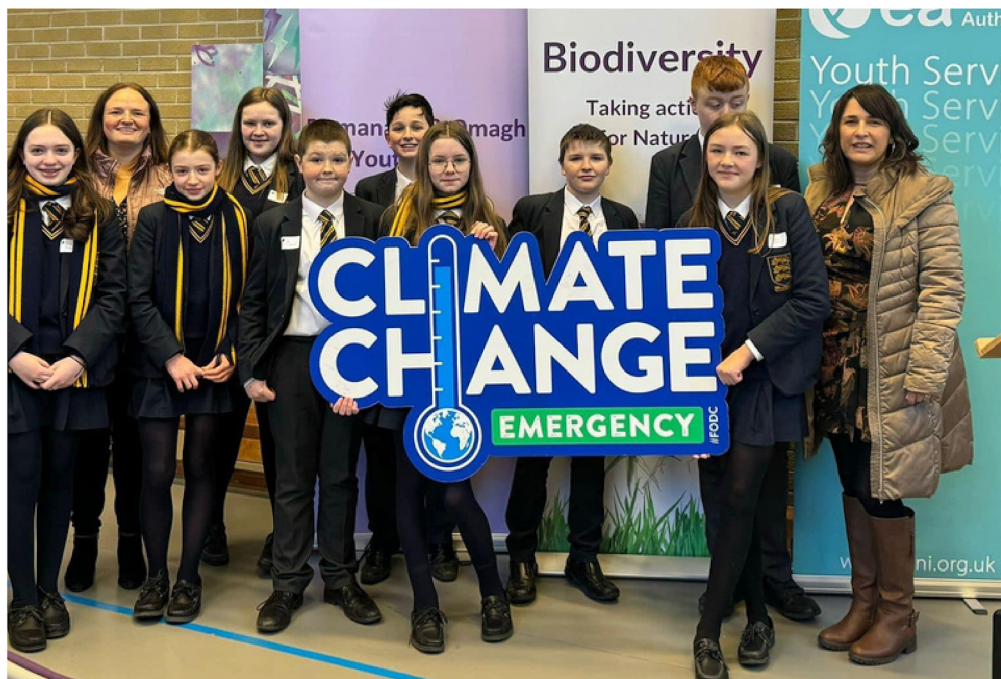


ECO SCHOOLS

The Eco Club has had a busy term. Meeting every Monday at lunchtime, we have had a great group of volunteers who have helped around our school grounds. From weeding the flowerbeds, picking up litter to planting bulbs, everyone has joined together to make our school look good. Bug hotels have also been built as well as restocking the bird feeders regularly.

Ten pupils from Eco-Schools had the opportunity to participate in the Climate Champions Day, which was held at Omagh Youth Centre in December. The event was coordinated by the Omagh and Fermanagh District Council. Four workshops were available to pupils, including a talk on saving the peatlands by Ulster Wildlife Trust, reducing plastic waste by Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, conserving water by NI Water, and bulb planting by Reece England, the Climate Officer from OFDC. Feedback from the pupils indicates that they thoroughly enjoyed the experience.

Thank you to staff & pupils for keeping our grounds and providing colour! A special thanks to Mrs McColgan and Mrs Miles for dedicating so much time and effort to Eco Schools Club.



ANTI BULLYING WEEK

Anti Bullying week took place in November and as part of this national awareness, our school community took part in a range of events in order to spread the vital message that 'Bullying is not banter'. Our events included Odd Socks Day in which pupils were encouraged to wear odd socks to celebrate each of our differences, as well as presentations delivered in assembly. Thanks to our School Council for their effort in producing and taking part in many of these activities.

SCHOOL COUNCIL

Our School Council representatives have had an action packed first term, meeting on a regular basis to discuss many important issues.

Our representatives were elected as a result of an election campaign in the month of September. Once elected, these members met and agreed on their roles, made preparations for Anti Bullying week as well as discussing plans for the year ahead. The council also organised a Christmas Hamper Appeal, with all items going to our local foodbank in Omagh. Every member in form class were encouraged to bring in one food item which was then put into a hamper. It was wonderful to see each class involved and helping to make a difference in our community.

This week, the members enjoyed a well earned brunch at Bob&Berts. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all! We must thank our representatives for all their effort and work so far this term. Your work has been so much appreciated!



JOIN THE REFILLATION!



In September, pupils all received a reusable water bottle from NI Water. We thank Emily and Zach who helped to deliver a presentation to form classes on the importance of cutting down on plastic waste and reusing water bottles.

YEAR 9 RIVER STUDY



Year 9 attended a field trip to Gortatole Outdoor Learning Centre in October. They spent the day conducting a river study in their groups and learning about the landscape from the instructors. The day was great fun for all, and we are proud of how our pupils conducted themselves on the trip.



FOYLE AND CARLINGFORD AMBASSADOR PROGRAMME

Congratulations to several of our Year 10 pupils', who were recent graduates of the Foyle & Carlingford ambassador programme.

During the programme, our ambassadors studied topics including marine biodiversity, sustainability, and took part in coastal clean-ups!

BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP



Our Year 14 Biology pupils recently went to Magilligan Field Centre and beach in order to take part in field work sampling. The pupils did a great job of collecting data, the weather was great and everyone enjoyed seeing succession in real life. A great trip had by all!

GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH TRAINING

Well done to our Gold DofE pupils who recently completed an expedition at Gortatole. Topics covered, included First Aid, Route Cards, time on the climbing wall as well as navigation skills and tent building. A great group of climbers!



SOROPTOMIST COMPETITION



The Soroptomists' Public Speaking Competition, held at The Silverbirch Hotel on Wednesday, November 15th, featured five senior pupils - Lena, Teoma, Alanna, Sophie, and Kathy. The participants delivered speeches on the topics of social media and gender inequality.

Congratulations to Lena for securing the first-place position, with Teoma finishing a close second. Lena's success qualifies her for the regional final in February at Hillsborough. A round of applause is also due to all the participants for their commendable effort.

SCHOOL DIARY COMPETITION



Towards the end of last year, the school council arranged a competition for designing the front cover of the new school diary. We're delighted to announce that Hannah, a student in year 14, won the competition with her outstanding design. Additionally, Teoma's submission earned her the runner-up position, and Sara's submission earned her a commendation award. Congratulations to all the talented girls!

JUNIOR DRAMA COMPETITION



Our Year 8 students recently participated in a Junior Drama competition in the last week of term and we couldn't be prouder of their performances. The students showcased a range of choral speaking talents to a panel of judges that included the senior prefect team. We would like to extend our congratulations to 8B, the proud winners of the competition with their outstanding performance, "The Day I Fell Down the Toilet". We would also like to recognize Cody for his exceptional acting skills, as he was awarded the prize for Best Actor. Well done to all our budding actors!

CHEMISTRY TRIP TO QUB



Year 11 and 14 students attended the "At Work" show in the Whitla Hall at QUB recently. The event provided a platform for students to engage with various organizations that utilize Chemistry and hire Chemists. A great day was had by all.



MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE

In December, 8 Year 8 pupils represented their year group at a youth-led conference on mental health. The conference, which took place at Omagh Youth Centre, was attended by Year 8 representatives from schools across the Omagh Learning Community. During the course of the day, pupils took part in a series of workshops and heard presentations. We are delighted that Youth Service members and OA senior pupils Courtney, Ella, Megan, Rebecca, and Lydia were among the young people who devised and delivered the workshops on the day. Well done to all of the Youth Service members and their leaders for an interactive and informative event!

POLITICS VISIT TO STORMONT

Recently, our Year 13 and 14 Politics students were given the opportunity to visit Stormont's Parliament Buildings. During their time there, they had the chance to meet with a committee clerk, question some MLAs, and take a tour of the building, including the chamber.



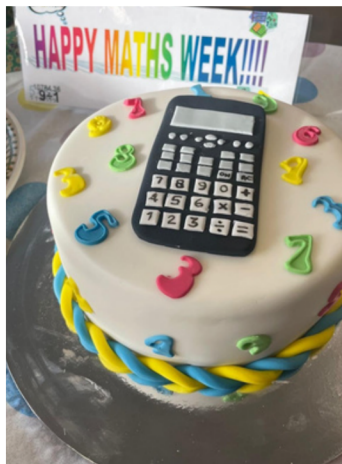
HEALTH&SOCIAL CARE VISIT



Our Year 14 Health & Social Care students had the opportunity to listen to Donna Downey, Service Manager for Early Intervention from the WHSCT talk about family issues, Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) and service providers that support children and families. The Health and Social Care Department would like to thank Donna for coming in to speak with the students as she provided an invaluable insight into this topic, which forms a major part of their coursework.

MATHS WEEK

In November, students and faculty members came together to celebrate a week dedicated to all things math. The Mathematics Department collaborated with Y13 mathematics students to create exciting events, including maths bingo, competitions like 'Whose room is it anyway' or 'Sudoku', Y10 poster-making event with the theme "#iusemaths", Kahoot games, and staff were treated with delicious maths-themed baked goods! Congratulations to all pupils for their participation, and a special shoutout to Y13 mathematics students for their leadership and guidance. Well done, everyone!



MATHEMATICS CAREER TALK

On Friday 29th September, the Mathematics Department was delighted to have Dr Jamie Beacom in school to share the importance of mathematics and his journey with this subject. He also provided our senior mathematics pupils with an insight into some of the work he does today.

Dr Beacom is a Senior Mathematical Consultant with Smith Institute who are experts in optimisation, forecasting, artificial intelligence and algorithm auditing for business and governments. It was an absolute pleasure to welcome back Jamie who was a past pupil of Omagh Academy, and we wish him continued success with his career.



PRINTMAKING WORKSHOP

This term, our examination pupils had the opportunity to work with printmaking artist, Fionnuala McNicholl. Beautiful work was produced for their coursework units using the drypoint printing technique. A fantastic experience, thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Well done, everybody!



*Picture Michael Cusack
Mister Herald Newspapers.*

Congratulations to Ella Alexander, Rebecca Clarke, Daisy McCaffrey and Eleni Schizonikas who are amongst the top achieving candidates in NI. All 4 girls attained maximum marks in the CCEA Summer 2023 GCSE Art and Design examination. An outstanding achievement! Well Done!

Photograph courtesy of:
Tyronne Hearld

CCEA GCSE TOP CANDIDATES



Congratulations to past pupil, Lucy Young, exhibiting in the 'This is Art,' young artist competition, in conjunction with RTE and the Creative Ireland Programme. Lucy's work is currently on display in the RHA Gallery, Dublin.

Article: Belfast Telegraph, Sat 7th Oct



Congratulations to Catherine in Year 10 who was our overall winner for the 2023 School Christmas Card. Other prize winners include:

Year 8 - Elizabeth, Sophie and Millie

Year 9 - Zara and Megan

Year 10 - Layla and Emily.

Thank you everybody for your contributions and thanks to Mrs. Maxwell and Miss Faris for judging.

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION



JUNIOR SCRIPTURE UNION

We have had a busy first term in Junior SU with our pupils meeting every Friday at lunchtime. We have been so encouraged by the many pupils who faithfully attend SU every week. We have enjoyed games, quizzes, Bible studies, as well as an end of half-term trip to We are Vertigo in Belfast. We look forward to more fun in term two!



SENIOR SCRIPTURE UNION

This term has been an exciting one for Senior SU, where we met every Thursday during lunchtime to play games, enjoy some treats, and hear a message. September was all about getting to know our SU staff members, who shared their testimonies. Our committee members had the chance to share their experiences with God as well.

We also had the privilege of learning from a variety of speakers this term, including Sarah Emerson, Rev Jonathan Boyd, and Rev Andrew Lucas.

Recently, some of our members took part in the E3 carol service, providing music and singing throughout the event. It's also been heartening to see students attending our prayer meetings on Tuesdays during break time to pray for the needs of our school community.

On Tuesday, December 14th, we had our final SU meeting of 2021. James Maxwell shared the life-changing message of Christmas, and we enjoyed festive treats and a fun game of dingbats.

We appreciate all those pupils who come and support the work of SU every Thursday and we look forward to an action packed and exciting Term 2.





CELEBRATING 120 YEARS

As a school community, we gathered in St Columba's Church for a Service of Thanksgiving to mark our anniversary year.

It was a joyous afternoon of reminiscing, catching up with familiar faces & names and looking forward to the future.

We thank our invited guests who represented Omagh & Tyrone. It was also lovely to see our former principals Mr McBain & Mr Hill; Mrs Workman, daughter of former principal RA Simpson; plus family representatives of The Pinkerton Medal and the T Ross Henderson Trophy – thank you for coming! Colleagues past & present mingled with pupils, parents, friends and governors. The Alumni gathered from across the province and it was lovely to see former musicians back to join with choir & brass band!

The service was led by principal Mrs Maxwell; scripture readings were delivered by Mrs Busby & Mr Bingham; prayers for the community were said by Mr Hamilton & Miss Faris; prayers for our school were said by Sarah & Oliver. The history of the school was outlined in 4 stages and delivered by Mr Reilly, Chair of the Governors; Mrs Davidson, teaching staff; Cheryl Humes, Head Girl in 2005 and Luke Hanson, Head Boy in 2016.

The Music Department's role was significant and we thank the members of Brass Band for leading the congregational singing. Senior Choir performed powerful choral pieces and we acknowledge their hard work and diligence in preparation for this event. Thank you to Mr Fyffe for accompanying the choir & playing stunning cornet descants. Thank you to Mrs Bingham for preparing the musicians and creating & co-ordinating the service content.

After the service everyone enjoyed refreshments provided by Mrs O'Kane and her team, ably assisted by the prefects. We thank Rev Hare & congregation for use of their buildings. We also gratefully acknowledge the administrative support of Mrs Catterson, Mrs Busby, Mrs Managh, Mrs Roulston & Mr Fleming.

Mrs McColgan, alongside Alan and Jay from the local papers, ensured that plenty of photographic evidence & records exist. Thank you!

A few paragraphs do not do justice to this special occasion but it was an afternoon filled with memories and hope for the future. Thank you for supporting us.

Veritas Vincet.



SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE



William McDowell

In 1938 I was one of three boys chosen to greet the Duchess of Abercorn during the opening ceremony for the newly renovated Omagh Academy. I was a hardworking pupil and in 1939 I left the Academy to attend Queens University Belfast. I joined the RAF and was killed in 1941.

The Omagh Academy community came together for a Service of Remembrance that took place in November. During the service, the attendees had the opportunity to remember and reflect. The solemn reading of the Roll of Honour, the recitation of 'In Flanders' Fields', and the playing of The Last Post and Reveille, were all poignant reminders of the sacrifices made. The stories of four past pupils whose names are engraved on the memorial plaque were also shared.

This occasion served as a reminder that Omagh Academy is just one small part of a bigger story. After the service, attendees walked past a memorial stone adorned with a wreath and a gallery of school photographs, taking time to pause at a photo from 1937 that featured a teenage boy named William George McDowell. His story was shared, and the school is grateful for his legacy.

CHRISTMAS JOY

Our recent carol service at St. Columba's Church was a heartwarming display of community spirit and reflection. We are immensely grateful to everyone who made this event possible. The Senior Choir, Junior Choir, Chamber Choir, Brass Band, String Ensemble, Woodwind Ensemble, Guitarists & Pipers dedicated months of hard work and countless rehearsals, which paid off beautifully. We extend our heartfelt thanks to Mrs. Bingham, Mr. Fyffe and the instrumental tutors who worked tirelessly behind the scenes to provide great music and opportunities. We also appreciate the efforts of Miss Faris, the catering team, our readers, the PowerPoint operator, the congregation of St. Columba's, and our family and friends who supported us.





YOU'RE A GOOD MAN CHARLIE BROWN!

Happiness is...

In October, the Music Department of our school staged the classical musical production 'You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown' at Strule Arts. Our talented students delivered a memorable performance filled with both humorous and romantic moments, as well as catchy tunes that kept the audience entertained. The show provided a glimpse into the characters' daily lives, exploring themes such as homework, friendship, food, and school. Our cast demonstrated immense talent, making the evening a delightful mix of comedy, romance, heartbreak, and fantastic music. We extend our gratitude to Mrs. Bingham and Mr. Fyffe for their invaluable contributions.



AIR AMBULANCE DONATION

The Music Department were delighted to meet with Damien from Air Ambulance NI and hand over a cheque for £550, which was raised through the sale of raffle tickets during the interval of 'You're a good man, Charlie Brown'. Thank you to all businesses who contributed prizes for our raffle- we are delighted that we can continue to support the work on AANI.

Omagh Academy Music Department
presents

Spring Sounds!

Thursday 7th March 2024
2pm & 7.30pm

Strule Arts Centre, Omagh

Tickets:
2pm = £10
7.30pm = £15

**TICKETS NOW OUT FOR OUR
SPRING SERENADE- BOOK NOW!**



YOUNG ENTERPRISE



Year 13 pupils in "Brain It On," this year's Young Enterprise company, have whipped up a whirlwind of activity during their first fortnight of trading. The company's book "The Cogni-Coach" is designed to strengthen readers' minds through engagement with a series of activities, advice, puzzles and even a tailor-made music playlist! Record sales were achieved at the Omagh County Primary Christmas Fair. Sales were equally impressive at the Big Market competition in St. George's Market, Belfast. Competing against schools from across Northern Ireland, "Brain It On" were awarded one of two runners-up places after the rigorous judging process was completed. This is a brilliant and well-deserved start for an energetic, creative and committed company. Bring it on and "Brain It On!"



GAMES CLUB

Our Games Club on a Wednesday continues to be a hive of activity as pupils from Year 8-10 gather for board games and challenges. Lots of laughs and a strong competitive spirit!



EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

In September, the Modern Languages Department celebrated European Day of Languages which got off to a delicious start with Year 10's Taste Fest of foreign desserts. These pupils took the biscuit with a scrumptious array of sweet treats from Brazil, China, Italy, Spain, France, Germany, Greece, Australia...the list goes on. What efforts they made to research online recipes, buy ingredients and prepare their chosen delights...we are so proud of you!



POEM WINNERS

Congratulations to Jonathan, Kyle and Danny who won the French and Spanish competition finals to wrap up a fun filled week celebrating European Day of Languages. We are so proud of you!

FRENCH ASSISTANT

Introducing our new French Assistant: Maissane...we are delighted to welcome you to our school!

Maissane gives conversation classes to our Year 13 and 14 pupils and team-teaches in year 8-12 classes.

Best wishes for a great year!



GCSE TRIP TO BARCELONA

At the beginning of October, a group of enthusiastic Spanish students embarked on a memorable journey to the North East of Spain. Our adventure began in the stunning city of Barcelona, where we had an aerial view of the city by taking a cable car from the mountain down to the sea. After touring the Camp Nou stadium and some shopping, we made our way to the charming hotel Calypso. Throughout our trip, we explored a monastery located in the mountainous region of Prades, took part in interactive lessons run by the Estudium Academy in Salou, bicycled as a group from Cambrils to Salou, enjoyed Port Aventura's thrilling rides, and even got to swim in the sea! It was a trip filled with laughter, fun and excitement, and a great way to celebrate four years of learning Spanish. Our heartfelt thanks to the accompanying teachers, Mr Suarez, Mrs Henderson, Mrs Maréchaux and Mr Crozier, for making the trip a success.



HOCKEY

Keep up to date with all our fixtures, results and other news on our Facebook page!



HOCKEY COMMITTEE 23/24

Captain - Eve Duff
Vice Captain - Sophie Egerton
Head of Committee - Erin McFarland
Secretary - Sarah Fair & Daisy McCaffrey
Treasurer - Hannah Short & Katie Ritchie
PRO - Brooklyn Baird & Ruby Hood



GIBSON CUP



Last year's Head Girl, Jessica Rennie, is currently playing hockey for Loughborough University- Well done Jessica!



The 1stXI recently played Portadown College in the 3rd round of the Senior Schools Cup and it was lovely to have past pupil Amy McFarland to come and support the girls.



JUNIOR CUP

HOCKEY SPONSORSHIP



Our 1st XI and 2nd XI hockey teams were recently presented with their new Kukri hockey shirts for the season. We are so appreciative of JK Coaches (represented by Shauna McElhone) and Kathryn Watterson from Wattersons Omagh for their continued sponsorship of the 1st XI and 2nd XI.

RUGBY

The school rugby season is well underway, with several games already played and some impressive performances to boot. Please follow our Facebook page for all info on fixtures as well as results!



YEAR 8

The U12s travelled to Royal School Armagh for their first away games recently. The Lions won 10-6 and The Cheetahs lost 4-3. Everyone played really well but there were 4 stand out performers across the 2 teams: Hugo Boyd & Seth Rainey for the Lions & Corey McCartan & Johnson Keys for the Cheetahs. Well done to both teams & thanks to those who travelled to support.



Recently, we had 3 girls team representing Omagh Academy at the Ulster Schools 7s tournament at Omagh Accies RFC. The game is still relatively new to a large number of the girls but the standard of rugby in display was excellent. We are sure the Ulster Rugby Talent staff will have had their eyes on a few OA players today!

Results

Junior team 1 won 1 all 4 of their games, Junior team 2 won 2 & lost 2, Senior team won 1 & lost 3. Thanks to Mrs Buchanan, Mr McGuigan & Mr Brady for helping with the teams.

REPRESENTATIVE HONOURS



Congratulations to Harry McIlwaine who represented Ulster during the Summer and was presented with his jersey on a Friday night in November, before the Ulster v Lions match at The Kingspan Stadium, Ravenhill.



Congratulations to Sam Harper and Lewis McIvor who recently represented Ulster U17s against New South Wales Raptors, Australia.

A 15-14 win for Ulster, with Lewis scoring Ulsters third try. Great work guys!

RUGBY SPONSORSHIP

We thank J&K buses, Burnhead Rural and Lagan Adventures for the continued support of our rugby teams!

CANADA 2025

Preparations are ongoing for the 2025 Canada Rugby Tour. A number of fundraising activities have been planned over the next year which we look forward to! We thank everyone in advance for the support.

FOOTBALL



Recently, the under 18 footballers played in the first round of the plate competition against St Kevins, Lisnaskea. The boys played well and ran out 4-0 - winners. Goals were scored by Brendan Quinn, Harvey King, Daniel McFarland, and James Mills. They now play Portadown College in round two.



Follow Omagh Academy Physical Education page for all updates!

The Omagh Academy girls team represented the school on Monday, at the FWSFA 7 a side year 9/10/11 Cup. The girls played five group games, winning two and drawing three. They progressed to the semi finals and played brilliantly against St Kevin's, Lisnaskea, having multiple opportunities to score. They failed to do so and lost narrowly on penalties. Congratulations to the girls and their great performance, particularly in managing to not concede a single goal in open play in the tournament.L



PUPIL SUCCESS



Well done to Dylan D and Daniel B who this weekend travelled to Scotland for trial matches arranged by InMotion UK Sports Agency. The selected team played against Livingston FC and Partick Thistle FC. Both boys played 2 full games and Daniel got on the scoresheet!

FOOTBALL SPONSORSHIP

Our football teams are delighted to have received recent sponsorship from 2 local businesses Firstly thanks to Niall McCullagh, Owner of Glendale and Campsie Filling Stations, for his generous donation of 40 footballs. The football teams are making fantastic use of these during training and when warming up before their cup games.

Bob and Berts have generously sponsored a new football kit for our junior and senior teams! Thanks to past pupil Sian Shiels from Bob and Berts for presenting kits to Harry and Jack, accompanied by coaches Mr Suarez, Mr McCrossan and Mr Dickson.

The school and teams really appreciate your support.





SANTA FUN RUN

Our annual charity Santa Fun Run was a success, with participants enjoying the great weather and a fun-filled day. We want to thank everyone who assisted in organizing the whole school festive event and for contributing to our charities. We will share the total amount raised, including all our other fun activities, on our Facebook pages. Special thanks go to the Sports Committee and Mrs. Buchanan for their outstanding organization and support!



SHOW JUMPING



Well done to Ted and Katie Gibson who earlier in the term, competed in the Interprovincial tournament in Limerick in Ulster. Ted was the winner of the 1m class and 1.10 class. Katie was part of the Ulster team who were winners of the children on horses.



Well done to Zoe Keys who was recently competing in the Pony World Cup in Herning, Denmark. She won 1st on Elvis and 2nd place on Winnie in two different competitions. She finished off a great week with an 8th place in the 1.30m Grand Prix. Super results Zoe!



Well done to all our pupils who recently took part in Omagh High School's show at Ecclesville. We had over 25 pupils competing in Academy colours, with everyone jumping super rounds.

