

2024-2025

# SPORTS YEARBOOK



Inspire Empower Achieve



# CAPTAINS OF RUGBY

1974-75 R.E. Murray  
1975-76 D.J. McCallum  
1976-77 J.A. S. Kidger  
1977-78 D.J. McCallum  
1978-79 J. Ferguson  
1979-80 D. S. S. S.

1975-76 W.V. Denehy  
1976-77 G. Graham  
1977-78 D.A. S. S.  
1978-79 J. Ferguson  
1979-80 D. S. S. S.

# Rugby 1st XV Report

The 2024/25 season will be remembered as a year of growth, resilience, and development for a young and spirited 1st XV squad. With only a small group of Upper Sixth players available, the team leaned heavily on its younger members, many of whom were experiencing senior rugby for the first time. Despite the challenges, the squad showed immense character, steadily improving throughout the season and laying strong foundations for the future.

The team was once again led by Mr Hunter and Mr Mitchell, with Mr Brady and Mr Keys providing invaluable assistance on matchdays—rain or shine, midweek or Saturday morning. Their dedication did not go unnoticed, and the players greatly appreciated their presence and encouragement throughout the campaign.

Philip Crawford was entrusted with the captaincy. His leadership on the pitch was excellent, setting high standards and delivering numerous inspirational performances that lifted those around him.

Pre-season began in mid-August, with a clear focus on integrating the new Year 12 players into the senior setup. Though raw and inexperienced, this group brought energy and enthusiasm in abundance. Training sessions were intense and purposeful, with senior players mentoring the newcomers and helping them adapt to the demands of senior rugby.



Squad numbers were impressive, allowing the school to field a 3rd XV in the 3rd XV Cup—a significant achievement. Even more remarkably, for the first time since the 1990s, three senior teams took to the field on the same Saturday, a testament to the growing strength and depth of rugby at the school. With numbers looking even stronger for 2025/26, the possibility of a 4th XV is now within reach.

The season kicked off with a festival of rugby at Campsie against ERGS. The junior teams played first, setting the tone for the day, before the senior teams took to the field. The 3rd XV recorded an impressive win, but both the 1st and 2nd XVs fell to defeat, highlighting the work still to be done.

A tough run of fixtures followed, with heavy defeats away to Down High (47–7), Coleraine GS (46–3), and Banbridge Academy (28–12). While the scorelines were harsh, they didn't reflect the competitiveness of the matches. The young Omagh side often matched their opponents in skill and spirit but struggled physically in the latter stages, where size and experience told.

A turning point came with a hard-fought 18–14 victory over RSD. Tries from Ryan Mitchell, Charlie Farrell, and James Millar, along with a crucial penalty from Jack Adams, secured a morale-boosting win. The performance was full of grit and determination and gave the squad a much-needed lift.

Momentum was hard to maintain, however, as fixtures against Friends and Antrim were cancelled due to poor weather. The opening game of the Schools' Cup group stage saw Omagh host a powerful Dalriada side.

Despite a valiant effort, the visitors' physicality proved too much, and Omagh fell to a 42–7 defeat, with Harry McIlwaine and Sam Harper getting on the scoresheet.

The next group game was a local derby away to RS Dungannon—the only team Omagh had beaten to date. In what was arguably the game of the season, Sam Harper delivered a masterclass at scrum half, controlling the tempo and kicking the decisive points in another 18–14 win.

This was followed by a low-scoring 8–3 win over Limavady Grammar at Campsie, with Eoin McCusker and Sam Harper again among the scorers. The team was beginning to find its rhythm, but once again the weather and this time Storm Bert brought disruption, wiping out fixtures against Wallace HS, Foyle, and Rainey.

After nearly a month without a game, the 1st XV returned to action against Friends School Lisburn, narrowly losing 19–13 in a closely contested match. The final group game against Banbridge Academy was a must-win to secure second place. Omagh started brightly, took an early lead, and dominated the opening stages. However, a crucial intercept try against the run of play turned the tide. Fatigue set in, and Banbridge capitalised, eventually pulling away to win 28–3.

The final game before Christmas saw a depleted Omagh side travel to ERGS, where the hosts, enjoying a strong season, recorded a convincing 43–7 win.

The Christmas break came at a welcome time. Despite the setbacks, the squad had grown significantly in skill, tactical awareness, and cohesion. The younger players had matured, and the team was beginning to gel.

Unfortunately, January's cold snap meant further cancellations, with games against Portadown, Larne, and BRA all falling victim to frozen or flooded pitches. The next outing was a Schools' Bowl clash against Bangor Academy, and despite the long layoff, Omagh produced their best performance of the season, winning 36–7. Harry McIlwaine scored a superb hat-trick, Ryan Mitchell added two tries, and Lewis McIvor capped a fine display with a well-deserved score. Sam Harper converted three of the tries.

This win set up a quarter-final showdown with RSD, a team Omagh had already beaten twice. Confidence was high, but the squad knew a third win would be no easy task. In a thrilling and well-supported match, RSD raced into a 14–0 lead, but Omagh fought back with tries from Ryan Mitchell, Lewis McIvor, and Jack Adams to take a 20–14 lead. However, a late surge from RSD saw them score three unanswered tries, snatching victory and bringing Omagh's season to a close.

Though the season ended in disappointment, the final whistle brought a moment of reflection and celebration. Families of the Year 14 players were welcomed onto the pitch for a photo with their sons—a fitting tribute to a group who have given so much to school rugby over the past seven years. These young men leave behind a legacy of dedication, resilience, and camaraderie. They've experienced the highs of victory and the lows of defeat, learned to cope with injuries, selection challenges, and setbacks, and have emerged as confident, capable young adults. Most importantly, they've forged friendships for life through the shared experience of school rugby.

We thank them for their commitment and wish them every success in the future—whether continuing their rugby journey at university or with their local clubs.

As we reflect on the 2024/25 season, it's clear that this was a year defined by challenge, growth, and resilience. As highlighted earlier in the report, the squad entered the season with a significant lack of senior experience, fielding just six Year 14 players across the entire senior setup. This imbalance often left us physically outmatched against more seasoned opposition, particularly in the latter stages of games.

Yet, despite these hurdles, the season stands as a testament to the character, commitment, and perseverance of this group. Week after week, the players showed up with determination, a willingness to learn, and a desire to improve. Their development—both individually and collectively—has been clear to see, and the coaching staff could not be prouder of the progress made.

These young men leave behind a legacy of dedication, resilience, and camaraderie. They've experienced the highs of victory and the lows of defeat, learned to cope with injuries, selection challenges, and setbacks, and have emerged as confident, capable young adults. Most importantly, they've forged friendships for life through the shared experience of school rugby.

Looking ahead, the future holds an exciting opportunity for many of these players as they prepare for the Canada Tour following the summer exams. This promises to be a once-in-a-lifetime experience, offering the chance to explore Toronto and Niagara Falls, meet new people, face fresh rugby challenges, and most importantly, create memories that will last a lifetime. It will be a fitting reward for their efforts this season and a valuable step in their rugby and personal development journeys. On behalf of the entire squad, I would like to extend our heartfelt thanks to all those who have supported us throughout the year.

To the parents, families, and friends who have travelled across the province—often in difficult weather—to cheer on the team: your presence on the sidelines has meant the world to the players. Your encouragement, lifts to training, and unwavering support have been vital to the spirit and success of this group. Thank you for being part of the journey.

**A special word of thanks to our Senior Rugby Sponsors, J&K Coaches and Lagan Adventures. Your generous support has helped provide opportunities and experiences that enrich the rugby programme and allow our players to thrive. We are incredibly grateful for your backing. Finally, to our coaching team—Mr Mitchell, Mr Brady, Mr Keys, and all others involved across the senior and junior squads—thank you for your tireless dedication. The hours spent planning sessions, analysing performances, and mentoring players do not go unnoticed.**





# 1<sup>ST</sup> XV



## 2<sup>ND</sup> XV

# Rugby 2nd XV Report

**The 2024/25 season was one of growth, resilience, and reward for the Omagh Academy 2nd XV. Under the steady leadership of Captain Luke Livingstone, the team overcame early setbacks to build a strong and memorable campaign.**

The season began with tough fixtures against Enniskillen Royal Grammar School (ERGS) and Down High School. Despite defeats, the team showed attacking promise with tries from Luke Livingstone, Innes Sheridan, Ewan Fegan, and Thomas Callion. Momentum shifted with a commanding 34–12 win over Banbridge, which marked a turning point in the season. The team played with confidence and cohesion, scoring six tries. Adam McClintock scored twice, with further tries from Crosbie, Rennie, Harkness, and Edgar. The team carried this momentum into back-to-back victories over Strabane Academy and Royal School Dungannon (RSD), showcasing growing maturity and team chemistry. This winning run prepared the team for their 2nd XV schools cup run.

In the first round of the Cup, Omagh progressed automatically after Lurgan College conceded, giving the team a boost heading into the next stage. The team continued their winning streak with a 29–0 victory over Limavady in preparation for their second cup game. Returning from injury, Sami Braden made a big impact with two tries, while Harry Woods, Andrew Pinkerton, Euan Hamilton, Joshua McKernan, and Lewis Chambers also crossed the line in a commanding performance. However, the winning run came to an end in a tightly contested second-round cup match; Omagh Academy fell just short against Friends School, losing 12–8. Jacob Crosbie scored the team's only try, with Ethan Duncan adding a penalty. Despite the result, the team showed great heart and energy, but in the key moments, the inexperience of the young side cost them when they failed to take a number of try-scoring opportunities.

Omagh turned their attention to the subsidiary 2nd XV Schools Trophy where they hoped to have a strong run. They bounced back in style from their cup disappointment when they delivered a dominant 38–14 victory over Antrim in the Subsidiary Trophy at home. The performance was a showcase of attacking rugby, with the team playing with freedom, precision, and intensity. In the next round of the Subsidiary Trophy, Omagh Academy suffered a disappointing 10–7 loss to Dromore High School. Braden scored the team's only try and added the conversion, but the performance lacked the sharpness and cohesion seen in earlier rounds. It was a frustrating end to a promising cup run.

The 2024/25 season was a journey of resilience, growth, and team spirit for Omagh Academy 2nd XV. From early setbacks to a string of impressive victories, the squad demonstrated their ability to learn, adapt, and compete with pride. Under the leadership of Captain Luke Livingstone, the team produced standout performances, including a dominant win over Banbridge, a clean sheet against Limavady, and a strong showing in the Subsidiary Trophy. While narrow defeats to Friends and Dromore brought disappointment, they also highlighted the fine margins of competitive school rugby. With a core of talented, young players and a clear sense of identity, the team can look back on the season with pride and forward to the future with confidence.

# Rugby 3rd XV Report

The 2024/25 season once again saw Omagh Academy being able to fill a 3rd XV. The difference this year, it wasn't just a midweek team.

The U16 squad, forming the backbone of the 3rd XV, had a busy and highly successful campaign, competing in both the U16 Trophy and the 3rd XV Cup, gaining invaluable experience and producing some outstanding performances along the way.

## A Historic Start

The season began with a moment of history as three senior teams took to the field on the same Saturday for the first time since the 90's, with the 3rd XV opening their campaign against ERGS. In a competitive and physical encounter, the young Omagh side showed great composure and teamwork to secure a 17–10 victory. Tries from Oliver Vezer, Jake Fleming, and Ethan Duncan set the tone for what would be a memorable season.



## U16 Trophy Campaign

The U16s then turned their attention to the U16 Trophy, beginning with a dominant 34–14 win over Limavady Grammar at Campsie. The team played with flair and structure, with Ethan Duncan, Oliver Vezer, and Lewis McIvor all crossing the whitewash.

Next came a challenging away trip to Bangor Academy, but the squad rose to the occasion with a resounding 43–14 victory. It was a complete team performance, with tries from McIvor, Joshua Orr, Andrew Pinkerton, Ethan Duncan, and Isaac Crawford. The result secured a place in the Trophy Final, an excellent achievement for a young and developing side.

The final, played at Royal School Armagh, was a tense and nervy affair against Antrim Grammar School. Missing several key players through illness and injury, the squad had to dig deep. In a game defined by grit and determination, Omagh edged a 10–6 win, with Crawford and Duncan again providing the decisive scores. It was a fitting reward for the team's hard work and resilience throughout the competition.



**FRU**  
**SPORTS**



### 3rd XV Cup Journey

With the Trophy secured, attention returned to the 3rd XV Cup, where the squad continued to impress. A 29–7 win over Regent House at home showcased the team's attacking depth, with tries from Thomas Callion, Kaiden Harkness, Alex Mitchell, Oliver Vezer, and Samuel Cochrane.

In the next round, the 3rd XV faced a formidable Methode side. In what was one of the best games of the season, Omagh pushed their opponents all the way before narrowly losing 17–10. Tries from Harkness and Vezer highlighted the team's continued attacking threat and fighting spirit.

The squad then entered the 3rd XV Plate, drawing Ballymena Academy, one of the competition favourites. Despite a valiant effort, Omagh were outmuscled and outpaced, falling to a 36–0 defeat. While the result was disappointing, the experience of playing against such high-calibre opposition was invaluable for the players' development.

### A Season to Remember

This season has been about more than just results. It has been about growth, opportunity, and enjoyment. The U16 squad has shown tremendous progress, both individually and as a team. They have developed their skills, built strong friendships, and gained experience that will serve them well as they move into the senior ranks.



**Medallion XV**



**U14 XV**



**U13 XV**



**U12 XV**

# Rugby U12 Report

The U12 rugby squad enjoyed a fantastic and formative season, with over 37 enthusiastic players taking part—many of whom were completely new to the game. With such a large and diverse group, the early part of the season focused on building confidence, especially around tackle technique and safety, while ensuring that fun remained at the heart of every session.

The first competitive outing saw the teams travel to ERGS. It was a day of tight contests and great learning:

- Sharks edged a thrilling match 7–6, with Alfie Wilson putting in a standout defensive performance.
- Rhinos narrowly lost 10–8 in a spirited display.
- Cheetahs were also unlucky, falling 14–12 in a game that could have gone either way.

Despite the results, the experience was overwhelmingly positive, with all players showing courage and commitment.

Next up was a blitz tournament at Rainey, featuring teams from Rainey, Coleraine, ERGS, and Omagh. The boys played some brilliant rugby, scoring plenty of tries, making awesome tackles, and—most importantly—having a lot of fun. The event was a great showcase of how far the teams had come in such a short time.



January was unfortunately a washout due to poor weather, but the boys returned to action in February with a long trip to Down High:

- The Sharks delivered a commanding performance to secure a strong win.
- The Rhinos battled hard but were edged out by two scores.

Next up, a wet afternoon at Foyle College didn't dampen spirits, as both the Sharks and Rhinos recorded big wins, showing their growing confidence and teamwork.

The season concluded with the prestigious Coleraine U12 Tournament, where the boys faced a tough group including ERGS, Methody, and the renowned Willow Park from Dublin. Despite narrow losses in all group games, the boys showed tremendous heart. In the playoff against Ballyclare HS, they were agonisingly beaten by a single score in the final play—a tough end, but one that highlighted their resilience and growth.

**Several players stood out across the season:**

- Alfie Wilson — A tackling machine and defensive rock.
- Alfie Kenwell — Controlled the game well from scrum half.
- William Hunter & Harry Aiken — Powerful ball carriers who consistently made ground.
- Robbie Harper — A hard-running centre who broke the line time and again.
- James Crawford & Will Hempton — Elusive backs who lit up the field with their running.

**This season was about more than just results—it was about development, enjoyment, and building a love for the game. The future looks bright for this talented and committed group of young players.**

Big thanks to coaches, Mr Hamilton, Mr Marechaux and Mr Gillis who were every reliable and passed on their knowledge with fun and engaging sessions.





## Representative Honours

A summer filled with rugby has become the norm for Harry McIlwaine and Sam Harper over the last few seasons. Roll on summer 2024 and both boys were once again covering the miles from Tyrone up to Rugby HQ in Belfast. A reward for their hard work, dedication and high performance levels for the school 1st XV.

With a full summer of training and a number of warm up games under their belts, both boys were retained for the InterPro squad and impressively, Harry was named as Captain. An unbelievable honour and one he and his family were immensely proud of, as were the rest of the school community.

The first two games saw Ulster produce excellent performances, beating Connacht and Munster setting up a winner takes all fixture against Leinster at The Energia Park, Dublin. Ulster led 15-14 until the final minutes of the game. Heartbreakingly, Leinster made a line break from their own half and scored following a number of pick and goes close to the Ulster line. The conversion was good and the final score read 21-15 to Leinster, clinching the Interpro series in the process.





A gut wrenching way to lose but Harry and Sam had a great experience, featuring in every game. The boys then transferred the experiences, skills and leadership qualities they gained from the summer programme into the school rugby programme on their return. They were role models to their peers and to the younger school rugby players. Fingers crossed, they can do it all again next season.

Lewis McIvor also had a full summer dedicated to rugby and regular trips to Belfast for training at Ulster U17 level. This squad does not play an interpro series but both boys donned the Ulster jersey for a game against an Australian touring side NSW Raptors. The Ulster squad won 15-14 with Lewis scoring the winning try.





7 Omagh Academy pupils involved with Ulster Age Grade Squads in Summer 25:

**U19 — Harry McIlwaine**

**U18 — Sam Harper & Lewis McIvor**

**U17 — Ryan Mitchell, Ashton Hassard & David Liggett**

**U16 — Isaac Crawford & Logan Cooke**

We wish them all well for their busy summer ahead.

We must also recognise the other players who attended the weekly RDS sessions in Magherafelt but unfortunately have not been selected for the Ulster squads on this occasion.

David Braden, Frankie Oliver, Logan Crosbie, Angus Callion & Charlie Wilson all represented the school at these sessions and will continue to be monitored by Ulster Rugby Staff as they progress in the next season.

**Special mention must go to Lewis McIvor whose performances this season and at the U16 squad selection blitz caught the eye of the Queens University Belfast selectors. Lewis was then selected as one of 15 'Future Stars' by QUB. A fantastic achievement. Well done Lewis.**



# School Rugby Captains

## Male

### **1st XV**

Captain: Philip Crawford  
Vice Captain: Harry McIlwaine

### **2<sup>nd</sup> XV**

Captain: Luke Livingston  
Vice Captain: Joshua McKernan

### **3<sup>rd</sup> XV**

Captain: Jacob Crosbie  
Vice Captain: Adam Keys

### **Med XV**

Captain: Isaac Crawford  
Vice Captain: David Liggett

### **U14 XV**

Captain: Harvey Edgar  
Vice Captain: Logan Crosbie

### **U13 XV**

Captain: Seth Rainey  
Vice Captain: Hugo Boyd

### **U12 XV**

Captain: Alfie Wilson

## Female

### **U18**

Elsie Boyd

### **U16**

Emily Irwin

### **U14**

Shannon Smyth



# Girls Rugby

The 2024/25 season continued to bear fruit from the work being done at Omagh Accies RFC and by the clubs CRO Darren McGuigan. Numbers continued to flourish and it paved the way for another successful year for Girls Rugby at the school. Training sessions were well attended and facilitated by Darren and Mrs Gibson.

Omagh Academy this year entered teams at U12, U14, U16 & U18 levels, participating in regional 7-a-side blitzes. All teams showcased their skills and competitiveness and were a match for nearly all the teams they came up against.

The U14, U16 & U18 squads all reached the provincial finals. The U18s had a tough draw up in Magherafelt but managed to come away with a well earned win against Sullivan for a 9th place finish.

The U16 squad continued their impressive run from the U14 age bracket last season. Putting out 2 teams in each regional blitz, we were the ONLY school to gain 2 team places in the Ulster Finals held at Cookstown. On the day both squads played some brilliant rugby. Team 2 had a tough draw and faced some big physical challenges in their group stages. Team 1 made it all the way to the final but had to settle for the runners up spot, losing out to ERGS in the final.

The mighty U14 team were the surprise package this year. With a couple of experienced players in Shannon Smyth and Sophie Scott and a mix of inexperience and positive naivety the girls threw caution to the wind and ran in try after try in all of their games. The girls made it to the final and in a nail biting 4 all draw, they were crowned ULSTER CHAMPIONS having scored the first try in the game. A wonderful achievement!





# Representative Honours



Well done to the following girls who all represented Ulster in their age grades this summer! We are so proud of you all.

U18  
Emily Irwin

U17  
Zara Wright  
Elsie Brown  
Charlotte Boyd  
Sophie Hamilton  
Shannon Smyth

U16  
Ava Fegan  
Olivia Kyle  
Nikki Campbell  
Jessica Brady  
Layla McCaffrey



# Hockey News



# Hockey Report

Omagh Academy players impressed with their dedication and success last season. With ten superb teams, some fantastic matches were played throughout the season, with the results testament to their commitment. The 1st XI, under the captaincy of Jazy McAskie, entered the Superleague last September with a successful win over Cambridge House. Matches against Antrim Grammar School and Foyle College followed, giving the girls determination to push for success in the Schools' Cup and the West of Ulster League. After a super win against Limavady Grammar School, the girls were motivated to strive for further success in the Senior Schools' Cup in November. The team impressed with their superb teamwork in the early rounds of the competition, enabling them to advance through the stages. The team played very well in the 3rd round of the Senior Cup against Banbridge Academy, who were tough opponents, leading them to secure a place in the Senior Shield competition. This opportunity again enabled our team to display their excellent skills and make the school community very proud. The squad immediately launched into preparation for the West of Ulster League, winning all their preliminary matches but narrowly missing out on clinching the title against Foyle College at the final hurdle.

Our junior hockey teams have also had an action-packed year, with regular practices sharpening up their skills. Seven hockey teams regularly turn out to face schools in fixtures throughout the province at U12, U13, U14, and senior school levels. We celebrate the determination of all our junior hockey players and look forward to watching them progress in the future.

In August, the U14s headed off to Dublin for their hockey tour. The group had an amazing time, kicking off with a masterclass training session at Lisnagarvey Hockey Club, followed by matches against St Andrew's College, Dublin. Congratulations go to Rebecca Bradley, who was selected to train and play on the Ulster U18 hockey squad.





**1 XI**



**2 XI**

# 2AXI Hockey Report

**The 2024/25 season marked a new chapter for Omagh Academy's 2AXI hockey team, as a fresh squad of talented players took to the field with high expectations for the season ahead. Hannah Kilfedder was selected as captain for this season. Under the guidance of the coaching staff (Mrs Dickson and Sophie) and the leadership of the senior players, the team approached the season with determination and optimism.**

The season opened with a friendly fixture against Cambridge House — a match that set the tone for the team's intent. With quick passing, strong defensive organisation, and confident play through the midfield, Omagh Academy took control of the game early on. The fresh squad gelled impressively, and goals came through well-worked team play, marking the first victory of the season. It was a statement performance, finishing 2-0 which boosted morale and confidence heading into the next games.

Following this, the team faced Antrim Grammar in another early-season friendly test. Though played under friendlier circumstances, the match was anything but casual, with both sides showing competitive edge. Omagh Academy demonstrated composure under pressure and continued to refine their set plays, particularly from penalty corners that were well revised with regular training. The squad began to show from the outset, how well they worked as a new team, showing hope for the season ahead!

As the friendly fixtures came to a close, focus turned to the West of Ulster League, beginning with a highly anticipated clash against Royal and Prior Raphoe. The match was fiercely contested, with neither side giving an inch. Omagh Academy showed grit and resilience, battling hard to keep control in midfield and build from the back. Though goals were difficult to come by, the team's defensive unit stood firm, securing a critical draw and keeping league ambitions alive. In the second quarter of the game, Omagh scored a great goal off a penalty corner, scored by Sophie Hamilton. Additionally, a series of goals were scored by Lara Pauley and Jodie Elliott. Attention soon turned to cup competition, as Omagh Academy entered the prestigious McDowell Cup. Their first-round opponents were a strong Royal School Armagh side, boasting pace and experience. Despite the challenge, Omagh Academy played some of their best hockey of the season in the latter stages of the game, after adjusting to Armagh's structure and plays, with intelligent pressing and creative attacking movement. The match was closely fought, and although Omagh went down narrowly, it was a performance that earned respect and left no doubt about their competitive potential. The narrow defeat meant the end of their McDowell Cup journey, but not the end of their silverware hopes.



**2B XI**



**3 XI**

# WEST OF ULSTER LEAGUE CUP



After an extraordinary 25 years of dominance, Omagh Academy's hold on the prestigious West of Ulster League Cup came to an end at Campsie, as Foyle College emerged victorious in a fiercely contested final.

The match was a showcase of skill, resilience, and passion, with both teams delivering a spectacle for the fantastic crowd that turned out to support them.

Captain Jazy McCaskie and Vice-Captain Daisy McCaffrey delivered heroic performances in their final game wearing Academy colours, leaving it all on the pitch and embodying the heart and spirit of the team. Every player on the squad contributed to a truly commendable effort, even if the final scoreline didn't reflect the balance of play.

While we congratulate Foyle College on their win, we can hold our heads high after an incredible display of grit and determination.

# Representative Honours



Congratulations to Rebecca Bradley who was selected to play for U18s this year- a great achievement!



## YOUTH FORUM

Congratulations to Sophie Egerton and Erin McFarland who joined the Ulster Hockey Youth Forum. The group meet and provide valuable feedback, and contribute to the growth and development of youth hockey in Ulster



## NEAT PERFORMANCE TOURNAMENT

**Well done to the U14s who made it to the final of the Neat Performance tournament at Campsie.** We experienced all four seasons throughout the day but the enthusiasm never wavered.

Despite the conditions, the team enjoyed the final against Foyle, going into the lead from Poppy Briar's goal. Foyle equalised however, taking the game to penalty runs with the visitors winning 3-2!

Thank you to Neat Performance for organising!





**U14A XI**



**U14B XI**



**U13A XI**  
WEST OF ULSTER LEAGUE WINNERS



**U13B XI**



**U12 XI**



## Hockey Committee

### **1st XI Captain**

Jazy McAskie

### **1st XI Vice Captain**

Daisy McCaffrey

### **Secretaries**

Robyn Huey, Hannah Kilfedder

### **Treasurers**

Sophie Turner, Kate Millar

### **PROs**

Lucy Rennie, Jasmine Hamill



# HOUSE HOCKEY



## Junior Results:

Well done to Drumragh captained by Ella Lyon's who were crowned champions after winning both their games. Strule were 2nd with 1 win and Camowen 3rd.

## Senior Results:

Drumragh 4 Camowen 2  
Strule 2 Drumragh 1  
Camowen 0 Strule 3  
Strule proved too strong on the day and were crowned champions!



## HOUSE CRICKET

June was a busy month for house cricket. Our juniors went first, taking to the field on a rain interrupted day. This didn't deter the players and there were some fine performances on display.

Seth Rainey performed brilliantly with Bat & Ball - scoring 51 & 40 in his 2 innings. He also had impressive bowling figures picking up 4 wickets in his first game for only 12 runs. This bowling spell also included a very impressive Hat-trick!

Rainey's performances helped lead his team Camowen to victory, beating both Drumragh & Strule.

It was then the turn of the intermediate section. Isaac Crawford produced a fine 40 runs in his first game.

Game of the day was between Camowen and Strule. Camowen posted 76 runs in their 12 overs and Strule impressively chased it down with an over to go.

This still wasn't enough to win the overall title though.

Drumragh beat both Camowen & Strule to clinch the trophy & the Double for the junior & inter teams!

Another fun opportunity and good to see so many pupils involved and enjoying the experience.



# Football News



# Football

## U18 Report

### NI Schools' Cup and Plate Campaign

Enniskillen Royal GS 7 – 0 Omagh Academy

Omagh Academy's U18 boys' team began their 2024/25 season with a challenging away fixture against a strong Enniskillen Royal Grammar School side at the Lakeland Forum. Despite a determined effort, OA struggled to match the intensity and quality of their opponents, eventually falling to a 7-0 defeat.

Two early set-piece goals from ERGS, the result of slack defending, set the tone. D Donnelly had a golden opportunity to pull one back, but the Enniskillen keeper made a fine save, and the hosts responded immediately with a stunning 30-yard lob over A Martin. Although OA started the second half brightly, ERGS continued to dominate, especially after multiple substitutions. D Beatty and D Donnelly had further chances, but the team couldn't find the net.

While the result was disappointing, the experience gained will be valuable as the team moves into the Northern Ireland Schools' Plate competition.

Devenish College 4 - 3 Omagh Academy

In the follow-up Plate fixture at Devenish College, OA produced a much-improved performance in a thrilling encounter. The match was a close contest from start to finish, with both sides showing attacking intent and moments of quality.

OA found the net through D Beatty, D Donnelly, and B Lyons, each finishing well to keep the team in the game. However, a few poor passes out from the back proved costly, gifting Devenish crucial opportunities that they capitalised on. Despite a late push and several chances to equalise, OA narrowly lost 4-3 in what was a spirited and entertaining performance.

The team can take heart from their attacking play and will look to build on this performance in future fixtures.

Squad:

A Martin, R McCullough, C Maxwell, M Brady, J Adams, H Oliver, J Burke, B Lyons, D Donnelly, D Beatty (C), J Mills, T Burke, J Millar, D McFarland, S England, R Kostadinov-McCabe, J McKernan, A McClintock.

## Bruce Cup

The Bruce Cup tournament was a spirited and hard-fought campaign for our squad, showcasing resilience, skill, and determination. Despite a challenging start with a narrow 1-0 loss to Castlederg High School, the team quickly found its rhythm, dominating possession and creating numerous chances in subsequent matches. A goalless draw against Devenish and a 1-1 tie with Omagh High School highlighted our attacking intent, with Dylan Donnelly capitalizing on defensive pressure to score. The breakthrough came against Fivemiletown College, where Joshua Humes sealed a deserved 1-0 win with a stunning long-range strike.

The final two matches tested the squad's endurance, especially with no substitutes available. A tightly contested game against St Kevin's ended in a narrow defeat from a well-taken free kick, and fatigue played a key role in the 1-0 loss to Enniskillen Royal Grammar School. Despite finishing just one goal short of a semifinal spot, the team can be proud of their performance, having shown great promise and teamwork throughout the tournament. The efforts of A Martin, L McIvor, H Oliver, J Adams, J Humes, T Burke, and D Donnelly were commendable and laid a strong foundation for future success.



## Daniel Beatty



**A huge congratulations goes to Daniel Beatty, who has been named Omagh Academy's U18 Player of the Year for the 2024/25 season.** Daniel has been a standout performer throughout the campaign, consistently demonstrating leadership, commitment, and quality on the pitch. As team captain, he led by example in every match, contributing crucial goals and inspiring those around him with his work ethic and determination.

Daniel's success extended beyond school football this season. Representing Glentoran FC, he capped off a remarkable year by helping his team lift the prestigious Harry Cavan Youth Cup, overcoming Linfield in a dramatic penalty shootout at the National Stadium, Windsor Park. Winning such a high-profile youth competition is a testament to Daniel's talent and composure under pressure. His achievements this season reflect not only his individual ability but also his dedication to the sport. Everyone at OA is incredibly proud of Daniel, and we look forward to seeing what he accomplishes next in his football journey.



**U18 XI**



**U16 XI**

# Football

## U16 Report

The under 16 footballers played their preliminary round game of the NISFA Schools Cup against St Joseph's College Enniskillen. In what turned out to be a very high-scoring game finishing 7-4 to the visitors, there were lots of positives to take forward. Omagh looked dangerous with every attack they had, with Henry Doherty causing panic in the St Joseph's backline. Doherty ended up with 2 goals to his name, as did Joshua Humes, who scored a goal straight from kick-off from the halfway line. Take a bow, Humesy! There were many notable performances, but MOTM for Omagh went to Luke Robb, who worked tirelessly in centre midfield. The under 16s now enter the plate competition.

The Under 16 Footballers played St Mary's Irvinestown in Round 1 of the NISFA Plate. It was an end-to-end game, extremely entertaining, and played at a great pace. It seemed like Omagh Academy, after going 4-2 up, would run away with it in the second half, but St Mary's had other ideas. A 15-minute goal fest meant the game finished 5-5 and went to penalties. E Duncan, L Robb, J Humes, and I Sheridan all slotted home with cool and calm precision. E Hamilton made a fantastic save, and the final St Mary's taker missed, which meant Omagh went through to round 2.

The boys' under 16 team played Castlederg High School in the 2nd round of the NISFA Plate. Omagh started really well, playing to their strengths, and went into the break 3-2 up. Castlederg were always dangerous and, in the second half, began to get a hold on the game as the Academy boys began to tire. Three quick goals after half-time turned the game on its head and put Castlederg in the ascendancy, and, in the end, they ran out 10-3 winners. Well done to our boys for a battling performance right to the end.



# Football

## U14 Report

### NI Schools' Cup and Plate Campaign

The 2024/25 season was a memorable one for Omagh Academy's U14 football team, who showed great spirit and development throughout their NI Schools Cup and Plate campaigns.

#### NI Schools Cup

In the Cup, our U14s faced a strong St Kevin's College side in what turned out to be a thrilling and tightly contested match. The first half was evenly matched, with both teams displaying excellent football and determination. Omagh Academy held their own, with some standout performances across the pitch.

As the second half progressed, fatigue began to take its toll, and St Kevin's managed to edge ahead. Despite a valiant effort to equalize, Omagh couldn't find the back of the net again. Samuel scored a well-taken goal, and Charlie's all-round performance earned him the Player of the Match award.

#### NI Schools Plate

Following their Cup exit, the team regrouped for the Plate competition, where they faced Castlederg High School. The match highlighted the progress made by the squad, with improved teamwork and tactical awareness evident from the outset. Unfortunately, the absence of several key players, including the goalkeeper, proved decisive. Castlederg High capitalized on this and delivered a solid performance to secure the win. Jonathan found the net for Omagh and was deservedly named Player of the Match for his efforts.

Despite the results, the campaign was a valuable learning experience for the team, showcasing their growth, resilience, and potential for future success.



# Fermanagh and Western Schools' Cup

The U14s concluded their season with a strong showing in the Fermanagh and Western Schools Cup, marking it as their most successful competition to date. The team's consistent training and match experience were evident in their performances, showcasing growth, resilience, and a promising future.

## Match 1: OA 1–3 Sacred Heart College

The opening match against Sacred Heart College was a thrilling encounter. OA dominated the first half, controlling possession and taking a deserved 1–0 lead. However, a lapse in concentration just before half-time allowed Sacred Heart to equalise. The second half saw fatigue set in, and despite a valiant effort, OA conceded two more goals. The final scoreline didn't reflect the quality of OA's play, especially in the first half. Travis was voted Player of the Match by his teammates for his outstanding performance.

## Match 2: OA 1–1 CBS

In their second fixture, OA faced a traditionally strong CBS side under glorious sunshine. The team started brightly, with Samuel scoring the opener after a dominant first half. Despite several chances, CBS's goalkeeper kept them in the game. Early in the second half, a defensive error led to an equaliser. Both teams pushed for a winner in a high-quality, end-to-end contest, but the match ended in a 1–1 draw. This was arguably OA's best performance of the season, demonstrating excellent teamwork, pressing, and passing. Thomas earned Player of the Match honours for his tireless work in central midfield, with Hugo and Daniel also impressing.

Congratulations to Samuel Managh, who has been named Omagh Academy's U14 Player of the Year! Samuel has led the team with distinction as captain throughout the season, consistently demonstrating exceptional dedication and commitment to training. His reliability and leadership have set a high standard for his teammates, and his outstanding performances on the pitch have been instrumental to the team's success. Well done, Samuel!

## Season Reflection

This brings the curtain down on a season of remarkable improvement. The U14s have shown tremendous dedication to training and have grown in confidence and cohesion. Their performances in the Schools Cup reflect a team on the rise, and the future looks bright as they prepare to step up to the U16s category next year.

**Squad:** T Allen (GK), A Beattie, E Warnock, A Ivanov, F Oliver, S Managh (C), J Hamilton (C), J Lervy, O Magee, T Hamilton, C Kerr, F Sterrit, E Wild, D Sterrit, H Boyd, I Sheenan, S Thompson, D Patterson, A Cuthbertson, J Holmes.

Well done to all players!



# Football U12 Report

## Futsal Tournament

The Year 8 boys' team from Omagh Academy delivered a fantastic performance at the Omagh Futsal Tournament held at the OLC. The squad demonstrated skill, determination, and excellent sportsmanship throughout the competition.

The boys' team impressed, winning most of their group matches and cruising through the semi-finals. In the final, they faced a strong CBS side and, despite giving their all, were edged out due to fatigue. They finished as runners-up, with Alfie and Noah leading the scoring. The team's performance throughout was a testament to their effort and talent. Congratulations to the team for representing the school so proudly, and thanks to Omagh Futsal for a well-organised and enjoyable tournament.



## Lakeland Forum Indoor

Omagh Academy's Year 8 boys' team delivered a strong performance at the Enniskillen Lakeland Forum indoor football tournament, competing against 13 other schools in a highly competitive event. Led by captain N Clarke, the team played with great energy, teamwork, and attacking flair. They scored freely throughout the group stage, with Clarke himself netting an impressive 8 goals and earning the title of player of the day.

Despite their positive play and dominant wins over Aughnacloy (4-0) and St Kevin's (4-0), narrow losses and a draw in other matches meant the team finished third in their group—just missing out on a place in the semi-finals. With a bit more luck in front of goal and fewer costly errors, progression was well within reach. The squad—B Betts, J Clarke, W Keatley, A Oliver, N Clarke (Captain), B Colhoun, J Gilmore O'Hagan, and T Armstrong—can be proud of their efforts and the exciting football they produced throughout the day.

## Football Blitz at Youth Centre

In May, our Year 8 and 9 footballers took part in the annual 7-a-side blitz held at the Youth Sports Centre in Omagh. The weather was perfect, setting the stage for an exciting day of football.

Our players performed admirably throughout the tournament, showcasing great teamwork, determination, and skill. The experience gained will be invaluable as they prepare to move up to the U14 team next year.

A special mention goes to Isaac, who was named Player of the Tournament. He stepped up to captain the team and delivered consistently outstanding performances. Notable contributions also came from Noah, Luca, Dylan, and Alfie, whose efforts on the pitch did not go unnoticed.

Well done to all involved — a fantastic day of football and a promising glimpse into the future of the next U14s team!



# Football Girls Report

## U16 Schools Cup

The Under 16 Girls Football team played in the 1st round of the NI Schools Cup for the very first time this year against Devenish College Enniskillen. The girls produced a strong performance, winning 4-1 and therefore progressing to the 2nd round. Goals were scored by E Robb (2), M Dunlop, and Z Weir.

The Under 16 football team then played in the second round of the NISFA Schools Cup. They faced Portadown College (last year's winners) in Lurgan, and it was clear from the first whistle that it was going to be a huge challenge. The girls applied themselves really well, putting in a great shift hassling the opponents with a never-give-up attitude. In the end, Portadown were much too strong and ran out convincing winners.

### Castlederg High School Competition

On an incredibly bitter and frosty morning, we headed to Castlederg High School for a tournament. Although the pitches weren't completely frozen, it wasn't long before toes and hands were!

The girls had to dig deep to play 6 back-to-back games against strong opposition from St. Kevin's, St. Mary's, Fivemile Town College, Drumragh Integrated, and Castlederg High. We went unbeaten in all group games, which sent us into a final against Fivemile Town College. Our opposing team started strong and were 2-0 up within minutes. But 2 fantastic goals brought us back into the game, ending with a 2-2 draw. Onto the dreaded penalty shoot-out, a fantastic save and 3 brilliant penalties saw us clinch a 2-1 victory. The girls were ecstatic! What a fantastic team effort to pull off the win. Super proud of all their efforts; well done!





## Desmonds Cup

The junior girls' football team competed in the Desmonds Cup. The competition comprised 10 teams from many of the local schools. The Academy team performed really well in the group stage by finishing top of the group and unbeaten. The girls faced a strong Fivemiletown team in the semi-final and won 1-0. Castlederg High School were the team to beat in the final, and after a closely fought game, it ended 0-0. A nail-biting penalty shootout went in favour of Castlederg. This meant the girls finished as runners-up for the second year in a row! Well done, girls.



## Futsal

The Year 8 girls' team also delivered an outstanding performance at the Omagh Futsal Tournament held at the OLC. The girls' team were crowned overall champions in their category, despite a challenging start with two early defeats. Their ability to learn quickly from mistakes, combined with a positive attitude and strong teamwork, saw them progress confidently through the semi-final. In a thrilling final against Sacred Heart—who had beaten them in the group stage—the girls held their nerve in a penalty shootout, winning 2-1 after a draw in regular time. Ava and Skye were standout performers, finishing as top scorers.

Squad: S Lecky, A Buchanan, J Britton, RR McKenna, E Grant, L Hardy, Q Hetherington. Huge congratulations to all players for such an achievement in their first year.

We also wanted to express our most sincere thank you to Euro Auctions for sponsoring new football equipment for the school. Thank you!



# Football

## Girls Sponsorship

### **Heron Energy Champions the Future of Female Sport with Omagh Academy Sponsorship**

Heron Energy has announced its sponsorship of new kits for the Omagh Academy girls' football team, with the school side set to compete in style when they take to the pitch.

Whilst the girls' football team at Omagh Academy is relatively new, they've had their fair share of success, most notably triumphing in a nail-biting penalty shootout to win the Castlederg High tournament in November 2024. In addition, the team took part in the Belfast Futsal Festival in December 2023, where they made it to the final rounds.

Training sessions take place weekly, and with the Desmond Cup on the horizon, the girls are more focused than ever and will be sporting their new strips with pride when they compete later in the year.

Speaking on the sponsorship, Nicola Monaghan, Biology Teacher and Football Coach at Omagh Academy, said: "Heron Energy's support is brilliant for our girls' football team, and we are delighted to have them on board. The new kits are just what they need to look and feel their best when playing on the pitch. It does wonders for their confidence and reminds us of how vital it is to support young girls in pursuing their dreams in sports. We are so thankful for Heron Energy's support."

Colin Power, Development Manager at Heron Energy, spoke of the company's commitment to community initiatives and support of local talent: "At Heron Energy, we are pleased to invest in the future of Northern Ireland through the next generation of athletes, particularly when it involves supporting young women to pursue their interests in sport. By sponsoring the Omagh Academy girls' football team, we hope to enable them to enjoy continued success, whilst playing a small role in tackling historical gender imbalance for women in sport."

Mr Power concluded, "Our entire business is based around investing in and equipping the region for the future, so this partnership aligns perfectly with our values. We look forward to seeing the Academy perform in their new kit this season."

Statistics in the 2021/22 Continuous Household Survey report that among post-primary school pupils, young women are falling consistently behind their male counterparts when it comes to participation in sports, with 82% of boys more likely to participate in sports within schools than 72% of girls.

For more information on Heron Energy, visit [heronenergy.co.uk](http://heronenergy.co.uk).





## GIRLS' SENIOR FOOTBALL



## GIRLS' JUNIOR FOOTBALL



# Man United Trip

## Europa League Adventure

In what turned out to be a truly memorable experience, 30 pupils and 4 staff set off on a much-anticipated school trip to see Manchester United take on Bodo Glimt in the UEFA Europa League. The journey began with a delayed sailing from Dublin, which kept the group waiting for over three hours. Spirits remained high, though, as excitement for the match ahead built steadily.

### Race Against the Clock

Day 1 proved to be a test of patience and perseverance. After finally setting sail, the group faced heavy traffic on the UK motorways, raising real concerns about missing kick-off.

Thankfully, the group arrived at Old Trafford with just an hour to spare—enough time to enjoy the VIP experience, including access to one of the stadium's exclusive lounges and a delicious buffet before heading to their seats high up in the North Stand.

The atmosphere was electric, with the Omagh Academy pupils and Bodo Glimt fans in full voice, adding to the occasion. The match didn't disappoint either—Manchester United edged a thrilling contest 3–2, much to the delight of the travelling supporters.

### Day Two — Shopping and Delays

After a well-earned night's sleep, the group headed to the Trafford Centre for some shopping and downtime before the long journey home. Another delay threatened to dampen the mood, but the pupils took it all in stride, making the most of every moment.

#### A Trip to Remember

Despite the travel hiccups, the trip was a resounding success. The pupils were a credit to the school, embracing the experience with enthusiasm and good humour. From the buzz of Old Trafford to the camaraderie on the road, it was a trip full of memories, laughter, and football magic.



# Showjumping News



Omagh Academy had a tremendous year of showjumping success. Our showjumpers, captained by Zoe Keys, participated in a number of competitions including the Omagh High School and St Oliver Plunkett's school shows in Ecclesville and our Omagh Academy Inter Schools Show at Castle Irvine, Necarne. In the latter they participated in the Open Competition which was the Bluegrass Horse Feeds Schools Qualifier. The team impressed all and secured a commendable third place at Balmoral Show.

- Huge congratulations to Lily Beattie and Jenny Dunlop for competing at the RDS Dublin Horse Show in the showing ring and show jumping classes,
- Kelly-Rose Daly who was the winning Champion Connemara and Reserve champion at Clonmally Show,
- Ted Gibson for finishing 4th in the national Mullingar Summer Horse Championships in Mullingar, and
- Zoe Keys who competed in Belgium winning the 1.20m international class event.
- Stewart Beattie competed on the NI Tetrathlon Team at Royal Windsor Horse Show and along with his team mates finished in a credible 7th place. Well done to our showjumpers on a highly successful year.

# OMAGH HIGH SCHOOL SHOWJUMPERS INTER SCHOOLS SHOW

Last September, 19 Omagh Academy pupils competed across a number of classes at the Omagh High School show in Ecclesville. Everyone performed really well and had great fun in the sunshine!

Well done especially to the Novice team of Zara Blackburn, Catherine Beattie and Elizabeth Managh who placed 3rd, and to the team made up of Maisie Armstrong, Callie Cooke and Stewart Beattie who placed 2nd in a very tough Open class. They were leading right up until the last team who just pipped them to the win.

Finally, huge well done to Lily Beatty, who with her pony Jack had a flying clear round to win the Individual section of the Open class!

Thanks to OHS for a great show.





# OMAGH ACADEMY SHOWJUMPERS INTER SCHOOLS SHOW

**The Omagh Academy Showjumpers' Inter Schools event at Necarne was a fantastic success.**

We were blessed with beautiful weather at the wonderful venue of Castle Irvine Necarne. All our teams and individual participants performed exceptionally well and should feel a great sense of pride!

A special shoutout to the Intermediate team consisting of Callie Cooke, Catherine Beattie, Stewart Beattie, and Jack Smith, who achieved an impressive 5th place with a total team score of zero.

The Open Team, featuring Zoe Keys, Zoe Smyth, Zara Smyth, and Ted Gibson, faced tough competition from Loreto Grammar Omagh and Assumption Grammar, who delivered clear jumps and fast times. However, thanks to their experience, outstanding riding, superb ponies and horses, and a lightning-fast anchor leg from Ted Gibson, the team secured 4 clear rounds and clinched 1st place by the narrowest margin—just 0.11 seconds faster than Assumption Grammar!



# Results

## Walled Garden Results:

### Novice Primary School Teams

- 1st Dolly Mixtures
- 2nd CPS Mix Ups
- 3rd Jolly Jumpers

### Novice Primary School Individuals

- 1st Anna Rose Garrity
- 2nd Poppy Coulter
- 3rd Cara Front
- 4th Erin Bates
- 5th Lily McCrea
- 6th Joe McGinty

### Novice Secondary School Teams

- 1st St Mary's College, Derry

### Novice Secondary School Individuals

- 1st Tara Arbuckle St Aengus, Donegal
- 2nd Kate Surgenor Cambridge House
- 3rd Gracie Duffy Scoile Mhuire Buncrana
- 4th Eva McCloskey Scoile Mhuire Buncrana
- 5th Kim McKelvin Castlederg HS
- 6th Ellie Armstrong St Mary's College Derry

### Inter Teams

- 1st St Mary's College Derry
- 2nd Loanends PS
- 3rd Scoile Mhuire Buncrana
- 4th Sacred Heart College Omagh
- 5th Omagh Academy
- 6th Castlederg HS

### Inter Individuals

- 1st Amy McKelvin Castlederg HS
- 2nd Winter Lily McGinley Scoile Mhuire Buncrana
- 3rd Jessica McGonigle Castlederg HS
- 4th Cara Garrity Sacred Heart College Omagh
- 5th Isla McGinty Loanends PS
- 6th Darcy Mullen Scoile Mhuire Buncrana

### Open Bluegrass Horse Feeds Balmoral Show

#### Team Qualifier

- 1st Omagh Academy
- 2nd Assumption Grammar
- 3rd Loreto Grammar Omagh
- 4th Dromore HS
- 5th Down HS
- 6th Sacred Heart College Omagh

Omagh Academy have qualified for the Bluegrass Balmoral Schools Championships on 17th May!

### Open Individuals

- 1st Ted Gibson Omagh Academy
- 2nd Katie McKee Dromore HS
- 3rd Cayleigh Erwin Antrim Grammar
- 4th Connie McFadden Loreto Grammar Omagh
- 5th Tayla McKnight Dromore HS
- 6th Emma Burns Assumption Grammar

# Results

Plenty of great jumping in the Rose Garden classes also, including X Poles, 50cms, 60cm and the exciting Run and Ride class!

## Run and Ride results

- 1st Ashleen McLoughlin & Ellen McIntyre
- 2nd Hannah Rose Garrity & Quinn Harte
- 3rd Winter Lily McGinty & Tara Arbuckle
- 4th Tara Arbuckle & Aoibheann Hegarty
- 5th Nakita Thompson & Grace Campbell
- 6th Olivia McBride & Aimee Harron

Well done to all teams and individuals and thank you to everyone who travelled so far!

Special thanks to Castle Irvine Necarne and their staff for the venue and sponsoring the prizes, to the judges, course builders and volunteers who helped make today run smoothly!



**TRI Equestrian NI**  
**Honeyhill Rosettes & Sashes**  
**A Taste Of The Countryside**  
**Bean There Drank That**





# BALMORAL SHOW

Well done to Zoe Keys, Zoe Smyth, Zara Smyth and Ted Gibson for coming 3rd place at Balmoral Show in May.

They ended with a team score of 4 faults, behind Bridgetown College in 2nd and Ballymoney HS in 1st.

Well done to all teams!

Thanks must also go to:

Bluegrass Horse Feeds

Joanne Jarden

Ash Hollow Equestrian

Castle Irvine Necarne

for their input and help with the team this year!







## Success for Stewart!

Stewart Beattie had an amazing weekend in May competing on the NI Tetrathlon Team at the Royal Windsor Horse Show held in the grounds of Windsor Castle. The first event was shooting on Saturday morning, followed by a PB in swimming and a PB in the running phase, which was along the scenic banks of the River Thames through Windsor Great Park on Saturday afternoon. The competition finale was Sunday afternoon, where the NI squad competed on borrowed horses, and Stewart jumped a clear round. Along with his teammates Olivia and Rosie, the Northern Ireland team finished in 7th place. An unforgettable experience for him and the team! Well done!



## Success for Kelly

Congratulations to Kelly, who has garnered recognition both regionally and nationally from the Irish Pony Society for her partnership with her pony, Castlemadden Eibhir (Freddy), during the 2024 season. At the National Awards at Killashea Hotel in Naas, Kelly was placed second in all Ireland for Ridden Mountain & Moorland; she was also placed third in all Ireland in the Young Handlers aged 14–16 years. Kelly has also been recognised regionally by the North Western Irish Pony Society at Corrick House, for which she received joint first for Ridden Mountain & Moorland Pony; Best Newcomer; Most Points Awarded to a Pony in the Season, and she also received another award for being recognised nationally. Great achievements!



# Summer Success

Some of our equestrians enjoyed success at various events throughout the summer.

Huge congratulations to Lily and Jenny competing at The Dublin Horse Show in the showing ring and show jumping classes, and also to Kelly winning Champion Connemara and Reserve champion at Clonmally Show.



## School Showjumping Team

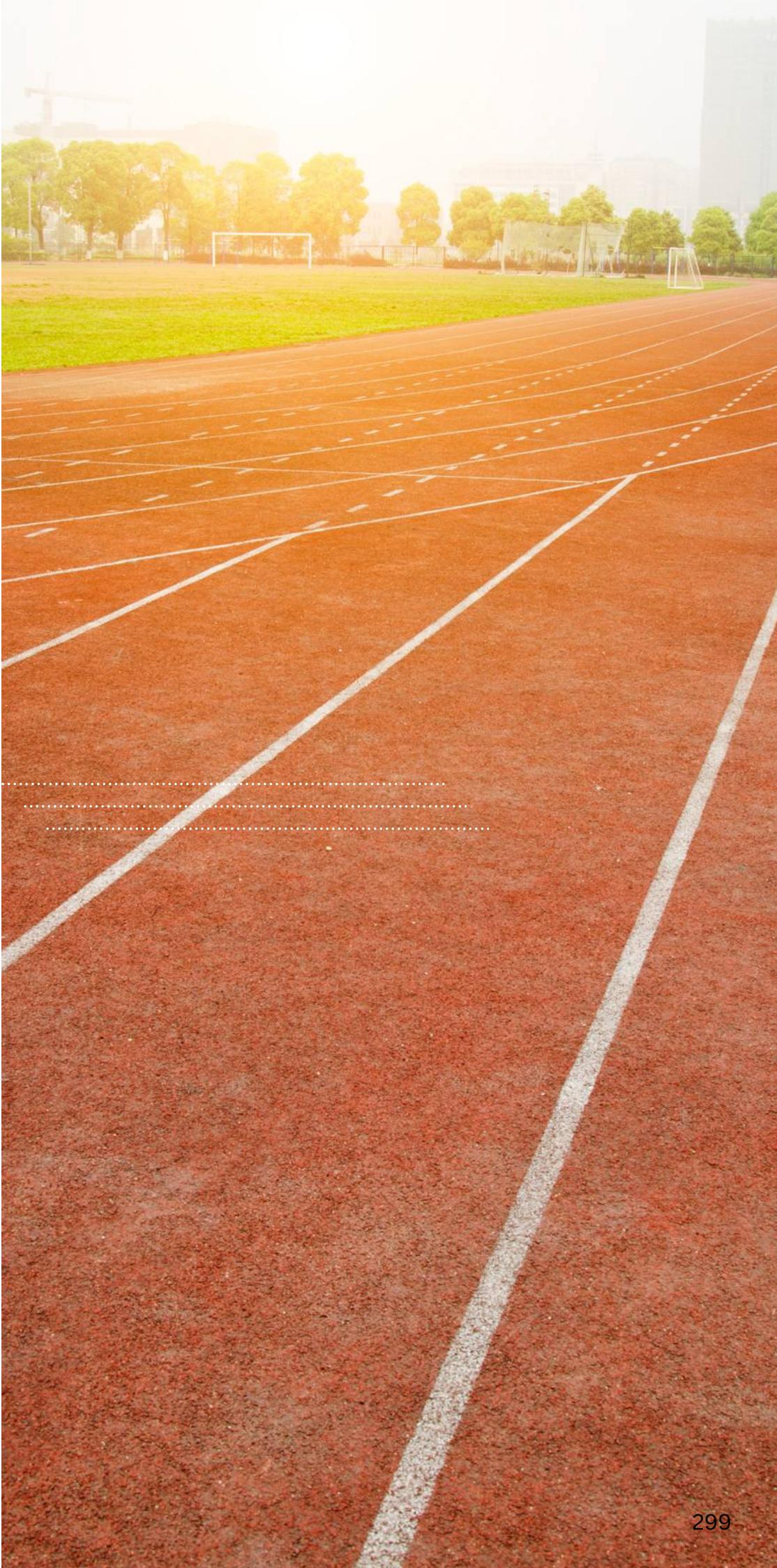
# Sporting Success

Other members of our school community were involved in a different range of sporting activities. We would like to extend our congratulations to them.

- **David Lyttle** has continued his impressive representation at golf on the Ulster team and has achieved selection for the High Performance Ulster U17 training programme
- **Jayden Sproule** competed and was successful in Swim Ulster's Aspiring Champions
- **Alfie Moore** won his first NI Cap in Clay Pigeon Shooting at The National Shooting Ground in Scotland
- **Jake Cowan** won the Ulster County and Mid Ulster Boxing Championships
- **James Egerton** is the 2024 125cc Ulster Motocross Champion
- **Zach Keys and Paris McCrory** gained Taekwondo Black belt grading.
- **Grace Surphlis** served as the drum major for Cloughfin pipe band and achieved 5th place at the World Championships in Glasgow.
- **Hannah Creddin** claimed the Ulster Highland Dancing Championship title for the second year in a row.
- **Joshua Humes** represented Fermanagh in the SuperCup NI Competition
- **Emily Robb** became a Treble League winner with her team Sion Swifts



# Athletics News



# Athletics News

This year's athletics season was a very successful one, helped by great weather which provided excellent training and competition conditions for all of our athletes.

Congratulations to all athletes who represented the school with pride and determination.

## INTER SCHOOLS ATHLETICS FESTIVAL

A selection of Year 9 pupils competed in an Inter Schools Athletics festival held at Youth Sport Omagh.

The weather was fabulous and the competition from all seven schools was even better! All our pupils performed superbly, and were delighted to be crowned champions with 114 points, just one point ahead of Drumragh and 3 points in front of CBS Omagh.

The plan is to run this athletics event annually, therefore we were so pleased to be the first winners of the beautiful shield and 1st place trophy!

Huge thanks to Youth Sport Omagh, Declan and coaches from Athletics NI, and Gary Wallace from CORE Kids for organising a great day!



# E DISTRICT JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

It was a sun filled day for E District Athletics, this time at Mary Peters Belfast for our Mini, Minor and Junior athletes. Great effort from everyone and more qualifiers to Ulster!

## RESULTS

### Mini

Ava Buchanan 2nd 100m

Quinn Hetherington 3rd 100m, 2nd Long Jump



**Mini G Relay** – 3rd place Quinn Hetherington, Hannah Grace McClung, Imogen Armstrong, Ava Buchanan  
Charlie Dalton 2nd Long Jump



### Minor

Izabella Wilson 3rd High Jump

Anna Nixon 1st Shot



### Junior

Joanna Caldwell 2nd Long Jump

Ruby Millar 1st Discus

Emily Sproule 1st Javelin

Abigail McArthur 3rd Discus

Angus Callion 1st 100m, 3rd Discus

Samuel Managh 1st Triple Jump

Josh Lervy 2nd Triple Jump

Ryan Elliott 1st Shot, 1st Javelin

**JB Relay** – 1st place – Jason Hemphill, Carl Crozier,

Henry Young, Angus Callion



# IRISH SCHOOLS ATHLETIC CHAMPIONSHIPS JUNIOR BOYS JAVELIN

Well done to Ryan Elliott who competed in the Junior Boys' Javelin at Tullamore. He came in 4th place, throwing 34.93m. Brilliant effort, throwing consistently throughout! Well done!



## ULSTER CHAMPIONSHIPS



A brilliant day at Mary Peters Track for the Ulster Championships. Our pupils competed against the best in the country and performed brilliantly across many different events. Stand out performances were from the King brothers Andrew & Louis as well as Ryan Elliott. Andrew secured a silver medal in High Jump while Louis finished 4th in the Long Jump. Ryan Elliott WON the JB Javelin with a huge throw of 35.91m! A Gold medal, as well as a PB! Well done to all our athletes!







## E DISTRICT SENIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

It was a total scorcher at Finn Valley AC for our Intermediate and Senior E District Championships.

All our pupils competed really well and we came home with plenty of medals and qualifiers for the Ulster Championships!

### Results:

#### Inter

Olivia Kyle 2nd High Jump  
Lily Armstrong 1st Triple Jump, 1st Javelin  
Sophie Hamilton 3rd Triple Jump  
Jessica Brady 1st Shot  
Louie King 1st Long Jump  
Lewis McIvor 2nd 100m  
Jamie Bradley 2nd Triple Jump  
Jayden Sproule 2nd 200m  
David Lyttle 3rd Triple Jump  
Logan Cooke 1st Shot, 3rd Javelin  
Harry McCormack 3rd Shot  
Ryan Mitchell – 2nd Javelin

**IB Relay** – 2nd place – Jayden Sproule, Louie King, Euan McCusker, Lewis McIvor

#### Senior

Rebecca Bradley 1st 100m, 1st Long Jump  
Erin Sproule 3rd 200m

#### SG Relay – 1st

Andrew King 1st High Jump



# ULSTER CROSS COUNTRY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Well done to our Year 9 team who ran so well at the very competitive Ulster Championships! It was a great experience for them competing against the best in Ulster!



## LE DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY

It was wet and muddy cross country conditions in February, making the course tricky! All our pupils showed great tenacity and determination. Congratulations to the Minor Girls and Senior Girls for winning silver team medals and earning a spot in the Ulster Championships.





# Sports Awards

## 2025

**In June, we held our annual Sports Assembly, celebrating our sporting provision and recognising the commitment and achievements of our pupils throughout the 2024–25 school year.**

We were honoured to welcome Alex McKinley, from the Class of 2012, as our guest speaker to present the awards to our pupils. She spoke about her sporting journey, which began within the school, and since she left, she has been working as an online fitness and wellbeing coach. We thank Alex for presenting this year's awards and for inspiring our pupils!

Congratulations to all our award winners, and well done to every individual and team who represented the school with pride. A heartfelt thank you to the parents, sponsors, coaches, teachers, and support staff whose support makes sporting opportunities for our pupils possible. Here's to another super year of school sport!





# Sports Day





# Sports Day

Our annual Sports Day took place on June 6<sup>th</sup>. We experienced a delightful blend of fun and fierce competition among our three houses: Camowen, Drumragh, and Strule.

The staff even joined in on the festivities by participating in the egg and spoon race, the wellie boot throw, and a team sack race (which, let's just say, didn't go as planned!).

As always, a heartfelt thank you to all the staff for their support, and a special shoutout to Manu and his catering team for organizing the BBQ!

## Individual Champions

### Mini Girls

Ava Buchanan

### Junior Girls

Joanne Caldwell

### Mini Boys

Noah Clarke

### Junior Boys

Frankie Oliver

### Minor Girls

Nia Morris

### Inter Girls

Emily Irwin

### Minor Boys

Dylan O'Hara

### Inter Boys

Logan Cooke

## House Champions

### 1st

STRULE - 185 pts

### 2nd

CAMOWEN - 149 pts

### 3rd

DRUMRAGH - 144 pts











# Duke of Edinburgh



# DUKE OF EDINBURGH



The Duke of Edinburgh's Award remains a vital aspect of personal development at Omagh Academy. It consists of five essential components: Expedition, Physical, Skills, Volunteering, and Residential. Our participants meet regularly to refine important expedition skills, which include:

- Camp craft
- Cooking
- First aid
- Navigation using map and compass

These sessions provide a solid foundation for the exciting adventures that lie ahead.

A heartfelt thank you to all the staff and volunteers who make this programme possible: Jill, Adrian, Mr. Gillespie, Mrs. Gibson, Mr. S. Hamilton, Mrs. Keown, and Mr. Crozier!





## Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award



## Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Year 12



## Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award Year 11

### Gold Award Ceremony

We are delighted that two of our past pupils received their Gold Duke of Edinburgh Award at Buckingham Palace. Congratulations to Amy and Georgina!



# Golf

The school golfers managed three outings this academic year, representing the school and showing off their skills on the course. First up, Oscar Reid and Travis Allen took part in the Ulster Schools' U16 Championships, which were held at Omagh Golf Club. Both boys, having come off a busy summer of golf, played well but unfortunately didn't feature in any of the prize positions. In mid-October, David Lyttle took part in the Ulster Senior Scratch Cup, played at the beautiful Kirkistown Golf Club. Starting well, he was +4 through 11 holes and in contention. Weather conditions changed dramatically on the 12th tee box, and all players on the course at this time started to struggle. David battled hard and finished just outside the top 20 in a strong field of players. All three would now team up to play at the inaugural Killymoon Schools' Cup competition. David performed exceptionally, scoring a remarkable -3 par to win the Gross Prize. Oscar and Travis again scored well, pushing their handicaps close once again. The boys would have to wait until spring before playing again. Another outing at Killymoon GC saw all three boys excel on the course. David retained his Gross Prize, shooting an impressive +5 in blustery conditions. Travis top-scored with 47 points to take the Points Prize home, while Oscar shot an impressive 36 points. With the three scores combined, the team finished in an impressive third place overall. A successful end to an enjoyable season. Huge thanks to Mr Lyttle, who accompanied the boys to all of the competitions this year.

## Continued Success for David

David continues to go from strength to strength. Last summer he represented the Ulster U16 golf team. The squad put in a dominant display against Munster, winning 5-0. David secured a comfortable win. David then produced another fine display to beat his Connacht counterpart 3&1. He finished a superb 4th in the Irish Boys' Amateur Championships. Played over 3 rounds, David shot an impressive +5 at Banbridge Golf Club. Playing off a handicap of 1, his abilities have been recognised further by the Ulster and Ireland coaches, and he attends regular coaching sessions at Greenmount College. A wonderful achievement, and we look forward to hearing more about his progress.



# SPORTS COMMITTEE



## Sports Committee 2024-2025

### Captains:

Daniel Beatty  
Lucie Rennie

Matthew Brady  
Jasmine Hamill  
Kate Millar  
Poppy McCaffrey  
Megan Campion

### Vice Captains:

Sophie Turner  
Jack Adams

Grace McCusker  
Hannah Kilfedder  
Erin Sproule  
Rebecca Bradley  
Leah Ross



# A QUESTION OF SPORT- HOUSE CHALLENGE!



Well done to the Sports Committee who organised the annual house challenge for the senior pupils at the end of last term.

This year we hosted 'A Question of Sport - house challenge'.

1st - Strule    2nd - Drumragh    3rd - Camowen

# CANADA RUGBY TOUR

A group of young male rugby players in dark jerseys and shorts are sitting on the grass, looking towards the camera. A yellow and blue rugby ball is on the grass in front of them. The background is a red-tinted outdoor scene with trees and a building.



# DAY 1

After months of meticulous planning, preparation, fundraising, and eager anticipation, the long-awaited day for our rugby tour to Canada finally arrived. Excitement buzzed in the air as we gathered at school to board the bus and get ready for the journey to Canada! Read on, and come along on our journey!

## SPONSORSHIP

We extend our immense gratitude to Hamill McIlwaine Accountants for their generous support of our tour to Canada. They were the title sponsor for all our gear, which looked absolutely fantastic. Over the years, they have been tremendous advocates for school rugby, and we wholeheartedly recommend them for all your accounting needs!

We would also like to thank the following people for their generous support for our tour. It is so much appreciated

- Hot Tubs Omagh
- S.D Kells
- Todd Insurance
- WW TYRES
- Parkview Veterinary Clinic Omagh
- Woodvale Construction
- Russell Bros Agricultural Contracting
- TC Autos



# DAY 2



Once unpacked and settled, we awoke the next day, ready to take on the day!

Day 2 was all about the steps! Following breakfast, we set off on the long walk to the Centre Island Ferry. We stopped off for a quick photo at the Toronto sign before reaching the ferry. We enjoyed the views on the ferry looking back at the city as we approached Centre Island. When we arrived, we got straight into rugby training to prepare for the fast-approaching fixtures. We then had a quick song rehearsal and posed for a few 'boyband' photos! Following training, we got a great BBQ lunch at the BBQ & Beer Co, again being able to sit and admire the Toronto skyline from afar. We then had some free time for football, frisbee, and exploring the island some more. It was then time to get the return ferry back to Toronto and begin the long walk back to our accommodation. We even met Spider-Man along the way. After a quick change and freshen up, we then made our way to Kensington where we enjoyed dinner at a great pizzeria! We then headed back to base to rest up after totalling approximately 30,000 steps each!





# DAY 3

## GAME DAY

**OMAGH ACADEMY VS OAKVILLE CRUSADERS**

**U18 22-19**

**U16 17-21**

Following breakfast, we had some free time to relax before the first fixture of the tour, where some boys decided to go to the shops to stock up on goods, while others chose to relax in the common room. We then boarded the coach in our No. 1s, ready for the journey to Oakville Crusaders. We arrived and changed into our playing gear before warming up for our debut fixture in Canada. An exciting two matches ensued, with the under-18s kicking off first. The under-18s claimed victory after a hard-fought match, before the under-16s kicked off for another tough match, sadly resulting in a loss. We then gathered in the clubhouse to enjoy some post-match snacks and great hospitality before heading back to Toronto, stopping for a light dinner on the way. When we arrived back at the accommodation, we sat down for a table quiz in our bands, where JLS came out victorious, before heading to bed.



# DAY 4



Today we were up early to get ready for a big day out to Canada's Wonderland. We boarded the coach bright and early to make sure we got there to beat the crowds. When we arrived, we parted ways in many small groups to try the vast selection of rollercoasters and other amusements, with a lunch break in between, before gathering together at the end of our day to board the coach and head back to our accommodation. An extremely fun and enjoyable day for all on tour. We then arrived back at Toronto University to relax for an hour before some band practice in our groups, where some players, whose timekeeping wasn't on point, had a plank competition. We then headed into Toronto to Sankofa Square and the Eaton Centre for some dinner and free time. We then headed back to the accommodation for a good night's sleep before Monday's fixture against Barry Rugby Club to round off day 4 in Canada.





# DAY 5

## GAME DAY

OMAGH ACADEMY VS BARRIE RFC

**U18 27-0**  
**U16 31-21**

Today began with a trip to the Eaton Centre. We were set to leave at 9:45 but punctuality proved elusive. Most of the group arrived late and paid the price of 100 punishing push-ups. However, Jacob and Adam were so late they had to hold on to Gurbert together for the rest of the day. One very unfortunate player, Harry, appeared so late that he paid the price. He had to carry every squad member's bag from the 6th floor of our accommodation out to the bus before the big game. He needed more than one trip up and down the stairs, let's just say!

With arms still trembling, we set off towards the Eaton Centre. The city's pulse surrounded us as we arrived to shop for gifts, items, and clothing. After our busy shopping trip, we arrived back at our dorms to get ready for our big match. As we left, Harry generously carried our bags down to the bus and we began our long journey. (Isaac didn't drive the whole way.)

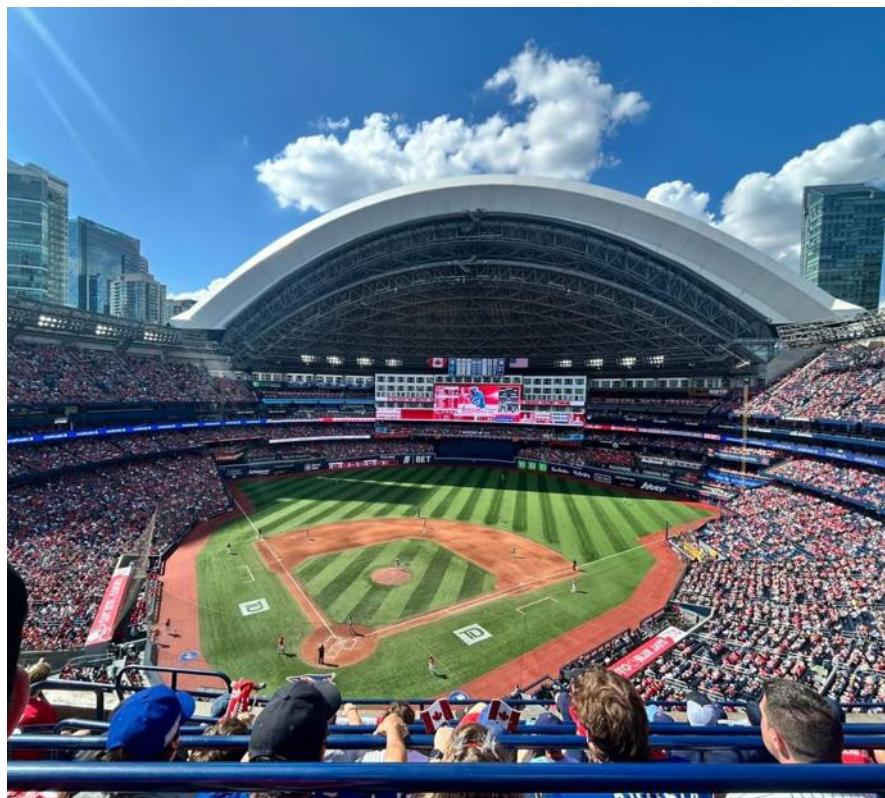
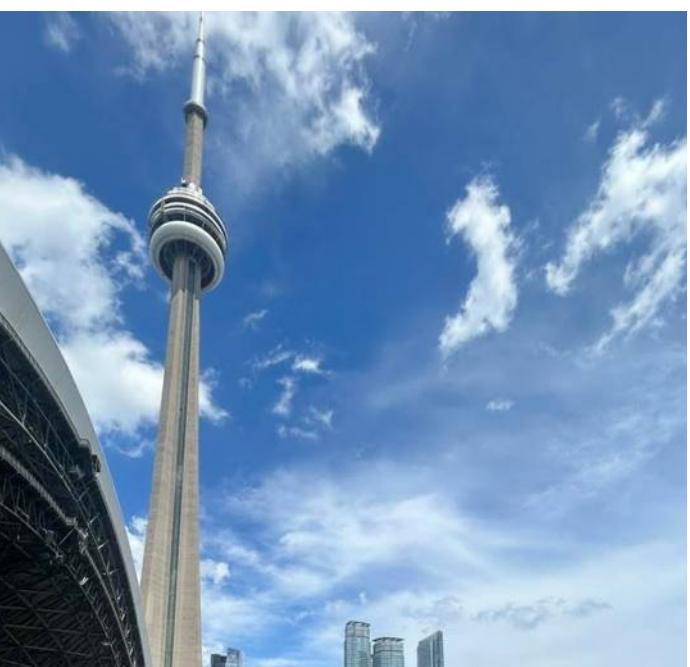
We arrived at Barrie RFC pitch ready to play some tough matches. The U16s kicked off first, putting in a good performance to win 31–21. Not to be outdone, the U18s stormed the pitch, in stormy conditions, clinching a 27–0 victory. After the whistle blew, we connected with our opposing team and had pizza thanks to the generous hospitality of our hosts. We finished the day with some karaoke on the bus ride home in celebration, before going to bed.



# DAY 6



Our day began with an underground ride to St. Andrew Station, setting the tone for what would be a packed and exciting day. A few of the players were clearly a bit nervous as we approached the CN Tower, especially before the elevator ride up—it's a long way to the top! But once we were up there, the views were incredible and totally worth it. After coming back down, we took a break for lunch and relaxed for a bit before heading to The Rogers Centre for the baseball game, with the Toronto Blue Jays taking on the New York Yankees. The Canada Day celebrations were in full flow and the pre-match show was amazing. We all enjoyed the game, especially as the Blue Jays won. We also couldn't resist picking up a few pieces of merchandise as souvenirs. From there, we made our way to the Lucky Clover Irish Bar for a well-earned dinner, which really hit the spot after all the walking. We didn't stop there, though—an hour at The Rec Room gave us the chance to have some fun, play games, and just unwind together. To top it all off, we watched a brilliant fireworks display by the harbour before making the long walk home. By the end of it all, we were completely exhausted.



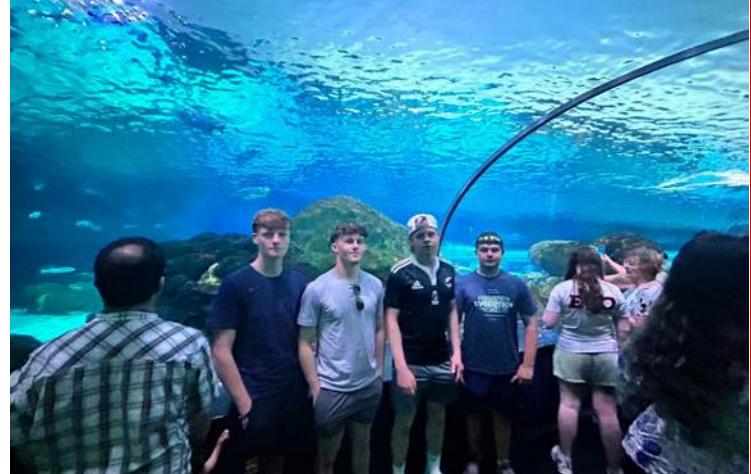
# DAY 7

Following another early breakfast, we went on a walk through Toronto to get the subway from Queens Station to Union Station. From there, we made the short walk to Ripley's Aquarium to see a range of sea life. We enjoyed seeing the various fish, sharks, and turtles, and even got to touch a stingray or two.

With time being tight, we grabbed lunch in the many eateries in Brookfield Place on our way back to the subway to return to our accommodation. We had a little downtime before leaving for our fixtures against the Oshawa Vikings. Traffic was horrendous, adding another hour onto the already long journey.

Despite the setback, both teams put on brilliant displays of rugby. Both games were affected by the weather, with the U16s starting in driving rain and the U18s having a 30-minute thunderstorm delay to the second half. After the games, we soaked Mr Hunter in Powerade and lifted him to show appreciation for his last game with us ever. We then had some speeches to express our gratitude for the hospitality we received, ate some food, and mingled with our hosts.

We finished the day with some bus karaoke on the way home, and even the staff belted out a song or two. We packed before bed and got some sleep to be ready for another fun day ahead as we moved on to Niagara Falls!





# DAY 8



We started early, grabbing breakfast to fuel up for the long bus ride to Niagara Falls. Plenty of the boys took the opportunity to catch up on some sleep on the bus, but the anticipation was building the whole way there, and once we arrived, it certainly didn't disappoint. We hopped on the Hornblower Niagara Cruise, which took us up close to the Niagara Falls. We got completely drenched from the mist, but it was totally worth it for the views. After drying off a little, we walked over to the Hard Rock Café for lunch.

Then, we took another short trip to the Whirlpool jet boats. This is what many had been waiting for, and the thrill was amazing. Flying at top speeds and being thrown into corners and drenched by the waves from the sections of rapids. We even learned a ton about the history of the Niagara River. We were soaked again, but it was all part of the fun.

Once we had a chance to dry off properly, we made our way to our second stop—the Ramada Hotel, where we'd be staying for the night. After settling in, we had a superb buffet dinner on the top floor of the Sheraton Hotel. The boys certainly stocked up at the buffet.

To top it all off, we headed to the Skylon Tower to watch the fireworks over the falls. The view was absolutely breathtaking, especially with the falls illuminated in the background. We had some time to kill afterwards, so we enjoyed the arcade games. Finally, we made our way back to the hotel to relax for the night.







# DAY 9

Today we rose early to get ourselves packed up for our long journey home. This was followed by a nice breakfast in the ihop hotel. We then made the short walk to the Niagra amusements where we were given a Cliftonhall deluxe pass which allowed us to gain access to many different amusements including the sky wheel and the dinosaur mini golf, and a gokarting track. We quickly proceeded to Niagra outlet, where we had free time to get lunch and explore the wonderland of shops in front of us. Many bought last minute gifts and souvenirs like maple syrup and magnets but the highlight for all was the bass pro shop it was described as "heaven in a shop". Then we made our way to the airport for our flight. We then had time for more shopping in the airport duty free section. Finally we got on the plane for our flight back home.





**OUR SENIOR RUGBY TRIP TO CANADA WAS A  
ONCE-IN-A-LIFETIME EXPERIENCE THAT  
DEFINITELY WILL NEVER BE BEATEN.**

**BETWEEN MATCHES, WE TOOK IN THE VIEW  
AT NIAGARA FALLS, GETTING DRENCHED IN  
THE PROCESS, EXPLORED CANADA'S  
WONDERLAND AND VENTURED UP THE CN  
TOWER. ALL THE STAFF WHO HELPED  
ORGANISE IT DESERVE A HUGE THANK YOU.**

