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BALLYCLARE SECONDARY SCHOOL
50TH ANNIVERSARY
MAGAZINE

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BALLYCLARE SECONDARY SCHOOL

Celebrates

50th Year

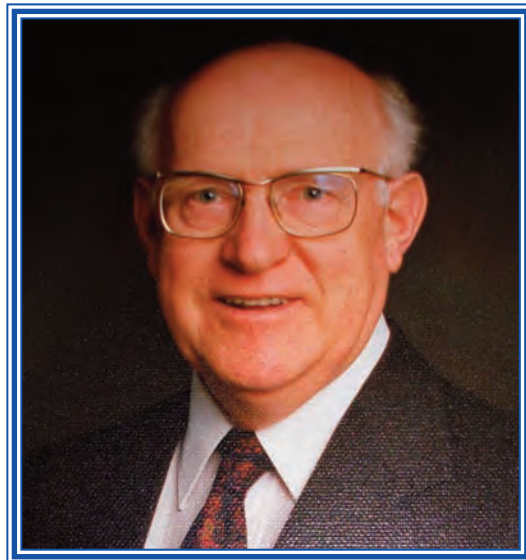
1961 - 2011



50

years of
Ballyclare Secondary
School
1961 - 2011

*This 50th Anniversary Publication is dedicated to the memory of
Mr W Stirling, MC BSc Dip Ed JP
1923 -2008*



*Founding Principal of Ballyclare Secondary School
1961 - 1985*



Foreword



It gives me great pleasure, as Principal of Ballyclare Secondary School, to write the foreword to this 50th Anniversary issue of the school magazine. I offer my congratulations and thanks to all those staff, past and present, pupils and former pupils and of course parents, who have made a contribution to this excellent publication.

The 50th Anniversary marks a tremendous milestone in the history of our school. It provides an opportunity to reflect on all the past experiences and to celebrate the many achievements and endeavours of those connected with our school. It also provides an opportunity for the whole school community - pupils, staff and parents to look forward and anticipate with pleasure our future achievements.

As you read through this magazine, I hope that many happy times will be remembered from both inside and outside the classroom. Memories of staff, fellow pupils and parents will be fondly recalled. They have all made a valuable contribution to our school over its first 50 years.

Over the past 50 years the vision of the school has remained at the forefront of all our endeavours - a commitment to the welfare of our pupils and a genuine desire for them to fulfil their potential in all aspects of life. This work was begun by our first and formative Head, the late Mr W Stirling and continued by Mr S A McCrea, both serving the school for 25 years. As a school, we are indebted to these men for their leadership, making our school the success it is today.

There is much to celebrate and there are a number of events planned throughout the year to ensure that pupils, parents and staff have an opportunity to take part in the celebrations.

Our 50th Anniversary magazine is one of the many mementoes of what, I hope, will be a very happy and enjoyable year for us all and marks the beginning of the next chapter in the life of Ballyclare Secondary School.

K O Bell (Mrs)
PRINCIPAL

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Mr Uel McCrea O.B.E. Principal 1985 to 2010



REFLECTIONS

As I think back over these years and the privilege of being deeply involved in the development of the school, I regard it as an exciting, challenging and very rewarding stage of the school's history. It had already built up a great reputation under the leadership of its first Principal, Mr Stirling, as a school totally committed to the welfare and educational development of the young people it served. Then, as now, changes were introduced in the mid-eighties to Northern Ireland schools, which presented big challenges for all of us involved in Ballyclare Secondary. Local Management of Schools, Common Curriculum, Parental Choice at the transfer stage and new governance structures, were just a few we faced. Certainly, it did require new approaches to be developed in dealing with the greater demands being placed on each school's staff and the then, recently appointed, Board of Governors. Thankfully, there were highly committed and gifted people at all levels in the school to ensure that these changes were not only dealt with in a very effective manner, but also in a manner which kept the focus of the school on the young people and their educational needs.

There were many important developments which began during this period which merit recalling, but as space is limited, I would highlight a few which I think will illustrate the school's child centred philosophy.

Expansion - The development of Sixth Form

Extension - The Stirling Building and the

refurbishment of the original building

Enrolment - The growth in school enrolment,

and finally, some outstanding achievements of individual pupils and teams.

Sixth Form Development

In the first day of the 1985-86 term, I remember Mr S McComb, who had recently been appointed as Vice Principal (Curriculum), informing staff that there were only a few students who had opted to return to 6th Year! Twenty five years later, 100+ young people wished to follow courses in 6th Year. What happened to bring about this change? A number of things.

Firstly, there was the firm belief that our young people could successfully achieve academic qualifications at the highest level. Secondly, the confidence in the teachers of the school, that they would be up to the challenge of developing new courses, with, again, the firm belief in their teaching ability. In other words, we had high expectations of all those who were involved in this development.



Mr S McCrea Principal, Michael Ancram MP Education Minister and Rev. Dr H MacConnell Chairman of the Board of Governors

Governors were very supportive, as was the NEELB and, despite the less than positive initial response of one or two from DENI regarding Sixth Form development in the school, the teachers and students proved they could achieve great results. Individual students achieved straight As in three A Levels. Some of them gained "top candidate" awards in Northern Ireland and UK in GCE Advanced Level! Pass rates compared very favourably with other schools across Northern Ireland and more courses were offered year by year.

Latterly, the collaboration between the two post-primary schools in the town has further enhanced the curriculum for the students at this level.

The Stirling Building et al

Plans were drawn up by the education authorities in the late 1980s to build an extension at the school. By the early 1990s, as a result of the increasing enrolment at the school, these had to be revised and expanded. Approval was given and over a three year period, the new facilities were built. The staff and pupils during this period faced many trying times, as they had to cope with this major building programme, but they proved, once again, that they were more than capable of rising to the challenge.



Mr D Metcalfe, Vice Principal (School Organisation) was just the right person to co-ordinate the project for the school! Calm, courteous, yet single-minded, he ensured we all co-operated in the venture!

The members of the Board of Governors were as one over the decision to name the new building after Mr Stirling.

One of my abiding memories of this time, just before the official hand-over, was showing Mr and Mrs Stirling

round the new block of teaching accommodation, all of us wearing builders' hats!



The facilities for each subject area were also greatly improved at this time throughout the older building, as well as the superb new resources in the extension. ICT, Science, Technology, Business and Music were now in brand new, "state of the art" accommodation in the Stirling Building!

The Enrolment Increases

Parental confidence in the school was always high and now, as a result of a number of factors, including "open enrolment" with its emphasis on parental choice of school, the numbers continued to increase. In 1985, 840, to 1,000+ in 2010. So, rather than the "mobiles" disappearing during this time, their numbers also increased.

More staff were needed and it was particularly pleasing to witness a number of highly qualified and competent teachers, who were themselves former pupils of the school, being appointed; Miss McKinty, Miss Elliott, Miss Waugh and Mr McClean. The school was one of the few schools in the NEELB area which was oversubscribed. Whilst this indeed was a blessing for all involved in the school, it did mean there were some children disappointed each year because they were unable to join Ballyclare Secondary.



Faye Mawhinney, Head Girl, Mr S McCrea Principal, Professor Norman Nevin OBE and his wife Mrs Jean Nevin, Rev. Dr H MacConnell Chairman of the Board of Governors and Chris Magill, Head Boy.



Continued

Outstanding Achievements

As the school's philosophy is based on the view that every child is important and should be valued, the identification of individuals for particular mention needs to be viewed in the context that achievement is a relative term. I can think of many, many young people, during these years who, while never gaining top grades or marks in public examinations,



achieved results of which they should be proud and deserve our congratulations. Rightly, every child who attains a formal qualification, along with their parents, is invited to an annual celebration of their success, in November each year.



During this period, however, there are individual students whose achievements academically are outstanding nationally and should be highlighted;

- Chris Heaney Top Student, A Level Art, Northern Ireland, 2000
- Kara Todd Top Student, A Level Applied Subjects, United Kingdom, 2007
- Louise Williamson Top Student, A Level Applied ICT, Northern Ireland, 2010
- Julie Dorrian Joint Top Student, A Level Art, Northern Ireland, 2010
- Victoria Taylor Top Student, GCSE Art, 100% marks, Northern Ireland, 2010
- Ashleigh Beattie Top Student AS Level DA H & Soc Care, AQA, 2009, 3rd Place A Level DA H & Soc Care, AQA, 2010



One can also highlight individual students who excelled in sports, gaining representative honours and I would encourage you to read, once again, their achievements in this publication.



Mr Uel McCrea O.B.E. Principal 1985 to 2010

Martin Barr (Motorcycling); Conor Leaney (Swimming); Paddy McNair and Dominic Melly (Football); Laura McAlpine (Hockey); Lynsey McCullough (Tennis); Victoria Elliott (Netball)

Teams also in Rugby - High Schools' Cup, Hockey (Girls' and Boys') - High Schools' Cup and McDowell Cup, and Badminton - All Ireland Under 16 Champions for two consecutive years, had province wide success during this period. They all brought great honour to themselves, their families, the school and our community.



Twenty five years is a long time and memories do fade, but my enduring memory is of young people and staff who were a joy to know and for whom I will have great affection. The fellowship which I enjoyed in the Senior Leadership Teams over these years will always be treasured by me personally.



I could not have wished for better colleagues than Mr Metcalfe, Mrs McCormick, Mr McComb, Mr Farrell, Ms Whittock, Mr J Martin and, of course, Mrs Bell, all of whom shared the "Ballyclare Secondary" vision of "children first"!



SILVER AWARD FOR BALLYCLARE'S JAPANESE LINK





Rev Dr Harold MacConnell

Chairman of Board of Governors 1982 to Present



We have come a long way from the humble beginnings of September 1961 when Ballyclare Secondary Intermediate School opened its doors for the first time. From those small beginnings with an enrolment of 420 pupils, we are now in the happy position of being one of the largest Secondary Schools in the North Eastern Education and Library Board with an enrolment of over one thousand pupils. In recent years, even with failing enrolment in the province generally, we are in the fortunate position of being over subscribed. This is a testimony to the esteem and high regard in which our school is held.

Any wonder the work of the School Board grows with each passing year. Back in 1961, the School Management Committee (later to become the Board of Governors) met some four or five times annually and that was a lot, considering there was the appointment of all the staff required to deliver the curriculum. In the first 21 years, we had a succession of distinguished Chairmen. Senator Alex McConnell was the first Chairman, followed in a short period by Mr John H Lindsay, MBE who was also Chairman of the County Antrim Education Committee. Between then and 1982 there were three others, namely James Craig, JP, Robert Gawn and T.A. Peoples, MBE, JP. I was appointed



Chairman in 1982 and have been in office ever since. Over the past half century, the work and responsibilities shouldered by the Board of Governors have increased remarkably, with the Department of Education devolving more responsibilities locally. This means that there is seldom a month in which the Board does not meet, apart from the summer holiday months.

The Board takes its responsibilities very seriously, particularly in the appointment of staff. In appointments, the Board seeks to choose staff of the highest calibre to deliver the curriculum. This is reflected in the close eye it keeps on the annual

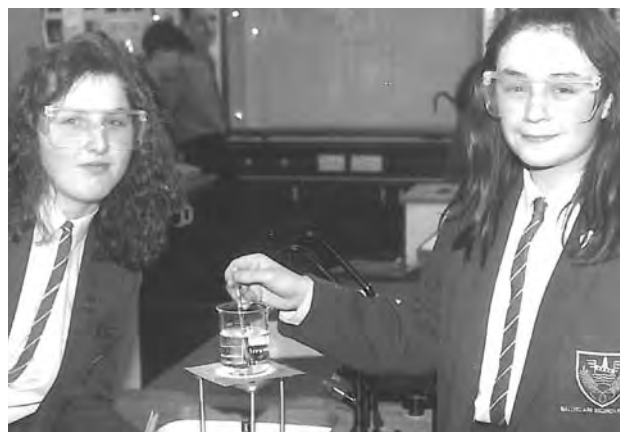


examination results. In many ways, the Board of Governors is part of the unseen face of the school, but its responsible management of the school's business is demonstrated by the careful way it handles the annual budget which, up to the present, has always ended in credit. We are deeply indebted to the sacrificial way in which the members of the Board give so freely of their time to attend the endless succession of meetings that are required to discharge the business that we have in hand. Every appointment requires three

meetings.

First of all, the criteria have to be set before the advertisement goes to press.

Then there is the shortlisting that requires careful scrutiny of each application to ensure that the criteria





are met, followed by the interviews, before a choice is made. To every appointment, the Board brings care and seeks the best person for the position.

Our school has been given sterling service by an excellent succession of outstanding head teachers and the stability enjoyed by our school is reflected by the fact that, in fifty years, we have only had three, namely, Mr W Stirling, Mr S A McCrea and now, as we are about to enter the next fifty years, our first female Principal, Mrs K Bell.



It is my deep conviction that the Board of Governors will continue to give wise leadership and careful management of the resources in the years ahead. Our unwritten motto is "only the best is good enough for Ballyclare Secondary and its children". So, let us take off our hats to the past and roll up our sleeves as we move into the second half of the century.



Ms J Copeland
Assistant Vice Principal

Mr D Farrell
Vice Principal

Mrs K Bell
Principal

Mr A Siberry
Acting Vice Principal



Mrs Judy McCormick M.B.E.

Vice Principal 1983 to 2002



I took up my post as Vice Principal in Ballyclare Secondary School in September 1983. After 14 years of teaching in Rathcoole High, I approached the new position with excitement and trepidation.

At that time, Mr Stirling was Principal and I had heard good reports about his leadership and the school. I enjoyed working with Mr Stirling for two years, up to his retirement. One of my earliest jobs was to help organise his retirement dinner, followed closely by the dinner for the 25th Anniversary of the school.

Mr McCrea followed in Mr Stirling's footsteps as Principal and I was lucky to work with these two gentlemen. All the staff in Ballyclare Secondary School supported me during my time there and I remain friends with many of them.

English was my main subject and I enjoyed my 19 years of teaching it to many Ballyclare pupils. It was rewarding to see how the pupils reacted positively to Literature. At the start, I had no permanent classroom so had to either carry heavy sets of books around, or plan to leave them in the appropriate classrooms. At times, there were long walks between classes - that took care of my fitness! When I was finally given a base, it had a couple of disadvantages - the back of the room was where the Sixth Formers spent their free time (ask Mr McClean about this!) and the small room off my classroom was the Careers room. Needless to say, there was a great deal of through traffic! In 1993, the new extension and the refurbishment of the building was finalised and I was given Room 214 - luxury!



I was responsible for the Pastoral care and Welfare of all pupils, so there always seemed to be a problem to solve. As there was no school nurse, I spent many hours in various casualty departments, when accidents occurred. Certain aspects of school life stick in my mind. The School Formal was a magnificent occasion. I felt so proud of the pupils because of their good behaviour and the effort to which they had gone with their appearance. I was fortunate enough to go on a few Residentials and they were where we really got to know the Year 8 pupils. Mr McGuigan can vouch for my canoeing skills

My responsibility for the Prize Distribution led to hours of hard work, but that was more than rewarded on the night when we saw the pupils receiving their certificates and awards. I had close contact with many parents during my 19 years as Vice Principal and welcomed the support the school received from them. Even when the interview was because of a problem experienced by their child, I felt that, often, the only way to solve it was to work together.

Although I have been retired since 2002, I still keep in touch with the school and have done some substitute teaching. Since retiring, I have enjoyed travelling, reading, volunteering for Victim Support and now am privileged to be able to help look after my granddaughter while my daughter is teaching.

I wish the school all the best for the future, under the guidance of the newly appointed Principal, Mrs Bell.

GBYFC WOULD LIKE TO CONGRATULATE BALLYCLARE SECONDARY SCHOOL ON THEIR 50TH ANNIVERSARY!



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GREATER BALLYCLARE YOUTH FOR CHRIST





The changing face of Ballyclare Secondary School



The press of the day reported that Ballyclare's new Intermediate school opened on 6 September 1961. This is when pupils from a range of outlying primary schools, along with the 'townies', entered its doors for the first time. The official opening of the school took place in October 1962.

As a brand new building, it boasted a 'range' of facilities previously unknown to the 420 pupils who arrived on that first day; specialist PE areas, Home Economics rooms, Art rooms, Craft and

Music rooms; grand changes from their tiny primary schools and limited facilities. The whole concept of wearing a uniform was new to most of these children, as was the idea of 'catching a bus' to the new school.

Prior to the opening of Ballyclare County Secondary School, the young people of the area either transferred to Ballyclare High School or stayed in primary school until they were 14 years old. Pupils and staff alike entered a phase in education where, only a few years before, the leaving age of 15 years had been introduced. Most pupils left school at this time, at the end of the 4th year of their secondary education. A small minority stayed on in 5th form, voluntarily.

From the day it opened, Ballyclare Secondary has had a steady progression of achievements, innovations, new buildings and accolades of success both locally and further afield, some well documented in the Silver Anniversary magazine. These successes have been achieved in both curricular and extra curricular areas and make very interesting reading.

Change comes gradually. On reflection, there have been major alterations to both the fabric and furnishings of the school and the entire curriculum on offer today, but can anyone remember how, why or when these changes took place? Since 1986, the school has had several extensions and the reliance on Information Technology is almost alarming! Some may remember the 'chunky' BBC computers with affection, or the change from those massive manual typewriters to the word processing era, or the move from the trusty banda to the photocopying machine, but who could have foreseen the facilities of today, with internet access, interactive whiteboards, now available in most classrooms within the school? The second 25 years of the school's history boasts change far beyond the expectations of those pupils who stepped through the doors of the school in 1961.



Plans for the new extension were drawn up in the latter half of the 1980s. With changes in the curriculum very much in mind, the long awaited extension and refurbishment of existing facilities were achieved. The expansion of the school was essential too, given the expansion in numbers on the roll. Many past pupils will remember the rows of

mobiles where Geography, English and even the practical subjects such as Science and Art, were taught. This 'temporary' accommodation was finally to disappear. However, a few mobiles have had to be





retained into the 21st century, such is the popularity of the school and the demand for places, both locally and in the wider community! In 1986, the school population had more than doubled and now, in 2011, has over 1,000 pupils from Year 8 to Year 14.

The building programme commenced in the early 1990s with classes and the whole school enduring a period of major disruption. All coped, however, the outcome well worth the

effort! With first class facilities, especially in the practical areas, the school was ready to move forward into the 21st century. Those heavy computers disappeared, to be replaced by gradually decreasing-sized technology. With these came arduous (for some) hours of training as the benefits and, indeed, the necessity, became apparent. Since then too, it has been recognised that, with curriculum changes, as well as health and safety issues, particularly in practical areas, many of the Science, Technology and Design, Music and Information Technology facilities have again been updated. Curriculum changes were apparent as well in all areas. It is only in the past few years that we have stopped referring to these changes as the 'New Curriculum'. Intervention dictates now the precise, prescribed syllabus content of each subject, with continuous changes to which subjects are mandatory and which are 'desirable'!

In 1961, the building and contents came in at a cost of £170,000. The extension and refurbishment of the school some 30 years later certainly reflected inflation and the provision of some of the best facilities in the North Eastern Board at that time. Where Mr Stirling brought the school so successfully through the first 25 years of its life, it was Mr McCrea who was responsible for the changes and innovations of the 1990s and he who led the school through many changes with hard work and dedication. So, too, has the teaching staff moved on, with a wealth of new teachers to ably fill the shoes of those who have gone before and who gave Ballyclare County Secondary School the foundations on which it continues to flourish today.



The school has many landmarks in its short 50 year history, not least of which are those involving the pupils. Academic achievements have been recognised beyond the school boundaries and extra curricular activities have taken the school across the world. From the Peace Trail in the late 1990s, at a time when tolerance and understanding were struggling for recognition through the dark days of the troubles within our own province, to the links with and visits to Japan and the recent activities of our pupils in reaching out with aid after the earthquake, Ballyclare Secondary School has made its mark on the educational map of Northern Ireland.



Ballyclare Staff 2011/2012

Principal:

Vice Principal:

Acting Vice Principal:

Assistant Vice Principal:

Mrs K O Bell, BA Adv Cert Ed PQH

Mr D Farrell, MEd BA PGDE Dip Ed

Mr A Siberry, Cert Ed

Miss J Copeland, BA Joint Hons PGCE

Departmental Heads:

Mr W Blair, BA Cert Ed

Mrs R Boles, BEd

Mrs G Oliver, BA (Hons) PGCE

Mrs E Agnew, BEd

Mr C Manson, BA (Hons) PGCE

Mrs A McCrea, BSc (Hons) PGCE

Miss L Nevin, BSc (Hons) DIS PGCE

Miss Dundas, BA (Hons) PGCE MEd

Mr I Thompson, BSc (Hons) PGCE

Mrs L Beattie, Dip Mus MTD

Mr R Cowan, BSc (Hons) PGCE

Mr I Atcheson, BEd MA FF

Dr H Flint, BSc (Hons) PHD PGCE

Mr T Lewis, BSc

Mr S McIvor, BSc (Hons) PGCE

Art & Design

Business Studies

English

Geography

History

Home Economics

ICT

Languages

Mathematics

Music

Physical Education

Religious Studies

Science

Technology

Youth Tutor

Teaching Staff:

Mrs J Huey, BA (Hons) ATD

Miss Y Moody, BA (Hons) MBS PGCE

Mrs H Porte, BEd (Hons)

Mrs M R Black, BSc (Hons) PGCE

Mrs L McKay, BA (Hons) PGCE DASE

Mrs L McKeeman, BA (Hons) PGCE

Mrs C Massey, BA (Hons) PGCE

Mrs B Strange, BA (Hons) PGCE

Mrs I Taylor, BA (Hons) Cert Ed

Mrs I Weatherup, TDERC

Mr M Poole, BA (Hons) QTS

Mrs F Campbell, BSc (Hons) PGCE

Mrs S McCullough, BSc (Hons) PGCE Cert RE

Mr B Adams, BA (Hons) PGCE

Mr D McClean, BA (Hons) PGCE

Miss R Morrow, BA (Hons) PGCE

Mrs J Beggs, BA (Hons) PGCE

Mrs A Cunningham, BA (Hons) PGCE MSc

Mrs R Duncan, BA (Hons) Cert Ed

Miss S Clarke, Dip Ind BA (Hons) PGCE

Mrs E Alexander, BA Cert Ed

Miss L Collins, MA (Hons) PGCE PG Dip

Ms S O'Connor, BA (Hons) PGCE

Miss C Neeson, BA (Hons) PGCE

Mrs C Allen, BEd

Miss L Battersby, BSc (Hons) PGCE

Art & Design

Art & Design

Business Studies

English

English/Media Studies

English

English

English

English

English

English

Geography

Geography

History

History

History

Home Economics

Home Economics

Home Economics

Home Economics

ICT

Languages

Languages

Languages

Mathematics

Mathematics

Mrs M Dixon, BEd	Mathematics
Mrs C Graham, BEd (Hons)	Mathematics
Mrs C Wasson, BSc (Hons) PGCE	Mathematics
Mrs L Woods, Med BSc (Hons) PGCE	Mathematics
Mr A Beattie, BEd LRSM	Music
Miss C Waugh, MA BMus (Hons) PGCE Dip ABRSM ATCLMUS	Music
Mrs V Beattie, BEd (Hons) MA Ed CPD Careers	Physical Education
Miss V McKinty, BEd (Hons)	Physical Education
Miss J Miniss, BSc (Hons) DIS PGCE	Physical Education
Mr S McGuigan, BEd (Hons) DASE MEd	Physical Education
Mr I Trimble, BA (Hons) PGCE	Physical Education
Mrs A Coombs, BA (Hons) PGCE MEd	Religious Education
Mr D Beggs, BSc	Science
Mrs E Dinsmore, BSc (Hons) PGCE	Science
Mrs V Williams, BSc (Hons) PGCE	Science
Mrs J Kirby, BTech PGCE Cert Ed	Science
Mrs E Parr, BSc (Hons) DIS PGCE	Science
Ms J Russell, BSc (Hons) PGCE MEd DIS	Science
Miss L Load, BSc (Hons) PGCE	Science
Miss S Flanagan, BEng PGCE	Technology
Mr A Graham, BEng PGCE	Technology
Mr G White, BEd (Hons)	Technology
Mrs A Dunn, BA (Hons) PGCE	Literacy Support
Mr J Waldron, DA DASE	Accounts

Non-Teaching Staff:

Mrs S McCreary	Senior Executive Officer
Mrs C Patterson	Executive Officer
Mrs T Bottomley	Clerical Officer
Mrs A Dent	Clerical Officer/Librarian
Mrs D Kerr	Clerical Officer
Mrs E Buckley	Classroom Assistant
Mrs A Gault	Classroom Assistant
Mrs M Kennedy	Classroom Assistant
Mrs K McAlister	Classroom Assistant
Mrs V McConnell	Classroom Assistant
Mrs H Montgomery	Classroom Assistant
Mrs A Crothers	Classroom Assistant
Miss G Patterson	Classroom Assistant
Mrs S Stevenson	Classroom Assistant
Mrs E Taylor	Classroom Assistant
Mr M McLean	Art Technician
Mrs T Allen	Audio Visual Technician
Mrs A Boyd	Home Economics Technician
Mr M Hunter	ICT Technician
Ms C McDowell	ICT Technician
Mr M Higginson	Senior Science Technician
Mrs E Forsythe	Science Technician
Mr E Millar	Technology Technician



Ballyclare Staff 2011/2012 continued

Non-Teaching Staff continued:

Mrs H McKay
Mr I Wright
Mr N Higgins

School Nurse
Building Supervisor
Building Supervisor

Board of Governors:

Chairman:

Rev Dr J H MacConnell

Secretary:

Mrs K Bell

Parents' Representatives:

Mrs M Hamilton
Mrs L Horner
Mr S Traynor
Mrs W Wallace

Teachers' Representatives:

Mr B Adams
Miss Y Moody

Transferor Representatives:

Mrs J Crawford
Mr J Harkness
Rev R Kerr
Mrs E Mann
Mr A McConnell

NEELB Representatives:

ALD P Girvan MLA
Mr C Jackson
Mr R Thompson
Rev Dr E T Kirkland



Ballyclare Secondary School Teaching Staff 2011



Ballyclare Secondary School Teaching Staff 1961

Art Department

When the school opened there were two Art rooms in the original building which today are rooms 8 and 10. Mrs Carson was the only Art teacher and so it fell to her to design the school badge. She included three emblems representing the Six Mile Water, the Paper Mill and ears of corn representing the farming tradition of the area. Fifty years ago the Department was called "Arts and Crafts". The latter meant that while girls pursued sewing and cookery in Domestic Science, boys were engaged in light crafts such as weaving, pottery and modelling. Girls and boys then came together for Art which included painting and drawing. Art classes could have up to forty pupils, a daunting task for Mrs Carson,

As the school expanded, another Art teacher was required. Mrs Martin, then Miss Millar, joined the staff for her first period at Ballyclare. After five years Mrs Martin left to teach in Cullybacky and she was replaced by Mr Gingles. The Department continued with two teachers right up until 1973 when it became necessary to appoint another part time teacher. Mrs Martin joined the staff for the second time. With a growing Department, space was at a premium. Mr Gingles was consigned to a mobile classroom while Mrs Love, the Head of department and the late Mrs Martin taught in the original art rooms. In 1974 plans were drawn up for a new Art and Design Department and Project area. By 1976 it was occupied, although Mr Gingles still taught in the mobile. Changes in the curriculum placed a further demand for staff. Class sizes became restricted to twenty pupils in practical subjects and this gave Mrs Martin an opportunity to work full time again.

Change is ever present in education and in the first part of its history, the Art Department saw its fair share. The original public examinations at Junior and Senior Certificate gave way to GCE Ordinary and Advanced Level with the Certificate of Secondary Education added into the mix. Eventually all of these were replaced by the General Certificate of Secondary Education. The evolution of public examination was reflected in the evolution of Art and



Design education. The introduction of Design into the Art timetable led to a demand for new teaching skills and subject knowledge. Fine art, crafts and design became integrated into exam specifications and also into the schemes of work for the junior school. In all this, the Art and Design Department staff have proved their ability to stay at the forefront of any change. Ballyclare Secondary has become synonymous with innovation and new art media while maintaining high standards in traditional media such as painting, drawing, textiles and ceramics.

In 1992 Mrs Love retired from teaching. During her custodianship the Art Department had expanded, been redeveloped and met the challenges of educational reform. Mrs Martin became the new Head of Art and Design. This meant a new teacher had to be found and Ms Huey joined the Department from Ballee Community High. Mr Gingles was, by this time, not only a successful teacher, but also an artist



Art continued

with a growing international reputation. A year sabbatical had been granted to him and he took up residency at the British School of Art in Rome. Here he enhanced his reputation by continuing to make his complex sculptural boxes. With his work in many collections he was elected as a member of the Royal Ulster Academy where he became a council member. Mr Gingles' connection with the contemporary art world was invaluable to his students. Out of many successful A Level students, Chris Heaney was the most notable by becoming top A Level student in Northern Ireland.



Robyn Kelly, a Year 9 pupil at Ballyclare Secondary School, was recently invited to the launch of a Visa sponsorship event for British athletes competing in the 2008 Olympics. Young people from across the UK were invited to produce artwork on the theme 'One World, One Dream' and Robyn's painting was chosen as the Northern Ireland entry. She and other pupils had to talk to the audience, including British athletes sponsored by Visa, the Mayor of Stratford and Majista Oliver from 14, about their paintings and what they represented. The paintings now go through to a nationwide competition and the overall winner will get the chance to travel to China for the 2008 Olympics. Robyn was interviewed live on Downtown Radio after her presentation. NT40-214JN

All teachers leave their mark on the history of an art department. Ms Huey was no exception. As a textile graduate she encouraged the development of contemporary textiles in the Department. Her classes became renowned for their "soft sculptures" after Claus Oldenburg, the American Pop Artist. Enormous felt made pencils and paintbrushes along with other outsized domestic objects began to appear around the school.

In 2001 Mrs Martin announced her retirement and left the school in October of that year. Sadly Mrs Martin died a short time after her retirement. She had been an inspirational Head of Department and will always be remembered fondly by her colleagues and pupils.



Mr Blair was appointed as Mrs Martin's successor. He joined the staff at Easter 2002 and was made feel welcome immediately by Mr Gingles and Ms Huey. Mr Blair's interest in ceramics was soon incorporated into the work of the department and ceramic projects grew in popularity as examination outcomes. Painting, ceramics, construction and textiles made the range of art and design work produced in the Department interesting and varied, giving our students the widest experience possible.

In 2003, that doyen of Irish Art, Mr Gingles, retired. It is hard to overstate the importance he had in the Art and Design Department. His flamboyant style made him uniquely influential to his pupils and to his A Level students in particular. It fell to Miss Liddle to take up his mantle. A graduate in ceramics, Miss Liddle came from Lisnasharagh Secondary in Belfast. She made an immediate impact with her pupils and introduced "paper clay" and "volcanic glazes" to the Department.

During 2003 the Department enjoyed the services of Miss E Huey on a temporary basis. A contemporary "Installation Artist", she will be remembered for her handmade Christmas card project. Very



stylish cards and gift tags were designed and made by a production team of junior school art pupils. The cards were sold to raise money for charity. Cards were also sent to Her Majesty the Queen, His Holiness the Pope and the Prime Minister Tony Blair. It was very exciting to receive the thanks and good wishes from all of the recipients.

In 2006 Miss Brown joined the department for a short while. A graduate from the Royal College of Art, she had worked as a senior animator at the Ardmans Studios, the creators of Wallace and Grommit. She arrived just at the right time to help David Mahon to make his first stop motion animation film, based on his



articulated fantasy characters. The film was shot in super eight and was the first of many films to be made in the Art Department. David's next project was a feature, shot in real time. This became part of an installation piece called "The Shed" which became the main attraction at the annual A Level Art Show. Known as the BSS Young Artists, this has become the most eagerly awaited event in the Departmental calendar and we are hoping that the BSS Young Artists 2012 will be an extra special one.

The Art Department is very successful in public examinations and has produced some notable individual performances. Chris Heaney, Emma McKeown, and Julie Dorian have all attained first place in GCE A Level in Northern Ireland, while Victoria Taylor was top candidate in GCSE in Northern Ireland.

The Department continued to grow and by 2005 Miss Dundas, Miss Collins and Mrs McKeeman were teaching a few periods of Art



per week. In 2006 Miss Waugh, a former pupil of Mr Gingles, returned to the school to teach music. Her abilities as an artist led her to join the Department to teach twelve periods per week. In the autumn term Miss Liddle was appointed as Head of Art at Antrim Grammar. Miss Moody took up the vacant position in November. A textiles graduate, she also brought considerable organizational skills to the Department as she also holds a Masters Degree in Business Studies. Her talents have not gone unnoticed and she is now a teacher member of the Board of Governors.

Since 1998 to the present day, the Art and Design Department has enjoyed the services of Michael McLean. As the Department Technician, Michael has assisted many pupils in the realization of their art projects. He is always ready to go the extra mile in helping our pupils achieve success.

The first fifty years of the Art and Design Department has been one of continuous change and development. Like all departments it has often reinvented itself to meet new challenges, be they curriculum driven or as the result of new technology. New staff joining have enriched the culture of the Department, each one bringing something new to make the learning of our pupils more fulfilling. The evolution of Ballyclare Secondary School Art Department will continue, hopefully for another fifty years. One thing will remain constant, the desire to give our pupils the best educational experience possible.





Business Studies Department

When secondary schools were established in Northern Ireland, 'Commercial Subjects' occupied a prominent place in the curriculum. Ballyclare Secondary was no exception. However, in 1961 the small number of pupils opting for these subjects did not warrant a full-time teacher and it was decided to appoint Mr Mark Hunter, a teacher at the local Technical College, on a part-time basis. As the new school expanded and demand for commercial subjects increased, Mr Stirling, who was convinced of, not only the academic value of these subjects, but also of their vocational importance, appointed Mr Mark Hunter on a full-time basis in 1963. In 1964 another full-time teacher, Mr Jim Platt, joined the Department along with a part-time member, Mrs E Agnew.

However, it was during the 1970s that the Department developed rapidly. The school leaving age had been raised to 16 and with the encouragement and support of Mr Stirling, the number of staff increased to four. Mrs P Scott (Kane), Mr C Holmes and Mr J Waldron joined the new Head of Department, Mr Platt - Mr Hunter having retired in 1969. Mrs Scott remained in post for five years before deciding to leave teaching and her replacement was Miss E Davison (Alexander). In 1975 the Department moved from Rooms 5 and 6 in the middle corridor to the top floor of the 'new' extension - four classrooms for four full-time teachers.

There were more staff changes in the 1980s and 1990s. Mr Platt moved to a lectureship at



the University of Ulster. His contribution to the Department for over twenty years was enormous. He inspired and encouraged his teaching colleagues with his infectious enthusiasm for classroom teaching. The dynamic and legendary Mr C Holmes joined the Northern Ireland Curriculum Council. Miss R Creighton (Boles) and Miss A Saunderson replaced those who had left. However, the latter, after two years in Ballyclare returned to live in her native County Fermanagh. Miss H Kelso (Porte) was then appointed as her replacement.

Mr J Waldron became Head of Department on Mr Platt's departure and it was during his time that major changes in the curriculum occurred. Computers in the form of Apple Macs replaced clattering typewriters and the new subject of Word Processing was introduced. 'A' Level Business Studies, 'A' Level Accounting and OCR National Level in Business were added to the Sixth Form Curriculum. Fortunately during this period there was no staff turnover with the result that all curriculum change occurred smoothly and efficiently.

In 1993 the Department was on the move again - this time to the top floor of the luxurious surroundings of the Stirling Building.

One major change however, did occur. The Information Technology Department was established and Mrs E Alexander was appointed Head of Department. This was a natural development but there is still a great overlap with the Business Studies Department - there is a sharing of teachers and a sharing of facilities. Mr McCrea's decision to locate





the two departments on the same floor of the Stirling Building has ensured that both will and must work co-operatively.

When Mr J Waldron retired from full time teaching, Mrs R Boles became Head of Department. Currently, Business Studies' teachers in the Department are: Mrs E Alexander, Mrs R Boles, Mrs H Porte, Mrs K Alexander and Miss V McKinty. In recent years,

Business Studies' students have participated in the Young Enterprise Company Programme and have set up their own businesses. They have raised share capital which they have used to produce and market their products. They have sold many products including key rings, engraved glasses, school calendars and sweet jars. Students have been able to support local charities with the profits they have made from their enterprises!





Drama and Performing Arts Department

Since its inception in 1961, Ballyclare Secondary School has had a strong



Basil Gage, Kenneth Forsythe and Francis Murray, 'Oliver' (1970)

relationship with the Dramatic Arts. In recent years this relationship has developed and the subjects of Drama and Performing Arts have been introduced and become intrinsic parts of school life. The status of these subjects today however, is thanks to and

because of all that came before and those members of staff who gave generations of pupils the opportunity to perform.

School musicals have been a regular outlet for the dramatists of the school down the years, productions including 'Oliver' (1970), 'Oklahoma' (1975), 'Mary Poppins' (1997) and most recently 'Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' (2009) to name but a few. Many staff contributed their time and effort to make these productions a success over the years, beginning with Mrs Davison and Mrs McDowell. Their legacy was then inherited by Mr and Mrs Beattie who have more recently been assisted by Miss Waugh, Mrs McKay, Mr Poole and many others.

The school musical was not the only opportunity down the years for pupils to explore Drama and the Performing Arts. In 1992 Mrs Davison, Mrs and Mr Beattie, Mrs Weatherup and Mrs V Beattie began a Dance, Drama and Music Club which performed a 'Summer Serenade' in 1993 and an adaptation of Charles Dickens 'A Christmas Carol' in 1994, affording a whole new generation of pupils to experience the thrill of performance. Then in 2003, an extra curricular



Drama Club was established by Mrs Service and Ms O'Connor which was then reprinted in 2007 by Mrs McKay and once more in 2008 by Mr Poole.

2007 was a significant year, as it saw the school's first pupils undertaking the study of GCSE Drama and GCE Performing Arts. The delivery of GCSE Drama was spearheaded by Mrs McKay, who we have to thank for its existence as a subject in the school. She guided the formative class successfully through their course of study. In 2008 Mr Poole joined the staff and began teaching the new breed of GCSE Dramatists as well as giving Year 8 pupils the opportunity to experience Drama as part of their course of study. Since then the subject has

continued to grow and Drama is now studied by all pupils in years 8, 9 and 10, delivered by Mr Poole, Mrs McKay and Mrs Strange, and is proving a popular choice at GCSE.



The Performing Arts class of 2007 was ably led through the course by Mr and Mrs Beattie and Miss Waugh and achieved success at both AS and A2 Levels. Mr Poole then began to deliver the subject collaboratively with Mr Beattie in 2009. Since then, Performing Arts



The cast of 'Joseph and His Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat' (2009)



Trip to London (2010)

pupils have organised events throughout the school including a play and workshop addressing the issue of bullying for pupils in Year 8 and a whole school Talent Show. The subject has continued to be an area of success for the school, performing excellent plays and achieving great results in the two years since its introduction. Now a fresh crop of pupils has begun to undertake this subject and they, too, are enjoying success.

At present the school's rich tradition of extra curricular Drama is still abundant and has only been helped by the introduction of Drama and Performing Arts to the school's curriculum. In recent times, pupils have visited theatres across Northern Ireland to watch performances as well as trips to the Dublin Theatre festival and to London's West End to see the musical 'Billy Elliot' in 2010. Hopefully Ballyclare Secondary School will continue to nurture and develop the creative talents of its pupils for years to come.



Drama GCSE pupils Dylan McMaster, David Laverty and Eleanor Hyndman rehearsing (2011)



English Department

Did you know that, when the English Department was first created in 1961, it was staffed by only three teachers? Did you also know that Mr Sidney Astbury was the first Head of English (and French) until he retired in 1985 and Miss Roberts succeeded him,



running the Department until her retirement in 2010? Such long service can only indicate what a good Department this is in which to work!

We now have a greater number of staff teaching English in 2011, namely, Mrs Oliver (Acting Head of Department), Mrs Taylor (Key Skill Co-ordinator), Mrs Weatherup (Special Needs Co-ordinator), Mr Graham (Examinations Officer), Mrs McKeeman (Library Development Officer), Mrs McKay (Media Studies Development Officer), Mr Poole (Drama), Mrs Massey, Mrs Black, Mrs Strange and Miss Pulford. We also benefit from the services of Miss Morrow, borrowed from History, on a part time basis. This increase in staffing levels is as a direct result of having greater numbers of students and a wider curriculum that now encompasses areas such as Literature, Library Studies, Drama and Media Studies. We also have a thriving Sixth Form and many students choose to study English at A Level. Did you know that two of our past A Level English students now teach in Ballyclare Secondary School? Perhaps you would never guess, but they are Mr McClean and Miss Elliott. We have come a long way since 1961!

Our accommodation has also expanded to include six classrooms, a group room and a



newly refurbished Library. There have been many teaching staff employed to teach English over the last 50 years, too many to mention. However, recent retirements include Mrs Dennis, Mrs McCormick, Mrs Dummigan, Mrs Gawne and Miss Roberts, all of whom were long-serving members of staff, perhaps illustrating the point that our pupils are, in the main, pleasant and hard working, making our jobs so much more enjoyable. At one point, we could almost be forgiven for thinking that one of the pre-requisites for teaching in Ballyclare Secondary School English Department was to be named Catherine! We have had a succession of appointments all named Catherine, Mrs Nicholl, Mrs Rankin and Mrs Service and, ironically, they all taught in Room 215.

The Department has weathered many changes in educational thinking, notably, the move from O Level and CSE to the current GCSE system and from the traditional A Level to the current modular format of AS and A2 examinations. In 2010, we had particular success in the A2 examinations, with 90% of our pupils achieving A* to C grades. Three of these students attained the coveted A grades, Adele McNair, Heather Armstrong and Emily Mairs.

There have been many innovations over the last 50 years that match educational thinking of the time or the students' personal interests. Among current innovations are the Hardbacks Book Club and the Accelerated Reading Programme, both designed to instil our students with a greater love of reading.

Undoubtedly, there will be many more challenges and changes to face over the next 50 years, but most of us will no longer be here to write about them!

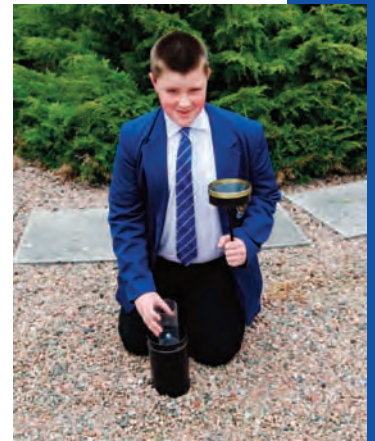
Geography Department

The Geography Department was established in its own right in the early 1970s. The first Head of Department was Mr Gordon Ward, who remained in that position until 1981 when he left to become principal of Coleraine Boys' Secondary School. Other teachers in the Department in the 1970s were Miss Allen (later Mrs Ferguson), Mr Gilmer, Miss Holmes (Mrs McDonald) Miss Rankin (Mrs Doherty), Miss Neill (Mrs Moore) and Miss Roberts.



now follow a varied and challenging course and at GCSE Level, we are now in the process of introducing Leisure and Tourism as an additional subject.

Fieldwork is recognised as an integral part of Geography. After the Department's formation, field trips were based at Moneyvart Youth Hostel in Cushendall, Bushmills Residential Centre and the school's own out centre at Glenariff. Presently, A Level pupils go, each year, to Magilligan Field Centre to study sand dune succession. Controlled Assessment has been introduced at GCSE Level and for this, pupils carry out either a weather study in the school grounds or a study of the Colin Glen River.



In 1971, Miss Harvey (Mrs Davison) joined the staff and she succeeded Mr Ward as Head of Department in 1981. Mrs McConnell arrived at this time and was soon joined by Mrs McQuoid. By 1986, the team had changed again, to include Mrs Agnew, Miss Neill (Mrs Beattie) and Mr McGuigan. Mrs Campbell became part



of the team in 1996 and Mrs McCullough was appointed in 2009, when Mrs Davison retired and Mrs Agnew became Head of Department. There have been many changes over the years, not only in staffing, but also in the curriculum, assessment procedures and examinations. After a break of 18 years, A Level classes were re-introduced in 1996. At Key Stage 3, the pupils



Today the Department is thriving, with many pupils choosing the subject at both GCSE and A Level and a number each year electing to continue their Geography studies at university.



History Department

When Ballyclare Secondary opened its doors in 1961, History and Geography were part of the Social Studies Department. It was headed by Tommy Gilmer and members of the Department were expected to teach both subjects, with no specialist training required.

Sheila Speers was the first History specialist to join the school in 1963, and in 1965 she became Head of the newly-created and separate History Department. At that time, pupils were usually entered for what was known as the Junior Certificate examination, but in 1965, Mrs Speers entered one of her class, Harry Wright, in the newly created GCE O Level in History. She recalled later that "Harry Wright was our guinea-pig. He proved that secondary school children could sit, and pass, examinations which were, primarily, designed to be the preserve of grammar school pupils". Among her many successes was Robert Yorke, who went on to do A Level History and Geography, before going to the University of Coleraine to gain his Bachelor of Arts degree in Environmental Science.

After Mrs Speers left Ballyclare Secondary, she was succeeded as Head of Department by Miriam Allen (later to become Mrs Ferguson), who joined the school in 1970. Mrs Ferguson built on a solid foundation laid by her predecessor, building up the resources of the Department. She also introduced an element of local history into the junior school syllabus and demonstrated, at all times, a care for the welfare of her pupils. Mr Todd, the recently retired Head of History, said of her, "Of her many and varied qualities, her greatest was an appetite for hard work. She expected of others, both colleagues and pupils, no less than she was prepared to give herself – and that was an awful lot". When she left Ballyclare Secondary in 1976, her legacy was a History Department



that had become firmly established as a cornerstone of the school's curriculum.

Mr Todd took over from Mrs Ferguson as Head of Department in 1976. He remembers that his first examination class consisted of one pupil, Linda Quail, who covered her A Level course in one year. In the 1970s and 1980s, A Level work was undertaken by only a relatively small number of pupils compared to the numbers who now do A Level History, but the foundations of A Level were laid by Mrs Ferguson and Mr Todd, under whom it became a very successful part of the work of the History Department. Under their guidance, top grade A Level students included Sarah Montgomery, Edith Hill, Olivia Buckley, Margaret McCullough, Ivor McKeown, Valerie Stirling, George Buckley and Sonia Johnston. There were many other notable successes at O Level too, with Mr Todd particularly remembering the lively contributions made by Harry Robinson, Colin Pennock, Helen Mitchell, Tommy Robinson, Andrea Wilson, Paul Johnston and Gareth Fenning. The early 1970s also saw the introduction of the CSE examination. However, the CSE and O Level examinations were phased out in the 1980s, to be replaced by the GCSE, an examination designed to cover virtually the whole ability range at sixteen.

The introduction of GCSE reflects the changes which took place in teaching History in the 1980s and 1990s. As a result, History became unrecognisable from the subject that many pupils had come to know in the first 25 years of the school's history – the days of trying to cover everything from 'Plato to Nato' had gone. In the 1980s, Mr Todd began a major review of the History Department's aims, objectives, syllabus content and teaching



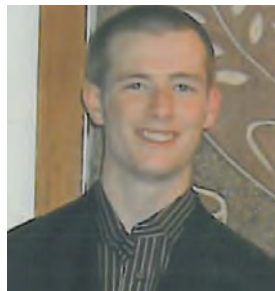
Mr Todd and Mrs Ferguson



methods.

Over four years, new courses were developed in the junior school which focused much more on the handling of historical evidence, through which the knowledge and skills essential to today's youth could be developed.

During the 1990s, the numbers opting to remain at school to follow History at A Level grew, and there were many top grade results achieved, notably by David McClean, Deborah Rodgers, Gavin Graham and James McCrea. Over the past 10 years the numbers choosing to study History at A Level have mushroomed and in recent years have consistently and comfortably reached double figures. This is testament to the hard work put in by the staff in the Department, and the results achieved at A Level have been impressive, as indeed have the results achieved at GCSE, which have been consistently above the national average.



Chris Magill

Among the many who have excelled at A Level since the turn of the century, mention should be made of David Boyd, Laura Pollock, Heather Robson, Marc Higgins, Sasha Browne, Chris Magill, Christopher Higgins, Paul Mulhern, Matthew Mairs, Sarah Doone and Sasha Cardwell. Particular credit goes to Chris Magill who progressed to a 1st Class Honours in History at

Newcastle University, followed by a Master's Degree at Queen's University and, at the time of writing, is pursuing a PhD course in History at Queen's. Mention should also be made of Aaron Edwards who preceded Chris Magill in going on to achieve a PhD in Political Science at Queen's University, Belfast. Aaron is currently a Senior Lecturer in Defence and International Affairs at the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst. He also has a number of publications to his name, with another due for publication in 2012. An impressive achievement by any standards.

Shortly before Mr Todd's retirement, one of our past pupils, Mr McClean, returned to take up a post in the History



Department, joining Mr Manson and Mr Adams, who had taken up his post in 1995. All members of the Department have taught the full ability range in the junior school and all have been involved in the teaching of GCSE and AS/A Level



History Department

courses, with Mr Adams, also taking responsibility for introducing the Entry Level Certificate in Years 11 and 12.

Mr Todd retired in 2006 after 37 years of committed service to the school, and was replaced by Mr Manson, who remembers him as a Head of Department who was always very supportive, was very hard working, and who contributed so much to the lives of the pupils, not just in the classroom, but in the field of extra curricular activities as well. There will be many pupils who will recall with affection the annual trips to Liverpool, undertaken by the senior football team. He also had an encyclopaedic knowledge of the Beatles, which never failed to impress and which was never found wanting, despite the best efforts of staff to put it under scrutiny! Above all, his was a Department which was extremely well run, with a level of organisation that could not be matched and which was appreciated by all those who worked with him. His level of commitment to the pupils was an example to the rest of the Department, and the level of success enjoyed by the Department in examinations over the years is due, in no small measure, to his work.

Since Mr Todd retired, the curriculum has undergone radical change once again, with the introduction of the revised curriculum for Key Stage 3, and the subsequent changes made to examinations both at Key Stage 4 (GCSE) and at Key Stage 5 (AS/A Level).

Shortly after Mr Todd's departure, Miss Morrow joined us, and her fresh ideas and her skills in ICT have been a welcome addition to an already strong Department. She has contributed fully to the development of the revised curriculum over the past 3 years.

It would be



remiss of me, finally, not to mention those many staff over the years who have contributed in no small way to the work of the History Department in either a full time or part time capacity. These include Miss Joan McDowell, Mrs Daphne Mears, Miss Patricia Mills, Mrs Ruth Davison, Mrs Rhonda Morris, Mrs Helen McConnell, Mrs Eleanor Dennis, Miss Carolyn Roberts, Mrs Helen Doherty, Mr John Graham, Miss Valerie Neill (now Mrs Beattie), Mr David Farrell and Miss Diane Morrow.



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Home Economics Department

During the summer months of 1961 Mrs Florence Montgomery and Miss Nora Dougan met for a shopping session in a Belfast hardware store to buy all the equipment for the new kitchens of the Domestic Science Department in Ballyclare Secondary School. Mrs Montgomery had been appointed the new Head of Department, having previously taught in Ballyclare High School, a position she held for the next 22 years. Miss Joan Smith joined the team in 1963 and Miss Dougan married Mr Connor McKnight from the CDT Department within the school. In 1969 Miss Linda Sherrard joined the Department. She was chosen as a representative of the Young Farmers' Clubs of Northern Ireland to visit Australia for 6 months. Miss Hutchinson, joined the Department in 1973 and indeed was a former pupil of the school. Mrs Margaret Scott worked as a substitute teacher within the Department for many years between 1972 and 1999.

In 1977 Mrs Montgomery became Senior Mistress and Miss Smith took on the role of Head of Department at this time. Miss Skelly joined the Department in 1983 when Mrs Montgomery retired. Another longstanding dedicated member of the Department was Henrietta Cameron (nee Millar) the Domestic Science Technician from 1973 to her retirement in November 2009. Henrietta was not only a valued member of the Domestic Science staff, she was also in attendance as a pupil on the first day the school opened. Other teaching staff within the Department have included Mrs A Houston, Miss Susan Witherspoon and Mrs Beryl Johnston. Mrs Anne Dunn has also worked within the Home Economics Department and today still is a member of the teaching staff although she has now transferred to the area of Special Educational Needs. Mrs Rosemary Duncan initially joined the Department as a substitute teacher in November 1989 and was appointed to a full time post in the Department in 1990 when Mrs Linda Currie left. Sadly, on December 18th, 1993 Mrs Florence Montgomery passed away. She was a highly respected Head of Department, Vice Principal



and indeed a founder member of staff within the school.

Miss Alison Scott initially joined the Department as a substitute teacher covering Mrs Duncan's maternity leave in 1997. She was later appointed a full time position in



2000 and in 2002 took up the position of Head of Department following Miss Smith's retirement. Mrs Ann Cunningham was appointed to the Department in September 2000 having recently got married and having taught at Movilla High School. Mrs Jos Beggs worked as a substitute teacher for a period of time and was

then appointed in 2004 when a job share position with Mrs Cunningham became available. Miss Hutchinson was a long standing member of the Department until her retirement in June 2007. Mrs Bell, our newly appointed Principal, joined the Department of Home Economics in September 2007. She was previously Head of Home Economics in Dunclug College, Ballymena. More recent appointments within the Department have included Miss Sandra Clarke in September 2008 and Miss Karen Kelly in September 2010. Mrs Amy Boyd also joined the Department in November 2009 as Home Economics Technician following Mrs Henrietta



Cameron's retirement. This increase in staffing levels to 4 full time teachers and 2 teachers working in a job share reflects an active, ever growing Department.

When the school opened in 1961 there were two Cookery rooms and one Needlework room. This accommodation proved insufficient and in 1976 the Needlework room was converted to a multi-purpose kitchen. As part of a new extension to the school, another room was built to include a dining area, lounge, bedroom and bathroom. This was used to teach housecraft. The subject of Domestic Science covered



Ballyclare Secondary School pupils Robyn James and Kara Todd are joined by Mrs A Cunningham, Mr SA McCrea (Principal) and Mrs A McCrea. NT34-90200N

STUDENTS CELEBRATE TOP GRADES

BALLYCLARE Secondary School was delighted to learn that two of their pupils, Kara Todd and Robyn James, were among top five performers in the UK in Health and Social Care Double Award A-Level this summer. The girls were among 2009 candidates entered for this Assessment and Qualifications Alliance (AQA) examination. Kara Todd has been identified as the top candidate in the Applied GCE Subjects group of A-Levels offered by AQA. This judgement was based on her performance in the Health and Social Care A Level. Altogether there were an estimated 14,136 entries in this group. This outstanding performance is being recognised by awarding a solid silver medal to Kara along with a specially prepared diploma for Ballyclare Secondary. The medal and diploma will be presented by AQA at an award seminar in London this autumn. The school's Principal, Mr Uel McCrea offered the girls and their teachers his congratulations on such outstanding performances. "These two students, both of whom at age 11 were regarded by some as not suitable for academic education, have also achieved 5 (5 such) grade A at A-Level and we wish them well as they begin their university careers." he added.

Cookery, Needlework Craftwork and Household Management. In March 1992 the staff and pupils vacated their accommodation for the summer term to allow



refurbishment of the Department to take place. Mr Kyle McAdam, a former pupil, was in charge of helping to design the new rooms. In September 1992 we returned to a new suite of lovely, freshly decorated and equipped accommodation. The Department now has three multi purpose kitchens, a Head of Department's Office, Technician's Office and a Sixth Form study room.

Domestic Science, as a subject, has seen many changes with one of the most notable being its name which is now Home Economics. Miss Smith recalls that back in 1961 equipment such as a washboard and wringer were used for laundry work. These items have since been replaced by a washing machine and tumble dryer. Now in 2011, smoothie makers, hand blenders and muffin tins are in use for food practical lessons. Boys were introduced to the subject of Home Economics in 1984 and today within the school all boys and girls study the

subject at Key Stage 3. As part of the Northern Ireland Revised Curriculum which was introduced in September 2007, Home Economics moved to being under the Learning Area of Learning for Life and Work, as a stand alone subject.

At the end of Key Stage 3, pupils now make choices as to what subjects they would like to study for GCSE. Within the Home Economics Department two GCSE subject choices are available. These are GCSE Home Economics and GCSE Child Development. These two subjects have proven to be extremely successful with many students progressing on to study GCE Home Economics and the GCE Double Award Health and Social Care Course. Course



content at GCSE Level has seen many changes and the move is now towards students being able to apply themselves to the subject, identify relevant issues and evaluate outcomes. With recent specification changes, coursework has now become known as 'controlled assessments' and these make up 60% of the final mark awarded to students, with the remaining 40% of marks being based on externally examined units. There has also been a move back to more emphasis being placed on the practical food preparation aspect of Home Economics. The focus is still on healthy eating, although the need for convenience due to the demands of



Home Economics Department continued

society also has to be integrated into practical lessons. There has been a shift away from the making of puff pastry from scratch, rock cakes and lemon meringue pie all made with no packet mixes! Classes now produce dishes to meet the tastes of today's teenagers. This would include sweet chilli beef chow mein, Mexican burittos, tortilla chips with dips, homemade beefburgers with Mediterranean style vegetables served with crispy potato wedges. Sweet items may include Diana bars, crepes with chocolate sauce and carrot cake muffins with orange topping.

The increase in student numbers in Sixth Form has led to the opportunity for students to study A Level Home Economics and in September 1999 a new subject area was introduced into the Department. A small group started a two year course in GNVQ Health and Social Care. This developed into the extremely successful Advanced Level Health and Social Care Course which runs today. This is offered by the Home Economics Department as a Double and Single Award A Level. These two A Level subjects have proven to be extremely successful and many students over the years have gone on to study at University, having achieved excellent results in these subject areas. Notable successes in these subjects would have to include Kara Todd who, in June 2007, was awarded top student by the AQA Examining body, not only in Health and Social Care at GCE Level but also in all Applied subjects with 14,138 student entries. Kara was awarded a Silver Medal for this achievement and both Mrs Cunningham and Mr McCrea, along with Kara's family, attended an Award Ceremony in London in recognition of this achievement. Kara has now gained a Degree in Social Work. In the same year group, Robyn James was also named as being in the top five students in GCE Health and Social Care. Robyn went on to complete a Degree in Nursing at Queen's. More recently Ashleigh Beattie was placed third in GCE Health and Social Care in June 2010. Ashleigh is now completing her PGCE at Stranmillis College Belfast. GCE Home Economics has also seen many excellent students complete the course and recently Philip Rivers has



become the first male student to complete the GCE Course in Home Economics attaining an A grade.

These subject areas have also benefited by the contribution of individuals from the community of Ballyclare bringing their expertise into the classroom. Mrs Anne Rohu, now retired from Ballyclare Health Centre, assisted with Child Development classes for many years. Mrs Susan Butler, a practice nurse in the Health Centre, delivers information on



screening tests to our Health and Social Care students. It is now also the case that past students who have completed degree courses visit the Department to bring their expertise in specific areas. This includes Karen Jackson and Nikki Gilmour both qualified occupational therapists, Aimee McClean and Kara Todd qualified Social Workers and Faye Mawhinney, qualified with a degree in Nursing. We really do appreciate the support of these past students as they offer first hand expertise in their area of study which is invaluable when

delivering many of the units in Health and Social Care. The GCSE Home Economics Course has also relied on outside organisations such as Ulster Pork and Bacon, the Livestock and Meat Commission and the Seafish Authority for in-school demonstrations which have proved very enjoyable over the years, especially when famous personalities like Jenny Bristow and Sean Owens are doing the demonstrating! Home Economics students have also benefited from educational establishments such as Loughry College in Cookstown. Many students completed their Basic Food Hygiene training at the college and seminars are also made available for GCE students to develop specialist knowledge in topics such as advertising and marketing. The GCSE Child Development Course also benefits from local private day nurseries in Ballyclare. Kare Bears and Rhyme Thyme have proven invaluable in allowing students studying the course to get experience of working with young children by allowing short placements during term time. The introduction to the Department of two virtual reality babies, which students who study GCSE Child Development may take home for the weekend, have also been welcome, or perhaps unwelcome, additions to many students. They allow students to experience what it would be like to have a baby to look after. Opinions from most students would suggest this is a very tiring experience!

In 2002 the Home Economics Department started to run a Cookery Club after school on a Tuesday for junior school pupils. Family meals, desserts and tray bakes are made by an enthusiastic group of pupils in a more informal setting. In 2010 the idea of doing a fundraising activity each term was introduced and to date pupils attending Cookery Club have made a wide range of tray bakes and sold these to teachers and pupils to raise money for McMillan Cancer World's Largest Coffee Morning. Scones were also produced at Cookery Club and then sold alongside bacon butties to staff and pupils to raise money for the charity organisation Mencap.

The Home Economics Department has always encouraged students to take part in

competitions which allow for further



development of their skills in the subject area. Going back many years students including June Herron, Angela Beggs, Shona Cross, David Hamill, Cheryl Conway and Elizabeth Adair entered a Nationwide competition in which their skill in producing a recipe and design for a cake resulted in the school winning a microwave oven. In 1985 Janet Boyd was chosen as the Northern Ireland finalist in the NIES 'Cook Electric' series and won a Food processor for the Department. Janette Neeson was third in the 'Junior Cook of the Year' final and in 1986, Patricia McGookin was also in the final. That year also saw Lavinia Murdoch as the winner in the 'New Zealand Lamb' series. More recent achievements in competitions have seen Victoria Barnett win the Regional Final of the All Ireland Seafish Competition. This resulted in Mrs McCrea (nee Scott) and Victoria travelling to Dublin to compete in the All Ireland Final. A free night's accommodation in the luxurious Clarence Hotel owned by Bono from U2 was part of the prize! Victoria was awarded prize money and a hi-fi from the All Ireland Seafish Authority. In 2005 Emma Joseph successfully won through to the last 10 out of 600 entrants in the Tesco Cook of the year Competition and was awarded £50.00. In 2009, Rachel Crone was the North Eastern Board Key Stage 4 Regional Finalist in the Dairy Council Young Cook of the Year Competition. Rachel received a £100 cheque for the Department and a £50 voucher for herself. Thanks must be expressed to Mrs Duncan for all her hard work in guiding students participating in recent cookery competitions. During the past two years students within the Department have also been encouraged to develop their culinary skills further by attending a new initiative called the Junior Chef's Academy. This is a 10 week culinary course offered by the Northern Regional College on a Saturday morning. At



Home Economics Department continued

the present time six students have graduated namely Rachel Crone, Jonathon Moore, Alexandra Henderson, Janelle Close. They have worked alongside professional chefs in developing their skills and now advanced courses are to be offered by the College.

Alexandra Henderson, an ambitious cook, was entered in the Dairy Council Cook of the Year competition with the support of Mrs Duncan, her Home Economics teacher. Alexandra submitted her idea to the Dairy Council and out of 250 entries was announced the winner at the Key Stage 4 NEELB Level. She received a voucher for £50 from Connor Phillips (Cool FM) and Ballyclare Secondary school received £100 for her achievement.

One of the most recent successes for the Home Economics Department has been the introduction of collaboration in September 2007 with GCE students of Ballyclare High



Rachel Crone, James Martin and Danielle Turtle

School. The Department now offers GCE Health and Social Care to a cohort of students from the local learning community of Ballyclare High School. What future changes will the Home Economics Department see in the years ahead? Who knows, only time will tell!

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Information Communication Technology Department

1993 was a momentous year. In January Bill Clinton became the President of the United States of America, in May Manchester United won the Premier League and in September the Information Communication Technology Department in Ballyclare Secondary School was born. The new Stirling Building was opened and there was much excitement as the facilities were state-of-the-art and the accommodation was modern and new. The Stirling Building boasts four purpose-built computer laboratories which are a whole school facility. Facilities have been upgraded to keep abreast of new technologies.



studying for 'O' Level and CSE Computer Studies for the first time. The North Eastern Education and Library Board installed one 380Z computer in school (costing approximately the same amount as a teacher's annual salary at that time) which proved insufficient to cope with the increasing numbers who wished to study this subject. Mr Platt decided that he could help and he ran several fund-raising races to raise money to buy BBC computers. The North Eastern Education and Library Board matched every pound he raised with a pound of Board money. Today there are 387 computers, including nearly 100 laptops.

In 1984 Mr Platt left Ballyclare Secondary School and Mrs Treon took on responsibility for Computer Studies. She was assisted by Mrs Allen. In those days BBC computers were being used and the network was set up in a classroom in the Mathematics Department. Eventually Computer Studies gave way to Information Communication Technology. This is a more encompassing subject which looks at ways in which the combination of Information Technology and Communication Technology can be used in society today.

Since moving to the Stirling Building in 1993, ICT has played an important role in delivering the curriculum, as well as being a popular subject for students to study at both GCSE and GCE.

The turn of the century brought a new initiative, namely C2k which centralized upgrading and maintenance of computers, and



In the mid-seventies "Computer Studies" was taught in the Mathematics Department which was headed up by Mr T Robinson. Later Mr W Morrison took over responsibility for the subject. When Mr Morrison was appointed to Dunclug High School in 1980, Mr Platt, Head of Business Studies, took charge of Computer Studies, having gained his Diploma in Computer Studies. In 1981 pupils began





Information Communication Technology

Department continued

brought the same platform for all schools in Northern Ireland. This meant that there was compatibility between computers in schools and between different schools.



In 2005 'A' Level Applied ICT was established and since then there have been many pupils who have successfully completed this course and progressed to universities at home or in

England or Scotland. These include David Caldwell who went to study Forensic Computing in Newcastle, Thomas Taylor who went to Harper Adams University in Shropshire and Matthew Mairs who studied Computer Science at Queen's University, Belfast and spent a year's placement with Microsoft in Dublin.

In June 2007 Thomas Taylor was placed second in 'A' Level Applied ICT in the CCEA Board and in 2010 Louise Williamson gained the top mark in 'A' Level Applied ICT in the CCEA Board. She is now studying Law at the New University of Ulster.

Since 1993 various members of staff have helped deliver ICT including Mrs Treon, Mrs Allen, Mrs McClean, Mrs Wasson, Mr White and Mr Martin. At present the teaching staff consists of Miss L Nevin, Mr D Farrell, Miss V McKinty, Mrs K Alexander and Mrs E Alexander, Head of Department. There are also two technicians, namely Mr M Hunter and Ms C McDowell who make an invaluable contribution to the team.

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Languages Department

There are currently four members in the Modern Languages Department, Miss L Dundas, Miss L Collins, Miss J Copeland and Ms S O'Connor. The Department has seen many changes in staffing, examinations, resources and teaching styles over the past 50 years.

The Department has thrived under the hard work and contribution of many valued members of staff. The Founder of the Modern Languages Department, the late Sidney Astbury, was assisted by Mrs Eileen Boyd. Mrs Bradley was then to lead the Department and throughout her dedicated career, she worked with Mrs McNally, Mrs Moore, Mrs Graham, Mrs Stark, Mrs Henry, Mrs McGowan, Mrs Vaughan and Mrs Morris. The sad loss of Mrs Susan McGowan in November 1994, after a serious illness, shook the Department and she is still fondly remembered by staff and pupils. Mrs Bradley retired in 1997 after over 33 year's service and Miss Copeland came from Ardnavigh to lead the Department. Miss



Modern Languages Department sadly said goodbye to Miss Martin, who said 'adieu' to language teaching for employment in the Civil Service. In September 2003, to replace Miss Martin, the Department welcomed Ms S O'Connor, who had spent a year in banking before starting teaching. The most recent departure was that of Mrs Moore, who retired in 2008. Mrs Moore started in 1973, when the school leaving age was raised from 15 to 16 years. Her main subjects were Geography and English but she also delivered French and RE. Finally, in December 2010, Miss Dundas became Head of Department when Miss Copeland sacrificed her position to focus on her Senior Leadership role.

The skill and dedication of all members of the Department have assisted the implementation of many curriculum and subject changes and their innovative ideas have inspired the introduction of trips, workshops and exchanges. French is currently delivered to all pupils from Year 8 to Year 10. French is also offered as a GCSE option and in 2005, A Level French was first introduced to the Key Stage 5 curriculum. It has proved to be a popular A Level choice and the grades have been excellent. A Level French grades are consistently above the average grades for the whole school and indeed, 100% A-B has been achieved.

To help pupils enhance their knowledge of language and other cultures, they have enjoyed many school trips over the years. Trips to Paris were first introduced by Mrs Bradley in 1995 and these were replaced by exchange trips to Strasbourg, building on the links she made with College Vauban. In more recent years, senior pupils have enjoyed a fabulous trip to Paris in 2008, followed by an equally successful junior trip to the unexpected destination of Cologne (thank you NATO!) in 2009. The impact such



Collins who, having completed a degree in Interpreting and Translating in Edinburgh, decided to return to Northern Ireland to undertake her teacher training. She took up her post in Ballyclare Secondary upon graduating in 1999. Miss Copeland's original team of Mr Morton, Miss Collins, Mrs Oliver and Miss Martin witnessed many changes. Mr Morton, having joined in 1993, left the Department in 2002 to take up the position of Head of Department in Newtownabbey Community High and he was replaced by Miss Dundas, who had just returned from working in Cote d'Ivoire, to take up her first teaching post in Ballyclare Secondary. The following year, the



Languages Department continued



an experience has on pupils' knowledge, enthusiasm and development cannot be underestimated. Over the past seven years, pupils have enjoyed a pen pal exchange with Lycee Edmond Perrier, Tulle, France. Pupils write letters or e mails to each other and they enjoy sharing their school experiences and discussing their tastes in music, clothes and films. They have a lot of fun deciphering each others' handwriting and with the infamous French strikes, pupils are often left patiently awaiting their next delivery!

However, the broadening of pupils' cultural knowledge and language acquisition in such fun ways is not limited to exchanges outside of the classroom. Each year, the Modern Languages Department decorates the school to celebrate the European Day of Languages; pupils enjoy lively, entertaining and educational plays, performed in French by Onatti Theatre Company Productions and a foreign language assistant is employed each year to help improve pupils' oral skills and knowledge of other cultures.

The Department has enjoyed keeping pace with the ever changing teaching and learning

strategies and technological advances. All rooms in the Modern Language area in the main school building have Interactive Whiteboards installed and the subsequent changes in teaching and learning experiences have been a joy to watch. Interactivity lends itself beautifully to teaching languages. Matching, labelling, grouping and ordering activities allow pupils to interact with the new learning that is being demonstrated and their thinking skills are also enhanced as they think aloud



while carrying out the process, making what they are doing transparent to other pupils. The interactive pen also helps show pupils how to manipulate the language as verb endings, adjectives, errors and so on can be highlighted. The value of being able to see and hear language simultaneously cannot be underestimated and the heightened enthusiasm and interest of the pupils is evident.

The Department now looks forward to meeting the challenges of the next 50 years!



Learning for Life & Work

Learning for Life and Work (LLW) is one of the newest subjects on the timetable in Ballyclare Secondary School – but it has been around in different formats for many, many years. The new subject includes three distinct areas – ‘Citizenship’, ‘Personal Development’ and ‘Education for Employability’. Before there was LLW, much of this was taught through either Careers or PSE, which was led by Mr Manson. Indeed, some of Mr Manson’s work was so far ahead of its time that it is still being used as the basis for some of the new LLW lessons!

The subject of LLW was introduced in Ballyclare Secondary School in 2006. The Department of Education recognised the need for a subject that dealt with important and controversial issues of human rights, equality, and diversity. There was also to be a new focus on what was needed for the world of

work. And there was (at last) to be a structured series of lessons on personal health.



Three teachers volunteered to go through training for the new subject, and Dr Flint, Mr Adams and Mr McClean spent a year taking part in courses and preparation. The next year, Dr Flint was put in charge of Key Stage 3 LLW, and Mr Adams in charge of Key Stage 4. Finally, in 2010, Mr Adams became Development Officer for the subject across the school.

The real strength of Learning for Life and Work is its ability to deal with really important and relevant issues affecting people in Northern Ireland today. Where else can racism, sectarianism and other forms of prejudice be addressed in the curriculum? The emphasis on drugs awareness is also vitally important, and LLW gives a format and structure to the school’s Sex Education programme. In today’s difficult economic times, the focus on employability skills (now taught throughout all five years) is a real bonus.

The subject is taught by a wide range of teachers, and encourages the pupils to take part in discussion and group work. There are lots of guest speakers, including local politicians who come in for a grilling every year. More than anything else, this is a subject that requires people to think about issues – and challenges both teachers and pupils to look at why they hold certain views.





Mathematics Department

Twenty five years ago, in the 25th Anniversary magazine, reference was made to the importance of Mathematics in Modern Society and in the 40th Anniversary magazine, guess what? The importance of Mathematics in Modern Society was restated.

Therefore, in keeping with tradition, it has to be said that Mathematics is important to Modern Society and dare I say, even more intertwined with everyday living than ever before. Just think of all those numbers you need to remember! For example, Cash Point Card Digits, Mobile Phone Numbers, the time school starts and so on!

Now this is where the current Ballyclare Secondary Mathematics Team enter the fray. Sir Isaac Newton once said that if he had seen a little further than others, it was because he had stood on the shoulders of giants. Well, in Ballyclare Secondary School, the high standards of Mathematics teaching established by those 'giants' of Mathematics Education during the first 40 years have been recognised by the current Mathematics team who continue to strive to maintain and even develop the very high quality teaching standards set by our predecessors. So, what has changed since the 40th Anniversary, let alone the 25th Anniversary?

Teachers have come and gone. In 2001, Richard Cosby was appointed HOD and shortly after that, Joan Lowry retired. (We hope that was not the reason for Joan's retirement!) Joan had been in charge of Numeracy and directed a lot of her teaching towards helping those pupils who had difficulty with the subject.

Clare McClean replaced Joan and before long had established herself as a full team player as well as a keen exponent of ICT. Astrid Treon took over from Joan in the role of Numeracy Co-ordinator and introduced the Department to Lesson Starters.

Carole Allen, Cate Graham, Marion Dixon and Karen Fleck formed the dynamic creative midfield of the Department and each of them made major contributions to the development of the teaching and learning of Mathematics.



Carole, with her distinctive in-house Resource Booklets, targeted all ability levels, while Karen developed the A Level Statistics Module. Carole is a CCEA Examiner in GCSE Mathematics and was able to provide valuable advice that enhanced our pupils' success in the GCSE examinations over a period that saw so many changes to the examination structure. Cate Graham oversaw the development of the Key Stage 3 Curriculum and eventually, in her role as Numeracy Co-ordinator, was responsible for many innovative changes made to the Mathematics Teaching Department.

Marion Dixon became the resident GCSE High Level Mathematics expert and before long, her pupils were achieving some of the best GCSE results in the Department's history.

Changes were afoot. Karen Fleck was to leave to take up the role of Mathematics Co-ordinator in Sperrin Integrated School and was replaced by Ian Thompson, who was soon to find it downhill all the way, but only on the ski slopes on the annual school ski trip! Clare McClean got married and before long left to follow a fulltime career bringing up her own children. Astrid was to retire and wholesale changes in Departmental personnel were to occur. Along came Lynsey Weir, Claire McCaw, Mark Lambe and Lauren Battersby and just as we got used to these changes, Claire and Lynsey were engaged and then married. McCaw became Wasson and Weir became Woods and then, just to ensure things happen in threes, Ian Thompson got married. Mark Lambe left to take up a full time teaching post in Larne Grammar. So this brings us nearly to the end of the changes, but not quite. Claire Wasson now has a beautiful baby girl. All these "new" staff members have brought with them a range of skills that have added to and enhanced the Mathematical Education in this school.

Now, back to the changes since the 40th Anniversary. Whiteboards and Overhead projectors have been replaced by Desktop Computers and Interactive Whiteboards. These developments have really improved the pupils' experiences of learning Mathematics. GCSE Mathematics has gone Modular and has a non calculator component. The Key Stage 3 Curriculum has undergone a full revision. We now talk about the Curriculum Entitlement, Thinking Skills, Financial Capability and a whole host of other educational terminology. The Department, like the school as a whole, is a living entity, maturing with age and yet our consumers, the pupils, always remain the same age!



Pupils and teachers come and go by dint of the passage of time, but some things have remained constant over the past 50 years, never mind the past 10 years and that is the Departmental philosophy to try to ensure that our pupils have the best possible chance to achieve success and enjoyment in their study of Mathematics. The Department ethos is alive and certainly in safe hands and therefore good luck to all our future pupils and teachers.

When the time comes round to celebrate the 60th, 70th, whatever Anniversary, just remember, 'The Importance of Mathematics in Modern Society' will almost certainly be as relevant then as it is now, as it was in the past.

Carnfunnock

In June each year three groups of Year 8 students travel to Carnfunnock Country Park, Larne to complete the Magnificent Maths Trail. The trail is based on the mathematical components in the curriculum of: handling data, shape and space, measures, numbers and processes. It is an innovative way for students to learn about Maths and apply their knowledge within the beautiful setting of



the Walled Garden of the Park.

Each cohort arrives at the garden with their measuring tools and clipboards. They then break off into groups of 3-4 to complete each of the ten activities that make up the trail. Activities include measuring the length of the beams at the pergola, estimating angles, recognising shapes, using a trundle wheel to measure the box hedge path and estimate its area. In the Time Garden there are also different types of sundials for the

student to investigate. The trail is always enjoyed by students and teachers alike and of course the sunshine and ice-cream treat at the end of the trail are always an added bonus!





Media Studies Department

Media Studies is a young and sprightly 23 years of age having been introduced to the curriculum in 1988 by Mrs Dummigan and taught by a number of teachers in the early days including Mrs Taylor, Mrs Beattie, Miss Roberts and Mrs Davison. Originally the subject was only offered at GCSE Level. However, following interest from the pupils, Mrs Dummigan, in 1996, progressed into the AEB 'A' Level domain. Ashley Brown, Robert McKenzie, Gavin Graham, Victoria McConnell were amongst the first 'guinea pigs' to pass through and the subject has gone from strength to strength, becoming a popular choice amongst students due to its emphasis on contemporary issues and debates. The results over the years have been exceptional in some cases and although the subject deals with serious and difficult concepts and theories, there is an immediate relevance to everyday life.

I took over an exceptionally healthy Department in 2001 and have loved every minute of my time here. However, a huge thanks must go to the helping hands of Mrs Taylor during the period of change over. The pupils who pick media are welcomed with open arms and as there is a comprehensive and integrated coverage of media theory and practice with a major focus on new technology, past pupils have found it beneficial in their career paths so far. Opportunities are incorporated so that students can investigate what interests them with practical productions being a main thread across the four years of study. There have been numerous high quality and almost professional style films trailers, music videos,



Mrs McKay and Mrs Strange

adverts and magazine front covers and articles produced over the years.

There have also been success stories and as part of the Cinemagic festival, two pupils, Nicola Poskitt and Sarah Moore had their film "Jump the Front", based on the increasingly popular sport of parkour, selected as one of the top ten short films in the 16-18 age category.

In 2005 four Year 13 pupils won a



competition to have their documentary "The Formal" produced by Brian Waddell Productions. This culminated in the short documentary being aired on the BBC.

In 2007 Ballyclare Secondary School forged a link with Ballyclare High School to allow 14 pupils (7 from each school) to take up the new subject of Moving Images Arts with a new batch of students taking classes in a different environment and working alongside the High School pupils.

Also in 2007 the Japanese Ambassador's visit to the school was filmed by, and commentary presented by pupils from year 11 to year 14.



Nicola Poskitt and Sarah Moore

Year 14 Magazine article



Year 13 Magazine article



"AndAction!"

This was then broadcast across the World Wide Web to Japan with help of the N.E.E.L.B. Outside Broadcast van.

Students gain experience by filming events in school such as the school production, one off events such as 'Stars in Your Eyes' as well as editing and burning the footage.

The subject now had two GCSE classes, having grown from 15 to 45 pupils and Mrs Strange has recently been drafted in to take a class. She is wonderfully passionate about the subject matter and has just completed her first year with a Year 11 class. The 'A' Level course often has to enforce criteria to select pupils and this simply reinforces the popularity of the subject. Long may it last!

I absolutely love my subject, adore the pupils who immerse themselves in the creativity and fun of the themes and texts being explored or recreated and as the contemporary landscape is ever changing, so the Media Department follows. I just hope that I continue to have the energy to keep up with the enthusiasm of the pupils. On to the next 50 years, but I somehow don't think that I'll see them all! Somebody make sure they archive it through the medium of film!

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Motor Vehicle & Road User Studies

This subject was introduced to Ballyclare Secondary School by the then Miss Helen Rankin, later Mrs Doherty, in the late 1970s.



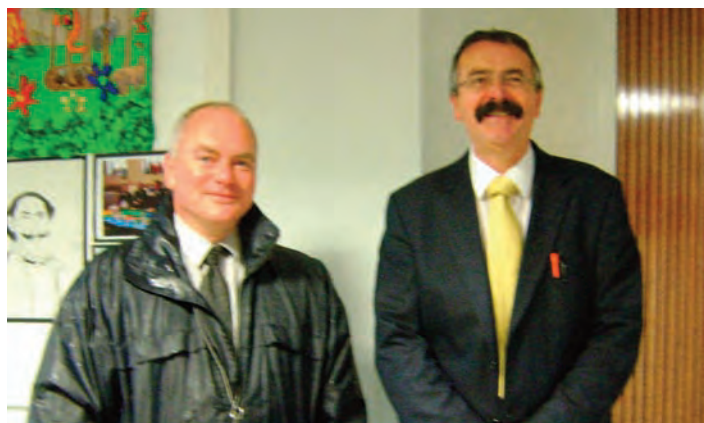
Mr John Graham took over the controls in 1979, after attending a three day course in Craigavon where approximately 40 teachers from all over the province descended with their mopeds, much to the amazement of the locals! The now

famous Gerry Kelly (UTV) attended on the last day of the course to interview some of the participants and Mr Graham was glimpsed that night on UTV, showing off his newly acquired moped skills. He was recognisable with his long, flowing hair blowing in the wind as he sped past the camera, in complete control of his awesome moped!

In the early days, Traffic Education, as it was then known, was not an examination subject and was offered to some classes in Years 11 and 12 in an attempt to give the pupils some insight into road safety. By the mid 1980s, the subject was



offered at the old GCE level, where many famous old boys, and indeed girls, of the school achieved notable results. In the late 1980s, Mr Adrain joined Mr Graham as a teacher of the subject when it was being offered as an option subject which could be chosen in Year 11. Road User Studies became Motor Vehicle and Road User Studies and elevation to a fully fledged GCSE subject in the early 1990s meant that pupils choosing the subject as an option could now achieve a



recognised GCSE grade.

As part of the course has always involved practical riding on a moped, many other teachers in the school frequently looked on with shock and dismay, not to mention some admiration, when Mr Graham and Mr Adrain took to the playground with a group of teenagers, for the practical sessions. Indeed, such sessions became famous throughout the school and passing PE staff, as they made their way along to the pitches, were often astounded and probably, at times, filled with trepidation, as mopeds hurtled past them, followed by a sprinting (really!!) Mr Graham shouting, "Slow down, slow down!" Mr Adrain would also be heard screaming, "Close the throttle, close the throttle,



brake, brake!" As the new millennium approached and Mr Adrain retired, Mr Beggs joined to help out with MVRUS.

A new course layout was painted onto the playground and the training area for the practical moped riding aspect of the course was designated. Other teachers also helped out at this time, with Mrs Graham and Mr Adams volunteering to have MVRUS as part of their timetable.

It is important to note that most pupils taking the subject have found it to be enjoyable and rewarding, along with the prospect of achieving a relevant and worthwhile GCSE grade at the end of the course. Most of the material covered in the two year course is extremely relevant to life after school, with many pupils listing it as their favourite GCSE subject.

Music Department

The Music Department began under the baton of Miss Catherine Lusk. From 1961 Miss Lusk held the position of Head of Music until her retirement in 1978. Over the years she built up a very successful and enthusiastic Music Department with help from other members of staff, in particular Miss Joan McDowell and part time Music teacher Mrs Olive Watson. Many awards were won by the school choirs.



In the early days of the school, the Antrim Education Committee and later the North-Eastern Education and Library Board, provided orchestral instruments and individual tuition was given to pupils by a team of specialists. As a result, a school orchestra was formed and was used on many occasions including the school productions.

After the retirement of Miss Lusk in 1978, the baton was handed to Miss Pat Quigley who remained in Ballyclare Secondary for two years and kept up the tradition of music in the school, entering choirs for festivals and providing music for special occasions throughout the school year.

In September 1980, Mr Alan Beattie took over as Head of Music and Miss Quigley, now Mrs Grayden, went to Monkstown Community School. Mr Beattie was glad of the assistance of Miss Anne Whittock and Mrs Vivienne Stark both of whom taught Music as well as their own subjects. By now Music was being taught only to first and second year classes, with a choice in third year of French or Music. Mr Beattie has been described both by staff and pupils in many ways – 'mad', 'insane', and 'quite unique'. Many tales are told of strange happenings which would seem to verify these comments, such as the day he organised the parade of bagpipers along the top corridor,



providing the Maths Department with a little light relief. He was known to have jumped over the piano and attempted to get musical sounds from the leg of a chair. But above all he was an accomplished Music teacher.

After Mr Beattie left in October to join the Young Farmers, Mrs Patricia Neville came to Ballyclare on a temporary basis until the end of the term in December.

Miss Harvey joined the staff in January 1985 and soon became Mrs Beattie after marrying Mr Beattie and a few years later he came back to join the staff teaching Music and Science.

Music developed over the years offering the new GCSE

Music and A

Level Music.

The building of

the school

extension

offered the

Department

amazing

facilities with

two large

classrooms

each with three adjoining practice rooms

divided by a communal store. There were also

two additional practice rooms used for the

peripatetic staff and Sixth Form study.

The peripatetic staff continue to support the instrumental provision, currently Mrs Murray and Mr Lamont. We are also delighted to have Mr Simms who teaches piano. Mr Beattie assisted with instrumental provision in his non teaching periods, taking senior flute pupils on to bigger and better things. One of those pupils was Miss Carol Waugh who completed A Level Music and headed off to Queen's University to study Music and we are delighted she has returned to us as a member of staff, teaching





Music Department continued

Music and Art and providing the Department with some needed youthful enthusiasm.

Over the years the Music Department has provided pupils with opportunity to take Music to A Level and then progress to University, some to continue Music, others to develop other academic interests. Peter Foster, one of our first A Level students, is teaching Music in England, Carol Waugh studied music at Queen's University followed by Gillian Carlisle, also to Queen's. Gillian is a peripatetic singing teacher and we are also glad that she has joined us, providing singing lessons to pupils across the years. David Morrison, although he did not do A Level with



us, continued his studies after leaving Ballyclare Secondary and is now a principal in charge of a Junior school in Bradford and using his musical skills extensively within the school. More recently Stuart Higgins is studying Ethnomusicology



at Queen's after completing Sixth Form and an A Level in our latest subject, Performing Arts. We are also delighted that Stuart offers his expertise in teaching guitar after school to a number of enthusiastic

pupils. Heather Armstrong is our most recent pupil. A straight 'A' student at A Level, she is studying Music at Queen's University.

Productions played a large part in the life of the Music Department and the whole school, with many staff coming on board to assist



with their various talents. Mrs Davison, a true star, and a highly creative person led the way assisted by Mrs Weatherup and latterly Mrs McKay and Mr Poole with Mrs Agnew in charge of costumes and Miss Copeland and Miss Collins looking after props, Mrs V Beattie on choreography. Many staff even managed to appear on stage; Miss Whittock, Mr Siberry and a cameo role from Mr Cosby. Musicals such as 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat', 1991, 2002, 2009, 'Oliver' 1995, Mary Poppins 1997, 'Annie' 1999, 'Aladdin' 2003 and 'Cinderella' 2005 are imprinted on the minds of many. The phrase 'it will be alright on the night' springs to mind. As with most productions there is always that last minute panic, 'will it be ready in time?', but 'Mary Poppins' was indeed a real challenge. Mrs Weatherup, co-producer was off ill, Miss Whittock, playing the title role developed a cold and lost her voice, Mrs Beattie was signed off ill for two weeks prior to the show and one of the principals also was off ill. The vivid picture of Mrs Davison painting eyes on wooden horses while Mr Clarke tried to get Mary Poppins to fly across the stage on fishing wire on the day before opening night when all was falling down around her, was a truly serene sight.

Other momentous occasions include the Instrumental trip to Donegal to take part in the parade of the Mary of Dungloe festival. The bus taking us to the Youth Hostel, had to climb a very steep and precarious cliff edge, met a herd of cattle coming in the opposite direction. It was so bad, the bus driver refused to do the journey again, leaving us to walk up the hill each time. The event itself was typical Donegal, due to start at 7pm, we eventually got going at 11pm in the pouring rain. However a great time was had by all.

The first Instrumental Residential was held in the Ulster Folk Museum. We had a great time. Mr Beattie sounded the alarm in each dorm every morning with a trumpet fanfare. One night after some scary ghost stories, Luke Broadhurst, on Mr Beattie's shoulders, appeared as the face at the window of the girls' dorm - many screams were heard, loud and clear!



dorm - many screams were heard, loud and clear!

One of the highlights from a 'musical' perspective was in 1999 when the choir won the North Eastern Education and Library Board heat of the UTV Choir of the Year

Competition, a major feather in our caps. Unfortunately, due to running over time, the

pupils had to return to school before the results were announced and missed the excitement of being the winning choir. A moment we will always regret, but a terrific achievement for us that year.



There have been many highlights, friendships, laughter and much music making, a great privilege for us as staff to have been and still are a part of. The extra curricular activities always end the day on a positive note (no pun intended), whether it is choir, instrumental group, wind ensemble, flute ensemble, brass ensemble, fife and drum group, Senior woodwind, Junior woodwind, production rehearsals, Stars in Yer Eyes, Search for a Star, concert preparations and not to forget Associated Board Music Exams, there is never a dull moment in the Music Department. Long may it continue!





Physical Education Department

The PE Department has had a wide variety of successes over the last fifty years, with many pupils excelling in numerous sports at district, provincial and international level. These successes have been in a range of sports including soccer, netball, hockey, rugby, athletics, badminton and swimming, to name a few. This is due in no small part to the dedication, commitment and drive over the years of the pupils and also to the many members of staff who have given all to the cause.

The philosophy of the Department is based on the belief that every child, regardless of intellectual ability or social background, should have a rewarding and meaningful experience in Physical Education. Consistent with this



philosophy is the belief that in the teaching of Physical Education, staff will attempt to share and create values, rather than impose them.

With the implementation of the new Revised Curriculum in the 21st century, there is a real emphasis on pupils to work together to develop their own Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities through participation in PE. This is achieved through a variety of different activities within the curriculum including games activities, swimming, outdoor and adventurous activities, athletics, dance and health and fitness.

We will now take you for a "trip down memory lane" of the "years gone by", as well as what is happening in the PE Department in the current era.

1960s

In May 1961 the principal of Ballyclare Secondary School and the School Management Committee appointed Mr Dennis Scott and Miss Jennifer Dickson as PE



teachers in Ballyclare Secondary. This was the beginning of a solid grounding for PE and sport in the school and the Department has moved on from strength to strength in the years that have passed. In September 1962, step forward Mr George Lyons, the new Head of PE. Fresh out of college and with bright hopes for the school, he teamed up with Miss Jean Harbinson, who proved to be a skilled and enthusiastic hockey and netball expert. The foundations

were now set for growth and development of the PE Department. In the sixties and seventies pupils such as Eddie Beggs, Jim McKeown and Torrens Boyd provided inspirational captains amongst the school teams. Several representative honours were achieved by pupils including Mervyn Turkington (Northern Ireland Schools' Football Team), Andrew Holmes and Ronnie Hill (Ulster Schools' Basketball), Jackie McKeown (Ulster Schools' Athletics Team) and Evelyn Penney (Ulster Schools' Netball).



1970s

In the 1970s John Logan represented the Ulster Schools' U-18 Basketball squad, while Jill Hill played for the Ulster Schools' at



Hockey. Margaret Dunn ran for Ulster in the All-Ireland Schools' Cross Country Championships. Joan Penney and Ann Christie were selected for the Ulster Schools' Netball Team in 1973 and 1974.

As always, the dedication and skills of the teaching staff involved in this era cannot be missed. The Department throughout this era included George Lyons, Roy Millar, June Hunter,



Oliver McKinney, Diane Caldwell and Jennifer Dickey, who all worked tirelessly to ensure the best possible opportunities for their pupils. As in the century in which we now live, the 1970s saw a change in the outlook of education, with a new curriculum forcing schools to re-evaluate the need to cater for the leisure boom. When Roy Millar left in 1975 to embark on a career in the Irish Football Association, his place was taken by Mr Harry Blair. Aims and objectives became much more influential in educational matters and this brought a fresh impetus from two new teaching staff in 1976, Mr Blair and Mrs Campbell. Both these teachers brought to Ballyclare Secondary a detailed knowledge of current trends and changes which were taking place in Physical Education. These changes were strengthened

further when two additional PE staff, Mr Billy McAllister and Miss Anne Whittock were appointed. This increase in staff provided more opportunities for the pupils. A wider range of activities was provided for pupils, and there were more opportunities for pupils to have a choice. Block teaching was introduced throughout all age groups, followed by off site activities for senior pupils, aimed at widening their range of recreational skills.

1980s and 1990s

In the 1980s, Mrs Campbell took over the reins as Head of Girls' PE on Mrs Dickey's departure and the Department was further expanded by the arrival of Miss Valerie Neill (now Mrs Beattie) in 1981, to teach geography and PE. Mrs Beattie brought her netball skills with her and has been responsible for a very successful club throughout the school. Mrs Campbell left in 1986 and was replaced by Miss Andrea McLean (now Mrs McCullough) in 1987.

Under the leadership of Mr George Lyons, the Boys PE Department moved from strength to strength. A change of hands occurred in 1995 when Mr Blair became the new Head of Boys PE, and he worked alongside Mr Stephen McGuigan and Mr Ivan Trimble up until his retirement in 2010. The only other member of the Boys PE Department was Mr Bill McAllister, who moved to the primary sector. Mr McGuigan and Mr Trimble have been instrumental in numerous successes over the years, in particular in 1995-96 when Mr McGuigan guided the school Senior Rugby 1st XV team to Ulster High Schools' Cup success at Ravenhill. This success was one of several jubilant sports scenes in the 1990s, with Mr Graham's 1st XI hockey team also reaping rich rewards in winning the Ulster High Schools' Taylor Cup in 1992, 1994 and again in 1996. From the 1996 hockey team, Gary McKee went on to play for Lisnagarvey, Ireland Under 19s and Ulster, whilst Dale McNeill achieved Ulster status.

The Noughties

This period of time has seen further changes in staffing with Miss Julie Anne Miniss and Miss Valerie McKinty joining Mrs Beattie in the Girls'



Physical Education Department contiued

Department in 2003 following the departures of Miss Whittock and Mrs McCullough. More recently, there have been continued successes with winning teams and individuals who have gone on to achieve representative honours in a variety of sports. It has been a growing and continuous trend of the level of success in the East Antrim Leagues of our soccer sides, with sides at all levels claiming silverware in several East Antrim League and Cup competitions. It has been a common trait of the PE Department that success has been achieved in a variety of sports and not just limited to one or two sports.



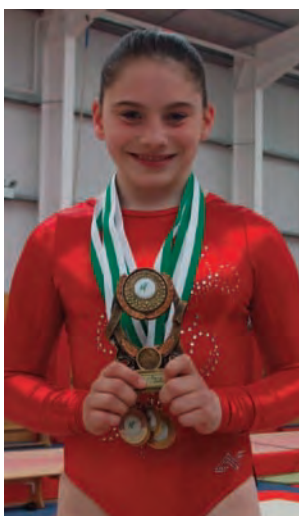
Pupils have represented the school at Ulster Schools' Athletics Championships, and we have had several gold medal successes at the NEBSSA Cross Country Championships, NEBSSA Junior Boys' Swimming Championships.

Highlights of pupils' success in the noughties include Emma Stark having the pleasure of captaining the Senior Ulster School Show jumping team in 2001. In 2003 Kate Blaney was part of the Northern Ireland National Development Netball Squad; Lynsey McCullough represented Ulster U14 and was Ulster U16 Tennis No.1 and Irish No.4 in 2004; Emma Dines played rugby for Ulster U18s, and Janet Reid and Helen Smith played rugby for the Ulster U19 squad in 2004. It is quite fitting that Miss McKinty was a member of the McDowell Cup winning team in 1996 whilst ex-head girl and current Science teacher Miss Elliot represented Northern Ireland in Netball during her time in school. In 2007 the Girls' Dance team were the worthy winners of the Causeway Open Championship

and Gemma Armstrong was part of the Northern Ireland Junior Archery Squad. Of our current pupils, A-Level pupil Robyn McKelvie has played soccer for Northern Ireland at various levels and Rebecca Crawley is Under 17 Irish Cross Country Champion and Indoor and Outdoor Champion in the 800m.

The recent development of the new astro turf pitch at Foundry Lane has given the girls an added incentive to achieve success on the hockey pitch. This has been a joint venture with Ballyclare High School and the local authorities. An added incentive for our girls is the success of former pupil and role model Laura McAlpine. Laura has given of her time, especially in the sporting arena, and has been a great ambassador for the school. Laura has represented Ulster at Under 16 and 18 level, Ireland at Under 16 level in hockey as well as Ulster under 18 and 21 level. Current A-Level PE student Rebecca Kerr is the Under 16 Northern Ireland and Ulster Hurdles Champion and is also a key figure in the school's senior hockey team. Our girls continue to compete strongly in the East Antrim Hockey and Netball leagues as well as the High Schools' Cup competitions.

Former A-Level PE student Jordan Robinson has excelled on the local hockey scene, representing Ulster U18 and also playing regular Premier League hockey at Mossley Hockey Club. Darren McKnight represented the Northern Ireland Schools' Football Association U-15 Squad in the Tri-Nations Squad in May 2010, pitting his wits against Wales and the Republic of Ireland. Darren's exploits on the international stage have been noticed by Premier League side Glenavon for whom he now plays in the NIBFA league at Under 16 level.



More recently, current Year 9 student Kristen Eatock became Northern Ireland Gymnastics Champion, collecting four Gold medals in the process.

PE has moved on in the last number of years at school, with the introduction of



After Mr Blair's retirement, Mr Cowan arrived in August 2010 as the newest member to the Department. Under the leadership of recently appointed principal Mrs Bell, the school has now developed one whole PE Department to create a new vision for PE



Examination PE. GCSE and A-Level PE have been at the fore front of our pupils in recent years, providing our pupils with theoretical and practical experience in PE. These courses provide our pupils with an educational experience leading to potential careers in Sport, PE and Leisure.

All boys and girls from Year 8 through to Year 14 now avail of PE and Sport at school. A variety of activities is now on offer making use of the fantastic facilities available to them. In school, three indoor halls are accompanied by our fitness suite, two outdoor basketball courts, one large grass football/rugby area, cricket facilities, athletics track and field facilities, two large all-weather pitches and five tennis courts. The astro turf pitch is also used on a regular basis for team games.

At Key Stage 3 boys and girls follow a set Programme of Study covering a wide variety of the PE curriculum. At Key Stage 4 there is the opportunity for pupils to select appropriate activities that they wish to participate in. On occasions, pupils make use of off-site facilities such as Archery Clubs, Golf Driving Range and the local Six Mile Leisure Centre.

Extra curricular sports clubs continue to flourish for boys and girls in numerous activities. Boys and girls hockey has been rejuvenated in recent times with the introduction of the astro turf pitch, whilst the school's

Sports Day continues to be a success, making use of the athletics facilities at Antrim Forum.



and sport in school, under the leadership of Mr Cowan. The Department consists of six teachers and its aim is to develop and promote the values of PE, as well as to develop participation and success at all levels in PE and numerous extra curricular sports amongst boys and girls in school.

As ever, our main priority is to see young people develop an interest in and a respect for their health and fitness, and hopefully go on to enjoy PE and sporting activities long after they leave school, with a sense of pride as they look back on their PE days at Ballyclare Secondary.

Individual Profiles

Martin Barr (Moto Cross) held several local Championship Titles before leaving school in June 2004. Martin's early claim to fame was that he took part in the Ulster Motocross Championships when he was only seven years old! He turned professional the year after he left school and is currently competing at senior level. The school was delighted to welcome Martin back in 2008 as special guest at our Sports Day Awards. There follows a snippet of Martin's achievements, as well as highlights of his fondest memories as a pupil at Ballyclare Secondary School.





Physical Education Department continued



Dominic Melly is another "star of the noughties". Dominic played for Ballymena United in the Irish Premier League. Dominic left school in 2004 and represented

Northern Ireland Under 17s at the European Championships in France. Dominic continues to ply his trade in the Irish Premier League with Crusaders Football Club and more recently Bangor Football Club. Individual success has also been achieved by former pupil and outstanding swimmer



Conor Leaney, who left school after his A-Levels in 2009. Conor is currently training with the Great Britain Elite Squad for the 2012 London Olympics and holds several Northern Ireland

swimming records. One extract from the schools Inform Magazine (March 2009) classes Conor as

- C** Committed
- O** Organised
- N** Naturally Talented
- O** Olympic Hopeful
- R** Ready to go!

During his school career Conor picked up a host of honours including 1st place in both the 50m and 100m freestyle events at the UK School Games, captain of the Irish Squad, holder of several Ulster and Irish Junior Records. Conor continues to achieve great success and he has broken his own Ulster and Irish records more than 40 times.

Conor competed in India at the 2008 Youth Commonwealth Games and brought home the first ever Games medal for male competitors. He also represented Ireland at the 2009 World Championships in Rome and finished in the top 50 in the world. A senior international swimmer, Conor was presented with a Commonwealth Games Scholarship by the University of Ulster. He became the first male swimmer from Northern Ireland to qualify for the 2010 Commonwealth Games in India.

More recently the 'Rise to Fame' of former pupil footballer **Paddy McNair** has been a remarkable feat. To be part of the Manchester United Academy is no mean feat, and Paddy has topped this off as a member of the 2010-11 Northern Ireland Victory Shield football squad. Who knows, will Paddy be the next 'Jonny Evans'?! **Laura McAlpine**



Laura has been a great ambassador for the school right through her whole school career. In 2000-2001 she was awarded the Most Promising Young Player at Ballyclare Ladies Hockey Club. From there her hockey career went from strength to strength, collecting numerous caps at Ulster Under 16 and 18 level as well as representing the school's 1st XI hockey team from an early age. In the Under 16 Interprovincial Championships in 2003-04 Laura won the top scorer award, and to top this she won the honour of scoring the most outstanding goal of the tournament, no mean feat in anybody's eyes! Laura progressed from Ulster to Irish standard in 2004 when she played for Ireland Under 16s in the team's successful European Youth Hockey Championships. Further honours came when Laura played for Ulster Under 18s (2004-06) and Ulster Under 21s (2006-07). Laura recently completed her Sports Studies degree at Leeds Metropolitan University and is now a qualified Physical Education teacher.



Religious Studies Department

In the beginning there was no Religious Studies Department. The supervision of Religious Instruction rested in the very capable hands of Miss Lusk, the Music teacher. She ordered books and kept a benign eye on matters spiritual during the embryonic years of the school. In this formative period, Religious Instruction was treated as an extension of primary school scripture lessons, with the emphasis on rote learning of facts and Biblical passages in preparation for the Minister's visit.

By the mid 1960s, the 'Agreed Syllabus' had been drawn up for use in secondary schools and it became obvious that an RE specialist was needed on the staff at Ballyclare. Mrs P Archbold was appointed as the first Head of Department in 1965 and it was during her incumbency that candidates were first entered for public examinations. Mrs Archbold was succeeded in 1968 by Rev W Brown, who was later to become RE Advisor to the South Eastern Education and Library Board. Rev Brown was succeeded by Mrs P MacDonald and then Mrs I Wallace. For a short time, Mr I McClelland, a Science teacher, looked after Departmental affairs. Mr I Atcheson, the current Head of Department, took office in 1976.



The past 50 years in Ballyclare Secondary School have seen significant development and change in Religious Education, as in the secular disciplines. This change is reflected in the adjustment of its title to Religious Studies. It is no longer solely concerned with people from the past and distant lands, but is greatly interested with living people and how to understand them. It hopes to help formulate responses to the many moral issues of modern life.

The Department was sorry to lose the long and distinguished service of Mrs Doherty (nee Rankin) in 2004. It was delighted to welcome Mrs Coombs to the team in 2005. Currently, the happy band which is the Religious Studies Department consists of Mrs Coombs, Mrs Woods and Mr Atcheson.



A Level field trip to Navan Fort



A Level field trip to St. Patrick's Centre, Downpatrick



Science Department

1960s

Mr Middleton
 Mr McClelland
 Mr Parker
 Mrs Sloan
 Mr Metcalfe
 Mrs Thompson

1970s

Mr Rankin
 Mrs Best
 Mr Siberry
 Mr Adrain
 Mrs McDowell
 Mrs Savage
 Mr Lewis
 Miss Lamont

1980s

Mrs Dunlop
 Mrs Kirby
 Miss Fletcher

Heads of Department

Mr Middleton (1961-1972)
 Mr Metcalfe (1972-1983)
 Mr Siberry (1983-2010)
 Dr Flint (2010-to date)



1990s

Mrs Lynas
 Miss Givens
 Mrs Archibold
 Mr Branagh
 Mr Beggs
 Dr Larmour
 Mrs Parr

2000s

Dr Flint
 Miss Russell
 Miss Elliott
 Mrs Dinsmore
 Miss Loade
 Dr Veal
 Mr Smith



Science Department Teaching Staff

Over the fifty years of Ballyclare Secondary School, the Science Department has been characterised by a dedicated and enthusiastic team of teachers. The people who have contributed to this team are listed left. It is hoped that reading this list will evoke many happy memories for the readers, of times spent in Science laboratories in Ballyclare Secondary School.



Science Department Ancillary Staff

The teaching staff and pupils are also greatly indebted to the hard work of our technicians over the years. Our longest serving member of staff is Mr Mervyn Higginson who was present at the opening of the school as a pupil and has worked as the Senior Technician since 1964. Over the years, we have been fortunate in our capable and hard working technicians; these include Wilfred McBurney, Milne Crawford, Karen Gingles, Ian Shatwell and Elaine Forsythe. Without these people the Science Department simply could not function and our thanks go to all of them.

Science Department 2011

The Science Department today comprises nine full time teaching staff – Mr Beggs, Mrs Dinsmore, Miss Elliott, Dr Flint, Mrs Kirby, Miss Loade, Mrs Parr, Miss Russell and Mr Siberry. We are ably assisted by Mr Beattie, Mr Cosby and Mr Lewis managing to fit in teaching some Science alongside their other subjects.

Technology & Design Department

This subject has gone through a number of major changes in the past 50 years. In the beginning it was known as Heavy Craft, then it evolved into Craft Design and Technology and finally it became Technology and Design. When the school opened, there were only two teachers in the Department, Mr S Crymble, the first Head of Department and Mr C McKnight. As pupil numbers increased, these two were joined by Mr M Adrain and Mr S Cross. The subjects taught were Woodwork, Metalwork and Technical Drawing and the emphasis was on producing products such as stools, coffee tables, cupboards etc. in Woodwork and anything from a needle to an anchor in Metalwork – indeed,



several anchors were made. We produced wrought iron brackets and gates using the forge, as well as various copper dishes and other objects in beaten work. Fitting and lathe work allowed for the production of a range

of useful tools.

The General Certificate of Education was the main exam in the early days. Boys in the Junior School could do Junior Certificate which was a practical exam using tools and equipment. At that time very few girls studied the subject and were not timetabled for it. In 1973 the leaving age was raised from 15 to 16 years and Mr I Boyd was appointed. Various practical projects were adopted to cater for the needs of these pupils and Mr S McCalmont was appointed as the first Technician. The Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry



Division gave permission for the school to build a dormitory at Parkmore Forest. The plans were drawn up and the wooden structure was constructed in sections in the various craft rooms, then transported to the site. Groups of boys travelled daily by school minibus to erect the building itself. When complete, the building contained

accommodation for sixteen pupils and two staff and included all modern conveniences such as



electricity and hot and cold running water! The success of this project prompted another commission, this time at Glenariff Forest Park. A log cabin look out shelter and fore-ground area was designed and constructed for visitors to sit and enjoy the tranquility of the park. As in the previous project all the manufacturing was done in school and the sections transported to the site for construction. The

shelter remains in good condition to this day. During this time, a Project Room was built where Mr Blair's Art room is now.



Technology & Design continued

In 1983 a course called Building Skills was introduced to give 6th Form some experience of brickwork, concrete and plumbing. Pupils took part in a competition to design a vandal proof bench seat, organised by Newtownabbey Rotary Club. The judges were so impressed that the school was awarded 1st place and two seats were made, one placed in Glengormley and the other in Ballyclare.

Mr Crymble retired in 1990 and Mr Clark was appointed as Head of a Department which had changed its name to Technology and Design. Woodwork, Metalwork and Technical Drawing were no longer subjects in their own right. They were being replaced by one all encompassing subject which would include most of what was good from the former areas but would also include Problem Solving, Design, Electronics, Mechanisms, and Computer Control. The changes to the curriculum required new resources and this came in the form of a purpose built suite of rooms built over the old tennis courts. To obtain a suitable foundation, numerous piles had to be driven into the soft ground. Unfortunately, the new building was open plan and lighting and noise levels were unacceptable. By 1996 alterations had been



carried out to make the facility appropriate to good teaching and learning. There were staff changes too. Mr Horan succeeded Mr McKnight but after eleven

years he went to Africa to work in education. Mr Boyd, Mr Cross and then Mr Adrain all retired. Mr Lewis, who had taught Science in the school since 1980, completed appropriate training courses and joined the Technology team. Mr Patterson arrived in the Department in 2003 and will long be remembered for his dedication to his pupils, not to mention his southern accent, his addiction to eBay and his

Subaru Impreza! Mr White joined the team in 1999 and Miss Flanagan in 2006.

However, the new kid on the block is Mr Graham who was appointed in 2010 following on from Mr Clarke who had taken over from Mr Patterson when he left in 2009, to teach in his old school, Cavan Royal Grammar School.

In 2006 the Technology and Design building was updated again to take account of the latest health and safety regulations. The interior layout was remodelled and the main store extended to make room for a new circular saw. There are four multi-materials manufacturing rooms, three planning rooms and two systems design rooms all equipped to deliver the current curriculum. Special events and competitions continued to play a part. The Flight Experience was a competition organised by Shorts Bombardier to find the best designed paper aeroplane capable of flying the longest distance. Following heats in school, we sent a team to the Odyssey Arena where they performed well, but sadly not well enough, to get to the finals in London. We participated in the Formula 1 in Schools competition where pupils designed a model racing car powered by a standard gas cylinder. In one memorable year our team produced the fastest car at the N. Ireland heats but were beaten overall by other schools that had higher quality design presentations.

The subject of Technology and Design continues to develop; it is, in its very nature, to never stand still. The equipment needed to deliver it becomes ever more complex as the world of manufacturing changes. Computers are essential to designing and have evolved from the early BBC machines to the powerful HP models we have today. Although hand crafted products are greatly admired, the vast majority of those sold in our shops are made by machines often controlled by computers. Our students need to be prepared for the world of work and therefore more of our projects in school feature the use of CNC machines. As to what the Department will be teaching and making in another fifty years, we cannot begin to imagine.



Special Educational Needs Department

Fifty years have passed since Ballyclare Secondary opened its doors and children with difficulties were placed in a class called 3B2.

In the early years there was no specialist teacher and staff with an interest in children with special needs taught the class. Mrs Joan Carson, Miss Joan McDowell, Mrs Vivian Ferguson and Mr Tommy Gilmer originally taught the pupils within the school building, but, over time, as the school expanded, the pupils moved to a mobile, before returning to a classroom inside the school building.

Two members of staff, Mrs Edith Morrison and later Mrs Phyllis Brown took a great interest in teaching pupils with educational difficulties.

In March 1971, Mrs Eleanor Dennis took up the position of Head of the 'Remedial' Department and was helped on a part time basis by Mrs Daphne Mairs and Mr Ben Hoey, along with other members of staff. Pupils were no longer placed in one class. When Year 8 pupils entered the school, they were tested with regard to their literacy skills. Those who were deemed to have the greatest needs were given literacy support in small groups of four or five pupils, where they received an individual literacy programme of work.

Mrs Dennis and the supporting staff gave generously of their time and energy to provide a caring, supportive and relaxed atmosphere within the classroom, using experience and expertise in the knowledge that pupils with special needs learn more easily and make more educational progress, using this approach to learning.

Mrs Weatherup joined the staff in 1987, teaching English and assisting Mrs Dennis with the Literacy Support classes. Mrs Weatherup says, "Pupils were very fond of Mrs Dennis and she was greatly missed when she retired. She did her best to provide individual support and worked towards creating a positive and caring learning environment to enhance the learning of pupils with educational difficulties." How true and appropriate these words are in the classroom today, where children of mixed ability work together, striving towards achieving their potential.



In 1998, the Code of Practice was introduced, to address the identification, assessment and provision for all children who may have special educational needs in their school careers or at an even earlier stage. In response to the Code of Practice, Mrs Weatherup was appointed Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. "I knew the introduction of the Code of Practice would mean great changes, but no one at the time realised the extent and implications it would have for schools over the following years."

So, what is SEN? This term is applied to a wide range of needs, including sensory, physical or mental impairment as well as learning difficulties. These can range from minor and temporary to major and permanent.

In 1998, Mrs Anne Dunn joined the staff as an additional Support Teacher for some pupils with a Statement for Special Needs. Mrs Dunn continues to work with dedication and commitment in the school, supporting Mrs Weatherup and the pupils.

To develop the relationship between parents and the school, a Parent Support Group was started in November 1998. This group continues to meet at regular intervals and provides all concerned with the opportunity to listen to specialist speakers on a variety of topics. The Northern Ireland Special Educational Needs and Disability Order became law in September 2005 and brought further changes such as making disability discrimination unlawful as well as working towards making schools more accessible with the addition of lifts and ramps.

Classroom assistants were employed in the school to support some pupils and these have increased in number over the years, providing invaluable support. Mrs Weatherup states, "all teachers in mainstream schools must adapt



Special Educational Needs Department continued

their teaching to support pupils who have a variety of needs."

There have been many changes since Mrs Weatherup became Special Educational Needs Co-ordinator. She believes that, although the terminology, technology and initiatives will

Careers

The Careers Department has developed considerably over the last number of years, to give advice and guidance to our young pupils. Many of you probably remember your own school days when you were simply asked what you would like to do and you were pointed in the general direction!!

Today our aim in Careers Education and guidance is to prepare young people for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult and working life. This equips them with the knowledge, skills and attitudes which they require in order to manage their lifelong career and personal development. At Ballyclare Secondary School we promote equality of opportunity and put the needs of the learner above all other considerations.

We try to encourage all pupils to:

Aim high and make a commitment to a life of learning

Ask your teacher how what you learn in school relates to careers

Know your abilities and interests and explore different careers

Develop a career plan that matches your interests and abilities

Select a college programme that connects with your career goals and interests

Parents and Guardians are encouraged to:

Increase your child's awareness of career options

Support your child in developing good work habits

Promote school-to-career system development with school officials

Help your child understand the relationship between learning and earning

continue to change in the future, the needs of the children will continue to be addressed with a positive, caring approach, giving pupils the opportunity to develop their potential within mainstream education in Ballyclare Secondary School.

Get involved in creating school-to-career opportunities in your child's school

Pupils embark on learning for life and work from Year 8 with the development of a careers programme in KS3, KS4 and KS5.

Careers staff have changed over the years:

Career Team

1960s – 1970s	Miss J McDowell & Mr D Metcalfe
1970s – 1980s	Mr C Holmes & Miss McWilliam
1980s – 1990s	Miss McWilliam & Miss Whittock
1990s – 2000	Miss Whittock & Mrs V Beattie
2000 - onwards	Miss Whittock, Mrs V Beattie, Dr Larmour

Dr Larmour left, Mr Adams took over. With the departure of Miss Whittock, Miss Russell took over.

At Sixth Form level, support and advice is available to all students. Our aim is to help the students to make realistic and informed decisions about their future beyond the 16 – 19 curriculum and to help students to manage the transition from the Sixth Form into higher education, training or employment. Throughout the school we use a range of techniques to inform and advise.

Throughout a pupil's school life they will record all aspects of their achievements via their Progress File. It encourages them to:

- reflect on their strengths and weakness
- review their progress
- recognise their potential
- identify realistic goals and targets
- record their achievements.

Careers Events

August

Careers advice for Post 16 courses
Prepare and organise Work Experience for LVI
Business Studies students (Visits to monitor
placements if possible)

September

University Open Days UUI/QUB
Year 12 Work Experience Letters to Employers
'Getting Connected' forms completed
Year 12 Interviews with Career Officer(Sept.-
March)
Year 12 (O.S.) &13 (Business) Work Experience
1 day per week (Visits if possible to monitor
progress)

October

Year 12 Work Experience (1st week in October)
Work Experience visits Year 12
Year 12/13 Careers' Evening
UU Coleraine Environmental Sciences LVI

November

Preparation for Interview Skills Days (Year 12)

December

Year 12 Interview Skills Days with Sentinus

January

Collation of materials for Year 10 Options
Evening
Interviews for student on IOD scheme
Year 11 LLW Programme (6 weeks)

February

Year 12 Career Guidance Evening
Year 12 Study Skills
Year 10 Options' Evening
Year 10 Careers' Convention

March

Preparation and distribution of Work
Experience forms for Year 11
Transition SEN Interviews

April

Use of outside agencies for work placements:
Charter Work Experience programme / PSNI/
Army/Fire Service.
Year 12 Careers' Convention
Open Day Stranmillis College

May

Collection of Work Experience from Year 11
Advice and Guidance for Year 12, 13 & 14 (if
required)

June

Evaluation and review of the Year's programme
Visits from D.E.L. Careers Adviser/Equality
Commission Year 11





Sixth Form

It is with a great sense of pride and equally, a great sense of relief, that I write this piece for the 50th Anniversary celebratory magazine. I joined the staff as a Physical Education teacher in 1975 and when Cecil Holmes left his Business Studies position to take up a post with CCEA, I took on the vacant Vocational Studies post. Wearing this second educational hat, I helped Year 13 pupils to steer their vocational ships through the changing seas of City and Guilds Diploma of Vocational Studies, to the developing GNVQ and most recent AVCE and current provision.

My role evolved in the 1990s to include vocational provision as well as to oversee the development of general 6th Form studies in the school. I headed up the 6th Form team, ably supported by my colleagues, Mrs Irene Taylor and Mrs Gillian Oliver. In addition to the vocational provision, the school has had the tradition of offering A Levels as well, and, on my retirement in June 2010, over 20 A Level courses were being offered. This success lies firmly at the hands of former Principal, Mr S McCrea and his curriculum Vice Principal, the also retired Mr S McComb.

In the face of stern examination by the Inspectorate from the Department of Education, who seemingly sought to remove Post 16 academic opportunities from non Grammar schools, our leadership team held firm by developing and extending the provision. The rest, as they say, is history, with the current 6th Form providing a range of subjects for well over one hundred young adults each year.

To this day, it remains a priority to ensure 6th Form students follow a curriculum with breadth, balance and coherence. We have ensured, and others continue to strive to ensure, that students have an adequate range of provision and choice in 6th Form. This will benefit further, I feel, from the recent partnership, known as 'collaboration', with our near neighbours at Ballyclare High (Grammar) School. Sixth Form in Ballyclare Secondary gives 16+ students opportunities for AS/A2 Level study in a selected range of subjects, an Engineering Course and Applied

ICT, as well as the National Certificate Course in Business (Level 2). Courses over the past number of years, such as European Studies, Japanese Studies and Recreation have been on offer. There is also the opportunity for some students to improve their grades in English and Mathematics. Added to this, students have access to the job market with the help of qualified and experienced Careers Guidance teachers. We always strive to develop our Post 16 provision and fluid targets remain to improve the accommodation for both their educational and social needs. Two fully equipped tutorial rooms, together with extended use of the Youth Centre have helped considerably in recent times. It was also important to develop the 6th Form Forum through canvassing pupils' views and offering them a genuine opportunity to help broker real change where deemed necessary.

The Sixth Form 'experience' though, is about a lot more than the classroom. Often friendships made during this time remain for life. Hopefully, students also take with them things they learn about themselves as well as the enduring and worthwhile values that teachers have sought to nurture in them. Prime 'fun' activities remain, with the senior school Formal as the highlight. This takes place each year and offers students and staff the opportunity to enjoy a relaxing evening in different surroundings. The recent production of the Sixth Form Yearbook has helped provide a tangible record for our leavers, with mementos of their time at Ballyclare Secondary.

It has been a privilege for me to work with so many dedicated staff and to watch our young people develop and grow into adulthood. Hopefully, past pupils are able to say that wherever they have gone, they recognise the education they received in Ballyclare Secondary was as good as the education of anyone they met. There have been too many characters to mention and stories to tell for inclusion here, but I will continue to follow the achievements of the young people of Ballyclare Secondary 6th Form with interest and hope for the success they deserve in the future. Mr Harry Blair

Youth Club

Ballyclare Youth Club opened in its present building in 1977, although there was a Youth Club running before this, led by Mr George Lyons, who was a teacher in the school, held in the school hall. Around this time 'the troubles' were at their height in Northern Ireland and a lot of money was being pumped into youth provision to try to keep young people off the streets and away from anti social behaviour. As there was already a Youth Club in Ballyclare, it was seen as an ideal location to erect a purpose built facility. As a result of this Ballyclare Youth Club, as we know it, was born.

Gail Williamson was the first Youth and Community Tutor to take office in the new Centre in 1979 followed by Mr Paul Younger, in the Youth Club in 1981 and was Youth Tutor until 2008. Paul did a tremendous amount of work for the young people in the area and developed programmes to help the development of the young people. Throughout his time, we had trips to the Isle of Man, Scotland, Wales, England and the Republic of Ireland. In years gone by, when there weren't so many foreign holidays, this was the only opportunity young people had to get out of Ballyclare and it was an extremely popular aspect of the Youth Club. One staff member recalls a young person asking, 'Do we need our passport?' when going on a trip to Wales!



From 2008-2010 the Youth Club was without a Youth Tutor and the staff of the Youth Club pulled together to ensure it was kept open. Then in 2010 our present Youth Tutor, Stuart McIvor arrived. Stuart has settled in to



the Club very quickly and has taken the running of the Club in his stride. He has been keen to encourage programme development and has even had his baptism of fire by going on a residential weekend to Ballyholme with the young people!

Ballyclare Youth Club staff are committed to the development of individual young people as they progress from childhood to adults. Whether the young people are playing football, engaging in dance workshops, or are taking part in drug and alcohol awareness courses, the staff aim to develop young people's self esteem, social skills and leadership, to name a few. The greatest testament to this is that, of the current staff of nine, seven are past members of the Club themselves.

Ballyclare Youth Club operates under the pretext that the young people are at the centre of everything we do. This means that any decisions regarding programming has come as a result of direct consultation with young people or their perceived needs, as seen by the staff. Therefore, Ballyclare Youth Club has always been a Club that is run for and by young people. Angela Surgeoner and Stuart McIvor.





Administration Staff

The School Office has always been a hive of activity, with no day the same as the previous one. At the hub of the school, there is always something going on. People not in the know consider working in a school office to be a job that entails nothing more than reading magazines and nail painting sessions - unfortunately, this is wishful thinking and could not be further from the truth!! The past few years have seen the workload of the school office increase dramatically, with a rise in pupil and staff numbers and the introduction of new technology and computers.

As a school we have been very fortunate with the office staff who have passed through our doors from the first day, right up until today. All have put the best interests of the staff, pupils and indeed the reputation of the school, first.

In 1961, Mrs Joan Barr was the first school secretary with Mr W Stirling at the helm as Principal. He was a gentleman of the highest order and a tremendous person to work for. There were only about 420 pupils at this time and Mrs Barr managed to maintain an orderly, relaxed atmosphere in the office. Miss Marjorie Hamilton replaced Mrs Barr and found the work constant and varied, she also



enjoyed working with Mr W Stirling.

In 1964 due to a large increase in the number of pupils attending the school and a sharp increase in workload, Mrs Margaret Buckley joined the office. She learnt the ropes quickly and soon became a valued team member. The next addition was Mrs Elizabeth Agnew, who had been a teacher in the school's Business



Studies Department. She was a soft spoken lady who was much loved by both staff and pupils.

Miss Hamilton was succeeded by Mrs Joan Nugent, who ran a highly organised and efficient office under the leadership of the Principal, Mr S McCrea. Mr McCrea was a dedicated and much revered gentleman, who knew most of the pupils by name during his time at the school. Mrs Juanita Ritchie replaced Mrs Buckley and was so keen to get the job she came for her interview at 8.00 am instead of 8.00 pm!!

Miss Angela Wright attended the school as a pupil and went straight into work in the office on leaving school. She since married and is now Mrs Angela Dent and continues to work in the office as well as the School Library. As pupil numbers continued to grow, so, invariably, did the workload and the day-to-day work of the office. Mrs Tracy Bottomley, a past Head Girl of the school, joined in 2002 and she continues to work in the office.

When Mrs J Nugent retired in 2007, she was succeeded by Mrs Sharon McCreary who introduced tea-breaks to her team, and continues to manage the office in a relaxed, yet professional manner. Mrs Claire Patterson joined the busy team a few years ago and was promoted to sit in Mrs Ritchie's seat when she retired after 19 years of service. Mrs Kathryn Bell filled Mr McCrea's shoes when he retired, and is the current Principal of the school. She is a fair-minded, gentle lady who cares deeply for the pupils and staff. The current office team are dedicated and have become not only colleagues, but friends. We look forward to ever progressing and embracing whatever the next fifty years have in store!!

Technical Staff

The Technical staff have been an integral part of the school since it opened and the number of members has changed dramatically over the years. The current number of technical staff is eight. Mervyn Higginson, our longest serving staff member was the first technician (Science) in the school and therefore was responsible for all photocopying for all subjects. With the natural growth of the school the demand was too high for one man!!

As technology started to make more of an appearance there was an ever increasing demand on having an ICT technician. Mark Hunter took up the post in 1998 and is still a valuable member of the IT department.

Past pupil Michael McLean, originally a Technology technician, joined in May 1995. He now works in the busy Art and Design Department and is a valuable help, not only to the staff, but to the pupils. Michael's knowledge of industry and willingness to go the extra mile for the pupils has proven to be invaluable.

Tracey Allen started 1st September 2005 as our Audio Visual Technician. She is in charge of much of our graphic work. She is a highly trained graphic artist and holds a degree in Art & Design. Tracey is best known for her friendly and accommodating attitude. No matter when you go to her, even if she is busy she will always make time to do what ever you need.

School Nurse

Ballyclare Secondary School has been very fortunate to have had a resident nurse since 2004. The first nurse was Mrs Boreland who retired in 2008. Miss Snoddy then took up the post and was here until 2010 when I took over the busy role.



My name is Helen McKay and I have thoroughly enjoyed my first year and look forward to many more to come. I previously worked in the Royal Belfast Hospital for sick children for 23 years. My role here is obviously a lot different from the acute hospital setting. I have to administer a lot of first aid and of course a lot of TLC!

There are some pupils who have to come to me on a daily basis for prescribed medication at break and lunch. Part of my role is also to give presentations on various health topics such as, healthy lifestyles, cancer awareness, smoking and its effects on health and of course everyone's favourite - vaccinations!



Tracey has also been instrumental in producing this magazine and I am truly indebted to her!! Without her precious time and knowledge there would be no magazine!

Caron McDowell started in January 2010 as an ICT Technician. She came from Nortel where she was a Business Support Analyst. Caron has a degree in Computer Science. There is always an endless queue looking for her assistance outside the AV room!! She is in charge of updating our school website which is a job in itself!! She is also our resident photographer!! Where there is an event Caron will surely be there with her camera!! Her willingness to help out all staff and pupils has made her a very popular and valued member of staff in the short time she has been here.

Without the support of the technical staff the smooth running of the school would not be able to happen. My gratitude goes out to all of them and a big thank you for their hard work and valuable contribution to school life. Here's to another 50 years!!

Miss Y Moody





Building Supervisors

When the school opened its doors in 1961 to begin its journey, there were just 22 members of staff and about 420 pupils. Today that number has increased to over 1000 pupils and around 100 members of staff in both full-time and part-time capacities. Working away in the background, keeping everything running smoothly, is the caretaking staff.

The first team under the command of Mr W Stirling, Principal from 1961, was Alfie McClean and George Davidson, who were both efficient and friendly. Mr Stirling, who was a very genuine and caring person, retired in June 1985 and his replacement, Mr S A McCrea, took over the helm. Under his leadership, a new pairing of caretaking staff was formed in Jackie Wright and Davy Kane. Sadly Davy Kane passed away and was greatly missed as he was a true gentleman.

Joining the fast paced life that has become Ballyclare Secondary School in 1998 and learning everything he knows from the infamous Jackie Wright, who some might say was 'the real boss', is Ian Wright, no relation there! With this partnership, one young and full of enthusiasm and the other older and wiser, they had a strong bond and made a



lasting friendship.

Jackie retired in 2005 leaving rather large shoes to be filled. His replacement is Norman Higgins who has settled into his new role very well. Ian and Norman are the current caretakers or as they have been retitled, 'building supervisors'. With their passion and pride for cleanliness and order, the school always looks immaculate. They are dedicated, organised and efficient.

The caretaking staff, past and present, of Ballyclare Secondary School have always been responsible, honest and reliable. They have good communication skills to deal with pupils, staff and parents. Their priority at all times is the health and safety of others. Some say that caretaking is an easy path to take. All it entails is a wee bit of cleaning and a lot of dandering around. If this was the case then life would be very, very dull indeed!!



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Our Links with Japan 1998-2011

Ballyclare Secondary School has been linked with our partner school in Toyama, Japan since 1998. Early exchanges were by email but quickly developed to also include video-conferencing on a regular basis. Students in Ballyclare could learn the Japanese language, practice their phrases in class and then have an opportunity to immediately use their newly acquired language skills with their partner school in Japan.

SILVER AWARD FOR BALLYCLARE'S JAPANESE LINK



A LINK between Ballyclare Secondary School and Toyama National College of Maritime Technology has earned a Silver Prize from the British Council in Tokyo. The two schools have been linked for over 10 years and recent work by Year 10 geography pupils, using the internet and video-conferencing, was highlighted at the presentation ceremony. Ballyclare Secondary School teacher, Mr. Farrell, was invited by the British Council to attend the ceremony in Tokyo during the summer and to make a presentation to the delegates on the links that have been established between the schools.

This form of exchange and learning has received widespread recognition within Japan and the United Kingdom, culminating in 2008 with the British Council Silver Award for links

between Japan and the United Kingdom.



The highlights for Ballyclare Secondary school have been exchange visits by students in 2006 and

2008, an invitation to

Mr McCrea and Mr Farrell to attend the 100th Anniversary Celebration in Toyama in 2008, visits by students and teachers from Japan, and the visit by the Japanese Ambassador to the United Kingdom to Ballyclare Secondary School.

The recent tragic earthquake in Japan also allowed students in Ballyclare the opportunity

to show solidarity with our partner school in Japan by collecting £1600

during "a pound for Japan" collection. This money was combined with money from our partner school and forwarded to those in need after the Sendai earthquake.

The highlight for the videoconference exchange has always been the Christmas Videoconferencing Party during which gifts are exchanged, and opened online. The reaction from both parties

to various forms of food and games is fascinating to watch - but one outstanding moment was when one of our students opened a

fermented Japanese pickle tasted it and exclaimed in a broad Ballyclare accent - "It's mingin!" - forgetting that the Japanese students could hear and see everything that was happening!

The question was then asked by a student in Toyama - "Excuse me, what does mingin mean?" An explanation was offered and the party continued with the students in Toyama then tasting liquorice for the first time. The universal exclamation from Japan was a loud "Its mingin!" in a broad Ballyclare accent - so if you visit Japan and hear "It's mingin" being uttered - you now know the origin!



Head Boy David Caldwell giving the Japanese Ambassador and his wife a guided tour of the school



STEM 2010/2011

Pupils have had opportunities to participate in a number of STEM activities throughout the year.

By highlighting STEM it is hoped to promote links with Science, Technology and Mathematics in our local community and to raise awareness of the importance of these subjects as a basis for a diverse and rewarding career path.



The PTA

Life as a PTA member at Ballyclare Secondary School

Having never been to a PTA meeting before I was rather `hesitant' as I went along to my first one ... and ... well that was almost 7 years ago now.

I was very warmly welcomed into the group during that first attendance by the already well established ladies and gents. Mind you, if I remember correctly, the `gents' back then were from the teaching side of the PTA!!

I have made many good friends and shared manys a laugh. I'm sure that I can speak for the others when I say that the PTA at BSS always feel valued and appreciated when we have held various enjoyable events over the years.

It wasn't hard work - it was (and is) very enjoyable and it's very pleasing to be able to contribute to various teachers and departments when they need a little bit of `extra funding'.

I can honestly say that during my 7 years we never had to turn down a request - and that's something we're extremely proud of.

As the school celebrates its 50 year existence the PTA extend their congratulations at this exciting milestone—and remember if indeed you are a little bit `hesitant' as I was, come along - it's very rewarding and along with the tea-making there's always a bit of craic on the menu too!!

Lynda Horner
Ballyclare Secondary School PTA



PTA What's cooking in Ballyclare?

On the 19 April Ballyclare Secondary School PTA hosted a Cookery Demonstration delivered by The Livestock and Meat Commission for Northern Ireland (LMC), in the school assembly hall.

The scene was set with all the necessary ingredients – portable kitchen, expert chef, large audience and two would-be chefs. The evening began with a beautiful demonstration of how to make lasagne using lean mince steak. The demonstration also included cooking tips and advice on what ingredients to add to ensure the lasagne was as nutritional as possible. Everything went according to plan, mouths were watering for a taste of the lasagne.



The latter part of the evening took the format of an entertaining 'Can you cook it?' contest. Two would-be chefs in the form of teachers, Mr Cosby and Mr Beggs stepped up to take the challenge. The dishes they had to cook were Mediterranean Mince and Tikka Mince. Carefully followed instructions somehow got lost in delivery with Mr Beggs managing to create a Mediterranean Soup instead.

Mr Cosby, obviously the talented chef, managed to misunderstand just about every instruction given by the resident expert from the Meat Marketing Board!

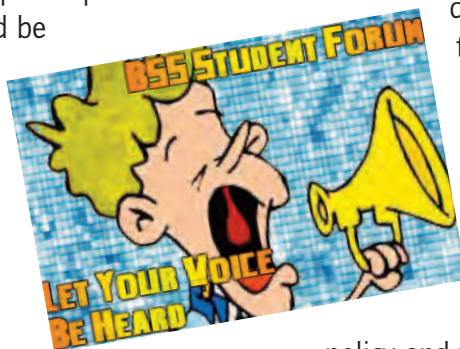
Overall it was a very successful evening. The audience thoroughly enjoyed the demonstration and the fun.

The school PTA would like to thank all those who helped with the organisation and running of such a successful event, especially the representatives from the Livestock and Meat Commission for Northern Ireland.



Student Forum

The Student Forum (school council) was established in 2007, following guidelines issued by the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People. It was hoped that the Forum would give pupils the opportunity to express their opinions on a variety of issues within school, give staff a clearer insight into the pupils' experience of school and how that could be improved, and afford all pupils the opportunity to participate in a democratic process. In order to publicise the Forum at the outset, a competition was held to design a logo, and the design created by Robert Donaldson is still being used on all Forum materials.



Each year, elections are held in which each class chooses one male and one female

representative. These representatives then meet in Year Forums to discuss issues of interest to their particular year group, and then elect 2 students to represent their year group in the main Forum.

The student representatives have been extremely enthusiastic and committed to the scheme, and over the years have come up with some great ideas to address issues such as recycling, bullying, improvements to the toilets and canteen facilities. The Forum has also had the opportunity to give feedback on new policies in school e.g. the mobile phone policy and food policy. They have organised several fund-raising non-uniform days, and have supported charities including Save the Children and NSPCC.

Extra Curricular Clubs

Extracurricular clubs and societies have been a key feature of Ballyclare Secondary School. These clubs and societies have given pupils the opportunity to pursue interests, develop skills and build friendships that have lasted many years. Below is a list of just some of the clubs and societies which were formed in the early years of the school, some of which are still going strong today.

Chess Club, School Choir, Film Society, Environmental Society, Debating Society, Irish Dancing Society, Guitar Club, Fishing Club, Computer Club, Ramblers' Club, Jogging Club, Fun Club, Scripture Union, Drama Club, Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Horse Riding Club.



Nicole rides high at Hartpury College event

BALLYCLARE girl Nicole McConnell was placed in the UK top 50 at a Pony Club Tetrathlon held in Gloucester's Hartpury College over the weekend. Nicole was successful in qualifying to represent Northern Ireland at the event which took place in the equestrian part of the college. Nicole completed a gruelling 1,300m cross-country run, then swam as far as she could in three minutes, shot at a turning target at a distance of 10 metres and took on a cross-country course of 28 jumps at a height of 1m to 1m 10cm on her horse Tahoe Tradewinds (Snip). The 15-year-old is a past pupil of Tildarg Primary School and now attends Ballyclare Secondary. She is a member of East Antrim Pony Club and has been competing in Pony Club tetrathlons since she was seven years old. Over the years, Nicole has travelled throughout Northern Ireland to compete against other



Nicole McConnell on Snip



Mrs Valerie Jenkins from Ballyclare Secondary School has received a lifetime achievement award for her 30 years of sterling work in the school meals service. NT27-077FP

School wins top kitchen award



Pupils' sponsored ski raises £477 for charity

A GROUP of pupils and their friends from Ballyclare. The group have enjoyed their ski holiday in Crumlin.



Scripture Union (SU)



Since the earliest days of Ballyclare Secondary, there has been a Scripture Union in school which has had the support of many staff over the years. SU exists for young people who

would like to find out more about God and explore how knowing God can change their lives.

SU has always met on a weekly basis, usually at lunchtime, giving pupils an opportunity to meet with their friends in a relaxed environment.



Meetings have taken place in a variety of locations through the school, from classrooms to the Youth Centre and most recently the Lecture Theatre. As well as eating lunch and chatting with friends, Activities at SU meetings include games, quizzes, films,



discussion, Bible study and prayer. Over the years, we have also welcomed numerous guest speakers from many different areas including local churches, Youth for Christ, Newtownabbey Young Life, CEF, Crown Jesus Ministries, various missionary organisations and even some local sporting stars. In recent years, we have developed a strong link with Ballyclare



Youth for Christ and it's great to see Jonny Farrell and the team in school on a regular basis.

The SU weekend has been a highlight for many years with busloads of pupils, staff and luggage wreaking havoc in places such as Portrush, The Folk and Transport Museum, Castlewellan and most recently Annalong. On these weekends we have enjoyed activities such as treasure hunts, canoeing, horseriding, extreme shopping, bowling and endless games of football with Mr McCrea. If you're looking for a quiet Saturday night out, it's probably best to steer clear of Mauds in Newcastle on the first Saturday in March!!



Happy 50th Birthday to Ballyclare Secondary School and here's to many more happy years of SU.





Badminton Club



The Badminton Club was formed in the mid 1980s, when both staff and pupils took a keen interest in playing the game. At that



time, the late Mr Ivan Boyd, along with Mrs Taylor, Mr Metcalfe and Mrs McCormick supervised various areas, the Assembly Hall, the Boys' Gym

and the Youth Centre,

wherever, in fact, there was a badminton court marked out! Club days were Thursday afternoons for the Seniors and Friday afternoons for the Juniors.

During these early years, some talented players passed through the school and matches were arranged, on a league basis, with other schools, namely, Wallace High in Lisburn, Glengormley High, Ballyclare High, BRA, Downshire, Carrick High and Coleraine Inst. These matches mostly involved the Senior boys' team which included Alex Knowles, Nigel and Jeffrey Sempey, Darren Gilpin, the late Robert Taylor and others.

In the early days, an annual staff tournament was held, with many dusting down their racquets to take part. Competition was fierce, but it was usually Mr Manson who collected the trophy. He, apparently, had private lessons each year, prior to the tournament - what chance did the rest have?!

In March 1986, Mr Boyd and Mrs Taylor embarked on a coaching course at what is now the National Badminton Centre, in Lisburn, for a weekend of tuition and examination, to emerge with the coveted Irish Badminton Coaching Award – Level 1, no less!! The Badminton Club continued to



flourish, with matches for Senior and Junior boys and Senior and Junior girls, home and away, practically every week. Staff gave their time to the Club, Mrs McCrea, Miss Nevin, Miss Morrow, Miss McKeeman, Mr Adams, Miss Battersby and others. Successes were varied, but it was not until the 1999/2000 season that the all-conquering Under 16 girls' team emerged.

Between March 1999 and April 2000, the School's Girls' Badminton team brought honour to the school by winning the All Ireland Under 16 Badminton Championship title two years in a row. The team of Jenni Coulter, Christine Montgomery, Helen McCookin and Claire Campbell, with Anslie Creighton as reserve, beat all other schools in the province to reach the finals of the Ulster Cup and League in Lisburn on 12 March 1999. Although they competed in, and won TWO finals, it was the League final that saw them through to play at Gormanstown, outside Dublin, in the All Ireland Championship against the top teams in Ireland. They won the All Ireland trophy outright and went on to repeat this success and retain their title in March 2000.

Over the years, since its formation, equipment has been sponsored for the Badminton Club by the PTA, paying for various items such as nets, racquets, shuttlecocks, as well as tracksuits and fleeces for the All Ireland Champions, for which the Club is grateful.

As with all school teams, pupils move on and, unfortunately, the school has not since had the combined talents of team members to repeat this feat. However, if enthusiasm is anything to go by, then the Club continues to thrive and enjoy this mark of success. Moved to Tuesdays in recent years and mainly confined to the junior school, pupils continue to enjoy the exercise and the fun it has to offer.



Golf Club

This Club has become popular amongst the golf loving pupils at Ballyclare Secondary. Mr P. Younger was the first teacher to introduce the Club to pupils. In 2009 Mr. I. Thompson took over and started coaching classes at the Hilton Hotel in 2009 where 30 regular members attend. In 2010 Ballyclare's Golf Club was also attended by 16 regular members.

The Club starts in October every year and is open to all abilities from years 8 to 14. It usually begins with 5 weeks of lessons at Ballyclare Golf Club for junior pupils. The weather can sometimes inhibit play but with the Club having recently

refurbished an old shed into an indoor teaching facility our little Rory McIlroy's couldn't be put off!! The video analysis was also a big novelty amongst the pupils as they get to see their golf swing in action. The senior players take up their training in February just in time for the better golfing conditions.

At this year's Ulster Schools' Golf Championship U16 at Greenacres Golf Club, each boy from Ballyclare played with three other boys from different schools to make up a group of four. The best three scores were counted for the team prize. The boys all had respectable scores but not enough to win the overall event. The par 3, 6th hole, caused some problems for all golfers. At 161 yards across a lake to a small green, it certainly played its part. Many boys hit more than one ball into the middle of the lake,

damaging any chance of a par. The standard overall was very high. One boy even hit the flag and narrowly missed a hole in one at the third. After 5 hours on the golf course the boys were very hungry and tucked into lunch at the restaurant. After a season of lessons and tournament golf, the boys deserved a pat on the back for their efforts.



Iain Witherspoon – handicap 28
Matthew Sewell – handicap 19
Jonathon Moore – handicap 24
Benjamin McCartney – handicap 22



Netball Club

Over the years, the Netball Club at Ballyclare Secondary School has inspired players and produced players who have continued to play at club, university and international level. The opportunity to be part of competitions like Podium for Sport and Regional Development Squads has allowed players to represent the school.

The girls are fully committed to training every Wednesday afternoon and thoroughly enjoy it. We have increased play participation, even fielding two teams in some year groups. We compete in local North Eastern league and have also ventured to play in the all Schools' Cup and Plate competitions.

The highlight for 2011 season was the opportunity to go to the International European Open competition. The girls watched two matches, their favourite being Northern Ireland v Scotland- It was a great win for NI and the second match, mighty England v Wales was another fast competitive game. The girls experienced a meet and greet with the full Northern Ireland International Squad. It was a super afternoon and the girls picked new role models to aspire to!





Technology Club

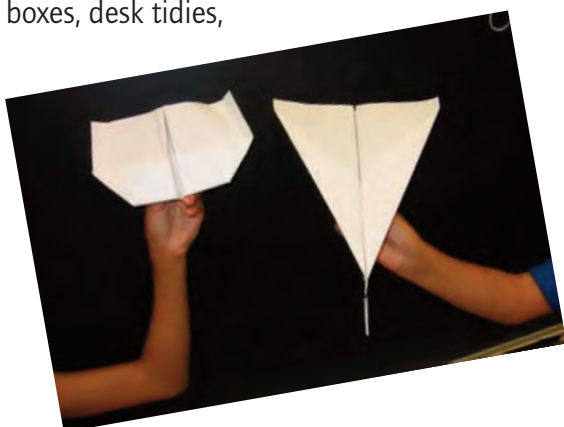


Young people grow up making things, sometimes from kits like Lego or Meccano, sometimes from actual materials. Witness their ability to make paper aeroplanes. This interest, if properly encouraged can lead to successful careers in Manufacturing and Engineering. With this in mind a Technology Club was



formed to meet in the new Technology and Design building. Enthusiastic young Technologists still gather on Tuesday afternoons to plan and execute projects, their creativity often knows no bounds.

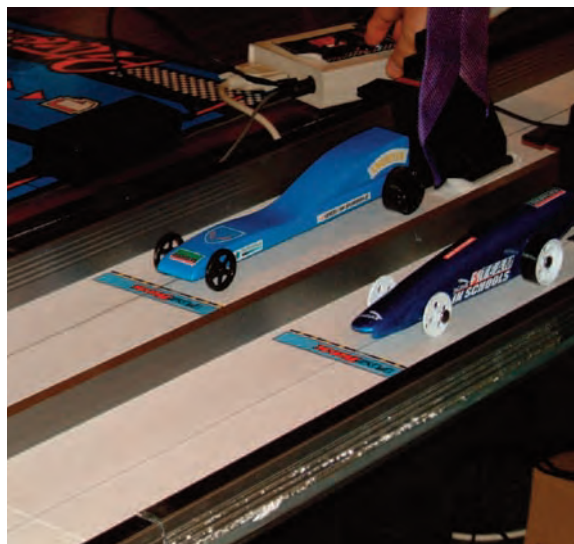
The products they have made include electrically driven vehicles, storage boxes, desk tidies,



egg holders and Christmas decorations.

As well as making artefacts in the workshop, Club members have taken part in competitions and special events. The Flight Experience was a competition organised by Shorts Bombardier to find the best designed paper aeroplane capable of flying the longest distance. Following heats in school we sent a team to the Odyssey Arena where they performed well but, sadly, not well enough to get to the finals in London.

We participated in the Formula 1 in Schools'



competition where pupils design a model racing car powered by a standard gas cylinder. In one memorable year our team produced the fastest car at the N. Ireland heats but were beaten overall by other schools that had higher quality design presentations.

To make something to be proud of, or to participate in a team challenge helps young people develop confidence in their own abilities. Let's hope that the Technology Club continues to inspire the students of Ballyclare Secondary School for many years to come.

Breakfast Club

This project began in October 2007, following a successful application for funding from the Department for Social Development, as part of the Grange Partnership Action Plan.

The aim was to provide a nutritious, free breakfast in the school canteen for those pupils who, for whatever reason, do not have breakfast at home. It was felt that there was a range of possible benefits to be derived from this scheme: improved concentration as a result of a healthy meal, supervised social interaction in a safe and warm environment and increased motivation to arrive punctually to school.

The menu was drawn up after consultation with a dietician employed under the "Investing for Health" initiative, and comprises fruit juice, tea, toast and cereal. The Club is open from 8.00 to 8.30 every Tuesday and Thursday morning, in the school canteen. Catering is supplied by the canteen manager and one member of the kitchen staff, and the pupils are

supervised by an experienced member of the lunchtime supervision team.

The Club has proved to be extremely successful, and it is gratifying that all year groups have participated to some extent, although it must be said that it is particularly popular among the younger pupils. There is a very relaxed, pleasant atmosphere at all times, requiring a minimum of supervision, and the pupils appear to be extremely appreciative of the scheme.

The period of the initial grant has now come to an end, but it is hoped that a new application will result in an extension to the funding, enabling us to continue to offer breakfast free of charge to any pupils who wish to attend. There is no doubt that this Club can (in addition to the obvious nutritional benefits) encourage the establishment of good habits of attendance and punctuality, and a positive attitude towards school in general.

Homework Club

This Club was established as a pilot project in April 2007, funded by a grant from the Department for Social Development under the Neighbourhood Renewal scheme. The aim was to provide a quiet, supportive and supervised after-school study area, where pupils would have access to both reference materials and ICT facilities. The pilot project was deemed to be a success, and the Club has continued to run since that initial trial period.

The Club is open every Monday, Wednesday and Thursday afternoon, 3.00 – 4.00, in the school library, supervised by a very experienced classroom assistant who is available to give assistance when requested (although she draws the line at actually doing the homework!)

Attendance rates vary from week to week. There have clearly been surges of use at various times throughout the school year e.g. prior to tests or school exams, or in preparation for coursework deadlines. Feedback from both pupils and staff has been very positive. Students clearly value the opportunity to make use of the library facilities, in particular for purposes of research, and several members of staff have commented on the improvement in some pupils' individual work, especially in terms of presentation.

The initial grant has now finished, but it is felt that the club is such a valuable resource for our pupils that the school will continue to fund the scheme for the foreseeable future.





Health Promotion



In 2004 the school appointed Miss Collins as Health Promotion Development Officer. One of the first tasks was to prepare for the soon to be implemented Nutritional Standards for schools meals. In anticipation of their full implementation, which was scheduled for September 2007, a closer link with school and canteen staff was forged planning healthy eating days, no chip days and a food in school policy.

Since implementation we have made particular efforts to ensure consistent messages about healthy eating with theme days such as "Good Mood Food", Healthy Hearts and Get your 5-a-day. The work of the canteen was also extended by a twice weekly Breakfast Club and weekly Healthier Breaks scheme. The canteen also received a face lift with new café style tables and chairs in place of the grey school chairs and desks previously used. The work done by the school and canteen staff has twice been recognised by the Northern Ireland School Catering Association. In 2008 and 2010, the awards are a bi-annual event, we were awarded the accolade of Best Secondary School Kitchen in the NEELB. Congratulations to Mrs Jenkins and all her staff! We continue to work with the members of the Student Forum to improve the dining experience in school.



Of course Health Promotion goes beyond just healthy eating. Strategies for promoting emotional well-being are in constant evolution, aiming to offer support to students when they need it most. One such example came through Year 8 Student Forum representatives who worked with Miss Collins on improving our anti-bullying strategy, coming up with ideas of how to best use the Worry Box and ideas of how to reinforce the message of our Anti-Bullying Pledge.

Developing links with outside agencies has been of vital importance in getting across accurate and up-to-date information on current Health issues. Relevant and useful pupil workshops taken by groups such as Aware Defeat Depression, PSNI and ACET have been a regular feature over recent years. In June 2011 the first Health and Well-being Fair took place with around 20 contributors



setting up information stands and representatives being on hand to offer advice and answer questions on a wide range of issues. Parents and friends of the school were also invited to attend this event.

At the end of the summer term we received the good news that Action Cancer awarded Ballyclare Secondary School a Silver award in its Health Action scheme. This recognises the efforts of the Health Promotion Development Officer, School Nurse, Canteen Staff, Teaching and Support Staff and Pastoral teams in their quest for a Healthy School. We look forward to the challenges ahead in preparing our pupils for 21st Century living.

Duke of Edinburgh Scheme

The Scheme was introduced in the school by Miss Joan Smith and Miss Millar in 1964. Initially, membership was confined to girls, with many achieving Bronze and Silver, but only a few going on to complete the Gold Award, as most pupils left school at the age of 16 years. Boys were introduced to the Scheme in 1971, by Mr Holmes, with Mr Blair taking over in 1980. In 1975, Sandra Coulter, June Topping, Rosemary Andrew, Irene Johnston and Margaret Sloan went to Buckingham Palace to collect their Gold Certificates. In 1980, it was the turn of Carolyn Andrew, Miriam McCullough and Yvonne Hanna. Staff also involved in the early days were Mrs Martin, Miss Savage and Mrs Moore. The Scheme ended in 1980.

The Duke of Edinburgh was re-introduced to the school in 1991, with Mrs R Duncan co-ordinating things from 1991 to 2001, with the help of Dr C Larmour, Mr B Adams, Miss L Collins Mr D Beggs and the late Mr I Boyd. Mrs McClean was soon to join the group of leaders. Other members of staff helped deliver the Skills and Physical Recreation sections of the Award. Annually around 40 pupils enrol at Bronze level. During the early 2000s there was a renewed interest in doing the Gold Award through the school. As a result, in 2003 and 2004 Mr Beggs, Miss Collins and Mrs McClean developed cycle ventures for the expedition section of the Gold requirements. Pupils were then free to complete the other sections of the Award in their own time in order to complete it before their 25th birthday. However, time and exam pressures militated against continuing a more formal and sustained approach to the Gold and Silver Awards in school. Currently any pupils wishing to progress beyond Bronze level are encouraged to access the Open Award expedition arrangements made by Bushmills Education Centre and are supported in completing the other sections by school staff.

For most pupils, the expeditions were the most challenging, but most enjoyable part of the Scheme. Each year, Bronze Expeditions take place in the North Antrim Hills, including areas such as Glenariff Forest, Slieveanorra and Ballypatrick Forest. Past Silver Expeditions took place in the Mourne Mountains. Many pupils

have achieved the Bronze and Silver Awards

over the years, while a few have achieved Gold. Some notable highlights of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme in Ballyclare Secondary:

In 1993, triplets Mark, Paul and Steven Stewart achieved their Silver Award. They were the first set of triplets to achieve the Silver Award in Northern Ireland.



In 1995, Stuart Flint received his Gold Award at St James' Palace. It was a great honour for Mrs Duncan to attend this ceremony.

In 2001, Chris Heaney achieved his Gold Award.





Hardbacks

In September 2009 a new school club, Hardbacks, began. Hardbacks is now a popular bookclub among many in our school and students, ranging from Year 8 through to Year 12, enjoy meeting regularly to discuss their latest read. Over the last two years pupils have read a variety of novels from a range of genres. These novels include titles from renowned writers such as Anthony Horowitz, Robert Swindells, John Boyne, Suzanne LaFleur, and many more. Throughout each year the novels covered cater for every taste: from following the life of a juvenile secret agent, to time-travelling to escaping with Iqbal, (a child slave), the journey is rich and eventful.

As numbers at Hardbacks continue to grow, we look forward to reading an even more varied set of novels in the future and further sharing a love of reading.



Dissolving Boundaries Through Technology in Education

The Dissolving Boundaries community continues to provide opportunities for the development of mutual understanding through collaborative curricular work, using Moodle, video conferencing and face to face meetings.

150 schools in the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland will be taking part in a

Readathon

In June 2011, Year 9 pupils took part in the UK's largest reading sponsorship scheme known as "Readathon". Pupils read material of their choice, ranging from novels to magazines and plays to poetry, over the period of one week in order to get sponsorship money for a very worthy cause. Money raised through Readathon is kept in Northern Ireland via the charitable organisations CLIC Sargent and the Roald Dahl Foundation. The £1214 raised by our Year 9 pupils is used to help children with serious illnesses such as cancer, Hodgkin's disease, leukaemia, epilepsy and brain injuries.

Year 9 pupils gained much from the experience as they were able to help others whilst gaining an appreciation of reading for pleasure.

unique digital link up to celebrate the successful completion of their work in the Dissolving Boundaries programme today.

For the first time ever, pupils in primary, special and secondary schools will join together to celebrate 'Crossing the Frontier'. Our school is linked with Loreto College, Mullingar. We made wikis with them, held a discussion forum and had a face to face meeting where we played Gamelon.

You can find out more about what we did by visiting www.dissolvingboundaries.org/moodle3

Business in the Community

Last year we were approached by a group called 'Business in the Community' with a view to setting up a mentoring programme between pupils of Ballyclare Secondary School and members of staff from Dennison Commercials.

Company helps to drive education in Ballyclare

DENNISON Commercials Ltd has helped strengthen business education links in the Ballyclare area by supporting an Adopt-a-School programme with Ballyclare Secondary School.

Funded by the Department for Social Development, volunteer business mentors are paired by Business in the Community to work alongside groups of pupils for 10 weeks helping to prepare them for the world of work.

Supporting key skills including presentation and interpersonal skills, planning, target setting and organisational skills, this initiative involved three senior employees from Dennisons.

John Jenkins, Michael Petticrew and Rob Ireland helped the students get a clearer picture of the working world by relating personal experiences and accounts along with highlighting the key skills and qual-

ties often sought by employers.

Bringing added value to maximise learning, Dennisons is facilitating workplace visits letting pupils put learning into context by seeing it in action within the work environment. Additionally, Dennisons staff have supported talks at the school for Year 11 pupils.

Claire McAteer, Programme Manager, Business in the Community commented: "Business support such as this proves invaluable for pupils. It helps them to be better prepared for the realities in making the transition from school to a new way of life - be it employment or training."

"Working together has been a unique opportunity for the school, pupils and Dennisons. It's been a win-win-win. The school and students have greatly benefited from mentor support and Dennisons has had the opportunity to demonstrate com-

mitment to the future workforce and to the community in which it operates."

From Dennison's perspective, John Jenkins, said: "As a major employer in the area, we are very aware of the need to communicate effectively with the younger generation. We want our potential future workforce to know about us and feel enthused about what we do."

"It has been an enlightening privilege to be involved in this project and to have everything clearly organised for the benefit of the students and ourselves has been great. We are committed to working more closely together on strengthening the links with education in all of our geographical regions."

For more information, e-mail claire.mca@hitcni.org.uk and for details on Business in the Community, visit the website www.hitcni.org.uk



Mr Albert Siberry and pupils from Ballyclare Secondary School along with John Jenkins and Michael Petticrew of Dennison Commercials. NT27-058FP

The purpose of the programme aimed to give the pupils experience of working with a highly successful business volunteer, to develop an understanding of the importance of work skills, good work ethics and to acquaint the students with local community career opportunities.

Sixteen pupils were chosen and divided into three groups. Each group was designated a business volunteer. The three volunteers were Michael Petticrew (Business Finance Director), John Jenkins (Managing Director) and Rob Ireland (Truck Sales Manager).

The programme was monitored by Claire McAteer (Business Executive for Business in the Community) and ran for ten weeks, culminating in a visit to the site of Dennisons Commercials Ltd. Pupils were given advice on how to prepare for interviews, prepare a Curriculum Vitae, how to plan and set up a business. The feedback from both pupils and volunteers involved was extremely positive and we hope to develop this contact in the future.





Year 8 Residentials



The Year 8 Residentials Programme

The Year 8 Residential Programme has enriched the education of pupils in Ballyclare Secondary



orienteeing, archery, high and low rope swings, team building games, banana boating, forest night walks, visits to places like the Jet and Dunluce Centres, as well as visits to many areas of outstanding natural beauty along the River Bann and North Coast. The Residential setting enables intensive experiences to take place, providing time to focus on developing relationships, co-operating and working with others.

School, for over 30 years. It began in the early 1980s, when Mr Younger, the Youth Tutor, organised trips for first year classes, to one of the four outdoor pursuit centres in County Antrim and County Londonderry, Bushmills, Woodhall, Derganagh and Ballyholme (near Portrush).



The trips lasted for four days, which included three overnight stays. At two of the centres, Derganagh (Ballycastle) and Ballyholme, the

groups had to bring all their own food and self-cater! This was very challenging. The Residential experiences



complement and support school curricula. In recent years, all of the Residentials have taken place at Woodhall

Residential Centre near Kilrea in County Londonderry. The Centre provides a range of educational opportunities such as canoeing,



All Year 8 pupils have had the opportunity to attend a Residential with their class teacher. Every pupil has his or her own special memories of the Residential they attended. Class teachers greatly benefit from seeing a different side to many pupils and, equally, pupils are able to relate much better to the class teacher. The programme is well supported by staff, with 52 members of the current staff, including the Principal, Mrs Bell, having attended a Residential.

Sixth Form pupils are assigned to Year 8 classes as Class Prefects. The prefects act as shining examples, positive role models and good mentors. They attend the Residential with their class, often acting as 'go-between', liaising with first year pupils and staff. Many of the Class Prefects have gone on to develop careers in the caring profession. Many of these pupils, like the Year 8 pupils who arrive in Ballyclare Secondary from over thirty 'feeder' primary schools, have very clear and fond memories of their Residentials. Long may they continue to grow and flourish.

Mr S McGuigan, Development Officer for the Year 8 Residential Programme, 1996 to present)





Drama & Media Departments' Trip to London



The Gang in the departure lounge of Belfast City Airport.

Following months of military style preparation by Mr Poole, the Drama and Media school trip to London was at last upon us. Twenty five of the finest calibre students had signed up the previous term and were now ready to embark on a whirlwind excursion that would incorporate a tour of Shakespeare's Globe Theatre, The Tate Modern Gallery, London Film Academy and the icing on the cake, "Billy Elliot" the musical.

Having been given strict instructions to be at George Best City Airport at the unpleasant hour of 6am on 17th September, we were thankful to see everyone arriving on time with ONE piece of hand luggage that would allow us to avoid the delay in London at the baggage carousel...well, almost everyone. You know who you are!

On arrival at London Luton Airport we were then whisked away (after a short delay, you know who you are!) in a double decker, luxury coach where copious amounts of sweets were consumed in record time by all on the upper deck. Thanks for those Maltesers Jessica! The Meininger Hotel (hotel with an 's') was soon in our sights and having placed our baggage in storage, we headed towards the Underground to attempt getting 25 people to the Globe Theatre, all in one go without a heart wrenching moment of being on the train,

alone and waving at the rest of the group still on the platform. Scott soon became the designated tube guide and was fantastic throughout our time in London, bringing up the rear during travel to each destination. We all made it and enjoyed a fantastic tour of Shakespeare's most famous theatre.

The trip also included an exploration of the Tate Modern (a brief one for some students... Jordan and Matt) and a visit to the the London Film Academy for a tour, film screening, which included an early appearance by the one and only R Pattz, and an informal discussion with the Principal of the Academy who was fortunate enough to have worked with the 'Twilight' star.

The highlight of the trip though was 'Billy Elliot' the musical, (perhaps second to seeing Westlife in Nandos) and even Mr Poole and Mrs McKay's exclamations of, "Isn't the set fabulous?" and "What a beautifully choreographed piece," didn't seem to dampen the mood of utter amazement and appreciation for the performance. Speaking of damp, there wasn't a dry eye in the house when Billy's Mum made an appearance and will we ever forget the final curtain call of the male ballerina as recreated by Mr Poole? Hopefully, yes. However Scott's dramatic interpretation of Billy did lead to a toe injury

Trips & Excursions

The Globe Theatre



"The trip was by far the best thing I've done in the five years that I have been to Ballyclare Secondary school. The whoopee cushion was brilliant. The craic was amazing and 'Billy Elliot' was the best. I enjoyed going on the underground train every day also. Classic memory and want to do it again in 6th year hopefully."
Alex Henderson 12L

"My favourite part of the trip was going to see 'Billy Elliot' as it had both funny and sad moments. I

but his dedication to the art of entertainment was awe inspiring.

Mr Poole and Mrs McKay would like to say a huge thank you to all the pupils who came to London and made the trip such a pleasure. The behaviour was impeccable and many laughs, memories and friendships were made. You were all brilliant! Here's hoping that future excursions can be realized.

"I laughed so hard watching 'Billy Elliot' and had a fun time with my friends."

Jessica Davison 12L

"London was really good. It was funny when I pulled Mr Poole's chair and he nearly fell. Seeing Nicky and Shane in Nandos was great."

Lauren Coid 12L

"Good craic and exciting. Loved the food." (even though he paid £7 for a fry with only ONE of each foods item!)

Matthew Lewis 12M

"The London trip allowed me an insight into the filming world which I would never have gotten otherwise."

Helen Kenny 12L

"The funniest part was nudging a strange woman on the tube thinking that it was Jessica."

Robert Chapman 12L

enjoyed every bit of London and would love to go back."

Katie Andrew 12L

The Victoria Theatre





The London Trip continued

Jordan contemplates the brush strokes



"Mrs McKay and Mr Poole are the best teachers ever, and Mr Poole definitely didn't cry at the end of Billy Elliot..."

Jordan Reid 12D

"Late nights...early mornings...talking one to one...walking down the cold dark streets of London...racing to try and catch the tube... excitedly watching Billy Elliot...waiting in the quiet terminal...a memorable experience?... I think so!"

Cherie Carr 12L

London was a school trip worth going on and I had an amazing time. Billy Elliot was an outstanding musical which I am glad I got to see. Fantastic trip!"

Amy Norwood 12L

"An amazing trip with plenty to do including a fantastic musical in the West End. A great time was had by all."

Rebecca Crone 12L

"When I was in London, I enjoyed seeing Billy Elliot very much. I thought it was very humorous and the acting was really good."

Louise English 12L

French Trips

Educational Trip to Paris 2008

During Easter 2008, 24 GCSE and A Level pupils enjoyed a fantastic 4 days in Paris. They visited all the highlights of the capital, including Eurodisney, Notre Dame, Le Stade de France and the Eiffel Tower. And after indulging in delicious ice-creams and crêpes and shopping along the fabulous Champs-Élysées and Latin Quarter, what better to do than relax on a boat cruise along the River Seine. This left everyone rested for the evening

activities in the hotel that had the staff dancing and the pupils laughing! We look forward to our trip to Paris in June 2012 with year 9 and 10 pupils.



The Language Department Trips

Educational Trip to Strasbourg 2009

Easter 2009 was meant to see the first Junior French trip. An action packed "séjour" to Strasbourg had been meticulously planned, but World Events were to conspire against us! A NATO conference was to be held during our visit; nothing out of the ordinary for Strasbourg as it is an international city, home to many organisations, such as the European Parliament, Council of Europe and the European Court of Human Rights. With only a few weeks to go we discovered that wide scale protests had been called against this NATO Conference. The danger posed by militant protesters was too great to allow us to take a school group to Strasbourg. In an attempt to curtail the travel plans of protesters, the border with Germany would also be closed for periods over our proposed stay. As our flights were Dublin-Frankfurt no alternative destinations in France were open to us.

Thankfully, we were able to rearrange a trip to Germany preventing anyone from losing money (pesky insurance companies didn't quite see the risk!) Granted, a French Trip to Germany is hardly ideal, but linguists are adaptable people. Being a German speaker, Miss Collins was able to supply the key words and phrases needed to communicate. The replacement trip was brilliant: glorious sunshine, a river cruise on the Rhine, culture and shopping in Cologne. The highlight was the Lindt Chocolate factory with its 5ft chocolate fountain!

Well done to all those who tried out some German, the locals really appreciated your efforts. Credit must go to the girls who found a French school trip and "interviewed" their boys! Keeping up to date with events in France via the web, we were glad we had changed our

itinerary as the destruction in Strasbourg was quite shocking. How was the first ever French trip to Germany? Es war einfach toll!





Trips & Excursions

For many pupils the annual Ski Trip has not only been a superb holiday but also a great opportunity to learn new skills, develop hidden talents and broaden their knowledge of how other cultures live. Since the 1980s the Ballyclare Ski teams have hit the slopes in many European resorts.

Beginners learn their technique on wide, gentle nursery slopes. There is an array of green, blue and red runs and for the more experienced skier, black ones! There are many different types of resorts, from picturesque villages to purpose built resorts.

Date and Resort

- 1982 - Leysin Switzerland
- 1983 - Pamporova Bulgaria
- 1984 - Pamporova Bulgaria
- 1985 - Artesina Italy
- 1986 - Borovets Bulgaria
- 1987 - Ellmau Austria
- 1988 - Risoul France
- 1989 - La Deux Alpes France
- 1990 - Les Orres France
- 1991 - Risoul France
- 1992 - Ackenkirch Austria
- 1993 - Notre Dame de Bellecombe France
- 1994 - Crest Voland France
- 1995 - Val Cenis France
- 1996 - Pamporova Bulgaria
- 1997 - Pamporova Bulgaria
- 1998 - Notre Dame de Bellecombe
- 1999 - Notre Dame de Bellecombe
- 2000 - Valloire France
- 2001 - Valloire France
- 2002 - Crest Voland France
- 2003 - Valloire France
- 2004 - Valloire France
- 2005 - Monte Bondone Italy
- 2006 - San Valentino La Polsa Italy
- 2007 - Ehrwald Austria
- 2008 - Foppolo Italy
- 2009 - Andalo Italy
- 2010 - Folgaria Italy
- 2011 - Ehrwald Austria

The progression of our pupils is amazing, even those who have tried to ski in two different sized ski boots! They have achieved from First Ski awards to Gold and Racer levels. Accommodation has also been varied



from 4* luxury in Andalo Italy to basic public school dorms standard in Bulgaria! More recently food has become very much like our own, so the children manage to eat something. Once again Bulgaria would not have the most appetising menu with sheep's teeth in the broth!! Jamie Oliver they need you! On the plus side, Bulgaria has one of the best Ski schools providing excellent instruction.

To sum up a ski trip, blue skies, sunshine, perfect snow is one of the best feelings on earth when you stand at the top of a mountain to view the top of the world!!

We hope that these photographs will bring back happy memories for all our budding skiers.





The Ballyclare Secondary School group who enjoyed a morning's skiing with Eddie "The Eagle" at Craigavon

Pupils' sponsored ski raises £477 for charity





Pupils' Competitions & News



Ms Jo Colette (Newtownabbey Borough Council) pictured with Steven Mulhern, Calvin Wilson and Sheila Turkington. SE105

Ballyclare school holds interview skills day

All Year 12 pupils at Ballyclare secondary school recently had the opportunity to take part in the Interview Skills Day. The Interview Skills Day was a one day training course, delivered by Ms Jo Colette, delivered by Steven Mulhern, Calvin Wilson and Sheila Turkington. On completion of the interviews, they received feedback on their presentation, answers and overall communication skills.

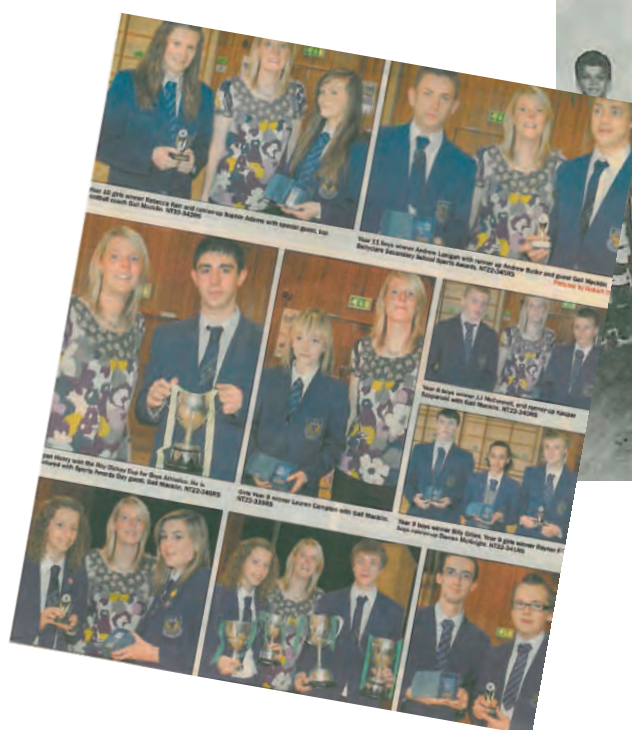


Nicole rides high at Hartpury College event

BALLYCLARE girl Nicole McConnell was placed in the UK Pony Club Tetrathlon top 50 at a Pony Club Hartpury held in Gloucester's Hartpury College over the weekend. Nicole was successful in qualifying to represent Northern Ireland at the event which took place in the equine part of the college. Nicole completed a gruelling 1.500m cross-country run, then swam as far as she could in three minutes, shot at a target at a distance of 10 metres and took on a cross-country course of 28 jumps at a height of 1m to 1m 10cm on her horse Tahoe Tradewinds (Snip). The 15-year-old is a past pupil of Tildrig Primary School and now attends Ballyclare Secondary. She is a member of East Antrim Pony Club and has been competing in Pony Club Tetrathlons since she was seven years old. Over the years, Nicole has travelled throughout Northern Ireland to compete against other



Nicole McConnell on Snip (Tahoe Tradewinds). NT36-

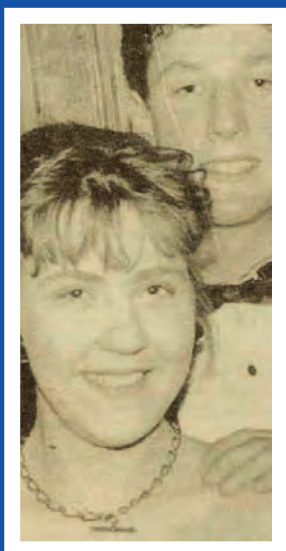
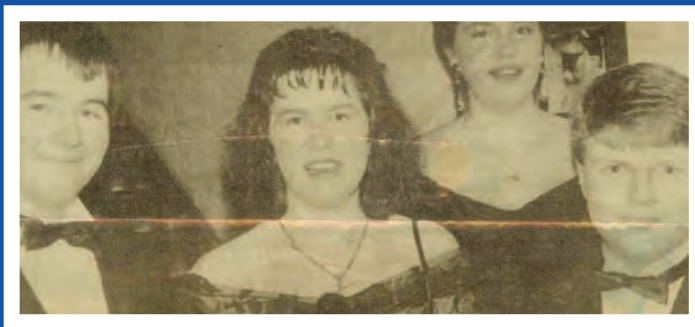


Charity





Formals







Past Pupils

Catherine Bell 1980 – 1985 (Past Pupil)

"The best school in Ballyclare!" Well, in my opinion. I attended the school from 1980 to 1985. I was very happy in my years there and met many new friends. I can still remember my first day. It was a bit scary and daunting, but everyone made us feel at ease and we were soon settling down. It was so much bigger and different from primary school.

My friend, Amanda and I got a job helping out in the 'tuck' shop. We loved this because we got a few packets of crisps and a drink and we got to chat to everyone.

Some of my favourite subjects were English, Cookery, Childcare and French. All my teachers were very good and I worked hard in the subjects I enjoyed. However, I was terrible at Maths, so my friend and I used to sit at the back of the class, putting on make-up and writing notes to each other. I know, naughty girls!

The school only had two floors. The upper floor was more modern and new, while downstairs was the original, older part. I remember the Cookery and Woodwork Departments had very low desks and chairs and old style blackboards. The Science classes were great fun, because we sat on old benches and tables and got to experiment with chemicals and fire.

On our break time, we had a good sized playground and the playing fields. Of course, I usually went for a wander up to the shelters, I am not sure if they are there any more. The Computer rooms and Commerce classes were very small and really just getting started. A few pupils went to the High School to do more advanced computer work. However, now the facilities have greatly expanded. I have not been in the school for a long time, but I believe the Technology facilities are super. My son is looking forward to starting there in September. I hope his time there is as memorable as mine.

When I left the Secondary, I achieved great results in my strongest subjects and I was able to go on to college and then to Portrush Catering College. So I think I went to a great school which helped me further my education and I never had any worries while there.



Martin Barr 1999 -2004

From a young age I have always been involved with motorbikes. My dad, Martin Barr Senior, was a road and short circuit rider and he bought me my first PW50 when I was 5. It is safe to say racing is definitely in my blood as I had my first race at Desertmartin at the age of 6 and my love for racing has developed from there.

I progressed through the youth ranks, competing at Ulster, Irish and British level. One of the biggest achievements of my youth racing is notably being crowned 125 British Premier

Champion at Desertmartin in front of my home crowd, in 2004. From this time I have steadily matured and increased my speed to be competitive at adult level, both in the British Championships and the GP scene. I have been honoured to have been chosen to represent my country every year from 2005 at the Motocross of Nations.

This season I am riding for the Proppa.com KTM team on a 350cc in the MX 1 class competing in the British Championship, Red Bull Pro Nationals Championship and 8 rounds of the World Grand Prix Championship.



Barr leads the way in Motocross Championship

DOAGH schoolboy Martin Barr now leads the Ulster schoolboy moto cross championship after three wins on his Van Shop, Dundee Autos, Russells Suzuki at round two of the series at Desertmartin at the weekend.

After riding a Kawasaki for much of his short career the 14 year old is just getting used to his new Suzuki.

At round one of the Ulster Series run at Ballykelly still riding his old Kawasaki he secured a second and third places but on his first outing on the new bike which was at Cuiham, England for the opening round of the British Championship he finished 6th overall after a 9th and two 5th places in his three races.

It all looks good for the reigning British Supercross Champion in this years British and local championship campaigns.



Martin Barr now tops Ulster schoolboys moto cross 800c Big Wheel

Doagh Schoolboy clinches Big Wheel title

DOAGH schoolboy Martin Barr is the 2001 Ulster Schoolboy Big Wheel 85cc Champion.

The 14-year-old who attends Ballyclare Secondary School missed out on the championship last year through a broken arm and shoulder but over the close season he got back to full fitness and was in top form from the start of the 2001 season.

Riding his 85cc Kawasaki supplied by Bartley Miller from the Van Shop Warrington, part of the Dundee Auto Group, Martin won 16 out of 20 races as he secured the title in the last round at Donegal. "After last year it was great to win the title this season," said Martin.

Now he has his sights set on the forthcoming UK Supercross National Championship meeting at the Odyssey on 26 and 27 October. It will not be his first indoor supercross meeting as already this year he has raced in the first round of a two round 'Future West' series in Birmingham a couple of weeks ago. In that meeting Martin covered himself in glory taking a brilliant victory over a



Results

2010

	Place	Personal Best
British Championship MX2	3rd	2nd overall, Dunns
Red Bull Pro National Championship MX2	1st	3x 1st overall
Belfast Supercross – British Open	1st	
Represented Ireland Motocross of Nation		

2009

British Championship MX2	4th	1st race win Hawkstone Park
British Masters Championship MX2	2nd	1st overall Whitby
British Master's Championship MX1	4th	1st overall Foxhill
Represented Ireland Motocross of Nations		

2008

British Championship MX2	3rd	2nd overall Canadaaszx Heights
Represented Ireland Motocross of Nations		

2007

World Grand Prix Championship MX2	26th	10th overall British round
British Championship MX2	7th	2nd position Desertmartin
Represented Ireland Motocross of Nations		

2006

World Grand Prix Championship	Qualified and scored points at a few GP's	
British Championship MX1	14th	7th overall at Matchams Park
British Championship MX2	17th	5th overall at Hawkstone Park
Represented Ireland Motocross of Nations		

2005

World Grand Prix Championship	Scored first GP points	
British Championship	11th	
Ulster Open Championship	1st	Youngest ever rider to win
Ulster Adult Championship		
Belfast Supercross	3rd	
Represented Ireland Motocross of Nations		
Winner of prestigious Bertie Mann Award		
Winner of Irelands Motocrosser of the Year Award		
Winner of Irelands Red Bull Young Rider of the Year Award		

2004

BYMX Premier Champion



Great first season in Senior class for Barr

DOAGH Motocross rider, Martin Barr (no wonder he was looking forward to the season he has just completed a great race here. I think weather good



Past Pupils

Beryl Bigger and Ryan Horner

Beryl is Ryan's aunt and both have been pupils at Ballyclare Secondary School. By coincidence, Beryl was one of the first pupils to enter the school in September 1961, while Ryan left school, fifty years later in 2011. Both write of their experiences as pupils.



Beryl Bigger 1961 - 1966

Handwritten school record form for Beryl Bigger. The form includes fields for name, address, and school details. It also contains a section for 'FIRST YEAR GRADING' with a grade of 'A', and a section for 'ANY DISABILITY REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION' with 'Physical' noted. There is a table for 'Class' and 'Position in class' and a small portrait photo of Beryl.

Class	Position in class (including all subjects)
1st Year	1A
2nd Year	2A
3rd Year	3A Junior Cert
4th Year	4A
5th Year	5B
6th Year	6

2 distinctions - 2 medals

1961 was the first year eleven year olds had to leave primary school for secondary school education. That year, aged 11, I left the small, two-classroom Bruslee Primary School and started the newly built Ballyclare Secondary School, where over 600 pupils piled through the doors for the very first time.

Everyone was streamed, according to ability and my friend, Henrietta Millar and I were in 1A. Mr Astbury was our form teacher and he taught us English and French as well. It was a great class with boys and girls from as far away as Glengormley and Ballynure! It did not take long for everyone to make new friends, some of those lasting up to the present day. Names that spring to mind are

Derek Higgins, the late Chris Montgomery, Wilbert Yorke, Yvonne Harson, Christine Gowdy, Ann Colquhoun, Christine Crowe I could go on.

In 3rd form we sat Junior Certificate which paved the way for O Levels in 5th form. Over the five years, I remember trips away from school which really broadened our horizons. Miss Lusk took us to the Ulster Hall on a Friday evening to hear the Ulster Orchestra. Mr Astbury took us to the theatre to see the play, Henry IV Part One, to help us with our O Level English Literature. We also went to the Boyne Valley by bus. This was at a time in the 1960s when there was a lot less offered in schools, but all the teachers, as well as Mr Stirling, were very keen to do the best possible to help us gain good results in our O Levels.

Miss McDowell organised a trip with a group of girls to Holland, Belgium, France, Germany and Luxemburg, in 1963. This was a great adventure and certainly widened our education. I remember, it was in March and instead of witnessing the colourful bulb fields of Holland, everywhere was covered in snow! We didn't care - it was a great adventure. Most of us had never been outside Northern Ireland before. There was also a bonus. We met a group of boys from a school in Kirby, Co Durham who were on the same trip!! Hazel Reid and I shared a room and we went to bed with our anoraks on and our hoods up!

Maths was not one of my best subjects and I remember Mr Mayne could have been a bit strict (he had to be!) When he asked me a question, I was always nervous of getting the answer wrong. I need not have been, because my good friend, Derek Higgins, always gave me the answer. I wonder did Mr Mayne know?

Mr Stirling, our Headmaster, would have given Henrietta and me a lift to school in the mornings (how things have changed!) Impropriety would not have entered our heads. Many a winter morning we would have arrived in school soaked, otherwise! On the way home from school, it was a real treat to buy 6d (2 1/2 p now) worth of chips in Moore's café at the bottom of Main Street.

I remember being very ashamed, one day, as a group of us, who should have known better, got involved in a food throwing moment of madness in the dinner hall (canteen). The situation was made even worse when we were told to report to Miss Harson (our Art teacher). Miss Harson was Yvonne Harson's cousin and we felt very silly when she had to tell us off.

Sometimes, in order to get out of doing Religious Instruction, some of us would have hidden under the stage. There would have been bales of hay down there which made it a very comfortable hiding place. (I sometimes wonder if Mr Mayne knew about that as well!!) Those were the naughtiest deeds I can remember and I suppose it was all part of growing up. Soon after, when the exam results were gained, most of us moved into employment. I joined the Civil Service and remained there, in various departments, until 2004.

Ryan Horner 2004 - 2011. (Deputy Head Boy 2011)

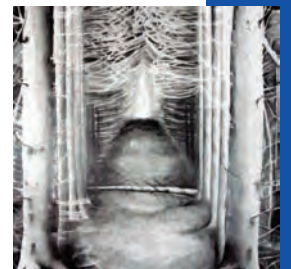


Fifty years ago, back in September 1961, my Aunt Beryl was one of the FIRST pupils to start the newly built Ballyclare Secondary School. She has penned her memories from that year, as have several others. However, this year, 2011 is a special year for me, her nephew, as this is my LAST of seven years at Ballyclare Secondary School! By the end of June, I will have completed my A Levels, the results of which will, hopefully, take me on to university.



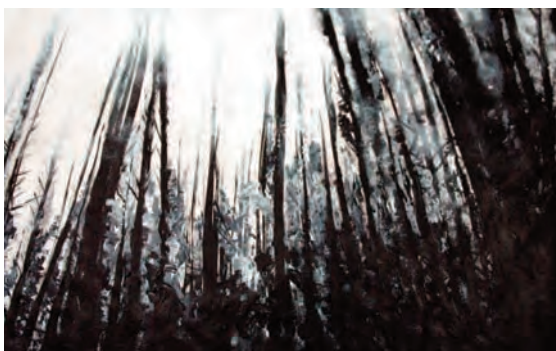
Even though I had gone to Ballyclare Primary School next door, I still remember the fear I had of getting lost in my new school. I was not at all prepared for the size of it. I remember clearly only knowing a handful of people, as some of my closest friends from P7 had gone to Ballyclare High School.

During my first few days, an incident that immediately comes to my mind is that whilst in the canteen one day, I pulled a chair from under Jason McDowell. A mighty big cheer went up and everyone was laughing – everyone, that is, except Jason!!



I will always have fond memories of Mr McCrea, as he always had time to say something to me when we met in the corridor. I was amazed that he remembered all our names! On leaving, I would like to wish Mrs Bell many happy and successful years as Principal.

Without doubt, I consider Ballyclare Secondary School to be a great school. I have always received first rate teaching, encouragement and help, whenever I have needed it. I have always felt valued and appreciated. I suppose, if I had to pick my favourite times in BSS, they would, undoubtedly be in my Art classes. My favourite subject during my time here would have to be Art & Design. The classes were always relaxed and easy-going ...well, maybe not coming up to exam time. I hope to study Art in some shape or form at the University of Ulster, so fingers crossed for good enough exam results.



One of the highlights of my last year at Ballyclare Secondary School was when I was selected as Deputy Head Boy. This was, undoubtedly, a great honour, although the interview was extremely unnerving and I remember going home that day needing a headache tablet. What will I miss most about Ballyclare Secondary School? The people, my Art classes and the fact that every day finished at 3 o'clock.



Past Pupils



Neil Calvin 1993 - 2000

Prior to joining Ballyclare Secondary School in 1993, I 'failed' my 11+ spectacularly with a Grade 4, having struggled with my 'verbal reasoning' skills, (or lack thereof!) Deemed unworthy of a Grammar school education, I felt weathered by the examination process and it is fair to say, I suffered from low self esteem. My parents, both in education, encouraged me to apply for Ballyclare Secondary School and, fortunately, I was accepted.

Early in my junior school years at BCSS, I quickly made good friends and found that I got on well with most of the teachers. Yet, my tendency for 'messaging about' and a limited attention span left me struggling with any sort of academic achievement.

As I progressed through my school years, however, I was gently encouraged and nurtured by several of my teachers who had seen in me more than I had and in 4th form, I encountered what I still consider to be a major turning point in my life. I was amazed when my parents arrived home from the 4th form Parents' Eveningdelighted. One of my teachers told them that she thoroughly believed I had what it took to study A Levels, but that it would be hard work and it was down to me to do it! The idea that this teacher, who, I knew, could be painfully truthful in previous assessments of my work, thought I had a shot, caused my confidence and determination to soar. Although I had a lot of catching up to do, I got down to work. I found that, as soon as I began to apply myself, everyone at the school rallied behind me and gave me all the support to get through GCSEs into A Levels.

During my A Levels, I really began to enjoy my studies. Admittedly, this was partially because I was now learning about subjects that I had an interest in, but also because I found great reward from putting the work in and getting good results. Sure, there were highs and lows, but generally everything was on an upward trend and before I knew it, I had been accepted to study Town and Country Planning at the University of Dundee. I went on to thoroughly enjoy four fantastic years at Dundee and everything that university life had to offer. I graduated in 2004, having earned my degree, travelled all over the world, sailed at the highest level of competition, met my wife and made a wealth of friends along the way. After graduation and a tour of USA, Canada, Mexico and Australia, I returned to take up employment with Ostick and Williams Architects and Town Planners.

After joining Ostick and Williams, I embarked on a second university degree in Law through the Open University in my spare time and in 2008, I graduated with distinction. I have also become a chartered member of the Royal Town Planning Institute, served on the RTPI Northern Ireland Executive Branch, have chaired the Northern Ireland Young Planners Steering Group and have served as the Northern Ireland Representative on the RTPI Young Planners National Advisory Panel. While working with Ostick and Williams, I have helped deliver many large scale and mixed-use developments throughout Northern Ireland in the past 6 years and continue working in this exciting world, helping to shape the urban environment. I have the opportunity of working on behalf of many major public and private sector clients by engaging with local communities, senior public sector planning officials and work with leading political figures, all of which helps to deliver our projects on the ground.

Future ambitions include undertaking a Masters Degree in Business Administration and working as part of the Ostick and Williams team to deliver more exciting, sustainable and integrated developments throughout the world.

It was a bumpy start for me at Ballyclare Secondary School, but I was met by a very special group of teachers in the school. I found these teachers were willing to work tirelessly, above and beyond their call of duty, to equip me with the qualifications I needed to be where I am todayjust as soon as I was willing to meet them half way!



Christopher Heaney 1993 - 2000

Five boys took part in a fitness test. Tony scored higher than Sam who didn't have the lowest score. Jack had the highest score and Gerry scored more than Paul but less than Tony. Who had the lowest score? My failure to come to terms with questions like this in primary school resulted in me donning a blue blazer and heading to the Doagh Road in September 1993 where I joined 8R and embarked on my secondary education.

Discovering my second home with Mr and Mrs Beattie in the Music Department compensated for early struggles with languages and physical education. As well as encouraging my dubious musical talents, the Music Department became the social hub of my early school days where I made many good friends. The numerous choices for GCSE forced me to choose between Sciences and Art. This caused much heart searching but was finally resolved by Mr McCrea's willingness to accept an unorthodox solution whereby I did my GCSE Art in one year at an NRC night course while Mrs Dunlop guided me through my Double Award Science in school. This worked out for the best, as four years later I successfully completed my secondary education with three A grades in Geography, Biology, and Art and the award of top student in Northern Ireland in A Level Art & Design. One of the most memorable highlights of my time at BSS was during my year as Head Boy, when I was involved in the cross-community Peace Project with a school in Drogheda. This project afforded me the privilege of meeting Dr Mo Mowlam at the Houses of Parliament in London and visiting 10 Downing Street.

Many of the staff at BSS made lasting impressions, but none were quite as charismatic as my A Level Art teacher, Mr Graham Gingles. Mr Gingles was completely unfazed by any of my projects, whether it was developing photographs onto ceramic tiles or creating a 6ft high totem out of glass boxes. It was a fantastic opportunity to work with a man who was not only an inspiring teacher but also a well-respected artist. His influence fostered my creative ability and gave me the self-belief to apply to Art College.

On leaving school, I attended the University of Ulster where I completed a foundation year in Art and Design before being awarded a place at the prestigious Glasgow School of Art. It was here I studied Visual Communications, specialising in Photography. In 2004 I graduated with a first class honours degree, winning the Bram Stoker prize for the most creative work in my year and the Chairman's Medal for the highest marks.

Since graduating, I have been establishing my career as a commercial photographer, working for many high profile clients such as the BBC, Northern Bank, Northern Ireland Tourist Board and the Sunday Times. As well as my photography business, I have maintained my passion for personal fine art projects which have been exhibited in several places including Jerusalem and Washington DC.

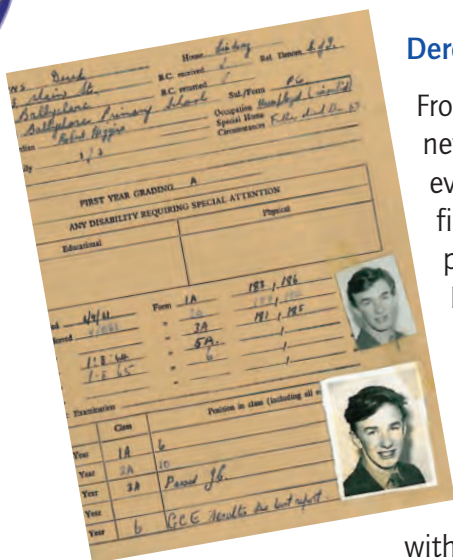
In my view, the strength of Ballyclare Secondary School is the willingness of staff to treat everyone as an individual and to equip him or her for life outside school.

The lowest score was Paul, I think! Christopher Heaney





Past Pupils



Derek Higgins 1961-1966 (Head Boy 1966)

From our window in Ballyclare Primary School, we could see "the new school" being built. As each month passed, it grew closer to its eventual completion. Then came September 1961, when we were first through the door! There were children teeming off buses from places far away from 'us town boys and girls', Tildarg, Ballyboley Ballynure, Straid and Doagh. There was great excitement as we began an awesome adventure together on that first day of opening; new faces we had not seen before and new friendships made for life, from that day on.

Mr Stirling, always smiling, always encouraging us, greeted us at the door and we were directed to our classrooms fitted out with brand, spanking-new desks and chairs. I was in 1A and our form teacher was Mr Sidney Astbury who taught us English and French. When I look back now, we were an agricultural lot, except for the city kids who came from Glengormley and Whitehouse and Mr Astbury went on to bring us the works of Shakespeare and Dickens, among other giants of literature, over the next five years.

We learnt a new language, French, which I have used and enjoyed ever since. This was something which, before us, generations of children who had not passed the 11+, never got to experience. There were other new subjects such as Science with Mr Jack Middleton, Mathematics with Mr Tommy Mayne, History with Mrs Sheila Speers and Geography with Mr Gordon Ward; tremendous subjects with brilliant teachers. We enjoyed the girls, Beryl Bigger, Hazel Reid and Henrietta Cameron, doing Home Economics while we had woodwork with Mr Sam Crymble, as we got to sample the wee buns they made, later in the day.

There was football, rugby (which was a new sport to us) and basketball with Mr George Lyons. In later years, some of us, including Harry Wright, Chris Montgomery and Eddie Beggs, went on to form Ballyclare Royals Basketball Club which took us to Ballycastle, Ballymena and Derry for matches in our first bought, third-hand, mini bus!

I look back on my school years with great pleasure and hope that it will continue to provide a first class education for its pupils for another 50 years.



Conor Leaney 2002 - 2009

Conor's first visit to the pool was when he was 12 weeks old and he laughed the entire time he was there. He was taken to the pool once or twice a week where he jumped and dived and always had a good time. He was born with big feet so there was plenty of splashing.

He joined Larne Swimming Club when he was 10 years old, training two sessions a week. Within three months this had increased to four sessions. During his first few years of competitive swimming he loved taking part and was happy enjoying the social side of the sport. Conor was always the last swimmer out of the changing rooms after a gala and usually brought a few boys home with him.

At 11 he was selected to go to Tenerife for training with the Irish Junior Squad. He realised at this time that the faster he swam the more training camps in the sun he could attend. He trained hard with his coach Raymond Skillen who saw he had potential and built in flippers!! At 14 Conor was the best junior swimmer in Ireland and he spent the next year getting ready to compete at major galas on the mainland.

In July 2005 Conor won a gold and silver medal at the British Championships.

In 2006 he was Ulster and Irish champion in all freestyle events and held Ulster and Irish records in 50m, 100m, 200m, 400m and 1500m freestyle. (In 2006 he also achieved Northern Ireland Junior Sports person of the Year.)

At this point Conor was training 16 or 18 hours in the pool and 4 hours in the gym. The alarm rang early in the Leaney house five mornings every week. His mum or dad took the duvet and slept in the back of the car while Conor paddled up and down the pool. His main challenge at that time was probably to stay awake during the school day!! Thanks have to be given to the teachers who made him a cup of tea in the morning when he arrived and for not reprimanding him for being late.

As there is no 50m pool in Northern Ireland, many weekends were spent training in Dublin. To enable Conor to compete at international level he has attended training camps in South Africa, Mexico, Cyprus and many more countries.

LEANEY TAKES GOLD AT UK SCHOOL GAMES

The second UK School Games which took place in Coventry from the 23 - 26 August were a huge success for competitors from Northern Ireland and Ireland as they picked up a host of medals.

The Games, an exciting initiative designed to encourage more young people to take part in sport and provide them with the experience of being involved in a major multi-sport competition, saw 1300 competitors in eight sports battling for honours at five venues across the West Midlands over three days of competition.

National Lottery funding of £2.3 million has been awarded to the Youth Sport Trust through the Big Lottery Fund, to provide the UK School Games until 2011 and for the 2007 Games in Coventry. Voca was the premier sponsor of the 2007 Games, which were also supported by Coventry City Council.

Northern Ireland provided a mixed team of boys and girls to compete in each of the eight sports. Badminton:

Overall there were great performances from many individuals and the teams. The swimming team entered was an all Ireland team with competitors from both North and South. Ireland won four Gold individual medals and one Gold team medal in the Men's Open 400m Medley team. They also won four individual silver medals and one team silver and two individual bronze medals.

Outstanding performances were had by both Badminton's Conor Leaney and Michael Dawson. Conor from Larne Swimming Club won two individual Gold medals in the Men's Open 50m Freestyle (24.3 seconds) and the Men's Open 100m Freestyle (53.3 seconds). Michael won an individual Gold in the Men's Open 100m Breaststroke with the impressive time of 1:19.76 seconds.

The Northern Ireland Athletic Squad didn't disappoint either with great results. Jimmy Brown and Glara Mageean picked up gold for Northern Ireland. Jimmy dominated the girls' shot put winning with 12m02 while Cian Mageean produced a powerful display of endurance running winning the 5000m in 9m16.31 seconds.

Harvey Leary won a silver medal in the Long Jump with 5m73 and was only beaten by 2cm. Jason Jude won the Gold with five Bronze medals in total. Harvey won a silver medal in the High with superb performances from Kevin



Hammer setting a new personal best of 48.57m in badminton. Tony Stephenson won Gold in the Men's Singles and Mixed Pairs. Chances made it to the Semi final in the Women's singles losing to his eventual winner. Jade won five Bronze medals in total. The Northern Ireland Fencing Team also contributed to the medal tally with the women's team winning the bronze



In summer of 2008 he competed at World Junior Championships in Mexico and European Junior Championships in Belgrade where he achieved semi final positions.

In October 2008 Conor represented Northern Ireland at the Youth Commonwealth Games in India and was the first Northern Ireland swimmer to bring home a medal from the event.

Rome was the setting for the 2009 World Championships which was the most daunting in his career. The stadium held 16,000 people and it was terrifying for his parents but Conor remained calm. He swam well breaking Ulster and Irish records and was ranked in the top 50 swimmers in the world.

He was selected to represent Northern Ireland again at the Commonwealth Games in India in 2010. He was spotted by an Australian coach who invited him to train at his club on the Gold Coast. So Conor is now training in a 50m pool with the sun on his back and having a ball.

Raymond McNair (Head Boy 1975-81)

When I was first approached and asked to recollect some of my fondest memories of my time at Ballyclare Secondary, I was immediately delighted. I started as a pupil in 1975, joining class 1H and since I was coming from a small feeder primary school (Ballyrobert), I was overawed at joining the 'big school'. It was certainly big in comparison to what I was used to, but every effort was made, in those early months, to ensure the smooth transition.

During my 5 year tenure at the school, Mr Stirling was the Principal. I, along with many of the pupils, will remember with great admiration, Mr Stirling's leadership which was demonstrated in his fairness, friendliness and firmness when appropriate, but most of all, his ability to remember every pupil's name in an instant.

Despite its size, the school was characterised by flexibility and a willingness to tailor the range of subjects as appropriate to the varied needs of the classes. This was evident when Additional Mathematics



Past Pupils

Raymond McNair continued

and Computer Studies were introduced for the first time as new, examinable subjects. Interestingly, I recall that, in order to see a computer, we were invited to visit and view the nearest computer at, what was then called, Ballymena Technical College. Ballyclare Secondary didn't even possess one computer! How technology and times have changed!

However, while technology may have changed beyond recognition, many life skills which were taught are equally applicable and relevant today. We were taught to show respect for others, to realise that each one has a contribution to make, to maintain a sense of humour, even in difficult circumstances and to join with others when there are successes to be celebrated. Fond memories are not merely about academic qualifications and life skills. They also include the influence and interest generated in subjects which ultimately led to my career choice.

May I take this opportunity to wish all the pupils and teachers, both past and present, continued pride in our association with Ballyclare Secondary School and for its future success.



Jessie Milliken 1961-1966

I can remember starting Ballyclare Secondary School as if it was yesterday. On my first day, as I looked around and saw so many pupils, I longed to be back in Ballyrobert Primary, a small country school, just outside Ballyclare.

On arrival, as far as I can remember, (fifty years is a long time!) I went to form 1A along with friends from Ballyrobert, Rosemary Bingham, Hazel Reid, Beth Smyth and Heather Thompson. Other pupils I remember in Form 1A were Beryl Bigger, Henrietta Millar, Eleanor Kirk, Susan Patterson, Eileen Frazer, Eileen Laird, Myra Warwick, Maureen Logan, Eileen Blair, Norma Adams, Christine Goody, Anne Kirkpatrick, Maureen Montgomery, Wilma Blair, Mary Beattie, Derek Higgins, Edwin Forsythe, Eddie Beggs, Pat McCourt, Colin Forde, Wilbert Yorke, Sam Lyle, Brian McAdam and Chris Montgomery. Apologies to those whose names I have forgotten. Mr Astbury was both my form teacher and my French teacher.

During my first weeks, I had to get used to keeping a school diary, moving classes every 40 minutes, having different teachers for different subjects and remembering all their names.

Several things stick in my mind. When returning from summer holidays, eager to meet our new, YOUNG, English teacher, Mr Platt, we (the girls) rushed into the room, only to be told, in no uncertain terms, we were like a band of dervishes and were put out of the room and told to enter in an orderly manner!

The school trips to Stratford-upon-Avon and Holland, supervised by Miss McDowell, her sister and Miss Harson, were great fun.

PE was a subject that I enjoyed very much. I was a member of one of the netball teams which was coached by Miss Dickson and later Miss Harbinson. Other members of the team were Carol Agnew, Henrietta Millar, Beryl Bigger, Marty Mewha, Christine Gowdy and Angela Miskimmon.

I spent many happy days at Ballyclare Secondary and made many lasting friendships.

Handwritten form with details of a student's record. Includes fields for Name, Home, B.C. received, B.C. returned, Ref. Name, O.D., and a table for First Year Grading.

Handwritten text: *Handwritten Name: Jessie Milliken*

Form 1A

Year	Class	Position in class (including all subjects)
Year 1A	18	
Year 2A	28	
Year 3B	10 (100)	
Year 4A		
Year 5		

Small portrait of a student in the bottom right corner of the form.

Wilbert Yorke (London) 1961 - 1968

Home *McConnell* B.C. received *1/1* B.C. approved *1/1* Std./Form *1A* Occupation *Teacher*
Special Home Circumstances *None*

FIRST YEAR GRADING - A

ANY DISABILITY REQUIRING SPECIAL ATTENTION

Physical	Educational

Form *1A* *178 / 196*
185 / 185
185 / 185
185 / 185

Position in class (including all)

Year	Class
<i>1A</i>	<i>1A</i>
<i>2A</i>	<i>2A</i>
<i>3A</i>	<i>3A</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>6</i>

Passed GCE - History (1)
Passed GCE - Geography (2)
Passed GCE - History (3)
Passed GCE - Geography (4)
Passed GCE - History (5)
Passed GCE - Geography (6)

When I first started Ballyclare Secondary School, it was like entering a new world, with its brand new, shiny, three storey building with fully equipped Science labs, Woodwork, Metalwork, Domestic Science rooms and a Gym. After Ballyclare Primary School, it was very modern and to some extent, intimidating.

I started in September 1961, aged 11 years, in Form 1A, with Mr Sidney Astbury as my form teacher. One of the first things I remember was that almost all my teachers wore gowns, which at first made them appear very formal. I recall we were divided into two houses, neither of which I now remember, though I think one might have been McConnell!

One other benefit of the new school, I remember, was the extensive playground and sports facilities, including tennis courts and a hockey pitch. In the beginning, these facilities were very much appreciated, with a wide variety of sports

being played. Each year there was an inter-house sports competition in which almost everyone was encouraged to take part, by playing a sport or supporting their house.

Whilst the number of pupils attending the school and subjects taught initially was quite small in number, the dedication and enthusiasm of the staff in teaching them was very much in evidence, led by the Headmaster, Mr William Stirling, whom I will always remember as a very inspirational man. He encouraged all his pupils to do their best, but through his deputies, first Mr Parker, then Mr Tommy Mayne, to ensure that pupils led an orderly existence while in school.

One of the other memories was the enjoyment of being able to use the new facilities available, whether in the Science labs or the amazing, well equipped Metalwork and Woodwork classrooms. To some extent, I felt a little indulged, because we persuaded the school to set up a fully functioning weather station from which I and others religiously recorded the daily weather in Ballyclare for years.

From the beginning, discipline was very important, with formalised walking routes along corridors between classrooms and in the playground, at the end of Break, with male and female pupils entering school by different doors. I believe that pupils were not allowed to use the main entrance! We eventually had a prefect system and I was made one. I remember we had a prefects' common room, just to the left of the main entrance and each year we had a prefects' party. Some of these parties caused controversy with the music played, as we entered the heady days of flower power.

When it came to exams, the first one we did was Junior Certificate at the age of 14, followed by GCE O Level at 16 years. I still have mementos of both exams, in a book awarded by the school for the highest results in each exam within the school!

Having finished O Levels, the school was not fully equipped, in those days, for pupils to go beyond this and do A Levels. I probably would have left at that point, were it not for the Head of History, Mrs Sheila Speers and Mr Gordon Ward, Head of Geography, who persuaded me to continue on, to attempt my A Levels.

Originally, I had wanted to study Science at A Level, but as Mr Stirling explained, to equip the school labs would cost in excess of £5,000, at that time. In 1966, he organised for me to go to RBAI (Inst) in Belfast, but the thought of the daily commute by bus persuaded me to change direction and do Geography and History instead. In making this decision, I was influenced, not only by my O Level exam results, but the support and teaching dedication of Mr Ward and Mrs Speers.



Past Pupils

Wilbert Yorke continued

A number of other pupils who decided to opt for A Levels, again a bit hazy on the names, were, I think, Edwin Forsythe, Diane McNeilly and Lyla Kerr. At this point we did not follow the normal pattern of moving between classes. Teachers were located in a storeroom next to Mr Ward's classroom on the ground floor (now 116), with lessons in this store or any available classrooms.

With the amazing support and encouragement of Mrs Speers, I was successful in securing a place at University of Ulster, which I entered in 1968, in its first year. I graduated from there with a degree in Geography in 1971. On graduating, I left Northern Ireland to work in London, where, following further study, I became a chartered Surveyor and a Fellow of the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors. I think some of my fellow A Level students went to Stranmillis and trained as teachers.

Although the Secondary School may not have evolved as originally intended as a "comprehensive", it nevertheless provided a good, all-round education and certainly, as far as I was concerned, enabled me to go further in my education and obtain a degree.





Nicola Wallace
Deputy Head Girl

Rachel Hill
Head Girl

David Kelly
Head Boy

Ben McCausland
Deputy Head Boy



Our Prefects Team 2011-2012

Back - Mrs Bell (Principal), Victoria Taylor, Nicola Wallace, Ben McCausland and Adam Kennedy
Front - Robyn Weatherup, Rachel Hill and David Kelly

Ballyclare Secondary School 2011 Pupils



Year 8 2011



Year 9 2011

Ballyclare Secondary School 2011 Pupils



Year 10 2011



Year 11 2011

Ballyclare Secondary School 2011 Pupils



Year 12 2011



Years 13 & 14 2011

Acknowledgements

As the 50th Anniversary Magazine is issued, it is my pleasant duty to acknowledge many people without whose help this publication would not have been possible.

We are indebted to our advertisers and sponsors, in particular Chain Reaction, for their generosity. The willingness of our advertisers to support this publication at this time of economic uncertainty is greatly appreciated by the staff and students of Ballyclare Secondary School. I would like to express my gratitude to you all.

I would like to particularly acknowledge the role of the editorial team, Miss Moody and Mrs Taylor. Many hours of work have gone into producing this publication. Trawling through the archives, cajoling staff to meet deadlines and encouraging students to write articles, working on layout and general presentation has been a very lengthy task, and we are very grateful for the contribution they have made.

Mrs Tracey Allen who was responsible for the design and layout of the magazine, Miss Caron McDowell who was responsible for all additional photography, Dr Flint and Ms Russell who helped with the advertisements need to be acknowledged and thanked.

However the main contributors to this document are the staff and students from the last 50 years of Ballyclare Secondary School. A school is made up of people, and as we reflect on 50 years we are reflecting on the impact Ballyclare Secondary School has had upon the lives of many people.

Finally my apologies if I have failed to mention anyone who has assisted with this publication. Any oversight has been entirely unintentional.

D Farrell
Chairman
50th Anniversary Celebration Committee

From the Editorial Team

In opening the celebrations for the 50th Anniversary of Ballyclare Secondary School, this publication aims to highlight a range of departmental changes, pupil achievements, extra curricular successes and generally delve briefly into the historical aspect of its 50 years. Our focus, however, will be the second phase, the past 25 years. The majority of photographs and memories will be dedicated to that era.

The history of Ballyclare Secondary has been well documented, particularly in the Silver Jubilee Magazine. Should you manage to find a copy, it is an excellent and well-informed read. The ethos of the school has never changed and is as relevant today as it was when the late Mr Bill Stirling, then Mr Uel McCrea, held the position of Principal, each for 25 years. Mrs Kathryn Bell, our new Principal, leads the school into the next 25 year phase!

This publication serves to give a brief overview – often in pictures, of the length and breadth of school life, with views from our present pupils and some thoughts from those who have gone before.

Our apologies if anything has been omitted, due to the time constraints on a very busy staff. Our thanks go to all those who contributed to this publication in any way, including former pupils, current pupils, staff and parents, all too numerous to mention.





Presentation Evening 2010-2011

Honoured Guests - Dame Mary Peters, DBE LL
& Alderman W. J. Webb, JP







