

STRATHEARN NEWS



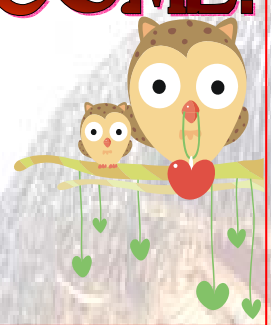
Office Bearers 2011/2012

Head Girl: Rebecca Jordan. Deputy Head Girls: Katie Allen & Rebecca Evans.
 Games Captain: Rebecca Blundell. Deputy Games Captains: Kirby O'Donnell & Hannah Wishart.
 Barbour House Captain: Megan McArthur. Barbour Deputy House Captains: Tessa Eames & Demi Wright.
 Boucher House Captain: Fiona Anderson. Boucher Deputy House Captains: Caitlin Butler & Emma Entwistle.
 McCaughey House Captain: Judith McLean. McCaughey Deputy House Captains: Susanna Galbraith & Helen Harvey.
 Watts House Captain: Amy O'Donnell. Watts Deputy House Captains: Lauren Wallace & Rebecca Wylie.



WELCOME! Class of 2011!

On Monday 20 June we welcomed next year's form one pupils to the school for the Form One Induction evening. We look forward to seeing them all again in the Autumn Term!



On 10 May, the Class of 2011 celebrated on their last day in school at a farewell reception with the staff in Miskelly Hall. We wish them all every success in their Exams and for the future, and we look forward to seeing them again at their Prize Giving on 8 September.



The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme art exhibitions

On 10 & 11 June, sixty-five girls completed their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition. After four months of training and preparation of our route for both days, and organising menus, first aid kits and equipment lists, we were ready to go. On the first day we walked 13 kilometres and on the second day we walked 11 kilometres. We had to organise all of the equipment ourselves and buy the food we needed for meals for both days. The Trangia and tents are given to us to use by the school, so we didn't have to buy them as well as the other equipment needed.

Over the two days we enjoyed the sights and sounds of the Mourne and Tollymore Forest Park as well as fun with the other members of our group. In the evening, after putting up our tents and cooking our dinner on the Trangia, we toasted marshmallows over a campfire and talked about our experiences that day.

It was hard to get out of bed the second morning, but after a few burnt sausages we set out for a second day of walking. We finished just after lunchtime and were glad to get our boots off and our rucksacks set down. Well done to all who completed their expedition, and thank you to the teachers who took us out!



The Art Department was transformed into a wonderful gallery of GCSE and Sixth Form Artwork this term, as the Strathearn artists prepared their final exhibition for moderation. Two open afternoons allowed family and friends to join in a celebration of colour and creativity.

Teseo Vouchers

The 2011 school total has now reached an impressive 63,000!

Penrhyn pupils have contributed a massive 12,700 vouchers and, in the senior school, the main drive towards this record total has come from 2S and 2T who have banked over 10,000 between them. They are first and second respectively and, in a close contest for third place, 3S have just been pipped at the post by 1S who came in with 3,880 vouchers. Orders for equipment will be placed this week. On behalf of the school, many thanks to all pupils, family and friends for their support!



Individual Successes congratulations to...



Rachael Harbinson, 3R, who passed her Grade Five Music Theory Examination with Merit.
 Georgie Young, 1T, who won a cross-country event (Junior 70 cm) in horse-riding and was the individual cross-country champion at Ards Riding Club one-day event.
 Emily McGowan, 2R, who was the supreme champion riding her horse, Vale Park Holiday, at the 2011 Northern Ireland Festival Show at Cavan. Emily won a prize of £1,000. She is now going to Edinburgh to take part in a show there.
 Saskia Craig, 2R, who passed her Grade Two Piano Examination with Distinction and her Grade Three Singing Examination with Merit.
 Rachel Hinds, 1H, who came second in the Birr House Trek.
 Amy Darragh, 1H, who achieved a Merit singing in the Newtownabbey Festival.
 Grace Turkington, 2H, who received an award for achieving the highest mark in the City of Belfast School of Music, Grade Two Theory Examination.
 Chloe McCabe, 2H, who is the Civil Service U13 Hockey Player of the Year.
 Anna Kane and Lydia Millar, 2H, who each achieved a Distinction in their Grade Five RAD Ballet Examination.
 Rosalind Skillen, 2H, who passed her Grade One Piano Examination with Distinction. Rosalind also was placed first and second in her drama at the Lagan Valley Festival.
 Clara Kerr, 3T, who was placed fourth in the NI Irish Dancing Championships.
 Ciara Garrett, 3T, who passed her Tenor Horn Grade Three Examination with Merit.
 Amy Anderson, 3T, who passed her Grade Four Piano Examination with Merit.
 Lucy McCracken, 3T who passed her Bronze Medal Speech and Drama Examination with Distinction.
 Susan Griffin, 2T, who passed her Grade Four Piano Examination with Distinction and her Grade Five Theory Examination.
 Fiona Gibson, 2T, who passed her Grade Five Theory Examination with Merit.
 Lisa Allsopp, 1A, who passed her Grade One Piano Examination.
 Rebecca Murphy, 1A, who won one gold and two silver medals at the Holywood Speech and Drama Festival.
 Lauren Duncan, 3H, who recently achieved her Baden Powell Award.

History Trip Form Efforts

Three classes of GCSE historians were blessed with fine weather for their recent walk up to the Stormont Assembly buildings. Excellent presentations were given by Marina and James from the Education Department. The pupils and teachers were fortunate enough to be in the public gallery during a heated debate with a well-known orator holding court between the opposing ranks of Sinn Fein and the DUP.



☺ Fifteen teams took part in the Form One Inter-House table quiz in Miskelly Hall on Thursday, 23 June. Form 4T organised the event, and all proceeds from entry fees and the accompanying bun sale will go to the Simon Community Charity. Boucher House fielded most teams and therefore were clear winners in the House rankings, but the best individual team was 'Ali Barbour', scoring an impressive 59 out of 60 points! Well done to Topaz Marshall, Katie Thompson, Oriel Dawson and Ellen Meredith who won *Glee* CDs. The effort raised £154.

☺ Form 3A brought the sound of summer to school with their ice-cream van and accompanying jingle. By selling ice-lollies they have raised £223 for the *Make a Wish* Foundation.



Berlin Trip

Gute Reise! On Saturday, 25 June, at 3.30 in the morning, forty-three girls from Form 4 and five teachers will be setting off to Berlin for the joint History/Modern Languages trip. We will be staying in a modern hotel in the centre of Berlin and we have a packed programme of events to enjoy. These will include visits to a number of interesting places of historical and cultural interest, as well as more relaxing pursuits, such as a river trip and there will of course be time for shopping! For those studying German, the trip will be a good opportunity to put linguistic skills into practice.

Form Four Music Trip

The Form Four Music trip to London took place from 3-5 June. Highlights of the weekend were the West End Musical, *Wicked*, and the visit to Covent Garden where they found time to shop! The whole trip was hugely enjoyable and the group would like to thank Mr Gray and Miss McFarland for taking them.

Library News



The new, temporary library has now been set up and will remain in its present position until the final stage of the new build. Since re-opening there has been a reading challenge for staff and pupils, each providing a list of recommended books for each other to read, which has produced some very interesting choices. Many of the books have been taken out, and hopefully both staff and pupils will have had the opportunity to read and enjoy something they might not otherwise have chosen.

The Library Awards Ceremony also took place in June and was held in Miskelly Hall. The Library Assistants were presented with Certificates of Achievement by Mrs Connery in recognition of all their help in the library this year. Parents were invited and the girls gave a PowerPoint presentation entitled *A Year in the Life of the Library*, which everyone enjoyed. Refreshments were then served, and the event concluded with a tour of the new library.



ATHLETICS



The Co Down District Championships took place on Thursday 5 and Friday 13 May 2011. Congratulations to all those who competed and contributed to our overall points, especially those in the top 3 who qualified for the Ulster Championships on Saturday 21 May. The results were as follows: **Senior 3rd Overall:** Sophie Dalm, 1st High Jump; Kerrie Craig, 2nd High Jump; Rebecca Blundell, 1st 800m. Relay: 2nd Zara Millar, Rebecca Blundell, Kerrie Craig, Hazel Jordan. **Intermediate 2nd Overall:** Morgen Hunt, 1st 200m & 7th Long Jump; Claudia Bedford, 2nd 200m & 4th High Jump; Tara Gouk, 5th = High Jump; Sophie Gribben, 7th Discus & 10th Shot; Jenna Kerr, 14th Discus; Hannah Crymble, 5th 100m; Elly Drinkwater, 2nd Long Jump & 4th 80m Hurdles; Deborah Campbell, 5th Triple Jump & 7th 80m Hurdles; Francesca Brown, 2nd 800m & 3rd Javelin; Jessica Lowry, 4th Triple Jump; Vicky Wallace, 7th Javelin; Relay - 3rd Lois Wilson, Elly Drinkwater, Deborah Campbell, Morgen Hunt.

Junior 2nd Overall: Isla Lockhart, 8th 100m; Shannon Booth, 2nd 200m; Megan Marrs, 1st 75m Hurdles & 3rd High Jump; Lauren Brooker, 2nd 75m Hurdles; Jenny Drennan, 6th 800m; Emma Watson, 9th 800m; Jessica Fairclough, 8th 1500m; Anna Campbell, 11th 1500m; Lydia Millar, 6th High Jump; Natalie Wallace, 1st Javelin; Jemma Gillan, 9th Javelin; Aimée Irwin, 11th Long Jump; Rachael Harbinson, 10th Discus & 13th Shot; Hannah Eakin, 8th Discus; Lydia Millar, 7th Triple Jump; Nicky Montgomery, 12th Shot; Relay - 2nd Lauren Brooker, Shannon Booth, Lauren Wheeler, Megan Marrs.

Minor: Gemma Burnside, 7th 100m; Bonnie Ramsey, 8th 100m & 10th Long Jump; Emma Lowry, 8th Long Jump; Kate Farrelly, 4th High Jump; Georgina Gomes, 13th High Jump & 10th 800m; Sophie Allen, 16th Shot; Francesca Lynn, 22nd Shot; Relay - 2nd Emma Lowry, Georgina Gomes, Gemma Burnside, Bonnie Ramsey.

ULSTER SCHOOLS ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS 21 MAY 2011 at the ANTRIM FORUM

Congratulations to all the girls who competed in very difficult conditions. Strathearn finished 5th overall in the girls' competition. Individual results were as follows:

Minors: Relay 8th Emma Lowry, Georgina Gomes, Gemma Burnside, Bonnie Ramsay.

Juniors Overall =6th: Natalie Wallace, 2nd Javelin (Qualifying for the Irish Championships); Megan Marrs, 4th High Jump & 4th 75m Hurdles; Lauren Brooker, 6th 75m Hurdles; Relay - 3rd Lauren Brooker, Shannon Booth, Lauren Wheeler, Megan Marrs.

Intermediates: Elly Drinkwater 6th Long Jump; Morgen Hunt, 4th 200m; Francesca Brown, 4th Javelin & 5th 800m.

Seniors Overall 5th: Kerrie Craig, 1st High Jump (Qualifying for the Irish Championships); Sophie Dalm, 2nd High Jump (Qualifying for the Irish Championships); Rebecca Blundell, 1st 800m (Qualifying for the Irish Championships); Relay - 4th Zara Millar, Rebecca Blundell, Kerrie Craig, Hazel Jordan.

IRISH SCHOOLS' ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS, TULLAMORE, 4 JUNE 2011

Congratulations to the 3 girls who represented Strathearn at the Irish Championships competing against the best athletes in the country. The results were as follows: Natalie Wallace, 6th Junior Javelin; Rebecca Blundell, 4th Senior 800m; Kerrie Craig, 8th Senior High Jump.

Form 2 Team Win Ulster Title

The Form 2 girls have also been competing in the U14 Team competition in which they qualified for the Ulster Final last Monday having finished 2nd in both the Area Heats and District Final. On both occasions they were narrowly beaten by Glenlola so they knew exactly what they had to do at the Ulster Final... beat Glenlola and that's exactly what they did, as well as beating every other team! The girls rose to the occasion and literally ran away with the Ulster title - the 3rd successive year for Strathearn, so well done girls! The team were as follows: Aimée Irwin, 1st Long Jump; Megan Marrs, 1st High Jump; Jemma Gillan, 1st Javelin; Shannon Booth, 3rd 100m; Emma Watson, 4th 800m; Nicky Montgomery, 4th Shot; Lauren Brooker, Shannon Booth, Aimée Irwin and Megan Marrs were 1st in the Relay.

From these performances many of these girls were selected on the Co Down U14 Team which competed on Thursday 16 June at the Inter-District Competition.

District A (Co Down) Overall 2nd: 100m Shannon Booth 3rd; High Jump Megan Marrs 1st; Long Jump Aimée Irwin 3rd; Javelin Jemma Gillan 3rd; Hurdles Lauren Brooker 1st; Discus Hannah Eakin 5th; 800m Emma Watson 6th.

Representative Honours: Congratulations to Francesca Brown who was selected for the U17 Ulster Interprovincial Team for Javelin.

Individual Gymnastics Success: Congratulations to Hannah Crymble, 4T, on all her excellent performances in her specialist discipline of Acrobatic Gymnastics. Hannah competed for her Club at the Irish Finals in Cork where she won the silver medal. Then at the prestigious British Championships in Stoke-on-Trent on 20 May, a superb performance saw her finish 6th in one event and in 8th position overall. Hannah crowned a super season at the Northern Ireland Open Championships at UUJ on 18 June, winning her event to take the gold. Well done Hannah!

Inter-House Rounders

Using the Astro-turf pitch at CIYMS, the annual Inter-House Rounders competitions proved to be as competitive and skilful as ever. Two teams were fielded in each House in each of the Year groups with combined scores feeding in to the allocation of total rounders scored and subsequent final places. A full account of each team's results can be viewed on the Inter-House board. Here is the total number of rounders scored across all of the year groups and final House positions:

Barbour: 43, 4th Place; Boucher: 102½, 1st place; McCaughey: 58½, 3rd place; Watts: 86, 2nd place.

SCHOOL RESUMES ON 30 AUGUST - 10.00 AM-12.50 PM

Tennis Success at Ulster Level - All Four Teams Reach Cup Finals!



2011 has again been a very successful year for Strathearn's tennis teams. Due to the start of our new school build, we had no on-site tennis courts, but good use was made of facilities at Civil Service for after school practices, and most matches were played away, with the odd exception when CIYMS had courts available.

As can be seen from the section results below, the Minor, Junior, Intermediate and Senior Teams had no great difficulty winning their respective league matches to go through to the knock-out stages of each of the competitions.

The **Year 8 Team** won 6-0 against Regent on 20 May, then drew 3-3, but won by 23-20 games against Sullivan on 27 May and won 5-1 against Rockport on 1 June.

The **Junior Team** won 6-0 against Belfast High School B Team on 9 May, 6-0 against Ballmena A Team on 12 May, 5-1 against Glenlola on 16 May, 6-0 against BRA on 23 May and 6-0 against Carrickfergus Grammar School on 31 May.

The **Intermediate Team** won 6-0 against Down High School on 4 May, 5-1 against Dominican College, Fortwilliam on 11 May, 5-1 against Glenlola on 16 May and 6-0 against Rockport B Team on 1 June.

The **Senior Team** won 5-1 against Belfast High School on 9 May, 6-0 against Bloomfield Collegiate on 10 May, 4-2 against Methodist College on 19 May and 6-0 against Hunterhouse on 25 May.

Minor Team Win Ulster Cup

The Minor Team of Jane Hunter, Victoria White, Meabh Lowry and Sarah Osborne take pride of place this year as they deservedly won the Ulster Cup. The girls worked hard at practice and showed a steely determination to win. An away draw in the quarter-final meant the girls had to travel to Magherafelt to play Rainey Endowed, but it soon became obvious that Strathearn's all round play was too much for Rainey to contend with and the team sailed through to the semi-final with a 4-0 and 40 games to just 4 margin!

Friends' School were the opposition in the semi-final. This was a high quality match and required all four players to really concentrate and execute their shots. Friends' were resilient, especially at numbers 3 and 4. Jane won her singles 10-3; Victoria won by the same score line 10-3; Meabh, although always in control, was pushed a little harder but won 10-5, while Sarah won her singles 10-6. In the doubles, although Strathearn knew they were through to the final on singles wins 4-0, Jane and Victoria at first doubles lost 10-6, but Meabh and Sarah kept up their winning streak to win 10-6. The overall score was 5-1 to Strathearn, the prize an Ulster Cup Final place against Victoria College!

The Final was indeed a close-run affair. Jane clawed her way back in the match only to agonisingly lose her singles on a tie-break; 10-9. Victoria, having started off shakily, managed to fight back from a 5-0 deficit to win her singles, also on a tie-break 10-9, so we were all square at one match each. Meabh displayed great potential in her match winning 10-2 and when Sarah recorded her singles win 10-5, Strathearn had edged in front by 3 matches to 1 and knew that Victoria College would have to win both doubles matches to draw. When Jane and Victoria lost their doubles 10-7, the pressure was really on Meabh and Sarah to win and that is exactly what they did with an accomplished 10-4 score line. Strathearn had won the match and the Ulster Minor title. A great achievement girls – really well done!

The **Junior Team** of Anna Warden, Jenny Maynes, Natalie Wallace and Jemma Gillan had to travel all the way to Coleraine High School for their quarter-final. A very strong number 1 really put Anna through her paces, but the rest of the Strathearn team pulled out all the stops to win their singles and give us a 3-1 lead. Again, the first doubles were a really effective pair for Coleraine and won their contest, but Natalie and Jemma snuffed out the Coleraine challenge in their doubles and Strathearn were through to the semi-final by 4 matches to 2!

As in the Minor semi-final, Friends' School were also the Junior semi-final opponents. Reserve, Lucy Robinson had a late call-up to the team when Jemma was ill and she proved to be a worthy deputy, winning her singles and doubles matches. A clash with a school trip to Spain saw Friends' having to play without two of their regular team players, so in the end Strathearn had an easier passage to the final, winning all four singles and both doubles. Sullivan Upper was the team to beat in the final, and the Juniors knew that this was going to be a really tough encounter. Sullivan lived up to their favourites tag and led 3-1 after the singles, with only Jemma

registering a win for Strathearn. In the doubles, Anna and Jenny battled hard, but were overcome by a 10-2 margin; Sullivan had won the Cup. Natalie and Jemma continued to fight for every point in their match, losing narrowly on a tie-break, 10-9.

Congratulations to the Junior Team on finishing in the runners-up spot. To achieve second place in Ulster is indeed a worthy end to a busy tennis season.

The **Intermediate Team** of Bethany Chambers, Stephanie Jemphrey, Ashleigh Watson and Alex Guy had a great season too. Having won their section, they were drawn away to St Catherine's College, Armagh. Unfortunately, on arrival at Armagh the weather took an unkind turn for the worse and there was nothing else for it except to abandon the match without a ball being hit! The re-arranged fixture was played at Friends' School, Lisburn and proved to be a relatively easy tie with the girls winning in straight sets.

Methodist College were the opponents in the semi-final. Probably expecting a closer contest, Strathearn were delighted to book their place in the final with another straight sets victory in their singles. Ballymena Academy was the other finalist and the match got underway at 9:30am at Muckamore Tennis Club in Antrim - and what a match it turned out to be! The girls came off court at 1:45pm. Following nail-biting singles matches, in which Strathearn won the first in three sets, with Bethany narrowly losing a second set tie-break 7-6, but taking the third and the match 6-0, then Alex sealing her victory 6-1, 6-0 while Stephanie and Ashleigh lost their singles in straight sets; the match stood all square at 2-2. The doubles then became crucial. Ashleigh and Alex did their job and won their match in three sets, so the pressure now moved on to Ballymena to get a result in their match. When Bethany and Stephanie won the first set 6-3, things were looking very good for a Strathearn victory and with a 4-2 lead in the second set, again we seemed to be in the driving seat. However, the fighting spirit of Ballymena really came to the fore and suddenly they had redressed the balance to 4-4. With the momentum in their favour, Ballymena clung on in the set to take it 7-5 and this certainly boosted their morale as they moved on in the third set to win it 6-3 and level the match 3-3. To decide the winner, sets had to be counted and unfortunately, it was Strathearn who were short one set with Ballymena taking the title with 7 sets to 6.

Disappointing as this result was, this team should be very proud of their achievements this year. Well done girls!

The **Senior Team** of Helen Harvey, Kirby O'Donnell, Katie Allen, Katie Dickson and playing reserves Tessa Eames and Rebecca Elliott reached Strathearn's fourth Ulster Tennis Final. It was great to have all six girls keen to play, as difficulties scheduling section matches around a varied exam timetable meant that all players played at least once to ensure the team won their section.

At Senior level, fewer schools enter the Cup Competition, so Strathearn went straight through to the semi-final against Methody. On a wet Saturday morning at Bloomfield, the team started very positively dropping one match from their four singles. In the doubles, Methody scored a second victory over our second pair of Katie Dickson and Katie Allen, but with Helen and Kirby winning their doubles match, Strathearn deservedly won through to the final 4-2.

Strathearn once again came up against their nemesis, Victoria College. Helen Harvey, at number one, played an enthralling match in which most of the games were extremely close; she eventually lost the first set on a tie-break. Victoria also won the second set 6-2. Kirby O'Donnell, playing at number two, miraculously snatched victory from the jaws of defeat in her singles when she came back from losing 6-3 in the first set and 6-0 down in the second set tie-break to win 7-6, 6-4, a remarkable recovery. Katie Allen at three and Katie Dickson at four were unable to win their singles, so Victoria led 3-1 going in to the doubles. Needing only one match to take the title, the second pair quickly ended Strathearn's challenge, winning in straight sets 6-2, 6-3. Well done to all the girls and good luck to Katie Dickson who leaves us for pastures new.

Internal Tennis Competitions

As already mentioned, without tennis courts this year, general practice for all year groups had to be curtailed. Nevertheless, the Inter-class doubles, Senior Cup for Forms 3 and 4 and Junior Cup for Forms 1 and 2 were scheduled at CIYMS. Unavoidably, some entries were affected with the involvement of our team players in the Final stages of the Ulster Cups. Here are the results:

The Alison Mills Cup Form 1 Doubles: Winners: Jane Hunter & Bonnie Ramsay, 1R. Runners-up: Victoria White & Francesca Lynn, 1H.

Inter-class Doubles: Form 2: Winners: Katie McMurrin, Lucy Robinson & Anieshia Bedford, 2S. Runners-up: Emily Whiteside & Emma Watson, 2A.

Form 3: Winners: Lauren Naismith & Anna Chambers, 3R. Runners-up: Catherine Whiteside & Katie Gallagher, 3A.

Form 4: Winners: Bethany Chambers & Ashleigh Watson, 4R. Runners-up: Tara Gouk & Heather Martin, 4T.

The Honor Braithwaite Cup for Forms 1 & 2 Singles: Winner: Jenny Maynes, 2S. Runner-up: Anna Warden, 2A.

The Hewson Cup for Forms 3 & 4 Singles: Winner: Catherine Whiteside, 3A. Runner-up: Natalie Wallace, 3H.