



December 2024

It gives me great pleasure as Chair of the Board of Governors of Strathearn School (the “School”) to present the Annual Report for the academic year 2023/24. This year has been a period of continued growth and achievement for the School, and it has been my privilege to work alongside dedicated staff, governors, parents / carers and the wider School community.

The purpose of this Annual Report is to provide an overview of the school’s performance, key developments, and the work undertaken by the Board of Governors during the year.

The Board has continued to fulfil its role of ensuring that the school delivers a high standard of education while remaining accountable for the effective use of resources. We have been actively involved in overseeing the School’s strategic direction, reviewing policies, and supporting the leadership team led by the Principal. In light of the challenging financial situation facing schools across Northern Ireland, we have worked diligently with the senior management team in order to ensure that financial resources are allocated effectively, with a focus on enhancing the very high educational outcomes that we are accustomed to in Strathearn and enhancing our wonderful facilities for both pupils and staff.

2023/24 has yet again been a year of notable academic success, and we are extremely proud of our pupils’ outstanding performance in their GCSE and A-Level examinations cementing Strathearn’s position as one of the leading schools in Northern Ireland. In addition, to the pursuit of academic excellence the Board remains committed to ensuring that the School delivers a modern and engaging curriculum for all pupils in order to develop essential skills for their future individual paths such as critical thinking, creativity and resilience.

We aim to continue building on our partnerships with local schools and businesses, community groups and higher and further education institutions in order to provide our pupils with further opportunities for personal and academic growth.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the Board for their unwavering commitment and contributions to the School. Special thanks also go to our Principal, teachers, staff, and pupils for their hard work and dedication throughout the year. I also thank our parents and carers for their invaluable support and partnership.

*L Mallon*

L Mallon  
Board of Governors – Chair

## REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS ON THE 2023/24 SCHOOL YEAR

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This report incorporates the statutory requirements for reporting to parents.

### TERM DATES 2024/25

2024 – 2025 SCHOOL YEAR	
CHRISTMAS TERM:	28 August – 20 December 2024
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	28 October – 1 November 2024
EASTER TERM:	6 January – 11 April 2025
HALF TERM HOLIDAY:	10-14 February 2025
SUMMER TERM:	28 April – 30 June 2025
BANK HOLIDAYS:	5 May 2025

### CURRICULUM DETAILS

The Strathearn Curriculum at Key Stage 3 aims to give every girl in Years 8-10 a broad, balanced and appropriately challenging education.

In Year 8, pupils study the following subjects:

Art and Design, English (incorporating Drama), French, Geography, History, Home Economics, Information & Communication Technology (ICT), Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Religious Studies, Science and Technology.

In Years 9 and 10 this is supplemented by German or Spanish.

In Year 10 the girls study Biology, Chemistry and Physics as separate Science subjects.

In the weekly Learning for Life and Work period(s), led by their Form Teacher, the girls investigate a range of themes, including Personal Development, Employability (including Careers Education) and Local and Global Citizenship.

The Curriculum at Key Stage 4 (GCSE) aims to continue this broad, balanced and appropriately challenging educational experience for every girl in Years 11 and 12. We aim to lay a secure foundation for her progression to A Level and so all of the girls study a core set of subjects:

English, English Literature, Mathematics, a modern foreign language, a Science subject, Physical Education and Religious Studies (full or short course).

Subjects offered at this stage also include:

Art and Design, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Design & Technology, Digital Technology (ICT), Double Award Science, Drama, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, German, History, Home Economics (Child Development), Home Economics (Food and Nutrition), Moving Image Arts, Music, Physics, Physical Education (GCSE) and Spanish.

In general pupils will be entered for a total of 9 GCSE subjects (with pupils who take Further Maths taking 9.5, with the Religious Studies GCSE Short Course). The girls continue to investigate further themes in the areas of Personal Development, Employability and Citizenship as part of Learning for Life and Work period led by their Form Teacher.

In our Sixth Form the girls generally choose four subjects for study to AS Level in the Lower Sixth and they continue to study three of these to Advanced (A2) Level in their final year at Strathearn.

This year pupils have made choices from:

Art & Design, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Design & Technology, Digital Technology, Drama & Theatre Studies, English Literature, French, Geography, Government & Politics, German, Health & Social Care, History, Mathematics, Further Mathematics, Media Studies, Moving Image Arts, Music, Nutrition & Food, Physics, Psychology, Religious Studies, Spanish and BTEC Sport.

In L6 pupils continue to meet with their Form Teacher for one period a week; additionally, they have one period dedicated to Careers Education Information & Guidance.

## SCHOOL PERFORMANCE 2023/24

### PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2023/24

The Department of Education (NI) has determined the way in which all schools should present statistics for public examination results, the destinations of school leavers, and annual attendance rates. The paragraphs which follow provide this information in the format required.

#### Trend Information for previous three years as given by Department of Education

	% 2024	% 2023			% 2022	% 2021	% 2020	%2019		
Category	School *	School*	NI Girls	NI All	School*	School*	School	School	NI Girls	NI All
5+ GCSE A* - C	98.3	99.1	92.9	91.8	100	100	99.2	99.1	98.4	96. 2
7+ GCSE A* - C	96.6	98.1	82.6	80.4	98.1	99.2	99.2	98.1	94.2	90. 0
3+ A2 (A* - C)	93.1	89.8	76.6	74.9	89.2	98	96.8	88.4	81.0	77. 0
2+ A2 (A* - E)	100	99.1	98.9	98.7	99.1	100	100	100	99.6	99. 3

*NI Average used is Grammar School statistics from DENI performance tables*

**\*Please note: DENI have not collected or published benchmark statistics for school performance for the 2020-2022 public examination series.**

### Year 10 Pupils - Key Stage Three Levels in Communication and Using Mathematics 2022/23

*Due to continuing union actions short of strike during the 2023/24 academic year, the School did not report or publish KS3 levels to DE.*

## Year 12 Pupils

Number of pupils in Year 12 in September 2023	118	Number of these with statement of special educational needs	3
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## GCSE Results Overall 2023/24

% Entered for 7 or more subjects	98.3	% Entered for 5 or more subjects	98.3
% Achieving grades A*-C	96.6	% Achieving grades A*-C	98.3

## GCSE Results by subject (by cumulative %)

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C*	C		D	E	F	G	U
Art & Design	22	18.2	40.9	72.7	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Biology	79	22.8	72.2	84.8	92.4	97.5		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Business Studies	32	21.9	59.4	90.6	93.8	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Chemistry	46	23.9	65.2	87.0	93.5	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Design and Technology	18	16.7	83.3	94.4	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Drama	13	0.0	46.2	92.3	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
English Language	118	19.5	68.6	94.1	99.2	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
English Literature	118	28.0	83.1	97.5	99.2	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
French	26	23.1	69.2	88.5	96.2	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Geography	59	59.3	84.7	93.2	98.3	98.3		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
German	24	25.0	45.8	66.7	83.3	95.8		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
History	60	48.3	83.3	96.7	98.3	98.3		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Home Economics	13	0.0	61.5	76.9	92.3	92.3		92.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Information Technology	18	27.8	66.7	88.9	88.9	94.4		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mathematics	118	21.2	83.9	94.1	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mathematics Further	50	34.0	78.0	90.0	96.0	98.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Music	14	7.1	28.6	57.1	92.9	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Physics	47	34.0	70.2	89.4	95.7	97.9		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Religious Studies	65	44.6	73.8	89.2	95.4	96.9		98.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Science - Double	28	39.3	64.3	89.3	92.9	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Spanish	54	33.3	68.5	85.2	96.3	98.1		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Sport/PE Studies	20	40.0	95.0	100.0	100.0	100.0		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>1042</b>	<b>29.3</b>	<b>73.0</b>	<b>90.2</b>	<b>96.6</b>	<b>98.8</b>		<b>99.8</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>	<b>100.0</b>
RS Short Course	47	38.3	87.2	91.5	91.5	95.7		100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

### Year 13 and 14 Pupils

Number of pupils in Year 13 in September 2022	95	Number of these with statement of special educational needs	1
Number of pupils in Year 14 in September 2022	101	Number of these with statement of special educational needs	0
Total number of pupils	196	Total number of pupils	1

### Year 13 AS Level Results by Subject (by cumulative %)

Subject	Entries	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art & Design	8	37.5	75.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Biology	33	27.3	57.6	72.7	93.9	100.0	100.0
Business Studies	14	35.7	71.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Chemistry	38	28.9	52.6	68.4	78.9	94.7	100.0
Design and Technology	9	44.4	77.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
English Literature	27	85.2	88.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
French	5	80.0	80.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Geography	17	94.1	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
German*	3	33.3	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Health & Social Care	9	55.6	88.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
History	26	42.3	73.1	84.6	92.3	100.0	100.0
Home Economics	4	50.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Information Technology	10	30.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mathematics	41	73.2	87.8	95.1	97.6	100.0	100.0
Moving Image Art*	4	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Music	3	0.0	66.7	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0
Physics	21	47.6	85.7	95.2	95.2	100.0	100.0
Politics	19	31.6	84.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Religious Studies	10	50.0	70.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Spanish	8	50.0	87.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>309</b>	<b>49.2</b>	<b>77.7</b>	<b>90.6</b>	<b>95.5</b>	<b>99.4</b>	<b>100.0</b>

\* Collaboration subject

## Year 14 A Levels

Number of pupils in final year of A Level Course	% of Pupils achieving	
	3 or more passes at Grades A*-C	2 or more passes at Grades A *-E
101	93.1	100

## Year 14 A Level results by Subject (by cumulative %)

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art & Design	8	62.5	75.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Biology	35	5.7	31.4	62.9	91.4	94.3	97.1	100.0
Business Studies	30	13.3	50.0	86.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Chemistry	19	10.5	26.3	63.2	89.5	100.0	100.0	100.0
Design and Technology	4	0.0	0.0	50.0	75.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Drama	6	0.0	16.7	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
English Literature	33	39.4	72.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
French	8	37.5	75.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Geography	26	30.8	76.9	96.2	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
German*	5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Health & Social Care	14	0.0	14.3	85.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
History	17	35.3	82.4	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Home Economics	8	0.0	25.0	75.0	87.5	100.0	100.0	100.0
Information Technology	7	14.3	42.9	85.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mathematics	29	10.3	65.5	89.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Mathematics Further	3	0.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Media Studies*	10	10.0	20.0	60.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Moving Image Art	5	0.0	80.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Music	3	0.0	33.3	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Physics	9	0.0	55.6	77.8	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Politics	17	23.5	76.5	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Religious Studies	9	11.1	88.9	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
Spanish	5	40.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
<b>Totals</b>	<b>310</b>	19.4	55.8	85.8	97.7	99.4	99.7	100.0

\* collaboration subject

### **School Leavers' Destinations 2023/24 (from years 12,13 and 14)**

<b>2023-2024</b>	
<b>Number of Leavers</b>	127
<b>Higher Education</b>	73% (93 pupils)
<b>Further Education</b>	14% (18 pupils)
<b>Another School</b>	4% (5 pupils)
<b>Job Skills</b>	1.8% (2 pupils)
<b>Employment</b>	0
<b>Unknown/ Gap</b>	6% (8 pupils)

### **Annual Attendance Rate (all pupils)**

Starthearn School annual attendance rate for year 2023 / 2024 – 93.9%



## CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) is a vital aspect of the educational provision at Strathearn. Formal timetabled careers modules (employability) are included in the Learning for Life and Work programme for Years 8 - 12 and as a distinct subject (Careers) for Years 13 and 14. Years 10 and 12 pupils are encouraged to complete personal career plans.

Careers advice and guidance are provided on an individual basis from Year 10 upwards where relevant, or when requested. The School has a Head of Careers who is available for consultation by the students throughout the school day, and by parents and pupils at Parent Consultations (Form 3 – U6th) and Parent Information Evenings. Structured introductory and on-going visits to the Careers Suite take place from Year 8. Year 10 has a half-day conference on career planning which involves guidance on choosing GCSE subjects, completing a career profiling questionnaire and learning about current labour market information. All girls and their parents have the opportunity to have formal meetings with the Teaching & Learning VP, Senior Teachers, Head of Careers, Careers Department staff or Form 3 Tutors in January/February to help pupils choose GCSE subjects. The Head of Careers reviews all subject choice Forms in the context of the pupils stated Career aspirations.

Pupils who wish to make choices to their GCSE or AS/A Level choices during the course of their GCSE or A Level studies are required to discuss the implications of their change with the Head of Careers.

Close links are maintained with a range of NI employers and the NI Careers Service; all pupils in Year 12 have a formal careers guidance interview with a Careers Adviser from the Department of the Economy. In addition, the DEL Careers Adviser delivers talks on post-14, post-16 and post-18 choices for years 10, 12 & 14 respectively.

Subject choice/post Key Stage talks are also delivered to Years 10 and 12 by Vice-Principal (Teaching & Learning) and Head of Careers.

Students in Years 13 and 14 are encouraged to attend relevant Professional and University Open Days, subject specific conferences and Higher Education Fairs. In recent years these have mainly been completed via webinars; however, face-to-face opportunities are becoming more available. Year 14 students have a half day workshop on Interview skills and also have the opportunity to participate in a formal interview situation. Informal interview workshops are also held in School for girls applying to medicine, dentistry, veterinary science, nursing, teaching and other healthcare related courses. All pupils can have practice interviews with the Head of Careers. Some universities conduct online interviews others have face-to-face interviews. Year 14 students have the opportunity to complete online interviews in School or from home.

External speakers are regularly invited to talk to pupils in Years 12 and 13 about a range of career opportunities. The vast majority of our Sixth Form leavers proceed to Higher Education Institutions in Northern Ireland and Great Britain. In recent years a few pupils have gone on to study in Eire, the USA and Europe and our girls have also been successful in securing places on apprenticeship and higher apprenticeship programmes.

*(The Careers calendar, which is available on the school website, has more details of events which are running throughout the year)*

## **SCHOOL-COMMUNITY LINKS**

The School continues to keep open channels of communication with its immediate stakeholders by use of electronic methods such as email, social media platforms, webinars and telephone meetings to ensure that everyone is kept updated.

The School has updated its website to allow all news and events to be reported. The School continues to be involved in internal charity events that raise significant funds for local charities and beyond. We have also contributed goods and groceries for The Storehouse. Each of our Houses also have a named charity and the girls are involved in fund-raising through House events.

### **Links with the World of Work**

As part of the Learning for Life and Work programme at Key Stage 3 and 4 pupils are given the opportunity to listen to and interact with a variety of outside agencies from business such as Young Enterprise, voluntary organisations eg, Love for Life and the Simon Community as well as the PSNI.

Students also study aspects of entrepreneurship and enterprise as part of the teaching programme. These links are extended at sixth form for example through voluntary work at local primary schools and nursing homes, peer mentor training and through the numerous careers talks, Year 13 work experience and the Year 14 mock interviews (see Careers Education and Guidance). We are also participating in the SistersIn programme; this allows the development of valuable business links for the School.

We are grateful to the many people who give freely of their time and expertise to advise our pupils about the world of work.

## **Sport**

### **Aims**

Strathearn aims to contribute to the physical development of each pupil through the promotion of skill acquisition and competence in a range of physical activities and to contribute to the social education of the individual by providing opportunities for pupils to co-operate with one another.

Additionally, we promote enjoyment through participation and help pupils understand the positive contribution of exercise to personal health and fitness.

Strathearn also encourages its pupils to make active, creative and purposeful use of their leisure time and through a varied inter-school competitive programme, prepare individuals and teams to experience a sense of satisfaction and achievement.

### **Programme of Study**

**At Key Stage 3**, pupils have a time allocation of 1 hour and 45 minutes.

In Year 8, pupils experience the following activities: gymnastics, dance, hockey, swimming, netball, athletics, tennis, rounders and minor games.

In Year 9, the programme is further developed.

In Year 10, in addition to the activities taught in Year 9, badminton is introduced as well as an introductory unit on health-related fitness and use of the fitness suite.

**At Key Stage 4**, pupils have a time allocation of 1 hour and 10 minutes.

In Years 11 and 12, pupils engage in a thorough health-related fitness component involving aerobics, use of the fitness suite and fitness awareness. Other selected activities include basketball, volleyball, badminton, rugby, orienteering, tennis, athletics, cricket and rounders. Physical Education is offered as a GCSE option; where both theoretical and practical aspects of selected physical activities are studied in depth.

### **Extra-Curricular Programme**

A comprehensive extra-curricular programme complements the core activities taught at the key stages. Pupils are provided with the opportunity to participate in the following team and individual activities:

In Years 8-10 ~ hockey, netball, cross-country, tennis, athletics, badminton, gymnastics, dance, football, cricket, volleyball and table-tennis.

In Years 11-14 ~ hockey, netball, cross-country, tennis, athletics, badminton, gymnastics, dance, football, cricket, volleyball, table-tennis and fitness.

Those pupils who have a keen interest in swimming, horse riding, golf, squash and trampolining are supported by the Physical Education Department and represent the school in competitive events.

## **Sports Facilities available to Pupils of the School**

### **Sports Hall, Gymnasium and Fitness Suite**

The School has a large, purpose-built Sports Hall, funded entirely by parental contribution. Accommodation within the Sports Hall is flexible and allows for: an indoor hockey pitch; five badminton courts; indoor tennis court; netball; volleyball; basketball, with provision for gymnastics.

A fully equipped Gymnasium complements the use of the Sports Hall and a state-of-the-art Fitness Suite completes the indoor sports accommodation.

### **Outdoor Facilities**

One synthetic and two all-weather hockey pitches; athletics track including a double long jump pit with tartan track run-up and caged throwing area. There are a total of six astro turf tennis courts on site.

### **Outside School**

Access to the CIYMS synthetic hockey pitch, adjacent to the school, is available for both junior and senior teams and this is in addition to the tennis facilities if and when required. Swimming takes place at Templemore Baths and Lisnasharragh Leisure Centre.

## **PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT 2023/2024**

**Average attendance for 2023/2024:** 95.9%

**Penrhyn enrolment:** 131 (at start of September), 141 pupils (by end of Summer Term)

### **PREP 7 SENIOR SCHOOL DESTINATIONS**

<b>Senior School</b>	<b>Number enrolled</b>
Strathearn School	16
Ashfield Girls	2
Ballyclare High	1
Bloomfield Collegiate	3
Glenlola Collegiate	2 (one of which is now at Strathearn)
<b>Total in Year</b>	<b>26</b>

## **STAFFING**

### **New staff:**

Mrs Leonora Martin (Head of Department, from April 2024)

Mrs Irwin (Prep 1)

Mrs Bell (Prep 3)

Jen Kimber (P7 1:1 Assistant)

### **Retiring staff:**

Mrs Barbara Mawhinney (Head of Department, December 2023)

### **Maternity Leave:**

Mrs Claire Galloway (from March 2024), covered by Mrs Emily Devlin

## **ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING**

Parent Teacher Consultations took place face to face in October 2023 and June 2024, by appointment.

Written school reports containing standardised assessment data were provided to parents twice in the year (January and June). The January report was slightly altered to provide a shorter summary than in previous years.

Prep 1 and 2 undergo continuous play-based learning assessments, together with in class literacy checks. Standardised assessments (using the GL assessment suite) were completed by pupils in Prep 3 – Prep 7) as follows:

	PREP 3			PREP 4			PREP 5			PREP 6			PREP 7		
	AUT	SPR	SUM	AUT	SPR	SUM	AUT	SPR	SUM	AUT	SPR	SUM	AUT	SPR	SUM
<b>CAT</b>			X	X			X			X			X		
<b>PTE</b>			X			X			X			X	X		X
<b>PTM</b>			X			X			X			X	X		X
<b>NGRT</b>	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X
<b>NGST</b>	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X	X		X
<b>PASS*</b>	X			X			X			X			X		

### Average Scores

The average scores in these tests across the whole school are detailed below. An average score being SAS 100, with the average band being SAS 90 – 110. Strathearn Prep pupils are scoring at the top end of this average band, and in reading, are tipping into the ‘above average’ band.

	<b>Whole School Standardised Scores</b>
<b>CAT Cognitive Ability Test</b>	111
<b>PTE Progress Test in English</b>	110
<b>PTM Progress Test in Maths</b>	109
<b>NGRT Reading Ability</b>	114

### SPORT

Pupils in the Prep Department participated in a wide range of activities as part of their Physical Education Programme, including hockey, swimming, athletics, netball, rounders, cross-country, gymnastics, tennis, and dance. The PE Department also offered a number of extra-curricular clubs to further enhance pupils' skills and interest in sport. These included cross-country (P6-P7), hockey (P6-P7), athletics (P6-P7), and cricket (P6-P7).

Throughout the year, pupils had the opportunity to compete in various sporting events at inter-form, inter-house, and inter-school levels. Teams from Penrhyn participated in athletics, hockey, cricket, cross-country, and swimming competitions. Notably, the swimming team achieved success by winning Gold and Silver at the Ulster Swimming Championships and qualifying for the Irish Finals. Peggy Hirst also earned 2 gold medals at Ulster level, as well as a bronze and a silver medal at the Irish Finals. The P6 Sportshall athletics team won their group at the Strathearn Primary Sportshall Athletics competition, with the P7 team finishing as runners-up in theirs.

In addition to external competitions, the school hosted several internal events, including the inter-house hockey, netball, athletics, and rounders competitions, as well as the Swimming Gala for pupils in P3-P7 and KS1 and 2 Sports Days. Parents were invited to join in the celebrations, and the pupils demonstrated remarkable enthusiasm and determination,

competing with great spirit. These events continue to be a highlight of the school year, fostering both individual achievement and a sense of team spirit

## **SCHOOL COMMUNITY LINKS**

£2,427.99 was raised over the course of the year for the Multiple Sclerosis Society through a variety of events, such as the P7 Christmas Roadshow and retiring collection at the 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary service. A representative from the charity attended an assembly at which the cheque was presented and girls learnt not just about MS but also about hidden disabilities.

## **EVENTS (a selection from the past year)**

- European Languages Day (September 2023)
- 70<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration at St Mark's Church (October 2023)
- Author visit by Derek Keilty (October 2023)
- Prep1 – 4 Nativity (December 2023)
- Penrhyn Choir sang at the Strathearn Carol Service and two P7 pupils read lessons.
- World Book Day (March 2024)
- Prep 5 – 7 Play – The Greatest Show (March 2024)
- P7 Manchester Trip (April 2024)
- P6 Carlingford Residential Trip (May 2024)
- Prize Morning – Mrs Norma McNeill guest speaker (June 2024)

## **PDMU**

All classes focused on mental health and well-being with activities to support the girls. We offer counselling with Familyworks NI.

## **EXTRA-CURRICULAR PROVISION**

Speech and Drama Lessons in groups (available for P1 – P7)

Piano Tuition (P3 –P7)

Singing group lessons (P4 – P7)

<b>Activity Clubs</b>	
<b>Prep 1 &amp; Prep 2</b>	<b>Prep 3 – Prep 7</b>
Miniversity Computer Club	Scripture Union
Ballet	Irish Dancing
Irish Dancing	Modern Dance
Galaxy Sports	Tennis at CIYMS
Lingotots (Spanish)	Miniversity Computer Club
	Choir (P5 – P7)
	Athletics (P5 & 6)
	Hockey (P5 & 6)

	Cricket(P5 & 6)
	Eco Schools
	Galaxy Sports
	Lingotots (Spanish)
	French

### **WRAP-AROUND CARE**

Early Morning Club is well established and there are three members of staff each day. Pupils can be left at school from 8.00 am at no extra charge. This facility has proved very popular with parents. Also, our Afterschool Club offers a childcare facility from 2.00 pm until 5.45 pm and the club runs at close to full capacity most days.

### **PARENTS' ASSOCIATION**

The following events were run by the Parents' Association during the year:

- Halloween Disco (October 2023)
- Diwali and Christmas Light Switch-On Celebration (December 2023)
- Summer Fete (June 2024)



## **INFORMATION ABOUT THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2023/24**

At present, the school's Board of Governors has a total of 18 members. The composition of the Board is determined in accordance with the provision of the 1989 Education Reform Order under a scheme of management approved by the Department of Education in June 1987. There are four main categories of membership:

### **1 Foundation Governors**

The Scheme of Management provides for the appointment by the Board itself of eight members, at least one of whom shall at the time of appointment be a parent of a pupil at the School. These appointees are elected at the Annual General Meetings of the School.

#### **Mrs Lynsey Mallon (Chair)**

Lynsey Mallon joined the Board in July 2009 and was appointed Chair in June 2019. She has served as Chair of the Legal Committee and is an ex-officio member of all Board Committees. Lynsey qualified as a solicitor in 2004 and is a Partner in a leading Irish law firm. Lynsey is a former Head Girl of Strathearn and currently has two daughters at the School.

#### **Mrs Patricia Stewart (Vice-Chair)**

Patricia Stewart was elected as a Governor in April 2002 and was Chair from June 2014 to June 2019. She is a Non-Executive Director with the Business Services Organisation; the NI Member of the NHS Pay Review Body; a lay member of the Tax Tribunal and Associate Consultant with the NHS Leadership Centre. Mrs Stewart has one daughter who is a former pupil of the School.

#### **Mrs Rosemary Bailie (Vice-Chair)**

Rosemary Bailie was appointed to the Board in July 2014 and was a manager in the Probation Board for Northern Ireland, recently retired. She is the Designated Governor for Child Protection and was appointed Vice-Chair in June 2019.

#### **Mrs Caroline Auchmuty**

Caroline Auchmuty is a businesswoman with over 25 years' experience in Human Resources. She joined the Board in 1997 and is an Old Girl of Strathearn. Mrs Auchmuty is Chair of the Personnel Committee.

#### **Mr Wallace Forde MBE**

Wallace Forde is a chartered accountant and has served on the Board since February 1991. He is a former Chair and Vice-Chair and a former Chair of the Finance, Audit and Buildings Committee of the Board, and current Chair of the Health & Safety Committee of the Board. His two daughters are former pupils of the School.

**Mr Norman McKeown**

Norman McKeown is a chartered accountant and businessman. He was appointed to the Board of Governors in January 2001 and is a former Chair and Vice-Chair and currently Chair of the Finance, Audit and Buildings Committee of the Board. His two daughters are former pupils of the School.

**Mr Ian Noad**

Ian Noad is a retired businessman and is a former Chairman of the Board. He became a Foundation Governor in June 1997 when his term of office as an elected Parent Governor ended. He has served as Chair of the Health and Safety Committee and is currently Chair of the Curriculum Committee. His two daughters are former pupils of the School.

**Mr Patrick White**

Patrick White is a solicitor who was first elected to serve on the Board in November 1996. He has served as Chair of the Board of Governors and as Chair of the Legal and Fundraising Committees. His two daughters are former pupils of the School.

**2 Nominated Governors**

These members are appointed to the Board on the nomination of the Department of Education;

**Mr Jonathan Ireland**

Jonathan Ireland is Co-Founder of a Belfast-based strategic communication and reputation management firm. He has served as a Nominated Governor since March 2018 and chaired the Strathearn 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Committee.

**Mr Christopher Wallace**

Christopher Wallace is a solicitor in the public sector. He has served on the Board from March 2018 as a Nominated Governor of the Department of Education. He has several family members who are past pupils of the School and is Chair of the Legal Committee of the Board.

**Mr Scott Rodham-Boyd**

Scott Rodham-Boyd is a Chartered Manager and Management Consultant leading a transformational change programme within a large consultancy firm. He has served as a Nominated Governor since March 2018.

### **3 Parent Governors**

Two parents are elected by secret ballot by parents of the School to hold office for four years.

#### **Dr Gavin McCoubrey**

Gavin McCoubrey is a veterinary surgeon and was elected as a Parent Governor in June 2021. He has two daughters currently at the School.

#### **Mr Michael Hanna**

Michael Hanna is a senior civil servant and was elected as a Parent Governor in March 2022. He has one daughter currently at the School.

### **4 Teacher Governors**

Two teachers are elected by ballot by teachers at the School.

#### **Ms Sally Young**

Sally Young joined the staff in September 2000. She is currently the Head of Department for PE and Assistant SENCO Co-ordinator.

#### **Miss Ashton Turner**

Ashton Turner joined the staff in September 2019. She is a teacher of Modern Languages, Form Tutor for Form 1, and a member of the Staff Committee.

### **5 Co-Opted Governors**

Two governors have been co-opted to the full Board.

#### **Mrs Suzanne Allen**

Suzanne Allen joined the Board in September 2021. She is an Asset Management Advisor with the Strategic Investment Board and has one daughter currently at the School. She is current Chair of the Penrhyn Committee.

#### **Mr Ross Gillespie**

Ross Gillespie joined the Board in September 2021. He is an Executive Director with FinTrU and Head Coach at Swim Belfast.

Mrs Nicola Connery (School Principal) is also a member of the Board.

## **STAFF CHANGES**

Staff changes at June 2024 included the following members of teaching staff who have moved on from Strathearn School.

Mrs F Cochrane

Miss A Turner

Mrs B Mawhinney

## **SCHOOL SECURITY**

Strathearn recognises the need to provide a secure learning and working environment for pupils and staff.

Visitors to the School are required to sign in at Reception and wear a Visitor's badge, if not accompanied by a member of staff.

All staff exercise a collective responsibility for the identification of any stranger. Both sites have a perimeter fence to improve security. In addition, the main campus has a CCTV network and controlled access on the doors.

**FINANCIAL STATEMENTS 2023/24**  
**REVENUE ACCOUNT - YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	Notes	2024 £	%	2023 £	%
<b>INCOME</b>					
School budget share		4,187,736	74.9	4,158,500	81.3
EA-additional resources		713,647	12.8	265,868	5.2
Tuition fees		645,923	11.5	642,406	12.6
Other Income		42,529	0.8	48,993	1.0
		<u>5,589,835</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>5,115,767</u>	<u>100.0</u>
<b>EXPENDITURE</b>					
Employees - Teaching Staff		3,893,371	69.2	3,484,326	67.8
Employees - Non-Teaching Staff		1,044,372	18.6	933,055	18.2
Curriculum Costs		111,584	2.0	98,369	1.9
Examinations		65,560	1.2	57,556	1.1
Premises costs	1	350,361	6.2	388,991	7.6
Establishment costs		160,551	2.8	162,784	3.1
Covid related costs		0	0	15,478	0.3
		<u>5,625,799</u>	<u>100.0</u>	<u>5,140,559</u>	<u>100.0</u>
<b>SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)</b>		<u>(35,964)</u>		<u>(24,792)</u>	

## BALANCE SHEET - 31 MARCH 2024

<b>FIXED ASSETS</b>		<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>Notes</b>	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Tangible Assets	2	<u>16,601,113</u>	<u>17,091,956</u>
<b>CURRENT ASSETS</b>			
Stocks		2,725	2,318
Debtors		701,318	192,306
Investments		1,558,547	1,512,896
Cash at bank and in hand		366,674	465,376
		<u>2,629,264</u>	<u>2,172,896</u>
<b>CREDITORS: amounts falling due within one year</b>		<u>(1,045,305)</u>	<u>(688,528)</u>
<b>NET CURRENT ASSETS</b>		<u>1,583,959</u>	<u>1,484,368</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS LESS CURRENT LIABILITIES</b>		18,185,072	18,576,324
<b>RESERVES</b>			
Designated School funds		1,558,547	1,512,896
Revaluation Reserve		2,100,000	2,100,000
Unrestricted funds	4	<u>14,526,525</u>	<u>14,963,428</u>
<b>SCHOOL FUNDS</b>		<u>18,185,072</u>	<u>18,576,324</u>

## **NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS**

### **YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

- 1** Maintenance of buildings and grounds, purchase of non-instructional equipment, heat, light and power, cleaning, laundry and rent, rates and insurance.

**2 Net book value**

	<b>2024</b>	<b>2023</b>
	<b>£</b>	<b>£</b>
Freehold land and buildings	16,415,962	16,846,490
Plant and equipment	25,575	160,095
Furniture and fittings	112,866	81,175
Motor Vehicles	<u>46,710</u>	<u>4,196</u>
	<u>16,601,113</u>	<u>17,091,956</u>

**3 Unrestricted Funds**

At 31 March 2023	14,963,428	15,965,006
(Deficit) on school accounts	(35,964)	(24,792)
(Deficit)/Surplus on canteen account	(29,141)	30,986
Net interest receivable	45,264	8,496
School funds	328,061	234,363
Depreciation	(699,472)	(672,460)
Transfer to Designated Funds	<u>(45,651)</u>	<u>(308,171)</u>
At 31 March 2024	<u>14,526,525</u>	<u>14,963,428</u>