



Strathearn School 2018





**W**elcome to the Strathearn School Magazine for 2018. The pages that follow represent our attempt to celebrate the life of the school and the achievements of our pupils. We had a brilliant start to the academic year, with the GCSE pupils achieving our best results ever. You can read more about this in the section on our annual Prize Night. This event celebrated academic success, but we also invited some of our sixth form pupils to the stage to tell us about other aspects of Strathearn life.

Ellen Gilpin spoke about her involvement in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, and Bethany Craig told us about the school's House system. We also heard from Head Girl, Ella Reid, who spoke about her time as a pupil in both the Preparatory Department, Penrhyn, and the senior school. I feel that if you want to find out about a school, you have to start by listening to the pupils themselves; you can read what the girls had to say later in this magazine.

As you look through the articles ahead, I hope that you get a sense of the wide range of activities in which our pupils are involved. It is always tricky to pick out highlights of the year, but at this stage I would like to draw your attention to a few key sections of the magazine. Drama productions are always very exciting events in the Strathearn calendar. Joanne Allen, L6, had a leading role in our production of *The Sound of Music*, and her report provides a really interesting insight into all of the work that is involved behind the scenes.

Our Preparatory Department is also well represented in the magazine, with lots of articles and photographs relating to Penrhyn's extra-curricular activities and school trips. Many of these reports have been written by the girls themselves, so again, we get to hear the pupils' voices in the pages of this magazine.

I think it is safe to say, however, that one of the main highlights of Strathearn's year has been the Chamber Choir's success in the nationwide Songs of Praise Young Choir of the Year competition. We have dedicated a full page to this event, and we hope you enjoy reading about it and seeing the happiness on the girls' faces as they celebrate their victory.

We have also enjoyed significant success in Hockey and Athletics; these are celebrated in articles written by sixth form pupils Ellen Gilpin, Victoria Hamilton, Olivia Nelson and Alex Reilly.

We are also very grateful for the support of our Parents' Association which, as always, has had a busy year running a range of enjoyable fund-raising activities. We have included an article and some photographs to give a flavour of the work that they do.

It is probably fair to say that a magazine can never quite sum up everything about school life. We do hope, however, that as you look through the pages that follow, you get a real sense of what it is like to be part of the Strathearn community. It's a community that encourages its pupils to enjoy life, empowers them as individuals, and gives them opportunities to excel in their chosen pursuits.

*M. Connery*



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Miss A Jordan BSc

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Miss O McParland BA MA

Mrs R Shaw PGATC

Mrs S Vollands

Mrs D Welsh BA Dip IS

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Mr T McConnell

Mr M Paxton

**CATERING STAFF**

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Ms N McMaster

Ms M Mellon

Mrs C Nesbitt

Mrs N O'Brien

Miss C Stewart

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Ms J Clinging

Ms N Gardener

Mrs C Harper

Mrs L Howe

Ms C Macartney

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In August we welcomed our new Form 1 to Strathearn for their first day. This is always a very exciting time for all of our new girls! We understand that the transition from P7 to Form 1 can be challenging, and so we take great care to ensure that the girls feel supported through this process. We ensure that they are given plenty of opportunities to make new friends, both within their form classes and across the year group as a whole.

It was great to see the girls settle in to their new routines quite quickly and enjoy all the new activities on offer. In September we had a great day out at Belfast Zoo, where new friends were made and new animals were discovered! Later on in the term, the girls took part in a charity event to raise funds for a local family centre run by the Salvation Army. We were delighted to be able to present a cheque to The Thorndale Centre for over £1900 just before Christmas. This was a great effort by the girls and one which was hugely appreciated by all at the centre.

I am really pleased to see that the girls have been very enthusiastic about getting involved with all aspects of school life, from sport to music to drama. The year has gone by so quickly and I hope that our new Form 1 pupils have enjoyed their first experiences of Strathearn.

*Miss J Stewart, Head of Form 1*



## FORM 1S

*Back Row: Eva Diekemper, Olivia Todd, Eloise McClelland, Charlotte Moore, Rhianna-Katie Paul*

*Middle Row: Faith McFerran, Hannah De Freitas, Orla Millard, Amy Powell, Holly Kidd, Cece Buchanan, Darcy Blair, Ria Cimic, Mrs Rea*

*Front Row: Carys Jones, Drea Doudican, Eilidh Blair, Jaya Armstrong, Jodie Hall, Caitlyn Watson, Cara Tuira*





**FORM 1T**

- Back Row: Katherine Boyle, Kristyn Anthony, Amelia Hazle, Zoe McCausland, Charlotte Mclroy, Eve Harrison, Eva Hamilton*  
*Middle Row: Mishka Sienes, Elessa Deeny, Sophia Cochrane, Georgia Armstrong-Reid, Katie Hinds, Laura Dunlop, Thalia Taylor, Rhiannon Davies, Miss Stewart*  
*Front Row: Molly O’Kane, Gemma Dolan, Emily Wilson, Idoia Oszcoz, Alex Dougherty, Kate McConkey, Taryn Phillips-Morrow*



**FORM 1R**

- Back Row: Evie Rutherford, Sarah Hylands, Elena Gourley, Sophie Livingstone, Sarah Lennon, Louise Brown, Darcey Gibson*  
*Middle Row: Hannah Gilpin, Eva Lappin, Laura Irwin, Maeve Clarke, Emily Simpson, Amy McClean, Abbie McNamara, Madeleine Evans, Mrs Morrow*  
*Front Row: Alexandra Butters, Isla McKelvey, Hayley Yago, Claire Davidson, Lara Johnston, Imani Forde, Isabella Graham*





### FORM 1A

- Back Row:** *Katlyn Martin, Anna Mounstephen, Hannah Legge, Zoe Green, Sophie Johnston, Grace Sinclair*
- Middle Row:** *Ruby Moore, Isla Mitchelson, Naomi Telford, Lucinda Park, Bethany Johnston, Evie McMullan, Rachel Boal, Grace Anderson, Miss McGahon*
- Front Row:** *Libby Nesbitt, Annabel Ennis, Zaynab Sabri, Abby Harper, Jiyun Park, Alice Gilpin, Miranda Patterson*



### FORM 1H

- Back Row:** *Ellie Patrick, Zara Cheung, Eve Gorman, Angeliqe Toombs, Iona Holt, Katie Bramley, Sarah Somerville, Madelaine Haldane*
- Middle Row:** *Kinga Kloskowska, Niamh Long, Nadya Krumov, Grace Steed, Lucy Wills, Annabel Harron, Emma Heasley, Kathryn Rankin*
- Front Row:** *Beth Chivers, Hannah Dadley-Young, Amelie Euler, Shirley Jiang, Sarah Mavitty, Olivia Nesbitt, Emmy Thornton*



*Ella Reid is this year's Head Girl. On this page she answers some questions about her time at Strathearn.*

**Q What is your favourite memory from primary school?**

**A** I went to Penrhyn and my best memory is my P7 trip to Carlingford. Although now it doesn't seem like a very big journey as it's only an hour away, to my eleven year-old self it was a very big deal as it was the first time I was going away without my parents. I was nervous at the beginning, but my worries soon eased and I forgot about my homesickness whilst taking part in many outdoor activities such as canoeing and rock-climbing. I remember feeling proud of myself and it made me a lot less nervous about doing things like that in the future.

**Q What is your favourite memory from your time at Strathearn?**

**A** I would have to say my best memory from my seven years at Strathearn is being appointed Head Girl. It has been such an honour and privilege this year to work with Shannon and Katy alongside Mrs Connery and Mrs Myers. It has been a great way to spend my final year at Strathearn and will be something I will never forget.

**Q What are your extracurricular interests?**

**A** I take singing lessons and I have been in the choir throughout school. In Form 5, I joined the Chamber Choir and this has been one of my favourite parts of extra-curricular life at Strathearn. Mrs McIvor works us very hard, with rehearsals up to three lunchtimes a week, however our hard work always pays off and I have been able to take part in several festivals and competitions with the choir. These include winning the Songs of Praise School Choir of the Year competition which was a fantastic way to end my last year in the Chamber Choir.

**Q What is your favourite book and why?**

**A** It is hard to pick a favourite book, as I like so

many for so many different reasons. However, the first author whose books I read and who will always be one of my favourites is Roald Dahl. I was given a set of his books in primary school as a present and within a short space of time I had read them all several times. Although it has been a while since I have last read a Roald Dahl book, the imagination and creativity that went into his writing inspires me to this day.

**Q What do you like to do in your spare time?**

**A** I really love music and along with singing I also play piano. I find it a really relaxing hobby. If I need a break from homework or revision after a busy day at school, I am able to sit down at the piano and take my mind off any stress for half-an-hour. This really helps keep me sane – especially in the run-up to exams!

**Q What would you say is the biggest challenge involved in the role of Head Girl?**

**A** The biggest challenge was organising the formal. It was a big task and we wanted to be able to make the night perfect for everyone. However, even though it was the biggest challenge it definitely paid off as we all had such a great night!

**Q Do you have any advice for new pupils to Strathearn?**

**A** For anyone beginning Strathearn I would say to take part in as many things as possible. Sometimes you end up enjoying things you don't expect to. It will also help you make friends with girls not only in your own year, but also throughout the different year groups. Also, really listen and take on board the advice from your teachers as they all have your best interests at heart and want you to do the best you possibly can – they really give you so much support here in Strathearn.

**Q What are your plans for next year?**

**A** I am planning to go to the University of Southampton to study podiatry. Although I am going to miss Strathearn, I am excited to begin the next chapter of my life.



*Shannon Montgomery, Deputy, Ella Reid, Head Girl, and Katy Skillen, Deputy*





**Back Row:** Lexi McKechnie, Natalie McHugh, Sophie Anderson, Jenna Hume, Emily Martin, Erin McCormack, Emily Hinds, Eden Lamb, Ellen Hamilton, Kristina Herron, Niamh Lemon, Camryn Hill, Amy Anderson, Charlotte Thomas, Nicola McIlwaine, Darcy Shanks, Katrina Kerr

**Fourth Row:** Zara McVea, Nichola Kelly, Rachel McCausland, Georgia Hardwicke, Abigail Acheson, Megan Chambers, Naomi Wylie, Sydney Long, Lauren Kirkwood, Stephanie Black, Kathryn Neill, Jessica Grant, Anna Beggs, Emma Pears, Abbie McDougall, Jessica Leeman, Rebecca Harper, Alanna McHugh, Jemimah Mercer, Amy Greer

**Third Row:** Alicia Grattan, Nina Gillen, Hannah Robinson, Rebecca Robinson, Olivia Day, Chloe Brown, Katie Megarry, Katharine McIntyre, Rachael Geddes, Katie McVeigh, Niamh West, Hannah Johnston, Jenni Noble, Sophie Macdonald, Connie O'Callaghan, Chloe Cherry, Abigail Topping, Sophie Downey, Flo Carter, Beth Rankin, Maia Cunningham

**Second Row:** Ailsa Morrison, Iona Lindsay, Amy Douglas, Sarah McCully, Rhiannon Leathern, Sophie Dalzell, Jessica Collin, Claire Hunter, Sarah McCracken, Emily Buchanan, Laura Gooding, Miriam Parker, Ellie Dobbs, Jill Carson, Beth Watson, Rebecca Mannus, Katie Mackay, Hilary Lau, Ellie Biggerstaff, Jodie Chan

**Front Row:** Emma Ferguson, Katie Caldwell, Sophie King, Mollie McClure, Alex Reilly, Victoria Hamilton, Beth McCall, Alice Graham, Eve Truesdale, Katy Skillen, Ella Reid, Shannon Montgomery, Saskia McMinn, Emily Leitch, Beth Crosbie, Jenni McLeod, Nadia Hall, Laurny Todd, Ellen Gilpin, Bethany Craig, Georgia McCutcheon





## SIXTH FORM OFFICE BEARERS

*Back Row: Eve Truesdale, Jill Carson, Claire Hunter, Miriam Parker, Emily Buchanan, Laura Gooding, Evanna Maxted, Sarah McCracken, Ellie Dobbs, Jessica Collin, Saskia McMinn*

*Middle Row: Jenni McLeod, Ella Reid, Lauryn Todd, Beth Crosbie, Emily Leitch, Alice Graham, Beth McColl, Shannon Montgomery, Katy Skillen, Victoria Hamilton*

*Front Row: Georgia McCutcheon, Bethany Craig, Katie Caldwell, Mollie McClure, Alex Reilly, Nadia Hall, Sophie King, Ellen Gilpin, Emma Ferguson*

## PRIZE NIGHT

**T**his was Mrs Connery's first Prize Night as Principal of Strathearn, and in her opening address she thanked Mrs Stewart, the Chair of the Board of Governors, for her kind introduction, and welcomed Dr Grainne Watson, our Guest Speaker for the evening. She also welcomed Strathearn's former Principal, Mr Manning, and thanked him for leaving her such an outstanding school.

*This is a summary of Mrs Connery's speech.*

We are here tonight to celebrate the efforts and successes of the Strathearn community, and to reward individual success. Welcome, girls and families who are here for the first time, and welcome back to those whose consistent performance ensures that they are here again. I am particularly delighted to welcome the families of our L6 pupils, so that we can celebrate together the achievement of each of the girls in their GCSE examinations. So we celebrate first the great success of the girls at GCSE level. 71% of the year group achieved grades A or A\* in at least 5 of their subjects. 68% of the grades awarded were at A or A\*. This is our highest ever, and it is particularly pleasing to note that again, over 1 out of every 3 grades in Strathearn is an A\*. These statistics are well above the NI grammar school averages. Those are the numbers, but behind them are the individuals who have worked hard with their teachers to achieve this great success. Tonight, as always, we will read out the names of those girls who have achieved so many top

grades, but later this evening, each pupil in L6, will walk across the platform so that we can recognise and celebrate their individual achievement.

12 pupils achieved 8 GCSEs at grades A\* and above. Those girls are Rachel Bell, Rebecca Black, Leah Hutley, Samantha McCormick, Rebekah Mitchell, Jessica Moore, Olivia Nelson, Erin Rowe, Aife Sansom, Philippa Sha, Arianne Whiteside and Louisa Williams. In addition to all this brilliant achievement, 6 girls this year are being awarded with our top prize, having achieved at least 9 A\* grades in their GCSE subjects. Those girls are Kerry Annett, Yuan Chen, Aoife Khan, Isabella Reihill, Claire Whiteside and Sophie Young. Congratulations to all our GCSE candidates on having achieved such super results.

At AS level we were delighted with the strength of achievement attained by the girls. 88 out of the 109 pupils (81%) achieved at least 1 grade A or B, and 74% achieved at least 3 grades A to C. Prizes are awarded to pupils in last year's L6 who have achieved 3 or 4 A grades in their AS examinations. Tonight we reward 19 girls who have achieved this top level of performance, with 8 pupils gaining A grades in 4 subjects.

At A level, against the NI figure of 12.2% for girls in Grammar Schools, Strathearn girls achieved a super 14.2% at grade A\*, and 47.1% of the grades achieved were A or A\*, which is also significantly better than the NI figure for girls in grammar schools.

This year 80% of the year group achieved at least 3 grades A\* to C, and 33 girls achieved 3 straight As or better.

Congratulations to Keziah Beattie for achieving 4 A\* grades, and to Naivasha Pratt-Jarvis who completed her studies at Strathearn with an impressive 10 A Levels - 4 A\* grades; 5 A grades and 1 B grade - absolutely outstanding results.

I am also pleased to report that Naivasha, and Fionn Clarke have been successful in securing places at Cambridge; Naivasha to read Law at Downing College and Fionn to read Law at Robinson College.

All the girls here tonight deserve great praise, but parents, your interest, support and even that essential taxiing service have all contributed to the success we celebrate this evening. I am sure you are very proud of your daughters' achievements.

It is also my pleasure to give credit to our staff for their dedication to the girls. Our teachers' expertise is the foundation of our pupils' education and development. I pay tribute to them, and thank them for their part in the successful outcomes which we celebrate this evening. My thanks too, to the great team of support staff, who carry an increasing burden and work hard behind the scenes to provide materials and assistance to the teachers, and to keep the school running smoothly.

Any school's number one resource is its staff. I am really proud of the staff of Strathearn and of their achievements. On this occasion, I would ask you to join me in showing our appreciation for their work. I also record my thanks to the Principals and staff of neighbouring schools, who over recent years have played an increasingly significant part in the education we provide in Strathearn. Pupils in the Sixth Form move between ourselves, Ashfield Girls, Bloomfield Collegiate and Campbell College. At Open Morning I celebrated the quality of education offered in this

area. Where else within such a short distance do you encounter such recognised excellence in schools?

Last year was a quiet year for staff changes but we did say farewell to Elizabeth Murphy. Ms Murphy joined us in 2002 as a teacher of Art. In 2007 she was appointed as Head of the Art Department. Her pupils appreciated the care and attention she gave them, the thoroughness of her teaching, and they held her in extremely high esteem. She created a very welcoming environment in the Art Department and the art exhibitions are a strong area of celebration in the school. We will miss her thoughtfulness and wish her well for the future.

Liz Flynn started with us as a classroom assistant 10 years ago, and became the School Health Nurse in 2008. Mrs Flynn endeared herself to absolutely everyone in Strathearn. She has coped with almost everything imaginable in school, including dislocations, fractures, seizures and, perhaps most memorable of all, a member of staff going into labour! We wish her well as she spends more time with her family.

I would like to wish a warm welcome to the new teachers who have joined us this year - Mrs Browne who joined the RS Department, Miss Carlisle who joined the PE Department, Miss Davis to come to us to teach Home Economics, Miss Mallon who returns to teach ICT, Ms McDonald in Business Studies, Miss Minihan and Mr Newell in the Languages Department, and Miss Hunter who is teaching a P2 class in Penrhyn. We have also had a number of non-teaching and support staff appointments. We welcome you all to the Strathearn community and wish you a successful year.

At this point I wish to thank the Board of Governors for all of their hard work, support and encouragement for the staff and pupils in Strathearn. Your efforts may go largely unseen by the wider school community, but on behalf of us all I thank you for the time you put into





this role, and the interest, dedication and vision you show in exercising your responsibilities. I particularly want to acknowledge the support, guidance and direction I have received in my short time as Principal. Thank you.

Our Parents' Association does a wonderful job, mobilising support, assisting at events in the Preparatory Department, and organising a range of activities for pupils and parents, although the discos remain our number one attraction! Last year the PA raised a total of £10,500 for the Secondary and Preparatory Departments, which in the current economic climate is tremendous. We are in the process of using a proportion of the money to purchase a new school vehicle. Please, on behalf of the school, do continue to support the work of the Parents' Association and join us at the end of October at our AGM and the performance of the winning House Play.

Strathearn encourages its pupils to excel in many areas of life, not simply the academic. Tonight I wish to pay tribute to all of my colleagues and the coaching teams within the school who offer a tremendous extracurricular programme for our girls.

There are so many opportunities in this school to be involved in music, both inside and beyond the classroom. With a Chamber Choir of 27 girls, a Senior Choir of 103, and a Junior Choir of 108 pupils, singing remains such a vital and enjoyable part of the life of the school. Our halls all fill quickly for the main events in the music calendar – our Autumn Musical Evening, the Carol Service, and the Spring Concert in March. Music is such an integral part of Strathearn life and the large numbers of pupils involved demonstrate its popularity. Tonight we look forward to hearing the Chamber Choir and an instrumentalist as they round off the evening in their usual consummate style. My thanks to everyone who has worked so hard to make it such a successful year for music in Strathearn.

Sport has always been strong in Strathearn and I think it is great that we can say, without contradiction, we have the best sporting facilities of any school in Belfast. Proportionately, we also have one of the highest pupil uptakes of sport in any school in NI. That is down to the great staff, the super facilities, the infectious enthusiasm of our pupils and our supportive parents. Our Hockey Team went from strength to strength last season, narrowly losing in the last minute in the final of the Senior Schools' Plate. We have also diversified into a range of other sporting activities such as orienteering, kayaking and self-defence and we now have a student who regularly trains with an underwater hockey team. Well done to the staff and pupils who made it such a successful year for sport in Strathearn.

One area of our extracurricular programme that has seen significant growth in the past few years is the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. We now have over 60 girls undertaking the Bronze Award, 30 the Silver Award, and 20 the Gold Award.

I would now like to call forward Ellen Gilpin to tell us about her experiences in the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme within Strathearn.

*Ellen's report can be read in full on page 31.*

Thank you, Ellen, for that informative insight into your struggles with the weather on the Duke of Edinburgh expeditions. Ellen is an exceptionally busy person in the life of Strathearn. She takes 3 A levels in Religious Studies, History and Food and Nutrition, as well as being the school's Games Captain. I thank you, Ellen, for all that you have contributed to Strathearn School. Drama continues to bring great fulfilment and enjoyment to many in Strathearn. Lots of the girls at this time of year are involved in our annual House Plays. These demand a considerable amount of time and effort from many of our pupils across all the year groups. The plays are chosen, cast and directed by the senior pupils - and we look forward to this year's plays



in a few weeks' time. Over more recent years, there has been a new tradition of joint drama productions between Strathearn and Campbell College. This year it was the turn of Campbell, who staged a spectacular musical evening entitled *Love Changes Everything*. This was a compilation of well-known songs from celebrated musicals and it was thoroughly enjoyed by all. All of these productions demonstrated the wealth of talent of our pupils, which has been so well developed by the staff over a number of years. Well done to everyone involved in all the Drama productions over this last year.

We have also seen the re-emergence of a strengthened and revitalised House System. The House system allows our House Captains and Deputies to develop a wonderful range of organisational and leadership skills that can certainly be transferred to their future career paths. It has also allowed us to develop vertical integration within the school, in which first formers can get to know sixth formers. This has really enhanced an already outstanding pastoral care system within the school.

I would now like to call forward Bethany Craig to tell us about the activities of the House system in Strathearn throughout the past year.

Good evening. My name is Bethany Craig and I'm in Upper Sixth, studying Maths, Physics, and Chemistry. This year I am the House Captain for Barbour. Throughout the upcoming year, the two Deputy House Captains and I have to organise and support a wide range of House events. This includes encouraging pupils to sign up for sporting events such as inter-House Dodgeball, and scripting and rehearsing with the girls for the House Plays. These are always a highlight of the House calendar and everyone participating in, and watching them, has a lot of fun. When I first started in Strathearn there were a few House events throughout the year such as the House Plays, inter-House Hockey, and the Day of Sport in the summer term. However, thanks to Ms Young, we have a whole new array of fantastic

House events. We now have a Quiz, a Talent Show, and even a Bake-Off. There are also opportunities for the pupils to help others by collecting for their House charities. These events are for pupils from all year groups, which I believe is a great way for the younger pupils to make more friends, while giving the senior pupils a chance to mentor and encourage their younger peers. I believe that vertical integration throughout the school is vital to give pupils the best experiences at school and make the most of all the opportunities they are given.

I look forward to all the events in the year ahead and hope that everyone, both pupils and teachers, take the opportunity to get stuck in. I wish the other Captains good luck, and may the best House win!

Thank you, Bethany. Currently, Bethany is the House Captain for Barbour House and is kept busy with her House duties as well as her A Level Studies in Physics, Mathematics and Chemistry. We wish you well for the coming year.

Throughout the next year Strathearn will intensify its focus on the recognition and achievement of all its pupils. This year we have introduced new recognition and achievement assemblies so that we can share the success and delight of all our pupils.

Ladies and Gentlemen, it has been my privilege to be the Principal of Strathearn School for the past nine months, and in that time I have enjoyed every single day. I am thankful that I work in such an inspirational and industrious environment, with such highly motivated pupils and staff.

As I end my first Prize Night speech, I want to emphasise that I am honoured and humbled to have this role, and I also make the commitment to you that Strathearn will continue to grow and develop so that it can meet the needs of its pupils.

Madam Chairman, honoured guests, ladies and gentlemen, I am delighted to conclude my report on a wonderful year for Strathearn School.

*Our Head Girl, Ella Reid then presented her speech.*



*1st XI Ulster Schools' Senior Shield Winners 2018*



**W**elcome ladies, gentlemen and pupils to Strathearn Prize Night. My name is Ella Reid and I am Strathearn's fifty-fourth Head Girl. I have spent most of my life at Strathearn, almost fourteen out of seventeen years, and I have learnt so much here, from how to read and write at the age of four, to analysing Jean-Paul Sartre works in A level French.

My Strathearn journey began in 2004 when I started P1 at Penrhyn. I can still remember Mrs McKinney, welcoming me and calming my first, second and third day nerves, which slowly eased as I got used to the school. Every day, rain or shine, we marched over from Penrhyn to the Strathearn canteen for our lunch, and although the canteen was not half as bright and modern as Miskelly Deli is now, I loved our lunchtimes and longed for the day that I would be a Strathearn girl at the "big school", as we all called it. I have such fond memories of Penrhyn and it is only now when I look back that I can really appreciate how important those seven years of my life were before I started Strathearn. The first major change in my school life occurred after P7 when I found out that I had got into the school of my choice – Strathearn. At last I got to move up to the "big school". I quickly noticed the change from primary school to secondary school and we all had to adjust to the fact that we were no longer the eldest pupils. In fact, I felt so young and small compared to the scary sixth years who seemed so much older than I was. I could not wait to join in with all the activities that we were offered, and my very enthusiastic first year self obtained the impressive role of a toadstool in the Boucher House Play! Much to my PE teacher's despair I wasn't a natural hockey or netball player, however I was pleased to be picked for the Dance Team in the junior school and to take part in the NICMAC dance competition. Winning this in my second and third year on the Dance Team was an added bonus! Of course, how could I talk about my memories of junior school without mentioning the Parents' Association Strathearn Discos? I don't know if I should admit that I never missed one – not even when it was snowing!

A strong memory of third year for me was the Italy

trip. It was my first experience of being in a foreign country without my parents and it made me feel really independent and grown-up. This time last year I was also fortunate enough to be able to go on the American Exchange trip to Minnesota, where I stayed with an American family and went to an American high school - an experience I would have never had if it wasn't for Strathearn.

More changes came as we entered the new school build. This was an exciting time for everyone, as both teachers and pupils were able to benefit from the new, modern classrooms. Although we loved the characteristic charm of the old school, I cannot imagine that anyone misses running from mobile to mobile in the pouring rain. We are now very used to our spacious and modern new school with all that it has to offer, such as the Miskelly Deli, the Sixth Form Common Room and the new sports facilities.

Another change was when Mr Manning announced his retirement last year. I had grown up with Mr Manning as the Principal, and I remember him taking assemblies in Penrhyn and then greeting us on the first day of school each year. I imagined he would be here as long as I would be.

We all experience changes in our lives. Some may be positive and some negative, and we have to try to deal with them in a way that makes the most of the situation. The next change for all of us in U6 is leaving Strathearn, the school that has been a part of our lives for seven years or even more. We will all be beginning a new chapter in many different places, doing many different things. The lessons we learnt at Strathearn, however, will stay with us and will help us to adapt to the changes that we face.

Finally, I would also say to the younger girls who still have many years left at Strathearn, enjoy your time here and take part in something that interests you, whether it is singing in the choir, playing hockey, having a go at the maths challenge or being a toadstool in the House Play! There is an endless list of opportunities and clubs for you to join and which will help you feel part of the Strathearn family.



*Ella Reid, Head Girl*



## NASHVILLE TRIP

Last summer, a small group of pupils were selected to take part in an exchange with Harpeth Hall, a private girls' school in Nashville, Tennessee. Chloe Cherry, Amy Greer, Hannah Johnston and Beth Rankin spent a week in August in Nashville, each living with a Harpeth Hall pupil and their family. The host families introduced their guests to a range of experiences, such as the Williamson County State Fair where they watched a Demolition Derby and ate as much fried food as possible. While in Nashville, students were also able to see historic landmarks like the Ryman Auditorium and Hatch Show Print, as well as more modern attractions like the Country Music Hall of Fame. Here is what the girls had to say:

'I found the walking tour of Nashville extremely worthwhile, as it allowed me to find my bearings and see the city in a different way.' *Amy Greer*

'My favourite experience from the trip was the night we went to see the school production of

the musical *Footloose*, and then an American Football game at MBA (the local boys' school). During both of these events I got a sense of the school's community spirit especially within Harpeth Hall.' *Chloe Cherry*

'I love staying with "Nashville Natives". You get to see what real residents do and you get to see things most tourists wouldn't. It gives you an insider's view to Nashville.' *Hannah Johnston*

'The family I stayed with could not have been more warm and welcoming. All four of us had the absolute best time!' *Beth Rankin*



*Hannah Johnston, U6T*

## BERLIN TRIP

On 24 June 2017, we headed off to experience the history and culture of Germany's Capital, Berlin. Our first experience was the TV Tower. At 368 metres tall, the tower was a striking sight. What a treat it was to enjoy drinks and cakes in a revolving restaurant that gave us a 360 degree panoramic view of Berlin.

By stark contrast, our next stop was the Stasi Prison, where the East German Communist State used psychological and physical torture on its own people to eliminate opposition.

Another very moving event was our visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. More than 200,000 people passed through its gates over nine years. It had an emotional and unforgettable effect on all of us. It was made all the more memorable given what we had learned in school about the Holocaust and World War Two.

On the last day we all enjoyed walking through the Berlin Zoo, which was filled with some of the most amazing

animals we've seen. We also had shopping opportunities every day; all of us revelled in the wide variety of shops, especially in the internationally renowned Kurfurstendamm.

It was with tired eyes and heavy hearts that we boarded our flight back home. The Berlin trip was a brilliant experience. Seeing the places we had studied in History really brought them to life, and the chance to use our German was extremely beneficial. We are all very grateful to Mr Bradley, Ms Gibson, Ms Minihan, Ms Muldrew, Ms Murphy, and of course our expert German translator, Ms Vincent.

*Katherine Hunter, 5R*





## ITALY TRIP

As we boarded the bus to go to Dublin Airport, everybody was so excited about the days ahead. On our first day in Rome we went on a tour of the Colosseum. As soon as I was inside, I stopped in shock and my jaw dropped. I had never seen a sight more incredible in my life! The next day began with a tour of the Vatican City, which included St Peter's Basilica and the Sistine Chapel – an unforgettable experience! We then took in some of the other famous sights in Rome such as the Pantheon, The Trevi Fountain and the Spanish Steps. Later in the week, we went to San Gimignano - a lovely little village with lots to see and do. When we arrived we were allowed to have a couple of hours of free time – an excellent shopping opportunity!



Our final destination that day was Siena. If any of you are James Bond fans you would love Siena because the opening scene of the film *Quantum of Solace* was filmed here!

Day five was spent in Florence. We walked across the Ponte Vecchio - the most famous bridge over the River Arno. In the afternoon we had a guided tour of the Uffizi Gallery - I found this to be the highlight of the trip. My favourite painting was 'La Primavera' by Botticelli.

Thank you to all the staff who helped to organise the trip and a big thank you to Mr Anderson for making it happen!

*Rebecca Moore, 3S*

## NICE TRIP 2017

On 21 October last year, Forms 4, 5 and 6 set off on the trip of a lifetime to Nice. Our first activity was a visit to the beautiful Saint-Paul-de-Vence, where we all got some great photographs. This was followed by a trip to the Parfumerie Fragonard, where we learnt how many traditional French perfumes were made. We left the perfume shop smelling strongly of flowers, and laden with souvenirs for friends and family. The next day we started our language classes, and to say they were a laugh would be an understatement! Our teachers were complete characters and we became friends with them instantly. We played games, sang songs and learnt phrases that would be very beneficial for us with our exams coming up. We attended these classes every morning for the rest of the trip. We also went to the delicious sweet shop, Confiserie Florian, where we all feasted on the sugary confectionery, chocolates and jams. After a beautiful walk along the Côte d'Azur, we had the opportunity to sit back, relax and bask in the sun while taking in the beauty of Nice on an open-top bus tour. The next day was definitely a luxurious one! We wandered around Monaco, gasping at all the fancy sports cars and yachts. We saved our best outfits for this day! To our delight, there was also an opportunity to shop in Sephora. Soon enough, however, the moment we had all been dreading arrived – our last day. We shopped until we dropped in the beautiful shops that Nice had to offer, and then we were treated by the teachers to a meal in the Hard Rock Café. C'était délicieux! With teary eyes, we finally said goodbye to our beautiful hotel, the wonderful French cuisine and to Nice itself. Although our legs were walked off us, none of us would change a single second about the trip and our memories of it will live on for many years. Many thanks to Mrs Muldrew, Mrs Eakin, Miss Vincent and Mr Newell for taking this great trip.

*Kate Bell, 5R & Sarah Baker, 5S*



## BIOLOGY FIELD TRIP

The Biology field trip gave us a great experience of practical ecology, an important topic for our AS course. We were able to study different habitats and ecosystems in locations such as the dunes at Murlough and the rocky shore at Strangford Lough. We saw first-hand the biodiversity in the different areas and the environmental factors which affected the organisms in each place. We learnt more about these when we returned to the centre. At Strangford we saw starfish, hermit crabs, shore crabs, limpets, sponges and winkles, along with many species of seaweeds. To our delight, Miss Grier caught three butterfish from the rock pools with her bare hands! It was fascinating to learn about these organisms and how they survive in the harsh environment. Back at the centre we collated our data, got our heads down to write up our reports for the day, and then shared our findings with our peers. We prepared ourselves by bringing cups of tea and lots of biscuits to the stables building where we worked, and everyone was happy to get to bed after all the fresh air during the day! Overall, everyone agreed that it was a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience. Many thanks to Mrs Gray, Mrs Power, Miss Grier and to the staff at Delamont.

*Ruby Baxter, L6S*



## WOMEN IN 'STEM'

In November, four AS level science students got the opportunity to attend a Women in STEM workshop organised by Matrix NI. We learnt about Matrix NI's objective for the day - to compile a report for government on how to address the under-representation of women in STEM. We sat together with six other A level science students at a table of student representatives, alongside other tables of educators, academics and industry personnel. Throughout the morning we responded to questions about how we could support women in science and technology. We also brainstormed ideas about how we might encourage women to go back to work after having children, and about how we could encourage a love of science in young children. Our responses were displayed at the front of the room at the end of every round of questions. We were also given an opportunity to summarise our ideas and present them to the room. Following the discussion, we were served lunch followed by lots of cake and sweets, and got a chance to network with some of the other guests. Overall, it was exciting to be able to voice our opinions in such an active way, in a setting where our ideas could really make an impact on the industry. The event helped us to think more about how we could be proactive in encouraging a love of STEM in Strathearn. The organisers of the event told us that we were highly enthusiastic and had a great attitude towards our work. The organisers were also able to help us arrange exciting work placements for June.

*Ellie Mackey, L6T*





## LIBRARY NEWS

Library activities this year began with a craft session for Form 1 pupils. Led by the Library Committee and the Library Team, pupils created bookmarks and book hedgehogs from withdrawn books. This raised more than £80 for Book Aid.

Two teams from Strathearn went to the Northern Ireland heat of the Kids' Lit Quiz, and in November two Form 2 classes met author Nicola Pierce. The girls were given signed copies of her novel, *Spirit of the Titanic*.

The ever-popular Scholastic Book Fair visited before Christmas. This raised more than £700 in commission.

In January, the Library Team baked a delicious array of treats and served tea and coffee to the staff. This raised over £350 for Mrs Agnew's library project in Peru.

In the spring, pupils participated in the ReadOn project with the English Department. This raised more than £2300 for the Cancer Fund for Children. This was also a great year for Book Club. Each week, pupils from across the school bonded over their shared love of reading. Members got involved in a spooky Halloween Book Club, had hot chocolate in December, enjoyed an Easter egg hunt in March and voted for the winner of the Northern Ireland Book Award in April.

The summer term saw the conclusion of the Accelerated Reader Word Warriors competition, which recognised pupils who had read consistently over the year.

The much-anticipated Library Awards also took place, which celebrated the hard work of the Library Team.

Dr Haire



Kids' Lit Quiz



Staff Coffee Morning



ReadOn Cheque Presentation

## PUBLIC SPEAKING

This year, Strathearn's Public Speakers achieved great success in both the Soroptimist Public Speaking Competition and the Business and Professional Women's Public Speaking Competition. Tara Kane and Jenna Montgomery spoke eloquently on their chosen topics to an assembled audience of Soroptimists in Bangor, but it was Tavisha Sood who took the prize for heat winner home with her. She went on to compete in the Northern Ireland Final in Hillsborough in February, and did very well indeed. Tavisha was joined by Rebecca McAlees and Tara Kane for the Belfast area heat of the BPW competition, where she spoke about the glass ceiling, while Rebecca chaired a competitor's talk and Tara gave a thoughtful expression of thanks. The team was victorious, and went on to compete in the Northern Ireland final of the competition in February in Newforge. Congratulations to all those who represented the school in Public Speaking this year. It's a wonderful way to build confidence and gain experience presenting in front of knowledgeable panels of judges.





## MOCK TRIALS

Fifteen of our pupils competed in the final of the Citizenship Foundation's Magistrates' Court Mock Trial Competition in Nottingham.

The competition is open to pupils from Forms 2 and 3, who adopt the roles of court staff, lawyers and witnesses. They then run court cases in real court rooms in front of real magistrates. Strathearn qualified as Northern Ireland winners in the spring, and had their day in court in June's final.

Though the girls didn't win, there were a number of strong performances. As Court Usher, Andra Vladu kept things running smoothly, and Legal Adviser, Hannah McCartney summed up the points of law concisely. The adjudicators were particularly impressed by Darcey Jamison, Strathearn's first prosecution lawyer. Defence lawyer Charlotte Keers' searing cross-examination was a great example of clear legal reasoning. Ella Rook and Ellie Massey, two of Strathearn's witnesses, did particularly well under pressure from the opposing lawyers. Student magistrates, including Hannah Stanfield, worked hard to make sure the case was fairly overseen before deciding on a verdict.

The girls really enjoyed their visit to Nottingham. They even donned hard-hats and explored some of the city's caves! The pupils were grateful for the support shown to them by the Northern Ireland legal community, including the Law Society of Northern Ireland, the Bar Library, the Belfast Solicitors' Association, the School of Law at Queen's University Belfast, and by Causeway Asset Management.

The pupils relished the opportunity to compete in this prestigious competition. It helped them to develop confidence, argument-building skills and a strong sense of team spirit.

The competition had more than 240 participating schools from across the UK and so it was a great achievement to get to the final.

This year, Strathearn also competed in the Bar Mock Trial and the Magistrates' Court Mock Trial.

The senior girls made their way to Belfast High Court in November. Molly Longstaff and Ellen Gilpin did a wonderful job as barristers for Strathearn, and Amy Greer held up exceptionally well in the face of a very challenging cross-examination.

The junior pupils' heat was in Antrim Magistrates' Court in the spring. Rebecca Devlin was a compelling defendant, while Madalaine Wilson and Tara Winton were excellent legal representatives. Judges in both the senior and junior competitions commented on the excellent preparation and presentational skills of the Strathearn teams.

*Dr Haire*





## CREATIVE WRITING

Pupils from Strathearn entered a number of creative writing competitions this year.

'In the Moonlight' by Amy Major was one of twenty-five stories shortlisted for the BBC's 500 Words Competition in June 2017. She was the only Northern Ireland finalist in London, and she was invited to speak to Chris Evans live on BBC Radio 2. It was a great celebration of reading and writing, and though she didn't win the overall prize, Amy met authors including David Walliams and even spoke to the Duchess of Cornwall.

Pupils from Forms 2 and 3 wrote and performed poems inspired by the First World War at the Never Such Innocence event at the Ulster Museum. A number of our students were also successfully published by Young Writers.

Students also sent work to the BBC's 500 Words Competition, the BBC Young Writer Competition and the National Youth Flash Fiction Competition. Elena Gourley was runner-up in the British Council Creative Writing Competition, and was invited to read her work at the Peace and Beyond Conference held at the Belfast City Hall in April.

*Dr Haire*



## MATHS OPEN DATA CHALLENGE

Form 3 Maths pupils took part in the Maths Open Data Challenge for the first time in October. They were presented with vast quantities of data gathered from various sectors throughout Northern Ireland. They had to choose a set to analyse and present in a creative way. The pupils decided to create a pie chart made from paper flowers to display data about historic parks and gardens, located in different council areas throughout Northern Ireland. In January, we learned that our team had won a trip to FabLabs in Belfast to develop our idea further. Here the girls set about making a key decorated with laser images, with a structure that would make it more secure and durable. In May, we were invited to bring our final piece to the Waterfront Hall in Belfast for the BelTech Conference and a prize giving ceremony. The Strathearn team were delighted to learn that they were among four schools who won £1000 each!

*Mrs Anderson*





## SCHOOL COUNCIL

**S**chool Council has had a very productive year, working to express the pupil voice in Strathearn. Our busy schedule included sending a group of representatives to Victoria Park Primary School to talk to their pupils about how to run a council. This rewarding experience was a great opportunity to share our knowledge.

We also had the privilege to assist Penrhyn School Council by welcoming two of its members to one of our meetings. The girls found it interesting to watch how a larger scale council meeting operates and offered valuable insights to our discussions.

Senior girls on the School Council also had the chance to meet with local politicians this year, including MP for East Belfast, Gavin Robinson, and MLA, Chris Lyttle.

Several girls from across the school were given the opportunity to participate in the recent inspection and we were really proud that the inspectors described our School Council as 'exemplary'. We also dealt with issues such as uniform clarification, an Office Bearers' review and school newsletter feedback.

We have both enjoyed our time on the School Council and wish the next Chair and Vice Chair the best of luck!

*Emma Ferguson, U6A & Miriam Parker, U6R*



*The School Council*



*School Council: MP Gavin Robinson visits school*



*School Council: MLA Chris Lyttle visits school*



*School Council: Visit to Victoria Park Primary*



*Q & A with Gavin Robinson*



## SENIOR SCRIPTURE UNION

It's hard to believe that, for many of us, our last year in Strathearn is nearly over - but what an amazing year it has been! Our year in Scripture Union actually started in June 2017 with a big plan to revamp SU in school. We organised ourselves into a core committee of eight girls who were all devoted to seeing and making a change in Strathearn this year. When September rolled around, we were all really excited to get SU up and running and focus on our first topic of the year: Community. This year we have been dedicated to building a good community in school, with a feeling of family at its core. We had a great opportunity to build on this at the Making Your Mark weekend in September. This was a residential weekend held by SUNI for SU groups from all over Northern Ireland. While there, our team of thirteen girls got to hear and share ideas about what makes a great SU group. Following that weekend, we decided to join Junior and Senior SU more often so that we could build relationships across the whole school, with our first joint session being led by our first amazing guest speaker of the year, past pupil Chloe Scott! We then moved on to our next series which gave us the opportunity to look at some inspirational women in the Bible, like Esther, and learn how we can apply their lessons to our lives in school. Before we knew it, it was almost December and time for the Shoebox Appeal. It was another successful year, with over 100 boxes donated, so a huge thank you to everyone who brought one in!

After a great Christmas party and the stress of mocks, it was finally 2018 which started our final series in SU on Discipleship. This series was led by our incredible team of teachers and focused on what it means to be a Christian and how to lead a Christian life in school. To end that series, we held a question panel with four teachers and two U6 pupils who all shared more about their faith and gave advice to the girls.

For our last week in SU, some of our sixth form shared their testimonies, and at Easter we gave out chocolate eggs and Bible verses, reflecting on Jesus' life, death and resurrection.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in SU this year and especially to all the teachers who make SU possible - we couldn't do it without you!

*SU Committee*



## JUNIOR SCRIPTURE UNION

This year in Junior Scripture Union we have been meeting during Friday lunchtimes in Mrs Foye's room. Each week, a member of the Upper Sixth committee or a teacher has led the talk. The talks have been on a variety of topics, including new beginnings and sharing faith with our friends. This has been a great time for girls to learn about Jesus and meet other girls in junior school. Many new friendships have been formed.

There have also been many occasions in which Junior and Senior SU have joined together in the Sixth Form Study. This has allowed many of the junior school girls to form bonds with older girls in the school. The girls have also learned some new songs this year such as 'Hey Jesus loves Me' and have been playing some games such as People Bingo. Overall, this year in Junior SU we have been extremely blessed and have enjoyed getting to know one another and form friendships throughout the year.

*Sophie Anderson and Katie Mackay, U6R*

## KAYAKING

The Belfast Kayak Academy's mini bus picks us up at 3.30pm outside the Sports Hall. We go kayaking at Pirrie Road, and we learn lots of new skills, including how to paddle, go forward in a straight line, go backwards, and turn. We have races, play Water Polo in the kayaks, and at the end of our classes we usually have some free time for play.

*Holly Kidd, 1S*

## GEOGRAPHY

This last year, more than most, has demonstrated how vulnerable we all are to the dynamic atmosphere in the sky around us and what it may throw our way. Specifically, two extreme events have had significant impacts on the island of Ireland; Tropical Storm Ophelia (October 2017) and The Beast from the East (March 2018). Tragically, lives were lost and the economy was damaged. Strathearn, like many other schools, faced unscheduled closures due to the ongoing risks. Meteorology and atmospheric studies are an important part of the Geography curriculum from Key Stage 3 through to A level as we educate our students about the physical atmosphere and the impacts of both common and extreme weather events. This knowledge and understanding will become increasingly important in a world of climate change and unpredictable consequences for people and the economy. The more we understand, the better prepared we are to make decisions that protect our lives and livelihoods.

This links with an exciting venture undertaken by the Geography Department this year, as we have sought to contact some of our past geographers who have moved into different study and career paths since leaving Strathearn. One in particular sent us a video from a beach in Miami, Florida where she now works as a tropical meteorologist, investigating hurricanes and extreme weather events. Closer to home, we heard from a past pupil who now works as an environmental engineer for a local company. Others have ventured into the renewable energy industry and non-governmental organisation work in London.



We are very excited about the opportunities Geography provides for our students and this is most evident when we hear from those who once sat in our classes but are now flourishing in employment, putting their Geography-related skills to work. So, will we get through the next twelve months without another 'snow day'? We can't be sure, but what is certain is that we will continue to make understanding the atmosphere around us a priority, so that we are better equipped for whatever gets thrown at us.

*Mr Stevenson*

## FORM 2 SYNAGOGUE TRIP

In class we had been learning about a range of Jewish festivals, Jewish traditions and some of the many rules that are followed in the religion. One of the subjects we focused on was Bar Mitzvah, a coming-of-age ritual that takes place in the synagogue – an extremely significant place to Jews. To expand our knowledge of the role of the synagogue in the Jewish community, the Religious Studies Department organised a trip to Belfast Synagogue for the whole of Form 2.

The bus trip to the synagogue was filled with curiosity and excitement about what it would look like and what there was to learn. When we arrived, Mr Finch – a member of the synagogue – welcomed us in and talked us through the different symbolic aspects of the building and how it is used for Jewish worship. This part was probably the one I found most interesting as I like finding out how cultures portray their history through architecture, symbolic objects and various practices; it's something that anyone can admire.

By the time Mr Finch had finished talking, we were all bursting with questions about Bar Mitzvah and different food rules, which he gladly answered. We were sad to learn that, unfortunately, the synagogue isn't used as much as before, as the Jewish community has noticeably decreased. Nevertheless, the members of the synagogue were happy to let us come in and explore. I think it was a great idea that our school organised this trip.

*Juliette Ruelland-Kennedy, 2R*





## CAREERS

As always, our first term got underway with many girls attending open days, talks and presentations. All U6 attended the Queen's Open Day, while other pupils attended open days at the various campuses of Ulster University. In September, we welcomed representatives from the University of Oxford, St Andrews and the University of Dundee who spoke to girls about opportunities at those institutions. Mrs Hearst ran a series of lunchtime sessions about writing personal statements, and we also had representatives from the army, and from the nursing, teaching and veterinary science professions to inform the girls about those careers. The Form 5 careers guidance interview programme began this term, as did our series of talks from guest speakers.

On 21 November we welcomed thirty-two guest interviewers from a wide range of career backgrounds; as always we are really indebted to all those professionals who took time out of their busy schedules to help our U6 pupils. Mrs Hearst also ran interview workshops and carried out practice interviews. L6 and Form 5 ICT classes heard an inspirational talk from Lisa Smith who outlined the many and varied opportunities in ICT and STEM industries. Form 3 classes visited the Careers Suite to find out about resources which will help them choose their GCSEs later in the year, and Jill Lemon also talked to Form 3 about choosing their GCSE subjects. We also had talks on Harvard University, Trinity College Dublin and a general guidance session on applying to all universities in the Republic of Ireland through CAO. We welcomed back former pupils from Oxford and Cambridge who talked to our girls about life at those universities, while former pupils studying Medicine and Dentistry talked about their courses.

The second term was another very busy one for the Careers Department. All L6 attended the UCAS Higher Education Exhibition at the Eikon Centre in Lisburn, where the pupils could talk to UCAS experts and hundreds of university representatives, employers,

and gap year specialists. We were also delighted to welcome back a former pupil who is studying at Vassar College in New York state. She was able to tell us about her experience of studying in the USA.

Eight pupils attended the Oxford and Cambridge Student Conference in Lisburn over the Easter holidays where they got up-to-date information about the courses, the application process and admissions procedures at both universities.

The programme of guest speakers for Form 5 continued throughout this term. This included talks on areas such as psychology, teaching, languages, the media, veterinary science and business.

U6 had two talks – one on Student Finance to make the girls aware of the financial implications of going on to higher education, and another on Renting and Accommodation. All Form 1 classes also had their introductory visit to the careers suite this term.

In our final term we had an inspirational visit from the Ice Maiden Team who were the first all-female military team to ski coast to coast across Antarctica. Two members of the team spoke to girls in Form 5 about this 1700km journey and the challenges involved and encouraged our pupils to meet their own goals and fulfil their dreams. Form 1 had their Robotics Road Show where they refined their computer programming skills to race a small car around a miniature race track. U6 medical and dental applicants had a Lessons Learned session with their counterparts in L6, to give advice on their own experience about applying for those competitive programmes. L6 had a talk on the importance of being safe on work experience from the NI Health & Safety Executive. All L6 had a week of work experience from 18-22 June.

Finally, all members of the Careers Department would like to take this opportunity to send our very best wishes to all our girls taking important exams this summer.

*Mrs Hearst*



## HISTORY

In April, Form 3 pupils visited the Somme Heritage Centre to enrich their knowledge of the First World War. This was a topic they had studied extensively, allowing the girls to research any of their own family members who might have served during the 1914-1918 War. The interactive experience afforded the girls an opportunity to try on various uniforms, hold samples of different weaponry and even, in some cases, learn how to shoot an unarmed rifle. They were given a guided tour of the centre which included many pictures and stories from the time as well as intriguing artefacts. The girls were then given a talk which included eyewitness accounts of the war and in-depth information about the weapons used. The tour finished with a walk through a replica of the trenches encapsulating the sounds, sights and claustrophobia of the experience of living there in a very evocative and memorable way.

Form 1 then visited Carrickfergus Castle to build on their classwork on John de Courcy and the Normans. The pupils were able to imagine what it was like living in the castle during their tour, with the defensive features of the castle being especially memorable. The girls were also able to try on chainmail and were shown various weapons and artefacts.



Miss Beattie





## ART



This has been another eventful year of achievement and creativity within the Art & Design Department, with our enthusiastic young artists and makers continuing to explore and develop skills across a range of disciplines, including Fine Art, Textiles and Ceramics. Junior school students have impressed with the production of a range of skilful and exciting artwork throughout the year - Form 1 students created imaginative and detailed book illustrations featuring their favourite toys, while Form 2 students have been developing their creative skills through the design and construction of sculptural ceramic vessels. Form 3 devised short group projects resulting in a Hockney-inspired landscape mural, Roy Lichtenstein-style portraits and large-scale pop art food sculptures made from recycled materials.

Outside of the classroom, senior school students have enjoyed a range of inspirational exhibitions and workshops, beginning with the Sixth Form annual Art Trip to Dublin in October. AS and A2 students visited the Sculpture in Context Exhibition at the National Botanic Gardens, The National Gallery of Ireland and the Royal Hibernian Academy.



In October, Form Five students visited the Royal Ulster Academy Exhibition at the Ulster Museum and enjoyed viewing the Poppies: Weeping Window installation.

In March, students in Form 4 enjoyed a visit to the Ulster Museum where they viewed a wide range of art works. In the afternoon, the group attended a workshop with artist Sinead McKeever at Millennium Court, Portadown, where they had the opportunity to explore the potential of sculpture materials and learn about the working methods of a professional artist first-hand. We have been fortunate to have a number of professional artists visiting the Art Department as part of our lunchtime Art Club



*Jam the Jellyfish*

to share their work and experiences with the students. These included Rachel Dickson, Associate Head of Belfast School of Art, Debbie Fraser, jeweller and lecturer, and Ellen Cunningham, ceramicist. These talks were inspiring and gave insight into career opportunities and pathways available after leaving school.

A new after-school Art & Craft Club commenced this year, initiated, organised and hosted by AS level students. The Club has proved popular and AS students have provided a range of exciting activities in its first term, such as tie-dyeing and junk sculpture. In February, the new Art and Craft Club won its first award! 'Jam the Jellyfish' was selected as the winner of the Key Stage 3 & 4 category in the NI Science Festival/Ulster Wildlife Marine Litter Art Competition 2018. This large sculpture was made from waste materials collected from a local beach, and was designed to highlight the issue of marine litter in Northern Ireland. It was exhibited at the Bangor Carnegie Library in February, and will be on show again at the Ulster Wildlife Living

Seas Art Exhibition at the Down Arts Centre in June 2018. The prize was presented to Alex Dougherty from Form 1, who represented the Club, at the Ulster Museum.

Finally, congratulations to Ellie Mackey, Beth Rankin and Isabella Smyth whose work was exhibited at the Ulster Museum as part of the prestigious True Colours Exhibition, which showcases the best work in Art & Design from across Northern Ireland.



*Alex Dougherty representing Form 1 for 'Jam'*

*Miss Whitla*





## CHAMBER CHOIR

It has certainly been a very memorable year for our Chamber Choir! Congratulations to all of the girls and Mrs McIvor for winning the 2018 BBC Songs of Praise Young Choir of the Year title. Hundreds of schools and youth groups from across the UK entered the competition, so this really is a super achievement. The final took place in Pontio Arts Centre, Bangor, Wales, where the girls performed 'Be Still, My Soul' and 'Hallelujah, Get Happy!' Mrs McIvor said "I am so incredibly proud of the girls' achievement. They approached the entire process with passion, enthusiasm and diligence. It has been a very enjoyable experience, which has involved a lot of commitment. As a result, we have all become a close team, sharing lots of laughs and making memories along the way." Mrs Connery added, "This is fantastic news for everyone involved. We are absolutely delighted for them. The girls worked so hard and were committed to performing to the best of their ability. I hope they remember their time in the competition as a joyful and unforgettable experience."



## Chamber Choir

*Back Row: Sarah McCracken, Abigail Bester, Evanna Maxted, Emily Hinds, Eve Elliott, Esther Henry, Lexi McKechnie*

*Middle Row: Tori Jackson, Georgia Hardwicke, Katie McVeigh, Lauren Kirkwood, Emily Marten, Phoebe Spratt, Yuan Chen, Ella Reid, Megan Adair, Mollie McClure*

*Front Row: Hannah Cowan, Íde Simpson, Miriam O'Reilly, Zara Hamilton, Saioa Oscoz, Amy Bole, Beth Strahan, Joanne Allen, Georgia McCutcheon*

*Absent: Ellie Mackey, Leah Fleming, Georgia McCutcheon*





### Junior Choir

- Back Row:** Aoife Moore, Rachel Neale, Grace Bowman, Kathryn Finlay, Madalaine Wilson, Martha Gooding, Sarah Lowry, Rebecca Moore, Isabella Todd, Hannah Stanfield, Ella Keane, Lauren Nesbitt, Sophie Thomas, Eloise McKnight, Ciara West, Ellie Van Giesen, Cheryl Watson, Alex Graham
- Third Row:** Kristyn Anthony, Lauren Mooney, Iona Holt, Eve Gorman, Maddie Twamley, Ellie Johnston, Madeleine Terry, Anna Hughes, Zara Rintoul, Natalya Ricketts, Madeleine Heawood, Joanna Carson, Nicole Gallagher, Angelique Toombs, Elena Gourley, Molly Leitch, Connie Hanna, Andra Vladu
- Second Row:** Annabel Harron, Elessa Deeny, Rachel Boal, Catherine Welsh, Lucinda Park, Lauren Farmer, Rosie Elwood, Freya Beers, Rebecca Hill, Ellie Massey, Nicole Hanna, Sophie Hagan, Hannah McCartney, Laura Dunlop, Emily Hanna, Madeleine Evans, Zaynab Sabri, Ella Simms, Lauren Wilson
- Front Row:** Kate McConkey, Miranda Patterson, Abby Harper, Alice McIvor, Sarah Mavitty, Hannah Gilpin, Isabella Anderson, Caitlyn Corbett, Rebekah Devlin, Madeline Doherty, Grace Steed, Emily Wilson, Jiyun Park, Safiyah Nabi, Ciara Moore, Mabelle Wilcox, Taryn Phillips Morrow

### JUNIOR CHOIR

The Junior Choir is made up of pupils from Key Stage 3. This year there were around eighty members. We met every Tuesday lunchtime to practise pieces for performance. Ms Kimber is our conductor and leads the rehearsals with enthusiasm each week.

Our first performance of the year was at the Christmas Carol Service, where we sang two songs. The first was called "Who would send a baby?". It was about how God sent a tiny baby into the world to save everyone from their sins. It portrayed the message of Christmas in a very poignant way. The second song was called "Diamond Bright". It was about the special night that Jesus was born. Our performance at the Carol Service went very well and hopefully everyone enjoyed it. After the Christmas holidays we began practising for our second performance at the Spring Concert. We sang two songs from the current musical *Dear Evan Hansen*. We sang the songs alongside the Senior Choir which provided a good opportunity to work with the older girls. It also meant that we were able to sing more complicated harmonies and improve our singing. The first song was about a boy who felt very lonely because nobody seemed to notice him. It was called "Waving Through a Window". This song was particularly challenging as it involved a difficult key change. Our second song was more optimistic. It was called "You Will Be Found", and was about how nobody is alone if they just reach out for help. We performed for a large crowd of friends and family who seemed to appreciate the evening.

Junior Choir provides a great opportunity to improve our singing, develop new skills and meet new friends. I have really enjoyed singing in the Junior Choir this year.

Laura Gordon, 3T



### Senior Choir

*Back Row: Olivia Creighton, Abigail Bester, Evanna Maxted, Emily Hinds, Laura Gooding, Ellie Massey, Emma Lennon, Nicole Lawther, Esther Henry, Sophie Anderson*

*Fourth Row: Beth Strahan, Emily Marten, Emma Gibson, Orla Bannister, Jill Carson, Lexi McKechnie, Eve Elliott, Jenna Hume, Jessica Collin, Faye Donaghy, Rose Templeton, Katherine Hunter, Phoebe Spratt, Rosie Park*

*Third Row: Katie McVeigh, Megan Allen, Eva Blakely-Hewitt, Katie McMeekin, Lauren Kirkwood, Rachel McCausland, Chloe Brown, Yuan Chen, Philippa Sha, Lauren White, Abigail Acheson, Shannon Montgomery, Georgia Hardwicke, Amy Cooper, Ruby Allen, Emily Parker, Tori Jackson, Anna Conway*

*Second Row: Emma Reid, Laura Graham, Zara Hamilton, Rhiannon Dowie, Faith Roberts, Charlotte Crawford, Naomi Cochrane, Mollie McClure, Ella Reid, Nadia Hall, Martha McCamley, Rachael Campbell, Amy Long, Sarah Blackmore, Sophia Hamilton, Saioa Oscoz, Sophie Neale, Eva Aston*

*Front Row: Katie Campbell, Jessica Butters, Eve Greer, Sarah Mclvor, Halah Irvine, Erin Vogan, Íde Simpson, Rebekah Hamill, Amy Bole, Miriam O'Reilly, Hannah Cowan, Darcey Jamison, Katie Mackay, Georgia McCutcheon, Iona Lindsay, Jasper Donaghy, Jodie Chan*

### SENIOR CHOIR

**A**n enthusiastic group of eighty Senior Choir members met to rehearse every Monday afternoon throughout the first two terms. This choir is open to all senior students who enjoy singing and want to improve their skills, develop their vocal tone and learn three-part choral repertoire. We worked on two Christmas songs, "Precious moment" by Will Todd and the classic "Angels' carol" by John Rutter, for performance in the school Carol Service. Our large-scale piece for the Spring Concert was a set of two numbers from the musical *Dear Evan Hansen*, working in conjunction with the Junior Choir. These arrangements were challenging for such a large choir, but patience and hard work really paid off and the final performances, with superb solo sections sung by Emily Marten and Beth Strahan, were very enjoyable and effective.

### CHAMBER ORCHESTRA

**F**or the third year in a row, the Chamber Orchestra performed at the annual Spring Concert. This group is comprised of pupils who have achieved or are working on Grade 6 and above. This year we had musicians from Form 1 right up to Upper Sixth. Mrs Mclvor rehearsed with us on Wednesday mornings, and with only a few short weeks of practice, we were ready to perform. In the concert itself, we played "I Dreamed a Dream" from the musical *Les Misérables*, and "Lord of the Dance". This was one of my favourite pieces from my time in Orchestra and Chamber Orchestra. Our performance went really well and everyone enjoyed it - both the audience and musicians alike.

Chamber Orchestra provides a great opportunity for pupils to come and stretch their abilities and make new friends within the school, as well as playing beautiful music and having fun!

Bethany Craig, U6A





### Traditional Group

**Back Row:** Lauren Mooney, Lauren White, Charlotte Crawford, Sydney Heatley

**Front Row:** Rosie Elwood, Stella Moore, Kristyn Anthony, Iona Porter, Emily Wilson

### TRADITIONAL GROUP

At lunchtime on Thursdays, a group of us attended Traditional Group which is run by Miss Taaffe. We have been learning lots of traditional Irish pieces. They are really fun to learn and hopefully sound great once we have finished! We have a range of instruments, including fiddles, flutes, tin whistles, harps and guitars and we try to pick pieces that work with all these instruments. Some of the pieces that we have played include “Out in the Ocean”, “The Honeysuckle”, “Rights of Man” and “Rosemary Lane”. Hopefully everyone enjoyed our performance at the Spring Concert. Anyone who plays a musical instrument that is used in traditional Irish music should definitely come along!

*Stella Moore & Sydney Heatley, 2H*

### ORCHESTRA

Orchestra rehearses on Wednesday afternoons, and is open to pupils from Forms 1 to U6 who have reached at least Grade 2 standard in their instrument. This year we learned “Farandole” from L’Arlésienne Suite by Bizet, “An Irish Party In Third Class” from the movie *Titanic* and the “Feather Theme” from *Forrest Gump* (with a piano solo by Orla Bannister) which we then performed at the Autumn Musical Evening. At the Spring Concert we performed a medley from the movie *Sing* and a medley from the movie *La La Land* (with a violin solo played by Yuan Chen) which both sounded amazing.

*Emma Gibson, L6H*



### Orchestra

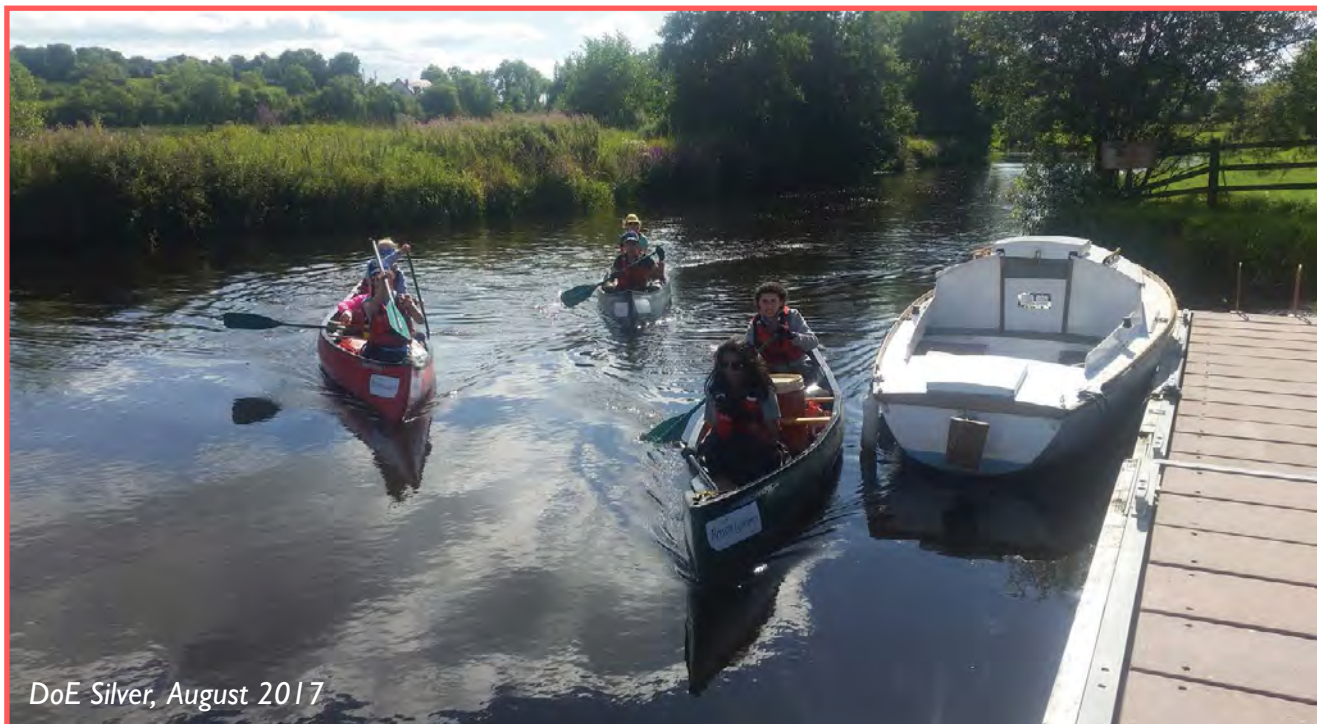
**Back Row:** Orla Bannister, Beth Minnis, Ella Keane, Sarah West, Lauren Ayre, Emma Lennon, Amy Major, Elly Ryan, Abigail Bester, Jill Carson, Kathryn Neill

**Third Row:** Rachael Campell, Lauren White, Lois Whiteside, Eva Perrott, Lauryn Todd, Bethany Craig, Emma Gibson, Yuan Chen, Lilli Boyd, Katherine Hunter, Sophie Thomas, Naomi Cochrane, Miriam O’Reilly

**Second Row:** Lauren Mooney, Amy Bole, Tori Jackson, Jemima Thomas, Joanna Carson, Martha Gooding, Daisy Johnston, Anna Hughes, Sophia Hamilton, Anna Conway, Kathryn Finlay, Ciara Moore

**Front Row:** Jiyun Park, Rebekah Devlin, Hannah Watson, Sophie Hagan, Olivia Todd, Rosie Elwood, Stella Moore, Lucy Bole, Emily Watson, Faith Heyburn, Hannah Pollock Chan, Amelie Euler, Caitlyn Watson





DoE Silver, August 2017

## DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME

I want you to picture the scene. It's 17 August 2017. It's three o'clock in the morning and it's pitch black. The school mini-bus has just pulled into the lay-by on Sydenham Avenue. The side door opens and nine girls about to enter Upper Sixth tumble out. We are tired, hungry and absolutely soaked to the skin. You would hardly think that this was an enjoyable way to spend part of our summer holidays. We are, however, all buoyant! We've just had one of the most challenging, exhilarating and thoroughly enjoyable few days of our time at Strathearn. We've just completed our Gold Duke of Edinburgh expedition. The Gold Award, just like the Bronze and Silver levels, sees those participating in it engage in learning a new skill, volunteering and taking part in some form of physical activity.

In my case at Gold level, I learnt to coach primary school girls at Hockey, I taught a Sunday School class at my local church, and I improved my tennis skills. Unlike Bronze and Silver, the Gold Award also requires participants to attend a residential camp. I did this last summer when I spent a few days on a camp at Castlewellan Castle. Whether it be Bronze, Silver or Gold - at every level there is an expedition. I've found that it's this element of the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme that provides the greatest challenges, but brings with it the greatest rewards. I would really recommend it to anyone. You'll learn a lot about yourself, develop character, build friendships, learn skills, serve others and develop resilience. The lessons you learn will serve you well many years after your Strathearn days are behind you.

*Ellen Gilpin, U6H*



DoE Gold Expedition, June 2017



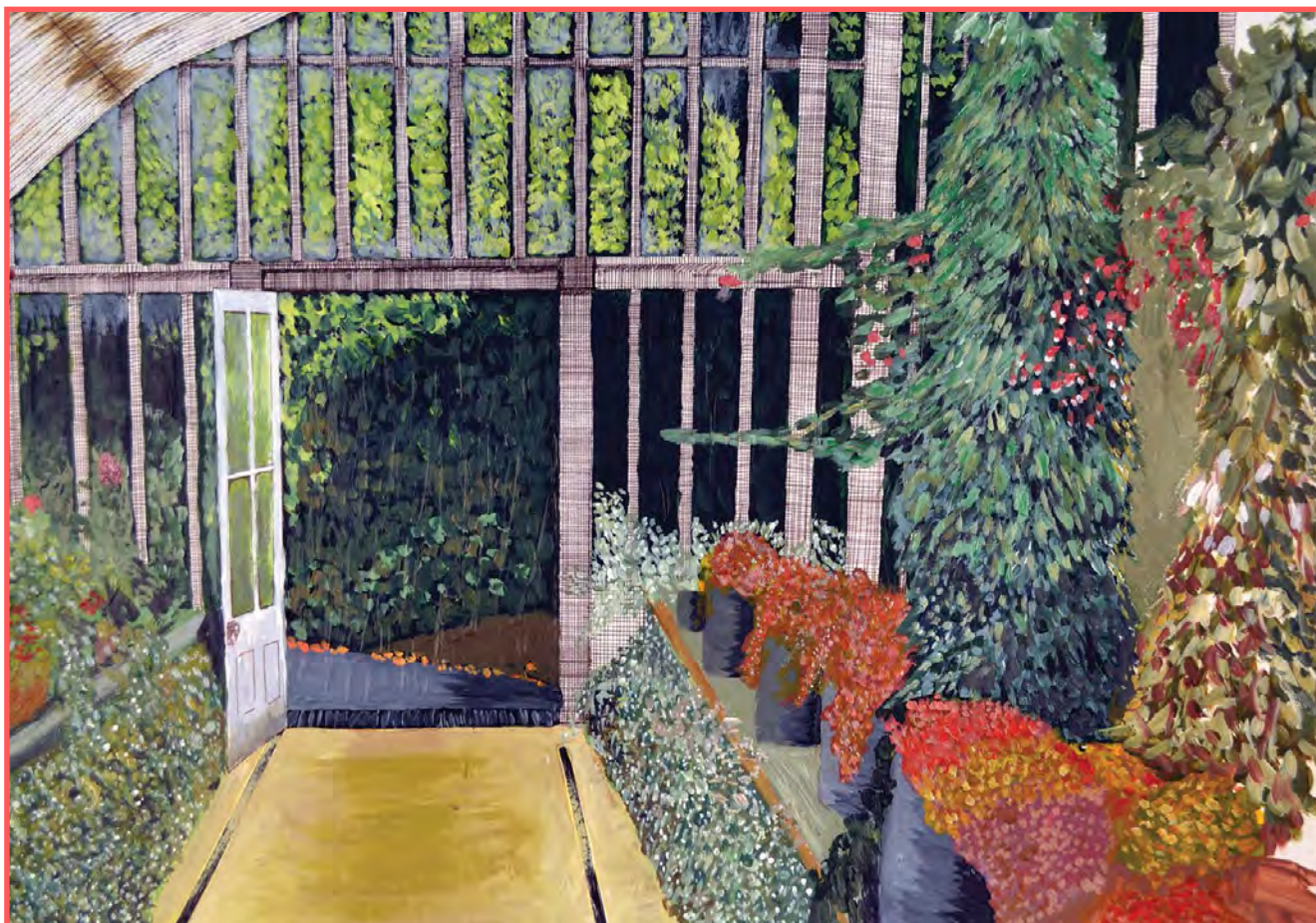


*Lydia McKane, GCSE Level*



*Charlotte Thomas, AS Level*





*Faye Wallace, A Level*



*Amy Martin, A Level*



*Phillipa Sha, GCSE Level*





Ellie Mackey, GCSE Level



Eve Johnston, A Level



## DRAMA TRIP TO LONDON

**O**n a chilly October morning, thirty of Strathearn's budding actresses arrived bleary-eyed at Belfast City Airport, raring to begin an action-packed two days in London. When we arrived at the West End, we were enchanted by a spellbinding performance of *Wicked*. Many of us struggled to refrain from belting out the lyrics from 'Defying Gravity' and 'Popular'! Dinner followed at the stylish Covent Garden, which contains many of London's top dining destinations. We secured a table at a particularly refined establishment called McDonalds - the cuisine was magnificent! After this, we attended a terrifying production of *The Woman in Black*. Before the show began, there were many sceptics within our group who were wondering how a two-man play could be genuinely frightening. All of these non-believers, however, were reduced to quivering wrecks by the end of the performance! We arrived back at our hotel shattered, yet full of theatrical inspiration. The next morning we awoke feeling refreshed and ready for the second day. After a filling buffet breakfast, we arrived at the Globe Theatre - an Elizabethan playhouse associated with William Shakespeare on the South Bank of the River Thames. Our guide gave us a brief, yet highly interesting tour of the theatre, followed by a Shakespeare workshop. After this it was time for another highlight of the trip - shopping! We were given three hours to shop til we dropped in Covent Garden. On behalf of everyone on the trip, I would like to thank Miss Ferris, Miss Atkinson and Mrs Kernaghan for organising and supervising such a wonderful trip.

Molly Longstaff, L6A



## DRAMA TRIPS TO THE MAC

**O**n 27 September, Drama pupils from Forms 4-U6 gathered at the MAC Theatre in Belfast to watch a performance of *The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole* by Sue Townsend. The play was performed by local theatre group Bruiser, and was directed by Lisa May. I really enjoyed going to see this play because it dealt with so many diverse ideas. There were many moments during it where the audience laughed until they couldn't breathe, elements of musical theatre, and sections which dealt with more serious issues.

On 26 April, Drama pupils from Forms 4 to U6 went to see a production of *Abigail's Party* at the MAC Theatre in Belfast. This play was set in the 1970s. This was immediately evident to us from the set which consisted of white fur rugs and zebra prints! It was funny to hear some of our teachers say that they wore this type of outfit when it was actually fashionable! During the interval we chatted to the teachers and used Google to find out more, such as who Demis Roussos was. Having background information helped us to understand some of the humour in the first half and appreciate what was relevant in the media at that time. The play only had five actors with one set role each, and there was no set change.

These Drama trips were real treats, and also provided a nice break from revision.

Leah Fleming, L6A

## JUNIOR DRAMA CLUB

**T**he Junior Drama Club was held at lunchtimes from October until Easter. Attendance was high, with the Assembly Hall initially being used to accommodate three year groups of enthusiastic dramatists. After partaking in fun, dramatic games and activities, the girls were split into smaller groups to work on a variety of short scenes and plays. They were helped in this by the U6 Drama Committee, who were able to offer their advice (and indeed their own dramatic skills!) to the Club.

As always, the Junior Drama Club's Open Day performances were a highlight of the year. Performing short, dramatic interpretations of poems, they provided great entertainment for parents and prospective pupils alike. The response was highly encouraging, and perhaps we will see some of those who spectated this year take to the stage themselves in the future.

Well done to all the girls who participated with such eagerness, confidence and dedication. We hope to continue inspiring pupils to take their dramatic talents onto the school stage – and maybe beyond!

Mr Scott



## THE SOUND OF MUSIC

In December, the Drama Department presented *The Sound of Music* with two performances for local primary schools and three performances in the evenings. The Rogers and Hammerstein musical was a box office hit fifty years ago, starring Julie Andrews and featuring sing-along hits such as 'Do-Re-Mi', 'Climb Every Mountain', 'My Favourite Things' and 'The Lonely Goatherd'. The cast of thirty-five girls from Strathearn and fifteen boys from Campbell College thoroughly enjoyed taking on the well-known plot. I am very proud to have contributed to this production. The experience of playing such an iconic lead was new to me and I enjoyed every minute; it is something I will never forget.

Working with a cast of actors from Forms 2 to U6 allowed us all to make new friends. Auditions and call-backs took place in the spring term, and rehearsals started in September. We had a lot of time to get to know everyone in the cast, as we rehearsed three times a week from September to December. Of course I would love to be able to say everything went smoothly – but that was not always the case! However, any problems were quickly remedied and laughed about afterwards.

I was blown away by the talent that came from the younger cast, in particular Rebekah Devlin and Rosie Elwood who undertook the principal roles of Gretl and Marta. Outstanding performances also came from Sophie Longstaff and Íde Simpson in the roles of Brigitta and Lousia. Eve Elliott and Ross Taylor also gave great performances as Liesl and Rolf.

There were other fantastic performances, which made the musical, such a success: Beth Strahan played Elsa Schraeder and impressed the audience with her amazing vocals. Evanna Maxted played Mother Abbess with one of the most memorable solos of the show, 'Climb Every Mountain'. Halah Irvine, Taylor Healy and Lexi McKechnie, who all gave stunning performances, played Sisters Sophia, Margaretta and Berthe. The Mother Abbess and the nuns worked very hard on the vocally demanding pieces in the show, and gave exceptional performances. Emma Carson also provided a witty take on Frau Schmidt.

The boys from Campbell College contributed significantly - especially Robbie Millar as Captain Von Trapp, Glenn Parkinson as Max Detweiler, Sam Gibson as Kurt, Teddy Bingham as Friedrich and Chris Cannon as Franz. There were also brilliant performances from chorus members from both Strathearn and Campbell.

The whole cast would like to give a huge thanks to the director Ms Ferris, musical director Mrs McIvor, assistant director Mrs Kernaghan and technical director Mr Atkinson. They were always there to save the day! We would also like to thank Mrs Atkinson and Ellie Van Giesen who always knew which props needed to go where, as well as Olivia Creighton, Ruby Baxter and their team of pupils who organised and made the beautiful costumes. Mrs Ingram and her stage crew made sure every performance ran smoothly, Robyn Dunwoody and Sarah McTaggart took charge of lights and sound, and Miss Mallon and her team did make-up and hair.



Joanne Allen, L6R





# HOUSE PLAY COMPETITION

Adjudicated by

Mr S Johnston

25 October 2017

## AWARDS

### Inter-House Drama Cup

*for Best Production*

*A Day in the Life*

Barbour House

### McNeill Cup

*for Directing*

Alice Graham, Evanna Maxted and  
Bethany Craig

Barbour House

### Frances Mulley Rose Bowl

*for Best Actress*

Molly Longstaff

McCaughey House

### McMinn Cup

*for Best Supporting Actress*

Lexi McKechnie

Watts House

### Ievers Shield

*for Best Cameo Role*

Marnie Preston and Mia Wheatley

Barbour House

### Gillian Douglas Award

*for Best Technical Production*

*Take Me Home to Your Mother*

Boucher House



## BARBOUR HOUSE

What an amazing year it has been for Barbour House! When the first major House event of the year came around everyone was geared up and ready for action. The Day of Sport, at the end of June, is a firm favourite and a great way for new House Captains to meet the younger pupils in their House. Despite it being an overcast day, Barbour came out on top by winning both the athletics and the novelty events. The first few weeks back after summer set the pace for a busy few months ahead, as we had to make preparations for the long-awaited House Plays. Alice, Evanna, and I set ourselves the near-impossible task of writing our own play and after a few laughs and debates, we decided on a play illustrating the similarities and differences between two schools - 'Strampbell' and 'Cathearn'. We entitled our play *A Day in the Life* and I think that others will agree with me that although it was a very stressful process trying to hold auditions and rehearsals at the same time as completing our UCAS forms, it was the best fun we've ever had! At the awarding ceremony, we were delighted to find that our winning streak had continued as we came home with Best Cameo Role for our two teachers Mia Wheatley and Marnie Preston, Best Director and Best Production.

In the Potted Sports event, Form I had lots of fun and managed to earn second place. We also managed to get a few extra points from Dodgeball. Spectators could come to watch, and donate to our House charity, which this year was The Purple People Project.

My Deputies and I could see lots of House spirit when we held auditions for Strathearn's Got Talent. After two lunchtimes of being thoroughly entertained by our talented peers, we had a hard time deciding who we should enter. In the end, we decided on having a beautiful duet of 'Ho Hey' which was performed by Joanne Allen and Rebekah Devlin. We also had Hannah Hornsby who performed a very impressive dance routine that she had choreographed herself. The girls' hard work and determination paid off as Hannah won overall, with Joanne and Rebekah finishing in third place.

Our last, but definitely the tastiest, event of the year was the Bake Off. Alice, Evanna, and I had the enviable job of having to try everyone's Easter-themed cupcakes. The atmosphere was very tense, but all the bakers loved the experience, especially when we ended up receiving joint first position with Watts House.

For the first time in nearly twenty years, Barbour has won the overall House competition! None of us can quite believe it! We'd like to thank everyone who took part in any House event this year. Barbour House would never have achieved this without your support and endless enthusiasm. I also need to say a massive thank you to Alice and Evanna, whose energetic and eager approach to things made it so easy to work well as a team. Finally, we all want to thank Ms Young without whom none of this would have been possible.

To next year's Captains, I wish you good luck and hope you enjoy every minute of it - it will go by in a flash!

Throughout this entire year Alice, Evanna and I have had the motto of "This is our year" and it really did work out this way for Barbour in 2018!

Bethany Craig, U6A



L-R ~ Barbour House Captains ~ Alice Graham and Evanna Maxted, Vice Captains and Bethany Craig, Captain





L-R ~ Boucher House Captains ~ Nadia Hall and Ellie Dobbs, Vice Captains and Emily Leitch, Captain

## BOUCHER HOUSE

It's hard to believe that a year has passed since Ellie, Nadia and I were appointed as House Captains, and what a year it has been! Not only has it given us the opportunity to meet many Boucher girls from further down the school, but it has also allowed to us to form life-long friendships with each other and given us memories that we will take with us after we leave school.

The most exciting (and stressful!) time of our year was, of course, the House Plays. Immediately after our appointment, we started to think of ideas we could use to write the play. After careful deliberation, we decided to write a skit on the popular TV show, *Take Me Out*, which we called, *Take Me Home to Your Mother*.

After drafts and redrafts, we began our auditions and picked a talented twenty-eight girl cast and an enthusiastic backstage crew. I cannot thank the girls enough for the amount of time and effort they put in to make the play such a success. I would also like to thank Miss Ferris who worked with us in the run-up to the play.

Throughout the year we were competitive in Hockey, Dodgeball, Badminton and more. Also, Boucher showcased musical ability in Strathearn's Got Talent. We would especially like to congratulate Eva Lappin and Ruby Allen for taking part, as getting up in front of your peers is never an easy task. Although we didn't place first in everything, we were delighted to see the number of girls who participated in the events, all the while showing strong House spirit and enthusiasm.

We are also proud to have raised over £250 for Reconnect ABI - a local charity which focuses on the care and rehabilitation of adults with acquired brain injuries. Thank you to everyone who contributed throughout the year; your generosity will go a long way for the charity.

Furthermore, I would like to say a massive thank you to Ellie and Nadia. They really helped me in so many ways throughout the year, and they contributed so much to our House. Although I was proud to be given the role of House Captain, everything we did was done as a team, and I couldn't have asked for more dedicated, helpful and hardworking girls to share this experience with.

Finally, congratulations to Rose, Sarah and Chloe who were chosen to be this year's House Captains, and I hope you enjoy it as much as we have. Bleed blue!

Emily Leitch, U6R



## McCAUGHEY HOUSE

It's hard to believe that it was an entire year ago when Mollie, Eve and I were appointed as the new House Captains. We are so proud of McCaughey House and everything we've achieved throughout this year. Without a doubt, my favourite House activity was the House Play. I had never been involved in House Plays further down the school but even with our limited drama experience, the three of us were keen to accept the challenge of writing, casting and directing. When we first approached the House Plays, we considered several settings, including a prison and a plane crash. However, we finally decided on the classic *I'm A Celebrity Get Me Out Of Here!* idea. This started a series of many more decisions, many lunchtimes spent rehearsing and many "why are we even doing this" moments! As I watched our plot unfold on the stage from the wings, there was more stress and silent prayers than if I was sitting in an exam hall. However, the entire cast produced two fantastic performances and we all realised that the hard work had paid off as Molly Longstaff won the Best Actress award for us. The whole experience was one of the most challenging that I have been faced with. The most valuable lessons which I have taken from the process are the importance of being organised and how to work with other people. I know that none of us will forget this experience, and we'd like to express our thanks and appreciation to everyone that helped us along the way!

Later in the year, we also had some great acts competing in Strathearn's Got Talent, including a special teacher performance. Congratulations to everyone who auditioned and participated. This event would not have been such a success without the dedication and support of everyone in McCaughey, from the competitors on stage to those in the audience cheering. We were particularly excited that one of our acts came second, and earned us more of those all-important House points.

An especially popular House event was the Bake-Off. Over the course of a week we tried over fifteen cupcakes in order to select our contestants. As enjoyable as that was, the process of choosing was really difficult as everyone had put so much effort in.

Throughout the year, McCaughey also participated in several sporting events, such as Dodgeball, Hockey and Cross-country. These events highlight the very purpose of the House System: teamwork. The House System offers pupils the opportunity to develop friendships with others throughout the school, regardless of age.

Finally, I would like to thank every single person in McCaughey, even if you didn't get a leading role in the House Play or didn't win Cross-country! Your support is brilliant and your donations benefit our House Charity: Dog's Trust NI. This year has been a truly great experience for the three of us and the perfect way to finish our time at Strathearn. On behalf of Mollie, Eve and myself, good luck to the next House Captains.

*Sophie King, U6H*



*L-R ~ McCaughey House Captains ~ Mollie McClure and Eve Truesdale, Vice Captains and Sophie King, Captain*



L-R ~ Watts House Captains ~ Beth Crosbie, Vice Captain, Jill Carson, Captain, and Saskia McMinn, Vice Captain

## WATTS HOUSE

Last April when Beth, Saskia and I were appointed as Watts House Captains, we were incredibly excited in anticipation of the job we had ahead of us.

We were perhaps most worried about the infamous House Plays. None of us had any previous drama experience, but we were keen and ready for the challenge. The three of us met up a few times over the summer and made the decision to write our own script. With the help of a fellow Watts pupil, Lexi McKechnie, we completed *Sun, Rugby and A&E* and were ready to hold auditions. It was challenging to arrange rehearsals around everybody's extra-curricular activities but I would like to thank each girl for their commitment and hard work. When the day came for the performances, we were all very nervous, but also excited to show off our hard work to fellow pupils and teachers. Beth, Saskia and I felt very proud watching the girls perform. Before I took this role as House Captain, I did not appreciate the amount of work that went on behind the scenes to pull off the plays on the day, so I would like to thank our excellent technical team, who efficiently overcame a few technical difficulties, and the backstage crew. Special congratulations have to go to Lexi McKechnie who was awarded the McMinn Cup for Best Supporting Actress.

The Talent Show was one of my favourite events this year. As with the House Plays, we had to hold auditions and pick just two entries from a group of brilliant acts. I would like to give a special thank you to Yuan Chen and Orla Bannister who performed a violin and piano duet, and Tara Winton who sang a beautiful rendition of 'City of Stars'. This was an exciting event for Beth, Saskia and I as we, along with a few teachers from Watts, performed a mash up of a few songs from *Sister Act* with an accompanying dance. This took me out of my comfort zone but was great fun.

This year, the Watts girls donated money to the Go MAD Charity which is an organisation that offers Strathearn pupils the opportunity to go to Tanzania and be involved in building and charity work.

A special thanks must go to Beth and Saskia, who I have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside. This role has taught us the benefits of good communication and organised teamwork. I would also like to thank Ms Young and the PE Department, as well as Ms Ferris.

It has been an honour to perform this role for Watts and I wish the very best to next year's House Captain and Deputy Captains. It is a lot of hard work, but it's most definitely worth it!

*Jill Carson, U6R*



## GAMES CAPTAIN'S REPORT

Strathearn has once again had a fantastic year of sport with many successes for both individuals and teams.

Athletics is always a popular and successful sport in Strathearn, and 2017 proved no different. Many girls competed in the Co Down District Championships and Strathearn came away as Mini, Junior and Intermediate District Champions. Thirty girls then qualified for the Ulster Championships. All the teams performed well, especially the Senior and Mini teams who were crowned Ulster Champions. Due to outstanding performances at Ulster level, sixteen girls qualified for the Irish Schools' Championships. Murphy Miller, Harriet Platt and Kerry Annett were selected to represent Ulster at the Tailteann Irish Schools' Interprovincial Championships because of their performances at the Ulster and Irish Championships. Congratulations to former pupil Megan Marrs who competed for Great Britain and Northern Ireland at the World Indoor Championships in Birmingham earlier this year.

Another successful tennis season rounded off the summer term of sports, which saw the Senior, Junior and Minor Teams all becoming Ulster Champions.

Throughout the year there were great individual and team successes in swimming. In May 2017, Mia Davison and Amelia Kane were selected for the Irish European Youth Olympic Team for the games in Gyor, Hungary, July 2017. This was a great honour for both girls, and they both learnt a lot about the pressures of competing on the international stage. These two girls were also part of our Intermediate Team which won the Swim Ulster McMahon Cup.

In Hockey, the 1st IX were crowned Ulster Schools' Senior Shield winners. They beat Portadown College 1-0 in an exciting match involving some fantastic hockey. Despite the rain, the Strathearn supporters

came out in full force. The 2A XI made it to the final of the Ulster Schools' Plate against Royal School Armagh, after beating Foyle and Londonderry College in the semi-finals. The team played very well, and it looked as though the game was going to go the distance. Unfortunately, Armagh managed to score from a penalty corner in the last two minutes of the game. The 2B XI and 3A XI had a fantastic season, with both teams managing to make it to the semi-finals of the Gibson Cup. Unfortunately, they did not manage to progress to the final, but having two teams competing at this stage of the Cup was a great achievement.

Netball continues to be a very popular sport in Strathearn. This year, our teams competed in the District 6 NI Schools' League. The Minor and Senior Teams both managed to win all their matches and won the District 6 NI Schools' B League.

Cross-country success continued with Strathearn taking all five Co Down titles and the overall Ulster Schools' title for the second consecutive year. The Minor Team went on to win the Irish Schools' title as well, making Strathearn history as the first team to win an Irish Schools' Cross-Country Championship.

There are several other sports which girls participate in regularly, both recreationally and at competitive levels. After the success of the Self-Defence Club last year a Karate Club was set up in September. Other popular sports include, Squash, Badminton, Gymnastics and Dance, as well as Orienteering.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the staff who have been involved in sport at Strathearn over the years. Special thanks to Ms Young, Miss Brittain, Miss Davis and Mrs Grundie for all their hard work. It is through their hard work and dedication that Strathearn continues to be so successful in sport. Also a big thank you to all the parents who support every week in our chosen sports.

*Ellen Gilpin, Games Captain*



L-R ~ Ellen Gilpin, Games Captain, Alex Reilly and Victoria Hamilton, Vice Captains

2017-18 has proved to be another successful season for Strathearn teams.

The 1st XI, captained by Victoria Hamilton, started their Schools' Cup run with a very convincing 6-0 win over Kilkeel High School in the first round. A solid second round 2-1 win over Regent led to us being pitted against local rivals Sullivan in the third round.

Going into the match as underdogs, the girls played really well and established a two goal lead, but Sullivan fought back to level at 2-2. Our girls showed great determination to force the match into extra-time where a slight loss in concentration saw Sullivan score in the last few minutes, giving them the 3-2 win.

Despite the loss, the performance left the team with confidence for the Senior Schools' Shield campaign. In the quarter-final, they beat Omagh 3-1 which meant they then faced Victoria College in the semi-final. Having lost to Victoria in a friendly earlier in the season, the girls knew it would be a tough match. The team started the match very strongly, with Harriet Platt scoring early on to give us a 1-0 lead. Victoria College fought back, leaving it 1-1 at half-time. Straight after half-time, Victoria put a lot of pressure on us and scored to make it 2-1. Strathearn then stepped up their game by taking all the chances they could get and scored two goals from penalty corners in the last few minutes. This left the score at 3-2 when the final whistle was blown; they had booked themselves a place in the final of the Senior Schools' Shield.

On 14 March, the Shield Final was played at Civil Service against Portadown College. With ten minutes to go, we were awarded a penalty corner. The ball was pushed straight out to Erin Stewart who hit the ball with great power and speed straight into the goal. Strathearn's defence remained calm and resolute right to the very end to leave the score at 1-0. Strathearn had won the Senior Shield!

This year, the 2nd XI was captained by Lauren Kirkwood. In the first round of the McDowell Cup they narrowly lost to Ballyclare High School. However, the girls went all the way to reach the semi-final of the Plate, beating Omagh Academy 3-2 and Strabane Academy 8-0 in the first and second rounds. The girls then travelled to Ballymoney for the semi-final against Foyle and Londonderry where they won 4-0 to earn a place in the final. On 12 March the final was played against Royal School Armagh at Civil Service. With just two minutes to go, Armagh put a shot away to make it 1-0. The final whistle came and Armagh had won the Plate 1-0. Our girls should be very proud of their performance - reaching the final is a great achievement. Lauren Kirkwood, Natalie McHugh, Alanna McHugh and Ellen Gilpin managed to finish their school hockey careers with a silver medal and should be very proud of their efforts and determination throughout the whole season. Well done girls!

The 2B XI was captained by Beth Watson. They progressed to the knockout stages of the Gibson Cup after wins against Sullivan, Grosvenor, and a draw against Down High School. In the quarter-final they met Ballymena Academy, and the girls showed a superb level of skill to win 2-1. In the semi-final they faced Friends' School, Lisburn and unfortunately lost 3-1. They should, however, be extremely proud of their efforts and commitment throughout the year.

The 3A XI was captained by Hannah Minnis. They also progressed to the knock-out stages of the Gibson Cup with fantastic wins against Grosvenor, Slemish College and Strabane Academy. In the quarter-final they faced Rainey Endowed, and they showed great strength to clinch a 2-1 win. They progressed to the semi-finals where they faced a strong Ballyclare High School team. Unfortunately, in extra-time, Ballyclare took their chances and scored.

In Junior Hockey this year, the U14A XI was captained by Lara Whitten. They defeated Hunterhouse College in the second round of the Junior Cup with a very impressive 5-0 win. In the third round, they faced Ballymena Academy. The girls all fought hard to the final whistle, however the strong Ballymena side came away with a 3-1 win. This meant they still had their chances in the Shield. In the quarter-final they met Carrick Grammar. The girls showed great strength and skill, but unfortunately after all their hard work they narrowly lost 4-3. The U14s had a great season and showed fantastic skill and determination throughout. They undoubtedly have a great future in Hockey.

The U12s played in the annual Year 8 tournament at Grosvenor, in which they won two matches, drew one and lost one. Unfortunately they didn't make it out of their section, but they did play very well. Good luck for your matches in the future!

Individual congratulations go to Anna Gillespie, Anna McKinty, Molly Elliott, Zara Hanna and Lara Whitten who were all nominated for the U15 Area Board Trials. Well done to the four girls who made the team!

Many thanks to all the PE staff for their tremendous help throughout the season. Thank you also to our supporters throughout the year. A further big thank you must go to Cecil Swinton for the match stats and continuous support for the 1st and 2nd XI Squads throughout the year. I wish next year's teams all the very best and we hope for more success and silverware!

*Victoria Hamilton, U6T*





**1st XI Hockey Team ~ Ulster Schools' Senior Shield Winners**

*Back Row: Maya Savage Newell, Katie Wills, Eve Elliott, Grace Hutchinson, Alex Fawcett*

*Middle Row: Eve McKibbin, Francesca Park, Claire Whiteside, Erin Stewart, Jessica Anderson-Bell, Emma Farrelly*

*Front Row: Harriet Platt, Hannah McCann, Victoria Hamilton (Capt), Chloe Sweet, Zoe Hepworth*



**2A XI Hockey Team**

*Back Row: Amelia Hopkins, Natalie McHugh, Eve Elliott, Anna McKibbin*

*Middle Row: Alex Fawcett, Erin Stewart, Ellen Gilpin, Jenny Wilson, Lauren Armstrong*

*Front Row: Eve McKibbin, Grace Ruding, Lauren Kirkwood (Capt), Zoe Hepworth, Sophie Williams*





### 2B XI Hockey Team

*Back Row: Rose Templeton, Amelia Hopkins, Jenny Wilson  
Middle Row: Molly Longstaff, Katie Caldwell, Jemima Thomas,  
Amber Hamilton, Sarah McDonald  
Front Row: Daisy Moore, Victoria Kerr, Beth Watson (Capt),  
Ellen Gilpin, Megan Adair*



### 3A XI Hockey Team

*Back Row: Sarah West, Sarah Craig, Elly Ryan, Olivia Knox  
Middle Row: Amelia Kane, Hannah Meredith, Tara Kerr,  
Kristin Kerr, Kate Wilson  
Front Row: Leah McClements, Katrina Kerr,  
Hannah Minnis (Capt), Talia Irwin, Rhiannon Brady*



### 3B XI Hockey Team

*Back Row: Hannah James, Jessica Baker, Holly Gilpin  
Middle Row: Evie Hempstead, Rosie Park, Marnie Preston,  
Sophie Kenny, Saya Caddy  
Front Row: Lucy Mashford, Sophie Longstaff, Alex Reilly (Capt),  
Eva Aston, Emma Caldwell*



### U14A XI Hockey Team

*Back Row: Molly Elliott, Lucy Chambers, Anna McKinty  
Middle Row: Ellie Dornan, Tilly Nield, Joanna Carson,  
Amy Ellison, Rachel McDonald  
Front Row: Zara Hanna, Penny Hood, Lara Whitten (Capt),  
Gabiella Park, Hannah McGugan*



### U14B XI Hockey Team

*Back Row: Catrina Martin, Sophie Jordan, Abi Stevenson,  
Aoife Moore  
Middle Row: Lois Gillan, Rachel McDonald, Tilly Nield,  
Lola Gibbons, Alice Henry  
Front Row: Lauren Farmer, Alice Sloan (Capt), Martha Todd,  
Erin McConnell*





### U13A XI Hockey Team

Back Row: Ruby Rebbeck, Lucie McNaught, Sophie Hoey  
 Middle Row: Karis Hamilton, Niamh Hatfield,  
 Cara Murray, Eva Ralston  
 Front Row: Mabelle Wilcox, Lucie Maskery,  
 Jess Ryan (Capt), Connie Hanna, Katie Sweet



### U13B XI Hockey Team

Back Row: Erin McClure, Kate Hunter, Emma Wilson  
 Middle Row: Katie Dawson, Cara Murray, Katie Smith,  
 Anna Nicholl, Aiza Ghafoor, Rebekah O'Tiarnaigh  
 Front Row: Hollie Massey, Anna Kirk, Sophie Thomas (Capt),  
 Eloise McKnight, Hannah Pollock-Chan



### U13C XI Hockey Team

Back Row: Ellie Gordon, Alex Faloon  
 Middle Row: Eirys Leatham, Lucy Hutchinson, Sophia Knox,  
 Rebekah O'Tiarnaigh  
 Front Row: Alice Browne, Abi Herron, Katie Smith,  
 Zoe Boyce (Capt), Ella Simms (Capt)



### U12 XI Hockey

Back Row: Anna Mounstephen, Angelique Toombs, Ruby Donaldson, Sophie Livingstone, Hannah Legge, Amelia Hazle, Eve Gorman,  
 Zara Cheung  
 3rd Row: Annabel Harron, Laura Dunlop, Rhianna-Katie Paul, Katherine Boyle, Ellie Patrick, Sarah Hylands, Charlotte Moore,  
 Holly Kidd, Kaitlyn Martin, Maddie Haldane  
 2nd Row: Emily Wilson, Darcy Blair, Rhiannon Davies, Lucy Wills, Amy Powell, Bethany Johnston, Sophia Cochrane, Kathryn Rankin,  
 Faith McFerran, Idoia Oscoz, Jaya Armstrong  
 Front Row: Emmy Thornton, Eilidh Blair, Drea Doudican, Hannah Dadley-Young, Ria Cimic, Sarah Mavitty, Jodie Hall, Caitlyn Watson,  
 Beth Chivers, Isabella Graham





### Senior Netball Team ~ District 6 Division B Winners

*Back Row: Grace Hutchinson, Katie Wills, Anna Robinson, Arianne Whiteside, Emma Farrelly, Hannah James  
Front Row: Molly Longstaff, Sophie Neale, Alex Reilly, Josie Allen, Hannah McCann*

## NETBALL

This has been another great year for Netball in Strathearn, with many girls from all ages getting involved in practices throughout the week. The Minor, Junior, Intermediate and Senior Teams all competed in the Netball NI Schools' B League.

Special congratulations to the Minor and Senior Teams, who both performed exceptionally well to win all their matches. They finished as overall winners of their age division. The Junior and Intermediate Teams also had superb seasons, playing very well against strong competition such as Bloomfield and Rockport.

Our Form 1 girls recently took part in the Belfast Area Tournament, and both teams played very well. They still have league matches to complete but are showing lots of potential to date.

Rosie Bonner, Seren Evans, Anna Gillespie, Niamh Hanna, Lauren Mooney and Megan Stewart were all nominated for the U15 Future Internationals' trials. Congratulations to Niamh Hanna who was selected for a second U15 RDA trial. Well done to both Ellie Gordon and Lucie McNaught who have been selected for further U13 RDA Netball trials.



### Intermediate Netball Team

*Back Row: Sarah West, Eve Elliott, Sophie Mitchell  
Middle Row: Anna McKibbin, Ruth Gregg, Olivia Allister,  
Grace Hutchinson  
Front Row: Rhiannon Brady, Megan Adair, Grace Ruding*

Inter-House Netball was once again a favourite among the girls of Strathearn. There was a great turn out from girls of all age groups, all eager to compete and support their Houses, making the atmosphere highly charged. Special congratulations to Boucher House who were the overall winners of this fiercely competitive tournament. I hope that this will encourage more girls to get involved in after-school Netball next year.

None of these accomplishments would have been possible without the support and dedication of our amazing coaches, Mrs McLaughlin, Miss Davis and Miss Brittain. We are very grateful to have benefitted from their wonderful coaching.

I look forward to next season and hope that all teams will go on to have another successful Netball season.

*Katie Wills, L6S*





### Junior Netball Team (left)

*Back Row: Megan Stewart, Issy Todd, Rosie Bonner  
Middle Row: Niamh Hanna, Lauren Ayre, Seren Evans, Ellie Van Giesen  
Front Row: Erin McConnell, Lauren Mooney, Lauren Farmer*



### U12 Netball Development Squad

*Back Row: Eve Harrison, Sarah Lennon, Zoe Green, Eve Gorman,  
Eloise McClelland  
Middle Row: Amy Powell, Kaitlyn Martin, Sarah Somerville, Holly Kidd,  
Thalia Taylor, Amelie Euler  
Front Row: Kate McConkey, Alice Gilpin, Ria Cimic, Jaya Armstrong,  
Molly O'Kane*



### Minor Netball Team (left)

#### District 6 Division B Winners

*Back Row: Ellie Gordon, Lucie McNaught  
Middle Row: Erin McClure, Ruby Rebbeck, Sophie Hoey  
Front Row: Sarah Tweedie, Aiza Ghafoor, Niamh Hatfield, Romelly Roberts*



### U12 Netball Teams

*Back Row: Katherine Boyle, Ellie Patrick, Kristin Anthony, Anna Mounstephen, Zara Cheung, Olivia Todd, Niamh Long  
Middle Row: Emma Heasley, Lucy Wills, Grace Steed, Lucinda Park, Ruby Moore, Abbie McNamara, Rhiannon Davies, Zaynab Sabri  
Front Row: Eilidh Blair, Libby Nesbitt, Emily Wilson, Idoia Oscoz, Annabel Ennis, Hannah Dudley-Young, Emmy Thornton*



## GYMNASTICS CLUB

Gymnastics has been a great success at Strathearn this year. The Club was run by the Gymnastics Academy, and was held on Fridays after school. Throughout the year, the girls learnt new skills and worked towards their British Gymnastics Proficiency Awards. A team of eight gymnasts travelled to the Aurora Leisure Complex in Bangor on 4 March to compete in the NI Schools' Acrobatic Championships. The girls faced tough competition from schools all across Northern Ireland. Strathearn entered a team into the U14 Division and placed a commendable fifth. Thank you to the coaches and well done to all the gymnasts!

*Emma Hylands, 4H*



### Gymnastics Team

*Back Row: Hannah Dadley-Young, Laura Irwin  
3rd Row: Erin McClure, Hannah Pollock-Chan  
2nd Row: Laura Dunlop, Niamh Long, Lauren Wilson  
Front Row: Darcy Blair*

## TRAMPOLINING

On 18 November, a team of nine girls from Strathearn competed in the Northern Ireland Schools' Trampoline Championships, held in Ards Leisure Centre. This year, we had an U13 Novice Team consisting of Ella Simms, Amy Wilson and Hannah Legge who all performed very well, with the team placing third. We entered two girls in the U15 Novice Competition - Ellie Johnston and Emma Legge. Both girls competed very well, in a strong group. In the Intermediate Competition, Alexandra Speers and Eliza Chittick competed in the U15 group and performed very well, with both of these girls competing in this section for the first time. Sophie Neale competed in a very strong U19 group, representing the school very well. Congratulations to all those who took part - you did yourselves and the school proud!

*Sophie Neale, L6S*



### Trampoline Teams

*Back Row: Eliza Chittick, Hannah Legge, Emma Legge,  
Ellie Johnston  
Front Row: Amy Wilson, Sophie Neale, Alex Speers, Ella Simms*





**Harriet Platt ~ Athletics**  
*Ulster Schools' U17 Team*



**Kerry Annett ~ Athletics**  
*Celtic Games - Ireland Schools' U16 Team*  
*UK Games - NI U17 Team*  
*Ulster Schools' U17 Team*



**Murphy Miller ~ Athletics**  
*Celtic Games - Ireland Schools' U16 Team*  
*UK Games - NI U17 Team*  
*Ulster Schools' U17 Team*

## ATHLETICS 2016-2017

**S**trathearn's athletes have had another successful year, producing great results in the Co Down, Ulster and Irish Schools' Championships. Well done to all the girls that got involved.

The Co Down District Athletics Championships were held in May. Strathearn were crowned overall Mini, Junior and Intermediate Champions, the Senior Team was 2nd and the Minor Team was 5th overall. The results were as follows:

**Seniors:** Overall Co Down Runners-up with great performances from the following girls: Beth Crosbie 1st Hammer & 2nd 400m; Eve Truesdale 1st Long Jump & 2nd 100m; Natalie McHugh 1st High Jump & 3rd Javelin; Kate Farrelly 1st Triple Jump & 3rd Long Jump; Frankie Lynn 2nd Hammer; Alex Reilly 3rd 1500m; Keziah Beattie 4th 800m; Victoria Hamilton 5th Shot; Sarah Brown 5th 1500m & 6th discus. 4 x 100m Relay: 2nd - Eve Truesdale, Beth Crosbie, Rhiannon Brady and Kate Farelly. 4 x 300m Relay: 1st - Alex Reilly, Sarah Brown, Natalie McHugh and Katie Wills.

**Intermediates:** Overall 1st - Co Down District Champions with Kerry Annett setting a new district record for Triple Jump at an outstanding distance of 10.54m. Other Intermediate results were as follows: Murphy Millar 1st 3000m & 1st 1500m; Katie Wills 1st 800m; Zara Wilson 1st Hammer; Harriet Platt 2nd 80m Hurdles & 2nd Triple Jump; Aimee Stitt 2nd 300m; Molly Longstaff 3rd 100m & 4th Long Jump; Erin McConnell 3rd 3000m; Anna McKibbin 4th 80m Hurdles & 4th High Jump; Eve Elliott 4th Discus & 7th Shot; Hannah McCann 4th Javelin; Leah McClements 5th 200m; Rosie Park 5th 300m; Lucy Mashford 5th Hammer; Sam McCormick 6th 800m; Grace Hutchinson 6th Hammer; Arianne Whiteside 6th High Jump; Erin Stewart 6th Javelin; Ruby Baxter 7th 200m; Daisy Moore 11th Long Jump. 4 x 100m Relay: 1st - Leah McClements, Aimee Stitt, Harriet Platt and Molly Longstaff.

**Juniors:** Overall 1st - Co Down District Champions with many going on to compete in the Ulster Championships. Sophie Longstaff 1st 100m & 6th Triple Jump; Amelia Kane 1st 1500m; Amy Ellison 1st Hammer; Eve McKibbin 2nd Discus & 7th Hammer; Anna Gillespie 2nd Javelin; Anna McKinty 2nd Triple Jump; Amelia Hopkins 3rd High Jump & 5th 75m Hurdles; Evie Hempstead 4th 75m Hurdles & 9th Javelin; Rebecca Callaghan 4th Long Jump & 16th Shot; Holly Gilpin 4th Hammer; Amber Hamilton 6th 200m & 13th Discus; Sophie Kenny 6th 800m; Lara Whitten 8th 1500m; Rebekah Burrows 8th Long Jump; Hannah Meredith 9th High Jump; Sarah West 19th Shot. 4 x 100m Relay: 4th - Victoria Kerr, Tara Kerr, Rebekah Burrows and Sophie Longstaff.

**Minors:** Overall 5th: Molly Elliott 2nd Long Jump; Zara Hanna 3rd 75m Hurdles; Martha Todd 5th 75m Hurdles; Casey Dawson 9th 800m; Mia Davison 11th High Jump & 17th Shot; Mia Montgomery 11th Shot; Alice Sloan 15th Long Jump. 4 x 100m Relay: 5th - Anna Gillespie, Anna McKinty, Zara Hanna and Molly Elliott.

**Minis:** Overall Co Down District Champions with some fantastic performances from the youngest girls in the school. Sophie Hoey 1st Long Jump & 4th 100m; Niamh Hatfield 2nd Long Jump; Connie Hanna 2nd High Jump; Eloise McKnight 3rd High Jump; Hollie Massey 2nd 800m; Mabelle Wilcox 3rd 800m; Freya Murray 4th Shot & 7th 100m; Emma Wilson 20th Shot. 4 x 100m Relay: 1st - Freya Murray, Kate Hunter, Emma Wilson and Sophie Hoey.

At the Ulster Schools' Athletics Championships on 19 and 20 May, Strathearn was represented by over 30 athletes spread across all 5 age groups and a variety of events. There were some great individual successes which are listed below, but of course the performances of all the athletes contribute towards the overall team points. The Junior Team finished in

3rd place, the Intermediates in 2nd while the Senior and Mini Teams went one better and were crowned Ulster Champions! With all points added together, Strathearn were runners-up which is a brilliant achievement, especially during exam time. Well done! The results were as follows:

**Seniors:** Fantastic performances from the Seniors meant they were crowned Ulster Champions! Kate Farrelly 2nd Triple Jump & 4th Long Jump; Beth Crosbie 2nd Hammer & 3rd 400m; Eve Truesdale 5th Long Jump & 9th 100m; Natalie McHugh 5th High Jump & 6th Javelin; Frankie Lynn 5th Hammer; Alex Reilly 9th 1500m. 4 x 100m Relay: 4th - Eve Truesdale, Beth Crosbie, Rhiannon Brady and Kate Farrelly.

**Intermediates:** Overall 2nd in Ulster: Harriet Platt 2nd Triple Jump & 5th 80m Hurdles; Murphy Miller 3rd 1500m; Kerry Annett 3rd Triple Jump; Zara Wilson 3rd Hammer; Aimee Stitt 4th 300m; Molly Longstaff 5th 100m; Katie Wills 7th 800m; Erin McConnell 7th 3000m. 4 x 100m Relay: 2nd - Leah McClements, Aimee Stitt, Harriet Platt and Molly Longstaff.

**Juniors:** Overall 3rd in Ulster: Amelia Kane 1st 1500m (Ulster Champion!); Sophie Longstaff 2nd 100m; Anna McKinty 2nd Triple Jump; Anna Gillespie 3rd Javelin; Eve McKibbin 6th Discus; Amelia Hopkins 7th High Jump; Amy Ellison 9th Hammer.

**Minors:** Molly Elliott 5th Long Jump; Zara Hanna 8th 75m Hurdles.

**Minis:** After successful Districts for the Mini Team, the girls kept up their high standards at the Ulster Championships and were crowned Ulster Champions. Sophie Hoey 1st Long Jump (Ulster Champion!); Niamh Hatfield 3rd Long Jump; Eloise McKnight 3rd High Jump; Mabelle Wilcox 4th 800m; Connie Hanna 5th High Jump; Freya Murray 7th Shot; Hollie Massey 9th 800m. 4 x 100m Relay: 2nd - Freya Murray, Kate Hunter, Emma Wilson and Sophie Hoey.

Following our athletes' exceptional performances at the Ulster Championships, 16 Strathearn girls qualified for the Irish Schools' Athletics Championships on 3 June 2017, where they stepped out against the best in Ireland to perform in very changeable weather down in Tullamore, Co Offaly. It was a fantastic achievement to qualify for these prestigious championships. In some cases our girls were competing against athletes a year above them, and so they really did us proud. We did not have a big medal haul but we did have lots of courageous performances, with many girls just shy of the medal places. We offer all the girls huge congratulations and hope they will learn from their experiences and be determined to keep working hard for the rest of the season and the future. The results were as follows:

**Seniors:** Overall 6th in Ireland: Kate Farrelly 5th Triple Jump & 7th Long Jump; Beth Crosbie 6th 400m & 6th Hammer. 4 x 300m Relay: 4th - Rhiannon Brady, Alex Reilly, Sarah Brown and Beth Crosbie.

**Intermediates:** Overall 7th in Ireland: Murphy Miller 5th 1500m; Kerry Annett 6th Triple Jump; Harriet Platt 8th Triple Jump; Zara Wilson 9th Hammer. Relay: 6th - Leah McClements, Aimee Stitt, Harriet Platt and Molly Longstaff.

**Juniors:** Overall 9th in Ireland: Amelia Kane 3rd 1500m; Anna McKinty 4th Triple Jump; Sophie Longstaff 7th 100m; Anna Gillespie 9th Javelin.

As a result of their performances at the Ulster and Irish Championships, Murphy Miller, Harriet Platt and Kerry Annett were selected to represent Ulster at the Tailteann Irish Schools' Interprovincial Championships at the end of June. Amelia Kane was selected as a reserve. This was a great honour and well deserved by the girls for their hard work this season. Kerry Annett and Murphy Miller were also selected to represent Ireland at UI6 level for the Celtic Games, - a fantastic achievement for both girls!

In September, Murphy Miller and Aimee Stitt had the honour to represent Northern Ireland in the UK School Games, competing at UI7 level.

Well done also to the Strathearn girls who competed in the Ulster Schools' Multi-Event Championships. This year we had 5 girls competing over these 5 different events – Hurdles, High Jump, Long Jump, Shot and 800m. Special congratulations to Sophie Hoey who came 4th in the Minor Girls' section and so qualified for the Irish Schools' Multi-Events Championships. Here, Sophie had some great performances across the events, finishing in 14th place. Murphy Miller also had a great performance at the Ulster Multi-Event Championships finishing 3rd in the Intermediate Girls. As a result, Murphy qualified for the Irish Schools' Multi-Events Championships, but unfortunately was unable to attend.

So overall, Strathearn has had another great year in Athletics - well done to all the athletes and good luck to the competitors next year!



Aimee Stitt ~ Athletics  
UK Games - NI UI7 Team

Olivia Nelson, L6R





**Senior Athletics Team ~ Ulster Schools' Senior Champions**

*Back Row: Victoria Hamilton, Natalie McHugh, Evanna Maxted, Beth Crosbie  
Front Row: Alex Reilly, Eve Truesdale, Rhiannon Brady*



**Intermediate Athletics Team ~ County Down District Schools' Intermediate Champions**

*Back Row: Aimee Stitt, Zara Wilson, Eve Elliott, Freya Axten, Katie Wills  
Middle Row: Rosie Park, Harriett Platt, Grace Hutchinson, Molly Longstaff, Sam McCormick, Erin Stewart, Anna McKibbin  
Front Row: Rhiannon Brady, Leah McClements, Kerry Annett, Murphy Miller, Ruby Baxter, Lucy Mashford, Hannah McCann*





**Junior Athletics Team ~ County Down District Schools' Junior Champions**

*Back Row: Evie Hempstead, Tara Kerr, Amelia Hopkins, Sarah West, Rebecca Callaghan, Anna McKinty*

*Middle Row: Amber Hamilton, Victoria Kerr, Amy Ellison, Hannah Meredith, Holly Gilpin*

*Front Row: Amelia Kane, Eve McKibbin, Rebekah Burrows, Lara Whitten, Sophie Longstaff, Sophie Kenny*



**Minor Athletics Team**

*Back Row: Anna McKinty, Casey Dawson, Mia Davison, Molly Elliott*

*Front Row: Zara Hanna, Martha Todd, Mia Montgomery, Alice Sloan*



**Mini Athletics Team**

**Co Down District & Ulster Schools' Mini Champions**

*Back Row: Emma Wilson, Eloise McKnight, Kate Hunter, Niamh Hatfield*

*Front Row: Hollie Massey, Sophie Hoey, Connie Hanna, Mabelle Wilcox*





### Senior Cross-Country Team

#### Co Down District Schools' Senior Champions

Back Row: Sophie Kenny, Sam McCormick, Katie Wills, Ruby Baxter  
Front Row: Beth Crosbie, Olivia Nelson, Alex Reilly



### Intermediate Cross-Country Team

#### Co Down District & Ulster Schools' Intermediate Champions

Back Row: Murphy Miller, Aimee Stitt, Rhiannon Brady  
Front Row: Amelia Kane, Freya Axten, Jemima Thomas

## CROSS-COUNTRY

Cross-country has proved very popular again this year. Thank you to Miss Alexander for her time and commitment to coaching all members of the Club. Those who represented the school had an exceptionally successful year, starting with the Co Down District Championships on 6 February at a new venue just across the road in Campbell College.

The day started with the Mini Girls' race and our Form 1 pupils got us off to a great start with Bethany Johnston leading the team home to finish in 4th place. Lucy Wills was next to cross the line in 6th place, then Maddie Haldane in 11th, Hannah Dadley-Young in 17th, Amy McClean 20th and Charlotte Moore 21st. These results meant the team were crowned overall Mini Champions.

Next up were the Minor Girls and with no other team scoring anywhere near their amount of points, they also took the title of overall Minor Champions. Mabelle Wilcox powered home to claim individual gold, Emmy Thornton claimed the individual bronze and Niamh Hatfield was in 4th. Alice Browne was 6th, Connie Hanna 8th and Ellie Gordon 13th. The Junior Girls were next to take up the challenge and the team worked very hard to keep the trophies coming our way. Lara Whitten was first to cross the line finishing in 4th place, Freya Adams came home in 6th, Martha Todd in 8th, Anna McKinty in 16th place, Faith Heyburn 18th and Amy Ellison 37th. The team score was again better than any of the opposition and Strathearn added the Junior title to our list of wins.

Next were the Intermediate Team, who had the challenge of running 2500m. Amelia Kane and Murphy Miller charged off from the start into the lead group. Amelia finished 1st individually for the fourth successive year at these Championships. Murphy finished in 5th place, and Freya Axten in 12th. This, along with contributions from Rhiannon Brady, Jemima Thomas and Aimee Stitt, meant that Strathearn finished well ahead of the other teams and brought home another Co Down trophy.

The Senior Girls were the last team to take to the course and they put in a great performance. Olivia Nelson was our first athlete to cross the line, coming in 2nd. The other girls made sure we kept the trophies coming our way with Alex Reilly finishing 5th, Sophie Kenny 7th, Katie Wills 10th, Ruby



Baxter 11th and Sam McCormick 20th. This ensured the gold medal for the team. For some girls this is their sixth successive Co Down title! This is the second year in a row Strathearn have had a clean sweep, bringing home all five of the Co Down trophies!

After the success of the Cross-Country Teams at the District Championships, we set off to the Ulster Championships with high expectations.

The Mini and Junior Teams put in solid performances against the best in Ulster and finished a very commendable 5th & 6th place respectively.

The Minor Team however, were the team of the day, with all six of our runners finishing in the top twenty-six and well ahead of any other team. Mabelle Wilcox fought hard to get herself into the medals with a super finish to take the bronze medal. The rest of the team were not far behind her with Emmy Thornton in 7th, Niamh Hatfield in 10th, Alice Browne in 16th, Connie Hanna 19th, and Ellie Gordon in 26th. This meant the girls added to their Ulster title from last year.

In the Intermediate race we saw another outstanding individual performance by Amelia Kane. Just to make it interesting for spectators, she did a roll in the mud as she adjusted her running path along the finishing straight. Despite this she came home as Ulster Champion. Murphy Miller was in the chasing pack and she wasn't going to let Amelia have all the glory! Murphy charged through to take the bronze medal. Their teammates also contributed and so they secured the overall Intermediate Trophy. For some of the team members this is the fifth consecutive win at these Championships and hopefully not the last!

The Senior Team again put in a good performance. Olivia Nelson crossed the line first for the girls in 15th place, followed by Alex Reilly in 19th and Sophie Kenny in 29th. With the rest of their teammates working hard, they were able to secure the bronze medal position. These great performances mean that our Minor, Intermediate and Senior girls have all qualified for the Irish Championships and from all these brilliant performances, Strathearn were crowned Ulster Schools' Cross-Country Champions for the second successive year!

All three of our teams that qualified went to Waterford to compete in the All-Ireland Schools' Cross-Country Championships. Despite the long journey and the very testing race conditions, the girls put in exceptional performances against the best in Ireland.

The Intermediate Team of Amelia Kane, Murphy Miller, Freya Axten and Sophie Kenny finished just outside the medals in 4th place. Special mention goes to Amelia Kane who crossed the line in 10th place. The Senior Team of Olivia Nelson, Alex Reilly, Ruby Baxter and Katie Wills finished in a commendable 8th place. The team of the day, however, were the Minors. Mabelle Wilcox (4th) and Emmy Thornton (8th) along with Connie Hanna, Niamh Hatfield, Alice Browne, and Ellie Gordon made history for Strathearn as they won our first ever Irish Schools' Cross-Country title! This is a great achievement and congratulations to all the girls that ran!

As a result of their performances in the Ulster Championships, Amelia Kane, Murphy Miller and Mabelle Wilcox have been selected to compete at the London Mini Marathon in April.



### Junior Cross-Country Team

Co Down District Schools' Junior Champions

Back Row: Amy Ellison, Anna McKinty, Freya Adams

Front Row: Lara Whitten, Martha Todd, Faith Heyburn



### Minor Cross-Country Team

Co Down District, Ulster & Irish Schools' Minor Champions

Back Row: Alice Browne, Ellie Gordon, Niamh Hatfield

Front Row: Emmy Thornton, Connie Hanna, Mabelle Wilcox

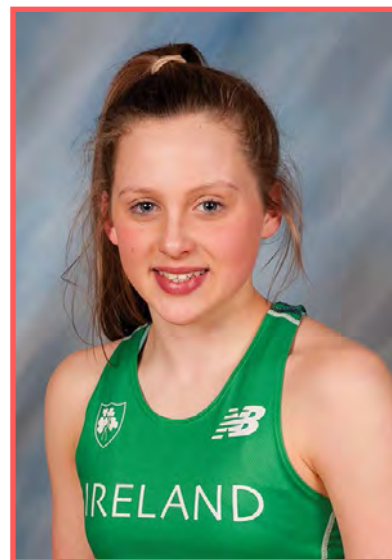
Alex Reilly, U6T





**Mini Cross-Country Team (left)  
Co Down District Schools' Mini Champions**

*Back Row:  
Charlotte Moore,  
Amy McClean,  
Maddie Haldane  
Front Row:  
Bethany Johnston,  
Lucy Wills,  
Hannah Dadley-Young*



**Amelia Kane  
Cross-Country  
Ireland Schools' UI5 Team**

## SENIOR DANCE

This year's Senior Dance Team consisted of nineteen girls from Forms 3-6, who each auditioned alongside a further forty students in October. Our weekly rehearsals began after the Halloween holiday, and the whole team worked tirelessly and very efficiently alongside coaches Taylor Healy and Mia Wheatley. This year's theme was the empowerment of women, inspired by Beyoncé, and was called 'Revolution'. The team showcased their routine on 23 March at the Ulster Fitness and Dance Championships, in which they finished just outside of the medals in 4th place. They then went on to compete in the annual Northern Ireland Creative Movement and Aerobics Competition (NICMAC), in which they also finished 4th. Well done to everyone for all the hard work that went into both performances. Thanks to Miss Mallon for supervising our sessions all year.

*Taylor Healy, L6A*



**Senior Dance Team**

*Back Row: Talia Irwin, Jasmine Trill, Zara Wilson, Rebecca Crymble, Evie Hempstead, Amy McGill  
Middle Row: Mia Wheatley, Jade Scott, Alice Graham, Marnie Preston, Emma Hylands, Rebecca Black, Jordan Hineson, Taylor Healy  
Front Row: Sarah McTaggart, Alice Huddleston, Sophie Longstaff, Ellie Dornan, Anna McCabe, Penny Hood, Lara Whitten*



## JUNIOR DANCE

After a successful year finishing as one of the top three schools in Northern Ireland at NICMAC 2017, Strathearn's Junior Dance Team were keen to maintain our reputation. Sarah McTaggart and Rebecca Black, L6, coached the team for the third successive year in preparation for the Ulster Fitness and Dance Championships in March.

This year's team of twenty committed girls from Forms 1 to 3 was selected from over one hundred pupils who auditioned in October. The girls practised every Tuesday after school in order to perfect their army-inspired routine to the song 'River' by Bishop Briggs. In February, the dancers held a day of sponsored silence and managed to raise over £200 to go towards their costumes. As their coaches, we are so proud of the girls. The team was disappointed not to finish in the top three, but they had great fun and represented Strathearn very well. Dance Team provides a fantastic opportunity to make new friends so make sure to audition next year!

*Rebecca Black, L6A & Sarah McTaggart, L6S*



### Junior Dance Team

*Back Row: Niamh Hatfield, Molly Graham, Zara Rintoul, Alex Faloon, Sophie Hoey, Ellie Johnston, Sydney Heatley  
Middle Row: Rebecca Black, Hannah McCartney, Ava Inman, Cara Murray, Sarah Hylands, Hannah Pollock-Chan, Niamh Long,  
Sarah McTaggart  
Front Row: Martha Cupples, Josie Bailey, Ria Cimic, Caitlyn Corbett, Sarah Mavitty, Hannah Dadley-Young, Ellie Gilmore*

## GOLF

The Ulster qualifying round of the Irish Schools' Championship took place at Edenmore Golf Club on 23 March.

Strathearn School was represented by Tess McMillen, Lucie McNaught, Heidi McMillen and, making her debut, Aoife Moore. Unfortunately, Tess had to withdraw at last minute due to illness.

The day began with rain, however it soon became sunny and windy. The course was playing very long and was heavy underfoot but that didn't stop Lucie enjoying success again this year by winning the Junior Nett Prize.

Overall, the day was a great success for Strathearn School and I hope that next year we will have more prize winners. Remember, all club golfers, a handicap of thirty-five or better allows you to represent the school and compete at this level.

*Heidi McMillen, 5R*



### Golf Team

*Back Row: Tess McMillen, Heidi McMillen  
Front Row: Aoife Moore, Lucie McNaught*



## TENNIS 2016-2017

The 2017 Tennis season has been another exciting and extremely successful one for Strathearn. In the Ulster Schools' Cup competitions, Strathearn was represented at Minor, Junior, Intermediate and Senior levels, and we won three out of these four titles.

There is a great interest in Tennis as an extracurricular activity, with practices running throughout the week and on Saturday mornings. Out of the large number of Form 1 girls attending Tennis Club, Lucie McNaught, Kate Hunter, Sophie Thomas and Sophie Hoey were selected for the team. The girls won against Glenlola, Dalriada and Rockport, and then met Methodist College in the final. They continued their winning streak and were crowned Ulster Schools' Minor Cup winners.

The Junior Teams also had a successful year. The Junior A Team, consisting of Jemima Thomas, Anna Gillespie, Sarah Craig and Sarah West, proved to be very strong as they progressed to the Junior Cup final. Lauren Mooney replaced Anna Gillespie who was unavailable, and after a strong performance, the girls won 5-1, bringing home the Ulster Schools' Junior Cup. The Junior B Team of Lauren Mooney, Clara Potts, Tilly Nield and Hannah McGugan also competed in the Junior Cup. The girls made it to the semi-finals where they narrowly lost to Victoria College. The Intermediate A Team of Jessica Moore, Emma McGugan, Claire Whiteside and Grace Hutchinson recorded wins against Victoria, Sullivan and Glenlola. The girls then made it to the Ulster Schools' Cup final in which they faced Mount Lourdes Grammar School, Enniskillen. Erin Stewart stepped up for Emma McGugan who was unavailable. It was a highly contested match which unfortunately resulted in victory for Mount Lourdes. The Intermediate B Team of Chloe Sweet, Erin Stewart, Maya Savage Newell and Murphy Miller reached the semi-final of the Intermediate Plate. Their opponents in the semi-final were Friends' School Lisburn. They proved to be a strong team and we narrowly missed out on a place in the final.

The Senior A Team, consisting of Jessica Leeman, Megan Chambers, Victoria Hamilton and Bonnie Ramsay, also had a very successful year, winning the Ulster Schools' Senior Cup. The Senior Team faced Sullivan in the final and fought hard to be crowned champions. At representative level, Jessica Leeman, Megan Chambers and Victoria Hamilton were selected to represent Ulster at the U18 Interprovincial Championships. The Senior B Team of Ellen Gilpin, Katrina Kerr, Katie Caldwell and Claire Hunter had a successful first round making it through to the quarter finals of the cup. Here, they met Belfast Royal Academy. BRA proved to be the stronger side and unfortunately we exited the competition.

The tennis season finished with an Inter-House Tournament where many girls got involved to support their House.

Congratulations to all the girls who participated in both the Inter-schools and the Inter-House matches.

*Katie Caldwell, U6A*



**Senior A Tennis Team**  
**Ulster Schools' Senior Champions**

*Back Row: Jessica Leeman*  
*Front Row: Megan Chambers, Victoria Hamilton*



**Senior B Tennis Team**

*Back Row: Claire Hunter, Katrina Kerr*  
*Front Row: Katie Caldwell, Ellen Gilpin*





**Intermediate A Tennis Team**

*Back Row: Emma McGugan, Grace Hutchinson  
Front Row: Claire Whiteside, Jessica Moore*



**Intermediate B Tennis Team**

*Back Row: Chloe Sweet, Maya Savage-Newell  
Front Row: Murphy Miller, Erin Stewart*



**Junior A Tennis Team**

**Ulster Schools' Junior Champions**

*Back Row: Sarah West, Sarah Craig  
Front Row: Jemima Thomas, Lauren Mooney  
Absent: Anna Gillespie*



**Junior B Tennis Team**

*Back Row: Clara Potts, Lauren Mooney  
Front Row: Tilly Nield, Hannah McGugan*





**Jessica Leeman ~ Tennis**  
*Ulster Senior Team &  
 Ulster Junior U18 Team*



**Megan Chambers ~ Tennis**  
*Ulster Junior U18 Team*



**Victoria Hamilton ~ Tennis**  
*Ulster Junior U18 Team*



**Minor Tennis Team**  
**Ulster Schools' Minor Champions**  
*Back Row: Sophie Thomas, Kate Hunter  
 Front Row: Sophie Hoey, Lucie McNaught*



**Tilly Nield ~ Equestrian**  
*N Ireland U15 Mounted Games Team*



**Jess Winton ~ Sailing**  
*N Ireland U17 Topper Squad*

## ORIENTEERING

I went to Orienteering every Tuesday afternoon in the Autumn term. I found it very interesting and was surprised to find that it wasn't all about maps and compasses (I didn't want it to be!), and that you could do things at your own pace. I would definitely recommend that others try it next year, as the more people there are, the more fun we can have! Thank you to the Duke of Edinburgh staff, Mike Smith and Margaret Magee, for taking the sessions.

*Hannah Alexander, 2A*



## SQUASH



Emma McGugan ~ Squash  
Ulster U17 Team



Hannah McGugan ~ Squash  
Ireland & Ulster U15 Team



Sophie Thomas ~ Squash  
Ireland & Ulster U13 Team

## SQUASH

The 2017-18 season proved to be another successful one. The U17 Team of Emma McGugan and sisters, Sophie and Jemima Thomas, played in the Ulster Schools' Cup at the Belfast Boat Club over the Easter break. Unfortunately, there were no other U17 girls' teams for us to play, but nevertheless we had an

enjoyable day playing friendly matches against a variety of opponents. We qualified to play at the Irish Schools' Cup in Galway in April, but due to exam commitments we were unable to compete.

We have achieved some superb individual successes this season in tournaments in Ireland and across Europe. Emma McGugan and Jemima Thomas were both part of the winning U17 Ulster Team at the Junior Interprovincials in March, and Sophie Thomas was part of the U15 Team that came runners-up. Sophie was runner-up in the U13 Irish and Scottish Junior Opens, and Emma came 3rd in the U17 Irish and Welsh Junior Opens. Sophie also represented the U15 Irish Team at the Five Nations in France in April. Hannah McGugan has also had a memorable season, winning both the Irish Junior Open and the Irish Junior Nationals at U15 level. Hannah was selected to represent the Irish U15 Team at the Five Nations in France in April, and at the European Team Championships in Sweden in May. Unfortunately, however, she was unable to play due to having knee surgery.

We also had a Squash Club running every Monday after school at CIYMS. This gave all of our pupils an opportunity to get involved in Squash.

Thanks to Mr Rosenberg for taking this club which the girls have thoroughly enjoyed.

*Emma McGugan, 5T*



U17 Squash Team

*Back Row: Sophie Thomas*

*Front Row: Jemima Thomas, Emma McGugan*





### Swimming Teams

*Back Row: Rebekah Burrows, Evie Hempstead, Rebecca Callaghan, Mia Davison, Chloe Browne, Olivia Nelson, Hannah James, Sam McCormick*

*Middle Row: Rachel McDonald, Sophie Williams, Freya Adams, Evie Gallen, Lauren Nesbitt, Catrina Martin, Amelia Kane, Gabriella Park, Lara Whitten*

*Front Row: Eilidh Blair, Josie Bailey, Lucy Wills, Lauren Wilson, Eva Lappin, Alice Browne, Martha Cupples, Emmy Thornton*



### Intermediate Swimming Team Ulster Champions ~ Swim Ulster

*The McMahon Intermediate Schools' Cup*

*Back Row: Rebecca Callaghan, Chloe Browne, Mia Davison, Lauren Nesbitt*

*Front Row: Gabriella Park, Rebekah Burrows, Evie Gallen, Amelia Kane*

## SWIMMING

Swimming in Strathearn has had another successful year, with some great individual and team performances.

The first competition, the Swim Ulster Schools' Cup Championships, was held on 21 and 22 October in the Bangor Aurora Aquatic Complex. Our swimmers competed exceptionally well and their efforts were reflected by their outstanding results.

In the Minor Girls, Lucy Wills placed 7th in the 100m Back Crawl. Lucy, along with her team mates Eva Lappin, Eva Gibson and Grace Davison, came 2nd and 4th in the Freestyle and Medley Relays respectively. Lucy and Eva also represented Strathearn at the Irish Minor Schools' Gala in the National Aquatic Centre, Dublin.

In the Junior Girls' section, swimmers from across Forms 1, 2 and 3 raced against each other. In the 100m Butterfly, Lara Whitten placed 4th while her team mate, Rachel Childs came 6th in both the 100m Butterfly and 100m Back Crawl. The



Junior Relay Team consisting of Alice Browne, Martha Cupples, Lara Whitten and Rachel Childs won silver in the Medley Relay and finished 5th in the Freestyle Relay.

The Intermediate Relay Team of Mia Davison, Amelia Kane, Rebekah Burrows and Rebecca Callaghan swam exceptionally well, winning gold in both the Medley and Freestyle Relays. Amelia Kane also performed outstandingly in both her individual events, winning bronze in the 100m Freestyle and 100m Butterfly. Her team mate, Mia Davison, brought home a bronze medal in the 100m Breaststroke and placed 5th in the 200m Individual Medley. The combination of the team and individual results meant that Strathearn won the Intermediate section and the McMahon Cup, which is a huge honour as the award is named after Olympian and past pupil of Strathearn, Sycerika McMahon.

The Senior Relay Team of Olivia Nelson, Sam McCormick, Sophie Williams and Hannah James won bronze in the 200m Medley Relay as well as placing 5th in the 200m Freestyle Relay. Sophie Williams won gold in the 100m Backstroke, and also placed 4th in the 100m Freestyle, narrowly missing out on another bronze medal. Sam McCormick and Hannah James also qualified for finals, with Sam placing 10th and Hannah placing 7th in the 100m Breaststroke and 100m Butterfly respectively.

Strathearn also competed at the Ulster Grammar Schools' Swimming Gala in Ballymena. The Junior Relay Team of Rachel Childs, Lauren Nesbitt, Alice Browne and Eva Lappin came 4th in both the 200m Medley and 200m Freestyle Relays. Rachel Childs also finished 6th in the 50m Back Crawl. In the Intermediate Girls, Anna Heyburn won silver in the 50m Breaststroke and also placed 4th in the 50m Freestyle. Anna was joined by her team mates Chloe Browne, Evie Gallen and Rebekah Burrows in the 200m Medley and Freestyle Relays, in which the girls finished 4th.

Special congratulations to Ards Swimmers Amelia Kane and Mia Davison, who represented Ireland at the European Youth Olympic Festival which was held in Hungary last summer. Mia Davison also represented Ireland at the UK Schools' Games in September. In January, Amelia Kane competed at the Luxembourg Euro Meet and in the Junior section she won 1 gold, 2 silver and 2 bronze medals. Templemore Swimmer, Sophie Williams travelled to Germany in the summer with her club to compete at the Internationales Stuttgarter Schwimmfest where she swam exceptionally well, winning 6 gold and 4 silver medals. Sophie has also been selected to represent Ulster at the Interprovincial Swimming Championships, hosted by the National Aquatic Centre in Dublin later in the year. Outstanding achievements from the girls!

On behalf of all the girls, I would like to say a massive thank you to Mrs King and Ms Young for organising and supporting us at the competitions. Congratulations to all the swimmers on yet another year of successful results!

*Sam McCormick, L6S*



*Amelia Kane ~ Swimming  
European Youth Olympics:  
Ireland U15 Team  
Ulster Schools' U14 Team*



*Mia Davison ~ Swimming  
European Youth Olympics:  
Ireland U15 Team  
UK School Games: Ireland U16 Team  
Ulster Schools' U14 Team*



## BADMINTON CLUB

**B**adminton Club has had another successful year, with a fantastic turnout of girls each week. Due to the club's popularity, we were able to enter Year 8, Junior and Senior Teams in the Ulster Schools' Badminton Competitions, with some great results.

The Year 8 Team consisted of Eilidh Blair, Jodie Hall, Kate McConkey, Sophie Johnston, Sarah Mavitty and Charlotte Moore. They had a very successful year, winning against Ballyclare High School and Banbridge Academy. They then qualified for the final of the Year 8 B Division where they beat Bloomfield to become Ulster Champions. This was a great result, and hopefully they will continue this winning streak in future years.

Aiza Ghafoor, Kathryn Finlay, Lois Whiteside and Sarah Tweedie have had an equally successful year, playing for the Junior Team. They have been consistent throughout the whole year, winning 6-0 against Banbridge Academy, Wallace High School and Hunterhouse. They defeated Bloomfield in the semi-final to make it through to the final against Wallace High School. Unfortunately, Wallace were too strong on this occasion, and we finished as runners-up in the Junior B Division.

This year, the Senior Team was made up of Ellie Davis, Nicole Kane, Heidi McMillen and Emma Caldwell. They had a successful year, winning against Down High and drawing against Friends and Sullivan. Unfortunately, we lost against Bloomfield, but we are all very pleased with these results.

On behalf of everyone at the Badminton Club, I would like to say a huge thank you to Miss Brittain and Miss Davis, as all of this would not have been possible without their help.

*Ellie Davis, 5H*



**Senior Badminton Team**

*Back Row: Heidi McMillen, Nicole Kane  
Front Row: Emma Caldwell, Ellie Davis*



**Junior Badminton Team**

*Back Row: Lois Whiteside, Sophie Thomas  
Front Row: Cara Murray, Kathryn Finlay, Aiza Ghafoor*





**Form 1 Badminton Team**

*Back Row: Sophie Johnston, Charlotte Moore, Eilidh Blair  
Front Row: Jodie Hall, Sarah Mavitty, Kate McConkey*

## SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS

Pupils from Forms 1 to 3 started training early in the year on Thursday nights in preparation for the Ulster Sports Hall Athletics Championships. The competition took place in the Meadowbank Arena in Magherafelt on 22 March, where the Strathearn teams, representing Belfast East, took on teams from Donegal, Antrim, Fermanagh and Londonderry. The U13 Team was strong throughout, placing 2nd in the 4x2 Lap Relay, 3rd in the 4x1 Lap Relay and 2nd in the 8 Lap Paarlauf. There was lots of individual success too. Emmy Thornton placed 1st in the 6 Lap Race and 3rd in the Speed Bounce. Sophie Hoey placed 1st in Standing Long Jump and third in the 2 Lap Race. Niamh Hatfield claimed 1st place in the Vertical Jump with Ciara Moore just behind her in 2nd. Karis Hamilton claimed 3rd in the 6 Lap Race. Emma Wilson placed 3rd in the Shot Putt, and Connie Hanna placed 3rd in the Standing Triple Jump. All these great results earned them 2nd place overall.

The U15 Team faced tough competition. Zara Hanna and Anna McKinty placed 2nd in the 8 Lap Paarlauf. Anna also placed 3rd in the Standing Long Jump. The U15 Team also came second overall.

Well done to all the girls involved and thanks to Miss Brittain for coaching the teams.

*Anna McKinty, 3A*



**U15 Sports Hall Athletics Team**

*Back Row: Anna McKinty, Casey Dawson, Mia Montgomery  
Front Row: Alice Sloan, Martha Todd, Zara Hanna*



**U13 Sports Hall Athletics Team**

*Back Row: Emma Wilson, Sophie Thomas, Sophie Hoey  
Middle Row: Niamh Hatfield, Ruby Rebbeck, Karis Hamilton  
Front Row: Emmy Thornton, Ciara Moore, Amy McClean,  
Connie Hanna*



## HERE I AM!

Here I am,  
In a new place, new home, new people  
Everyone seems so happy but yet so strange.

They talk with a different accent  
One I have barely ever heard.

The weather has even changed  
With white powder all over the ground.

I've heard the summer brings such heat  
Which I would greet with a smile.

I am also thinking about my new school  
And all the new people I can meet!

Starting a new life of my own  
Here I am in Canada!

*Emmy Thornton, 1H*

## SPRING IS HERE

The crisp, auburn leaves have begun to fall,  
They lie helplessly in the fresh morning dew.

The crunch of feet going for a walk through the trees,  
Birds chirp happily, right on cue.

But suddenly, the world goes quiet,  
It has been transformed into a frozen wasteland.

Joyful carols ring through the air,  
Smiles on faces, everywhere.

Then soon, colour erupts from the ground,  
Flowers stand tall and proud.

Animals come out from their long winter sleep  
Spring is here.

*Iona Holt, 1H*

## CHANGE BETWEEN SEASONS

Summer leaves, once green and fresh,  
Now just leftover blossom.  
Ground decorated with crusty red, brown and orange,  
The change between Summer and Autumn.

Frost creeping slowly, up the dying trees,  
Outside a frozen river.

Rain from the sky, now flakes from the clouds,  
The change between Autumn and Winter.

The hedgehog wakes, from his long winter sleep,  
A sparrow preens her wing.  
Winter clouds outshone by the sun,  
The change between Summer and Spring.

Temperatures rise, it's now time for ice-cream!  
Once again sunshine galore.  
Sand in my feet, sea in my hands...  
The change between seasons once more.

*Amelie Euler, 1H*

## A NEW CHAPTER

Waiting in the hospital for the news  
Wishing the name, could be up to me to choose  
Nothing to do, there's no Wi-Fi in here  
The time, the time, must be near

Seeing them for the very first time  
A boy! A Girl! Either is fine  
Peacefully asleep, skin smooth, so small  
Just like me, born in the Fall

Bringing them home, in their new car seat  
Wrapped up warm, all nice and neat  
Visits from family, and friends too  
Giving cards, and saying, lucky you!

*Nadya Krumov, 1H*

## CHANGE

Brilliant, bold, brave.  
A stark difference from the person you once were,  
becoming the person you want to be.  
That is change for the better.

Change for the worst.  
Beastly, brutal, barbaric.  
It haunts you, like owls in the night.  
Degrading your being. Entirely.

*Ellie Van Giesen, 3S*

## CHANGE

The brittle skeleton-like carcasses  
Towering in the garden  
Above all other plants -  
They look so bleak, so lonesome.

Slowly the green shoots appear  
Like babies' fresh faces in the world.  
They fight for survival,  
When fully bloomed, they are magnificent,  
Like lions in charge of their kingdoms.

Then the cold wind blows in,  
And the leaves fall away,  
Brown in colour, they decompose in the ground,  
And the year starts all over again.

*Sophie Killiner, 3S*

## CHANGE

Change can be easy, fun and pretty  
But it can also be hard, unexpected and ugly,  
Because change is like that.  
Change can happen any time, anywhere,  
And in any way.

You could change height,  
You could change mood,  
You could change school,  
Friends could change,  
Relationships could change,  
Life is all about change.

*Madeleine Terry, 2T*



## A LIFETIME OF CHANGE

A tiny newborn baby has just arrived on Earth  
She brings such hope and happiness with her joyful birth  
She doesn't seem to do much, just sleeps or cries all day  
But she'll learn to walk and talk and run and smile and play.

The change throughout her childhood years is mostly in her height  
Her sudden growth is fuelled by her enormous appetite!  
At school she'll learn important stuff, the skills that she will need  
To help her on her way through life and hopefully succeed.

In adulthood she'll learn some more, different skills this time  
Like how to drive, hold down a job, she's really in her prime  
She may become a mother, with children of her own  
So much to do, so little time, she rarely feels alone.

Old age creeps up so slowly, although the change is great  
The old grandmother sits alone thinking of her fate  
Her body's weak and feeble, the change is plain to see  
Her memories often focus on the way things used to be.

*Elena Gourley, 1R*

## CHANGE

The crisp summer soil to the winter's thick, damp mud,  
The small oval seed to a sunset-orange flower bud,  
Brittle bronze leaves whisking through the autumn breeze to the ground,  
The winter's trees with patterned trunks standing in a mound,  
The sun's warm presence casting shadows of all kinds of outlines,  
Colossal clouds making the light behind,  
A small figure of bland colours munching on a velvety leaf,  
A vividly coloured butterfly hovers past as a caterpillar is always brief,  
Time flutters by like a bird taking flight,  
Like the uninterrupted cycle of day and night.

*Eva Lappin, 1R*

## CHANGE

Change can be a butterfly  
Change can be a bee  
It can help you spread your wings and fly  
It can sting and make you want to cry  
Mother Nature knew from the start we all have butterflies and bees  
in our hearts  
But if we want success to stay  
We need a few bee stings along the way  
And if we start to give up at last  
We need a butterfly's wings to give us a blast  
So bad change or good change  
They're no strangers to us  
For humans have changed greatly throughout the years  
Looking around at all my peers  
I can see them changing everyday  
Everything changes, just in different ways.

*Ella Simms, 2T*

## A NEW BEGINNING

I woke excited to see him,  
My new baby brother.  
Ethan was his name,  
I was excited in March  
When I saw him,  
He was so cute  
But yet fragile to touch  
My new baby brother  
He came home to a happy family,  
Filled with excitement and joy  
Every day was good with,  
My new baby brother

*Niamh Long, 1H*

## A NEW SCHOOL

A new school  
Not just four walls  
To memorize - to navigate  
This unfamiliar place  
New teachers still to meet  
Some I'm yet to please  
Some people that I recognise  
And faces yet to greet  
A new school  
Not just four walls  
Now a second home  
And now I can say that I belong  
To this familiar place

*Sarah Somerville, 1H*

## CHANGE

Cold, crisp air  
Bitter on your raw face.  
Waking to dark.  
Walking on the cold, icy ground.  
Thin bare trees,  
The branches curling over.  
Then one day....  
The soft warm air hits your face  
The sun shines,  
Bright on everything it meets.  
Trees grow green,  
They stand tall and proud.  
Bright blue sky,  
What a wonderful change!

*Katie Sweet, 2T*

## CHANGE

Change can be refreshing  
A breath of fresh air  
A nod in the right direction  
Out of your comfort zone  
While you may not like it,  
You have to flow with it  
Before you get left behind.

*Catherine O'Reilly, 3S*

## THE SEASONS

It is autumn and the air is crisp and cool  
 The wind tugs at the tree branches,  
 Causing their red-gold leaves to twirl and twist to the ground  
 But as winter arrives, the days grow colder and darker;  
 The ground is no longer covered with bright coloured leaves,  
 But a blanket of soft cotton white snow,  
 This also tops the now leafless trees.

As time passes, spring approaches  
 Fields of white snow are replaced with fields of green grass  
 Allowing buds to bloom and bees to buzz.  
 The weather only grows hotter as summer comes closer  
 And people move from playing in parks to sandy golden beaches  
 Or sheltering from the sun's glaring heat under umbrellas.

However, the days do eventually get cooler,  
 Leaves fall from their branches  
 And Autumn arrives again.

*Eva Diekemper, 15*

## AUTUMN

Autumn is leaves crunching under my feet  
 Autumn is Halloween and trick or treat  
 Autumn is nights getting longer and sweet campfire songs  
 Autumn is harvest and fireworks all night long  
 And then, Autumn changes to winter

Winter is snow days off school, building a snowman  
 Winter is cosying up by the fire, watching a Christmas movie  
 Winter is Santa and his reindeers paying a visit  
 Winter is hot chocolate and marshmallows and a minty candy cane  
 And suddenly it has changed to spring

Spring is April showers watching the rain fall down the window  
 Spring is cute little lambs and baby chicks at the farm  
 Spring is Easter with all its chocolate and goodies  
 Spring is beautiful flowers starting to bloom  
 And finally, it has changed to summer

Summer is my favourite season, finally freedom  
 Summer is two full months off school, doing whatever we want  
 Summer is that feeling when you get off the plane, and heat just hits you  
 Summer is getting tanned, chilling by the pool, making new friends  
 And sadly it all comes to an end, as Autumn has come again

*Amy McWhirter, 4H*

## CHANGE

Slow change,  
 Change you can hardly notice,  
 Constant change,  
 Life is always changing.

Moving forward,  
 Never two days the same,  
 Change you can hardly notice,  
 Yet still change.

Always change.

*Hannah McCartney, 3S*

## A CHANGE IN THE WORLD

If someday I sit on top of this world,  
 Bring on changes with a single word,  
 Throw away hatred, spread only love,  
 Turn a vulture into a peaceful dove,  
 Make a beauty out of the beast,  
 That won't be the last or the least,  
 I'll delete discrimination,  
 Human humiliation,  
 Make rivals shake hands,  
 Apologise for shameful demands,  
 Open the gates of this prison,  
 Let there be light based on reason,  
 Money just a way to buy our needs,  
 Not a motive for illicit deeds,  
 Nations together, border to border,  
 No barbed wires or keeping orders.

*Ava Inman, 2S*

## TEENAGE YEARS

It is hard being a teenager  
 Going through mixed behaviour  
 One minute I'm happy and smiley  
 Next I'm shouting out wildly

Friendships coming and going  
 Enemies and trouble are growing  
 Family fallouts are the worst  
 Sometimes I feel I could burst

All I want is to belong  
 And to live healthy and strong  
 I just don't know where to begin  
 I'm just trying to fit in!

*Taryn Phillips-Morrow, 1T*

## WHEN MUM WENT INTO THE HOSPITAL

When mum went to the hospital  
 I thought it wasn't possible  
 In the way my stomach was spinning  
 My auntie and I were happily grinning  
 As I was walking down the hall  
 I stood up nice and tall  
 As I turned to enter the room  
 My heart started to boom  
 I saw a little baby boy  
 Holding onto a brand new toy  
 I picked him up and held him tight  
 Then put him down to say goodnight

*Amelia Hazle, 1T*



## SEASONAL CHANGE

The crunch of amber leaves is gone,  
 Now replaced with crisp, white snow.  
 From frightened children screaming  
 On that dark Halloween night,  
 To excited children cheering  
 On that snowy Christmas morn.

From shorts and t-shirts in the garden,  
 To warm, Winter woollies by the fire.  
 From pumpkin pie, spicy and sweet,  
 To a turkey dinner, festive and flavoursome.  
 The cold nights only get colder,  
 The dark nights only get darker,  
 Until Spring....

*Ria Cimic, 15*

## CHANGE

Change is big, change is small,  
 However large, however tall,  
 It comes to steal the old away,  
 To take the things you see each day.

It doesn't care how you feel,  
 If doesn't care if you heal,  
 It's sly and slick and never quits,  
 It spies and listens, but no one sees it.

It comes along in the dead of night,  
 To steal things when they are right,  
 It will always come and never cease,  
 But sometimes it can bring peace,

It's not always bad,  
 It's not always there to make you sad,  
 It can be good  
 And make you feel glad.

*Ciara Moore, 2T*

## CHANGE

The world of gaming is changing  
 I'm talking about VR today  
 This magical device  
 Can change what you see in any way

Virtual reality is awesome  
 Or at least I think that's true

One day I was a pirate  
 The next day I flew

You can be a warrior  
 Fighting monsters daily  
 Or making guilds with friends  
 And chatting with them gaily

You can be a pixie  
 Soaring through the skies  
 You can be a boxer  
 Fighting all sorts of guys

*Daisy Johnston, 2T*

## CHANGE

We count the hours until twelve at night,  
 Beneath the flickering of the dying light.  
 My cousin Loreto, wide awake with her teddy,  
 Everybody is finally ready.

Abuela arrives with cups full of grapes,  
 The sound of laughter travels to my stapes.  
 The television is hastily turned on,  
 Everyone is watching, the region of Aragon.

The clock chimes start - one, two, three  
 My cup of grapes balanced steadily on my knee.  
 One for every single toll,  
 I want to be first to reach the goal.

The two presenters start the countdown,  
 The tension rising in every single town.  
 One grape in my mouth for every chime,  
 The clock tower rings to tell the time.

At last, I'm done!  
 I'm so proud that I ate every single one.  
 And now that I have finished them all,  
 The adults have drunk the alcohol.

It's a Happy New Year,  
 And that arouses a mighty cheer.

*Sophia Cochrane, 1T*

## PEOPLE

We all hurt  
 We all feel pain  
 We all cry  
 Because of other people.

We feel there is nothing we can do  
 Crying on the bottom step,  
 Like we are young children again,  
 Weak and innocent.

They knock us down until we are rubble,  
 They tell us we are useless,  
 No!

We cannot accept this,  
 We cannot accept defeat.  
 Change their views of you  
 Never let them be cruel to you.

Change their minds,  
 Change their perception  
 But don't change yourself to be liked  
 Don't change your looks or your personality  
 Be you!

If they don't like it  
 Leave them.

*Sarah Catherall, 3S*

# Strathearn Preparatory Department

a b c d e f g h i j k l m



Every day, in Strathearn Preparatory Department, the girls have wonderful opportunities to develop their knowledge, skills and understanding in our happy and safe environment. The high academic standard achieved by our P7 pupils is evidenced by the fact that the girls achieved very commendable results in the AQE Common Entrance Assessments. Alongside our aim of academic excellence, we offer a wide variety of extra-curricular opportunities.

Our Preparatory Department offers an early morning supervision service from 8.00am. We also now provide an After School Facility and we were delighted to welcome Miss Ramsey as our After School Supervisor and Mrs Howe as her Deputy.

The Rev Nigel Craig, Minister at Belmont Presbyterian Church, joined with our parents, staff and pupils as our special guest at our Annual Prize Morning in June 2017. We celebrated what had been yet another memorable year in the life of the Strathearn Preparatory Department. Excellent academic achievement, sporting success and many outstanding performances in Music and Drama were all recognised.

A talented writer can present wise ideas in a few simple words. In explaining this to the girls at Prize Morning, I made reference to A A Milne - a favourite author of mine. Winnie the Pooh may be softly spoken and a little silly at times, but the cuddly figure and his friends are full of humbling advice and profound wisdom. I asked the girls to remember this quote from Winnie the Pooh...

"A little Consideration, a little thought for others, makes all the difference."

It is always amazing to look back on the school year and see just how much we have achieved. I am delighted to invite you to read about our academic achievements, our outstanding performances on the stage and our sporting successes in what has been yet another enjoyable and memorable year.

*Mrs Mawhinney, Head of Preparatory Department*

## PENRHYN SCHOOL COUNCIL

The School Council met regularly throughout the year. In May 2017 they bought flowers and tidied up the courtyard area. The focus this year has been on raising eco-awareness within Penrhyn, and in March we had a 'green' day. The two P7 Councillors, Lucy Brown and Tilly McWhinney, even got the chance to attend a council meeting at the senior school. A very successful year!

### School Council

Scarlett Terry, Tara Thom, Grace Davison,  
Rachel Chacko, Jemima Readman, Zara Gray,  
Isabella Kenny, Maddie Leatham, Lucy Brown,  
Tilly McWhinney (absent)







**P7 Class Prefects**

*Back Row: Holly Humphreys, Isabella Harvey, Mrs Andrews, Velvet Meharg  
Middle Row: Sophie Campbell, Emma Hanna, Daisy Compton  
Front Row: Ellen Eakin, Clara McWhinney*



**House Captains & Vice Captains**

*Cara Logue, Velvet Meharg, Alana Higgins, Emma Hanna, Eleanor Burns, Daisy Compton, Ellen Eakin  
Absent: Tilly McWhinney*



**P7 Duty Prefects**

*Back Row: Holly Allsopp, Rachel Bowen, Ellen Bryans, Mrs Andrews, Rosey Taylor, Daisy Johnston, Sophie-Rose Atkinson, Jenna Shaikh, Abbie Conroy  
Front Row: Eva Gibson, Mia McDowell, Lucy Brown, Alana Higgins, Saskia Brown, Lillie Blair, Cara Logue, Eleanor Burns*



*Erin McDowell, P5*



## THE PENRHYN YEAR 2017-2018

**E**ducational visits, linked to the Programmes of Study across the curriculum, are an important feature in the life of Penrhyn. The girls benefit greatly from these and enjoy them immensely. Penrhyn regularly welcomes visitors into the school to talk to or meet with the pupils. Here are some highlights of the past year.

### APRIL 2017

 *PI Visit to Rachel's Farm - 6 April*



PI went to visit Rachel's farm on 6 April. We saw lots of animals, including cows with their calves, hens with their chicks, sheep with their lambs and lots of beautiful horses. We were taken to see the bee hives and we learnt how the honey is collected from the hive before being put into jars and sold. We also got a chance to see where the vegetables were grown in the fields, then picked and brought to the production line to be washed, chopped and then packaged before being taken to the supermarkets for sale. The girls loved planting their own parsley pot, which they were allowed to bring home with them. It was a splendid trip, which we all enjoyed so much.

### MAY

 *Trip to the Ark Farm - 2 May*



On 2 May, PI went on a trip to the Ark Open Farm in Newtownards. We travelled by coach and we took a picnic lunch with us. We held new born chicks, fed the baby lambs and stroked the rabbits. It was a beautiful day and we had lots of fun feeding the ducks on the pond, playing in the adventure playground and jumping on the super trampoline. What a great trip!

 *PI Trip to Mount Stewart - 12 May*

On 12 May, PI went on a trip to Mount Stewart and followed the Rainbow Chips programme. We had

been studying the topic of The Senses in school and the fun activities organised for us included listening to animal sounds, matching colours of flowers, tasting fruits growing in the grounds and smelling and feeling the different plants and trees growing in the garden. We thoroughly enjoyed our trip and we made friends with a very friendly little robin, who followed us wherever we went in the beautiful grounds of the estate.

### JUNE 2017

 *Visit to P7 by Eden Pottery - 6 June*

On 6 June, Eden Pottery visited Penrhyn. After a short explanation, every single girl in P7 was given a plate to design whatever way they wanted to. Most girls put something on their plate to do with Penrhyn 2017. We were all given paints and there was a table full of different types of sponges. You had to paint the sponges whatever colour you desired, and then you pressed down on the sponge and the shape printed onto the plate. Lastly, Eden Pottery took our plates away to get glazed. P7 really enjoyed this experience and our plates will be good keepsakes.

*Lucy Wills & Sarah Hylands, P7*

### SEPTEMBER 2017

 *P5 Trip to Seaford - 15 September*

On 15 September, P5 went to Seaford Tropical Butterfly House and Gardens and Clough Castle. When we arrived we visited all the creatures in the tropical greenhouse. We had to be careful not to tread on the butterflies on the ground. Our tour guide showed us very small butterfly eggs and chrysalises as well as various caterpillars. Ms Boyd then took us to the reptile house to see the tortoises, fish and birds. The final house was the insect house where we saw snails, a scorpion, a python, a cockroach and our class's favourite, the tarantulas. It was great when we got to explore the maze.

Next we went to Clough Castle. We had great fun exploring the ruins. Then we drew the original design of Clough Castle and the ruins from the information board. We all had a most enjoyable and memorable trip.

*Katie Barr, P5*

 *P5 Visit by Zoolab - 21 September*

On 21 September, ZooLab came for a visit to P5. There was a lovely lady who came to talk to us. She brought in all of her exciting animals to show us. The first animal was a snake. We all got to hold the snake and it was very slimy! One fact that was very interesting was that every three weeks a snake sheds its skin and we got to see the skin. There was a bearded dragon and a lot of other animals. It was really interesting and fascinating finding out about all of the animals and I really enjoyed it.

*Tara Curry, P5*

 *Whole School Visit by Mrs Walls - 22 September*

On 22 September, Mrs Walls came to our Assembly to explain about Jeans for Genes. We were all wearing our own clothes. It was very interesting learning about genetic disorders. We brought £1 for the charity to support children with disabilities.

*Charlotte Acheson, P4*



Today in Assembly Mrs Walls was talking about children who have genetic disorders. Lots of children in the world have genetic disorders.

*Stuti Mehta, P4*

## OCTOBER 2017

### Harvest Assembly - 3 October

On 3 October, we had a special Harvest Assembly and Rev Nigel Craig came to speak to us. He told a story about Bob the Bird. Matt was also at Assembly and he was from the Storehouse Charity. He told everyone that there are lots of poor people in the world. After that he got ten volunteers and gave them money to buy Freddos from his pretend tuck shop. Some girls had more than others. Matt asked those with extra money to buy a Freddo for the others. This is called sharing. When we make donations of pasta, tins, soups and other non-perishable items we are sharing with others. We sang 'The Little Seeds' as we left Assembly.

*Iona Blair, P4*

### P3 Visit to George Best City Airport - 5 October



On 5 October, our class visited the George Best City Airport. It was a very exciting trip. We had to go through security and some girls beeped and then had to be searched! We loved watching Izzy's dad landing his Flybe aeroplane. He waved out the window at us. It was great fun looking at the fire engines. The firemen did a display for us and splashed us with water from their big hoses. We got to try on a big, heavy fireman's helmet.

*Emma Bell & Natasha McMullan, P3*

### M&M Production: Beauty and the Beast - 6 October

We had a visit from M&M Production Co who put on *Beauty and the Beast*. All the classes were really excited.

My favourite character was the Beast because he was a great actor and accurate with the voice and his costume. Overall, I really enjoyed it and I would definitely recommend it. I also really like the way they took a story and put it their own way.

*Daisy Johnston, P7*

### P3 & P7 Science Afternoon - 11 October

On 11 October, P3 and P7 had an afternoon of Science. Rain's mum came to talk about germs. We were given white coats, goggles and gloves. Then we were put into groups. We learnt about Typhoid Mary and how she cooked in rich people's houses and spread her disease. Scientists then found out and tried to remove the disease from her but she never let them. She chased them off with a steak fork. She was then caught and

put in jail. Mary died but she had spread the disease to 122 people and 5 of them died.



The Scientist was called Dr Oyama. P7 had a really good time, and we hope she will come in to visit us some other time.

*Rosey Taylor, P7*

### Visit by Knock Firemen - 19 October

On 19 October, P5 had a visit from the Greenwatch firemen. We started by learning about different people. We were thinking about the ways fires start and how to prevent them. Chip pans and candles were at the top of the safety list. At the bottom were Sally and Sam who were cartoon characters who do their best to prevent fires. After that we went outside to look at the fire engine and all of the equipment inside. We really enjoyed seeing it.

*Emma McNally, P5*

### P4 Trip to Castle Ward - 24 October



On 20 October we went to Castle Ward. We went because we were doing the 'Applefest'. On the way we all sang. When we got there the first thing we did was have our break. After break we got divided into two groups. First, my group did a craft activity. The craft activity we were doing was making apple trees. After that we did some more art activity but this time with chalk. We had to copy a picture of apples. Next we planted apple seeds and then we had lunch.

At Castle Ward they had a gift shop. I had brought money so I bought a teddy and fossils. Then we got on the bus and went back to class. It was good fun.

*Heidi Moore, P4*

## NOVEMBER 2017

 P6 Trip to RUA Exhibition - 14 November

On 14 November, P6 went to the Royal Ulster Academy of Arts Exhibition to look at the extraordinary art that was shown. We also had the opportunity to make some masterpieces of our own. We started by looking at the Viking section of the Museum as our topic was Vikings. We then started looking at the amazing art and learned how to make paper aeroplanes. Then we were split into two groups. One of the groups stayed and made a cat print, with a reference sculpture. The other group looked around the museum. Then while the other group looked around, our group made art. Then we went to the bus to go back to school.

Overall this was a very enjoyable trip and it was exciting to see all the amazing art.

*Tara McNeill, P6*

 P5 Viking Day - 17 November

On 17 November, P6 had a Viking Day with Rita and Magnus. When they first arrived we sat down and watched a video about Vikings and monks. Then Magnus ran into the hall and scared us all. I was petrified! Then we were put in four groups and my group was Anna, Bella, Molly and Tiffany. The first thing we did was wattle and daub and we took it in turns and it was really fun. Next we played Trip Trap Troll with Tara. Trip Trap Troll is a game where you use tokens to trap the other player. Afterwards we had to work out the runes. Runes are what the Vikings would have used to write with. Once we finished the runes we learnt about Viking weapons and that was my favourite because Magnus was swinging the weapons around and he was funny at the same time.

We then did the chainmail relay. The chainmail was really heavy. We dressed up in wigs and Viking outfits and Tara was really funny. Next we went back to the classroom and made spears and we had a sword fight. Anna won so she was the chief. Finally, I went home and told my parents all about it.

*Katie-Lynn Hill, P6*

 P5 Trip to the Ulster Museum - 28 November

On 28 November, P5 visited the Ulster Museum. We went to see the Royal Ulster Academy of Art Exhibition. A friendly leader met us and guided us to three rooms full of amazing art.

The first room was about colour. It had a marble statue that was heavy enough to fall through the floor! The second room displayed portraits and the final room

displayed landscapes. Also in the third room there was a bronze cat sculpture. We all sketched it. Then we went to an art room where we made prints of our cat. It was a most enjoyable trip.

*Annabel Pollin, P5*

## DECEMBER 2017

 P5, P6 & P7 Trip to The Sound of Music - 5 December

On 5 December, P5, P6 and P7 went to Strathearn School to watch a performance of the famous musical *The Sound of Music*. My favourite characters were the Captain's two youngest girls. When the Captain found a new girlfriend called Elsa, I thought that she was going to be a nasty character but I was wrong! The performers were Strathearn girls and Campbell College boys. I really enjoyed it and would give it A\*.

*Isabella Harvey, P7*

 P5 Early Man Workshop - 12 December

On 12 December, P5 had an Early Man Workshop. A lovely lady named Rita came in to teach P5 all about the Stone Age. She put us into four groups and gave each group a sheet of paper, some cards, a pencil and a box. Each group then appointed a scribe and Rita told us we had to look at the stone in the box and read the cards. Then we had to try to identify what the Stone Age people used it for. Afterwards in the classroom, Rita told each group what activity they were doing: dressing up as Stone Age men, Stone Age weaving, making Stone Age pots or mini Stone Age tombs.

Later on, Rita gave everyone some paper and a thin cardboard tube. She said we would be making axes. When we made the axes we put feathers in them. While we were doing that, Rita was safely lighting a fire in the playground and cooking some bread that we made with the corn that P5 had ground.

It was a wonderful day and I enjoyed it very much.

*Julia Cochrane, P5*

 Christmas Roadshow - 13, 14 and 15 December

On 13, 14 and 15 December, P7 had a Christmas Roadshow. The Christmas Roadshow is where we go into groups of two or three. Our task is to decorate a part of the classroom, make a stall and create a game. All the money goes to charity. The charity this year is TinyLife. During the process of this we had to move tables around, work out what we needed and who was bringing in what. We also needed to decorate, discuss costs, collect prizes and set up a game. We had four days to set it up.

I really enjoyed the Christmas Roadshow, however I also think it is extremely exhausting. For me I think the second and third day were the most exhausting because people were rushing around stalls trying to play every single game before it ended. Overall I think it was a great success and next year's P7s should thoroughly enjoy it.

*Lucy Brown, P7*

 P3 Trip to Mount Stewart - 15 December

On 15 December, P3 went on a trip to Mount Stewart. We wanted to learn about how people celebrated Christmas in the 1950s after WW2. Our programme was called The Estate Party.



**JANUARY 2018**

*P3 Trip to Ulster Folk Park Cultra - 18 January*



First we had a tour of the big old house where Rose and Elizabeth used to live. We met the butler and the nanny. We saw the nursery and all the old toys which the children played with. They are very different from our toys. We made a Christmas card and a Christmas tree decoration. We also sang some old Christmas songs and some girls were able to dress up as drummer boys. We loved our trip.

*P6 & P7 - Cross-Country*



On a chilly December morning at Henry Jones' playing field, a cross-country race took place. P6 and P7 pupils from Penrhyn were selected to represent the school. We thoroughly enjoyed running Flahavan's Primary Cross-Country event and would love to do it again.

My heart throbbed as I took my place in the line. A whistle was blown and off we dashed. As soon as the race began my legs changed speed like gears on a bike, so I could make my way ahead of the throng. I slowed to a steady pace and started to begin the ascent. My shoes sank into thick and squishy mud. Nearing the end of the race I sprinted as fast as I could to get to the finish line. We don't know our positions as yet – but we will hopefully soon.

When I finished the race a huge weight came off my shoulders and I felt satisfied. However, my legs felt like jelly! A big thanks to Miss Britain and everyone who came to support us!

*Eleanor Burns, P7*



On 18 January, P3 went on a trip to Cultra Folk Park. We went by bus with Mrs Houliston, Mrs Ritchie and Mrs McKeown. When we got there we went to the Parochial Hall where we were split into three groups. Each group had a tour of all the different old houses. The old houses had thatched roofs, stone walls and chamber pots. We got to make soda bread and it was yummy! After we saw the Rectory, we returned to the Parochial Hall where we switched groups, and then had a tour of the old town. In the old town we saw a blacksmith's shop, a police station and a picture house. While we were in the police station, Grace got locked in a cell by the sergeant! Then we saw the national school where we got dressed in the old uniforms. The old uniforms were not very warm. We then got to use the abacus to count on and it was fun. We also got a Valentine's card from the printer.

Overall, we learnt what it was like to live in the olden days. It was a lot of fun and everyone enjoyed it.

*Bella Houliston & Anna Ritchie, P3*

*P2 Trip to Titanic Centre - 24 January*



P2 went on a school trip to the Titanic Centre. On board the SS Nomadic we read a story called *My Friend Bear*. We played deck games, had morning tea and hugged the fluffy polar bear. We decorated a luggage tag for a friend. We had a great time!

*P7 Trip to Sentry Hill - 29 January*

In January, P7 went to Sentry Hill. This is an historic house from the Victorian era.

We got into two groups and began the tour. In my



group we started in the main house. As we went into the kitchen of the house, I knew immediately it wasn't a kitchen from this era. After that we entered the scullery. Deidre, our instructor, allowed us to hold and smell some Victorian soap. As we entered the dining room we all stood in amazement. It was stunning.



After the tour we had lunch and then we went into the education room where we learnt about what Victorians used to help their everyday lives. Then we went to the shop! They sold Victorian toys and stationery. This was a really fun trip!

Ayla Murray, P7

## FEBRUARY 2018

### P6 Trip to W5 - 20 February



On 20 February, our P6 class visited W5 for an 'Anatomation Workshop'. On the third floor we saw W5's newest exhibition, The Museum of the Moon. It was here that we learnt about space, the planets and astronauts.

Next, we were off to the third floor discovery centre. I especially enjoyed the virtual reality screen here – walking on the moon and playing with polar bears, seals and penguins. By the time we had explored the discovery centre, it was time for our 'Anatomation Workshop'.

After Climbit we visited one of my favourite W5 exhibitions: the detective and forensic science unit. There is nothing I love more than the memory games to play whilst solving a 'whodunnit'. Thank you to our teachers and W5 – I cannot wait for our next school trip!

Anna Matthews, P6

### Scripture Union Treasure Hunt - 28 February



We had a treasure hunt with our Scripture Union Club. We followed the clues and collected all of the letters and glued them on to our treasure hunt sheet. It spelled out Happy Easter! We loved the treasure hunt. It was very exciting!

Izzy Jones & Sophie Nelson, P3

## MARCH 2018

### P5 Trip to W5 - 6 March

On 6 March, P5 went on a school trip to W5. First we went on to the first floor to go on the Climbit activity. Our instructor taught us how to make a mini wind turbine. We put a battery in the wind turbine and placed it in front of a fan to charge the battery with energy. Then we placed it in the cars. It worked and everyone's car moved.

Macy McCormick, P5

### Choral Speaking at Lagan Speech Festival - 8 March

At the Lagan Festival we did choral speaking, which is saying a poem together. We competed against Sullivan Prep classes and the P3 class from our school. Guess who won? STRATHEARN P4! I couldn't believe that we had won. I thought it was a dream.

Isla Aldworth, P4

### School Concert - 8 March

On the night of the play, P6 were the Jitter Bugs. People wore light-up glasses, wings, hats and halos. We were so nervous and excited. When we were on stage, it was so cool how we all glowed with our UV face paint. After the dance all the audience started to clap and I couldn't wait until the next night. It was such an enjoyable experience.

Maddie Leathem, P6

### Green Day - 23 March

The School Council organised a 'green' day. They asked that all pupils wear something green and make a £1 donation. The School Council wants to raise money to make the school more eco-friendly - possibly starting with the purchase of coloured recycling bins. Their long term goal is that Penrhyn will be an eco-school.



## KEY STAGE 1 ENTERTAINMENT

### Out of this World

**O**n 8 December, the P4 class performed our Christmas play which was called *Out of This World*. The P4 characters were Mechanics, Mission Controllers, Zorkonians, Robots and Astronauts. First we walked to Belmont Church. Next we got changed into our outfits/costumes. When we lined up to go on stage I was kind of nervous and excited at the same time, but when we got on stage I wasn't nervous at all. We all had fun. We said our lines very clearly. My lines were "Pass the hammer mate. There, that should do it. And this robot too. Built to boldly go where no rocket has gone before". Mrs Mawhinney was very proud of us. I really enjoyed doing the play. The crowd loved it too. We went back into the hall and got changed into our school clothes and we went home. I loved doing the play.

Cecily Colmer, P4

### A King is Born

On 8 December, P3 and P1 performed *A King is Born* in Belmont Presbyterian Church. P2 and P4 performed *Out of This World Christmas*.

First we arrived and took off our school uniform and put on our lovely costumes. I wore a very pretty dress. It was pink and had sparkles on it. I was a mum and my friend Izzy was also a mum. After we got our make-up on, we went into a little room and waited. Then it was time to go in. I felt nervous but excited. I sat at the front of the platform because I had a special dance to do on my own. The parents loved us all and clapped and cheered for us!

At the end of the concert we left the church and went back to the classroom. Mrs McKeown gave us a big hug and said "Well done". She gave us a Freddo for a treat. I was tired but happy. Mum and Dad were very proud of me.

Farrah Taylor, P3



## KEY STAGE 2 ENTERTAINMENT

**O**n 8 and 9 March, P 7 pupils transformed themselves into a range of characters in order to perform *The Wizard of Oz*.

From dreary Kansas to colourful Munchkinland, the audience was led on a riveting journey as Dorothy, played by Velvet Meharg, made her way to the Emerald City. She was joined on the way by the Scarecrow, Saskia Brown, the Cowardly Lion, Daisy Johnston, and the Tin Man, Cara Logue. The P7 girls were supported by P5 and P6 who formed the choir as well as performing two amazing dance routines. Special effects and radio mics were used to full advantage!

The show was spectacular, and the girls should be extremely proud of what they achieved!

## CREATIVE ARTS

Music helps us to learn to listen and provides an opportunity to develop our personal creativity, self-confidence and self-esteem. As a school we support these extremely important elements in our pupils' overall development. In term one, our Choir met every Wednesday afternoon after school. Girls from P5 to P7 thoroughly enjoyed learning new songs and working to prepare for our many and varied performances. At the Holywood Music Festival we performed the following pieces: 'Let There be Music' from Roald Dahl's *Jack and the Beanstalk*; 'Earth, Sea and Sky', words and music by Lin Marsh. We were very excited when it was announced that we had won the Priory Cup and the Maurice Foster Cup for the Best Overall Choir.

We were also delighted to be invited to sing at the Sydenham Salvation Army Christmas Concert on 16 December. Our programme included 'Winter Wonderland' with a solo by Ellie Johnston, 'White Christmas' with a solo by Velvet Meharg, 'Santa Claus is Coming to Town' with solos by Daisy Johnston and Sophie Campbell, and 'Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer' with a glockenspiel and percussion accompaniment. Our final choir piece was 'Let us Adore Him!' and in this beautiful, uplifting version of 'O Come All Ye Faithful' we sang with added sign language.

Also in December, we sang at the Strathearn School Carol Service in Bloomfield Presbyterian Church. Sophie Campbell and Lucy Brown from P7 were selected to do the readings at this important event. With their immaculate uniforms and confident reading, they both represented the Preparatory Department very well.

All of the Strathearn Preparatory School Choir members deserve praise for their commitment during an extremely busy term. On behalf of everyone in the Choir I would like to thank Mrs Devlin for preparing our soloists and for providing excellent piano accompaniments. I hope that all our Choir members will join again next year and that our present P4 girls will join too.

*Mrs Mawhinney*

### STRATHEARN PREPARATORY CHOIR



### MINIVERSITY

Miniversity is a Computer Club with a careers theme. It creates a learning environment specifically designed and dedicated to the development of confidence in children.

Each week the girls have been attending the Miniversity Clubs and learning about possible jobs for the future. This runs after school on a Friday in the computer suite. The girls discuss and learn about various careers through the use of ICT. The Club uses a number of computer programs throughout the term, including Microsoft Office, Windows Movie Maker, SCRATCH coding, Google Sketchup, Paint, plus lots of cool websites.

Over the course of the academic year the girls learnt about thirty possible career choices, as well as developing their keyboard and presentation skills.

### BALLET

In this class, the girls learn balance, posture, expression and how to work with others. While ballet is a disciplined dance form, we do also encourage fun and creativity. Each week we learn set exercises through the ISTD syllabus, mixed with fun games and opportunities for the children to use their own imagination to create small dance pieces.

*Ms Montgomery*



### Ballet

*Rachel Booth, Sarah Bryans, Sophie Thompson, Sophie McMinnis, Grace Chercoles Carter, Rain Akpojivi, Ava Williams*



## SCRIPTURE UNION

Scripture Union is held for P3-P7 on Wednesdays in Term 2. Mrs McKinney and Mrs McKeown run SU in the P3 classroom. When we arrive at SU we initially relax and chat over a beaker of orange juice. Then we sing a great variety of lovely songs, play games, listen to Bible stories, complete craft activities and watch DVDs. This year we had an exciting treasure hunt and we all received Easter eggs. Julia and Vanessa lead us in our songs each week. We love going to SU.

*Julia Cochrane & Vanessa Minford, P5*



## SPEECH AND DRAMA

Speech and Drama provides an opportunity for each girl to improve her communication skills, expand her imagination and think creatively. The classes aim to foster an appreciation of literature, poetry and drama while building self-confidence and self-esteem, creating confident and motivated individual learners. The interaction necessary for drama provides an arena where the girls can develop team-work skills. The Lagan Festival of Speech and Drama produced very successful results, with many individual entries winning prizes. The girls from P4 and P3 all entered the class Choral Speaking Competitions; their hard work was rewarded by a first and third place respectively. The girls also have the opportunity to enter the London Academy of Music and Dramatic Art examination, LAMDA, and the last sets of results were truly outstanding.

*Mrs Armstrong*

## CYCLING PROFICIENCY

The classes for Cycling Proficiency started in September. A group of seventeen enthusiastic cyclists completed the training, which involved control of the bicycle and completing a set of manoeuvres to cope with both turning right and left from a minor road into a major road, overtaking a parked vehicle and dealing with traffic lights. The girls also had to learn the Highway Code in order to complete a theory test. The girls received their certificates for being proficient on their bicycles.

*Mrs McKinney*

## PENRHYN CHARITY COLLECTIONS

The following charity donations were made. Children's Heartbeat Trust £378; NI Children's Hospice £1,020; Genes for Jeans £160. Strathearn Prep donated their Harvest collection of non-perishable food items to Storehouse Food Bank, Belfast. Money was also raised for the Royal British Legion (Poppy Appeal).

## PENRHYN PIANO RESULTS

*Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music*

**JUNE 2017:** Chloe Nelson, Grade 1 Distinction; Laura Dunlop, Grade 3 Pass; Hannah Gilpin, Grade 1 Pass; Clara McWhinney, Grade 1 Merit; Anna Matthews, Grade 1 Distinction; Lucy Andrews, Grade 1 Distinction.

**NOVEMBER 2017:** Tara McNeill, Prep Test, Certificate; Iona Blair, Prep Test, Certificate; Rachel Bowen, Grade 1 Distinction.

## FRENCH CLUB

Bonjour! Would you be able to order a delicious French pancake with your favourite fillings? Can you give the day and date in French? Could you introduce yourself to a French neighbour at a campsite? The members of the French Club can do all of these things and much more. They sing a song to remind us of the days of the week. They take weekly turns in the French Café to order fruit juice and serve as waitresses. Christmas in France is Noël and the girls celebrated with cards and festive story books to make and share at home. Every week brings new activities and different topics of conversation.

*Mrs Black*

## SINGING

Every week, P4-P7 can attend singing lessons with Mrs Devlin. When we arrive we warm up our voices and do breathing exercises, before working at our songs in a group or individually.

In November, most girls entered the Hollywood Music Festival. All the girls sang very well, but this year a special mention must go to Tiffany McGowan who won the Musical Theatre class.

After Easter, we will work towards our Grade 1 singing exam. I thoroughly enjoy singing lessons and I would recommend it to any of my friends.

*Sophie Mae Holmes & Chloe Nelson, P6*

## PI-P3 SPORTS DAY

Despite the wet weather in the week leading up to Sports Day, P1- P3 were lucky to have a sunny and bright morning for the event itself. The girls participated in all of the events with great enthusiasm, and parents, grandparents, brothers and sisters came to cheer them on. For many it was their first time competing in a Sports Day, but everyone enjoyed themselves and they all collected a Participation Certificate. Our thanks to Mrs Manning for presenting the prizes, and to the Parents' Committee who served the refreshments.

## P4-P7 SPORTS DAY

Due to miserable weather this event had to be held during class time. Despite this, the girls got into the spirit of the competition and all events were undertaken with great determination and enthusiasm. Many thanks to Strathearn for allowing us to use their facilities and for their help in running the events.

### Results – Winners

P4 50m, Vanessa Minford; P4 50m Skipping, Vanessa Minford; P5 50m, Molly Boomer; P5 600m, Lucy Andrews; P5 Tennis Ball, Tara McNeill; P5 Long Jump, Grace Davison & Sophie Mae Holmes; P6 75m, Tilly McWhinney; P6 600m, Cara Logue; P6 Tennis Ball, Tilly McWhinney; P6 Long Jump, Ellie Burns; P6 High Jump, Tilly McWhinney; P7 75m, Amelia Hazle; P7 600m, Lucy Wills; P7 Tennis Ball, Sophia Cochrane; P7 Long Jump, Holly Higgins; P7 High Jump, Amelia Hazle.

### Individual Winners

P4 Vanessa Minford, P5 Aurelia Mayne, P6 Tilly McWhinney and P7 Amelia Hazle.



**Individual Sports Day Winners**

*Aurelia Mayne, Tilly McWhinney,  
Vanessa Minford*

## TENNIS CLUB

On Tuesdays, girls from P5-7 play Tennis with their coaches Stephen and Katie, and on Wednesdays, P3 and P4 have their coach, Sumeet. The coaches and girls walk through Strathearn's grounds to CIYMS, and in the winter months, play in the indoor bubble. The girls enjoy drills, games and matches, as they make their way through CI Tennis Academy's unique grading system of red, orange and green levels. We cover all the techniques of the major strokes including forehand, backhand, volleys and serves. We also work on tactical and physical development.

*Mr Garvin*

## STREET JAZZ

Street Jazz, for P4-P7, is a great class to have fun in and to learn new steps. The girls learn technique, and we work on flexibility and confidence. The girls also learn to create their own solos and routines. We use a wide range of music, from pop to musical theatre. Each week there is something different, but it is all great fun.

*Ms Montgomery*



### Street Jazz Club

*Back Row: Nyla Mallon, Cecily Colmer, Isla Aldworth, Julia Cochrane, Megan Chercoles Carter, Emma McNally,  
Mya Somerville, Annabel Pollin, Isabella Kenny, Aisling Gaskin, Charlotte Carter  
Front Row: Heidi Moore, Cecily Park, Charlotte Acheson, Heidi Dunlop, Jemima Readman, Macy McCormick,  
Essie Costello, Katie Barr, Zoe Greenaway, Grace Conroy*



## SWIMMING 2017

**C**ongratulations to the following girls who represented Penrhyn at the Swim Ulster Minor Schools' Championship: Megan Chercoles Carter, Zara Gray, Essie Costello, Vanessa Minford, Emma McNally, Julia Cochrane, Grace Davison, Lucy Andrews, Sophie Mae Holmes, Lilybella Burrows, Tilly McWhinney, Cara Logue, Velvet Meharg, Eva Gibson, Ellen Eakin.

**Swim Ulster Minor Schools' Championships** – The individuals who were the top twelve swimmers in their events and age groups are as follows: Under 9 50m Freestyle, Julia Cochrane 6th; Under 9 50m Back Crawl, Julia Cochrane 7th; Under 11 50m Butterfly, Grace Davison 1st; Under 11 100m Individual Medley, Grace Davison 1st, and Under 9 50m Breaststroke, Essie Costello 11th.

The Girls' 9-10 Relay Team was placed 4th and the Under 12 Relay Team was 2nd.

Congratulations also to Grace Davison and Eva Gibson who competed in the Irish Schools' Swimming Championships. Both girls performed well and competed in the Under 12 Relay along with Lucy Wills and Eva Lappin from the senior school. Grace Davison came home with an impressive two gold medals in both the Under 11 Butterfly and the Under 11 Individual Medley. A fantastic achievement!

**School Swimming Gala Individual Winners** - P3 Nyla Mallon/Katie Allen; P4 Megan Chercoles Carter; P5 Grace Davison; P6 Ellen Eakin and P7 Lucy Wills.



### Swimming Teams

*Back Row: Velvet Meharg, Vanessa Minford, Zara Gray, Julia Cochrane, Grace Davison, Ellen Eakin, Emma McNally, Tilly McWhinney*

*Front Row: Essie Costello, Megan Chercoles Carter, Sophie Mae Holmes, Lucy Andrews, Lilybella Burrows, Eva Gibson, Cara Logue*



### Swimming - Individual Winners

*Grace Davison, Ellen Eakin, Katie Allen, Nyla Mallon, Megan Chercoles Carter*



## HOCKEY CLUB

This year we had another fantastic turnout at Hockey Club with twenty-three P6 and P7 girls attending training on Wednesdays after school. The girls competed in friendly matches with Victoria College Prep, which allowed them to practise their skills before the Ulster Hockey Qualifiers. During the East Belfast Heats of the tournament, the girls put in a fantastic team performance, with wins against Strandtown A, Loughview, Lisnasharragh and Cairnshill. This resulted in the team reaching the semi-finals against a strong Methody side. Despite going 1-0 down, the girls fought back to win 2-1 and set up a final against Victoria College. After extra time, the scores were still level at 1-1. The game went to sudden-death penalty runs, and Victoria College managed to edge the win. This fantastic performance meant that the girls qualified for the Ulster finals as runners-up.



### Hockey Club

*Back Row (standing): Daisy Johnston, Sophie Campbell, Daisy Compton, Eleanor Burns, Sophie Gordon, Ellen Eakin, Lucy Andrews, Grace Davison*

*Front Row (seated): Saskia Brown, Lucy Brown, Alana Higgins, Clara McWhinney, Maddie Leathem, Ayla Murray, Chloe Nelson, Sophie Mae Holmes, Aleena Wasim, Susanna Villar, Aurelia Mayne, Molly Boomer*

## ATHLETICS CLUB

The Athletics Club proved popular again with a large number of girls across P6 and P7 attending training in the summer term. The girls were able to practise and refine their skills across a wide range of events, which were then put into practice at the Primary Schools' Athletics Club at the Mary Peters' Track. The event was enjoyed by all, and we are already looking forward to next year's event.



### Athletics Club

*Alana Higgins, Rosey Taylor, Lucy Brown, Saskia Brown, Eleanor Burns, Ellen Eakin, Daisy Johnston, Holly Humphreys, Clara McWhinney, Eva Gibson, Tilly McWhinney, Emma Hanna, Ellen Bryans, Sophie Campbell, Ayla Murray, Cara Logue, Velvet Meharg*



## SPORTS HALL ATHLETICS

Sports Hall Athletics had another successful year, with every girl from P7 competing in the event which was held in Strathearn Sports Hall.

This year the P7s competed across two days. On the first day, they paired up with Campbell College, and on the second, they joined the P6 girls.

The A Team managed to win impressively on both days of the competition, with the B Team finished as runners-up. This was a fantastic event for all involved and we would like to thank the Strathearn PE Department for their organisation.

## IRISH DANCING

Irish Dance is a fun activity available to all at Penrhyn. The girls enjoy learning both solo and team dances as well as developing the skills involved in Irish Dance. These classes provide a relaxed, fun environment and the highlight of the year is when the girls perform at Open Morning.

Mrs McCamley



### Irish Dancing

*Back Row: Maggie Wilson, Aisling Gaskin, Essie Costello, Pippa Rigby, Zoe Greenaway, Chloe Burrows, Iona Blair, Aurelia Mayne, Eve Downey, Layla Corry, Rain Akpojivi, Freya Brand, Rachel Booth, Sophie McMinnis*

*Middle Row (cubes): Torrance Glover, Amy Greenaway, Holly Humphreys, Lottie Carter, Tara Thom, Daisy-Rose Skinner, Emily Morrison, Rachel Chacko, Natasha McMullan, Sophie Nelson, Ella Kane, Ava Dunlop, Jemima Agbaje, Bella Turtle*

*Front Row (seated): Sophie Wilson, Lydia Greer, Rachel Cairns, Scarlett Terry, Issie Hazel-Agar, Sarah Bryans*

## CROSS-COUNTRY

The Cross-Country Team had another great year, with a number of promising new girls selected for the team.

The girls were entered in the Flahavan's Primary School Cross-Country League. They got off to a great start, finishing in fifth place overall after the first round of competition. Daisy Johnston and Cara Logue finished 10th and 12th out of 144 girls.



### Cross-Country Team

*Emma Hanna, Cara Logue, Ellen Eakin, Daisy Johnston, Eleanor Burns, Sophie Gordon, Maddie Leathem, Lucy Andrews, Aurelia Mayne*



I was a little  
red riding hood  
I all came  
to my Grandpa's  
cottage in the wood  
I met the wolf  
I was afraid of  
him The woodcutter  
helped me.  
by Issie Hazel-Agar

Issie Hazel-Agar, P1

I was a star in  
the Christmas play.  
It was called An out  
of this World  
Christmas. My line  
was who knows  
what lives out there  
I liked singing the  
songs. I liked  
doing the star dance.  
I did a solo. I  
liked my costume.  
My costume was gold and  
silver.

Amelia Maze, P2



I am the wolf.  
I am bad.  
I want to eat  
Granny and little  
red riding hood.  
by Catherine Quinn

Catherine Quinn, P1



Amelia Maze, P2

I was a star in the Christmas  
play. it was called An Out of  
this World Christmas. I had  
to say if you look at  
stars so closely. My favourite  
part was when we did the star  
dance. I liked singing Starry Night. I  
liked the silver stars on my  
costume.



Ava Dunlop, P2



## SLUGS AND SNAILS

Slugs and snails belong to a group of animals called molluscs. There are more than a hundred different species of slugs and snails living in the British Isles.

Slugs and snails have slimy, soft, wet skins. They usually have four pairs of tentacles and the upper pair have eyes on their tips.

Slugs and snails are often found in damp places and also found in chalky or limestone areas. In bad weather some snails burrow deep into the soil.

Most people think slugs and snails are very slimy!

*Tara Curry, P5*

## MY PET

I have a dog called Molly. She is a Bearded Collie and is sixteen years old. She is black and white with a rough coat. She has floppy ears and she is very lazy and she likes to sleep on a dog bed. We adopted her from a dog shelter when she was a puppy. Molly is a very old dog and we are afraid that she is going to die soon.

*Delphine McGimpsey, P4*

## MY PET

I have a dog called Monty. He is a small, white Bichon Frize. He has a black nose and floppy ears. He is very playful, though he never fetches! He likes to play with other dogs when he is out for a walk. He sleeps everywhere in the house where it is cosy, like the sofa. He loves getting his tummy tickled! He is not shy when meeting new people. I love him very much.

*Chloe Burrows, P4*



*Lucy Brown, P7*

## THE WILLOW PATTERN

Long ago, in China, there lived a rich and powerful merchant called Mandarin. He had a beautiful daughter called Koong-se. Her hair was as black as the night and she had a face as pale as paper.

One fine day, Koong-se was picking blossom for her father. When she came back from picking the blossom she said, "Father look, the first apple blossom." But when she looked again, she saw a young man called Chang. Her father said, "Koong-se, this is Chang. He is my new scribe."

Immediately Koong-se fell in love with Chang. Koong-se said "What happened to Lee, the old scribe?" Her father looked at her and said, "Lee retired from being my scribe. He was too old to keep up with me."

The next day Chang secretly passed a note to Koong-se. She went off to read it. From that day forth they planned to meet in the summer house each night. Koong-se's maid helped them meet.

One night, a few minutes after they had arrived at the summer house, Mandarin found them there. He was furious at Koong-se. He said, "How dare you Koong-se! Chang, I here and now banish you from my household!" He also ordered that Koong-se should be locked in her room.

A few days later Mandarin ordered Koong-se to get married to Ta-jin, a very wealthy man but he was old and mean. The next week, Mandarin held a great party for Koong-se and Ta-jin. Ta-jin gave Koong-se some beautiful jewels. Koong-se kindly accepted them but ran off weeping to her room.

Suddenly there was a figure standing at the door and it was Chang! Koong-se went to open the door because she was delighted to see Chang. "Chang! You came! I am so happy to see you", she said as she jumped into his arms and gave him a big hug. "Come on we need to escape!" said Chang. So they ran away, crossing a bridge. They found a small boat at the other side of the bridge and sailed away to an island. They sold the jewels that Ta-jin had given Koong-se. They bought a house with this money and decided to live in the house. A day later Mandarin and his guards discovered where they had been hiding and burnt their house down, but Chang and Koong-se turned into beautiful doves and flew away.

*Vanessa Minford, P5*

## MY PET

I have a dog called Tally. She is a black Labrador, who is nine years old. She is friendly and playful and has a calm and gentle temperament. She likes long walks on the beach with the family.

She likes jumping on the sofa which is a bad thing for my parents but I like it! I love my dog very much!

*Jemima Readman, P4*

## FESTIVAL SUCCESS FOR P4

The whole class went to the Lagan Festival. First we got onto the bus and I had a little nap on the bus. I didn't fall asleep, I just closed my eyes. In a couple of minutes, we were at the Lagan Festival. We walked into the Beechlawn Hotel, and then we walked down the corridor. There were lots of pictures. After that Mrs Devlin told us to go quietly into the festival room and get into order. I was in the front row because I am one of the small girls in the class. The first row had to cross their legs and the second row had to go onto their knees. The back row had to stand up. The P3 class sat down first and then we got to sit down in order.

First Sullivan Prep did their poem. I thought that they did a great job. Then it was time for Strathearn P3, to do their poem. Their poem was about magic. I thought it was lovely. It was then Sullivan Prep's turn, but a different class this time. After those two poems, it was our go. I was so nervous. The lady said "Strathearn P4." I saw that the judges had smiles on their faces when I was saying the poem so I was happy. It was now time for the judging. I noticed that our class wasn't called. Iona and I were so excited because... we came in first place! The P3s came in third place. What a great day!

*Tara Thom, P4*

## WHY WE SHOULD HAVE A DRAMA CLUB IN PRIMARY SCHOOL

Dramatic activity is already a natural part of most children's lives before they start school in the form of make-believe play. This gets them to make sense of their own identity by exploring meaningful, fictional and factual situations in the real world.

Children like to move and interact with others. In Drama we are asked to do exactly this. Rather than sitting still and listening we are encouraged to move, speak and respond to one another. Students who are challenged by reading and writing often respond more positively to the imaginative and real-world learning offered by Drama. This helps us to develop skills such as creativity, communication, empathy, self-confidence, cooperation and leadership. Most importantly, Drama activities are fun, making learning both enjoyable and memorable.

Drama improves literacy skills such as speaking and listening, extending our vocabulary and understanding and expressing how we feel when we are acting. Also, I can use words that I have discovered that I never knew existed. That is why I think primary schools should have a Drama Club.

*Velvet Meharg, P7*

## MY FIRST DAY

I was so nervous but everyone was so welcoming and lovely! I have not a doubt in my mind. I am three weeks in already but I feel like I've been here forever (in a good way).

I love this school so much and everybody should come here and there is no doubt about that!

*Darcy Shields, P6*

## SPRING

**S**ummer is soon arriving

**P**ens giving birth to fluffy grey cygnets.

**R**inging calls of young birds.

**I**ce lollies to cool you down after running around.

**N**oises of streams and animals coming from every direction.

**G**raceful ducks and swans gliding across the water.

*Eloise Keers, P6*







## MUNCHKINLAND

**M**ultiple girls gather in the green room waiting for the show to commence.

**U**nder the spotlight Dorothy goes waving to the open mouthed crowd.

**N**umbers of Munchkins hiding behind curtain waiting for the curtain to draw open.

**C**rowds of people saunter past for the interval is here.

**H**air done up for after the interval for the show is about to continue.

**K**ids tremble as the curtain awakes from its slumber.

**I**n the wings the teachers' brains are buzzing with excitement.

**N**o doors open or close for the lion appears on stage.

**L**aughter begins as the show is nearly over.

**A**nticipation reaches the audience for the finale is here.

**N**ow the finale arises girls get ready for the last dance of the night.

**"D**ance on," said the teachers as the show is over and it is time to go home!

*Mia McDowell, P7*

## THE SEASIDE

Starfish and crabs are in the rock pools

Everyone is eating a picnic

All the children are playing

Seagulls are squawking for food

I love splashing in the water

Daddy got buried in the sand

Everyone goes swimming.

*Rachel Chacko, P3*

## MUNCHKINLAND

**M**unchkins dancing around the stage

**U**nique costumes and bright red cheeks

**N**ervous, noiseless, backstage in the wings

**C**olourful spotlight shining in our eyes

**H**iding from the audience backstage

**K**eeping the show alive

**I**'m trying to transform into my character

**N**ervous faces everywhere

**L**oud crashes and bangs as the Wizard appears

**A**udience claps as we come out and bow

**N**early over as Mrs Connery gives a speech

**D**on't want it to end on the last night.

*Eva Gibson, P7*

## SNOW

I woke up this morning,

Shocked and surprised.

I looked out the window,

My street is filled with white snow!

I ran down the stairs,

About to put on my uniform

But Mum says "school's off today!"

I jumped up and down,

"Hurray!"

I spent the day playing outside

Building snowmen and snowwomen.

But when I woke up the next morning

I screamed "Noooooo!"

My street was filled with red bricks,

Boring brown chimneys.

Plain, grey lampposts.

But worst of all... school!

*Molly Boomer, P6*

## STRATHEARN PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

This year our fundraising events have included the discos for P7, Form 1 and Form 2, our annual Table Quiz & supper, and the Penrhyn Summer Fete which was held in June. This year we ran a Plant a Basket or Container Competition for the girls which they enjoyed, and then we had a plant sale at the fete. We also held Halloween, Christmas and End of Term discos for the Penrhyn pupils, in which they could dress up and dance the afternoon away, with lots of party games and treats provided. We would like to take this opportunity to thank all the parents who gave so generously of their time and money throughout the year.



Thanks also to Mrs Quinn for her invaluable support as teacher representative. We were delighted in October 2017 to present a cheque to Strathearn for £5,100, and to Penrhyn for £3,400.

M Bowen



## BOXING DAY TOURNAMENT

I am happy to report that the Strathearn Old Girls are back to winning ways! We raised the bar and put in a really strong squad performance to lift the Old Girls' Trophy on Boxing Day 2017. We started the tournament with a hard-earned 1-0 victory against a strong school XI. We then went on to beat the Victoria College girls by the same score. In the final match, we met the Victoria Old Girls. Some lovely interlinking play set up an excellent opening goal, and Frankie Brown, who is an outfield player for her club, stepped up as our goal keeper and made some outstanding saves to keep us in the lead until the final whistle.

After the matches, everyone made their way up to have some nibbles and a big catch up. The Old Girls were presented with the trophy and Frankie Brown was presented with the Anne Dunlop Rose Bowl for her contribution to school and club Hockey, alongside her willingness to step into the role of goal keeper!

The tournament is always a lovely way to catch up with old friends and rivals. Some of the girls have been playing in the tournament for the last fifteen years - myself and my sister included! No matter what the result, the morning is never disappointing, as there always great competition and camaraderie between the two schools. Please feel free to pop down and support the Old Girls and current pupils next year.

Miss Harvey







Credits: Front and Back Covers  
Michael Richert, [RGBStock.com](http://RGBStock.com)  
and chidsey (Chris ), [RGBStock.com](http://RGBStock.com)