

Victoria College Belfast

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ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS

For the Year
2016 / 2017

GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT

SECTION 1 – BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Victoria College, under its constitution, comprises of 27 Governors. Of these, twelve are Foundation Governors; nine are nominated by the Department of Education; three are Parent Governors elected by parents; and three are Teacher Governors elected by their colleagues. The Principal is an *ex officio* member of the Board. The Board's Secretary is Miss Nicola Mawhinney BA.

The members of the Board of Governors who served during the period 2016 – 2017 were as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Expiry of Term of Office</u>
Dr B J Gregory BSc PhD CEng MICE MIEI FCIWM (Chairman)	Foundation Governor	N/A
Mrs G Wells MB BCh BAO MRCGP MFCH (Vice Chairman)	Foundation Governor	N/A
Mrs P Slevin BA MEd PGCE PQH (Headmistress)	Ex officio	N/A
Mr M Beattie IBFS Dip	Parent Governor	Nov 2017
Mrs W Blundell OBE MEng CEng FICE MIStructE	Parent Governor	Nov 2017
Dr B Callender MB MRCGP	Foundation Governor	N/A
Dr R Clarke MB BCh BAO FRCPath	Foundation Governor	N/A
Mrs O Dagunduro	Dept of Education Nominee	Aug 2019
Lady N Froggatt ¹	Foundation Governor	N/A
Dame Joan Harbison BA MSc	Foundation Governor	N/A
Mr M Haylett BEng CEng PMP MICE MAPM RMaPS	Co-opted Member	N/A
Mrs S Herriot BA (Ed) PQH	Teacher Governor	Nov 2017
Ms S Hetherington CPFA BA (Hons)	Dept of Education Nominee	N/A
Mrs M-L Horwood LLB LLM	Co-opted Member	N/A
Mr M H Hunter ¹ FCA	Foundation Governor	N/A
Dr M S Johnston MB BCh BAO	Foundation Governor	N/A
Ms F Kane BA (Hons)	Dept of Education Nominee	Aug 2019
Mr N J Kavanagh BA PGCE	Teacher Governor	Nov 2017
Mrs C Lewis Dip Sp Ed	Dept of Education Nominee	Aug 2019
Mr C G Maccabe ¹ CB LLB LLM FRSA	Foundation Governor	N/A
Dr D N Magill LLB PhD	Dept of Education Nominee	Aug 2019
Mr S McConkey BA BSSc PGDip PGCE	Dept of Education Nominee	Aug 2019
Mr C McCrory BSc MAPM	Parent Governor	Nov 2017
Mr B S McDonald	Dept of Education Nominee	Aug 2019
Mr S McKillop BEng CEng MIEI	Foundation Governor	Aug 2019
Mrs N Nugent BA PGCE PQH	Teacher Governor	Nov 2017
Mrs E A Robinson	Foundation Governor	N/A
Mr R Telford ¹ BSc DIS MRICS MAPM	Foundation Governor	N/A
Mr P Sood MBA	Dept of Education Nominee	Aug 2019
Mr A Wylie FCA CertPFS BA	Dept of Education Nominee	Aug 2019

Note 1: Mr R Telford, Mr C G Maccabe CB and Lady Froggatt, Foundation Governors, resigned from the Board in February, June and August 2017 respectively. Mr M Hunter, Foundation Governor, had resigned from the Board at the end of June 2016. This currently leaves four Foundation Governor vacancies to be filled.

The election processes for Teacher and Parent Governor elections for the 2017-2021 term of office were completed in November/December 2017 respectively. Mrs Alex Doran, Mr Paul Murray and Mrs Caroline Young were elected as Parent Governors and Mr Leigh Gorman was elected as a Teacher Governor. Two Teaching Governor vacancies remain to be filled. Two co-opted members are currently appointed to the Board.

Mrs G Wells and Dr B Callender are the Designated Governor and Deputy Designated Governor respectively for Child Protection.

The Board has agreed in principle to reduce the number of governors from 27 to 18, at a date to be agreed with the Department of Education. It is expected that any implementation would be in 2018 or 2019. If this proceeds the composition of the Board would be reduced to eight Foundation Governors, six Department of Education Governors, two Parent Governors and two Teacher Governors.

Victoria College is attended by 1097 pupils with 897 pupils in the Secondary Department and 200 pupils in the Preparatory School. The Preparatory School includes a Pre-School and a Junior Pre-School department with Day Care available for children from the age of 2 years from 8:00am to 6:00pm. The College currently has 43 boarders within its Boarding Department.

The College is a leading non-denominational grammar school for girls and it enjoys an outstanding reputation for academic achievement together with an impressive record in many other activities such as music, drama and sport. The Board of Governors is committed to ensuring that every girl has the opportunity to reach her full potential, developing the skills and qualities which will prepare her for adult life.

The supportive and inclusive ethos of the College has been recognised by the achievement of the Inclusion Quality Mark and the College's outstanding development of the International Dimension in the curriculum was recognised by the International School Award. The College's pastoral care has been recognised as outstanding by ETI and pupils are encouraged to become actively involved with voluntary work and charitable projects at home and abroad. The College has just completed an Erasmus+ Skills for Success project with schools in Spain, German and Italy and pupils and staff travelled to Catalonia in March 2017, while partner schools visited the College in May.

The Board of Governors reviews policies and procedures annually to ensure that the learning environment remains safe and secure, allowing pupils to develop and grow in confidence as they pursue their studies and avail of the many opportunities presented to them.

Each pupil benefits from a curriculum which offers breadth and balance and every effort is made to ensure that individual needs of pupils are met. As a member of the South Belfast Area Learning Community the College works in collaboration with other local schools to ensure that a wide range of courses, both academic and vocational, are available to its pupils. Arrangements for pupils with special educational needs are outlined in the Special Educational Needs and Inclusion Policy, which, along with the Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy and the Anti-Bullying Policy are available for parents on the College website (www.victoriacollege.org.uk) or from the school office. The Board of Governors is grateful to all the dedicated teaching and support staff who are essential in delivering the aims of the College.

The Board is very conscious of the unprecedented financial pressures facing the education sector as a whole, and the very real challenges facing all schools and is of the view that the current funding situation is simply not sustainable. Inescapable pressures, including increased employer and pension costs, coupled with an inadequate Department of Education budget allocation, means that the amount of grant funding Victoria College receives has decreased in real terms over the past number of years, while costs continue to rise. This is likely to be an ongoing trend and, while the Board of Governors continues to make representations to the Department of Education, both directly and through the Governing Bodies Association, the Board also recognises that, as a result of these pressures, there will be difficult and challenging decisions ahead to ensure that the College can live within its means.

The Board is extremely grateful to our parents whose voluntary contributions to the College enable us to maintain such high quality provision for our pupils. We encourage all parents to make an annual voluntary contribution of £380.00 and we are very proud of and grateful for the continued commitment we receive from our parents. If this contribution is made through the Gift Aid Scheme the College will receive, at no cost to parents, an additional £85.00 by claiming back the basic rate tax paid on each contribution received. This investment by parents provides resources and educational materials beyond the statutory requirements. It helps to ensure we maintain curriculum breadth, appropriate class sizes, provide opportunities to stretch and develop pupils beyond the classroom, access specialist tutors and counsellors, participate in local, national and international events and purchase technical equipment and resources.

The Board takes great pride in our school estate and 2017 saw the College receiving the Best Kept Large School award for the 12th time and fifth time in the last consecutive years. Having successfully secured funding through the DE School Enhancement programme, 2017 saw the College opening its new multi-purpose sports hall, a fabulous Art and Design suite and two new Science laboratories.

A summary of the key work of the Board of Governors during the academic year 2016/2017 is outlined below.

Board Business

The Board met on eight occasions and was supported by the work of its committees.

Governance

The Board continued to review its operating procedures with a view to strengthening governance and improving transparency, to ensure that the Board is well positioned to monitor all aspects of the performance of the College and take timely measures as appropriate. The Board had conducted a review of its committee structure during 2015-2016 and had established a Resource Committee (combining the work of the Finance and Estates Committees), a pupil focused Education Committee and an H.R. Committee. The Policies Sub-Committee, which originally reported to the College Committee, was re-designated as the Policies Co-ordination Group, with policies being referred to relevant Board committees through this group. Time limited committees became working groups, with this new committee structure commencing its work at the start of the Autumn term 2016.

During 2016-2017, time limited Working Groups were established to review the College's curriculum priorities in order to establish a framework moving forward and to consider the College's response to the Education Authority's consultation on the Strategic Area Plan, "Proving Pathways 2017-2020". Following discussions about the operational success of the Resource Committee and in view of the heavy workload and significant issues which fell into these specialist areas, a decision was subsequently taken to reconstitute separate Finance and Estates Committees from January 2017. These committees have continued to function as separate committees from that point onwards. Further changes to the Committee structure were considered during 2016-2017 and implemented in September 2017, with a separate focused Preparatory and Boarding Committee being established to have a complementary role to the Education Committee.

As a result of discussions during 2016-2017, the structure of Board meetings have been revised from the start of 2017-2018, with a separation of meetings and agendas now operating for Preparatory and Senior School business. A standing item of *Risk Review* was introduced at both Board and Committee meeting level. Moving forward each committee will be responsible for maintaining a Risk register for its area of responsibility with strategic risks elevated to the Board's overall Risk register. Reporting arrangements were also reviewed, with the Headmistress and the Head of Corporate Services reporting on education and HR matters and finance and estates matters respectively. These changes were in line with best practice and will ensure that objective information informs decisions. The Board also agreed to work towards the publication of minutes. With effect from 2017-2018 it was agreed that the number of Board meetings would be reduced from 7 to 6 per year, with additional ad hoc meetings organised if required.

School Enhancement Programme

The Board, through its Estates and Finance Committees, oversaw progress on the School Enhancement Programme. The Sports Complex was completed in March 2017, with this facility put into use for the summer 2017 examination process and is now in full use for P.E. activities as the 2017-2018 academic year got underway. Work on the new Art and Design Suite and additional laboratory teaching spaces commenced in April 2017, with work completed in time for the commencement of the new academic year in August 2017. The Official Opening ceremony for these new premises was held on Thursday 23 November 2017, with the official unveiling conducted by Mr Derek Baker, Permanent Secretary, Department of Education and attended by local sports personalities, a renowned local artist, as well as representatives from various educational bodies and families and friends of the College. A Fitness Suite in the Sports Hall was named in recognition of the contribution of James

F McCue, a governor of Victoria College from 1965-2004, with this ceremony attended by members of Mr McCue's family.

The Board was delighted with the outcome of the College's SEP programme and hopes that both current and future pupils will benefit from these excellent additions to the College in the years to come.

Transfer Arrangements

Throughout the year the Board of Governors and Senior Staff continued to be fully engaged in discussions surrounding the procedures for Transfer 2016 and planning for the 2017 arrangements. In relation to September 2017 entrants to Year 8, the College considered one challenge to the application of its admissions criteria which was upheld. The Board of Governors also considered Special Circumstances applications as part of the Transfer procedure.

The College has consistently taken the view that there should be an agreed form of entrance assessment for admission into schools that use academic selection as the basis for their admissions criteria. The Headmistress and the Chairman will continue to be actively involved with relevant bodies to reach such an agreement. Having given due regard to guidance from the Department of Education, the Board took a decision to maintain academic criteria in order to select pupils for admission to the College in Year 8 in 2018. Governors are also fully committed to embracing the College's ethos of inclusivity to ensure that admission to the College is open to pupils from all social backgrounds and religious and ethnic communities. In line with this, the Board remains fully committed to admitting pupils who sit either the G.L. or the AQE tests. The College's admissions criteria for 2017/18 remained largely unchanged from 2016/2017.

Construction Work – Richmond and Cranmore Campuses

The Board of Governors, through its Estates Committee, oversaw general maintenance throughout the year and carried out a range of construction work on both campuses. The Committee liaised with the Department to register for funding for Minor Works as appropriate, with these including a survey report and the replacement and upgrade of the fixed wiring infrastructure across the College and the upgrading of the heating infrastructure.

Examination Results Analysis

Through its Education Committee, the Board continued to conduct an annual review of examination results. Governor representatives of the Board attended Heads of Subject examinations analysis meetings with the Headmistress in October and feedback from these meetings was relayed to the Board. In the summer 2017 examinations, 81.9% of pupils achieved 3+A-C grades at A-level and 94.5% of pupils achieved 7+A*-C grades (including English and Mathematics) at GCSE level.

Inspections

Governor representatives attended meetings with inspectors in relation to the RQIA Boarding Inspection, held in May and the Social Services Day Care Inspection in April. RQIA were satisfied that the Boarding Department was compliant in all four key standards, with the department being assessed as a safe, effective and compassionate environment for those in its care, with the service being well led. No recommendations were made.

Feedback from the Day Care Inspector was very positive, recognising the very good practice within the facility. All previous recommendations had been met and the Board was advised of current recommendations which would be taken forward for implementation through the Board's Finance and Estates committees.

An ETI Sustaining Improvement Inspection of the Preparatory School took place on 25 and 26 January, with the focus on evaluating action to promote improvement, its impact on learning and teaching and outcomes for learners. This inspection took a specific numeracy focus, with outcomes very positive. Governor representatives' views were sought and were advised that there would be no requirement for a full inspection for a further five years. The Inspector was pleased with the standards of teaching demonstrated as well as the levels of engagement in learning. The collegiate approach within the Junior Pre-School, the Pre-School and the Preparatory School was recognised. The

Inspector made recommendations for the improvement of the Preparatory site and these items were taken forward by the Estates and Finance Committees. The Inspection report stated that “[t]he Preparatory school has an effective range of self-evaluation procedures in place to monitor and evaluate the quality of provision for mathematics and the standards achieved by the children.”

In June the Preparatory School received revalidation of its Inclusion Quality Mark (IQM) Centre of Excellence Status for another year. The Preparatory School also achieved the Sustrans School Mark Assessment (Bronze Level), which is awarded “to a school that has worked to bring about some organisational, cultural and behavioural changes which help the school community choose to travel in a more active and sustainable way”. On both occasions Inspectors sought feedback from Governor representatives and the Board was delighted to receive reports of the positive outcomes of these processes.

Swimming Pool

In September 2016, following a decision previously taken by the Board that the swimming pool would close in April 2017, the Board had been made aware of a health and safety concern regarding the electrical systems within the swimming pool. The Board, through its Estates Committee, sought independent professional advice and a decision was subsequently taken to close the swimming pool. Engagement between the Board and a Preparatory Parent Working Group continued during the year to explore any potential for re-opening the pool. This dialogue and joint effort had been welcomed because it ensured that every possible avenue had been explored to see if a financially viable and affordable option could be identified to keep the pool open. A timebound Working Group of Governors was also appointed to support the communication between the Board and parents.

Following extensive investigation and consideration of technical reports from professional experts across the full range of necessary disciplines, and legal advice, it unfortunately remained clear that, given the extent and cost of the repairs required the continued operation of the pool could not be justified by the Board, particularly in the current economic climate. Regrettably a decision was taken to demolish the swimming pool when an agreed scheme is in place for the redevelopment of the site.

Presentations to the Board

The Board is kept fully abreast of various educational issues through guest speakers invited to give presentations on specific areas as required. The Board received a presentation by Professor Neil Gibson, Ulster University, on the N.I. Skills Barometer. A Careers and Leavers' Presentation and review was given, as well as focused presentations by the Art and Design and Technology and Design departments.

General Business

Through the Headmistress, the Board continued to be kept fully informed and debated at length articles and circulars from the Department, the Education Authority and the Governing Bodies Association. The Board was kept advised of curriculum proposals and changes, pupil and staffing matters and worked to ensure that all aspects of school life were subject to review and had access to support when required.

Committee Business

Audit and Risk Committee

Throughout 2016-2017, Ms Jackie Henry, Senior Partner of Deloitte Northern Ireland, was external convenor for this committee. As part of the changes to the committee structure of the Board, it was agreed that, with effect from the start of the 2017-2018 academic year, Ms Sharon Hetherington, DE Governor, would be appointed as Convenor, with Ms Henry remaining as an independent external member of the Committee.

The Committee considered a whole school Strategic Risk Review with the aim of allowing the Board to focus regularly on key strategic risks, rather than operational risks. This work was built upon the outcome of a number of Strategic Risk Workshops facilitated by Deloitte over the course of the last two years.

The College's Strategic Risk Review would be adjusted in light of further developments and refinement of the wider strategy and objectives of the College. Risk Review was established as a standing agenda item for committees, with risks identified at committee level also feeding into the whole school Risk Register.

An internal audit by an independent company was conducted and the College achieved the top rating of 'substantial' for the fifth consecutive year. The internal audit focused on a number of systems and areas in accordance with an agreed audit plan.

Education Committee

The Committee reviewed the curriculum, leavers' destinations, admissions criteria, examination targets and Safeguarding and Child Protection issues. The Committee was kept updated on the statutory requirements relating to the curriculum and established a Curriculum Working Group to review the provision of the College's curriculum for 2017-2018, in liaison with the HR Committee. The Committee oversaw the College's Strategic Development Action Plan and the implementation of this. The Committee also reviewed an Annual Report on Safeguarding and Child Protection and reported this to the Board. In consultation with the HR Committee, the Committee considered staff applications for changes of contracts and professional development and Dr Callender, Convenor, reviewed teachers who were undergoing Early Professional Development. Through the Policies Working Group, the Committee reviewed education-related policies and reported its deliberations to the Board.

Estates Committee

The Committee oversaw the upkeep of the College and maintenance work throughout the year and liaised with the College's Finance Committee, the Department of Education and the Education Authority as required, with this including the Minor Works Schemes (see above). The Committee also oversaw school funded Minor Works and maintenance items, including the testing of fixed wiring installations in the Preparatory and Boarding Departments, with urgent items addressed and emergency lighting work completed. The Committee considered a range of options to address the need for the Prep 5 Mobile classroom to be replaced and reported on the outcome of technical reports in relation to the swimming pool. The Biometric Access control system went live in November 2016, with its effectiveness reviewed. The Committee reviewed maintenance priorities, the outcome of which determined the construction work carried out on both campuses and during the summer maintenance period. Through the Policies Working Group, the Committee reviewed Estates-related policies and reported its deliberations to the Board.

Finance Committee

The Committee oversaw the College's financial affairs, planned expenditure, undertook a three year financial review and budget forecast, as well as a review of assets and advised the Board accordingly. The significant financial challenges facing the College was a key issue for the Board. It was vital that the educational position of pupils was protected, with the maintenance of the curriculum offered being a priority. In light of the challenges which the substantial reduction in grant produced, the Committee considered a series of potential options for managing and reducing the overall cost of the curriculum delivery and discussed and implemented steps to achieve efficiencies. The Committee recognised the importance which parental financial support played in maintaining the high level of teaching, resources and extra-curricular programme currently available to pupils. Fees and charges were reviewed and benchmarked against other similar schools. The Committee considered business plans submitted by the Estates Committee for maintenance matters and oversaw the SEP's fundraising campaign. The Board's Remuneration Working Group reported to the Finance Committee in relation to staff salaries. An external audit received an unqualified audit opinion with auditors confirming that controls were robust, that all disclosures required by the Department had been properly made and all money received by the Department had been properly spent for educational purposes. The College fully complied with the Department and the Companies Act in each required area. The Committee, through the Policies Co-ordination Group, reviewed Finance-related policies and reported its deliberations to the Board.

HR Committee

The newly established HR Committee reviewed policies and procedures relating to HR matters and recommended areas for review and action. In consultation with the Education and Finance Committees, the Committee considered staff applications for changes of contracts, including job shares and applications from teachers for the Investing in the Teaching Workforce Scheme and voluntary redundancy applications from teaching and non-teaching staff. The Committee was kept advised of industrial action and the steps taken to minimise its impact on pupils. Through the Policies Working Group, the Committee reviewed HR-related policies and reported its deliberations to the Board.

The Board's gratitude was recorded acknowledging the commitment and valuable service provided to the College by Lady Froggatt, Mr Chris Maccabe CB and Mr Ronnie Telford, who retired as Foundation Governors of the Board during the 2016-2017 academic year.

SECTION 2 – CURRICULUM OFFERED

During 2016/2017 GCSE pupils had the opportunity to study the following subjects which were externally examined:

Art and Design; Biology; Business Studies; Chemistry; Drama; English Language; English Literature; French; Further Mathematics; Geography; German; Health and Social Care; History; Home Economics (Food); Information and Communication Technology; Latin; Mathematics; Moving Image Arts; Music; Physical Education; Physics; short course and long course Religious Studies; Single Award Science; Spanish and Technology and Design.

During 2016/2017 Sixth Form pupils had the opportunity to study the following A-level subjects in the College or in collaboration with SBALC:

Applied Business Studies; Art and Design; Biology; Business Studies; Chemistry; Classical Civilisation; Digital Technology; Economics; English Literature; French; Geography; German; Government and Politics; Health and Social Care (Double Award); Health and Social Care (Single Award); History; Mathematics; Further Mathematics; Moving Image Arts; Music; Nutrition and Food Science; Performing Arts; Physical Education; Physics; Religious Studies; Software Systems Development; Spanish; Technology and Design; Theatre Studies and Travel and Tourism.

Year 13 pupils received one period of timetabled Careers education per fortnight and could choose to follow an enrichment programme. Pupils were entered for examinations through the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music. A number of pupils were awarded certificates for Young Enterprise and Learning for Life and Work.

SPORT

Each pupil in Years 8-10 avails of two hours and Year 11 and 12 pupils (except for those Year 12 pupils studying Further Mathematics) avail of one hour of physical education and games per week within the taught curriculum. All pupils are encouraged to participate in regular physical activity. Through a balanced and varied programme the P.E. department aims to contribute to pupils' growth, development and general fitness developing an awareness of the importance of exercise and a healthy lifestyle.

The following sporting activities are on offer to all pupils in Key Stage 3 and 4 through the curriculum and through the extra-curricular programme which runs over lunch time and after school.

Aerobics	Golf
Athletics	Gymnastics
Badminton	Health Related PE
Basketball	Hockey
Boxercise/Self Defence	Netball
Camogie	Rounders
Circuit Training	Rugby
Creative Dance	Swimming
Cricket	Squash
Cross Country	Swiss Ball
Dance	Table Tennis
Equestrian	Tennis
Fitness Suite	Trampolining
Football	Volleyball
Gaelic Football	Yoga

In 2016-2017 pupils from Victoria College competed in Ulster, Irish, British, European and World Championships.

Athletics

Pupils participated in the District Championships and a number of girls were selected to compete at the Ulster Championships. Amy Edwards, Year 14, won the Ulster Javelin (Senior) title with a new personal best and competed at the Irish finals in Tullamore, finishing in 4th place.

Cross Country

Pupils competed in the District, Ulster and Irish Championships. At the South Antrim Championships both the Mini (Year 8) and Junior team (Year 10) won, with the Minor (Year 9) team being placed 2nd. The Intermediate team – Rebecca Warnock, Georgia Ross, Aisling Gray, Rebecca Bunn, Cate Blayney, Susie Loane and Sarah Hand - was placed second and the Senior Team – Amy Edwards, Leila Ponziani, Caitlyn Harvey, Robyn Chambers, Sarah Webb and Darcey Smyth - was placed first. Anna Hill (Year 10) won the Junior Girls' race and Amelia Tyler (Year 9) was 3rd in the Minor Girls' race. At the Ulster Championships the Senior team was placed first, the Intermediate team was placed 6th, the Mini team was placed 2nd, the Minor team 3rd and the Junior team 4th. Rachel Scott, Year 10, qualified as an individual for the Irish finals which were held at Mallusk. The Minor (Year 9) team was placed 4th in the Irish Cross Country Championships, with this team including Year 8 pupil, Emma Harrison. At the Irish Championships the Senior team won silver medals and Rachel Scott was placed 30th in the Irish Final of the Junior Girls' competition.

Leila Ponziani and Sarah Webb were selected to compete for Northern Ireland and competed in the London Mini Marathon, during which both girls completed the 5km course in exceptional times. Leila was also selected to represent Northern Ireland in the Inter-counties mountain running championships in Lancashire, England in May 2017. A group of Year 10 pupils were also praised for their officiating at the Belfast City Council's Primary School Cross Country District and Ulster Final championships.

Dance

Year 8 and 9 pupils performed a variety of dances for the elderly residents at Bethany Care Home and Faith House, Finaghy. The Year 8 Minor Dance Aerobic team and the Year 9 Junior Dance team took part in The Ulster's Dance Championships during which the Year 8 team – Yasmin Bodell, Betsy Brittain, Rudi Caddell, Ruby Cochrane, Kaitlin Lowry, Rebecca McCombe, Layla McElhinney, Kate McSorley, Aimee Neill, Rhiane O'Malley, Olivia Phelan, Anna Porter, Lauren Scott, Georgia Skelton, Morgan Smyth, Libbie Thorogood and Anneliese Wilson - was placed 2nd. Brianna Murray, Year 10, represented Northern Ireland at the All Ireland Lyrical Dance Championships in November and Rebecca Clarke, Year 13, competed in the All Ireland Hip Hop Championships in Cork in October.

Gaelic Games

In May the U12 Gaelic Football team won the Ulster Council Peil Shield tournament. Twenty schools from Counties Antrim, Armagh and Down participated in this tournament and the VCB team won all its matches. The U14 Gaelic Football team reached the Ulster Schools' Semi-Final, losing against St Mark's High School, Warrenpoint.

The U14 Camogie squad participated in the County Down Championships held at St Colman's College, Newry. The girls played well and reached the semi-final, but were beaten by a strong Newbridge College team. The U16 Camogie team reached the County Down Schools' semi-final after winning their group with victories against St Dominic's and St Joseph's College Belfast. The team was beaten in the semi-final by Sacred Heart, Newry.

Hockey

Four U12 hockey teams were established during 2016-2017. The 'A' team played in the N.I. Schools' tournament and friendlies. The College also invited eight Year 8 teams to a competition at Queen's University. Three U13 teams played in friendlies throughout the season and the 'A' and 'B' teams travelled to Dublin to play Wesley College.

The U14A and B teams played friendlies every Saturday. The 'A' team reached the Ulster Schools' Junior Plate Final. The result was a 1-1 draw and went to penalty corners, which unfortunately the VCB girls lost 5-4. Year 10 pupils, Zahra Lowry, Aimee Christie and Emma Montgomery, were

selected onto the U16 Ulster Development Squad. Zahra and Aimee were also selected onto the Belfast U15 Area Board Hockey team and played in the N.I. tournament.

A school team comprising a squad of 28 girls from Year 10 to Year 13 took on the Senior Team from High School Dublin as part of their 'Tour of the North'. It was the first time many of the VCB girls, especially the Year 10 pupils, had tasted senior school hockey and they performed impressively. A comprehensive 7-0 scoreline for VCB was testimony to the impressive performances of the entire squad.

The senior squad hockey girls made up of the 1st X1 and 2AX1 travelled to Benalmadena in Spain during half term in October for the Senior Hockey tour. They played local teams in the Costa del Sol over three days. They also did team building games on the beach and fitness in preparation for the forthcoming competitions.

Ulster Schools' Hockey organised a new 1st X1 competition this year. In this Super League the VCB girls were placed runner-up in their section and qualified to the quarter-final stages. In the Schools' Hockey Cup competition the girls reached the quarter-final stages of the plate competition. The 2X1 team reached the semi-final stage of the McDowell cup. The players completed their season with a prize night and Amy Edwards and Sarah Hanley were the 1st X1 and 2nd X1 players of the year respectively. The 2B and 3rd XI teams won all but one of their matches in a full season of inter-school fixtures. The 2B's also competed in the Gibson Cup.

A number of the VCB hockey girls played in different squads this year. Representing Belfast U17s were Emilia Cutrona, Georgia Heatherley, Charlotte Little, Georgia Ross and Beth Walker. Georgia Ross and Beth Walker were selected for the Ulster U17 squad to attend training at Lilleshall and played against England in May and against Scotland in June. Amy Edwards played on the Ulster U18 hockey team. Caitlin Murphy, Year 13, was selected for the U18 hockey squad and competed in Cardiff. Susie Loane, Zarah Lowry and Ellie Robinson represented Ulster in the U16 squad training for inter-provincials and Susie, Zarah and Aimee Christie played on the Belfast U15 team during 2016-2017. Aimee Christie and Zahra Lowry went on tour to Holland in May with the U14 Ulster team.

Netball

The Year 8 'A' team won its Belfast League, with the 'B' team finishing runner-up and the 'A' team winning the Belfast League Cup, after defeating Methodist College in the final. Sarah Udoh was awarded player of the final.

The Senior Netball Team had a fantastic season, defeating Wellington College, Ashfield Girls' School, Grosvenor Grammar, Hunterhouse College and Belfast Royal Academy. The team won the Belfast League and played in the Belfast Cup final against Hunterhouse College, winning 25-21, with the girls then presented with their medals by members of the current N.I. squad. The team qualified for the Northern Ireland final and played St Mary's, Newry but lost 32-14 to a very strong opposition.

Madi Chambers, Year 12, was selected for the Northern Ireland U19 squad.

Swimming

In November the Junior Swimming team – Emma Montgomery, Amy Montgomery, Lily McGuire and Sasha McKeown – was placed third in the Ulster Grammar Schools' Championships in the freestyle and medley relay. Emma Montgomery, Year 10, was placed first in the Butterfly and second in the Freestyle at the Ulster Grammar Schools' Championships and second in both the Butterfly and Freestyle at the Ulster Secondary Schools' Championships.

At the annual Inter Schools' Swimming Gala individual medallists included Florence Tinsley who took gold in both the Backstroke and Individual Medley, Lily McGuire who won gold in Year 8 Backstroke and Individual Medley and Emma Montgomery who won silver in Freestyle and Butterfly. Lily McGuire, Emma Montgomery, Amy Montgomery and Sasha McKeown also won bronze in both the Freestyle and Medley relay. Caitlin McCormack, Year 14, qualified to compete at the World Life Saving Championships which were held at Eindhoven in September 2016.

Squash

The U13 team – Monalika Bhardwaj, Sophia Brown, Cecilia Carey, Aurora Davidson, Erin Gibbons, Elsa Hayward-Shaw, Isabella Holohan, Eimile Lavery, Eva McCann, Layla McElhinney, Theresa O’Kane, Eva McCann and Anna Porter - and the U15 squash team - Sophie Clarke, Rosie Fogarty, Anna Glover, Freya Johnston, Samantha Murray and Amnn Naveed - competed in the Ulster Novice Championships. Both the U13 and U17 squash teams were placed first and the U15 team was placed second.

Tennis

The Year 8 tennis team – Zara Barnett, Sophie Luke, Rose Sundara-Garuda and Beth Thompson – reached the Ulster Final of the Ulster Year 8 Tennis Cup. The Junior tennis team - Elise Houssemayne Du Boulay, Kate McLaughlin, Lauren Patterson and Amelia Tyler – also reached the Final of the Ulster Schools’ Plate.

The Intermediate and Senior Tennis teams competed in the Ulster League and Cup. The Senior team - Anna Glover, Rachel McClements, Tara Murphy, Lucy Hamilton, Georgia Ross, Catherine McCreesh - did very well, reaching the Ulster semi-final, but were beaten by the eventual winners, Strathearn School.

The Intermediate team – Clara Schueppen, Cate Blayney, Rebecca Bunn, Georgia Ross, Emily Young, Lucy Greaves, Elise Houssemayne Du Boulay - defeated Belfast Royal Academy but lost to Strathearn School in the cup. The team went through to the Plate competition but due to examination commitments, were unable to play three of their four players. Although willing replacements were found, the girls lost the semi-final to Hunterhouse College.

Other Sporting Activities

The Year 10 Games programme at Queen’s PEC enabled pupils to work with the development officers from various governing bodies. The girls were able to participate in cricket, table-tennis, trampolining and tag rugby.

The Senior School Tag Rugby team reached the semi-final of the Ulster Cup. Many Year 9 pupils also had an opportunity to play in Tag Rugby blitz competitions and a group of Year 9 pupils were invited to tour the Kingspan Stadium and Nevin Spence Centre with pupils from Hazelwood College.

Eva Clarke, Year 10 and Teagan Clifford, Year 8, competed at the N.I. Schools’ Trampolining Championships in November 2016. Eva was placed 5th in the trampoline and 3rd in Double Mini Trampoline event and was selected to represent NI at the British Gymnastics Regional Team final in Birmingham held in June. The College’s Show-jumping team - Tara Murphy, Year 13, Zara Craigs, Year 11, Vikki Fox, Year 8, and Lauren Carville, Year 10 - won the St Patrick’s Day Showjumping Competition.

Pupils participated in a wide range of sports outside of school and their individual achievements also deserve recognition. Charlotte Houston, Year 10, won team gold at the Sentowerpark Youth Festival show-jumping event at Oplabbeck in Belgium in November and was part of the Irish team which won the Nations Showjumping Championships Cup at Wierden, Netherlands in June. Charlotte was also placed fourth as an individual competitor in the Grand Prix event. The same month Charlotte was placed third in the opening class of the Future Champions showjumping competition at Hagen, Germany and secured a bronze medal in the Europe-wide 148cm team competition. Ellen Barbour and Eva Briggs, Year 9 pupils, represented Northern Ireland in the Eric Twiname Sailing Competition, held in England in May. In June Victoria College students travelled to Cork to partake in the Cork City Regatta 2017 (Grande League) – Megan McGillin (Year 11), Lucy McCoy (Year 11), Connie McCoy (Year 9) and Ellie Andrews (Year 14). Members of the Belfast Boat Club, Megan, Ellie and Lucy form part of the Rowing Ireland Development Team. Megan and Ellie took part in the Women’s Novice Coxed Quad race, with Connie McCoy (Year 9) coxing the boat and winning the heat and final race in this event. Lucy McCoy raced in the J15 and J16 skull race, taking first place in J15 and second place in J16 and third place overall. The girls met Paul O’Donovan, Rio Olympic Silver medallist from Skibbereen, Co Cork and the girls went on to compete in the Irish Rowing Championships, held in Cork on 14 July. Sofia Lazarescu competed as an individual and as part of the Northern Ireland squad in summer 2016 during which she was the highest placed female in the Cadettes division. She also

competed at the British Open Surf Kayaking Championships and Home Internationals in October 2016. Jodie Dowling, Year 13, produced excellent performances in her first competition at Level 3 in figure skating during an international competition in London.

MUSIC

The Music department had another busy but successful and exciting year. Around 200 girls attended the wide range of extra curricular activities on a weekly basis including the Junior and Chamber choirs and College Orchestra. Pupils of all abilities were welcome to join and had fun preparing for many concerts throughout the school year.

A wide range of music was performed at Senior Prize Day by the brass quartet, Year 13 pupil, Sarah Montgomery and the Senior Choir. Our pupils collaborated with Victoria Prep, RBAI, and Inchmarlo in the annual musical production of *The Sound of Music*. Alexandra Dick played the principal role of Maria and she was ably supported by Katie Lynn who played Leisl, and Caitlin McCormack as the Mother Abbess.

The Annual Carol Service is always a highlight of the school year and once again charming performances were given by choirs of all ages, supported by the College Orchestra and readers. The orchestra began the service with an uplifting performance of *The Holy City* and continued to accompany the traditional carols throughout. The Junior choir gave sensitive performances of *A Star Shines Bright* and *Can You Hear the Angels? Rejoice and Be Merry* and *I Believe in Christmas* were also performed beautifully by the Junior chamber choir. A highlight of the service was an uplifting performance of *O Holy Night* when the combined choirs and College Orchestra were joined by former pupil and opera singer Giselle Allen.

At the end of the Christmas term, dance and singing students visited two local nursing homes Faith House and Bethany Nursing Home to give a varied programme to entertain the residents. These visits were much appreciated.

During January's Open Day, instrumentalists and singers gave vibrant performances at a number of vantage points in Maxwell and the Cranmore Assembly Hall as we welcomed many prospective pupils and their parents. The Music Prefects led hand bell workshops in Maxwell at which many prospective pupils and parents eagerly participated. Pupils who were involved in our production of *The Sound of Music* treated the audience in Cranmore to some hit numbers including *The Hills are Alive* and *How Do You Solve a Problem Like Maria?*

The Senior Choir represented the College in the Regional Heat of the Ulster Youth Choir/BBC Choral competition. They travelled to Friends' School Lisburn where they gave moving performances of Stanford's *The Bluebird* and *Blue Moon*; the choir was accompanied by Nikki Li and Katie Lynn.

Another highlight of the musical calendar is the Spring Concert and this year *Classical Meets Contemporary* provided another exciting opportunity for many girls to become involved. The Junior Choir and Junior Chamber Choir performed a wide repertoire to a captive audience. The programme opened with the combined choirs and orchestra performing *The Heavens are Telling* from Haydn's Creation. Senior students, Robyn Chambers, Caitlin McCormack, Katie Lynn, Alexandra Dick, Nikki Li and Sasha Wilson performed solos and ensembles to a captive audience. The chamber choir concluded the first half with a beautiful rendition of *Bridge Over Troubled Water* and there was not a dry eye in the audience!

The second half of the concert was spectacular, providing pupils with an opportunity to perform songs from a wide range of musicals with the orchestra opening with the famous Rhapsody in Blue by Gershwin. The Senior Choir entertained and set the mood with their rendition of *Puttin' on the Ritz* followed by *Seasons of Love*. The staff choir made their debut, much to the delight of pupils and parents with their version of *What a Wonderful World* and *Fly Me to the Moon*. The concert ended with an outstanding medley from the musical *Cats*, choreographed by two Year 14 pupils Alexandra Dick and Katie Lynn. This featured sixteen dancers from Year 8 to Year 10 with the Junior Choir ably

supporting them. The grand finale of the concert combined the Junior, Senior and recently formed Staff choirs in a rousing performance of *New York, New York*. The audience were certainly treated to a spectacular array of talent from all of the pupils involved on what was a truly memorable evening.

Instrumental and vocal tuition is provided by peripatetic staff to more than 100 pupils and the success rate at external examination level continues to be very high. Girls are also encouraged to participate in local music festivals and many of our girls have achieved recent success.

In April Rebecca Johnson and Amy Edwards, Year 14 and Abbie Cargill, Year 11, represented Northern Ireland at the European Brass Band Championships. In May three advanced string players, Robyn Chambers, Erin Devlin and Sarah Montgomery provided a programme of light music at the anniversary dinner reception of the Arellians which was held in the City Hall Belfast. Erin and Sarah were also members of the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra which performed at the CBYP Allianz Arts and Business Awards event held in Dublin in September.

ART

Year 11 and 12 Moving Image Art students attended a question and answer session at University of Ulster with Dr James Nesbitt. Dr Nesbitt answered the girls' many questions on the developing film industry in Northern Ireland as well as sharing stories about his own experiences on the set of *The Hobbit* and *The Secret*. The girls also spoke to Conann Fitzpatrick, Lecturer in Digital Animation, University of Ulster, and met some students who are developing new technologies in animation and virtual reality and got the chance to try out some of the software.

During the Autumn term, Years 12, 13 and 14 students (Sarah Allen, Charlotte Cummings, Nina Fitzpatrick, Sabrina Lam, Sophie Little, Tanith Maclynn-Hill and Cait Phenix) worked with artist Eleanor Wheeler on the Drumglass Sculpture Project. Through a series of visits and workshops with Eleanor, students had been able to find out about the design process and how to create a piece of public art. On 26 June 2017 the sculpture was unveiled in the park with a special opening ceremony and the students were able to see the contribution they had made. In December Year 13 AS Art students attended a ceramics workshop with Trevor Woods at Mount Ida Pottery. Year 14 students, Catriona Clarke, Tiva Mackin-Brown and Tanith Maclynn-Hill (with help from some Year 10 and 11 students) painted background sets for the *Sound of Music* school production.

The Art Department participated in a number of events and activities throughout the year and is now benefiting from its exciting and inspiring new Art and Design environment which has been established as part of the College's School Enhancement Programme.

DRAMA

The Drama Department had a busy year with various trips, workshops and performances. Trips began in September with all the examination classes going to see *The Complete Works of Shakespeare* at The Mac. In October two joint Drama/Classics trips were enjoyed – one to the Courtyard Theatre to see *Antigone* and one to the Grand Opera House to see *Suppliant Woman*. Pupils also had the opportunity to enjoy three plays by the Royal Shakespeare Company – *Hamlet*, *King Lear* and *The Tempest* which were streamed free to school. In December the senior classes went to the Gate Theatre in Dublin to see *The Heiress*. The final trip was to The Mac to see *The Importance of Being Ernest* in April.

In November many of the Drama students were involved in the school musical, *The Sound of Music*. Other performances included *Wednesday Night Live* and *Troubled* by Year 14; a series of monologues and excerpts by Year 13, *The Government Inspector* and *Crossways* by Year 12 and *Shirley Valentine* and *A Handbag* by Year 13. Year 11 also performed their Devised Work – *The Bully*, *Suffragettes* and *Twisted Ending*.

The department engaged in a lot of workshops, inviting external practitioners to come and work with the students. Anna Leckey, a past pupil and theatre practitioner came in to work with the A-level students. Year 13 attended a full day course with Bruiser Theatre Company at The Mac. The Lyric

Theatre sent a practitioner to work on set with senior students. Year 11 also had a workshop with Bruiser, as a result of which four pupils gained places through audition at the Bruiser Summer School. We also invited the Commedia Theatre Company into school to perform their award winning all female production, *Shakespeare's Women*.

The Junior Drama Club met every Tuesday afternoon in Maxwell Centre. As part of the club's fun activities the members participated in three competitions throughout the year – a half-term silent show in October, an Easter Extravaganza and a Summer Showcase. For these competitions the girls prepared, devised, rehearsed and performed their own pieces. This was a great success and the girls demonstrated excellent teamwork, dedication and above all a great sense of fun.

COMPETITIONS AND OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Fifty-four Year 9 pupils took part in the Junior Mathematics Challenge in April 2017, during which eight silver and thirteen bronze certificates were awarded. Atlanta Gorman, Carly Davison, Lucy Cawley, Eva Briggs, Terezia Hargasova, Aina Jasrul Azily, Molly McGuire and Samantha McAlister obtained the silver certificates with Atlanta also being awarded the 'Best in School' certificate. Four pupils – Vaidhai Gupta (Year 10), Chloe Kwok (Year 10), Terezia Hargasova (Year 9) and Sorcha O'Brien (Year 9) - took part in the regional final of the Junior Team Mathematics Challenge held at St Malachy's College in March 2017.

Six pupils from Year 10, along with sixty-two pupils from Year 11, took part in the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge in February 2017. There were three silver and nine bronze certificates awarded. Zoe Tam and Amy Quinn from Year 11 and Vaidhai Gupta from Year 10 obtained the silver certificates, with Zoe being awarded 'Best in School' certificate. Chloe Kwok and Anna Lavery, both from Year 10, obtained bronze certificates.

In November 2016 fifty-five Year 13 and Year 14 Mathematics pupils took part in the Senior Mathematics Challenge. There were eight silver certificates and thirteen bronze certificates awarded. Nicola Maxwell, Arez Hassan, Sophie Robinson and Katie Brennan from Year 14 as well as Ling Ong, Emma Hand, Bethany Acton and Sarah Montgomery from Year 13 obtained the silver certificates. Ling Ong was also awarded the 'Best in School' certificate.

Also in November 2016 a team of four AS and A2 Mathematics pupils took part in the regional final of the Senior Team Mathematics Challenge at Rockport School. This is a demanding mathematical competition and the team of Amy Edwards and Arez Hassan from Year 14 and Yasmin Ullah and Vishakha Ranade from Year 13 enjoyed an afternoon of working on and solving a range of challenging maths problems.

To promote a love of poetry, pupils from all sections of the College, from the Preparatory School through to Sixth Form, were given the opportunity to enter the Muriel McGregor Poetry Competition. The Key Stage 3 winner was Rachel Donnelly, Year 10 and runner-up was Maya Kelly, Year 10. Zoe Tam, Year 11, was Key Stage 4 winner, with Darcey Johnston runner-up. In Sixth Form Cait Phenix and Holly Murphy were joint winners.

Lucy Power, Year 11, was recognised for her work on the Into Film's Youth Advisory Council by receiving an invitation to the annual Into Film Awards Ceremony, which was held in London in March.

SECTION 3 – LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY

SOUTH BELFAST AREA LEARNING COMMUNITY

Victoria College is an active member school within the South Belfast Area Learning Community which provides and continues to develop a broad and balanced curriculum for pupils in the schools and colleges in South Belfast. Thirteen member schools are represented including Aquinas Grammar, Wellington Grammar, Rathmore Grammar, Methodist College, RBAI, Victoria College, Hunterhouse College, Malone College, St Joseph's College, Breda Academy, Glenveagh School and Fleming Fulton School along with Belfast Metropolitan College.

The ALC welcomes the revised statutory requirement in respect of the delivery of the Entitlement Framework with pupils now required to have access to a range of 21 courses at both GCSE and A level. These courses are monitored and evaluated to provide the young people with an economically relevant and individually engaging curriculum, with clear progression pathways evident.

Principals work together to develop and deliver cohesive, sustainable, cost effective collaborative arrangements to meet the needs of the individual and the requirements of the Entitlement Framework, including the use of elearning between schools across the ALC to reduce duplication and maximise capacity and resources, in order to extend opportunities to pupils and improve standards and learning within the ALC.

In the present climate of staff reduction and financial constraint, Principals use data to identify possible areas of collaboration, particularly regarding class size and economic viability. Course collaborations continue to be investigated and there is continual review of joint block timetabling between schools to assess suitability. However, challenges around timetabling and transport along with reduction in funding cause significant barriers to development.

Pastoral Leaders have reviewed the schools' elearning policies and service level agreements and have considered the changes to Safeguarding and Child Protection policies. The pastoral group is currently focusing on inclusion with specific reference to the LGBT communities within our schools.

The Curriculum/CEIAG section of the 2017 Inspection Guidance for Post Primary has been discussed at a CEIAG subgroup meeting. Over the year careers teachers have engaged in a range of CPD and a representative from each school attended at least one of the NISCA conferences. Members of the group continue to share good practice in regard to UCAS/FE applications, preparing post 16 students for high demand courses and eProgress Files/Progress Files.

THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION

The College is proud to retain the International School Award in recognition of the international dimension which permeates the curricular and extra-curricular provision at the College. Students and staff engage in a wide range of opportunities which enable them to maintain and develop links with educational and professional institutions on local, national and global levels.

The Modern Languages Department continues to make a valued contribution to the promotion of the international dimension at the College. All pupils in Years 13 and 14 French and most of pupils in Year 12 French were involved in a very successful letter exchange programme with pupils at Lycée Notre Dame de Boulogne. All pupils in Year 11 French also had penpals, with pupils in a different school, the Collège de l'Albarine in Saint-Rambert-en-Bugey. This was the second year of this project, which will continue in 2017-2018.

Six Key Stage 3 pupils – Annie Lindsay, Lucy Wallis, Anna Caldwell, Terezia Hargasova, Vaidhai Gupta and Paige Davison – took part in the regional heat of the Opportunity Europe Euro Quiz in the Great Hall, Queen's University. The competition, designed for KS3 pupils, tested their knowledge of a range of topics, including geography, culture, food and drink, languages, music and more. Our pupils participated enthusiastically and enjoyed the experience.

The Year 11 Latin class participated in the All-Ireland Linguistics Olympiad to solve linguistic puzzles and also enjoyed a visit to the Egyptology section of the Ulster Museum to learn more about Roman Alexandria.

Collaborative curriculum-based work is ongoing at the College, and our Erasmus+ project, *Skills for Success*, with partner schools across Europe, continues to strengthen. In March, twelve Year 11 pupils visited a secondary school in Catalonia. Pupils participated in a wide range of activities organised by the members of staff in Instituto Joan Solà in Lleida. The educational visit ended with a tour of Barcelona's architectural and artistic attractions. From a linguistic point of view this trip was very successful and raised awareness amongst our pupils of how important language learning is for our European partners. They established friendships with young people from four different countries. In May Erasmus visitors enjoyed a productive week in Victoria College in the final stage of the programme, during which students and teachers from our partner schools in Spain, Italy and Germany participated in activities, excursions and workshops.

The College also hosted visiting teachers from the Pudong district of Shanghai, China. The teachers engaged in discussions with staff and pupils and observed a number of lessons allowing teachers in VCB to share best practice across the curriculum.

Two Year 10 pupils – Lauren Carville and Beatrice Tinsley – were selected from the College to go on the government funded Battlefields Project with pupils and staff from all over Northern Ireland. This project was established to commemorate those who died during the First World War and involved a four day guided visit through France and Belgium. The trip included visits to Vimy Ridge, Lognagar Crater, the Ulster Tower, the Island of Ireland Peace Park and Menin Gate. During the trip the group witnessed the burial of a World War I soldier whose remains were recently discovered and laid to rest, with full military honours, in the Warlencourt British Cemetery. On the final day of the trip both our pupils had the honour of laying wreaths during the 'Last Post' ceremony at Menin Gate.

Fostering an international dimension in the curriculum is at the heart of the College, so that young people gain the cultural understanding and skills they need to live and work as global citizens and staff strive to promote active citizenship. Outgoing Head Girl, Francesca Drumm, visited Westminster to speak in the House of Commons as a member of the UK Youth Parliament. Francesca gave an impassioned speech from the despatch box on the subject of 'A better, kinder democracy' and the speech was broadcast live on BBC Parliament. Francesca also organised a #whatsfordinner campaign at the College. Hundreds of essential food items were donated by pupils and staff and these were delivered to Storehouse charity which has, in turn, allowed this charity to supply emergency food packs to vulnerable families in communities right across Belfast. As a result of the campaign and the setting up of the foundation, Francesca was selected as one of 60 Young Global Changemakers from around the world and was invited to attend the Global Youth Summit in Zurich this summer. We are also delighted that Francesca is now pursuing her studies this year in Georgetown University in Washington DC.

Two members of Year 13, Holly Devine and Katie McConkey, participated in a nine-day build project in Mediasch, Romania, building sheltered accommodation and workshops for young adults with learning disabilities. Dr Brown also participated in the trip.

Year 13 pupil, Hannah Beattie, participated in the Euroscola Rotary Competition in Strasbourg in January. Hannah attended parliament in Belfast and Dublin before flying to Strasbourg for two days. Hannah was chosen to lead a Committee and to feed back to the rest of the mock European Parliament.

Post 16 pupils were once again delighted to be invited to participate in The Mock Council of Europe, organised by the British Council, which took place on 14 October in Parliament Buildings, Stormont. Francesca Drumm, Year 14 and Bethany Action and Rua Magee, Year 13, represented Sweden in a Mock sitting of the Council in the historic Senate Chamber. During the meeting, chaired by former

Head of the European Commission, Janice Morrice, the girls participated in lively and stimulating debates about the Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership with the United States and Post Brexit procedures. Through annual participation in this prestigious event our pupils gain first hand experience of the cut and thrust of international politics, debating on a variety of topical European agendas and policies.

A number of VCB pupils attended an inter-university (Queen's University and Ulster University) debate during the week before the U.S. Presidential elections, delivered by the U.S. Consulate in Belfast. Proceedings were moderated by the BBC's Peter Coulter and a number of political representatives acted as judges.

International links both in and outside the curriculum continue to strengthen. The College supported a wide range of educational visits and recognises the benefits such opportunities offer to the pupils on a personal, academic and professional level. Over the course of this academic year pupils participated in a number of trips including Geography fieldtrips and a Scripture Union weekend. A very successful Junior ski trip to Marilleva, Italy, for current year 9 and 10 pupils was held during the February half-term break. The trip was accompanied by seven members of staff and two parents who were doctors. Skiing conditions were perfect and the trip began with 60 beginners, 18 intermediate and 8 advanced skiers, but after four hour lessons for six days, all the girls were competent skiers by the end of the trip. Evening activities were arranged and the itinerary included a trip to Verona.

Staff and pupils also continue to highlight and celebrate global cultural events such as the European Day of Languages and the Chinese New Year via our Assembly and Learning for Life and Work programmes. There was a very successful Book Fair in March for World Book Day which raised over £400 worth of free books for the library, whilst our Charity Prefects continue to promote a global charity each year.

The promotion of the international dimension across the College continues to develop from strength to strength and permeates all aspects of school life allowing the girls to experience and develop a global perspective and understanding.

VOLUNTARY WORK

Year 13 Health and Social Care pupils volunteered in an IT project working with older people involved in the *Live Life to the Full Project* at Abbeyfield, Belfast, through a Connect IT initiative co-ordinated by Linking Generations NI. The project, supported by staff from Barclays and funded by GO ON NI, aims to bring generations together in order to build positive relationships and enable older participants to develop their digital and online skills. Over an eight week period our pupils were successfully able to pass on their IT knowledge to the older people.

The Year 11 Health and Social Care pupils volunteered in an Art project with people with Dementia in both Orchardville and Ballyowen Residential care homes. The pupils worked alongside community artists in the homes and produced art work using different forms to stimulate the sensory abilities of the older people. To celebrate the project and to display the final work, the older people from both homes were invited to a tea party in Drumglass Drawing Room, during which they were entertained with singing, poetry and then enjoyed participation in action songs.

Year 12 and Year 14 Health and Social Care pupils were involved in Art workshops in the Spectrum Centre. The Year 12 girls made Easter decorations with the older people and spent a morning with a group of older people making St Patrick's Day decorations in early March. The VCB pupils were totally engaged with all the projects and became more confident in dealing with older people and gaining an understanding of dementia.

The Health and Social Care pupils who had been involved in the intergenerational project last year were finalists at this year's Alzheimer's Society Annual Awards ceremony, held at the Europa Hotel. The project was categorised in the 'Young Person/People Contribution of the Year Award', with this being one of twelve categories for the award ceremony. The project was in partnership with Fiona McGettigan, Activities Coordinator for the People with Dementia for the Belfast Trust and Sally Young, Community Artist. The pupils volunteered in different residential homes and worked alongside an artist in an arts and crafts project over a ten week period. To represent the VCB pupils, Sophie O'Neill and Morgan Hirst attended the event with Mrs Loane. The girls were presented with a beautiful glass trophy.

CHARITIES

The College's chosen charities for 2016-2017 were Womankind and Pips and a total in excess of £1,442 was raised within Senior School. In addition to the many charity and fundraising activities carried out throughout the year, our Health and Social Care pupils were involved in intergenerational projects.

CAREERS EDUCATION

In Autumn 2016 we welcomed Sentinus to the school to deliver two very enjoyable Employability workshops to the pupils in the Junior School. In conjunction with the Subject Choice Parents' events, interviews commenced with all pupils in Year 10 to assist them in the process of selecting their GCSE subjects. In January 2017 Year 10 pupils attended a careers information session on the importance of learning foreign languages, imparted by guest speakers from NICILT (Northern Ireland Centre for Information on Language Teaching and Research). In March 2017 Year 10 pupils attended a Digital Youth Event at Queen's University which included workshops by digital technology experts from Deloitte's, Digital Circle, Italic Pig (Gaming), Generator NI (Music), Cinemagic (Film Making), Kainos, QUB Computing Science, UJJ (Animation Department) and Belfast Met. Year 8 and 9 Young Enterprise workshops were held in June 2017.

Year 11 were invited to attend a careers event at Radox Laboratories in Antrim. The day marked National Women in Engineering Day. In February, Year 11 and 12 students participated in the *Women Into STEM* event at Belfast Metropolitan College, Titanic Quarter Campus as part of the NI Science Festival. The day involved a number of workshops focusing on Applied Science, Engineering, Composites and Information Technology among other subjects. The aim of the workshops was to introduce students to careers in STEM in a fun and interactive environment. Workshops included app development, game creation, composites and the chance to create an assault course using 3D printing and programme a robot to complete it! Students had the opportunity to hear from a range of female STEM professionals including famed NI astrophysicist, Dame Jocelyn Bell Burnell.

Ten Year 12 pupils participated in a 'Creative Bridges' workshop organised by QUB Civil Engineering Department on 22nd Feb 2017 at Stranmillis University College. Year 11 pupils attended a Maths lecture at QUB as part of the NI Science Festival. In conjunction with the Parents' Subject Information Evenings, interviews commenced with all pupils in Year 12 to assist them in the process of selecting their AS level subjects. A group of Occupational Therapists visited our Year 12 pupils to educate them about career opportunities in OT. Kathryn McKay, Year 12, was offered a place on an Inspire EDT course at Glasgow Caledonian University (Inspire Girls' Residential Course 3-5 July 2017).

We were pleased to host a series of Sixth Form presentations delivered by Queen's University, University of Ulster, CAFRE, St Catherine's College Oxford, New College Oxford, NUI Galway, Dublin City University and University College Dublin, all Scottish Universities, Liverpool John Moores University and Newcastle and Northumbria University. In February VCB hosted a Scottish Universities Roadshow for pupils in Years 11-14: Scottish Universities Tour (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Heriot Watt, Stirling and Strathclyde). We also have developed strong business and community links and we welcomed visits by Allstate, Pinsent Masons, PricewaterhouseCoopers, Deloitte, the PSNI and 3fivetwo Group.

Sixth Form pupils attended the Methodist College conferences on Engineering, Law and Medicine. We organised trips to open days at Queen's University, NUI Galway and Stranmillis University College. Girls attended the Law Centre NI's Annual Social Justice Lecture with Baroness Hale. In October pupils also attended the Deloitte Brightstart event at Aquinas in October, to learn about the fabulous internship opportunities available. We were delighted that Jordan Gillespie commenced her Brightstart programme at Deloitte in September 2016.

In October and November the Year 14 pupils attended their mock interviews. We are very grateful to all the parents and friends of the College who generously gave up their time to interview the girls; it proved to be a very valuable experience. We also organised for all of our new Medicine applicants to participate in Practice MMIs at St Brigid's Parish Hall as a fundraising event for St Brigid's Third World Group. The girls certainly found this to be vital preparation for their interviews.

Kingsbridge Private Hospital, part of the 3fivetwo Group, kindly brought in a team of experts to provide interview guidance and to conduct mock interviews for nursing and midwifery applicants. Careers staff attended a series of information briefings at Queen's University, Stranmillis University College and the NI Chamber of Commerce.

A team of Year 13 pupils took part in the Sentinus Research and Development programme. Over a period of around five months the team worked with a link engineer from NIE Networks to develop a solution to an engineering problem as chosen by the company. The pupils presented a report of no less than 10,000 words and explained their working prototype to a panel of engineers in a verbal presentation. On successful completion of the project the pupils presented their working prototype to a panel of engineers and received a Gold CREST Award at the Braid Centre, Ballymena. The girls involved were Sarah Allen, Caitlin Murphy, Darcy Patterson, Vishakha Renade and Holly Shannon. The Year 13 Health and Social Care pupils volunteered in two Boccia events organised by Disability NI.

Bethany Acton attended the Oxford UNIQ summer residential course 2017. UNIQ is a free residential summer programme aimed at giving UK students the opportunity to experience Oxford, and to allow them to form their own opinions on the suitability of the University for their future studies. Pupils also attended the summer residential courses at Oxford (Yasmin Ullah and Hannah McMurrough) and Cambridge (Grace Erwin and Camille Hamill) in June and July 2017. All Year 13 pupils attended Work Experience March 2017.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Approximately 50 pupils in Year 10 completed Bronze training and expeditions in the Mourne during June. While the weather has been mixed, the girls have had lots of fun learning to read maps, pitch tents and cook camp food. Nineteen girls carried out their Gold Expedition to Chamonix Mont Blanc in France and all successfully completed this and will now work towards completing their award in 2018. Twenty girls were awarded their Gold Award in 2017.

TRIPS AND VISITS

The S.U. had a retreat day in February, held at Windsor Baptist "Cabin", entitled *Christ-likeness for Mission*. The retreat was supported by members of the Pias team and the focus was on being active as a member of the Kingdom of God. Great fun and learning was had by all. The SU also held a Mission Night in "The Ulster Temple" on Ravenhill Road in March. Senior school pupils, Judith Andrews and Beth McGardle organized this event and it was a wonderful success. Junior pupils enjoyed presentations from the Wycliffe Bible Translation Society and the Leprosy Mission and followed this by delivering a wonderful assembly to Junior School. In January the Senior S.U. enjoyed a weekend of fun and fellowship at Cultra Residential Centre, during which the core theme was *Loving the Way Jesus Loves*.

Year 13 Geography students completed a River Study at Ardnabannon Field Centre in September. This overnight residential was part of the students' preparation for the AS Skills/Fieldwork examination and involved a river study along the Shimna River measuring discharge, velocity, channel width and depth etc. In June Year 11 Geography students participated in another river study fieldtrip at Crawfordsburn Country Park as part of their preparation for the Controlled Assessment.

A very successful Junior ski trip to Marilleva, Italy, for current year 9 and 10 pupils was held during the February half-term break. The trip was accompanied by seven members of staff and two parents who were doctors. Skiing conditions were perfect and the trip began with sixty beginners, eighteen intermediate and eight advanced skiers, but after four hour lessons for six days, all the girls were competent skiers by the end of the trip. Evening activities were arranged and the itinerary included a trip to Verona.

A total of ninety Year 8 pupils and thirteen members of staff participated in successful trips to London from 19-21 and 21-23 June. The itineraries included visits to the Supreme Court at Westminster, a visit to the London Eye, Madame Tussauds as well as a West End theatre visit to see *Matilda*.

OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Conferences/Lectures/Training

There was a very successful Book Fair in March for World Book Day which raised over £400 worth of free books for the library. The Junior Book Club followed the Carnegie Greenaway awards and in June watched a live broadcast of the ceremony and are looking forward to helping to judge the Royal Society Award and Northern Ireland Book Prize next year.

All pupils in Years 8 and 9 took part in the Bookbuzz scheme from Bookstart. Every pupil was given a free book which they chose from a shortlist provided by Bookstart. After reading the books, the pupils reviewed the books and created presentations for their classmates. The Accelerated Reader programme also remains popular, with pupils completing quizzes on books they read. This year's top readers were Olivia Phelan and Layla McElhinney from Year 8.

A group of Year 11 pupils participated in the Children's Law Centre event at the City Hall in October 2016. The pupils interacted with pupils from schools across Northern Ireland and had the opportunity to lobby local MLAs and representatives from the PSNI and Department of Health. A number of these pupils have since joined the Children's Law Centre Youth Panel and are actively involved in their current programmes.

Year 13 AS RE students attended a conference at Union College in March. This focused on key aspects of their Ethics course. Year 14 Religious Studies students also attended a talk at Queen's University the same month.

'BAKER' DAYS AND SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2016-2017

The College places a strong emphasis on continuous professional development for all staff and recognises the importance of self evaluation and reflective practice within all departments. In 2016-2017 the school chose to take four School Development Days (SDD) for the purposes of school improvement and school/staff development in addition to five 'Baker' days.

During 2016-2017 the School Development Days and the 'Baker' days were used for:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection training;
- An analysis of examination results;
- Performance Review and Staff Development;
- Special Educational Needs;
- Dyslexia training;
- Assessment for Learning;
- Department planning;
- Whole school literacy and numeracy strategies;
- Continued sharing of good practice;
- Development of intervention strategies;
- TLSNI (Teaching and Learning Schools NI);
- Wellbeing of students and staff.

JUNIOR PRE-SCHOOL, PRE-SCHOOL AND PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The academic year 2016-17 has been one of exceptional success for the Preparatory School. During the year, pupils, staff, parents and Governors were invited to meet with a number of visiting assessors to provide valuable insights into life in Prep. In January 2017, the Preparatory School received a Sustaining Improvement Inspection from the ETI. Over the two-day visit, the regional inspector visited a range of classes to comment on teaching and learning; perused staff planning folders to assess the quality of work set and how all learning needs and styles were identified and catered for; inspected a cross section of classwork from Prep 1-7; met with subject coordinators to review target setting, use of assessment data and benchmarking, and future developments planned for these areas; and spoke with pupils about their school experience. Unsurprisingly, the Preparatory School received glowing feedback with particular comment being made on the wide variety of experiences available to the girls in Victoria and the confidence they exude.

In June 2017, the Preparatory School received a follow-up inspection from the Inclusion Quality Mark inspector, Mr Tim Ireson, to review the progress made since being awarded Centre of Excellence status in 2016. Mr Ireson commented on the warm, friendly atmosphere of the School, the dedication of teaching staff and assistants in ensuring pupils have every opportunity to succeed and the eloquent manner in which pupils were able to discuss their roles within school. He had no hesitation in renewing the Centre of Excellence status. Finally, the Preparatory School was also successful in securing the Excellence in Sustainable Travel Bronze Award through Sustrans, after being selected as one of only ten Primary Schools in the province to secure a place on the project. As part of the project, pupils had focused on alternative travel methods in classroom workshops, cycling award schemes, bicycle health clinics and whole school initiatives.

The Preparatory School pupils continue to excel academically due to the extremely dedicated and talented staff who strive to ensure all pupils reach their full potential. The Transfer results in February from Prep 7 were excellent with all 23 pupils securing places in their first choice grammar school, with 21 of those pupils transitioning on to Victoria College. The end of Key Stage results in the summer term underlined once again the high levels of attainment with pupils in Prep 4 achieving almost twice the Northern Irish average at level 3 for girls in both Literacy and Using Mathematics, and Prep 7 pupils achieving almost three times the equivalent percentage for level 5 in both core subject areas. The expected level of achievement for pupils at the end of Key Stage 1 (Primary 4) is level 2, and at Key Stage 2 (Primary 7) is level 4, so not only were the number of pupils exceeding these results far beyond their counterparts, Preparatory pupils in both classes were also achieving higher than expected levels of understanding.

Throughout the year, the Prep girls have enjoyed an enriched curricular experience with a number of educational trips and visitors to the classroom. The Day Care classes enjoyed a visit to W5 at Christmas time and had fun learning about baby animals during their trip to Streamvale Farm. Prep School classes visited the Fire Station, Castle Ward, the Ulster Folk and Transport museum and the Planetarium. Prep 6 and 7 enjoyed residential trips to Greenhill, Newcastle and York respectively. Further work with the Young Enterprise scheme saw pupils in P4 to P7 introduced to marketing and finance and parents joined P7 to help bring the world of engineering to life through the Building Bridges project.

The various Action Groups in Prep have been busy throughout the year. The CAG girls supported a number of charities with fancy dress days, readathons, grocery collections and the Harvest Fair. The ECO team reviewed food waste across the School and organised our Walk to School Week. The SNAG girls contributed to the canteen menu with their own healthy suggestions. The School Councillors continued to fundraise for playground equipment and support the NSPCC with their *Fitness Friday with Fitness Freddie* event. The Fair Trade team educated pupils about the importance of purchasing Fair Trade items through their own focus week, whilst the IAG ladies connected with pupils across Europe through Connected Classroom Projects. The newly formed Rights Respecting Schools Team has begun the process of raising awareness of children's rights and responsibilities within school to consolidate our ROC of Commitment from UNICEF.

Primary 3 pupils led the Prep School nativity *Lights, Camel, Action* bringing the glitz and glamour of *Strictly Come Dancing* to the Christmas story. This year, the pupils also took part in our whole school performance of *Mary Poppins* with Prep 7 pupils taking the iconic lead roles, supported by Prep 1-6.

Each performance was vibrant and entertaining and it was a privilege to see all 154 pupils performing on our new stage with smiles on their faces and such confidence. Mrs Stevenson and Mrs Murray must be commended for their organisation in bringing together such an outstanding production.

Specialised teaching has continued in the Prep with Senora Gomez and Miss Waugh developing the Spanish curriculum through games and activities to enhance and develop pupils' language skills from P2-P7. Mrs Burnett has continued to teach French to Prep 4-7 pupils ensuring our older girls were introduced to two languages. In addition to Modern Foreign Languages, Prep 7 also benefitted from classical studies in Latin with Mrs Stevenson.

This has been a very busy year for Prep sports with a high level of achievement. Pupils from Prep 6 and Prep 7 took part in the Ulster Schools' Swimming Championships held in October. Special recognition goes to Maddie-Crawford McCann who qualified for the Irish Schools' Finals. Annual events of the swimming gala and sports day continue to be enjoyed by the pupils, parents and staff and it is very pleasing to see how sportsmanship, fun and celebration can prevail with our pupils, as well as the element of competition. The Prep hockey squad reached the quarter finals of the Ulster Hockey Regional Qualifying tournament in March. The camogie team continued to improve their skills when competing in a series of blitz tournaments and the netball squad retained their title as winners in their section of the Belfast Primary Schools' Finals. The Preparatory School also enjoyed equestrian success with Anna McCauldin and Megan Carville securing first place in the Schools' Horse Jumping Championships in November. Thank you to Mrs Henderson, Mrs Patterson, Mrs McGlinchey, Mrs Pearson and Mrs Fernando for all their support with PE this year.

Evidently 2016-17 was an exciting and positive year in the Preparatory School and we look forward to the next academic year and the opportunities it will bring.

BOARDING DEPARTMENT

The Boarding Department was home to 41 students during the academic year 2016-2017. Pupils from France, Germany, Spain, Hong Kong, Singapore and Thailand joined local pupils in Years 8-14 and shared in the many opportunities offered by Victoria College.

Boarding provides a constant when parents are working abroad; it provides security when things are not going well; it is the learning place for those boarders who have come to Northern Ireland to fully immerse themselves in learning English for a year; and of course it is a place of happy memories, and friendships made.

The annual inspection by the RQIA was carried out in May with a focus on the quality of care and leadership. The inspection team recognised the strong leadership, the well established governance arrangements in place and the high level of compassionate care. There was a high level of confidence in the effective care provided to ensure the overall welfare of the boarders and staff had received the requisite training to maintain the safety of the boarding department. Overall, Drumglass House was awarded the highest accolade so far in its inspected history: there were no recommendations for improvement.

Undoubtedly the high quality pastoral care in Boarding allows the pupils to develop in confidence and to learn effectively. The staff team in Drumglass work constantly to engage with the boarders to assist in their academic work and to ensure that they are achieving their potential.

Boarders excelled in their academic work in 2016-17, with Head Boarder Nikki Li achieving an outstanding 6 A levels with 1A* grade, 3 A grades and 2 B grades. Nikki is now studying Pharmacy at Queen's University Belfast. Viola Brune Year 14 also left boarding and is now studying at the University of the Arts London.

Supported by InvestNI, Victoria College along with the 4 other Boarding Schools in Northern Ireland are engaging in a marketing campaign to raise awareness of the benefits of boarding. A new website and video will be launched in 2018.

As always the pupils were busy throughout the year, engaging in all the extra-curricular activities run by the school. Boarders were involved in the Peace Players' Basketball Programme and several girls were actively involved in local swimming clubs and participated in a range of competitions.

The pupils have run their own 'in house' entertainment programme for the year. These activities involved a Spooktacular Halloween party, treasure hunts, group games, Christmas and Easter parties, Chinese New Year and end of term celebrations. Trips outside Boarding are also important: the girls experienced the bus trip around Belfast, a tour to Giant's Causeway, walks up Cavehill and cinema trips to name a few.

Christmas celebrations in Drumglass are always a highlight and provide an opportunity for teaching staff to engage with the girls and gain an insight into life in Boarding. The annual BBQ was arranged as normal; however, it was hijacked by the boarders who had secretly arranged a celebration for the Head of Boarding, Mrs Sharon Burns' 50th Birthday. The girls composed and sang a song and arranged for past staff and girls to come and celebrate. Flowers, a cake and gifts were also exchanged. A wonderful surprise, enjoyed very much by the Head of Boarding.

At the end of term it is always sad to say farewell to those staff who are moving on. Denise McGrann completed her university course at Stranmillis, spent the summer travelling and is now working. Fenja Koopmeiners, returned to Germany to commence her studies at University, after her year in Belfast. Tessa Shiels also completed her studies at Stranmillis and has also commenced teaching. We are indebted to the help and support of these staff and those who remain volunteering with the College.

Special mention must be made of Mrs Burns, Head of Boarding and the Matrons of Drumglass, Mrs Janet Johnston and Ms Audrey Toms who offer the girls all the support they need and provide guidance and support to the wonderful team of boarding assistants.

SECTION 4 – PERFORMANCE DATA

GENERAL FOR SENIOR SCHOOL

	UK	NI	VCB
A*/A grades at A2 level	N/A	32.3%	39.2%
A*/A grades at GCSE	N/A	35.0%	47.2%
A*-C grades at A2	N/A	87.9%	93.2%
A*-C grades at GCSE	N/A	84.0%	97.1%

GCSE 2017

Number of pupils entered for 5 or more subjects	127
% achieving 5+ A*-C grades	100.0%
% achieving 7+ A*-C grades	96.9%
% achieving 7+ A*-B grades	71.7%

A LEVEL 2017

Number of pupils entered for 3 or more subjects	94
% achieving 2+ A*-C grades	96.8%
% achieving 3+ A*-C grades	81.9%
% A* grades achieved	9.6%
% A*-A grades achieved	39.2%

VICTORIA COLLEGE RESULTS COMPARED TO N.I. AVERAGE FOR GRAMMAR SCHOOLS

	2013/2014		2014/2015		2015/2016	
	VCB	NI	VCB	NI	VCB	NI
5+ GCSE A*-C	97	97	95	98	98	97
7+ GCSE A*-C	91	93	85	94	92	92
3+ A LEVEL A*-C	80	76	83	77	85	76
2+ A LEVEL A*-C	100	100	100	100	99	100

PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2016/2017 A2 LEVEL RESULTS BY SUBJECT

Subject	Entry	% of pupils achieving the following grades						
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art and Design	14	7.1	28.6	42.9	21.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Biology	36	5.6	33.3	27.8	22.2	8.3	2.8	0.0
Business Studies	12	8.3	25.0	25.0	41.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemistry	20	10.0	25.0	55.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chinese	1	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Classical Civilisation	2	50.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Design and Technology	6	0.0	66.7	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Drama	8	0.0	0.0	87.5	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dutch	1	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Economics	4	0.0	50.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
English Literature	20	5.0	25.0	25.0	35.0	10.0	0.0	0.0
French	6	16.7	33.3	33.3	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Geography	33	9.1	33.3	42.4	9.1	6.1	0.0	0.0
German	3	0.0	66.7	0.0	33.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Health & Social Care (SA)	13	7.7	30.8	46.2	15.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Health & Social Care (DA)	4	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
History	7	0.0	57.1	42.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Home Economics	10	10.0	20.0	50.0	10.0	0.0	10.0	0.0
Information Technology	15	0.0	0.0	13.3	40.0	40.0	6.7	0.0
IT Development	1	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
IT Art	4	0.0	0.0	75.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Italian	2	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mathematics	28	17.9	39.3	35.7	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mathematics (Further)	2	50.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Music	2	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Physics	9	11.1	11.1	33.3	11.1	33.3	0.0	0.0
Politics	8	12.5	12.5	50.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Religious Studies	18	27.8	50.0	16.7	0.0	5.6	0.0	0.0
Russian	1	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spanish	1	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Percentage TOTAL	291	9.6	29.6	36.4	17.6	5.8	1.0	0.0
		28	86	106	51	17	3	0

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

Name of Awarding Body	Qualification	Number of Pupils Entered	% Achieving Qualification
Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music, Trinity College and London College of Music	Grades 1-8 Practical Exams.	69 (Yrs 8-14)	97%
	Grades 1-5 Theory Exams.	12 (Yrs 8-14)	100%

No. of Yr 12, 13, 14 Leavers 2016/17	Destinations - Leavers to							
	Higher Education	Further Education	Employment	Another School	Job Skills	Modern Apprenticeship	Unknown	None of other categories
134	85	9	3	9	0	0	20	8

ANNUAL ATTENDANCE RATE (ALL PUPILS)

Total days attended by all pupils on roll as % of total possible days of attendance = 94.7%

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PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2016/2017 GCSE RESULTS BY SUBJECT

Full GCSEs Subject	Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
Arabic	1	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Art and Design	45	15.6	28.9	28.9	26.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Biology	93	25.8	31.2	37.6	5.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Business Studies	18	5.6	22.2	50.0	11.1	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemistry	58	29.3	37.9	25.9	5.2	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Design and Technology	18	16.7	27.8	22.2	22.2	11.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Drama	10	10.0	20.0	60.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
English Language	127	11.0	28.3	43.3	16.5	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
English Literature	112	16.1	28.6	37.5	16.1	1.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
French	31	16.1	38.7	29.0	16.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Geography	47	25.5	42.6	25.5	6.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
German	14	0.0	64.3	14.3	14.3	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Health & Social Care	19	0.0	15.8	47.4	26.3	10.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
History	42	23.8	26.2	31.0	16.7	0.0	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Home Economics	19	5.3	26.3	57.9	10.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Information Technology	41	2.4	41.5	36.6	9.8	7.3	2.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Latin	4	0.0	50.0	0.0	25.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mathematics: Further	43	32.6	39.5	23.3	4.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mathematics	127	26.8	15.7	27.6	28.3	1.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Media Film and TV Studies	7	0.0	28.6	42.9	28.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Music	6	33.3	50.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Physics	69	20.3	30.4	39.1	8.7	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Prince's Trust	13	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Religious Studies	112	23.2	30.4	32.1	10.7	3.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Russian	2	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Science Single Award	14	0.0	28.6	42.9	28.6	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spanish	36	2.8	11.1	33.3	38.9	13.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sport Studies	14	14.3	14.3	21.4	28.6	21.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Percentage TOTAL	1142	18.4	28.8	34.7	15.2	2.7	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0

Short Course GCSEs Subject	Entry	A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	G	U
French	2	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Religious Studies	16	0.0	25.0	12.5	18.8	12.5	6.3	18.8	6.3	0.0
Spanish	2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

% of Year 12 Pupils Achieving no passes in either GCSE or other qualifications Nil

PREPARATORY SCHOOL PERFORMANCE DATA
END OF KEY STAGE ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES
ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS

KS1 Assessment Outcomes 2016-2017*

**The expected outcome at the end of Key Stage 1 is Level 2*

	VCB Prep Outcome	NI Girls Outcome
Communication Level 1	5%	8%
Communication Level 2	95%	68%
Communication Level 3	41%	22%
Using Mathematics Level 1	0%	8%
Using Mathematics Level 2	100%	74%
Using Mathematics Level 3	32%	17%

KS2 Assessment Outcomes 2016-2017*

**The expected outcome at the end of Key Stage 2 is Level 4*

	VCB Prep Outcome	NI Girls Outcome
Communication Level 4	100%	64%
Communication Level 5	73%	21%
Using Mathematics Level 4	100%	59%
Using Mathematics Level 5	64%	22%

SECTION 5 – FINANCE

**VICTORIA COLLEGE BELFAST
SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION
YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2017**

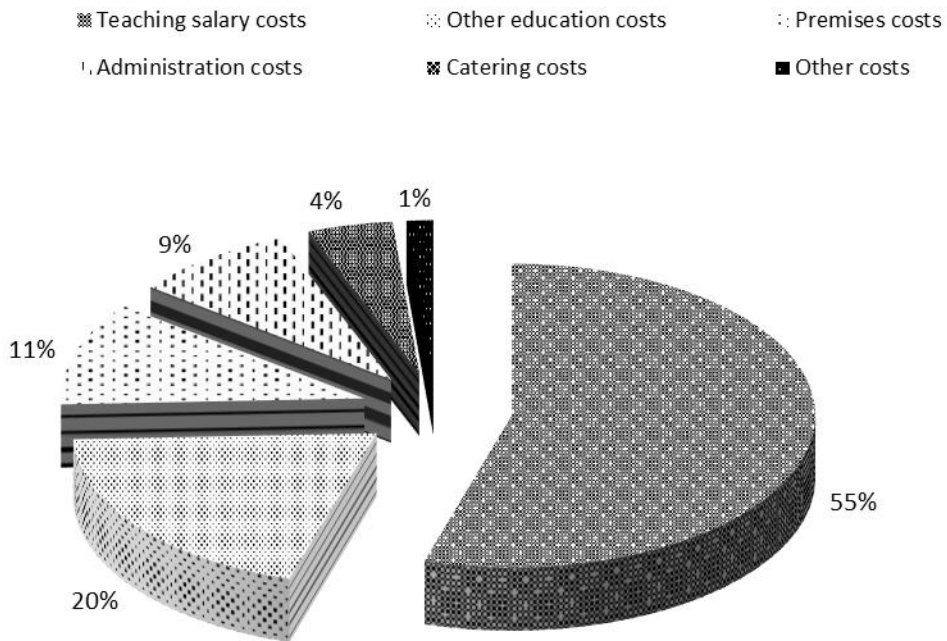
SUMMARY COLLEGE REVENUE ACCOUNT

	2017	2017	2016	2016
	£	%	£	%
Income				
Government Grants	4,310,369	71.21%	4,379,836	70.10%
Other Income	1,742,402	28.79%	1,868,529	29.90%
Total	<u>6,052,771</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>6,248,365</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
Expenditure				
Teaching salary costs	(3,479,069)	54.64%	(3,488,644)	54.79%
Other education costs	(1,255,979)	19.73%	(1,289,759)	20.26%
Premises costs	(704,065)	11.06%	(714,448)	11.22%
Administration costs	(549,366)	8.63%	(647,026)	10.16%
Catering costs	(288,345)	4.53%	(289,458)	4.55%
Other costs	(90,213)	1.42%	(85,004)	1.34%
Total	<u>(6,367,037)</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>(6,514,339)</u>	<u>102.31%</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>(314,266)</u>	<u>-5.19%</u>	<u>(265,974)</u>	<u>-4.26%</u>

SUMMARY COLLEGE BALANCE SHEET

	2017	2016
	£	£
Fixed Assets	9,594,020	7,016,353
Current Assets	1,494,155	1,326,930
Current Liabilities	(1,306,267)	(1,103,931)
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	<u>9,781,908</u>	<u>7,239,352</u>
Financed by:		
Creditors due after more than one year	24,530	27,348
Deferred grant income	7,298,559	4,616,054
Capital and reserves	2,458,819	2,595,950
	<u>9,781,908</u>	<u>7,239,352</u>

2016-17 Expenditure



2015-16 Expenditure

