

Victoria College Belfast

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ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS

For the Year
2018 / 2019

GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT

SECTION 1 – BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Victoria College, under its current 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 Ms Nicola Mawhinney BA.

The members of the Board of Governors who served during the period 2018 – 2019 were as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Category</u>	<u>Expiry of Term of Office</u>
Mrs W Blundell OBE MEng CEng FICE MIStructE (Chairman)	Foundation Governor	N/A
Mrs G Wells MB BCh BAO MRCP MFCH ¹ (Vice Chairman)	Foundation Governor	N/A
Mrs K Quinn BSc PGCE PQH (Principal)	Ex officio	N/A
Dr B Callender MB BCh BAO MRCP	Foundation Governor	N/A
Dr R Clarke MB BCh BAO FRCPATH	Foundation Governor	N/A
Mrs O Dagunduro	Dept of Education Nominee	Aug 2019
Dr K Goddard BEd MSc PhD	Teacher Governor	Nov 2021
Mr L Gorman BEd	Teacher Governor	Nov 2021
Dr B J Gregory BSc PhD CEng MICE MIEI FCIWM 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
Ms S Hetherington CPFA BA (Hons)	Dept of Education Nominee	Aug 2019
Mrs M-L Horwood LLB LLM ¹	Co-opted Member	N/A
Dr M S Johnston MB BCh BAO	Foundation Governor	N/A
Ms F Kane BA (Hons)	Dept of Education Nominee	Aug 2019
Mrs C Lewis Dip Sp Ed	Dept of Education Nominee	Aug 2019
Mr C McCrory BSc MAPM	Foundation Governor	N/A
Mr B S McDonald FCA FCCA	Dept of Education Nominee	Aug 2019
Mr S McKillop BEng CEng MIEI ¹	Foundation Governor	N/A
Mrs M Murray BMus PGCE Cert TCD	Teacher Governor	Nov 2021
Mr P W D Murray BSSc	Parent Governor	Nov 2021
Mrs E A Robinson	Foundation Governor	N/A
Mrs C Young BA HND	Parent Governor	Nov 2021

Note 1: Mrs M-L Horwood, Co-opted Member and Mr S McKillop, Mrs G Wells and Dr B Gregory, Foundation Governors, resigned from the Board in June 2019, September 2019, September 2019 and November 2019 respectively.

Mrs G Wells and Dr B Callender were the Designated Governor and Deputy Designated Governor respectively for Child Protection for 2018-2019.

Subject to the Department of Education's schedule, a reconstitution of the Board is expected to be implemented. The Department of Education Nominee governors' term of office was due to expire in August 2019, with these governors' appointments extended until such times as the Department is in the position of progressing this process. Once the reconstitution is in place, the number of governors will reduce from 27 to 18, comprising of eight Foundation Governors, six Department of Education Governors, two Parent Governors and two Teacher Governors. With recent resignations from the

Board, its current composition is seven Foundation Governors, five Department of Education Governors, three Teacher Governors and two Parent Governors. In view of the proposed reconstitution it was agreed not to fill the vacancies for the Parent Governor categories and to seek to fill all six Department of Education Nominee appointments when the Department of Education commences this process. One Foundation Governor vacancy remains to be filled.

Victoria College is attended by 1083 pupils with 890 pupils in the Secondary Department and 193 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 51 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. Furthermore, during 2019 the College established a bridge between businesses and schools when it won a place to become one of ten MTech Academies in Northern Ireland, whose ultimate goal will be to travel to Stockholm to work with a Swedish business.

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 years, while costs continue to rise. This is 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

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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, through its Estates Committee, continues to make applications to the Department in response to calls for its School Enhancement Programme and Minor Works programme so that improvements to the College's estate can be further developed, with pupils able to enjoy the top quality learning environment they deserve.

A summary of the key work of the Board of Governors during the academic year 2018/2019 is outlined below.

Board Business

The Board met on six occasions to discuss Post-Primary business and once a term to discuss Preparatory business, with each meeting supported by the work of its committees.

Governance

The Board was updated on Senior School and Preparatory School matters via reports from the Principal, Head of Corporate Services and the Head of the Preparatory School, with Committee business channelled through these reports. Provision was also in place for ad hoc Board meetings to be arranged as required. The Board was kept advised on directives by the Department and the Education Authority and updated on relevant correspondence received.

Transfer Arrangements

Throughout the year the Board of Governors and Senior Staff continued to be fully engaged in discussions surrounding the procedures for Transfer 2018 and planning for the 2019 arrangements. In relation to September 2019 entrants to Year 8, the College considered eight challenges to the application of its admissions criteria, none of which were upheld. The Board of Governors also considered Special Circumstances applications as part of the Transfer procedure.

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 2019. 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 GL or the AQE tests. The College's admissions criteria for 2019/20 remained largely unchanged from 2018/2019.

The College has consistently taken the view that there should be an agreed form of entrance assessment for admission into schools that uses academic selection as the basis for their admissions criteria. The Principal and the Chairman will continue to be actively involved with relevant bodies to reach such an agreement. During the 2018/2019 academic year the Principal attended meetings with PPTC (GL) and AQE, through which the Board's support of the provision of one test was relayed. The Vice-Chair also accompanied the Principal to a meeting of AQE to actively promote this standpoint.

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 applications, with these including the replacement of the fixed wiring infrastructure and replacement of all electrical switchgear. Specialist electrical

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consultants were also appointed to investigate power outages following the above installation, with remedial work carried out and the matter resolved via the Education Authority and NI Electricity.

The Committee oversaw Universal Access applications to the Education Authority and Department for Disability Discrimination Act 1995 modifications to the Richmond Campus, with £245k of work commencing during the summer.

The Board appointed an independent consultation to conduct a review of the Boarding Department and this was overseen by the Finance and Estates Committees. Following the outcome of this review, the Estates Committee oversaw the carrying out of £200k of statutory work to deal with health and safety requirements and to ensure Drumglass House was fire and safety compliant. Furthermore, as part of the College's summer capital works, work on two new music practical rooms in the old sun parlour area of Drumglass House commenced, with a careers room to be established in the former Drumglass computer room. The Preparatory 5 mobile classroom was no longer fit for purpose and was removed during the summer months.

Catering Service - Outsourcing

The Board approved an external review of the College's Catering Service, with a decision made to outsource the management of this facility for a period of at least one academic year on a trial basis, the aim of which will be that catering within the College will comply with relevant nutritional standards and provide a more attractive catering facility for our pupils. This experiment will be kept under review by the Finance Committee and the Board during 2019-2020, with the potential to extend this for a further two years.

The introduction of a new Catering Til system was also considered by the Finance Committee, with the Board approving its installation during the Autumn term 2019.

Secure Payment Services

Through its Finance Committee, the Board agreed the introduction of a new secure payment service, called *ParentPay*. This new system was installed during the summer, with ParentPay account activations issued during the Autumn term 2019 and many parents' accounts now activated. This service will allow parents and guardians to pay for items such as school dinners electronically, with a view to extending this to payment of trips and events in the future.

Examination Results Analysis

Through its Education Committee, the Board continues to conduct an ongoing review of examination results. Governor representatives of the Board attended Heads of Subject examinations analysis meetings with the Principal in October 2018 and feedback from these meetings was relayed to the Board. This analysis was benchmarked against N.I. averages and curriculum offers reviewed in line with pupil requirements and staffing levels. The Education Committee and the Board were kept advised of curriculum models and collaborations with other schools in the South Belfast Area Learning Community and advised on the introduction of new courses and examination boards as required to meet the needs of pupils. This process will be kept under review as examination tracking progresses throughout the academic year, with the Board updated and advised on strategic decision-making. Attendance levels continue to be reviewed by the Board, with a focus on the adverse impact of poor attendance and its correlating effect on examination performance being recognised at Board level.

Safeguarding and Pastoral Care

The Board recognises the importance of the pastoral systems to support young people with the many issues they are facing. The Board, through its Policies Co-ordination Group and Education Committee, reviewed its Safeguarding and Child Protection Policy in line with legislative changes, with procedures revised accordingly. The Board continues to approve the financial support for the College's Drop-In Centre, which is in operation on both campuses.

The Board was kept advised of initiatives introduced within the College, including the Wellbeing programme, as well as the College's engagement with Action Cancer's Taking Back Control programme, the Samaritans' resilience building and suicide prevention programme, Love for Life, No More Traffik and Belfast Recovery Centre programmes.

Mrs G Wells, Designated Governor for Child Protection and Dr B Callender, Deputy Designated Governor for Child Protection, were consulted on all Safeguarding matters and attended regular Safeguarding Team meetings at the College. Mrs Wells also attended meetings with Inspectors during the Sustaining Improvement Inspection, during which Inspectors were kept informed of the Wellbeing steps taken by the College. The Inspectors had verified the College's data and procedures and had commented positively on the College's robust system, declaring Safeguarding within the College as "outstanding". The ETI review and evaluation was presented to the Education Committee and the Board for review.

General Data Protection Regulations (GDPR)

Through its Audit and Risk Committee, the Board has been pro-active in ensuring that the College is compliant with the General Data Protection Regulations, with procedures and guidelines disseminated throughout the school.

Inspections

Governor representatives attended meetings with inspectors in relation to the RQIA Boarding Inspection, the Social Services Day Care Inspection and the Sustaining Improvement Inspection, as well as being kept apprised of other awards. RQIA once again affirmed the excellent practice within the Boarding Department, with no recommendations for improvement being made and examples of good practice identified in all areas.

Through its Preparatory and Boarding Committee, the Board was advised of the Day Care Inspection outcome which was held on 3 April, with Inspectors impressed overall, with only minor suggestions made. Recommendations were reviewed by the Board and implemented where appropriate. The Board was advised of the awarding of the Preparatory School's third ECO Schools Green flag in May 2019, its second Investors in Pupils Award and the award of the Inclusion Quality Mark for the next three years.

General Business

Through the Principal, 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

The Audit and Risk Committee reviewed all aspects relating to the College and the individual Committees' Risk Registers, as well as overseeing GDPR compliance. The Committee considered Tenders for internal and external audits and reviewed audit reports received. The 2018-2019 internal audit was carried out by an independent company, with the College achieving the highest assurance rating of *Satisfactory*. The College's external audit issued a clean, unqualified opinion on the College's financial statement.

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 liaised with the HR Committee as appropriate.

The Committee also oversaw the College's School Development Plan and its implementation. In consultation with the HR Committee, the Committee considered staff applications for changes of

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contracts and professional development and Dr Callender, Convenor, reviewed teachers who were undergoing Early Professional Development. Through the Policies Co-ordination 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. The Committee also oversaw school funded Minor Works and maintenance items, with urgent items being addressed. Through the Policies Co-ordination 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, reviewed historical financial performance and 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 with the Board considering its budget allocation for 2019/20 and proposing and implementing the cost savings required in order for the College to be able to meet its financial obligations. 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 continued to consider 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 work proposals submitted by the Estates Committee for maintenance matters and liaised with the HR Committee in relation to staff-related matters, including voluntary redundancies and the Department's Investing in the Teaching Workforce Scheme. The Board's Remuneration Working Group reported to the Finance Committee in relation to staff salaries. The Committee, through the Policies Co-ordination Group, reviewed Finance-related policies and reported its deliberations to the Board.

HR Committee

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 Co-ordination Group, the Committee reviewed HR-related policies and reported its deliberations to the Board through the Principal and the Head of Corporate Services.

Preparatory and Boarding Committee

The Preparatory and Boarding Committee reviewed all matters relating to curriculum delivery, pastoral welfare and the safeguarding of pupils within the Preparatory School and the Boarding Department. It also reviewed admissions data and pupil achievements for these sections of the College. In liaison with the Estates and Finance Committees, it ensured that effective arrangements were in place to maintain the premises as well as supporting the pupils and staff in its care. In liaison with the HR Committee it was also kept advised of staff-related matters pertaining to these sections of the College. Governors represented the Board as part of the inspection processes for both the Boarding Department and the Preparatory School. The Committee was advised of the outcome of these reports and relayed its deliberations to the Board through the Principal and the Head of the Preparatory School.

SECTION 2 – CURRICULUM OFFERED

During 2018/2019 GCSE pupils had the opportunity to study the following subjects which were externally examined:

Art and Design; Biology; Business Studies; Chemistry; Design and Technology; Drama; English Language; English Literature; French; Geography; German; Health and Social Care; History; Home Economics; Information Technology; Mathematics; Mathematics Further; Music; Personal and Social Education; PE Studies, Physics; Religious Studies full course and short course; Science Single Award; and Spanish.

During 2018/2019 Sixth Form pupils had the opportunity to study the following A-level subjects in the College or in collaboration with SBALC:

Art and Design; Biology; Business Studies; Chemistry; Chinese; Computer Studies; Design and Technology; English Literature; French; Geography; Health and Social Care (Single Award); Health and Social Care (Double Award); History; Home Economics; Information Technology; IT/Art; Italian; Mathematics; Further Mathematics; Performing Arts; Physics; Politics; Religious Studies; Russian; and Spanish.

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 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.

Aerobics	Golf (team only)
Athletics	Gymnastics
Badminton	Health Related PE
Basketball	Hockey
Camogie	Netball
Circuit Training	Rounders
Creative Dance	Rugby
Cricket	Swimming (not available in Senior School except for team and GCSE class)
Cross Country	Table Tennis
Dance	Tennis
Equestrian (team only)	Trampolining
Fitness Suite	Volleyball
Football	Yoga
Gaelic Football	

Swimming is offered subject to availability in local pools.

In 2018-2019 pupils from Victoria College competed in Ulster, Irish, British and European Championships.

Athletics

The following results were achieved by Victoria College pupils at the South Antrim District Championships, with these ensuring pupils' qualification for the Ulster Championships:

Lucy Ly, Year 8	-	2 nd in High Jump
Amelia Stojanovic, Year 9	-	1 st in High Jump
Emma Harrison, Year 10	-	2 nd in 1500m
Sophia Colgan, Year 9	-	2 nd in 800m
Olivia Chandler, Year 8	-	1 st in Shot Putt
Rebecca Moore, Year 8	-	1 st in 800m
Anna Hill, Year 12	-	3 rd in 300m
Amelia Tyler, Year 11	-	5 th in 3000m and 1500 Steeplechase
Amira Megahey, Year 11	-	7 th in 80m Hurdles and Long Jump
Jessica Dittmann, Year 13	-	7 th in 200m and 6 th in Long Jump
VCB Intermediate Relay Team	-	4 th

At the Ulster Schools' Championships, Rebecca Moore won the Mini Girls' 800m final, Amelia Stojanovic was placed 3rd in the High Jump and Lucy Ly was placed 5th in the High Jump. The Year 8 team gained enough points to qualify for the Northern Ireland Year 8 Athletics Finals.

Amira Megahey, Year 11, competed in the Northern Ireland Athletics Championships in June and was placed third in the Long Jump and first in the relay. During the summer Amelia Tyler, Year 11, won the Triathlon during the National Spring Youth Championships 2019 which were held in Dublin. Amelia also ran for Northern Ireland in the mini-marathon in London. Lucy Ly, Year 8, finished 2nd in Ulster in the High Jump and Rebecca Moore, Year 8, won the 800m. Overall the College was placed 5th in Ulster, after competing against seventeen schools during this event.

During the year Adam McMullen from Rising Star Athletics, came into school to talent spot and fitness test Year 8 pupils, with Lucy Ly being selected onto the programme.

Cross Country

The Cross Country Club was well attended and all the Victoria College teams enjoyed success at the South Antrim District Championships. The Mini, Intermediate and Senior teams each won the District Championships in their age group (Mini (Year 8) team: Megan Carville, Anna Jardine, Daisy Johnston, Lucy Ly, Rebecca Moore and Sophie Neely; Intermediate team: Emma Bell, Anna Hill, Emma Montgomery, Lauren Patterson, Rachel Scott and Amelia Tyler; Senior team: Rebecca Bunn, Aisling Gray, Georgia Heatherley, Alex Luke and Georgia Ross). Georgia Ross, Year 14, received an individual bronze medal and Rebecca Moore won an individual silver medal in the Year 8 race. The Minor and Junior teams won silver medals.

All teams qualified for the Ulster Finals, during which the Intermediate and Year 8 teams were placed second, winning silver medals, with this being just 1 point behind the winning school. The Senior Team was placed 5th, the Minor team placed 6th and the Juniors placed 7th. The best individual performance was by Amelia Tyler, Year 11, who was placed 7th and qualified for the Northern Ireland team. The College was the only girls' school to qualify in every age group. The Intermediate team qualified for the Irish Cross Country Finals, which were held at Clongoes College, Co Kildare, during which the team was placed 8th in Ireland.

The Cross Country girls also competed in two friendlies at St Genevieve's High School against pupils from Rathmore Grammar, Aquinas Grammar, St Genevieve's and St Dominic's. Rebecca Moore was placed 1st in the Year 8 race, Daisy Johnston was 2nd, Lucy Ly was 4th and Poppy Cunningham was 5th. In the Year 9 race, Sophia Colgan was 1st and Georgina Johnston was 3rd. Victoria College won both team races.

Dance

Lizzie Watt, former pupil, ran dance clubs for Year 8 and 9 pupils and although the pupils did not enter for competitions in 2018-19, they put on a fine display of dance in a festival for parents.

Anna McCoy is a member of the Irish National Youth Ballet and during the summer spent one month with the English National Ballet School in London. Anna was also part of a VCB school group which performed a dance with musicians and singers from school for the residents of Faith House Residential and Nursing Home in June. Lucia McLaughlin, Year 10, was accepted into the Irish National Youth ballet.

Equestrian

Vikki Fox, Year 10, represented the College in the Schools' Showjumping League, competing in six legs of the MEC Inter Schools' League in the Premier Individual 1m10cm League. Vikki achieved one win and two seconds and accumulated 135 points to finish third equal out of a field of 45 competitors.

Year 8 pupils Jessica Byrne, Megan Carville and Mary Brady represented the College at the Ulster Schools' Derby on 20 June. Olivia Byrne, Year 10, also represented the College in the Open Class of this competition.

Gaelic Games

The Victoria College U13 Camógs were invited by Belfast City Council to play a series of games against local schools including Aquinas Grammar School and Our Lady and St Patrick's Knock, to mark the opening of the new floodlit facilities at Cherryvale on the Ravenhill Road. Led by Captain, Anna McCardin, the girls enjoyed being hosted by the Lord Mayor of Belfast and had the opportunity to use the skills they had been developing in weekly training.

The Gaelic Football Team had another very successful year. New Year 8 players were welcomed to the squad and the U16 Team participated in the Ulster League, just missing out on qualification to the Quarter Final playoffs. The College will once again enter the Ulster League at U16 for the academic year 2019/20.

Golf

In March eleven pupils, four Junior pupils - Caroline McMichael, Abbie Poole, Emma Smith and Alicia Scanlon - and seven Senior pupils - Erin Cameron, Emily Darling, Sophie Delap, Katie Dick, Ella Glover, Hannah-Rose Glover and Billi Henry - took part in the Irish Schools' Golf Championships Ulster District Qualifiers. The Junior team was placed runner-up in the Junior Cup which was an excellent achievement as the pupils were playing in their first golf competition and Katie Dick, Year 12, won the Senior Nett Individual Prize.

Hockey

In September the 1st XI and 2A XI hockey teams enjoyed a pre-season training weekend at the North Coast. The College fielded ten hockey teams in inter-school fixtures during the term.

Year 8 hockey had a very successful season. Over 60 girls signed up for hockey which ultimately made up the four teams. All four teams played friendly matches against Methodist College, Friends School, Strathearn School, Sullivan Upper, Belfast Royal Academy and Wellington College. The A

and B teams hosted and played against a touring team from Newcastle, England. The A team also participated in the annual Grosvenor Hockey Tournament at the end of the season, attended by twenty schools from all over Northern Ireland. The Year 8 'A' Hockey team won this N.I. Schools' tournament and as a result of this success, the team won a coaching session with an Irish Development Coach, Adam Loudon.

Year 9 hockey also generated much interest as this is the first year the players enter the 'friendly' league where matches are played every Saturday from September through to middle March. The A and B teams trained twice a week and played 16 scheduled matches of which the A team won 6, drew 4 and lost 6. The B team completed the season successfully without losing a match. The Halloween Hockey Festival at school produced amazing hockey and interesting costumes!

For the first time, the Year 8 and Year 9 'A' teams challenged each other to an end-of-season match which was very competitive and was narrowly won by the Year 9 team (score was 1-0). Four Year 9 players - Anna Lindsay, Mariella Mackey, Emma Smith and Nina Macdonald - were nominated to attend a series of coaching sessions for further development, run by the Irish player, Shirley Mackay.

Year 10 started the year with enthusiasm with a large group of 50 hockey players turning up each week, making up three teams. These teams participated in our weekly fixtures and the U14A team was successful in the Plate competition, but was narrowly beaten by Ballyclare in the quarter final.

To conclude the season a squad of 16 players, combined with the 1st and 2nd senior teams, travelled to Dublin and Galway for a short hockey tour. The girls played Alexandra College in Dublin who were one of the strongest oppositions the girls played this year and drew 1-1. In Galway they played Salerno College and Greenfields Hockey club and won both games with Emma Harrison and Robyn Murray scoring goals. This was a great end to the season as the U14s had the opportunity to develop their skills and learn from our senior players in their move to senior hockey.

Hockey Awards Evening

The annual Awards Evening at Newforge Country Club was well attended by players and coaches.

The following players were awarded for outstanding performances during the season:

Year 8

Player of the Year - Aimee Hillman

Most Improved Player was shared by Alexi Anjorin and Amelia O' Callaghan

Year 9

A team The Player of the Year - Anna Lindsay
Most Improved Player- Nina MacDonald

B team The Player of the Year - Abi Toland
Most Improved Player -Eva Laughlin

Year 10

A team The Player of the Year – Sophie Luke
Most Improved Player – Rose Sundara-Garuda

B team The Player of the Year – Erin Carinduff
Most Improved Player- Julia Reverte

The 1st XI hockey team reached the semi final of the Ulster Hockey Shield but lost to Omagh Academy on penalties. The team also defeated Banbridge Academy in a friendly the week before Banbridge won the Schools' Cup.

Year 10 pupil, Rose Sundara-Garuda, was selected onto the Ulster Talent Development Squad.

Georgia Ross, Year 14, played for Ulster U18s in Dublin at the end of September for the Interprovincial Tournament. Ulster came second to Leinster in a very tight final game to decide overall winners. Georgia also competed with the team at the UK games in Loughborough in late August during which the Ulster U18s won the tournament.

Kate McLaughlin, Year 11, was selected to play hockey for the Ulster U16s in a series of matches against Munster, Leinster, Scotland and Wales. Lauren Patterson represented Ulster U16 in the Leinster series along with Aimee Christie and Zahra Lowry, who played on the Ulster 18 team.

In July Zahra and Aimee both played against England in Lilleshall with Zahra scoring 3 goals. In August, Lauren scored three goals playing against Leinster and the UK Lions' touring team. Zahra and Aimee also played on the Ulster U18 team in September 2019 in the Inter-Provincial Championships in Cork.

In June Zahra travelled to Mannheim, Germany, to play for the Irish U17s in a match against the Netherlands and Germany and scoring a goal against Australia.

Netball

Sixty-two Year 8 girls attended Netball Club. Two teams entered the Belfast Leagues. The 'A' team - Olivia Chandler, Ruby Elliott, Aimee Hilman, Annie Irvine, Paris Law, Lucy Ly and Molly Young - won all of its matches against Dominican College, Bloomfield, Belfast Royal Academy, Grosvenor Grammar, Rockport School, Wellington College and Methodist College Belfast. The 'B' team - Marfa Alobaid, Sarah Armstrong, Ciara Ebrahim, Iona Keating, Lily Mason-Hood, Adina McLaughlin, Jane Moore and Jemma Wilton - also won all of its matches against Dominican College, Rathmore Grammar School, St Genevieve's High School and Belfast Royal Academy.

The Year 8 Netball teams won both the 'A' and 'B' Belfast League Cups in the finals. The Year 8 'A' team won the Belfast Cup at the Belfast City Council's annual tournament after defeating Methodist College in the final, 9:6. The 'B' team defeated St Joseph's High School, 13:0. Both teams also took part in an end of season tournament at Rockport, during which both Year 8 and Year 9 teams were played, with the Year 8 'A' team finishing third, after playing Year 9 teams. The girls competed in the Belfast City Council's Year 8 tournament at Shankill Leisure Centre, but were narrowly defeated in the semi-final. Eleven schools participated. The Year 9 and 10 teams also enjoyed league competitions and had mixed results.

The Intermediate A and B teams took part in the Belfast League, along with the Senior Team. Both the Intermediate B and Senior team finishes second in their league. The Intermediate A team was placed third. Maia Lane, Sarah Udoh and Beth Thompson played on the Belfast U17 team and Maia and Beth were called up to training on the Northern Ireland U17 squad.

In April VCB netballers hosted the Mount School from York.

Rowing

Rowing Ireland coaches came into school to coach indoor rowing on the ergometers in the Fitness Suite and pupils took part in an inter-schools' blitz in June.

In June two VCB indoor rowing teams won gold medals at the Inter-Schools' Rowing Competition, held at the Belfast Boat Club and organised by Rowing Ireland.

Junior Team - Amy McGivern (Year 11), Katie Tully (Year 11), Maia Lane (Year 10), Emilie Lavery (Year 10) and Anna Dowling (Year 9).

Minor Team (Year 9) - Rachel Cheevers, Emily Davey, Aimee Devine, Abbie Poole and Amelia Stojanovic.

Rugby

Tag rugby continues to be a popular sport in school. Neve Jones, the Ulster Rugby Development Officer, gave the girls some extra coaching. The teams entered two inter-schools' competitions: the Beginners' team attended a blitz competition and won all four of their matches and the Senior team played in the Schools' Cup in Cookstown. Poppy Cunningham (Year 8) was co-opted onto the team from the Juniors after her fine performances and the girls defeated Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock and Enniskillen Royal Grammar School and drew with Ballyclare High School, but lost to Royal School Dungannon.

The rugby girls were invited to attend the Irish Rugby team's Open training session at Queen's in March and were delighted to have their photos taken with Rory Best, Jacob Stockdale and Ross Byrne.

Swimming

The 2018/19 season has seen great success in the swimming pool. The College's Intermediate team of Emma Montgomery (Year 12), Amy Montgomery (Year 12), Sasha McKeown (Year 12) and Lily McGuire (Year 10) won the Ulster Grammar Schools' Cup as a result of superb individual swims together with wins in both the medley and freestyle relays. Lily also won gold and silver medals in the Ulster Secondary Schools' Swimming Championships in the Freestyle and Individual Medley respectively. Scarlett Armstrong, Year 12, achieved qualification times at the Irish National Swimming Championships which were held in Dublin at the end of March. Emma Montgomery and Scarlett Armstrong were selected to represent Ulster in the Inter provincial championships and Lily McGuire was selected to attend a training camp in Tenerife for a second consecutive year.

Tennis

Three Senior School teams were entered in the Ulster competitions.

The Senior Tennis Team - Anna Glover, Lucy Hamilton, Rachel McClements, Julia Reverte and Georgia Ross - defeated Methodist College in the Quarter Finals, Glenlola Collegiate in the Semi-Finals and won the Ulster Senior Schools' Tennis Cup after defeating Strathearn School in the Finals. The pupils were presented the Cup by the Ulster Schools' President at a lunch at the Belfast Boat Club.

The Year 8 Tennis team - Lauren Edwards, Charlotte Kidd, Katie-Jane Bunn and Charlotte Bunn - won the Year 8 Ulster Plate competition, beating Bloomfield Collegiate School.

The Junior Team (Years 9 and 10) reached the Quarter Finals of the Ulster Junior Tennis Plate, the Intermediate team reached the Semi-Finals of the Intermediate Ulster Tennis Plate and the Intermediate B team reached the second round of the Cup.

Other Sporting Activities

New badminton and basketball clubs commenced this year, run by development officers and these proved popular with the Junior and Senior School pupils. Our gymnasts and trampolinists also put on a display at Open Day.

External Sporting Achievements:

In November, Aimee Devine, Year 9, and Carly Davison, Year 11, achieved success in the Scottish Taekwondo Championships. Aimee won a gold and a silver medal and Carly won three bronze medals. Aimee also entered the Irish Taekwondo Championships and won two gold medals and one silver medal.

Mya Miller, Year 9 and Casey Finlay, Year 12, represented Northern Ireland in the UK Cheerleading Association National Championships which were held in Manchester in March.

Meabh McGurk, Tegan McGurk and Ciara McKee, Year 11, were members of the U15 girls' Ulster Water Polo team which won gold medals at the Irish Interprovincial Waterpolo Tournament (including Scotland), held on 2 and 3 November. Meabh captained the team.

Ellen Barbour and Eva Briggs (Year 11) and Emma Pierce (Year 14) represented the College at the Royal Yachting Association's Northern Ireland Youth Championships on 29 and 30 September and were placed 3rd in these championships.

In September 2018, Charlotte Houston, Year 12, competed in the Irish team at the European Team Final for ponies, which was held at Sentower Park Equestrian Centre in Belgium. The team won the final and were crowned world champions. Charlotte Houston also competed as an individual in the World Showjumping Championships and finished 2nd in leg one of the event following a competition in Denmark in October and finished 7th in leg two following the competition in France during the October half-term. Charlotte was lying in 2nd place in this competition and competed in Germany and Holland in November and in the final during the Christmas holidays.

Cara McClure, Year 11, competed in the Irish Junior Open Squash competition which was held in Dublin from 23-25 November.

MUSIC

The music department has had another busy and exciting year. Overall, around 250 pupils attended the wide range of extracurricular activities on offer including the Junior Choir, Junior Chamber Choir, Senior Choir, Senior Chamber Choir and College Orchestra.

The year kicked off to a busy start with music for the Senior Prize Giving day. This event featured performances from the Senior Choir, as well as solos from Meera O'Hare and Amy Montgomery.

In October, Victoria College said a fond farewell to Mrs Audrey Gillian who has led the music department to an extremely high standard. Unsurprisingly, there was a lot of music included in the celebrations to mark her contribution to the College with emotional performances from the Senior Choir. Mrs Aoibheann Harrison joined the College in October and hit the ground running in preparation for the College Carol Service.

In December the College were welcomed back to the beautiful surroundings of Fisherwick Presbyterian Church to celebrate our Annual Carol Service. The collection at the service of £942 went towards the College's two chosen charities for 2018-2019, Northern Ireland Children's Hospice and Cancer Research. The orchestra started the evening with a rousing performance of the *Russian Dance* from Tchaikovsky's *Nutcracker*. The Junior Choir's renditions of *Star So Bright* and *Hodie Christus Natus Est* delighted the congregation as did the Junior Chamber Choir's performance of *Somewhere in My Memory* and *Angels Carol* by John Rutter. The Senior pupils also rose to the occasion with the Senior Choir performances of *What Sweeter Music* and *The Midnight of Your*

Birth, and the Chamber Choir performances of *Balulalow* and *Go Where I Send Thee*. Not to be outdone by the pupils, the Staff Choir's performance of the *Wexford Carol* and *Angel Song* was also very impressive.

In January the music department helped to welcome prospective pupils and parents to view the College with a number of performances from both senior and junior pupils around the College campus. The Chamber Choir and Junior Choir performed to parents prior to the Principal's speech and a drumming workshop led by our tutor, Adam Stewart, was one of the star attractions on the Richmond campus.

In March the Spring Concert was once again held in the prestigious Ulster Hall and the pupils of Victoria College certainly rose to the occasion. A huge array of talent was on display throughout the evening. A medley of music from the Pirates of the Caribbean movies was played by the College Orchestra, getting the evening off to a very strong start. Highlights from the other groups in the College included the Senior Choir singing the moving *O Love* with a beautiful cello solo from Raghad Ahmed; the Senior Chamber Choir also gave an impressive performance of *Las Amarillas* in Spanish, while the Junior Choir gave a vivacious performance of *O Clap Your Hands*. We were once again delighted to be joined by the Senior Preparatory Choir led by Mrs Murray, as well as Preparatory instrumentalists who joined the College Orchestra.

The second half of the concert featured a truly entertaining selection of pieces including a medley of songs from *Mary Poppins* old and new as well as music by *Queen*. The *Mary Poppins* section featured a troupe of dancers who were under the instruction of Antoinette McMichael and a beautiful ballet solo from Anna McCoy and vocal solos from Lauren Toner and Ali Crawford-McCann. A number of soloists took to the Ulster Hall Stage including Kirsten Matthews, Hannah-Rose Glover, Rachael McCormack and Katie Kerr from Year 14 as well as Junior pupils, Caroline McMichael and Lucia McLaughlin. The guitar group under the tutelage of Mark Hewitt performed *Ironic* to rapturous applause, featuring soloists Sarah McBride, Ellie Magee, Lucy McQuoid and Annie Irvine on guitar.

Peripatetic music lessons continue to be attended very well with around 200 pupils receiving weekly lessons from our wonderful team of tutors. Our tutors work hard to ensure the success of the pupils at grade music exams and local festivals. Prize winners at the Mossgrove Festival this year have included Aimee Neill and Sofia Delgado who both won first place in their respective classes. Caroline McMichael also won first place in her class at the Portadown Music Festival.

Many pupils also enjoyed high levels of success in groups outside the College. Molly Porter and Amy Montgomery are members of the City of Belfast Youth Orchestra, while Amy was also accepted into the Ulster Youth Orchestra - a prestigious achievement indeed. A number of pupils from both the Junior and Senior School have been accepted into the Ulster Youth Choir and Ulster Youth Training Choir. Lucia McLaughlin, Year 10, auditioned for and sang the American National Anthem to a full SSE Arena on Saturday 24 November 2018 during the game between the Belfast Giants and Boston University. Beatrice Tinsley, Year 12, and other members of the Belfast Cathedral Choir, joined the internationally acclaimed chamber choir from Londonderry "Codetta" to lead the music for a Service of Thanksgiving for the life of the late Sacha Hamilton, Duchess of Abercorn, on Thursday 30 May.

With such an array of musical talent at the College the future is looking bright for the music department.

ART

In December the A2 Art and Design students attended the RUA exhibition at the Ulster Museum. The students had the opportunity to meet the esteemed artist, Hector McDonnell, and ask him questions about his work '*Demonstration in Stuttgart Station*', currently exhibited at the RUA. Hector McDonnell kindly shared stories about his work and provided advice on the many ways the students could approach their own practise. The students thoroughly enjoyed this experience and were inspired by his words to begin working on their own works of art.

Award winning ceramicist, Anne Butler and Teacher of Art, Mrs Joanne Porter, treated Year 13 and 14 Art students to two masterclass workshops to inspire and develop new skills in drawing with porcelain and fleece. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience and produced some very interesting outcomes.

The Art department also celebrated the diverse and innovative creativity of our talented GCSE and A-level students during its post-examination exhibition which was held on 13 June and attended by parents and friends.

DRAMA

Year 8 pupils explored themes and ideas that challenged and inspired them, learning performance techniques, such as tableaux and improvisation. They were also introduced to rehearsal techniques, including hot seating, freeze frames and thought tracking. The year group excelled in fantastic dramatic performances in which they embodied the characters that they portrayed, showing maturity, sensitivity and flair.

Year 9 Drama students continued to grow in confidence and applied an inventiveness to their performances that identified them as budding Directors and Actresses. They added to the skill set through the exploration of a variety of texts, with performances and characterisation becoming more polished with a clear understanding of the need to make the roles their own. They became more confident in their characterisation and learned new performance and rehearsal techniques, such as mime, physical theatre, Conscience Alley and Freeze, Action, Sound.

The Year 10 Drama classes worked very hard this year, developing their existing skills in performances of extracts of plays, in which they were tasked with either becoming a Director or Performer. The group studied Commedia Dell'arte and learned not only about the history of this much overlooked art form, but also the performance skills required to capture and sustain an audience's attention. Through their classes, they learned about characterisation through working on their scripted pieces and original monologues and duologues. They even pushed themselves extra hard to try accents and slap stick. The Year group identified themselves as committed risk takers and did all that was asked of them and more.

Drama Club numbers this year exceeded expectations with over 80 students registering and meeting after school. The Years 12 and 14 Drama and Performing Arts students were on hand to help out and give the young performers expert instruction and tailored advice. In the coming year, the Drama Club will go from strength to strength with parents getting the chance to visit the school specifically to see their daughter perform. As well as playing games, they directed improvisations, worked on play scripts and honed their craft, as well as making new friends and growing in confidence.

Year 12 Drama students performed Shakespeare's *Macbeth* at the MAC Belfast in November. This telling of the *Scottish Play* was set in 1920s New York and portrayed a rogue gangster, Macbeth, seeking power and position fuelled by the glamorous flapper, Lady M. The performance formed part of the Shakespeare for Schools Festival.

Caroline McMichael, Year 9, performed in the *Wizard of Oz* in the Grand Opera House. Following this success, Caroline was then invited to star in the Dublin production, which was performed during the Christmas holidays at the National Concert Hall, Dublin. The Taoisheach, Leo Varadkar, attended the performance and congratulated Caroline on her performance. Caroline was also selected out of hundreds of hopeful auditionees, to star in the Grand Opera House Summer Youth Production, *Bugsy Malone*, playing the role of *Blousey*, in this musical classic.

LITERACY

In February we were very pleased to welcome author, Kelly McCaughrain, who gave a very engaging talk about writing and circuses to Year 8 and 9. Kelly had a hugely successful year, winning the Children's Books Ireland Book of the Year and the Northern Ireland Book Award with her debut novel, *Flying Tips for Flightless Birds*.

Some of our Year 10 and 11 students were excited to attend a fabulous event with Carnegie Medal and Children's Laureate, Sarah Crossan. Each pupil attending received a free copy of her latest book, *Moonrise*. Sarah is an entertaining speaker and gave an engaging and hilarious talk on poetry, as well as her own writing. The girls also had time to chat to her afterwards, ask questions and have their books signed. Ellen Murdock, Year 11, won the event's creative writing competition which was judged by Sarah.

World Book Day saw the arrival of the Scholastic Book Fair, during which £856 was raised, allowing the school to claim over £500 of free books for the library.

The Spring term is always an exciting time for book awards and this year was especially busy, shadowing the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Awards, the CBI Book of the Year and the Northern Ireland Book Award. As part of the CBI Book of the Year Award, the school received free copies of all the shortlisted books which were read and reviewed by the Junior Book Club. In May, shortlisted author, Brian Conaghan visited school to speak with the book club and gave lots of advice about writing as well as sharing his own experience of writing, rejection letters and success. It was an exciting and inspirational event and each pupil was given a copy of his book, *The Weight of a Thousand Feathers*.

This year, the Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Awards introduced a Shadders' Choice award and our book club had several heated discussions before deciding on the books they wanted to win. In the end some passionate arguments for *Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds and *The Lost Words*, illustrated by Jackie Morris decided that these should be our votes for the awards. Ms Farrelly represented the school, and Northern Ireland, at the ceremony on 18 June and we were delighted when Jackie Morris was awarded both the Kate Greenaway Medal and the Shadders' Choice Award, while Elizabeth Acevedo won the Carnegie Medal and the Shadders' Choice Award for *The Poet X*.

The Northern Ireland Book Award is entirely voted for by children who read the shortlist and choose their winner. This year the final was held at the Crescent Arts Centre as part of the Belfast Book Festival and we were delighted to be there to take part in quizzes, games and watch as the winner was revealed. This year there was a special video message from Radio 1's Greg James and Chris Smith who had been shortlisted for their debut book, *Kid Normal*. Kelly McCaughrain spoke

about her year as a published author and award winner, and there was a huge cheer when it was announced that she had also won the NIBA. Clearly a popular winner.

Following up the award ceremony, pupils visited the QUB Special Collections in the McClay Library. We were welcomed by staff and given an introduction to the material held there, before experiencing a selected exhibition of some of their treasures. Some of our favourites were a letter written by C S Lewis, Seamus Heaney's student notebooks, and a rare atlas from the Peninsular wars which has a repaired bullet hole through some of the pages and lines drawn to show the battle areas. What a great way to end the year and celebrate the dedication and enthusiasm of our young readers.

CAREERS EDUCATION

The Careers and Learning for Life and Work programmes have been busy again over the past academic year.

Year 8 and 9 pupils attended a Young Enterprise Workshop where they developed their employability and entrepreneurial skills. Year 8 and 9 pupils have been working on their e-progressfiles which included individual targets set by the pupils (action plans, targets and reviews).

Twenty-six Year 10 pupils attended an Enterprise Event at Belfast City Hall in November. At the event pupils found out about the new job sectors, jobs of the future and the skills and qualifications required to obtain these jobs. Students were able to engage with young entrepreneurs and also gained an insight into building confidence and resilience in a changing work environment. Speakers from a number of growth sectors including the circular economy, healthcare and life sciences, hospitality and travel, creative industries, financial and legal services and digital economy shared their stories, with pupils having the opportunity to ask questions about career paths of the future.

Pupils attended workshops delivered by the Samaritans, Translink, Nexus, New Driver and Action Cancer; these workshops focused on a range of topics including mental health, sexual consent, resilience and personal safety. The pop group, *The Hara*, performed in April, entertaining pupils but also raising awareness of mental health issues, staying safe online and cyberbullying.

Year 12 Careers lessons focused on helping pupils to make informed choices about post-16 pathways. Pupils used e-progressfiles to establish action plans and set targets in relation to their academic performance, work-related learning, extra-curricular activities and the development of key transferrability skills. Parents and pupils attended a subject information event before pupils submitted their A level subject choices. All Year 12 pupils attended two careers interviews, one conducted by the careers department at school and one by the NI Careers Service. A particular focus of the latter was the range of opportunities available in the FE sector and Modern Higher Apprenticeships. Many pupils sat the AQA Certificate in Preparation for Working Life.

The Sixth Form Careers and LLW programme concentrated on preparing pupils for their applications to university or college. We welcomed many visitors including those from the Agri-food sector, the Home Office, Skills NI, the Nuffield Foundation and Action Mental Health. We were pleased to host representatives of many HE and FE institutions including Belfast Metropolitan College, Queen's University Belfast, Trinity College Dublin, University College Dublin, University of Oxford, Liverpool John Moore's University, Newcastle and Northumbria Universities, Belfast Recovery College, University of St Andrews, University of Ulster and all the Scottish universities. In addition, we invited pupils to attend workshops delivered by particular faculties and schools such as the QUB School of Nursing and Midwifery. Pupils also attended talks on student finance, life at university,

gap year opportunities and studying abroad. Year 13 pupils embarked upon their work experience placements throughout the Spring and all pupils spent a week in June on placements. They also participated in a Young Enterprise student finance workshop. In November we hosted a university roadshow during which pupils were afforded the opportunity to speak with representatives of a range of English universities.

In Year 14 the focus is on UCAS and CAO applications. Two Oxbridge seminars were arranged for September and we hosted a team of health professionals from Kingsbridge Private Hospital who spent an afternoon delivering invaluable advice and conducting mock Multiple Mini Interviews (MMIs). In October we invited a midwife to speak to our midwifery applicants. We also arranged for all medicine applicants to attend a medical interview preparation day delivered by the St Brigid's Third World Group of doctors. All applicants to medicine, law and engineering degree courses were invited to attend all-day conferences and symposia at Methodist College Belfast and Dentistry applicants attended the open day event at Queen's. Year 14 pupils participated in mock interviews in the autumn term.

Pupils applied successfully for a series of valuable programmes including the Queen's Pathway and Nuffield Engineering programmes; pupils also secured places on residential courses at the Eton College Summer School, University of Dundee Gifted and Talented and University of Oxford Summer School. One pupil applied for the Sutton Trust USA programme.

Departments across the school have made their own contribution to Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) and LLW, organising participation in a range of events including the Biology Olympiad, a French Study Day at Queen's, a Lighting Workshop in the MAC Theatre, the Civilisation Belfast Engineering event, the Amazing Brains project and the Young People Leading Change (YPCL) Initiative. Pupils were involved in the Bar Mock Trials, Debating Society, Belfast City Youth Forum and the EU Mock Council. All of these activities serve to enhance their knowledge and employability skills and are vital in informing university personal statements and references.

Sarah Hand, former Head Girl, was awarded an Army Officer Scholarship which included the provisional award of an Army Undergraduate Bursary if she went on to study a recognised first degree at a UK university, subject to her achieving the necessary A levels for entry to the Royal Military Academy, Sandhurst.

Ciara McKay, Year 11, was selected as one of only twelve Army Cadets from throughout the UK to participate in a six week Expedition Instructor Course in Argonaut, Canada, with this taking place during the summer. This involved a rigorous selection process both at a regional and a national level, with Ciara competing against over 1000 cadets for one of the twelve places available.

Maya Kelly, Year 12, applied to join the NI Screen Animation Academy and was successfully selected for the Foundation Level 1. Applications were open to any young person throughout Northern Ireland aged 16-19 with the talent and commitment to take up a career within the animation industry. Foundation Level 1 will provide Maya with an opportunity to attend industry seminars and workshops in 2D Animation and Stop Motion with several of Northern Ireland's best-known animators.

Rebekah Bennett, Year 14, completed the QUB pathway opportunity in Food and Environment. Rebekah attended Queen's University throughout 2017/18 and summer school. She completed her final assessment with 64% which will mean she gets a conditional offer with a grade reduction and a £1000 bursary. Rebekah attended a graduation ceremony in December. Year 13 pupil, Catherine Bailey, was also a successful applicant for the 2019 Pathway Opportunity Programme and participated in this programme, joining other Pathway members and academics.

COMPETITIONS AND OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Pupils were given numerous opportunities to participate in subject-related competitions and events. Numa Karnachi, Year 8, submitted her HE literacy task of 500 words on "A day in the life of Salmonella" to the BBC Radio 2 *500 Words Competition* and this was shortlisted as one of the top stories in the United Kingdom.

Fourteen Year 13 pupils - Tara Campbell, Helen Chapman, Bethany Clarke, Ellie Cross, April Hutchinson, Darcey Johnston, Darcy Mitchell, Abby Palmer, Rachael Pearson, Kathryn Polson, Catherine Smyth, Sarah Thompson, Katie Thorogood and Alex Wheeler - represented the College at the Bar Mock trial competition, held in the Royal Courts of Justice on 24 November. For this event the girls assumed roles of Barrister, Witness, Usher, Clerk and Juror and each gave very confident performances.

During the Autumn term a team of Senior pupils gave confident performances at the Business and Professional Women's (BPW) Public Speaking Competition. On Friday 8 March, International Women's Day, Year 13 pupils, April Hutchinson, Tabitha Jones and Abby Palmer, represented the College at the Speaker's event entitled "*Better the Balance, Better the World*" in Parliament Buildings, Stormont. The event gave young women from all over the Province the opportunity to meet with female MLAs before having the privilege of participating in a lively session in the Assembly Chamber chaired by Assembly Speaker, Robin Newton MLA.

Year 13 pupils, Brooke Nithsdale and Tabitha Jones were interviewed and successfully took up places on YMCA's flagship politics programme, Youth in Government. This six month long extra-curricular political education project brings together young people from diverse backgrounds to learn about and experience politics both locally and across the UK and Ireland. Participants had the opportunity to visit and meet with political representatives from The Assembly in Stormont, the Dáil Éireann in Dublin and The Palace of Westminster in London.

Fifty-five Year 9 pupils took part in the Junior Maths Challenge in April 2019, during which two gold certificates, five silver certificates and thirteen bronze certificates were awarded. Lucy Collum and Rachel Nieuwenhuyzen obtained the gold certificates. Lucy was also awarded the 'Best in School' certificate and she qualified to take part in the Junior Kangaroo [which is a follow-on round to the Junior Maths Challenge] which she sat in school on 11 June 2019.

Four pupils - Emma Fowler (Year 10), Cecelia Carey (Year 10), Lucy Collum (Year 9) and Jada Lai (Year 9) - took part in the regional final of the Junior Team Maths Challenge held at St Malachy's College in March 2019.

In November 2018 twenty-five Year 13 and Year 14 Mathematics pupils took part in the Senior Maths Challenge, during which one silver certificate and eight bronze certificates were awarded. Emma Pierce from Year 14 obtained the silver certificate and was also awarded 'Best in School' certificate.

Also in November 2018 a team of four AS and A2 Mathematics pupils took part in the regional final of the Senior Team Maths Challenge at Rockport School. This is a demanding mathematical competition and the team of Emma Pierce and Isabel Fung from Year 14 and Veena Sivakumar and April Hutchinson from Year 13 enjoyed an afternoon of working on and solving a range of challenging maths problems.

Seventy-one pupils from Year 11 took part in the Intermediate Maths Challenge in February 2019. There were two gold certificates, two silver certificates and fourteen bronze certificates awarded. Katie Lam and Natalie Sin obtained the gold certificates and Ellen Barbour and Carly Davison obtained the silver certificates. Katie was also awarded the 'Best in School' certificate and both Katie and Natalie qualified to take part in the Pink Kangaroo [which is a follow-on round to the Intermediate Maths Challenge] which they sat in school in March 2019.

Veena Sivakumar, Year 13 was accepted into the prestigious New York Academy of Science's Junior Academy and Global STEM Alliance (GSA) *1000 Girls, 1000 Futures* mentoring programme. The NYAS is one of the country's oldest and most widely respected scientific organizations whose mission is to drive innovative solutions to society's challenges by advancing scientific research, education and policy. The Global STEM Alliance is a global talent identification and cultivation network with more than 300 partners in 100 countries. As a member of the Junior Academy and Global STEM Alliance, Veena had the opportunity, through the innovation platform *Launchpad*, to collaborate with 2000 students from 85 countries on virtual challenges sponsored by leading companies and designed to help students develop 21st century skills as they prepare for the jobs of the future. She networked with a group of peers and STEM professionals on a virtual platform and worked with a mentor assigned by the Academy on coursework emphasizing college readiness, leadership, communication, and critical thinking.

Healthy Eating Week took place in the College in June to help promote diet and lifestyle advice to pupils and staff. The areas promoted included eating five portions of fruit and vegetables per day, the importance of eating breakfast, staying hydrated, being active and getting plenty of sleep. Each day pupils and staff were provided with samples and advice on one of the key areas, with the healthy breakfast granola being one of the most popular. A super week promoting a healthy message in school.

Year 8 and 9 pupils participated in a Geography quiz and also attended Study Skills and Revision Seminars. Year 9 pupils attended a workshop on relationships and Year 8 and 9 pupils attended a Mental Health event featuring the Irish band, *The Hara*.

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 and has a keen focus on pastoral provision to support excellence in learning. 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. Mrs Wilson was Chair of the Pastoral Leaders SBALC 2018–2019, having been Vice Chair the previous year.

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 key pieces of legislation to ensure school policies are robust and child centred. Particular focus was on the Addressing Bullying in Schools Act and the implications it has for dealing with pupils displaying bullying behaviours and the accurate record keeping of such events and interventions. Much time was spent on sharing expertise in the area of Restorative Practices so that schools felt equipped to stage appropriate levels of intervention to support harmony, understanding and foster a parity of esteem amongst fragmented groups. Such approach offers a language for negotiation to support a post-conflict equilibrium. There was a focus on the mental health and well-being of pupils and staff and external agencies shared services they can provide to support the challenges which schools face. Equality and Inclusion was placed high on the agenda of the group and VCB's Transgender Policy was discussed as a model of best practice. VCB, along with a few other schools within the ALC, advised the EA on their Transgender Guidance and ongoing dialogue and progress in this area was shared with the group. Changes to Safeguarding and Child Protection policies continued to be shared and the impact of the new SENDO legislation was meaningfully discussed.

The Curriculum/CEIAG section of the 2018 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 prides itself in continuing to promote and develop global links. Relationships with educational and professional institutions on local, national and global levels are actively maintained and serve as an excellent vehicle to promote diversity, inclusion, cultural awareness and respect. The College strives to promote a positive, diverse and inclusive ethos and recognises the importance of an international flavour to both the curricular and extra-curricular programmes in attributing to the promotion of these core values.

Staff and pupils continue to mark and celebrate cultural events such as Chinese New Year and European Day of Languages via Assembly, extra-curricular, curriculum and Learning for Life and Work programmes.

A group of pupils from Xixi Middle School in Hangzhou visited the College from 2-5 October. The 25 pupils and accompanying staff participated in lessons and enjoyed a visit to the City Hall where they met the Lord Mayor, and visited the Titanic Centre and the Ulster Museum. Hangzhou Xixi Middle School was founded in 1947.

Pupils in Year 8 and Year 9 celebrated European Day of Languages by dressing up in national costumes and learning about The Eiffel Tower. We were lucky to benefit from working with Modern Languages trainee teachers from Queen's University who taught Years 9, 10 and 11 about different languages and cultures. Everyone had a great day celebrating the wide range of languages spoken in Victoria College and around the world. Year 13 Spanish pupils attended a screening of *El Bola* at QFT, followed by a workshop on themes from the film studied at AS.

DELFL are the official French language proficiency qualifications, offered at four levels, from A1 to B2 and which are internationally recognised. Following last year's successful launch of DELFL, on 6 September 2018 the French Language Attaché of the Institut Français in the UK, Monsieur Benoît Le Dévédec, awarded DELFL certificates to 34 pupils of Victoria College, with the College being the first school in Northern Ireland to offer this qualification. In 2018-2019 Madame Williamson once again held a lunchtime DELFL Club from November to March for the Year 10 pupils who were interested in preparing and taking the A1 level examination. This was a wonderful opportunity for the pupils to gain certification in French, whether they continued French to GCSE or not. Twenty-three pupils registered for the examination, with an overall pass rate of 91.3%, with some exceptional scores by a number of pupils. Year 11 pupils who had successfully passed A1 level last year and were interested in preparing for the A2 examination also attended a lunchtime DELFL Club from November to March with Madame Williamson. The success rate was 100% for the 9 pupils who attempted the examination at A2, some with exceptional scores. The successful Year 10 and 11 DELFL pupils were awarded their certificates in September.

On 25 January 2019 the French AS class, made up of five pupils from VCB, three pupils from RBAI and one pupil from Methodist College attended a French Day organised by Queen's University. The day started with a talk about how studying French offers a world of possibilities. Then the pupils attended a variety of relevant and thought-provoking activities, talks and workshops delivered by Queen's lecturers and students. The pupils learnt about the pitfalls of translation and undertook a comprehension task listening to Queen's students recounting their experiences of working in France and Belgium for a year. They also learnt about French culture and in particular literature, music and cinema. The day ended with a Question and Answer Session with Queen's French students. Our pupils were able to have an informal chat with them about their studies and lives as university students. To quote Raz Hassan who attended the day, "Overall the day was an amazing

experience. For some of us it made it clear that we wanted to keep French on at A2 and for others it confirmed that they wanted to study French at university. We also had the opportunity to bond as a class and make new friends there”.

Six Year 13 students participated in the Mock Council of the EU in Belfast City Hall on 7 February. Veena Sivakumar, Tabitha Jones and Anabel McClements represented Ireland and Katie Thorogood, Ellie Cross and Raz Hassan represented Slovenia, with each country participating in lively debates on the controversial themes of migration and climate change.

In addition, the College continues to offer and support a range of educational visits and trips that allow pupils to experience new countries and cultures, broaden horizons and develop knowledge and skills outside of the classroom.

VOLUNTARY WORK

The Year 12 Health and Social Care pupils volunteered at the Christmas Craft party at Clifton House in North Queen’s street. This was a chance for an intergenerational experience where both age groups got to know each other, make Christmas decorations and enjoy tea and cakes.

After completing their early module, the Year 11 Health and Social Care pupils got involved in some voluntary work, with half the class helping out at the South Belfast food bank to help the manager of the distribution centre to sort and date non-perishable foods for distribution to families in need. The other half of the class welcomed older people with dementia from Orchardville Residential Care Home for an inter-generational event, in Drumglass Drawing Room.

Georgia Hussey, Year 10, spoke at a supporters conference for the Royal National Institute of Blind People (RNIB). Georgia highlighted the importance of support provided by the RNIB and the necessity for funding services. She gave a personal account of her journey since a diagnosis of albinism at 10 weeks old and being registered blind at 3 years old. Georgia’s support from the RNIB has helped her become the independent young lady she is. Georgia is now planning to volunteer for RNIB, becoming a mentor for younger children.

In August 2018 Prefects took part in the Great Belfast Brush Off Competition, sponsored by the Belfast City Council. This involved Prefects clearing up the alleyways in the Lisburn Road area alongside the neighbourhood association. It was a great day which allowed the Prefect team to bond, whilst doing something positive for the local community. The group, alongside the neighbourhood association won the competition and were awarded £200 to spend on investing in the local area. Further meetings with the neighbourhood association brought about ideas for using the funds to grow herbs and vegetables in the front gardens which will be available for all residents in the street.

The College’s Eco group cleared the quad on the Richmond Campus so that pupils are able to use this at lunchtime during the nice weather. Our Eco Prefect, Lesley-Anne Megahey, ran a gardening club for Junior pupils after school, during which they learnt lots of new skills about growing their own plants.

A group of senior pupils from the Eco group - Lesley-Anne Megahey, Zoe Tam and Helen Chapman - spent some time tidying and cleaning the grave in the City Cemetary of the College’s founder, Mrs Margaret Byers. The College was also placed second in the Best Kept School Awards for Belfast Post-Primary.

CHARITIES

The College's chosen charities for 2018-2019 were Northern Ireland Children's Hospice and Cancer Research and a total of £3,021 was raised within Senior School while the Preparatory School raised £1,464. 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.

DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD

Ninety-five Year 10 pupils took part in their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award during 2018-2019. The pupils completed a day's training in October, visiting the Mourne for a day hike. The training and expeditions took place in June, with each group completing a two day/one night training and two day/one night expedition in the Mourne. The pupils also independently completed 3-6 months of volunteering, a physical activity and chose a skill to improve or tackle as a part of the award.

Sixteen pupils - Harriet Bedi, Anna Brennan, Rebecca Bunn, Aimee Crawford, Ellie Hanley, Olivia Hughes, Sophie Lockhart, Tesneem Majeed, Eva Martin, Kirsten Matthews, Rachael McCormick, Rose McDonnell Lindbergh, Catherine Minford, Georgia Ross, Darcey Smyth and Joni Stafford - completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award during 2018-2019.

TRIPS AND VISITS

The Scripture Union weekend was open to all pupils in both Junior and Senior School. This took place from 25-27 January at Greenhill YMCA, Newcastle. Twenty-seven students attended, along with two members of staff (Mrs Elwood and Dr Brown). Over half the girls were from Junior School. The group enjoyed excellent food, games, craft, Bible study, a trip into Newcastle and a "Greatest Showman" movie night. Bonding and fellowship between the year groups was immense.

A week long Junior Ski trip was enjoyed by 118 pupils, accompanied by 12 staff including Dr Fogarty when they travelled to Madonna di Campiglio, Trento in Northern Italy from 16 March. The skiing conditions were excellent, in particular for the high percentage of beginners on the trip. The hotel was situated on a beginner slope which made easy access for all. The progression for beginners was incredible as they had five hours of lessons each day and many progressed to the black slopes within the week. The range of slopes was vast and the expert skiers were able to enjoy a wide variety of terrain. The girls also enjoyed an extensive evening programme and a day in the beautiful city of Verona.

Year 8 pupils participated in two three-day trips to London, with 51 students in the first trip from 10-12 June and 46 students in the second trip from 12-14 June. The pupils enjoyed a packed itinerary, which included visits to the Palace of Westminster and the Supreme Court, a ride on the London Eye, the Harry Potter Studio tour, shopping at M&M and Lego Stores and a theatre visit to see the Lion King.

'BAKER' DAYS AND SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2018-2019

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 2018-2019 the school chose to take four School Development Days (SDD) for the purposes of school improvement and school/staff development in addition to four 'Baker' days.

During 2018-2019 the School Development Days and the 'Baker' days were used for:

- Safeguarding and Child Protection training;
- Special Educational Needs;
- Dyslexia training;
- Anti-Bullying Training;
- Interventions to improve pupil progress;
- Medical training;
- E-Safety;
- Wellbeing of pupils and staff;
- An analysis of examination results;
- Assessment for Learning;
- Development of intervention strategies;
- Teaching and Learning Communities (TLC);
- Attendance meetings;
- Performance Review and Staff Development (PRSD);
- Department planning;
- Continued sharing of good practice;
- School Development Planning;
- Strategic Middle Leaders' meetings with SLT;
- GDPR training.

JUNIOR PRE-SCHOOL, PRE-SCHOOL AND PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The academic year 2018-19 has been an exciting and rewarding one 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. Our annual IQM Centre of Excellence assessment was conducted in June 2019 and the Prep School was once again highly commended for the quality and number of opportunities provided for our pupils, the inclusive ethos which permeates every area of school life and the commitment of staff in ensuring pupils receive the highest quality teaching and learning opportunities.

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 25 pupils securing places in a grammar school of their choice, with 18 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.

The various Action Groups in Prep have been busy throughout the year. The CAG girls supported a number of charities with fancy dress days, grocery collections and the Harvest Fair. The ECO team examined the impact of idling car engines on our environment and health 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 experienced life as a politician through their visit to Stormont Buildings. 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.

Primary 3 pupils led the Prep School nativity *The Inn-Spectors* sending chills through the staffroom everytime the name was mentioned as staff worried about a visit from ETI! This year, the pupils also took part in our whole school performance of *Charlie and the Chocolate Factory* 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 150 pupils performing with smiles on their faces and such confidence. Mrs Pearson, Mrs Murray and Mrs Harrison must be commended for their organisation in bringing together such an outstanding production.

Specialised teaching has continued in the Prep with Senora Gomez and Mrs Preshaw 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 Pearson.

This has been a very busy year for Prep sports with a high level of achievement. The girls enjoyed specific coaching opportunities in gymnastics, football, hockey and tennis with visiting instructors. Pupils from Prep 6 and Prep 7 took part in the Ulster Schools' Swimming Championships held in October. 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 semi finals of the Ulster Hockey Regional Qualifying tournament in March and the netball squad retained their title as winners in their section of the Belfast Primary Schools' Finals. Prep 7 girls competed against other Belfast Primary Schools with indoor athletic events, with five of the VCB pupils then selected to comprise a multi-school team of ten to represent Belfast in the Northern Ireland championships. Thank you to Mrs Henderson, Mrs Patterson, Mrs Simpson, Mrs Pearson and Mrs Fernando for all their support with PE this year.

Evidently 2018-19 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 52 students during the academic year 2018-2019. 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 is an integral part of many of our students' lives; it is the constant when parents are working abroad, it is security and support and it is a learning environment for those boarders who have come to Northern Ireland to fully immerse themselves in learning English for a year. It is also a place of happy memories and friendships made.

Whilst the Department's emphasis is on the pastoral aspect of boarding, learning is also extremely important and when all students are cared for pastorally, learning becomes easier. 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.

The students also enjoy a full programme of activities. In 2018-2019 the Boarding Department engaged in all the extra-curricular activities run by the school. The Department was also involved in the Peace Players' Basketball Programme and ran its own 'in house' entertainment programme for the year. These activities included a Spooktacular Halloween party, treasure hunts, group games, Christmas and Easter parties as well as Chinese New Year and end of term celebrations. Trips outside Boarding are also important, with girls participating in a bus trip around Belfast, a tour to the Giant's Causeway, walks up Cavehill and cinema trips, to name but a few. Christmas celebrations in Drumglass are always a highlight.

We had our Annual Inspection by the RQIA in December and for the third consecutive year Drumglass House was awarded the highest accolade— no recommendations.

The annual BBQ was arranged as normal; this year we invited parents and staff and boarders old and new to take part in the celebration of Matron Johnston's 50th birthday and to celebrate the end of another successful year. This was a very relaxed and happy occasion slightly hampered by the weather but much enjoyed by all.

The end of term came quickly as well as farewells to a few members of staff. Miss Fine Oswald and Victoria Gulatz (Junior German Assistant) completed their year in Belfast and started their university programme in Germany.

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. Boarding would be unable to operate without them and we place on record our gratitude and appreciation to all of the Boarding staff for the work they continue to do.

SECTION 4 – PERFORMANCE DATA

GENERAL FOR SENIOR SCHOOL

	UK	NI	VCB
A*/A grades at A2 level	N/A	29.8	35.8
A*/A grades at GCSE	N/A	35.1	48.6
A*-C grades at A2	N/A	85.8	85.7
A*-C grades at GCSE	N/A	84.4	97.1

GCSE 2019

Number of pupils entered for 5 or more subjects	132
% achieving 5+ A*-C grades	97.74
% achieving 7+ A*-C grades	93.23
% achieving 7+ A*-B grades	59.4

A LEVEL 2019

Number of pupils entered for 3 or more subjects	105
% achieving 2+ A*-C grades	93.2
% achieving 3+ A*-C grades	68.93
% A* grades achieved	9.9
% A*-A grades achieved	35.8

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

	2015/2016		2016/2017		2017/2018	
	VCB	NI	VCB	NI	VCB	NI
5+ GCSE A*-C	98	97	100	97	98	96
7+ GCSE A*-C	92	92	97	91	83	91
3+ A LEVEL A*-C	85	76	82	78	72	78
2+ A LEVEL A*-E	99	100	100	100	100	100

PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2018/2019 A2 LEVEL RESULTS BY SUBJECT

Subject	Entry	% of pupils achieving the following grades						
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art & Design	13	7.7%	15.4%	30.8%	46.2%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Biology	37	16.2%	21.6%	32.4%	21.6%	5.4%	0.0%	2.7%
Business Studies	18	11.1%	16.7%	5.6%	16.7%	38.9%	11.1%	0.0%
Chemistry	21	14.3%	28.6%	42.9%	4.8%	9.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Chinese	3	0.0%	0.0%	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Computer Studies	8	0.0%	0.0%	25.0%	37.5%	37.5%	0.0%	0.0%
Design and Technology	7	0.0%	28.6%	71.4%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
English Literature	23	0.0%	13.0%	30.4%	47.8%	8.7%	0.0%	0.0%
French	3	0.0%	33.3%	66.7%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Geography	34	8.8%	38.2%	29.4%	14.7%	8.8%	0.0%	0.0%
Health & Social Care	8	0.0%	37.5%	37.5%	25.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Health & Social Care DA	24	0.0%	4.2%	75.0%	16.7%	4.2%	0.0%	0.0%
History	16	6.3%	25.0%	43.8%	18.8%	6.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Home Economics	15	0.0%	26.7%	40.0%	26.7%	0.0%	6.7%	0.0%
Information Technology	13	0.0%	7.7%	15.4%	15.4%	23.1%	38.5%	0.0%
IT/Art	3	0.0%	33.3%	33.3%	0.0%	33.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Italian	1	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Mathematics	28	25.0%	28.6%	25.0%	10.7%	10.7%	0.0%	0.0%
Further Mathematics	2	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Performing Arts	7	0.0%	0.0%	57.1%	28.6%	14.3%	0.0%	0.0%
Physics	9	11.1%	33.3%	11.1%	33.3%	0.0%	11.1%	0.0%
Politics	10	0.0%	10.0%	60.0%	20.0%	10.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Religious Studies	14	21.4%	64.3%	7.1%	0.0%	7.1%	0.0%	0.0%
Russian	1	100.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Spanish	2	50.0%	0.0%	50.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%	0.0%
Percentage TOTAL	320	10.0	22.8	35.0	19.4	9.7	2.8	0.3
		32	73	112	62	31	9	1

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.	58 (Yrs 8-14)	100%
	Grades 1-5 Theory Exams.	2 (Yrs 8-14)	100%

No. of Yr 12, 13, 14 Leavers 2018/19	Destinations - Leavers to							
	Higher Education	Further Education	Employment	Another School	Job Skills	Modern Apprenticeship	Unknown	None of other categories
153	85	31	8	17	1	0	4	7

ANNUAL ATTENDANCE RATE (ALL PUPILS)

Total days attended by all pupils on roll as % of total possible days of attendance = 95.4%

PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2018/2019 GCSE RESULTS BY SUBJECT

GCSE Subjects	Entry	A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E	F	G	U
Art & Design	36	2.8	19.4	36.1	22.2	19.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Biology	89	18.0	43.8	29.2	9.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Business Studies	24	16.7	29.2	20.8	16.7	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Chemistry	71	16.9	42.3	16.9	14.1	7.0	2.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Design and Technology	35	20.0	42.9	20.0	11.4	2.9	2.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Drama	20	0.0	20.0	35.0	20.0	15.0	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
English Language	133	7.5	27.1	39.8	18.0	6.8	0.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
English Literature	121	8.3	29.8	28.9	20.7	10.7	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Geography	69	29.0	42.0	14.5	8.7	1.4	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Health & Social Care	23	0.0	17.4	56.5	21.7	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
History	49	14.3	42.9	18.4	14.3	4.1	6.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Home Economics	12	0.0	33.3	41.7	16.7	8.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Information Technology	23	8.7	30.4	26.1	30.4	4.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mathematics	133	9.8	38.3	33.1	10.5	5.3	1.5	0.8	0.8	0.0	0.0
Mathematics Further	38	23.7	26.3	10.5	26.3	7.9	5.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Music	8	25.0	37.5	25.0	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Personal & Social Education	30	0.0	3.3	16.7	30.0	23.3	23.3	3.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Physics	42	21.4	33.3	38.1	7.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Religious Studies (FC+SC)	125.5	19.9	45.8	15.1	12.0	4.8	2.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.4
Science Single Award	22	0.0	40.9	22.7	22.7	9.1	4.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spanish	23	8.7	34.8	13.0	26.1	17.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
PE Studies	8	25.0	37.5	25.0	12.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
French	46	4.3	56.5	6.5	21.7	8.7	2.2	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
German	10	30.0	30.0	20.0	20.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Percentage		13.1	35.7	25.6	16.0	6.8	2.5	0.2	0.1	0.0	0.0
TOTAL	1190.5	156	425.5	305	190	81	29.5	2	1	0	0.5

% 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 2018-2019

Key Stage 1	VCB Prep June 2019 Outcome	NI Averages
Communication Level 2+	100%	71%
Communication Level 3	43%	18%
Using Mathematics Level 2+	100%	74%
Using Mathematics Level 3	38%	14%
ICT Level 2 (Accreditation Scheme)	100%	83%

KS2 Assessment Outcomes 2018-2019

Key Stage 2	VCB Prep June 2019 Outcome	NI Averages
Communication Level 4+	100%	62%
Communication Level 5	72%	22%
Using Mathematics Level 4+	100%	60%
Using Mathematics Level 5	68%	23%
ICT Level 4 Accreditation Scheme	100%	83%

**VICTORIA COLLEGE BELFAST
SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION
YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2019**

SUMMARY COLLEGE REVENUE ACCOUNT

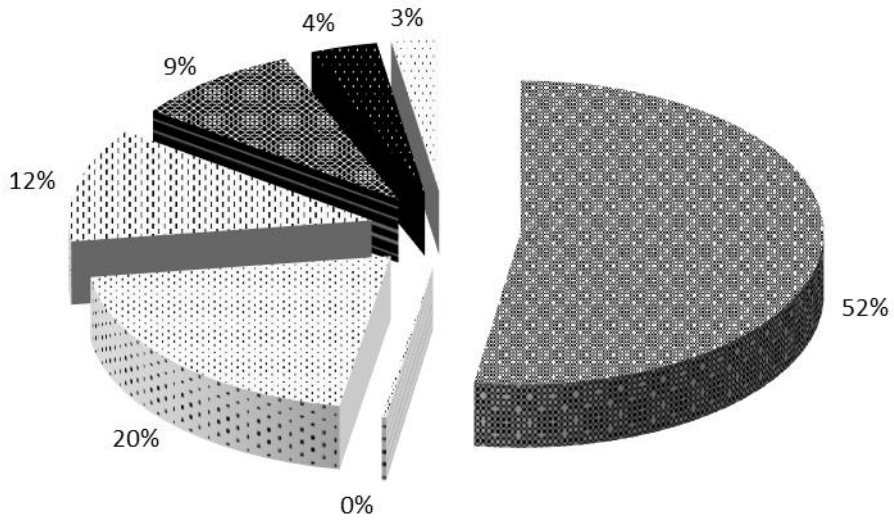
	2019 Restated £	2019 Restated %	2018 Restated £	2018 Restated %
Income				
Government Grants	4,408,553	67.7%	4,471,156	69.7%
Other Income	2,105,182	32.3%	1,940,306	30.3%
Total	<u>6,513,735</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>6,411,462</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Expenditure				
Teaching salary costs	(3,463,884)	52.5%	(3,333,323)	51.4%
Redundancy costs	(15,648)	0.2%	(249,949)	3.9%
Other education costs	(1,326,155)	20.1%	(1,229,557)	19.0%
Premises costs	(804,019)	12.2%	(643,148)	9.9%
Administration costs	(589,509)	8.9%	(563,950)	8.7%
Catering costs	(235,730)	3.6%	(263,179)	4.1%
Other costs	(167,512)	2.5%	(200,404)	3.1%
Total	<u>(6,602,457)</u>	<u>100.0%</u>	<u>(6,483,510)</u>	<u>100.0%</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) for the year	<u>(88,722)</u>	<u>-1.4%</u>	<u>(72,048)</u>	<u>-1.1%</u>

SUMMARY COLLEGE BALANCE SHEET

	2019 Restated £	2018 Restated £
Fixed Assets	9,881,154	10,310,816
Current Assets	1,945,514	1,484,853
Current Liabilities	(1,583,412)	(1,362,588)
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	<u>10,243,256</u>	<u>10,433,081</u>
Financed by:		
Creditors due after more than one year	18,099	21,494
Deferred grant income	7,914,554	8,177,377
Capital and reserves	2,310,603	2,234,210
	<u>10,243,256</u>	<u>10,433,081</u>

2018-19 Expenditure

- Teaching salary costs
- Redundancy costs
- Other education costs
- Premises costs
- Administration costs
- Catering costs
- Other costs



2017-18 Expenditure

- Teaching salary costs
- Premises costs
- Other costs
- Redundancy costs
- Administration costs
- Other education costs
- Catering costs

