

Sports Day



Wednesday 6th June saw pupils & teachers decamp to the Sports Pavilion to enjoy Saintfield High School's annual Sports Day. The rain stayed away as competitors began their warm ups, and spectators took to the banks to cheer their classmates on in fine June weather.

Mrs Irwin, Head of the PE Department, praised the fantastic sportsmanship and high standard of athleticism shown by all pupils throughout the day's events. "The pupils were

an absolute credit to the school and everything went according to plan. There is always a keen atmosphere of support and enthusiasm on Sports Day, and this year the pupils did not disappoint! The competition at Sports Day gets fiercer every year, and it's brilliant to see so many pupils take an active role in sport in the school. It was a wonderful day for everybody involved."



A Fond Farewell

It is with a heavy heart that the staff, pupils and wider school community must say goodbye to Mrs Elaine Irwin, who retires this June. Mrs Irwin first joined our teaching staff in September 1989, and has served as a popular and much-loved member of the PE Department for an incredible 29 years. Now, after guiding thousands of pupils through countless star jumps, relay races and coaching drills, as well as overseeing generations of hockey and netball teams, the time has finally come for Mrs Irwin to hang up her whistle. Everyone at Saintfield High School wishes her a long, happy, and fulfilling retirement.

We also bid farewell this term to Miss Bicker and Mr Morrison, both of whom are leaving our non-teaching staff to embark on PGCE courses in September. We would like to thank them both for their hard work and professionalism, and wish them well in their future teaching careers.



SAINTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

As we reach the end of 2017/2018, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone within our school community for another fantastic year at Saintfield High School! A remarkable range of events took place over the last year, encompassing a variety of academic, musical and sporting results, a wealth of exciting educational visits, and of course, the many personal successes and achievements in the classroom and beyond.

Our greatest gift continues to be our shared sense of teamwork and collaboration; of working together in a spirit of openness and co-operation, with mutual respect for one another. Our academic year came to a close with yet another endorsement of our high standards, of our commitment to excellence in all that we strive for, and of our strong community culture. In June, we welcomed an inspection team from the Education and Training Inspectorate into our school who have put on record, once again, that we are continuing to provide a first-class education for all of our pupils. In fact, building on our previous inspection in 2015, we received the highest classification possible – an achievement that we are all so proud of.

With the closing of this academic year, we bid a very fond farewell to Mrs Irwin, Head of the Physical Education Department, who has been teaching at the school since 1989. I know I speak for everyone connected to Saintfield High School in wishing Mrs Irwin a very happy and healthy retirement, and I thank her for the immense contributions she has made to our school community over the years. I would also like to extend good wishes to Miss Bicker and Mr Morrison, who are both part of our non-teaching team, as they embark upon their own teaching careers in September when they commence their PGCE studies.

I am so very proud of all that we have accomplished this year, and I wish everyone within our school community a restful, safe, and enjoyable summer.

Miss Hynds, Principal

SHS Newsletter No. 61

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

End of Term: Friday 29 June at 12.20pm

Return of Pupils for new Academic Year:

*Year 8 (new in-take): Wednesday 29 August - leave at 12.20pm

*Year 8 (new in-take): Thursday 30 August – full day

*Year 11: Thursday 30 August – full day

*Whole school (Years 8 – 12): Friday 31 August 2018

****There will be no school buses on these dates – please arrange transport for your child to and from school on these days.***

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Primary 7 Induction Evening

Thursday 14th June saw Saintfield High School play host to an influx of primary seven pupils and parents, all eager to get an insight into what to expect when they enrol in our school in September. The annual Induction Evening, organised by Mrs Derby and involving a number of Year 8 pupils, aims to provide pupils with the opportunity to ask questions before they begin their post-primary career. The evening is also an opportunity for Saintfield High School to welcome all new pupils and their parents to our school community ahead of an exciting and busy term in September.

2018-19 — Free School Meals and Uniform Grant – apply TODAY!

For more information on eligibility and how to apply visit: www.eani.org.uk/i-want-to

Eligibility to Free School Meals and Uniform Grant is subject to Department of Education Criteria and Education Authority

Outdoor Activity Expedition



Our GCSE PE class enjoyed a bracing pair of days in Delamont Country Park, Castlewellan Forest Park and the Mourne Mountains on the 14th & 15th of June. They engaged in hill-walking, orienteering and camping, accompanied by Mr Elliott and Mr Chisholm. The group enjoyed terrific weather throughout the trip, and all who attended developed their outdoor activity skills which will aid their performance in GCSE PE.

Year 11 Work Experience

Our Year 11 pupils spent the week of Monday 18th—Friday 22nd June gaining insight into the world of employment, as they took part in the Careers department's Work Experience programme. Our pupils enjoyed a wide range of work placements in a variety of fields, from education to engineering, from veterinary science to hospitality. Scott McNamara spent the week on placement with Isaac Agnew Volkswagen in Belfast. Scott said "It was a terrific week. I learned so much. The highlight was definitely being taken for a test drive in a brand new Golf R". Mrs Dempsey, who oversees the programme for the school, commented that she was proud of the manner in which Saintfield High School pupils conducted themselves throughout the week.

Mountain Biking: Huge congratulations must go to Year 8 pupil Reuben Maitland, who recently competed in the All Ireland Mountain Bike Championships in Cork. Reuben performed excellently against stiff competition in the Ulster League, before going on to compete in the u12s category of the All Ireland final on Sunday 17th June. Reuben, who began his cycling career with Killinchy Cycling Club, said of the conditions in Cork "The ground was slippy and the sun was beating down, but I gave it my best shot and I'm so delighted with my win!" Excellent work, Reuben. We're all very proud of your achievement too!

Swimming Gala: The school's annual Swimming Gala took place this at Ards Leisure Centre on Tuesday 29th May. As always, it was a terrific event with a high standard of competition throughout. Mrs Irwin praised all competitors for their fantastic effort. The top girl competitor overall was Rebecca Rossiter (9CA), whilst the top boy competitor was Scott McKibben (10EL).

Shared Education Project



The corridors of Saintfield High School have been especially busy this term, with pupils from St Mary's Primary School, Saintfield, visiting on a number of occasions for a flurry of special events. Pupils from both schools have had the chance to take part in a special Technology project, led by Mr Bolton, a Robotics Workshop, led by Sentinus NI, and a 'Celtic Fusion' workshop led by our school's Music Department. Mrs Birt, who was heavily involved in overseeing the project, praised the conduct of the Saintfield High school pupils involved in the project, as well as the enthusiasm of our regular visitors from St Mary's P.S.

Mrs Irwin's Sports Round-up!



North Down Athletics: The annual North Down Athletics meeting took place on a glorious day at the start of June, with many of our pupils performing excellently against a very competitive field. Our magnificent Year 10 team finished first overall in their field, with our Year 11s finishing a strong second in theirs. Additionally, Owen Gill (long jump), Ben Adams (javelin) and Joel McBurney (100m) each won individual events. What an amazing day of Track & Field! Well done to everybody who took part!



Football: Our Year 9 boys' football team have enjoyed a real roller-coaster of a season, culminating in a pair of unforgettable matches this term. Back in April, the boys defeated Priory College 5-4 in a real thriller of a match. Our goal scorers were Thomas Crawford, Ewan McCoubrey and, with a magnificent hat trick, Toby Carinduff! Team coach, Mr Elliott, picked out our goalkeeper Kobi Dunn as the Man of the Match. As a result of this terrific win, the boys progressed to the final of the North Down School's League.

A sunny Wednesday afternoon on the 2nd May saw our boys head to Billy Neill pitches in Dundonald for a show-down with Bangor Academy. Unfortunately, despite Saintfield High School's team playing bravely, Bangor ran out 3-0 winners. Congratulations to Bangor Academy, and commiserations to the boys on our team. Mr Elliott, speaking after the match, praised the boys for their achievement in reaching the final, and spoke of his high hopes for them to go one step further next year.



Golf: Our school's golf enthusiasts spent a bright and sunny June 25th enjoying a day's competition at Crossgar Golf Club accompanied by a pair of the school's own wannabe Nick Faldos, Mr Elliott. An enjoyable day was had by all involved, with Thomas Crawford finishing in first place in the competition, ahead of Kobi Dunn (2nd) and Aaron Jennings (3rd). Fore!



Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award

Led by Mr Chisholm and accompanied by Miss Orr, 14 Year 11 pupils recently explored the Mourne Mountains and Tollymore Forest Park on a practice expedition for their Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Award. Putting their survival skills to the test, pupils camped out on the evening of 11th June. Luckily, it managed to stay dry. Ellie-Mae McCartney (11AT) said "I didn't know what to expect on the journey there, and it was difficult at times, but it was a truly worthwhile experience. I can't wait to get stuck in again next time!"



VARIETY SHOW

We were delighted to host a Community Variety Show on the evening of Friday 27th April. A host of talented singers, dancers and musicians took to the stage in front of a packed house in the school assembly hall. As a result of the event, more than £500 was raised for the school's PTA and Saintfield Parish's Wednesday Welcome Group. Mrs Birt, Head of the school's Music Department, said it was "a grand occasion—great fun and a wonderful way to strengthen links between the school and the wider community of the village."

STEM Careers

Year 11 have been hard at work this term, researching future career options and exploring the world of engineering. Miss Kirk recently accompanied a number of pupils to the fifth annual BelTech Conference in the Waterfront Hall. This event allowed our Digital Technology pupils the opportunity to hear from some of the biggest employers in the ICT Sector, including Kainos, Danske Bank and PWC. The pupils found this to be a really worthwhile experience, with Liam Thompson commenting that it gave him "a real insight into the kind of career I hope to have in the future."

As well as this amazing opportunity, Head of Careers Mrs Dempsey took a number of pupils to "The Big Bang Fair" at Ulster University on 26th June. Pupils attended a lecture on the mathematics of juggling, a workshop on building a super capacitor hovercraft and a workshop entitled 'Meet the Future You', where pupils were able to complete a number of exciting activities within science and engineering as part of a career planning process. Another really informative day out for our senior pupils.

Greenmount Visit

Those Year 10 pupils who have chosen to study Horticulture or Agriculture at KS4 enjoyed a trip to CAFRE, Greenmount, on Tuesday 20th June. The college was hosting a 'Grow Careers' event. The pupils, accompanied by Mrs Jackson, took part in a series of fascinating and engaging hands-on activities involving garden design, paving, floristry, horticulture, golfing green production and potting plants technology. The undoubted highlight of the day, though, was the ice-cream sourced from the on-site dairy unit!



Pastoral Events

Our Year 10 pupils have been busy participating in a number of pastoral events this term. Thursday 3rd May saw pupils participate in their final Alcohol Awareness session run by SOS NI., which proved to be a really fantastic and informative event for all involved.

On Thursday 19th April, Year 10 were visited by representatives from the Teenage Cancer Trust. Pupils were spoken to about the importance of looking after their health and taking care of themselves, the signs and symptoms of different types of cancer that can affect teenagers and young people, as well as the treatment and support offered to young people



and their families by the Teenage Cancer Trust. Year 10 pupils, Izzy McConnell, Lauren Houston and Sarah Douglas were so touched by the work of the charity, that they decided to take the initiative to raise money for this worthwhile cause. They signed up to participate in the Castlewellan Mud Run on 16th June, as well as organised a bake sale in school. In total, the girls raised an incredible £420 for the Teenage Cancer Trust, presenting their cheque to the charity on Wednesday 27th June. Well done ladies!

Gransha Derby

Our school's Equestrian team enjoyed a successful day at the Ulster Schools' Derby at Gransha in June. From a field of nearly 30 teams, the Saintfield Lions finished in a very strong 5th position. A special well done to Hannah Patterson, who placed 5th in the Individual Novice class, from a field of over 100 riders. Mrs Birt wishes to extend her congratulations to all riders, and thank parents for their continued support of Equestrian at Saintfield High School.

River Shimna Trip

The first week of June saw those Year 11 pupils studying GCSE Geography undertake a field trip to study the River Shimna in Newcastle. Accompanied by Mr Carter and Mr Chisholm, the students enjoyed a guided walk to OTT Mountain to study the source of the river and then journeyed downstream collecting data on valley slopes, bed load, river discharge and velocity. This primary data was collected in preparation for their GCSE Geography Controlled Assessment task.

Ben Stephens (11SC) commented that he "enjoyed our trip. I got to make memories with my friends and it was good to see the river features first hand."



Balmoral!

Thursday 17th May saw a large contingent of pupils from the school visit the Balmoral Show. The entire event was bathed in the most gorgeous Ulster sunshine. They were accompanied by Mrs Birt, Mrs Convill, and Mrs Jackson. This event – one of the biggest dates in the Northern Irish calendar – allowed the pupils to experience 'country life coming to town'. The pupils enjoyed many attractions on offer, from machinery displays and cattle judging, to horse jumping and the shopping villages, plus plenty more besides! The sample testing in the



food halls was definitely a big hit! Additionally, many members of school community competed in the Balmoral Show, with highlights including 9CP's own Lucy Rodgers' 1st place finish in the Flower Arranging (12-14 years old) competition and Tom McKnight (11IR) and his Holstein Heifer also finishing in 1st place in the under 16 dairy category.

Lucy Rodgers shows off her winning display, entitled 'Bring Me Sunshine'