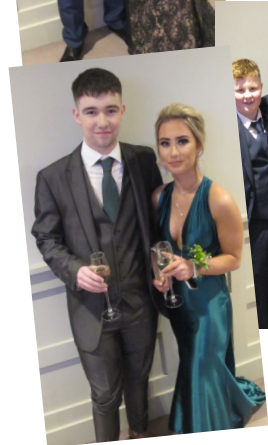


Year 12 pupils dazzle at Charity Ball!

Thursday 14th February saw old school glamour arrive at the Clandeboye Lodge as Year 12 pupils donned their glad rags to celebrate their five years at Saintfield High School, as well as to raise plenty of money for an important local charity. The girls were beautiful in their formal gowns, while the boys cut very handsome figures in their dapper suits. Following a delicious meal, pupils and staff danced the night away.

This year's Charity Ball raised more than £540 for the British Heart Foundation and The Children's Eye Trust—two worthwhile causes, both close to the hearts of our Year 12 pupils.



SAINTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

Welcome to our April 2019 edition of Saintfield High School's Newsletter, which is packed with news of the many different and varied activities that have taken place in school since January 7th. Term 2 began with our hugely successful Open Evening, which saw a record number of visitors to our school. I was immensely proud of all those students who helped to demonstrate all that we have to offer. As we approached the end of January, 56 of our boys and girls headed off to Pamporovo for a ski trip, accompanied by a group of enthusiastic teachers, who were ready to tackle the slopes of Bulgaria!

Our annual Charity Ball in February was a well-earned reward for our Year 12, who all had a wonderful time celebrating at the Clandeboye Lodge Hotel. It was such a privilege for teachers to share in these celebrations, as our students proved themselves a credit to their school.

As we approach Term 3, I want to wish the best of luck to all pupils in Years 11 & 12 with their upcoming GCSE examinations in May and June. We are currently providing a host of support measures to help them, including revision strategies in Form Time and in after-school classes. Independent study time is also available every Tuesday and Wednesday until 4.30 p.m. in our Library. I have personally met with every Year 12 pupil in the last few weeks to monitor their progress, and I will be meeting individually with every Year 11 student following the Easter break.

Good luck, too, to all of our Junior School pupils who will commence their Summer examinations in Term 3. Our Year 10 pupils have successfully chosen their individual programmes of study for Senior School, and in these remaining months can begin to look forward to life in Senior School.

I want to wish everyone within our school community a very safe and relaxing Easter vacation, and I look forward to welcoming all pupils back on Monday 29th April 2019.

Miss S-L Hynds, Principal

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Spring Term ends: Friday 12 April 12.20pm

Summer Term commences: Monday 29 April

Bank Holiday Closure: Monday 6 May

End of Year Exams (Years 8, 9 and 10): 9 - 14 May (inclusive)

Bank Holiday closure: Friday 24 May & Monday 27 May

Sports Day (weather permitting): Thursday 30 May

Year 11 Work Experience week: 17 - 21 June (inclusive)

Summer Term ends: Friday 28 June 12.20pm

SHS Newsletter No.

Parents' Consultations

We were delighted to host a Senior School Advice & Guidance evening on Thursday 21st March. Pupils from Year 10, along with their parents/carers, were invited to speak to teachers about their options as they prepare for life in Senior School. A very encouraging 96% of Year 10 pupils were able to attend.

Also this term, 91% parents/carers from Year 11 were able to attend a Parents' Consultation on the 28th February, and 95% of parents/carers were able to attend a Year 9 Parents' Consultation on the 14th March. Thank you to all who attended these events. Your continued support of the work we do in school is a hugely important factor in the success of our pupils.

Careers Programme

Our school's Careers Department have enjoyed a busy term, organising a series of trips, visitors and events to help guide our Year 12 pupils as they approach their final few months at Saintfield High School. Speakers from several institutions such as Grosvenor Grammar School, Down High School, and Belfast Metropolitan College have visited us, whilst our pupils also attended a Careers Convention at The High School, Ballynahinch. Additionally, our local Careers Advisor, Mr Alan Cousins, has continued to provide guidance and support to all Year 12 pupils during this busy time. Cameron Lyons (12SC) said "It can be confusing thinking about next year, but all of these talks have helped me to clarify a few things in my mind."

Coastal Studies

The start of February saw our Year 11 GCSE Geography students visit Murlough beach and Newcastle town to assist with their study of coastal areas. Jo Whatmore from the National Trust spoke to the pupils on issues such as coastal protection and conservation, and how the coast is being sustainably managed. Despite some chilly conditions, an enjoyable and informative day was had by all.



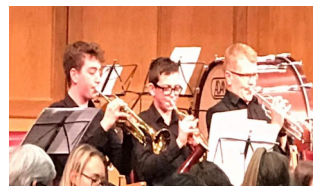
Kingspan Tour



All of our Year 8 pupils joined with pupils from St Mary's Primary School earlier this term, for an unforgettable tour behind the scenes at Kingspan Stadium, home of Ulster Rugby. Amongst the highlights of the day were a tour of the changing rooms, a visit to the Nevin Spence Centre and, of course, stepping onto the hallowed Ravenhill turf. Joshua Brockbank (8JA) said "It was a brilliant day out—even the people who don't really like rugby enjoyed themselves, and for the rugby fans it was a once-in-a-lifetime experience. For me, the highlights were sitting in the dugouts and visiting the changing rooms."

Thank you very much to Ulster Rugby for facilitating such an amazing day out!

Ethan's Trumpet Success!



Ethan Sproule (9TG) recently played trumpet as part of the Youth Orchestra at the Education Authority's spring concert, held at Assembly Buildings in Belfast. The standard for inclusion in this elite orchestra was very high, and Ethan deserves great praise for making the cut. Amongst the hits performed by Ethan and his fellow musicians were 'New York, New York', 'The Phantom of the Opera' and 'Moon River'.

Congratulations are also due to a number of the school's other musicians, all of whom have enjoyed success in recent exams. Well done to Katie Atkinson (Grade 2 flute), Jason Craig (Grade 4 baritone), Rebecca Damerel (Grade 3 flute), Maddison Donnelly (Grade 1 flute), Ellie Rose Kelly (Grade 3 flute) and Catherine Rossiter (Grade 5 flute).

Pastoral Round-up!

The Pupil Wellbeing team at Saintfield High School have been incredibly busy this term. Pupils from all year groups have engaged in a wealth of activities as part of our Resilience Curriculum. Pupils have explored, discussed and learned about issues such as alcohol abuse, study skills, sexual health, the dangers of smoking, plus many, many other relevant and thought-provoking topics...



LOVEFORLIFE
informing choice

LOVE FOR LIFE: We were pleased to be visited by an organization called 'Love for Life' in early February, who spoke to pupils from Year 10 about relationships, making good choices, and sexual health, amongst other topics. The presentations were age-appropriate and engaging.

MADE FOR MORE: Thursday 28th February was a designated 'Pupil Well-Being Day' in Saintfield High School. An organisation called 'Made For More' visited the school, and hosted a series of carefully tailored session for each year group, focusing on issues such as mental health, physical health, drugs, alcohol, exam stress and relationships.

INTERNET SAFETY: Representatives from the PSNI's Downpatrick Neighbourhood Team visited the school on Tuesday 12th February. All pupils received an important and timely presentation on Internet Safety, full of helpful, frank and extremely worthwhile advice.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS: We were very pleased to welcome back Mr Hugh Roarty from Action Mental Health to our school this term. Mr Roarty worked with pupils from Year 8 in February, helping to promote positive mental health. Mrs Bradley, Head of Pastoral Care, thanked Action Mental Health for their continued support of the work we do in school, and praised our pupils for their willingness to take part in such challenging and important sessions.

This work was supported by a 6 week programme called 'Beat the Blues', which helped a number of pupils from Year 10 understand how to best care for their own emotional well-being.

PARENTS' MENTAL HEALTH: The evening of Wednesday 3rd April saw a number of parents attend a Mental Health Awareness session in the school's Lecture Theatre. This event was organised by the school's Parent Panel, and focused on helping to equip parents with the skills and knowledge they need to deal with adolescent mental health issues.

BULGARIA SKI TRIP 2019: There's no business like SNOW BUSINESS!



A team of more than 50 pupils, accompanied by 6 members of staff, met at Belfast International Airport in the early hours of Sunday 20th January, before embarking on a day's journey to the ski resort of Pamporovo, Bulgaria. What followed was 6 days of fun on the glorious slopes of this singularly picturesque location. Pupils had the chance to ski, to ride in sleighs, and even to have a go at bum-boarding! The evenings, too, were jam-packed with fun, with swimming, shopping and ten-pin bowling laid on, all as part of an entirely unforgettable week. Sam Pour (11EL) said "I will never forget the time we had in Bulgaria. Not only was the skiing so much fun, but everything else about the trip was just perfect".

We are certain that Sam's thoughts will be echoed by every other person who was present on the trip! What an experience!



Road Safety Roadshow

We were delighted to act as host school for a memorable Road Safety Roadshow on Thursday 28th March. The event was a collaboration between the PSNI and Cool FM. This moving, hard-hitting show was aimed at young drivers (or those soon to be) from a number of local schools including Down High School, St Colmcille's, and Nendrum College. The students were presented with the horrific impact and trauma of a real-life traffic collision, through first person accounts from personnel involved, including members of the PSNI, Ambulance Service, Fire Service and Accident & Emergency doctors. Perhaps most



memorably of all, a victim of a road traffic accident spoke to pupils about her experiences. The event culminated with pupils viewing a simulation of an upturned, crashed vehicle. Jake Nixon (12AT) said "I think what I heard today will stay with me for a long time. It was a real eye-opener to the real dangers of the road"

Read On!

Open Night

We were delighted to welcome P6 & P7 boys and girls and their parents to our annual OPEN EVENING back on January 17th. It was a very busy evening with prospective pupils and their parents taking a real interest in the educational provision at Saintfield High School. Feedback from our visitors was very positive indeed. We look forward to meeting our new Year 8 intake this September.



Year 8 and 9 pupils at Saintfield High School have once again participated in a sponsored read organised by the Cancer Fund for Children. The pupils were encouraged to read as many books as they could during the month of February in order to raise funds for the local charity. This year, pupils raised a whopping £2405!

The boys and girls at Saintfield High School saw this as a real opportunity to give something back to the community. In total, over 200 books were read during the Read On campaign, showing that the pupils at Saintfield High School are real bookworms!

This Farming Life



Coronation Street? Eastenders? Britain's Got Talent? No, no, no – the only television show worth watching this term has, of course, been the BBC2 documentary series *This Farming Life*, featuring a starring turn from 10CP's own Lucy Rodgers. The series focuses on the hardships and reality of farming in Britain today, and Lucy's family have been one of the featured subjects of this series.

Lucy said of the experience "It was a bit weird at first having cameras at the house, but we got used to them very quickly. Since the show first aired everyone has been really friendly and supportive. I'm glad my family got to take part, but I definitely think it will be a one-off event."

For anyone who missed out on the programme, several episodes were still available to watch via the BBC iPlayer at the time of going to print.

Hockey Success!

Our u14 Hockey side have enjoyed a successful term on the pitch. The end of March saw them finish as strong runners up in the North Down Hockey League despite losing 3-0 to Lagan College in their final match. Revenge was sweet, however, a few weeks later, when the team won the North Down Junior Hockey Blitz Tournament, defeating Lagan College in the final. The team's all-action captain, Lucy Rodgers, grabbed the crucial goal. Congratulations, girls! The team's coach, Mrs McMordie, praised the effort and commitment of the players, "They've had a terrific season, and can look forward to more success in the future" she said.



The successful u14 Hockey team, pictured here alongside Mrs McMordie following their recent victory at the North Down Junior Hockey Blitz