

Lauren Houston: Pride of Britain!



Year 12 pupil Lauren Houston has had a remarkable year so far. Lauren spent her summer undertaking a series of daredevil challenges to raise money for Barnardo's NI. Lauren took part in a Mud Run in Castlewellan and even jumped out of a plane to sky-dive in Donegal! In doing so, Lauren raised more than £2000 for an incredibly worthwhile cause. "I relied on Barnardo's when I was younger, and now that I am able to, I want to give something back."

Lauren's tremendous achievements have not gone unnoticed. She has been interviewed by The Belfast Telegraph, profiled on UTV and has even been nominated for a prestigious Daily Mirror 'Pride of Britain' Award! "I couldn't believe it when I got a phone call from UTV to tell me I had been nominated. It felt like something from dream."

Unfortunately, Lauren later found out that she had finished second in her category, and won't be travelling to the televised gala later this month. Lauren deserves great praise for her selflessness and dedication, though. Hers is a remarkable achievement, and everyone at Saintfield High School is incredibly proud of her!



SAINTFIELD HIGH SCHOOL

Dear Parents and Carers,

I warmly welcome you all back to a new academic year. Already, 2019-2020 has proved to be a busy and successful time for our entire learning community. Over the last two months, pupils have returned to school with great enthusiasm and are approaching their studies and school life with determination. I am delighted with how well our new Year 8 students have settled into the routine of their new school career. I must commend them on the friendships they have made, their good manners, their high standard of uniform, and of course, the earnest approach they have adopted towards their school work.

Thank you parents and carers, for all your support over the last two months with regard to our uniform and attendance policies. Our induction programmes for Years 8 and 11 in September were well received by our pupils, and our reward and recognition programmes for the current year began with those who achieved 100% attendance for 2018/19 - a total of 44 pupils - participating in an activity day away from their timetabled studies.

As you browse through this edition of our Newsletter you will see just what a full and positive two months it has been. I must thank all members of staff for the wonderful, worthwhile and enjoyable learning opportunities and experiences they provide for all our pupils to engage in. Our high standards of learning teaching were evident in our GCSE results for our Year 12 students who left in June 2019. An impressive 72% of our students achieved five or more A*-C grades, and 62% of pupils achieved five or more GCSEs at grades A*-C, including English and Mathematics – the highest ever recorded figure for the school, for this particular statistic.

Finally, I would like to wish everyone within our school community an enjoyable and safe mid-term break.

Miss Hynds, Principal

SHS Newsletter No.66

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

Mid-Term Break: Friday 25th October 12.20pm

Term Recommences: Monday 4th November

Assessment Week 1 (Years 11 & 12): Monday 4th – Friday 8th November

Assessment Week 2 (Years 8, 9 & 10): Monday 25th - Friday 29th November

Year 8 Parents' Consultation: Thursday 5th December, 3.15pm-5.15pm

Year 12 Parents' Consultation: Thursday 12th December, 3.15pm-5.15pm

Winter Term ends: Friday 20th December 12.20pm

Pastoral Care programme

Our school's Pastoral Care programme got off to a very positive start this term, with a number of events aimed at helping our pupils make healthy lifestyle choices. Monday 21st October saw officers from the PSNI visit the school to deliver an informative and worthwhile presentation on the need to stay safe this Halloween, particularly in relation to fireworks.

Our Year 8 pupils also received a visit from Translink's 'Safety Bus' this term, in order to highlight safety issues around public transport and travelling to and from school, whilst pupils from five different form classes took part in the NI Statistics and Research Agency's 'Young People Behaviour Survey' at the start of October.

We also have a new school counsellor this term. Kathleen O'Higgins will be in school every Wednesday. Pupils should check the notice in their form room if they wish to speak with Mrs O'Higgins for any reason.

We would like to thank all visiting speakers and organisations for giving up their time to come to our school and deliver such important messages. The school's Pastoral Care programme will continue throughout the year, with many further events planned.

Exam Success!



Congratulations to our Year 12 pupils of 2018-19, who celebrated a sterling set of examination results back in August. 72% of pupils received an A*-C grade in 5 or more subjects, whilst 62% received an A*-C grade in 5 or more subjects including English and Maths. Well done to all those pupils who collected results, and best of luck for your future endeavours. We are all so proud of you!



Daisy Lodge Visit

A group of Junior School pupils, accompanied by Mrs Teague and Mrs McKnight, enjoyed a great day out at Daisy Lodge in Newcastle on 15th October, as a reward for their tremendous fundraising efforts on behalf of the Cancer Fund for Children. Pupils in Years 8 and 9 took part in a sponsored Read On! event back last term, raising a truly impressive £2405.90 in the process.

GIRLS ACTIVE!



This year you will be hearing more about an initiative in school called 'Girls Active'. It is being helmed by Mrs Hume and her 'GLAM' Squad (Girls Leadership and Marketing). It will be the role of the **GLAMs** to work with the PE department to promote physical activity in the school. There will be termly initiatives and challenges will promote being more active and a number of 'Girls Only' events at lunch time or after school.

With inactivity on the rise, which has major negative consequences on both physical and mental health, this is a worthy cause and something that we would love to see as many people get involved in as possible. Look out for posters and announcements coming up soon about our 'Step into Christmas' campaign!

Hoop Dreams! Whiff-Whaff Fever!

Anyone for whiff-whaff? Break and lunch times at Saintfield High School have been enlivened this term by the purchase of some top new sports equipment. Back in September, four basketball nets were placed in the playground, and three ping-pong tables set at the back of the assembly hall. Both have proved wildly



popular at leisure time. Our aspirant Michael Jordans and Kobe Bryants have been able to shoot hoops and drain three-pointers to their hearts' content, whilst the new ping-pong tables have borne witness to some fierce competition already this term. Mr Carter, inspired by the popularity of our new equipment, has organised a series of lunchtime ping-pong tournaments, with Seth Kittle and Mark Andrews of 11MC winning the inaugural trophy.



Mr Elliott's Sports Round-up!

Hockey: The hockey enthusiasts of Junior School have enjoyed a busy term. Ulster Hockey organised a mini-tournament at Saintfield Hockey Club on Friday 11th October. Teams from Saintfield High School, Kilkeel High School and The Boys' Model, Belfast, all took part. The standard of hockey on display in the crisp Autumn sunshine was very encouraging. Congratulations to the boys from Kilkeel High School who finished the tournament in first place. Our Year 9 boys were unlucky to finish runners up, whilst our Year 8 boys performed very well also and finished in third place.

Our Year 8 girls also had the chance to take part in a blitz tournament when they travelled to the Aurora Leisure Centre in Bangor on Monday 21st October. Saintfield High School entered two teams, who finished in 2nd and 5th place, amongst a strong field of nine different sides. Congratulations to Lagan College, who won on the day. Mrs Hume, who coached the sides, praised our girls for the standard of their performance on this, their very first time representing the school.

CCEA Agreement Trial: A group of GCSE PE students from Years 11 and 12 had an important role to play at a recent standard-setting event hosted by CCEA, the main examining board for schools in Northern Ireland.

In front of an audience made up of PE teachers and moderators from schools across Northern Ireland, our pupils demonstrated their proficiency in football and hillwalking. A number of our students also had to speak to the crowd about the progress they have made whilst studying GCSE PE.

Mr Elliott and Mr Chisholm accompanied the boys to the Agreement Trial, held at Girdwood Community Hub in Belfast, and praised our pupils for their maturity and high level of performance at the event.



Meet the Marines: A group of Year 12 fitness fanatics were put through their paces on Thursday 19th September, when they visited Palace Barracks in Holywood to meet the Royal Marines. Accompanied by Mr Murphy, pupils were drilled in a number of high level fitness activities such as abseiling and an assault course, and also received an engaging talk on careers in the military. Pupils also had the chance to take part in a high-tech, virtual reality combat simulator.

Appointment of Prefects & Mentors, 2019-20

The school is delighted to announce the appointment of Prefects & Mentors for the academic year 2019/20. Our Head Boy for this forthcoming year is **Adam Connolly** of 12DE, and our Head Girl is **Izzy McConnell**, also of 12DE. Deputy Head Girls are **Queenie Lin** and **Lauren Houston**, whilst our Deputy Head Boys are **Evan Crothers** and **Tiernan Keating**.

The above pupils are ably supported by a team of eager and talented Year 12s:

Sarah Gibson: *Prefect responsible for pupil well-being*

James Russell: *Prefect responsible for school media & digital technology*

Jazmin Kirkwood: *Prefect responsible for marketing & hospitality*

Abbie Hunter: *Prefect of Heads of Schools*

Ellie Cairns: *Prefect to Principal & Vice-Principal*

Sarah Douglas: *Prefect responsible for school connected to the community*

Kirsty Rodgers: *Learning Support mentor*

Glenn Crothers: *Mentor for 9CR*

Thomas Owen: *Sports mentor*

Robert Douglas: *Mentor for 9HE*

Andie McMaster: *Arts mentor*

Guy Crichton: *Mentor for 9SC*

Jessica Davidson: *Mentor for 8MY*

Cameron Patterson: *Mentor for 10BI*

Olivia Fraser: *Mentor for 8JA*

Devin Crutchley: *Mentor for 10TG*

Abbie Armstrong: *Mentor for 8AT*

Jack Adair: *Mentor for 10HU*



Miss Hynds, Mrs Derby and Mrs Bradley pose with our newly appointed prefects and mentors for 2019-2020

Languages News!



It has been an incredibly busy start to the term in the French Department. Our new Languages Club (Years 8-10, Tuesdays, 2.45-3.30pm) have been studying Spanish, which has so far involved sampling tapas, playing games and celebrating *Día de Muertos* – The Day of the Dead! Activities in the classroom have included Escape Room tasks and a few rounds of 'Serpents et Échelles', whilst a group of Year 10 pupils were fortunate enough to enjoy a day out at Queen's University, Belfast. 15 pupils, accompanied by Mrs Leacock, attended the NICILT Mini French Film Fest at the *très chic* Queen's Film Theatre, where they had the opportunity to watch a fantastic movie called 'Comme des Garçons' (or 'Let the Girls Play'), which was about a group of girls fighting for their right to play football. The students dealt incredibly well with the challenge of watching an entire film in French. Pupils then had the privilege of taking a walking tour around the QUB campus and even entered the prestigious C. S. Lewis Reading Room. It was a truly inspirational day!

Attendance Rewards

Thursday 19th September saw a group of more than 20 pupils head to Stormont estate for a day of fun in the glorious late-summer sunshine. These pupils were being rewarded for a 100% attendance rate last year – a terrific achievement. Pupils from last year's 10CP meanwhile, were treated to an afternoon of pizza and DVDs on the 10th October, as a reward for being the form class with the best attendance rate last year. Good attendance remains a top priority for the school, and our overall attendance for last year stood at 94%.

Sentinus Workshop

Our school's impressive Careers programme has gotten off to a great start this term. A speaker from Sentinus NI ran a fascinating and worthwhile workshop on interview skills for all pupils in Year 12 on the 21st October, in preparation for our Mock Interview programme in December.

Talent Show: 15th November 2019



The school's annual Children in Need Talent Show is scheduled to take place this year on Friday 15th November. Prospective acts will be asked to audition in front of Mr Bolton after the mid-term break, so anyone keen to participate should get practising! All sorts of acts are encouraged—from live music to dance extravaganzas, comedy skits to magic shows—so get thinking about what **you** could do to contribute to one of the most entertaining afternoons in the school calendar!

LMC Visit Agriculture Outing



On Monday 16th October, Mrs Convill welcomed Mrs Anderson of the

Livestock and Meat Commission back to Saintfield High School, to run a cookery workshop with GCSE Food & Nutrition pupils. Among the delights on offer were a mouth-watering oriental lamb stir-fry and a truly delicious beef burrito bowl! The event was a huge success, and one which the Home Economics department hopes to repeat in the future.

Our Year 12 GCSE Agriculture and Land Use class visited the Arable farm of Mr



Allan Chambers, Seaforde, on Wednesday 9th October. The purpose of the visit was to collect information for Controlled Assessment research topics such as 'Renewable Energy Sources'. "The trip was useful and insightful" said Evan Crothers (12DE)

Year 8 Induction

As part of Saintfield High School's induction programme for new students, all Year 8 pupils spent were given the opportunity to participate in a 'Getting to Know You' activity day with their Form Classes. Pupils enjoyed a range of team building activities, aimed at establishing friendships within their new classes. This allowed the new Year 8 pupils to socialise and develop a sense of class identity. To top the day off, Year 8s enjoyed a DVD afternoon with their Form Tutors. Lilly Garrett (8MY) remarked that it "was really fun getting to know each other", whilst Robbie Douglas commented that "it was an excellent day with my Form Class!" As a continuation of the Year 8 Induction Programme, parents of our new pupils were invited to school for the annual Year 8 Parents' Information Afternoon. As always, this was a very informative event, offering parents an insight into life at Saintfield High School. Parents were given the opportunity to tour the school and view the facilities available to their child, as well as gather information on school procedures and expectations. Mrs Derby, who organised the event, would like to offer the school's gratitude to all those who attended this very meaningful afternoon.