

# Victoria College Belfast

(incorporating Richmond Lodge School)

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## ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS

For the Year  
2014 / 2015

(Incorporating Richmond Lodge School)

## **GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT**

### **SECTION 1 – BOARD OF GOVERNORS**

There are 28 Governors of Victoria College. 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 *ex officio* a member of the Board. The Board's Secretary is Miss Nicola Mawhinney BA.

Three Departmental nominee governors were appointed to the Board in April 2015 – Mrs O Dagunduro, Mr S McConkey and Dr D Magill. The status of two Departmental nominees – Dr R Clarke and Mr S McKillop - was transferred to Foundation Governor and one Department nominee – Ms C McKinney OBE - completed her term of office and will not serve a second term. The Department of Education is in the process of appointing Department of Education nominees to comply with the Schedule 6 Agreement. The College's Scheme of Management permits that the current Departmental nominee governors remain in place until either reappointed or replaced.

Two Parent Governors were elected at the 2013 election, with one Parent Governor retiring in December 2014, leaving two Parent Governor vacancies. One co-opted member is currently appointed to the Board. Mrs G Wells and Dr B Callender are the Designated Governor and Deputy Designated Governor for Child Protection.

<u><b>Name</b></u>	<u><b>Category</b></u>	<u><b>Date of which term of office ends</b></u>
Dr B J Gregory BSc PhD CEng MICE MIEI FCIWM FGS (Chairman)	Foundation Governor	N/A
Dame Joan Harbison BA MSc (Vice Chairman)	Foundation Governor	N/A
Ms P Slevin BA MEd PGCE PQH (Headmistress)	Ex officio	N/A
Mr M Beattie IBFS Dip	Parent Governor	Nov 2017
Dr B Callender MB MRCGP	Foundation Governor	N/A
Dr R Clarke MB BCh BAO FRCPath	Foundation Governor	N/A
Mrs O Dagunduro	Dept of Educational Nominee	Aug 2015
Lady Froggatt	Foundation Governor	N/A
Mr M Haylett BEng CEng PMP MICE MAPM RMaPS	Dept of Education Nominee	Aug 2015
Mrs S Herriot BA (Ed)	Teacher Governor	Nov 2017
Mrs M-L Horwood LLB LLM	Co-opted member	N/A
Mr M H Hunter FCA	Foundation Governor	N/A
Dr M S Johnston MB BCh BAO	Foundation Governor	N/A
Ms F Kane BA (Hons)	Co-opted member	N/A
Mr N J Kavanagh BA PGCE	Teacher Governor	Nov 2017
Mr C G Maccabe CB LLB LLM FRSA	Foundation Governor	N/A
Dr D N Magill LLB PhD	Dept of Education Nominee	Aug 2015
Mr S McConkey BA BSSc PGDip PGCE	Dept of Education Nominee	Aug 2015
Mr S McKillop BEng CEng MIEI	Foundation Governor	N/A
Mrs M Nugent BA PGCE	Teacher Governor	Nov 2017
Mrs E A Robinson	Foundation Governor	N/A
Dr M Spollen, BA(Hons.) MSc PhD FDRS	Parent Governor	Nov 2017
Mr R Telford BSc DIS MRICS MAPM	Foundation Governor	N/A
Mrs G Wells MB BCh BAO MRCGP MFCH	Foundation Governor	N/A
Mr A Wylie FCA CertPFS BA	Dept of Education Nominee	Aug 2015

Victoria College is attended by 1079 pupils with 874 pupils in the Secondary Department and 205 pupils in the Preparatory School. The Preparatory School includes a Pre-School and a Pre-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 39 boarders within its Boarding Department.

The College is a leading non-denominational grammar school for girls with 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 reaches 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 pastoral care within the College has been recognised by ETI as being outstanding. The College maintains strong links with the local and international community and the College has been awarded the International School Award for the fourth time in recognition of the attention to the global dimension within and beyond the curriculum. Pupils are encouraged to become actively involved with voluntary work and charitable projects at home and abroad.

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 SEN policy, which, along with the Child Protection Policy, the Anti-Bullying Policy and the Security Policy are available for parents on the College website 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 amount of grant funding Victoria College receives from the Department of Education has, in real terms, decreased over the past number of years. This is likely to be an ongoing trend and the Board of Governors of Victoria College Belfast continues to negotiate our position with the Department of Education.

We encourage all parents to make an annual voluntary contribution of £340.00 (equivalent to 93p a day) and we are very proud of and grateful for the continued commitment we receive from our parents. If this contribution is made through the Gift Aid Scheme the College will receive an additional £85.00 by claiming back the basic rate tax paid on each contribution received. Your investment provides resources and educational materials beyond the statutory requirements. It will ensure we maintain appropriate class sizes; provide opportunities to stretch and develop pupils beyond the classroom; access specialist tutors; participate in local, national and international events; and purchase technical equipment and resources.

Help us to provide a rich and diverse educational experience for your daughter, preparing her for the future, enabling her to seek out information, share ideas and experiences and make informed decisions, providing her with the basic building blocks needed to succeed in life in the 21<sup>st</sup> century and developing her intellectual and social values. Education is one of the most important investments we will ever make.

I have outlined below a summary of the key work of the Board of Governors during the academic year 2014/2015.

## **Board Business**

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

### *School Enhancement Programme*

The Board was delighted to receive confirmation from the Department of Education that the planned School Enhancement Programme for Victoria College will move to construction. The SEP will provide the College with a much needed Sports Hall on campus along with a new Art & Design Suite and additional laboratory teaching spaces. The Board, through its Estates and Finance Committees, will oversee this work and parents will be kept informed of progress over the coming months. It is anticipated that work will commence in February 2016, with a view to completion by September 2017.

### *Transfer Arrangements*

Throughout the year the Board of Governors and Senior Staff continued to be fully engaged in discussions surrounding the procedures for Transfer 2014 and planning for the 2015 arrangements. In relation to September 2015 entrants to Year 8, the College did not face any challenges to the criteria it used for admissions. The Board of Governors also considered Special Circumstances applications as part of the Transfer procedure.

The College has consistently taken the view that there should be an agreed form of entrance assessment for admission into any Grammar school and the Headmistress and the Chairman will continue to be actively involved with relevant bodies to reach such an agreement. Having given due regard to guidance from the Department of Education, the Board took a decision to maintain academic criteria in order to select pupils for admission to the College in Year 8 in 2016. Governors are also fully committed to embracing the College's ethos of inclusivity to ensure that admission to the College is open to pupils from all social backgrounds and religious and ethnic communities. In line with this, the Board remains fully committed to admitting pupils who sit either the G.L. or the AQE tests. The College's admissions criteria for 2015/16 remained largely unchanged from 2014/2015. The Headmistress also attended meetings with the Association for Quality Education, the Post Primary Transfer Consortium and other educational establishments in order to continue to promote movement towards a single testing process.

### *Department of Education 2015/2016 Budget Consultation*

The Board considered the Department of Education's draft budget for 2015/2016, which was open for consultation in November/December 2014. The Board, through its Finance Committee, submitted a comprehensive response, with the Department receiving in excess of 60,000 comments relating to this. The College's proposed budget at the initial stage had represented a requirement for the College to achieve 7% savings (approx. £300,000) which would have had profound implications for the College, with projected further cuts for the next number of years. Although the eventual budget received did not represent as big a cut, the Board recognises the need to plan ahead and acknowledges that the ability to deliver the required savings in the future will be difficult, whilst ensuring that the College continues to meet the needs of its pupils and also meets the requirements of the Entitlement Framework. The Board, through its Finance and College Committees, considered a range of options in order to identify potential cuts and areas through which the College could attract additional revenue.

### *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. Security across the Cranmore and Richmond sites was upgraded. The ground floor of the Cranmore Campus was remodelled and modernised with the construction of Senior staff offices, a new Counselling base, a new office base and an additional staff study area. An ICT suite on the Richmond Campus was installed and a new lift was installed on the Cranmore Main Building. Forty-eight photovoltaic panels were installed on the Cranmore main building. The summer maintenance programme included the refurbishment of Year 9 toilets, the middle floor toilets on Cranmore Campus and the P6 and P7 toilets. The third phase of the heating upgrade on Richmond Campus was undertaken and new roofing was installed on every building on the Senior school Cranmore campus.

#### *Examination Results Analysis*

Through its College Committee, the Board continues to conduct an annual review of examination results. Two Governor representatives of the Board attended Heads of Subject examinations analysis meetings with the Headmistress in October and feedback from these meetings was relayed to the Board.

#### *Inspections*

Governor representatives attended meetings with inspectors in relation to the Boarding Inspection held in October 2014 and Preparatory Day Care Inspection held in March 2015.

The RQIA Boarding Inspector commended the ethos and the high quality of relationships and care within the department. A rate of 'outstanding' was achieved on all aspects.

Inspectors reported very favourably on the provision within Pre-School and Pre-Pre-School, as well as the quality of interaction between staff and pupils. Any recommended changes had been realistic and are being actively addressed. Feedback from all inspections and reviews were excellent, with any recommendations arising from these being implemented. Parents would be consulted regarding a recommendation for a change of name from 'Pre-Pre-School' to something more child-friendly.

#### *Presentations to the Board*

The Board is kept fully abreast of various educational issues through guest speakers invited to give presentations on specific areas as required. In May the Board received a presentation from Mr Mark Langhammer, Director, Northern Ireland, Association of Teachers and Lecturers. The Board also received an in-house Child Protection presentation and training session in February.

#### *General Business*

Through the Headmistress, the Board continued to be kept fully informed and debated at length articles and circulars from the Department, Belfast Education and Library Board 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*

Ms Jackie Henry, Senior Partner of Deloitte Northern Ireland, is external convenor for this committee, in line with audit recommendations. An internal audit by an independent company was conducted and the College achieved a 'substantial' rating, meaning that there is a robust system of risk management, control and governance in place that should ensure that the objectives of the College are fully achieved. The College has achieved a substantial rating in each of the last three financial years. A Final Value Added Tax Audit Report for the College also achieved a 'substantial' assurance. An Internal Audit Plan and a Strategic Audit Plan for the period to 31 March 2017 were also approved.

The Committee also undertook a review of the College's Risk Register, with input from other committee convenors, the Principal and the Chairman and a review of work carried out by the College's Health and Safety Sub-Committee.

#### *College Committee*

The Committee and its sub-committees supervised various staff appointments, both for external and internal positions, as well as applications from staff for changes to their contracts, for redundancies and for support towards staff professional development. The Committee also reviewed the curriculum, leavers' destinations, admissions criteria, examination targets, Child Protection issues and oversaw the implementation of the College's School Development Plan and Performance Review and Staff Development. The Committee also submitted an Annual Report on Child Protection issues to the Board. Dr Callender, Convenor, reviewed teachers who were undergoing Early Professional

Development. The Committee's Policies Sub-Committee reviewed a wide range of school policies and reported its deliberations to the College Committee and to the Board.

#### *Estates Committee*

The Committee oversaw the upkeep of the College and maintenance work throughout the year. The Committee initiated feasibility studies and liaised with the College's Finance Committee, the Department of Education and the Belfast Education and Library Board regarding the submission of a number of schemes, the outcome of which determined the construction work carried out on both campuses (see above) and during the summer maintenance period.

#### *Finance Committee*

The Committee oversaw the College's financial affairs, planned expenditure, undertook a three year financial review and advised the Board accordingly. In the current financial climate the challenges for the Board and the College in the context of a tightened budget continued to be recognised. In light of the challenges that a substantial reduction in grant produced, the Committee discussed and implemented steps to achieve efficiencies and recognised the importance which parental financial support played in maintaining the high level of teaching, resources and extra-curricular programme currently available to pupils. The Board's Remuneration Committee reported to the Finance Committee in relation to staff salaries. An external audit received an unqualified audit opinion with auditors confirming that controls were robust and the College had fully complied with the Department and the Companies Act in each required area.

## SECTION 2 – CURRICULUM OFFERED

At GCSE pupils had the opportunity to study the following subjects which were externally examined:

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

At A level the following subjects were offered in the College:

Applied Health and Social Care Single Award; Applied Health and Social Care Double Award; Art and Design; Biology; Business Studies; Chemistry; Classical Civilisation; Design and Technology; Drama and Theatre Studies; English Literature; French; Geography; German; Government and Politics; History; Home Economics; Information and Communication Technology; Italian; Latin; Mathematics; Further Mathematics; Music; Physics; Religious Education, Spanish and Sports Studies.

Pupils were entered for examinations through the Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music and a number of pupils were awarded certificates for Young Enterprise, European Studies and Learning for Life and Work.

## SPORT

Each pupil in Years 8-11 avails of two hours of physical education and games within the taught curriculum and all pupils are encouraged to participate in regular physical activity. Through a balanced and varied programme the P.E. department aims to contribute to pupils' growth, development and general fitness developing an awareness of the importance of exercise and a healthy lifestyle.

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

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

In 2014-2015 pupils from Victoria College competed in Ulster, Irish, British, European and World Championships.

### *Athletics*

Amy Edwards, Year 12, was selected to compete at the Sainsbury's 2014 School Games which were held in Manchester in September 2014. Zoe Jane Dickson, Amy Edwards and Emma Henderson were selected onto the Inter-Provincial Athletics team. At the District Athletics Championships Anna Hill, Year 8, was placed 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 800m and 100m respectively, whilst Rachel Scott, Year 8, was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the 800m. The Year 8 team - Anna, Rachel, Emma Montgomery and Ana Blaney - won the South Antrim 4x100m Mini Girls' Relay and the Year 9 team was placed 2<sup>nd</sup>, with both teams qualifying for the Ulster finals. At the Ulster Finals Anna Hill was placed 1<sup>st</sup> and Rachel Scott was placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the 800m. Bree Moffett, Year 9, won the District Junior Girls' Long Jump and was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Ulster Final and qualified for the Irish Championships. From Year 10, Natasha Donnelly was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the hammer at the Ulster Championships and qualified for the All Ireland Championships and Emilia Cutrona was placed 6<sup>th</sup> in both the 100m and long jump. Georgia Ross, Alex Luke and Rachael McCormack qualified for the Ulster Athletics Championships. Anna Hill, Year 8, was selected to represent Northern Ireland at the Virgin London Mini Marathon and was placed fourth in an event in which most of her competitors were a lot older. Jane Matthews, Year 14, was placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the 800m and Emma Henderson, Year 13, was placed 4<sup>th</sup> in the Discus at the Ulster Championships. Zoe Jane Dickson, Year 13, was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Triple Jump and Amy Edwards, Year 12, was placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the Javelin at the Ulster Championships and both girls qualified for the Irish Championships.

### *Cross Country*

The College won the South Antrim District and the Ulster Cross Country Championships. The Mini (Year 8) - Anna Hill, Rachel Scott, Annabel Magnussen, Emma Montgomery, Naoise Gormley and Ruby Dougan - and Senior teams were both crowned Ulster Champions, while both the Junior and Intermediate teams were placed second in their respective events. Anna Hill, Year 8, was placed first in both the District and the Ulster Championships and Annabel Magnussen won the bronze medal in the Ulster Championships. The Year 9 and Year 10 Cross Country teams won the South Antrim Championships with the Year 10 team - Rebecca Warnock, Cate Blayney, Georgia Ross, Darcey Smyth, Sarah Hand and Rachael McCormack – were placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Ulster final and 7<sup>th</sup> in the Irish Finals. Aisling Gray, Year 9, won gold at the South Antrim and Belfast Cross Country Championships, and qualified for the Ulster and All Ireland Cross Country Championships. The Intermediate and Senior Cross Country teams were placed 1<sup>st</sup> and second respectively at the South Antrim Championships. In the Ulster Championships the Senior Cross Country team was crowned Ulster Champions and was placed 6<sup>th</sup> in the All Ireland Championships, whilst the Intermediate team was placed second in the Ulster Championships. Jane Matthews was placed 14<sup>th</sup> as an individual competitor, while Megan Halliday was placed 46<sup>th</sup> and Emma McAllister 50<sup>th</sup>. The College was crowned Best Ulster Girls' School in Cross Country for the second consecutive year. Year 11 pupils, including the GCSE P.E. class, marshalled the course of the Belfast and Ulster Cross Country finals run by the Belfast City Council. The girls were then invited to the City Hall to receive their 'Volunteer' certificates from the Lord Mayor.

### *Gaelic Games*

The Camogie teams played in blitz tournaments and entertained a team from Connecticut. The Year 8 Camogie team played in the schools' championships and won the Aileen Lawlor Shield. The Year 8 Gaelic Football team played in the Ulster Schools' blitz and schools league. The girls also participated in the Ulster Championships in Newry. Four Victoria College pupils – Megan Rea, Cate Blayney, Sarah Hand and Rachael McCormack – travelled to Áras an Uachtaráin in Dublin to be presented with their All-Ireland Féile winning medals by President Michael D Higgins.

### *Hockey*

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI hockey team lost to Banbridge Academy on penalty strokes in the Schools' Cup and went on to reach the semi-final of the Ulster Schools' Plate competition. The team played Rainey Endowed School and the final score was 2-2, with the outcome determined by penalty strokes, which VCB lost. The 2<sup>nd</sup> XI played in the McDowell Cup and the 2Bs played in the Gibson Cup. Amy Edwards, Year 12, was selected for the Ulster U17 and U18 Hockey Squads and Caitlyn Harvey, Year 12, was selected for the U17 squad. Beth Walker, Year 11, was selected for the Ulster U16 team and Development Squad and Hannah Beattie, Caitlin Murphy and Emma Conlin were selected for the Ulster U16B Development Squad. Caitlin was also selected for the Ulster Under 17 Development Squad. Georgia Ross and Georgia Heatherley were selected onto the U15 hockey team. The Year 8 hockey team won the Northern Ireland Schools' Tournament. Georgia Heatherley and Georgia Ross, Year 10 pupils, were selected at Belfast Hockey Trials for the Belfast U15 hockey squad. The U14A



Hockey team competed in the Junior Cup defeating Foyle and Londonderry College and Lurgan Junior High School, but then lost 1-0 to Royal School Armagh. The team went on tour to Glasgow in March and played Hutchinson Grammar and St Aloysius' College. The 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI hockey teams went to Gibraltar in October. The U13 teams welcomed St Olave's School from York and the U14s hosted Godolphin and Latymer School, London.

A Hockey Awards dinner was held at the end of the season at Cooke Rugby Football Club.

Prize winners were:

U12B - Jessica Moore, Katie McCammon, U12A Lisette Morwood, Aimee Christie, Charlotte Houston

U13B - Keeva Mc Allister, Anna Patterson U13A - Marcia Hannan, Emily Young

U14B - Alice Kennedy, Cate Blayney U14 Sam Mc Coe, Hannah MacLaren

3X1 - Ara Mc Carten and Eve Corry

2X1B - Erin Blundell and Cara Montgomery

2X1A - Charlotte Hill and Charlotte Law

1stX1 - Beth Walker and Rachel Hanley

Top goal scorer – Caitlyn Harvey

Contribution to Hockey – Georgia Dick

### *Netball*

The Year 8 Netball team won the Division 2 Belfast League and Cup and defeated Methodist College in the final.

### *Swimming*

Junior pupils, Emma Darling, Megan Delargy, Anna Hill, Sophia Mackey, Amy Montgomery, Emma Montgomery and Samantha Murray competed in the Ulster Schools' Swimming Championships. Individually Anna, Year 8, was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Breaststroke and 4<sup>th</sup> in the Butterfly, whilst Emma Montgomery was placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the Freestyle. The Junior relay team – Anna, Emma, Amy and Samantha - was placed 4<sup>th</sup>. The Senior Swimming Team – Emma Henderson, Esmée Hall, Evie Dougan, Hannah Beattie and Sophie Hunter - won gold medals in the Freestyle and Medley relays at the Ulster Secondary Schools' Gala. Individually Esmée won bronze in the individual medley and bronze in the butterfly and Emma won silver in the backstroke and bronze in the freestyle. In the Ulster Schools' Swimming Championships Emma won gold in the 100m individual medley and silver in the 50m backstroke. Esmée won silver in both the 100m individual medley and the 50m butterfly. The relay team was placed second in both the medley and freestyle and the Senior team won the overall trophy for the fourth consecutive year. Emma Henderson was selected onto the Inter-Provincial team for swimming and was one of only six girls to represent Great Britain at the World Pool and Beach Surf Championships. She captained the Ulster Schools' Swimming team which was victorious in the All Ireland Interprovincial Championships in Dublin in May and who were crowned All Ireland Champions. Emma represented Great Britain at the Spanish Surf Lifesaving International in Madrid during which she won one silver and two bronze in the pool. Emma was also selected to receive an International award from former Olympian, Mark Foster, in the Guildhall, London in recognition of her international success. Emma was also selected as Captain of the Great Britain Youth Team for the Junior European Pool and Ocean Championships which were held in Spain from 20-27 September 2015 and during which Emma won a gold and silver medal and the Great British team won bronze medals, the team's first medals since 1987. Emma was the only representative from Northern Ireland on her team. Caitlin McCormack, Year 12, and Hannah Beattie, Year 11, achieved 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the All Ireland Lifesaving Championships in the 15-17 age division. Rachael McCormack, Year 10, received second place along with her partner in the 12-14 age division of the All Ireland Lifesaving Championships.

### *Tennis*

The Senior Tennis team reached the semi-finals of the Ulster Senior Tennis Cup. The girls – Lauren Russell, Megan Halliday, Sophie Hunter and Lucy Hamilton – drew with Mount Lourdes, Enniskillen, 3-3 matches but lost to the 2014 champions by games. The Junior Tennis team – Rachel McClements, Georgia Ross, Cate Blayney and Emily Young – reached the quarter final of the Junior Tennis Cup. Anna Glover, Year 8, was selected onto the Ulster U12 Tennis Squad and played on the Year 8 tennis team which competed in the Ulster Schools' Cup.

### *Other Sporting Activities*

The Under 17 Squash Team was placed first in the Ulster Novice Squash Cup. The College's Year 11 and Year 12 Tag Rugby team had a very good season, ending at the Schools' Cup final, played at the Kingspan Stadium – the home of Ulster Rugby. Throughout the season the girls played tremendously well, with their only defeat coming in the final, against a very strong Enniskillen Collegiate side. The Player of the final was Sarah Hanley and Player of the Season was awarded to joint winners – Phoebe Hagan and Laura McLaughlin. The captain was Sarah Ryan. It was a very enjoyable season for all involved, and there were several memorable moments – meeting Ulster and Ireland player Paddy Jackson; being coached by former Ulster Coach, Brian McLaughlin, meeting two members of the Irish Women's Rugby team, and getting to play at the home of Ulster rugby. The team members represented themselves and the school very well and should be incredibly proud of their achievements.

Year 8 pupils were invited to take part in an indoor rowing competition with Girls' Model at Queen's University. Charlotte Houston, Year 8, was the overall winner of the All Ireland Spring League Equestrian Competition and qualified and won at the Royal Dublin Horse Show. She won the Premier League and was selected to represent Ireland in Belgium, the Netherlands, France and Germany throughout the year, winning two classes in Belgium and Holland and being placed fourth in France. Olivia Hughes, Year 10, won the Schools' Endurance Shield in the Horseriding Individual event for Victoria College, organised by the Irish Long Distance Riding Association. Sophie Robinson, Year 12, competed in the World Pairs Competition in Mounted Games in Newark, Nottinghamshire in September. Sarah Brittain, Year 12, represented the College in a number of equestrian events and won a range of awards including the Supreme Working Hunter Champion in both the Pre-Balmoral and Armagh County championships and the Blugrass Working Hunter Champion of Ireland at the Equifestival of Ireland. Sofia Lazarescu competed in the N.I. and Irish League for waveski and surf kayaking, was placed third in the Ladies World Waveski competition during the summer and participated in the British Open Surf Championships in Wales in October. Sofia also competed in the World Surfing Championships in Northern Spain and in the European Championships during the summer and was chosen to receive a Mary Peters Award to support her participation in the European Championships at The Ocean Spirit Festival in Portugal. Hannah-Rose Glover, Year 10, and Ella Glover, Year 8, participated in the Junior Irish Medal Championships in October and won the Junior Irish Open Challenge in Ulster and finished third in the All Ireland Competition in May 2015. Hannah was placed second in the Irish Junior Open Competition in May. Amelia Rose, Year 10, won the Belfast and District Girls' Golf Competition. They were presented with their prizes at Royal County Down by Rory McIlroy during the Irish Open. Ara McCartan, Year 11, won the Ria Kenny Irish Golfers' Union Cup, was a member of the Ulster Junior Golf Squad, a semi-finalist of the Norman Drew All-Ireland Golf Competition and was first in the Ulster Girls' Schools' Championships. The College's Golf Team was placed third in the Ulster Girls' Golf Championships under the Captaincy of Susie Rankin. Niamh Neale, Year 10, was placed second in the World Irish Dancing Championships which were held in Montreal. In April Emily Hobson, Year 12, was selected to compete for the Belfast Rowing Club at the Strathclyde Park Regatta. Jodie Dowling, Year 11, represented Northern Ireland at the IJS Open Ice-Skating Championships. Pupils also took part in Sports Day, an Interhouse Swimming gala, a Gymnastics day and in a variety of House competitions, including swimming, rounders, camogie, gaelic football, soccer, netball, badminton and rugby.

## MUSIC

The Music department has had another busy but successful and exciting year. Around 200 girls attended the wide range of extra-curricular activities on a weekly basis including the Junior and Chamber choirs, College Orchestra, Flute group and Brass group. Pupils of any ability are welcome to join and have fun preparing for many concerts throughout the school year.

Year 13 pupils, Emma Gilmartin, Aoife Lavery, Petra Wells and Ellen Beattie, along with a small group of singers from the Ulster Youth Choir, joined representatives from the Aberdeen Chamber Choir, the National Youth Choir of Wales, the London Youth Choir and the Birmingham University Choir, to form the BBC Proms Youth Choir. The Choir performed at the Royal Albert Hall alongside the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra and well renowned conductor, Andris Nelson, and performed Britten's War Requiem to mark the Centenary of the First World War.

The year began with Senior pupils providing the musical entertainment at the Prize Distribution, the APT Neil Shawcross event and the prestigious IQM award ceremony at Stormont in November. A very successful joint VCB/RBAI school production of 'Hairspray' was held for three nights in November. This involved a large cast of very talented students and musicians from both VCB and RBAI, as well as an excellent backstage team of staff, parents and students.

This year the annual Carol service was held at Malone Presbyterian Church and all the choirs gave excellent performances to an appreciative audience, setting the mood for the Christmas celebrations. The collection at the service of £1030 went towards the College's two chosen charities, The Alzheimer's Society and Tiny Life.

After Christmas the girls were very busy preparing for Open Day and another chance to showcase their talents to prospective pupils and parents who enjoyed listening to a varied musical repertoire. On Open Day many junior pupils, prospective year 8 pupils and their parents participated in African Drumming Workshops in Maxwell.

The Spring Concert in March was the highlight of the year which was held in the BT Studio at the Waterfront Hall and this event provided another exciting opportunity for many girls to become involved. It opened with the combined Junior and Senior choirs and the College orchestra performing Philip Stopford's "Gloria". There followed outstanding performances from individual ensembles and both Junior and Senior pupils. The first half finished again with combined choirs giving a polished performance of the traditional Hallelujah chorus from Handel's Messiah. The second half of the concert was spectacular with the orchestra playing a medley of Andrew Lloyd Webber West End hits to set the scene for what was ahead. The Junior Choir and dancers performed a medley from the film "Frozen", ably choreographed by two Year 12 pupils Alexandra Dick and Katie Lynn. The cast of Hairspray provided the audience with another opportunity to hear some of the well-known hits from the show performed earlier in the year. The grand finale was the combined choirs and orchestra performing 'The Circle of Life' from The Lion King. The audience were certainly treated to a spectacular array of talent from all of the pupils involved on what was a truly memorable evening.

On the 29 May the Junior Choir joined together with the choir from Assumption Grammar School, Ballynahinch to sing at a fund-raising concert for Habitat for Humanity in which the chief guests were the well-known trio The Priests. This took place in Armagh Cathedral and the girls gave rousing performances of 'Every Time I Feel the Spirit' and 'Cantate Domino' much to the appreciation of the audience.

Instrumental and vocal tuition is provided by peripatetic staff to more than 100 pupils and the success rate at external examination level continues to be very high. Girls are also encouraged to participate in local music festivals and many of our girls have achieved recent success. Prize winners at Moss Grove Youth Music Festival were Junior pupils Lauren Toner, Emily Darling, Amelia Rose, Hannah-Rose Glover and Chloe Chestnutt. At Carrickfergus Music Festival Emily Darling, Hannah-Rose Glover, Amelia Rose, Katie Kerr, Kirsten Matthews and Rachael McCormack were all prize-winning vocalists. The Victoria Flute Ensemble, made up of pupils from Years 8 – 11, won 2<sup>nd</sup> prize in the under 19 ensemble class at Carrickfergus Festival.

## **ART**

The College's Art students made excellent achievements during the 2014-2015 academic year. Esmée Hall and Harriet Gilmore achieved full marks at GCSE and Anne Henderson achieved full marks at AS level Art and Design in the 2014 examinations. Esmée and Anne had their work selected and exhibited at the CCEA True Colours Art Exhibition in the Ulster Museum. Year 14 Art pupils, Anne Henderson, Emely Bjorkman-Loney, Becky Weir and Siva O'Neill, were invited by Manus McConn (owner of Café Conor) to help with the selection process for the awarding of the Café Conor Prize for Figurative Work at the Royal Ulster Academy 2014. Year 13 and 14 Art and Design pupils and staff from the College also exhibited their art work at the Maryville Tearooms on the Lisburn Road. Most of the art work was sold and pupils also received commissions. During an APT event Art pupils had the opportunity to meet prestigious local artist, Neil Shawcross, The artist had been interviewed by local journalist and broadcaster, Mark Carruthers, and the Art pupils had a valuable opportunity to meet and discuss artwork with one of the most influential contemporary artists practising in Northern Ireland today.

In November 2014 actor and screenplay writer, Tim Loane, visited the College to talk to Moving Image Art pupils about his work in the television and film industry. In March 2015 HBO Film Stills photographer, Helen Sloan, visited the College to talk to the Art and Design, Moving Images Art and Drama pupils about her work in the film industry.

## **DRAMA**

The Drama department had a very busy and successful year, with many performances, workshops and outings.

Theatre visits included a Year 12 and Senior Theatre trip to visit to the Grand Opera House to see Blood Brothers and Aladdin respectively, Year 13 and 14 to The Mac to see 'Cabaret', and a Year 13 visit to QFT to watch live streamed performances of 'A Streetcar Named Desire' and 'Macbeth'. Year 11 pupils also watched a streamed life performance of 'Much Ado About Nothing' by the Royal Shakespeare Company. Year 8 and 9 pupils travelled to the Lyric Theatre to take part in a drama workshop with Stephen Beggs, actor and company manager for the Bruiser Theatre Company. Pupils attended various workshops including a Year 12 workshop at The Mac on 'Hamlet', a whole day Year 13 workshop with Bruiser Theatre Company at The Mac. Paula McFetridge of Kabosh Theatre Company also gave a talk to Year 14 pupils.

Year 12 performed 'Hamlet' at The Mac as part of the Shakespeare in Schools Festival. Year 14 presented their devised drama, 'Final Call' in December and Year 11 performed their devised work in March. In March Year 12 showcased four plays – 'After Midnight Before Dawn', 'The Exam', 'Here Comes the Bride', and 'The Government Inspector' and in April also reprised 'Hamlet' at the Hilton Hotel in front of the Rotary Conference. In May Year 13 presented eighteen Monologues and presented four plays – 'The Odd Couple', 'Agnes of God', 'Afflicted Daughter of Salem' and 'Well Thank You Thursday' in the Cranmore Hall.

## **COMPETITIONS AND OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS**

Pupils were encouraged to take part in a wide range of competitions throughout the year. Junior pupils took part in House Literacy and Debating Competitions and a Spelling Bee. Fifty-one Year 9 pupils took part in the Junior Mathematics Challenge in April 2015, during which two silver and ten bronze certificates were awarded. Megan McGillin and Cara Morwood obtained the silver certificates with Megan McGillin also being awarded the 'Best in School' certificate. Four pupils – Amy McKillen, Year 10, Emma Pierce (Year 10), Darcey Johnston (Year 9) and Cara Morwood (Year 9) – took part in the regional final of the Junior Team Mathematics Challenge held at Rockport School in March 2015.

Fourty-four pupils from Year 11 and five pupils from Year 10 took part in the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge in February. One gold certificate, 3 silver certificates and 8 bronze certificates were awarded. Lucy Hamilton from Year 11 obtained the gold certificate as well as being

awarded the 'Best in School' certificate. Lucy also qualified to take part in the 'Pink Kangaroo' which is one of the follow-on rounds to the Intermediate Mathematics Challenge and this paper was taken in March.

In November fifty-four Year 13 and 14 mathematics pupils took part in the Senior Mathematics Challenge. One gold certificate, 4 silver certificates and 24 bronze certificates were awarded. Ying Ong from Year 13 obtained the gold certificate and was also awarded the 'Best in School' certificate. Also in November a team of four AS and A2 mathematics pupils took part in the regional final of the Senior Team Mathematics Challenge at Rockport School. This is a demanding mathematical challenge and the team of Rachel Hanley and Ellen Beattie from Year 14 and Eve Bannon and Rebecca Lobo from Year 13 enjoyed an afternoon of working on and solving a range of challenging maths problems. Pupils from a number of year groups participated in the U.K. Mathematical Trust Mathematics Challenges organised by the University of Leeds throughout the year.

A team of Year 10 pupils – Ailsa Burnett, Emma Pierce, Lauren Sleith, Lauryn Shannon and Jessica Welch – were runners up in the Step N Zones Northern Ireland final competition which was held at Invest Northern Ireland in January as part of the Global Entrepreneurship Week 2014. The aim of the competition was to introduce young people to the idea of entrepreneurship and to help them to develop skills such as communication, negotiation and problem solving. Each of the five team members received £100 in High Street shopping vouchers and the College received a cheque for £500. Olivia Hughes, Year 10, was nominated by the nurses at Musgrave Park Hospital for a Child of Courage Award and Olivia was presented with her award at an event at Seagoe Hotel in Portadown. Four Year 10 pupils – Georgia Ross, Harriet Bedi, Katie Kerr and Mia Magee – were presented with their Baden Powell Awards in May.

In November, four Year 9 pupils travelled to Parliament Buildings at Stormont to take part in a Rotary Technology Tournament. The pupils were tasked with constructing a mechanical arm that they could use to transport an object from one area to another. During E.U. Code Week, two Year 9 pupils, with no prior experience of coding, attended Raspberry Jam, one of the E.U. Code Week events organised at Farset Labs in Belfast. Working as part of a team, Year 9 pupils also participated in the ICT Filmmakers' Awards, during which they gained skills in filming, editing and special effect development and created a soundtrack using Apple's innovative moving editing software iMovie.

Six Year 13 pupils were involved in the Sentinus Research and Development project with the University of Ulster, during which the pupils achieved a Gold Crest Award. Year 13 pupils, Leigh Hutchinson and Eve Bannon were selected for the Friends Forever Summer Programme in the U.S. A number of Post-16 pupils volunteered for Disability SportNI. Katie Brennan, Eva Davis, Sophie McConn, Maddie Robinson and Helen Francis were selected out of 600 applicants to participate in the Tall Ships expedition. Brooklyn Dunseith, Year 13, won a trip to London, sponsored by the Law Society of Northern Ireland. During this trip Brooklyn met Sir Tim Berners-Lee, creator of the World Wide Web, and had the opportunity to ask him questions about the Magna Carta Treaty.

A team of ten Year 9 pupils from Victoria College represented Northern Ireland at the National Finals of the Institution of Engineering and Technology's First Lego League (FLL) competition in February. The College team won the Northern Ireland Regional competition in W5 in December when the girls demonstrated their innovative technology and robotic skills and then went on to represent the College and Northern Ireland at the National Final at Loughborough University in January. The Victoria College team was challenged to find a way to help children learn. They designed an interactive dog that helps build confidence and encourages children to read aloud. Additionally, the team built and programmed a separate Lego-based robot that had to complete a series of tasks within a time limit. The girls had external mentoring from Andrew Mulholland, a first-year Queen's University Computer Science student, in line with the competition guidelines to help get to this stage. The team were sponsored by local company Kainos. The FIRST Lego League team were also invited, through the STEMNet Club, to meet with the Lord Mayor, Nichola Mallon, who congratulated them on their wonderful achievement.

## **SECTION 3 – LINKS WITH THE COMMUNITY**

### **SOUTH BELFAST AREA LEARNING COMMUNITY**

Post-primary schools have been encouraged to deliver the Entitlement Framework by working collaboratively in Area Learning Communities. Members of the ALC will be able to offer an increased range of courses to all young people in the 14-19 age group within schools and Further Education Colleges. The ongoing requirements of the Entitlement Framework which is concerned with providing additional choice and flexibility ie twenty four subjects at GCSE and twenty seven subjects at 'A' level both of a General and Applied nature can best be met within a framework of shared provision. The College is an active member of the South Belfast Area Learning Community along with 12 other post-primary schools and pupils and staff now have increased opportunities to learn and work together. Sixth form pupils from Victoria College, RBAI, Rathmore, Hunterhouse College and Methodist College work together for the delivery of German, Classical Civilisation and Theatre Studies. At GCSE level, pupils from partner schools have been taught together for the delivery of Islamic Studies and Irish. In addition, GCSE pupils have opportunities to attend joint workshops to develop skills in enterprise and entrepreneurship. Collaborative models allow schools to retain their ethos, while providing opportunities for their pupils to experience diverse teaching and learning contexts. The young people within the South Belfast area will be given opportunities to gain academic or vocational qualifications as well as invaluable experiences that they can use in their journey towards adulthood. Teaching staff have benefited from a range of joint staff development training sessions including an annual seminar for newly appointed or aspiring middle managers and seminars for pastoral leaders. Cluster meetings for Principals, Heads of Subject, timetablers, careers staff and pastoral leaders to share best practice within curriculum areas are held on a termly basis and are proving to be a helpful means of getting to know colleagues in partner schools whilst planning for improvement.

### **THE INTERNATIONAL DIMENSION**

The College was awarded the International School Award for the fourth time in recognition of the attention to the global dimension permeating the curriculum and beyond. Students, staff, parents and Governors continue to be committed to developing and maintaining links with educational and professional institutions on local, national and global levels. Testament to our reputation as strong promoters of the global dimension in education, Miss McMackin was invited by the British Council to contribute to a working group facilitated by RSM McClureWatters Consulting, collectively reflecting upon the promotion of the International Dimension across Schools in NI.

During this academic year, work in relation to the International Dimension has contributed to the College's maintenance of whole school accolades including the Inclusion and Quality Mark, ELOS and CRED status, all in recognition of the positive, diverse and inclusive ethos and practice that underpins all aspects of school life.

An excellent year for the College also saw it retain its Green Flag status. This highly prestigious award has to be renewed every two years and a very successful Eco committee ensured success. Also the girls had an all-Ireland success when they were shortlisted from 300 schools for the Eco-Unesco Environmentalist awards at the Mansion House in Dublin. The Eco Committee was shortlisted to attend this year's Brighter Belfast Environmental Awards at the City Hall and the College was also a finalist in the Brighter Belfast Environmental Awards for both the Green Initiative and the Litter Heroes Award. The Eco Committee also developed an imaginative and innovative environmental project plan – The Green Options Project, resulting in the completion of the new eco game Green Options, Bin Rota and developing an Eco Mural for the school library. The girls were also involved in a 'beach clean up' at Loughshore Park, Jordanstown in November. Aisha Rahman our Eco Prefect was interviewed on Radio One giving her the opportunity to speak about the environmental programmes we have in the College. The school year came to a close with the College being awarded 'The Best Kept Large School' in Belfast, the College's tenth success and third in the last four years.

In October, Year 13 pupils attended the Eur Voice forum held in the Belfast City Hall. The event was organised by Belfast City Council in partnership with the European Youth Parliament and the

European Commission Office in Northern Ireland. Pupils posed questions surrounding health, employment opportunities and social media creating an engaging debate between local MLAs and young people today.

Sixth Form pupils once again participated in the Mock Council event held annually at Stormont and organised by the European Commission Office in Northern Ireland and the British Council. Along with 28 schools across Northern Ireland our pupils articulated their views and opinions on topical issues such as youth unemployment and foreign policy. This experience proved to be a fruitful opportunity for pupils to gain first hand experience of the cut and thrust of international politics, debating on a variety of topical European agendas and policies.

Over the summer of 2014 three Year 13 pupils participated in the National Citizen Service programme, fundraising over £1100 for the medical aid charity Share Uganda.

European Studies is an on-going programme, delivered in the College to an increasing number of both Junior and Senior pupils, developing knowledge, curiosity and a wide range of personal skills and capabilities. This year saw over 100 pupils from Years 8 and 9 participate in the programme. The girls have enjoyed working with schools in Greece, Denmark, Republic of Ireland and Serbia. The programme gives the opportunity to look at other cultures and lifestyles through sustained collaborative projects furthering tolerance, mutual understanding and appreciation of other cultures.

During the course pupils communicate via a range of mediums and through their participation in the programme have the opportunity to heighten their cultural awareness, while developing and enhancing many transferable skills; such as ICT, communication, independent learning, research and presentation. As a result of their work and commitment many girls across both our Junior and Senior school have achieved their European Studies Certificates.

Following the UK Youth Parliament elections in Northern Ireland, Victoria College was awarded a Democracy Award to recognise their effort, time and getting an excellent turnout in the elections. VCB had two pupils up for election in the South Belfast Constituency – Francesca Drumm and Perrie McMahon-MacKeever.

A number of pupils participated for the second year running in the Inspire>Aspire competition which encourages students to develop their ability to reflect whilst strengthening their awareness inspiration across global cultures.

The Modern Languages Department facilitated a weekly after-school club on the Richmond campus throughout term one, further promoting languages and cultural awareness. French students also participated in a French letter exchange, developing Literacy in line with our whole school priorities. Year 13 and 14 French students attended a Film Day organised jointly by Queen's University and QFT which involved a screening, followed by a workshop. French, German and Spanish students attended theatre performances by the Theatre Company, Onatti and the girls were greatly entertained and pleased to realise that they were able to follow the stories. In June and as part of the end of term celebrations, Spanish students from Year 11 joined some pupils from Year 9 and the Preparatory School to enjoy a paella lunch prepared on our premises by the Spanish catering company, Tapitas.

In October 2014 girls in Years 9 and 10 German wrote profiles of themselves and their hobbies which were posted to a girls' Grammar school called Sankt Irmengard Gymnasium in Garmisch-Partenkirchen in Bavaria, Germany. Colourful replies were received a few weeks later in VCB to the delight of the girls! This correspondence carried on through the academic year by mail and email and a number of pupils are still corresponding.

The staff and pupils continue to highlight and celebrate cultural events such as the European Day of Languages and the Chinese New Year via Assembly, and the Learning for Life and Work and Learn to Learn programmes.

From April 2015 to April 2016 Miss Robinson is taking part in a project promoted and funded by the Education Authority whereby she job shadows in firms where export is paramount and a knowledge of European languages necessary. So far she has worked with the French firm Montupet in Lisburn and during this academic year she hopes to work with Dunbia in Dungannon which is developing its

export mark in Germany. By doing so she will highlight the importance of students continuing to study a language alongside Stem subjects.

The College continues to welcome visitors from other countries, and one of the highlights of this academic year was a visit from staff and pupils from Miss Porter's School, America; a school that educates young women to become informed, bold, resourceful and ethical global citizens. This visit proved an enjoyable opportunity to contrast educational frameworks and also life in the Boarding Department.

Elena Sierra in Year 11 and Rita Oliveras and Clara Picas in Year 10 spent their year in the boarding department as Spanish students of English as a foreign language and by doing so contributed to the International Dimension of our school community and highlighted the importance of foreign language learning.

In July 2015 Birte Emmelmann was awarded the prize for the best German Assistant 2014-15 (in the world) by the Gudrun Frey Stiftung, the German organisation which works in partnership with boarding schools where German is taught. We were privileged to have Birte with us in school and she will be remembered fondly by staff and pupils.

On 21 and 22 October 2014 VCB welcomed two teachers from the Brandenburg area of Germany to Victoria. Magdalena Ludewig and Ilona Joern were on an educational programme and were sacrificing their half term holiday to learn more about the educational system in Northern Ireland. During their short visit they took on a busy schedule of observing and participating a wide variety of classes in both Cranmore and Richmond. They integrated with ease into school life and engaged enthusiastically with staff and pupils alike. In particular, they brought humour to the German classes by regaling our pupils with anecdotes from their teaching of pupils of a similar age in Germany. We greatly enjoyed having Magdalena and Ilona with us and trust that they left with happy memories of VCB.

Victoria College and Gurukul The School, India commenced a Connecting Classrooms Programme. This opportunity enabled both schools to collaborate on a joint River Project. The British Council website enabled pupils to share their work digitally and communicate with each other. This new experience enabled pupils to teach and learn from each other, offering new perspectives and ideas into the classroom and thereby encouraging cultural awareness and understanding of others. Funding received from this programme permitted two teachers from Gurukul The School to visit Victoria College in June 2015. During their visit both teachers observed teaching and learning within the classroom, attended extra-curricular activities and spoke to pupils and staff on the Northern Ireland Curriculum. Helen Robinson and Carol Lynch have now been invited to visit Gurukul The School during the Halloween Break 2015 to also observe teaching and learning and gain a further insight into the education system established in India.

Following on from successful participation in Comenius projects over the years the College was delighted to receive confirmation in August that our Erasmus+ application was successful with project work due to commence in September 2015.

The International Dimensions Prefect, Petra Wells organised a Cultural Festival for Year 8 and 9 pupils. The purpose of this event was to highlight and celebrate the vast range of cultural identities within the College. During this event Senior pupils taught Year 8 and 9 pupils traditional dances and common phrases from across a range of diverse cultures.

Moreover, the College continues to offer a number of educational visits each year, recognizing the benefits of such experiences for pupils. Collaborative curriculum-based work is ongoing at the College, as we continue fruitful links with schools and external organisations, across Europe and beyond. The promotion of the International Dimension is evident in whole school assemblies, our corridors and classrooms, schemes of work, learning and teaching and our continuous professional development programmes.



## **VOLUNTARY WORK**

Year 13 pupils, Eve Bannon, Elizabeth Brush and Daire McCotter, worked with the National Citizen Service, through YMCA Belfast. As part of the NCS summer programme 2014 the girls were involved in a variety of challenges and undertook voluntary work which warranted the award of a "100 hours" certificate from Volunteer Now. Ten Year 13 Double Award Health and Social Care pupils were involved in an intergenerational project with older people in residential care from North Belfast. They assisted in a tea dance in Grove Leisure Centre to celebrate St Patrick's day and their second event involved hosting a lunch in the Drawing Room of Drumglass House. Jordan Gillespie and Brooklyn Dunseith sang solos, Dempsey Ramsey and Rebecca McCullough read poetry and the highlight of the event was Caitlin Diver on the trumpet, accompanied by Mrs Gillian playing 'Danny Boy', with the older people singing along. Year 11 Health and Social Care pupils embarked on two Intergenerational projects, the first with residents in Kerrington Court, Marlborough Park, who have completed a digital age project and are hoping to produce a wall hanging for both settings. The second project is with Ballyowen Residential Care and Day Centre and will help older people play Boccia and encourages interaction with residents who have dementia.

## **CHARITIES**

The College's chosen charities for the 2014-2015 academic year were The Alzheimer's Society and Tiny Life and our Charity Prefects encouraged the pupils to fundraise for these worthwhile causes. A total of £4424 was raised within Senior School. Year 13 pupils, Eve Bannon, Elizabeth Brush and Daire McCotter, worked with the National Citizen Service, and were awarded "100 hours" certificates from Volunteer Now.

## **CAREERS EDUCATION**

The Careers department has had another very busy year. Staff attended a range of conferences and training events and the department is working increasingly effectively with pastoral and other staff through the Learning Guidance Forum. In addition to a full programme of timetabled Careers and Employability lessons, careers interviews, visiting speakers and university applications, many pupils have participated in a wide range of exciting events this year. The focus was very much on increasing pupils' awareness of the skills required to contribute to the Knowledge Economy and the range of occupations on offer across the STEM sector. With that in mind, Year 8 pupils participated in a fun-packed teambuilding day and they finished the Autumn term by enjoying a Raspberry Pi workshop. All Year 8 pupils participated in a European Studies competition designed to raise their awareness of Europe. Junior School pupils attended a Robotics workshop where they designed and raced their own robots.

Year 10 pupils enjoyed IT workshops delivered by CultureTech and some pupils participated in the CultureTECH Big Video Challenge. In March, Year 10 pupils took part in a Software Development Roadshow presented by Sentinus. The pupils had the opportunity to use 'MaKey MaKey' Boards. The invention kit encourages people to find creative ways to interact with their computers, by using everyday objects as a replacement for keyboards and mice. Activities completed ranged from digital design work to programming in an attempt to enthuse pupils about programming and IT as a career path. The event was attended by Sheree Atcheson, a software engineer at Kainos who founded Women Who Code (WWC) Belfast. WWC is a monthly group for female coders, designers, founders, developers and anyone who is interested in learning new skills and receiving career advice. In June a group of Year 10 pupils enjoyed a fabulous visit to Thales Engineering in East Belfast where they had the opportunity to speak to the designers and engineers involved in missile defence. The visit was organised by Gillian Winters, CEO of the Engineering Training Council (NI) and we also were welcomed by Robin Newton, MLA for the area.

During Employability lessons, pupils completed their e-portfolios using the Careers Starter and Careers A-Z apps. This involves a Personal Career Plan, target-setting and self-evaluation. The focus of these lessons is on skill development, including problem-solving and decision-making. A

wide range of teaching strategies are employed and there is an emphasis on group work, independent learning, self-assessment and peer assessment, presentations and the use of ICT.

The Careers department organised a very successful Subject Information Evening for pupils in Years 10 and 12 and their parents, to provide guidance in relation to choosing subjects for the next Key Stage of their education. This guidance was backed up by advice delivered in timetabled lessons. Year 11 pupils entered the Inspire/Aspire competition and once again VCB provided winners. Many pupils in Year 12 were entered for the AQA Preparation for Working Life Certificate.

The focus in the Sixth Form is on preparation for university applications. The Year 13 pupils attended our UCAS/CAO Information Evening in March, designed to inform pupils and parents about the application processes. Tailored guidance is given to pupils sitting Additional Admissions Tests or those applying to Oxbridge, Medicine, Veterinary Medicine, Dentistry or Art and Design courses, where the process is somewhat different. Student Finance provided detailed advice on that area. Mr Thompson, the Work Experience Co-ordinator, organised an impressive programme of placements for the Year 13 pupils in January and many pupils completed additional placements at other times during the school year. Sixth Form students attended Charter Open Days for those interested in Engineering, Laboratory Work and Law. Pupils also attended the Law Conference and the Medicine Symposium organised by Methodist College and the Open Days at Queen's University and at Stranmillis University College Belfast. Year 13 pupils interested in a career in Law had the opportunity to visit the High Court in Belfast whilst those interested in applying to Oxford or Cambridge Universities attended conferences at Lagan Valley Island Centre and at RBAI. Over seventy exhibitors from across Ireland and Britain attended our Higher Education and Careers Fair in February. Exhibitors included representatives from virtually all of the Irish and Scottish universities, many English universities, employers, Student Finance and other stakeholders. Year 14 pupils enjoyed their Mock Interview Evening and we are grateful to the many parents and friends of the school who gave up their time to interview our students.

Sixth Form students visited the 'Fantastic Females' event at W5 where they heard inspirational speeches from young females working in the Knowledge Economy and in Chemistry-related fields in particular. The girls had the opportunity to interact with representatives from an impressive range of leading employers including First Derivatives, Deloitte, Almac, PwC, NI Water etc. Pupils also had the opportunity to attend the 'Create 2014' event at An Cultúrlann in Derry where they listened to budding young IT entrepreneurs share their experiences.

We welcomed a wide range of visitors to the school during the year to deliver talks and workshops as part of the Sixth Form Careers Programme. Our visitors included Deloitte, PWC, QUB, QUB School of Nursing and Midwifery, University of Northumbria College of Art and Design, Cara Murphy from the University of Ulster School of Art and Design, BELB Student Finance, Pinsent Masons, Newcastle and Northumbria, University of St Andrews, Corpus Christi College Cambridge, Scottish universities, PiPs, Allstate and X-the-Text, New College, Oxford and St. Mary's University College Belfast. We also welcomed Trinity College Dublin and University College Dublin.

Careers Education, Information, Advice and Guidance (CEIAG) is delivered across the curriculum and forms part of the School Development Plan and the Programmes of Study within departments. Departments organise events that help to deliver CEIAG and display relevant material on Careers noticeboards. This year the Art and Design department welcomed Helen Sloan to discuss her work in the Film Industry. Helen is the Key Stills Photographer for HBO's Game of Thrones and has worked on BBC's The Fall. She gave a talk and showed some of her work. There was also an opportunity to ask her questions and seek her advice on opportunities within the Film Industry. In April the College's Product Design students visited The Creativity Hub, an award winning product design studio, to take part in a Creativity Masterclass. The Creativity Hub then visited the College in June to work with Junior pupils. The company make products that foster imagination, empathy and self-esteem. Rory's Story Cubes is the iconic storytelling game that fosters imagination and connection across generations. Our Year 8 pupils used the Rory's Story Cubes tool to develop imaginative stories and scenarios before presenting their ideas to a judging panel. All Year 9 pupils participated in a Sentinus workshop where they designed and created apps. The Science department welcomed BOC Gases to give a STEM related talk and display to the Year 9 girls. This was a great opportunity for the girls to discover more about STEM careers, the world around us and to participate in multiple experiments including a liquid nitrogen display. Year 8 pupils attended the Big Bang Science Fair in the University of Ulster in June.

Our entrepreneurial pupils entered the Young Enterprise Company Programme finals at the Titanic Museum. Before the awards ceremony the girls had to write a company report and present a business summary to local businesses. The girls picked up an award for Best Marketing, highlighting their excellent marketing strategies. Sophistiglass then went on to win the Belfast and Castlereagh final for Best Overall Company and qualified for the Northern Ireland Final at Belfast City Hall. The girls were then invited to the N.I. Finals black tie event where Cool FM DJ Pete Snodden presented the evening. The Young Enterprise girls also won a competition run by Forestside Shopping Centre. During the event the girls sold their product range of sophisticated glassware to the general public. The girls were awarded points for team working, marketing, research, quality of product and also if they made a profit on the day. Hannah Nicholl and Perrie McMahon McKeever were selected from the team to compete in an individual competition to be crowned Entrepreneur of the Year. Year 8 pupils also attended a Young Enterprise event in October and Year 9 pupils attended a Sentinus Roadshow in December.

Learning for Life and Work is delivered across the school at all Key Stages through timetabled lessons and this is backed up in Form Time and Assemblies and by visiting speakers. In addition, Junior School pupils completed the All-Stars programme designed for Barnardo's. This programme encourages positive behaviour and builds self-esteem whilst at the same time discouraging risky behaviour. It is a very effective vehicle for delivering the Personal Development and Citizenship strands of LLW. In Festival, Junior School pupils attended workshops delivered by SHARHP and the Simon Community. They developed their transferable skills during the Literacy and Numeracy events and their teamwork and communication skills during the Shakespeare Festival. House competitions allowed them to further develop these skills. Study skills workshops helped to prepare them for their examinations.

In February, the Year 12 pupils in the Learning Support Programme participated in a half-day outing aimed at enhancing their personal development skills at the SKYtrek outdoor activity centre at Colin Glen Forest Park in Belfast. During the programme, pupils took part in a range of activities including a high and low ropes course, climbing challenges, zip lines, a fan descender and other personal development tasks. Participation in this programme enabled pupils to expand their teamwork capabilities, raise their self-esteem, and learn how to overcome challenges.

### **DUKE OF EDINBURGH'S AWARD**

Over 100 intrepid Year 10 pupils braved the unseasonal June weather to finish their Duke of Edinburgh's Bronze Award training in the Mourne and completed their Expeditions later that month. Ten pupils were awarded their Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award at the Senior Prize Distribution – Ellen Beattie, Sarah Blaney, Emely Bjorkman-Loney, Kirsty Carruthers, Ella Davis, Georgia Dick, Alex Doran, Chloe Haylett, Aoife Lavery and Sophie Mills.

### **TRIPS AND VISITS**

Geography fieldtrips took place throughout the year. Year 11 students undertook a river study in Crawfordsburn. Year 13 students attended a residential at Magilligan to investigate fluvial and coastal environments and practise fieldwork skills.

Year 13 French students attended a Film Day organised jointly by Queen's University and QFT which involved a screening, followed by a workshop. French, German and Spanish students attended theatre performances by the Theatre Company, Onatti and the girls were greatly entertained and pleased to realise that they were able to follow the stories.

The Junior Scripture Union ran faithfully on Friday lunchtimes and on Tuesdays after school. The Senior Scripture Union held a Retreat Day in March at Windsor Baptist Church's the "Cabin", with some Junior pupils also attending. All S.U. members had a great time of fun and fellowship together.

Speakers included those from “Crown Jesus Ministries” and pupils also enjoyed “spiritual craft” afternoons.

During the October half-term break, forty-one pupils and five members of staff participated in a joint Italian and Latin trip to Sorrento and Rome. The itinerary included visits to Pompeii, Herculaneum, a tour of the Amalfi coast, a climb of Vesuvius and a whistle-stop tour of Rome. In April nearly 100 Year 8 and 9 pupils and staff travelled to Bormio in Northern Italy for the annual ski trip. Bormio is on the World Cup circuit and the resort provided challenges for all ability skiers. Excellent skiing conditions enabled everyone to advance their skills and become more competent. A full evening programme was laid on with ice skating one of the highlights.

Year 8 pupils participated in a trip to London in June during which their itinerary included visits to The Natural History Museum, Buckingham Palace, The London Eye and The Bank of England and visits to see the show, ‘Matilda’.

### **OTHER EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

#### *Conferences/Lectures/Training*

Throughout the year Junior pupils participated in the Shakespeare Festival, a Study Skills event, Simon Community and School Health and Alcohol Harm Reduction Project (SHAHRP) Workshops. Pupils also took part in a Safety in Cycling training event and several girls attended a Computer Programming event at QUB – Raspberry PI. A weekly computing programme course was also enjoyed by Year 9 pupils throughout the year. Pupils in Years 8 and 9 also took advantage of new technology to assist their reading and literacy skills. The College has been using Accelerated Reader software for several years and now pupils can access this via iPads through the school Wi-Fi. The software assists staff by tracking each pupil’s reading habits and ability.

In November four pupils from Years 8 and 9 took part in the Northern Ireland heat of the Kids’ Lit Quiz, held at Wellington College. Dr Pat Ryan, storyteller and teacher from Illinois, USA, delivered a storytelling session to three Year 8 and Year 9 English classes which were extremely enjoyable but also useful as some of the tales were related to Shakespeare’s *A Midsummer Night’s Dream* which Year 9 pupils studied. In February the College hosted acclaimed storyteller Niall De Búrca. One of Ireland’s finest traditional storytellers, Niall is a truly professional and dynamic entertainer, who carries on the tradition of ancient bards like Homer by traveling the world and sharing stories with nothing but his voice and his acting skills. Niall spent an hour with pupils from Years 8 and 9, entertaining them with some comic tales based on his childhood and a new performance titled “*Where The Poppies Grow*” which is based on the lives and experiences of men in World War One. The pupils are also part of the Library Book Club and took part in activities associated with the Northern Ireland Book Award.

### **‘BAKER’ DAYS AND SCHOOL DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2014-2015**

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 2014-2015 the school chose to take four School Development Days (SDD) for the purposes of school improvement and school/staff development in addition to five ‘Baker’ days.

During 2014-2015 the School Development Days and the ‘Baker’ days were used for:

- an analysis of examination results;
- Performance Review and Staff Development;
- Special Educational Needs;
- an update on literacy;
- ICT and icloud training;
- Stress Management;
- Eating disorders;
- E-safety;
- Ipad training;
- Pupil targets.

## PRE-PRE-SCHOOL, PRE-SCHOOL AND PREPARATORY SCHOOL

The academic year 2014-15 has been an important transitional year for the Preparatory School with a change in senior leadership. Dr Mitchell-Barrett left the Prep School in November 2014 to take up post as Principal of Knockbreda Nursery School. The Prep staff, pupils and parents are enormously grateful to Dr Mitchell-Barrett for her visionary leadership in developing the Prep School during her five years with Victoria and strengthening the links with our Day Care classes. In January 2015, Mrs Hrabovsky joined Victoria College as Head of Prep School.

Throughout the year, the Prep girls have enjoyed an enriched curricular experience. The girls have all participated in a number of educational class trips ranging from visits to the Zoo, Armagh Planetarium, Cultra and Titanic Belfast. A number of Prep pupils have also had the opportunity to perform at the Grand Opera House. Mrs Graham and the Eco Action Team worked hard to develop recycling within school and were delighted to have been awarded their second Green Flag in recognition of their ECO Schools' work. Mrs McLuckie and the SNAG girls have worked alongside the Canteen staff to develop a healthy menu and to introduce 'SNAG favourites' in the menu. The School Council helped to fundraise new playground markings through their *Pounds for the Playground* initiative and visited Stormont to experience the role of an Assembly Member. The Community Action Group have represented the school in the local community and organised fundraising events. The International Action Group have organised Diversity Day, raised awareness of the multi-cultural school community through our International Day of Languages celebrations and are working towards achieving the International School Award. They welcomed twelve students from Miss Porter's School in Connecticut as part of the Global Travel Initiative and look forward to developing further international learning links next academic year.

This year, the girls all took part in our whole school performance of *Annie*. Each performance was vibrant and entertaining. It was a privilege to see all 153 Prep pupils performing on stage, enjoying their time in the limelight and delivering such a professional performance. Mrs Herriot must be commended for organising such a memorable performance and Mrs Thompson and Mrs Murray thanked for their support with this event. In May, the Prep had a visit from the choir of Thomas' Kensington Prep School. The Thomas' pupils joined with our Prep 4-7 choir to perform in the Great Hall at Queen's University.

Our girls continued to excel in dramatic arts outside school with Matilda Gibson in Prep 3 chosen to perform as a Princess with the Ellen Kent Opera and Ballet International in Madame Butterfly during October at the Waterfront Hall.

Thanks to all the girls, parents and staff for generously supporting Prep's charity appeals this year. Everyone had great fun shopping at the Harvest Sale and over £360 was raised. The CAG girls chose to divide this money between the charities Stand By Me and the NSPCC. There was also a collection of store cupboard essentials for the Simon Community. In November, £505 was collected for Children in Need by having a super hero themed non-uniform day and bun sale. The Christmas Jumper Day raised £195.20 for Save the Children and £127 was collected for the Cedar Foundation through the sale of Christmas Stamps. The sponsored Readathon raised £367 for the Book Bus charity which aims to improve child literacy rates in Africa, Asia and South America. £340.65 was raised for Comic Relief through a non-uniform day and the sale of red noses. Over £700 was raised for the NSPCC through *'Buddy's Big Workout'* and Prep 6 and 7 classes participated in workshops run by the charity raising awareness of how to keep safe and speak out if worried. A special thanks to Mrs Glover and the Community Action Group girls for their continued enthusiasm!

Billi Henry from Prep 7 was a winner in the NASUWT Arts and Minds Competition 2014 for her poem entitled 'My Friend Songa'. Billi, her parents and Mrs Boyd attended a prestigious Awards Ceremony on 9 October held in the Private Rooms, Buckingham Gate, London. Billi won a travel and expenses paid trip to London, overnight accommodation at a top London hotel, travel and expenses for her parents and Mrs Boyd, a visit to the London Eye, £350 for Victoria College Preparatory School and £50 worth of Amazon vouchers.

This has been a very busy year for Prep sports, with a high level of achievement and with school accolades in cross country, swimming, Gaelic games and hockey. Prep won all of the preliminary rounds in the NI Cross Country League and qualified for the NI Finals. Prep 7 pupil Emilia Azuara-Lois was named runner-up in the girls' category for the Belfast City Council Primary Schools' Athletics

Competition. Mrs Henderson and Emila attended a prize distribution at the Mary Peter's Track. With a large number of schools in the Belfast Area competing in this category, this is a fantastic achievement.

In October, a team from Prep 5, 6 and 7 competed in the Ulster Minor Schools' Swimming Championships held in Ballymena. Over 120 primary schools had entered teams and all our pupils had great individual swims. For some it was their first experience of an Ulster gala and many set new individual bests. The Prep 5 relay team was placed second in the freestyle relay and Clara Wilson reached the Ulster finals in the Butterfly event. The Prep 7 relay team was placed third in the Freestyle relay. Overall, this was a very successful event for Prep where we certainly made our name known in the swimming world.

The Prep hockey team has also had another very busy year! The Prep Hockey Squad won Silver at the Ulster Hockey Regional Qualifying tournament in March. Ulster Hockey hosted an Under 21 International Test Series against Scotland on Monday 3 March and Tuesday 4 March 2015 at Shaw's Bridge. As part of this series, the Prep team were offered the opportunity to take part in a training session with the squads, and also meet and greet the team captain, manager, coach and players. This was a tremendous opportunity which we were privileged to be a part of. We learnt a great amount about attacking, goalkeeping and teamwork. We also participated in a penalty runs competition and received 'top tips' from each of the players. Kirsty Hill (the team captain) told us that she saw some "budding future Ulster stars in the making" among us. What a compliment and such an enjoyable experience! Lauren Patterson was selected onto the Ulster Primary Schools' Talent Development squad for hockey.

The Prep Netball Team entered in the Belfast Primary Schools' league. These girls played ten closely contested matches against schools and clubs in the greater Belfast area. They qualified for the league finals and won their section of the Belfast Primary School Finals in April! Prep would like to congratulate all the girls on their team spirit and for making such wonderful progress. We would also like to thank Miss McLaughlin for her tireless coaching and mentoring of the Prep netball squad.

In Gaelic Football, the highlight of the season was the Prep team reaching the indoor finals of the Allianz Cumann na mBunscol championship. The team finished second place overall. In June the, VCB Prep camógs played at Ravenhill Road to qualify for the final of the Bredagh Primary Schools' Camogie Championship. They played the 2015 outdoor Belfast Primary Schools' champions St Michael's in the final in front of a large attendance, during which VCB won 4-0. We conceded no scores all day!. Prep 7 pupils, Emilia Lois-Azuara and Katherine Ward were later selected to represent Belfast as members of the inter-schools' team for the annual camogie challenge against Dublin. Such an achievement - well done! Thank you to Mrs Henderson, Mrs Patterson, Miss McLaughlin and Mr O'Brien for all of their support with Prep PE this year.

Clearly 2014-15 was an exciting and eventful year for all! Prep is looking forward to the academic year 2015-2016 and the many new opportunities this will bring.

### **BOARDING DEPARTMENT**

The 2014-2015 academic year started with 46 boarders. Once again we had girls from Spain, Germany, The Netherlands, Hong Kong and China, boarders whose parents were working in Dubai, India and Bahrain and of course those who come from Northern Ireland. We also started the year with the usual staff members, Matron Toms and Johnston along with the return of most of our boarding mistresses from the previous year.

The RQIA annual inspection took place very early this year, October instead of the normal April/May. This inspection was carried out by Mr Gerry Marshall. Our Inspection focused on Standard 4 – Each child has a right to be cared for within an explicit care and discipline record, and Standard 12 – The required records (listed) are maintained within the Boarding School. The inspection report was excellent with Victoria College Boarding receiving 1-Achieved in all areas. The inspector commented on the ethos of the department which placed an emphasis on building positive relationships with the boarders and responding to them as an individual people with a holistic set of needs.

The boarders have been very active academically and in the sporting area this year. The extra-curricular activities organised by the College have been a great asset. Boarders took part in Hairspray, the Gibraltar hockey tour, ski trip and Spring Concert, to name but a few. Boarders also took part in Peace Players' International, which is an independently registered cross-community peace building charity in Northern Ireland that uses sport – in particular, basketball – to unite and educate young people from Protestant and Catholic communities. Seven of our boarders regularly attended and went on to be part of the team that won the Basketball League. Two of our young people have also worked with Peace Players during the summer working as coaches.

As usual, academic progress is at a forefront of all we do in boarding. Staff work hard to support our young people reach their potential, and it is not a rare sight to see staff and boarder working together over a mathematical problem, writing a personal statement or supporting them when school work overwhelms.

Drumglass had its usual festivities, Halloween parties, Christmas, Easter hunts, discos, etc. The end of term party is an eagerly awaited event; this year we once again had the large inflatable along with a photo booth. It is a very sad time of year: we had a large Year 14 group leaving and it is very hard to say goodbye to those who have brought so much to the house. The Year 14 girls had worked very hard for their exams, as they neared their end, and had a good time to blow off steam at this fun evening.

It is also a sad time to say goodbye to staff who are moving on. Miss Eloise Mullen, Miss Adelle O'Dolan and Miss Birte Emmelman will be sorely missed from the house. I cannot express my thanks enough to all the staff in Drumglass who continue to be hard working and committed to the ethos of Drumglass House.

## SECTION 4 – PERFORMANCE DATA

### GENERAL FOR SENIOR SCHOOL

	UK	NI	VCB
A*/A grades at A2 level	21.3%	29.9%	<b>45.6%</b>
A*/A grades at GCSE	21.2%	28.6%	<b>47.2%</b>
A*-C grades at A2	68.8%	83.7%	<b>92.5%</b>
A*-C grades at GCSE	69.0%	78.7%	<b>93.3%</b>

### GCSE 2015

Number of pupils entered for 5 or more subjects	134
% achieving 5+ A*-C grades	94.8%
% achieving 5+ A*-B grades	87.3%
% achieving 7+ A*-C grades	87.3%
% achieving 5+ A*-A grades	42.5%

### A LEVEL 2015

Number of pupils entered for 3 or more subjects	100
% achieving 2+ A*-C grades	97.0%
% achieving 3+ A*-C grades	86.0%
% A* grades achieved	13.2%
% A*-A grades achieved	45.6%

### KEY STAGE THREE 2015

	Level 5 or above		Level 6 or above	
	VCB	NI	VCB	NI
Communication	98	75.2	70	42.7
Using Mathematics	98	78.1	77	50.8

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

	2011/2012		2012/2013		2013/2014	
	VCB	NI	VCB	NI	VCB	NI
5+ GCSE A*-C	98	97	99	97	97	97
7+ GCSE A*-C	90	92	92	94	91	93
3+ A LEVEL A*-C	83	77	88	77	81	76
2+ A LEVEL A*-C	100	99.5	100	100	97	100



**PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2014/2015 A2 LEVEL RESULTS BY SUBJECT**

Subject	Entry	% of pupils achieving the following grades						
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	U
Art and Design	15	13.3	20.0	20.0	40.0	6.7	0.0	0.0
Biology	48	22.9	35.4	18.8	12.5	8.3	2.1	0.0
Business Studies	14	0.0	14.3	28.6	14.3	42.9	0.0	0.0
Chemistry	37	8.1	35.1	35.1	10.8	8.1	2.7	0.0
Chinese	4	0.0	75.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
English Literature	14	7.1	0.0	35.7	50.0	7.1	0.0	0.0
French	6	0.0	33.3	50.0	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Geography	33	21.1	18.2	33.3	27.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
German	1	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Government & Politics	8	0.0	25.0	37.5	37.5	0.0	0.0	0.0
Health & Social Care	18	5.6	50.0	38.9	5.6	0.0	0.0	0.0
History	16	6.3	37.5	50.0	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Home Economics	10	0.0	30.0	60.0	0.0	10.0	0.0	0.0
Information Technology	10	0.0	10.0	30.0	30.0	20.0	10.0	0.0
Italian	1	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Latin	1	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mathematics	39	25.6	38.5	23.1	7.7	2.6	2.6	0.0
Mathematics (Further)	1	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Music	1	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Physics	11	18.2	36.4	9.1	27.3	0.0	9.1	0.0
Religious Studies	16	12.5	50.0	31.3	6.3	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spanish	3	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Technology and Design	6	0.0	66.7	16.7	16.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Theatre Studies	5	0.0	0.0	60.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Percentage TOTAL</b>	<b>318</b>	<b>13.21</b>	<b>32.39</b>	<b>30.19</b>	<b>16.67</b>	<b>5.97</b>	<b>1.57</b>	<b>0.00</b>
		<b>42</b>	<b>103</b>	<b>96</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>0</b>

**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.	48 (Yrs 8-14)	96%
	Grades 1-5 Theory Exams.	8 (Yrs 8-14)	100%

No. of Yr 12, 13, 14 Leavers 2014/15	Destinations - Leavers to						
	Higher Education	Further Education	Employ- ment	Another School	Job Skills	Modern Apprenticeship	None of other categories
159	91	37	1	24	2	0	4

**ANNUAL ATTENDANCE RATE (ALL PUPILS)**

Total days attended by all pupils on roll as % of total possible days of attendance = 94.5%

**PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS 2014/2015 GCSE RESULTS BY SUBJECT**

<b>Subject</b>	<b>Entry</b>	<b>A*</b>	<b>A</b>	<b>B</b>	<b>C</b>	<b>D</b>	<b>E</b>	<b>F</b>	<b>G</b>	<b>U</b>
Art and Design	34	14.7	20.6	17.6	47.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Biology	104	18.3	32.7	30.8	14.4	3.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Business Studies	24	8.3	4.2	16.7	41.7	16.7	8.3	4.2	0.0	0.0
Chemistry	74	32.4	36.5	23.0	8.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Drama	25	0.0	20.0	48.0	28.0	4.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Dutch	1	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
English Lang. & Literat.	14	0.0	0.0	7.1	35.7	57.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
English Language	120	12.5	30.0	30.8	25.0	1.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
English Literature	120	11.7	32.5	30.8	17.5	3.3	3.3	0.8	0.0	0.0
French	46	34.8	19.6	21.7	23.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
French (short course)	2	0.0	0.0	0.0	50.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Geography	73	27.4	41.1	20.5	6.8	4.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
German	21	19.0	33.3	14.3	28.6	4.8	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
German (short course)	4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	75.0	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Greek	1	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Health & Social Care	40	12.5	37.5	20.0	25.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
History	54	24.1	27.8	24.1	14.8	5.6	3.7	0.0	0.0	0.0
Home Economics: Food	40	10.0	27.5	42.5	15.0	5.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Information Technology	30	20.0	36.7	30.0	6.7	6.7	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Italian	17	17.6	23.5	23.5	29.4	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Latin	5	20.0	20.0	20.0	40.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mathematics	134	23.1	25.4	27.6	20.1	2.2	0.7	0.7	0.0	0.0
Mathematics: Further	34	38.2	29.4	26.5	5.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Mathematics (General)	1	0.0	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Media: Comm & Prod	1	0.0	0.0	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Media Film & TV Studies	16	12.5	0.0	31.3	31.3	25.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Music	10	30.0	20.0	50.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Physics	71	15.5	31.0	36.6	9.9	5.6	1.4	0.0	0.0	0.0
Religious Studies	129	24.8	23.3	24.8	16.3	3.9	3.1	3.1	0.0	0.8
Russian	1	100.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Science Single Award	14	0.0	7.1	57.1	21.4	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Spanish	20	25.0	5.0	40.0	15.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Sport/P.E. Studies	7	42.9	14.3	14.3	14.3	14.3	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
Technology & Design	19	10.5	47.4	26.3	5.3	10.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
<b>Percentage TOTAL</b>	<b>1306</b>	<b>19.52 255</b>	<b>27.72 362</b>	<b>27.87 364</b>	<b>18.15 237</b>	<b>4.98 65</b>	<b>1.15 15</b>	<b>0.54 7</b>	<b>0.00 0</b>	<b>0.07 1</b>

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

**PREPARATORY DEPARTMENT PERFORMANCE DATA**

**END OF KEY STAGE ASSESSMENT OUTCOMES  
ENGLISH AND MATHEMATICS**

**KS1 Assessment Outcomes 2014-2015**

*\*The expected outcome at the end of KS1 is Level 2*

	<b>VCB Prep Outcome</b>	<b>NI Girls</b>
<b>Communication Level 1</b>	<b>14%</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Communication Level 2</b>	<b>86%</b>	<b>70%</b>
<b>Communication Level 3</b>	<b>27%</b>	<b>23%</b>
<b>Using Mathematics Level 1</b>	<b>9%</b>	<b>6%</b>
<b>Using Mathematics Level 2</b>	<b>91%</b>	<b>75%</b>
<b>Using Mathematics Level 3</b>	<b>23%</b>	<b>18%</b>

**KS2 Assessment Outcomes 2014-2015**

*\*The expected outcome at the end of KS2 is Level 4*

	<b>VCB Prep Outcome</b>	<b>NI Girls</b>
<b>Communication Level 3</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>13%</b>
<b>Communication Level 4</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>61%</b>
<b>Communication Level 5</b>	<b>58%</b>	<b>22%</b>
<b>Using Mathematics Level 3</b>	<b>0%</b>	<b>16%</b>
<b>Using Mathematics Level 4</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>56%</b>
<b>Using Mathematics Level 5</b>	<b>69%</b>	<b>25%</b>

SECTION 5 – FINANCE

**VICTORIA COLLEGE BELFAST**  
**SUMMARY FINANCIAL INFORMATION**  
**YEAR ENDING 31 MARCH 2015**  
**SUMMARY COLLEGE REVENUE ACCOUNT**

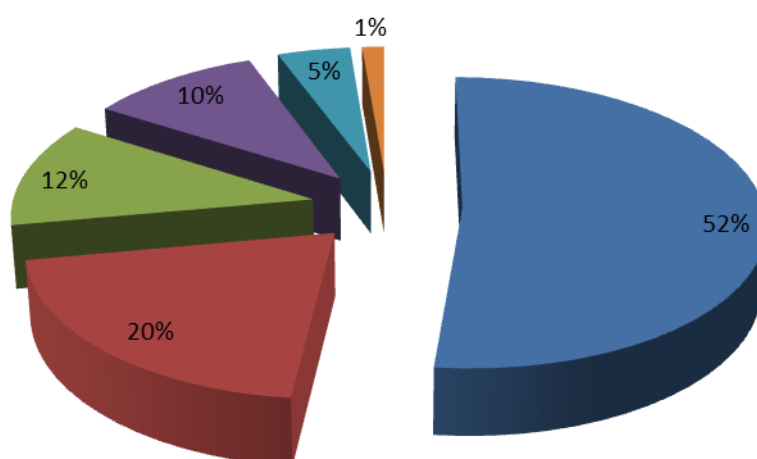
	2015	2015	2014	2014
	£	%	Restated £	Restated %
<b>Income</b>				
Government Grants	4,209,674	68.92%	4,062,752	69.97%
Other Income	1,897,991	31.08%	1,743,256	30.03%
Total	<u>6,107,665</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>5,806,008</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
<b>Expenditure</b>				
Teaching salary costs	(3,173,568)	51.76%	(3,092,025)	53.42%
Other education costs	(1,249,364)	20.38%	(1,013,489)	17.51%
Premises costs	(724,614)	11.82%	(799,608)	13.81%
Administration costs	(634,700)	10.35%	(567,335)	9.80%
Catering costs	(268,856)	4.38%	(245,362)	4.24%
Other costs	(80,697)	1.32%	(70,373)	1.22%
Total	<u>(6,131,799)</u>	<u>100.00%</u>	<u>(5,788,192)</u>	<u>100.00%</u>
<b>Surplus/(Deficit) for the year</b>	<u>(24,134)</u>	<u>-0.40%</u>	<u>17,816</u>	<u>0.31%</u>

**SUMMARY COLLEGE BALANCE SHEET**

	2015	2014
	£	£
Fixed Assets	6,486,273	5,759,024
Current Assets	1,610,749	1,499,778
	(1,116,376)	(1,147,857)
Current Liabilities		
Total Assets less Current Liabilities	<u>6,980,646</u>	<u>6,110,945</u>
<b>Financed by:</b>		
Creditors due after more than one year	32,264	38,267
Deferred grant income	4,232,161	3,496,331
Capital and reserves	2,716,221	2,576,347
	<u>6,980,646</u>	<u>6,110,945</u>

## 2014-15 Expenditure

■ Teaching salary costs      ■ Other education costs      ■ Premises costs  
■ Administration costs      ■ Catering costs      ■ Other costs



## 2013-14 Expenditure

■ Teaching salary costs      ■ Other education costs      ■ Premises costs  
■ Administration costs      ■ Catering costs      ■ Other costs

