

# VICTORIA COLLEGE BELFAST

Sports Newsletter

Edition 1 - Dec, 2023

This first edition celebrates the success of some of our students and their representative achievements outside of school.

## VICTORY IN TAEKWONDO

Ashley Fung, Yr 8, entered the British Taekwondo National Poomsae Championships 2023, in October. This was the first time that she competed in the UK and she won a silver medal (Pair) and two bronze medals (Individual & Team). **Such a start!**



## CROSS COUNTRY

Lucia Steen, Yr 10, competed in the Athletics NI Ulster cross country race, placing 8th. She progressed to represent Ulster in an all Ireland race on the 3rd December in Navan. **Well done!**



## BASKETBALL ACADEMY

Beatrice Reynolds, Yr 9, has been selected for the Basketball Ireland Academy squad. She also plays for Phoenix Basketball. **Go, Beatrice!**



## FOOTBALL

Abbie Smith, Yr 11, represented Northern Ireland Under 17s football at the UEFA WU17s Euro 2024 qualifier. Abbie travelled to Hungary for ten days playing England, Belgium and Hungary. Abbie is first choice Goal Keeper and the youngest player in the U17s squad.







## SHOWJUMPING

Elle West, Yr 12, participated in the TRI Inter-Schools Showjumping - Premier class 1.10 with her horse Magherard Celtic (Duncan).

Results:

Week 1 - 6th place

Week 4 - 4th place

Finishing 7th overall.



## EQUESTRIAN

VCB finished 1st and 4th in the finals week of the Schools League, 2023, leaving them 1st and 3rd overall in the league!

## GYMNASTICS

Rhea Cunningham, Yr 12, was selected to represent Northern Ireland at the Gymnastics Northern European Championships in Sweden, on the 25th & 26th of November.

She progressed to the Gymnastics National finals in Surrey, England, which took place in December.



## IRISH DANCING

Jessica Kennedy, Yr 8, danced at the Ulster Irish Dancing Championships and she has qualified for the World Irish Dancing Championships which will be held in Glasgow. Good luck!



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# Badminton

In December, Ella Chung, Yr 11, competed in the Irish Nationals U15, 2023. She won silver in the Mixed Doubles!



## SWIMMING

Olivia Mooney, Yr 10, swims for Leander ASC and Victoria College.

She swam recently in Limerick and achieved Irish qualifying times for 5 events ; 200m back & free, 100m back & free, and 50m free.

She secured top 33 Irish finishes in all events and top 4 Northern Ireland finishes in 3 events and top 6 Northern Ireland finishes in two events.

**VICTORIA  
COLLEGE  
BELFAST  
YOU**



## TRIATHLON

Chloe Young, Yr 11, has been selected onto the Triathlon Ireland National Squad. She attended her first performance training camp at the University of Limerick in November. She got to meet and train with the other junior triathletes from across the country - it was a great experience.

In October, Chloe competed in the Aspiring Championships gala and achieved a gold medal in her 1500 free race and a silver medal in her 800m free race.

Chloe is part of the Lagan Valley endurance running Squad. Last year they were the double Provincial and double Irish National Cross Country girls' team (U15 and U16). They were awarded the Belfast Sports Junior team of the year, earlier this year and in November they were awarded the Brian Downing Endurance Lagan Valley award. **WOW!**



# ULSTER SCHOOLS



Isabella O'Dowd, Yr 9, finished 3rd in the Ulster Schools' Multi sports event.

She progressed to the All-Ireland final in Athlone on the 19th November, where she achieved new PBs in both the shot putt and her overall Combined Events total.

Isabella also had success over the Summer in other athletics competitions: 3rd place in the NI & Ulster Combined Events Championships (U15G), and 3rd place in the All-Ireland National Juvenile Championships High Jump (U14G) in Tullamore, with a jump of 1.50m.

**T** The Ulster Talent Development Programme selected the following girls for U15 hockey: Lucia Steen, Alex Poole, Anna Ellerby, Darcey Binding and Victoria Young.

**D**

**P**

Good luck!



ISABELLA WAS SELECTED TO ATTEND THE UPCOMING RISING STARS PROGRAMME.

A NI INITIATIVE TO SUPPORT YOUNG ATHLETES WHO DEMONSTRATE BOTH THE TALENT AND WILLINGNESS TO DEVELOP THEIR ATHLETIC ABILITY.







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*As the new Head of Department, I am delighted with both the participation of sport in Victoria College, and with the high level of achievement across a range of sports. This success is a result of commitment, hard work and passion for sport, and I look forward to more successful performances, results and representation after the Christmas break. Well done, girls! H Willis*

The school season started with the junior team playing in the Ulster Schools' Junior Golf Championships at Bangor Golf Club. The team of Alex Poole, Georgia McCausland and Bethany McIlhatton came second out of twelve teams, missing out narrowly on qualifying for the All Ireland finals.

The senior team later competed in the Ulster Schools' Senior Golf Championships at Rockmount Golf club where they came 4th out of ten teams. This team consisted of Olivia Chandler, Anna Lindsay and Alex Poole.

For the first time in our history the senior team played in the scratch cup at Kirkistown Golf Club. The girls fought hard despite the windy conditions, with Abbie Poole winning the best nett prize.

## GOLF



## HOCKEY- SUCH AN ACHIEVEMENT!



Congratulations to Molly Young, Yr 13, who represented Ulster U18 hockey, recently playing matches against Munster, winning 8-0, and Leinster, winning 1-0.

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*I have been so proud to represent my school in the Ulster U18 hockey squad. This opportunity has allowed me to train and play matches and tournaments at a high level and gain experience from specialist coaching, such as a summer camp in Nottingham and matches against Munster and Leinster, with Ulster winning both, and I was fortunate to score in the Munster game.*

*I have been selected by the panel to try next season for Ulster representation and look forward it.*  
Molly Young



**PLEASE SUPPORT VCB**  
WE ARE KEEN TO DEVELOP THIS NEWSLETTER, WHICH WILL CELEBRATE SPORT, BOTH IN AND OUTSIDE OF THE COLLEGE.

IF YOUR BUSINESS WOULD LIKE TO FEATURE, PLEASE EMAIL:  
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OUR SECOND EDITION WILL CELEBRATE AND FEATURE OUR SCHOOL TEAMS' SUCCESS AND HIGHLIGHTS, AS WE ARE CURRENTLY MID-SEASON, WITH LEAGUE MATCHES AND CUP GAMES STILL ONGOING.