# Model Summer Bulletin

*A summary of the 2025-2026 school year at Belfast Model School for Girls*




## Celebrations & Successes

# Introduction

**Dear Parents and Carers,**

It is hard to believe that we have already reached the end of another academic year. Since I began my role on 1st October, the time has passed incredibly quickly, and what a busy, rewarding, and successful year it has been. I am immensely proud of the achievements of our students and staff. Together, we have continued to build on the school's strong traditions while embracing positive change and driving meaningful progress.

Over the past year, we have listened carefully to feedback from parents, carers, students, staff, partner primary schools, and the wider community. In response, the Senior Leadership Team and I have taken decisive action to further strengthen and develop our school. As a result, we are excited to introduce a wide range of new initiatives and improvements from September, all designed to enhance learning, support student wellbeing, and create even greater opportunities for success.

There is much to look forward to, and we will share further details about these developments at the start of the new academic year. At Belfast Model School for Girls, we are fortunate to have a dedicated and caring team of staff who work tirelessly to provide the very best educational experience for our students. I would also like to thank you, our parents and carers, for your continued support of our school community.

Mr P Perry
Principal



## Initiatives and improvements:

- New academic Banding system for students in Key Stage 3
- New enhanced Key Stages 4 and 5 pathways of learning in a broad range of qualification courses
- New Special Education Needs Hub with three Key Stage 3 access classes, greater provision, and increased staffing
- New 6th Form Hub – redecorated, new flooring, new furniture, new kitchen, larger private study space with dedicated classrooms and computer rooms
- New Lead Teacher to develop both teachers and students' digital skills and effective use of AI
- New work experience programmes for students in Years 11 and 13 for the summer term of 2027
- New Learning and Teaching Policy and Practices
- New Independent Learning Programme (homework) for students in Key Stage 3
- New Behaviour for Learning Policy and Framework
- New Rewards System to support students learning and engagement in school life
- PE, Science, and Design Technology Technicians to support learning and teaching
- 250 new computers and 20 interactive teaching screens to support high-quality teaching and learning
- 100 new iPads to further develop students reading (Sora) and literacy skills
- Additional English & Maths support for students
- A new launch of the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award
- A Full-Time School Nurse
- Enhanced pastoral and wellbeing support
- Opportunities to go on a ski-trip and on other trips abroad
- Secured £62,000 from the 'Alan Turing' fund to send 25 Year 13 students to Tanzania in the summer of 2027
- Been given the green light to try and set up a 6th Form girls football academy at Crusaders FC
- Significant amount of money spent on new sports equipment for Physical Education
- Developing community links and holding events for students in our partner primary schools
- 170 Year 8 students joining us in September with 150 of the girls choosing our school as their first-choice school which is a significant increase from 116 the year before. This I am very pleased and proud of!
- Enhanced enrichment programme for students in Year 8 – A teambuilding day at the Belfast Activity Centre in September and a Christmas Panto at the Grand Opera House in December
- Enhanced enrichment programme for students in Years 11 and 13 - A teambuilding day at the Belfast Activity Centre in September

# Drama

Another busy but brilliant year in Drama with contributions to Mary Poppins, the Spring Concert and the Physical Theatre Workshop.

Our Year 12 Scripted and Year 11 Devised performances were highly successful, with the GCSE Written Exam held on 6th May.

Thanks to our partnership with the Lyric Theatre, students also attended a performance of Tea in a China Cup—a meaningful experience given it is studied in school and written by former pupil Christina Reid.

We have also renewed our status as a Lyric Affiliated School and continue our work with Bruiser Theatre Company. We look forward to their in-school production of Teechers in September, giving all Drama students the chance to enjoy live theatre for free.

Here's to another successful year for Drama.


THE WOMAN BEHIND THE WORDS

MEET THE WRITER - CHRISTINA REID

The following section is an extract from the original 1985 production of Tea In A China Cup show programme.

Christina was born and bred in Belfast. She left the Girls' Model School at the age of 15 and worked for a soft drinks company, a wholesale clothing manufacturer, the Northern Ireland Civil Service and a steel company before marrying and bringing up three daughters. In her mid-thirties she went back to do 'O' and 'A' levels, was accepted into Queen's University and was offered a place in the Honours School of English.

She has been writing short stories since childhood and during this period of study began to dramatise and submit them. Her first script 'Did You Hear The One About The Irish Man?' won the UTV Drama Award in 1980. Her stage play 'Tea in a China Cup' was runner-up in the Irish Times Dublin Theatre Festival Women's Play Competition in 1982 and was given a rehearsed reading by the Royal Shakespeare Company in London.

The Lyric Theatre read the play and submitted it for the Thames Television Award Scheme. This is aimed at helping writers develop as dramatists through a working experience with a theatre company.

Christina won the award and was appointed Playwright in Residence at the Lyric in August. Another television play 'Death Duties' was commissioned by the BBC and should be seen soon. 'Tea in a China Cup' centres on a Belfast family of the Protestant working-class between 1939 and 1972 and, particularly, its women. The heroine, Beth, has inherited the spit-and-polish respectability of her mother and grandmother but has she the strength to change the pattern?

Speaking about the play, Christina has said that although it is, on the surface, essentially a Belfast one, she thinks it has a wider appeal and explores issues common to both communities here.

"It certainly presents a political as well as a social picture. It is concerned a great deal with what is known as the Protestant work ethic, whereby working-class people - certainly the ones I know- have a great pride in being British, Protestant and respectable. They always had a bit of bone china and a nice piece of linen in the house. No matter how poor you were, you considered yourself better than your equally poor Catholic neighbours. "It's a great political con. It must be one of the reasons why trade-unionism never gained a strong hold in Northern Ireland. From that point of view, the play must be considered political."




# Mary Poppins

Following the success of Sister Act in 2023, this year's production of Mary Poppins took us to Edwardian London for a magical story of family, imagination, and wonder.

This production would not have been possible without the dedication of our staff. Special thanks to Mrs Ashe for her tireless work on the score, Miss McKibbin for her imaginative choreography and direction, and Mrs Ward for her incredible costumes and stunning set design.

To our wonderful cast—thank you for your talent, commitment, and enthusiasm. To those performing in their final school production, you will be greatly missed; to our younger students, we are incredibly proud of you.

We hope audiences enjoyed this joyful showcase of teamwork and theatrical magic.












# Primary School Football Festival

Nine teams. One fantastic day at Seaview Stadium in June!

Brilliant football, teamwork, and sportsmanship on show for our first ever Primary School Football Festival!

Thank you for joining us and well done to everyone involved!











# Rewards Trips

In June our Year 8 and Year 9 had a wonderful day on their Rewards Trip to Streamvale Farm.

The girls had a fantastic time cuddling adorable puppies, rabbits and chicks, as well as feeding a variety of animals around the farm. There was plenty of laughter during the tractor and barrel rides, followed by lots of fun in the playground. The trip was rounded off with a lovely lunch, giving everyone the chance to relax and enjoy time with their friends in such a beautiful setting.

It was a truly memorable day, filled with smiles, excitement and well-deserved treats for all involved.







# English

## Summer Book Fair

The English Department's Summer Book Fair has been a tremendous success this year - our most successful to date! It was fantastic to see so many pupils taking advantage of the popular 3-for-2 offer and leaving with stacks of exciting new reads. Hosting the book fair annually continues to provide pupils with a valuable opportunity to engage with books and discover new interests. We hope that this year's event has helped many of them get a head start on organising their summer reading, setting them up for an enjoyable and enriching holiday filled with reading.








## World Book Day

*In March we celebrated World Book Day and our love of reading across the school. Lessons 1 and 2 were dedicated to a whole-school DEAR (Drop Everything and Read) session, with pupils enjoying some quiet, uninterrupted reading time.*

*Congratulations to all pupils who received Accelerated Reader certificates - your dedication and enthusiasm for reading are inspiring.*

*Thank you also to everyone who contributed to our Book Swap Station, helping to share the joy of reading even further!*




# Jurassic Ark Encounters

Our students enjoyed a fantastic interactive workshop with Jurassic Ark Encounters NI. The session gave our students the opportunity to learn about a variety of animals, their habitats, and ecosystems through exciting hands-on experiences and close-up encounters. Students were fully engaged as they explored how animals adapt to their environments and the importance of protecting wildlife and biodiversity.







# PE

The PE Department has had a busy and successful year, with students achieving great results across a range of sports. We are incredibly proud of their commitment to extra-curricular activities and how they have represented the school in fixtures and competitions.

It has also been fantastic to see the development of leadership skills across all Key Stages, with students leading events for local primary schools and younger pupils.  Here is a round-up of our 2025–26 sporting highlights.

## Football

Our school Football teams have had their most successful season in recent years securing multiple finals and even bringing some silverware home.  We have many students playing club Football but also those who are representing their country on the International stage.  Well done to all involved and we look forward to more success next season!

**Year 8**
Antrim Cup Winners
Belfast Cup Finalists
8/9 Futsal Finalists

**Year 9**
8/9 Futsal Finalists
U14 Danske Cup Finalists

**Year 10**
Year 10/11 Futsal Winners
U14 Danske Cup Finalists















## Trampolining

In December, 13 students represented the school at the annual Schools Trampoline Competition at Ards Blair Mayne Leisure Centre. For 12 of them, this was their first competition, making their success even more impressive.

Competing in the Year 7–9 categories, students achieved excellent results. Abby placed 6th in the Novice section, qualifying to compete in England - an outstanding achievement. In the Beginner section, Alba secured 1st place, Promise 2nd, and Frantiska 3rd.

We are incredibly proud of all who took part.

## Netball

Our Netball teams enjoyed a fantastic season in the NI Schools' Belfast District League 2025–26. We entered both a Minor (U13) and Junior (U14) squad, competing strongly against St Dominic's and Lagan College.

Both teams showed great determination throughout, with standout goals from Alana, Katie, and Lily. It has been wonderful to see such enthusiasm for Netball this year, and we look forward to building on this success in September.





# KS3 Sports Leaders

On Friday 5th December our KS3 Sports Leaders coached 8CK through some fun activities in PE. The Sports Leaders have been attending a Young Leaders course after school each Wednesday and have planned and coached this event as part of their certificated award.

It was lovely to see their confidence, communication skills and enthusiasm shine! 8CK had a great morning and now have aspirations of being sports leaders themselves next year! Well done girls!



# P6 Sports Festival

On Friday 24th April, BMSG buzzed with energy as our Year 11 PE students hosted their annual Sports Festival for Primary 6 pupils from local schools. As part of their leadership unit, students took full charge – planning, organising and coaching a range of exciting activities. The event showcased outstanding teamwork, confidence and leadership, while giving P6 pupils a fun, active and memorable experience. The day was made even more special by our guest speaker, Sensei Ella Cassells, who delivered an inspiring talk and presented certificates, motivating the next generation of sports participants. Well done to all our Year 11 and P6 students involved!

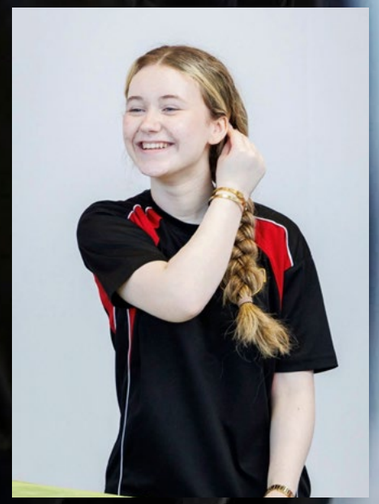
# KS5 Sports Leaders

Year 14 CTEC Sport students worked alongside Community Sports Network this year to complete the PLUS Sport programme. As part of this training they achieved their First Aid certificate, Dodgeball Level 1 and OCN qualification in Sports Leadership.  Students have now been offered summer placements and the opportunity intern with CSN next year.









# Dance - NICMAC

On Thursday 5th March, 25 of our students competed in the NICMAC Dance competition, alongside 41 other academic schools! Results for our 6 entries are as follows:

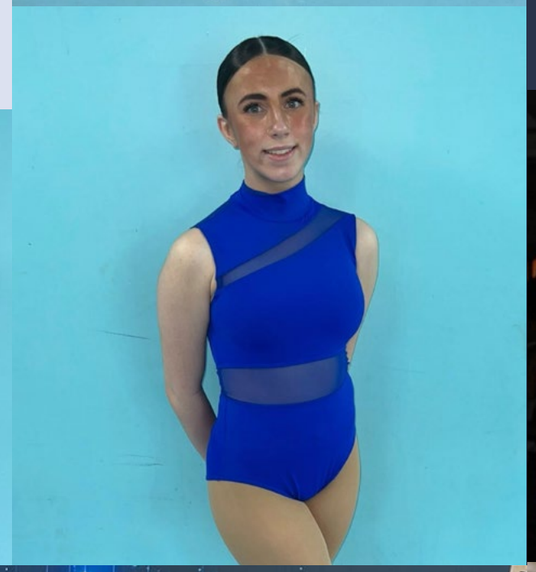
- 3rd place standard - Mixed team
- Lyrical 1st place soloist - Farrah
- Commercial 2nd place soloist - Kendra
- Jazz 2nd place soloist - Jodie
- Street Dance 2nd place soloist - Olivia
- Commercial 2nd place soloist - Caitlin

We are extremely proud of the hard work, dedication and enthusiasm these girls have shown from September! Well done to all on another year of BMSG Dance success.











# Year 12 Formal

On Friday 20th March, our Year 12 students arrived in style at the Crowne Plaza Belfast for this year's Glitz and Glam event. The atmosphere was vibrant from the moment they stepped through the doors. It was a fantastic opportunity for them to come together, relax, and celebrate their journey so far. They showed off their fabulous dance moves and sang away all evening. The night was filled with laughter, music, and memorable moments that truly captured the spirit of our Year 12 year group. We are incredibly proud of how they represented themselves and our school throughout this special occasion.









# History

The History and Politics Department enjoyed two engaging trips this term.

Year 13 Politics students visited Stormont, gaining a valuable insight into political processes in action. Year 13 and 14 students also attended a Lyric Theatre event with Sam McBride and Fintan O'Toole, where they explored current political issues and heard expert perspectives.

Both trips were highly successful and enriched students' learning beyond the classroom.







# Modern Languages

In December our MFL Department had a tour of Belfast City Hall and visited the Continental Market with the Language Ambassadors.







# Remembrance

In November, our school community came together in a moving Remembrance Assembly to honour those who have served and sacrificed.

We were privileged to welcome Helen Purvis from the Royal Auxiliary, who shared powerful reflections on service and remembrance.

Prayers were led by Matthew Horner from Eglinton Church, Ballysillan Road and John Ashe from Journey Community Church, offering moments of peace and gratitude.

A poignant highlight was the playing of the bugle by Ryan Wilson of the 99th Belfast Company Boys' Brigade, marking the silence with solemn dignity.

We are deeply grateful to all who contributed to this meaningful event. Lest we forget.




Mr Perry and Ms Campbell attended the annual Poppy Drop Remembrance Service in the Spectrum Centre. We were privileged to share this special service with members of the Shankill community, our own students and some of our Senior Student Leadership Team, Chloe, Mylie, Ebony and Brooke. This is always a very special time of year for us as we remember loved ones, past and present. Lest we forget.









# Sports Tour to London

On Wednesday 11th March, a group of KS3 students visited London for our annual Sports Tour. We had a packed schedule of activities including a visit to Tottenham Hotspur's stadium, seeing Wicked in the Westend and lots of sightseeing adventures during our two-day visit.  Every student was a credit to the school, and we look forward to next year's trip already!















# Sports Day

Sports Day 2026 was themed 'This Girl Can' and was an opportunity to display all the athletics skills and talent from our recent unit of work in PE lessons.  Students arrived full of energy ready to compete for both individual placings and for the overall 'Best Form Class' award which drives as much competitive spirit for the teachers as it does for the students!  A great day filled with fun, sporting talent and friendly competition!

















# Year 14 Formal

Despite the autumn chill in the air, the Year 14 students of Belfast Model School for Girls, put on their ballgowns, tiaras and towering heels to celebrate one of the most highly anticipated milestones of their school journey, The Formal.

The Class of 2026 and their guests, met at the Dunadry hotel for an evening of great food, the best company and a shimmy or two on the dance floor. Of course, the Staff, not to be outdone by the girls, busted the odd move as well!

No Girls' Model Formal is complete without the Student Awards which brought plenty of cheer and good-natured laughter as peer-voted titles were handed out to some of the year group's most memorable personalities. Weeks of secrecy and planning surround 'The Awards' and it is always one of the most fun parts of the evening.

As the night wrapped up, heels in hands, and smiles on faces, the girls departed to their After-Formal having made wonderful memories. For the students of the Belfast Model School for Girls, The Formal is not just a party, it is a beautiful celebration of the fabulous young women they have become, and a testament to the friendship bonds and camaraderie that define our Sixth Form.















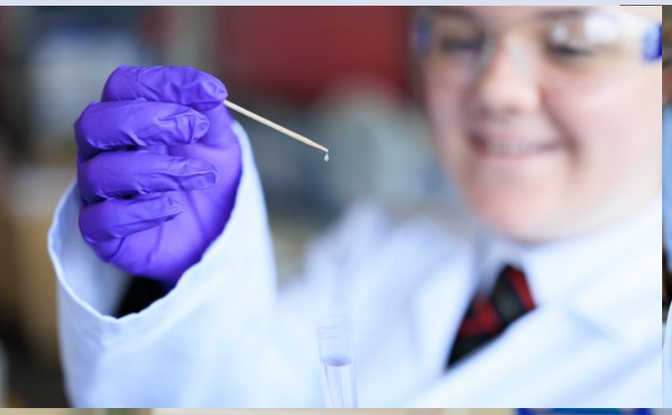




# KS3 Science

Ms Selvam's and Mr Mercer's Year 10 classes have been participating in a STEM ambassadors programme this year.  We have had 10 visits from experts in diverse scientific fields such as Astrophysics, Environmental Biology, Pharmacology, Marine Biology and AI.

Pupils have had opportunities to participate in workshops on coding, DNA extraction and overcoming engineering problems.









# GCSE Science

Our GCSE students recently took part in a Space to Learn Masterclass, delivered by expert educators and funded by the UK Space Agency. This engaging workshop brought science to life through hands-on, space-themed activities.

Students explored key scientific concepts, developed problem-solving skills, and gained insight into careers in the space sector. A highlight of the session was the opportunity to try on a real space suit, making the experience especially memorable.

This inspiring masterclass encouraged students to think beyond the classroom and consider future pathways in STEM.





# Ski Trip

The week in Pinzolo was a hugely successful and memorable experience, filled with progress, challenge, and enjoyment both on and off the slopes. Despite early starts and some demanding conditions at times, students showed impressive resilience, enthusiasm, and determination throughout.

From the beginning, students of all abilities worked hard to develop their skills, with beginners steadily building confidence and independence, and more experienced skiers refining their technique and tackling increasingly challenging runs. As the week progressed, the level of skiing across all groups improved significantly, with many students pushing themselves beyond what they thought possible.

The changing mountain conditions - from bright sunshine to fresh snowfall and lower visibility—added to the experience and tested students' adaptability, but they rose to the challenge with positive attitudes and strong teamwork. Off the slopes, the group enjoyed a range of activities including ice skating, trips into town, group games, meals out, and a lively talent show, all of which helped build friendships and create lasting memories.

By the end of the trip, students were skiing with greater confidence, independence, and skill, and could reflect proudly on how far they had come. Tired but happy, the group left with a strong sense of achievement, having shared an unforgettable week of learning, fun, and personal growth.











# Music

Music lessons were expanded this year to include Brass lessons. Trinity has been learning the tuba and Millie-Rose began learning the trombone. This has added a new section to our Big Noise Orchestra which meets after school on a Monday and performed Batman at the Spring Concert. We also acquired a new double bass player – Michah in Year 8 who I hope will join the orchestra next year.

The Crescendo Project is provided by the Ulster Orchestra. Students are offered the chance to learn string and woodwind instruments in primary school and now, thanks to additional funding and sponsorship, these students are able to continue their lessons in secondary school. We have Sarah Smith (clarinet), Ricky Matson (lower strings) and Naomi Hill (upper strings) tutoring our Crescendo students and they are making excellent progress.







# SHE Event

In March Mrs Leckey and Mrs McKeown attended the annual SHE (Supporting Her Empowerment) event at Mandela Hall.

This inspiring programme focuses on empowering young women, exploring themes such as equality, feminism, and the progress of women's rights. Through engaging discussions and activities, students examined important issues including stereotypes, period poverty, and gender inequality.

A key highlight was the EmpowerHer speaker series, where women from a range of careers shared their experiences and inspired the next generation. SHE continues to be a powerful initiative promoting confidence, equality, and opportunity for all young women.





# Berlin

In February History students enjoyed a freezing trip to Berlin, taking in sights such as Brandenburg Gate, Checkpoint Charlie and the Olympic Stadium!

The temperatures were as low as -15 degrees celsius!







# Milan

In March students went on their Geography trip to Italy, taking in the sights of Milan, Verona and Venice!







# Class of 2026 Leavers

Sixth Form Leavers' Week is always a bittersweet highlight of the school year, and this year was no exception.

Dress-up days, a lively talent show, and celebrations provided a welcome break from exam pressures, marking seven years of growth and achievement. The Leavers' Assembly and brunch brought both laughter and tears, with reflections on memories from Year 8 through to the Class of 2026's final year.

The week concluded with a Guard of Honour, as staff and students wished our Sixth Formers every success for their exams and beyond.  Congratulations and best wishes to the Class of 2026 - the future awaits!












# Year 12 Celebration Assembly

Friday 8th May marked the end of our Year 12 students' Key Stage 4 journey. It was a proud moment for our school community as we gathered to celebrate their hard work, resilience, and achievements over the past two years.










# Post-16

We are incredibly proud of the outstanding achievements of our Sixth Form students this year.

Year 14 student Roxy Martin has achieved an incredible 14 years of 100% attendance—an exceptional record to be celebrated.
Brooke Hutchinson continues to shine in the performing arts, starring in Honk Jr, preparing for Hadestown at the MAC, and completing her LAMDA Level 8 qualification.

In music, Susan Chen (Grade 5 Distinction) and Jessica Irvine (Grade 3 Distinction) impressed with excellent piano results. Susan also completed the QUB Pathways Programme.

Ebanie-Leigh Walker raised £200 for the Little Princess Trust and donated 12 inches of hair, while Zara Dickson accepted her time in Army Cadets as a Cadet Sergeant and served as Lord Lieutenant Cadet for Belfast.

Our students have also excelled academically and beyond:

- Kelsey-Leigh Lundy completed multiple Open University courses and work experience in mental health
- Ruby Shaw achieved a Level 4 certificate in Youth Leadership at QUB
- Emma Kincaid received her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award at Buckingham Palace
- Several students completed Ulster University Discovery Academy and the PLUS Sport Programme

Finally, many of our Sixth Form stars showcased their talents in Mary Poppins, highlighting the creativity and dedication across the year group. Congratulations to all on an exceptional year.









# Trips - Near and Far!

We were delighted to attend the Inter-School Peace Capsule event at St Louise's College. Originally sealed 25 years ago, our Year 14 students contributed new items, including a prospectus, Sixth Form tie, and school pen, to the capsule on display at the Ulster Museum.

Sixth Form students have also enjoyed a wide range of trips this year, including visits to Milan, Berlin, and Italy for skiing, alongside many local educational outings to universities, theatres, and conferences.

In addition, a busy programme of in-school events - including careers talks, university visits, and leadership training—has ensured a rich and varied experience for all.  It has been a truly fantastic and eventful year for Sixth Form.




















# Religious Education

The RE Department have had a busy year once again. We were involved in leading whole school celebrations and Assemblies for Harvest, Remembrance Day, Christmas and Easter.

Scripture Union met each lunchtime every Thursday. It was led by a team which included a local minister, pastor and youth worker.  We were very grateful for their support and also for the support of Ebanie-Leigh Walker 14SO and Kerry Connolly, our Scripture Union worker.  Kerry also visited school on Thursday 23rd April as part of her week long Sponsored walk to all the Scripture Union schools in the area. We had a time of prayer for the school and all who are connected to it.

We also welcomed Ballysillan Blue Houses into school this year. They ran two Youth Alpha courses with some students in Year 12 RS classes. These were really interesting and enjoyable.

Kerry Connolly, the North Belfast and Newtownabbey Scripture Union worker visited the Belfast Model School on Thursday 23rd April as part of her week long Sponsored walk to all the Scripture Union schools in the area.

The walk was to raise funds and awareness for the Scripture Union schools project in this area. We had a time of prayer for the school and all who are connected to it. We really appreciate the support and hope to continue to develop our links with Kerry.



# Technology

## Try a trade for a day

Womens Tec – Year 10 students got the opportunity to try a variety of different trades including: plumbing, tiling, changing a car tyre and brick laying.
















# Art Showcase

In June, the Art & Design Department were delighted to host the end-of-year Art Exhibition. Parents and guardians, students and staff came together to visit the exhibition, showcasing our student's examination work.  This was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate all of their hard work, effort, determination and commitment to their Art & Design studies over the past two years. We are so proud of them all and want to congratulate them on the success of their exhibition!




















# New Senior Student Leadership Team

It is with great delight we would like to announce and welcome our new Senior Student Leadership Team (SSLT) for 2026-27.

**Head Girl** - Rosie
**Deputy Head Girl for KS3** - Emma
**Deputy Head Girl for KS34/5** - Jessica

SSLT will be assisted by Senior Prefects, Alli, Sami-Jo, Darcie and Amy.  Congratulations, you will be a fabulous team!

# Head Girl

Our Head Girl for 2025-26, Chloe, has given a heartfelt welcome to incoming Head Girl, Rosie. The handing over of the role highlights the strong tradition of student leadership and peer support within our school community, and marks not only a celebration of Chloe's achievements as Head Girl, but the exciting new chapter that is about to start. We would like to take this opportunity to wish Chloe, and all the Class of 2026, great successes in their next steps.



# Mr Murray

What a fantastic day in June for our ‘3 Miles for Murray’ sponsored walk in memory of Mr Murray.

The sun came out, lifting everyone’s spirits as students and staff came together to honour someone so special to our school community.

Thank you to everyone who took part and donated — your support means so much and we’re proud to be raising £4500 for PIPS Suicide Prevention Ireland.







