Inside this issue

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Principal’s Foreword</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Open Day</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama Showcase</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History Trip</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fashion Show</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PJ Lynch Visit</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Spanish Trip</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ski Trip</td>
<td>9-10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Four Corners Festival</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sports Update</td>
<td>12-16</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Calendar</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Inside this issue:

Open Day

Drama Showcase

Fashion Show

Spanish Trip

Ski Trip

Sports Update

Please note that our Newsletter can be viewed in colour on our College website: www.lagancollege.com
Principal’s Foreword

2017 got off to an exciting start this year with Lagan College students involved in an array of educational visits, including visiting Vejer and enjoying tapas, skiing in Andalo Italy and soaking up the history and culture in London and Dublin.

We also welcomed the Irish Children’s Laureate, Mr PJ Lynch, author and illustrator, to the school, Ms Wendy Donaldson to the HE Department and Mr Hodgkinson and the students from our partner school in Doane Stuart, NY State who were kindly hosted by four of our families.

In February, the Parents’ Council organised a fabulous fashion show to raise money for our school charity ‘Barnardos’. It was certainly an evening of ‘glitz and glamour’. In particular we wish to thank Mrs Sharon Elkin, Ms Jenny Rice and the Parents’ Council members. The event showcased a great integrated team spirit between students, staff and families in our 35th Anniversary year.

Finally, congratulations goes to Laura Mills (Year 12) and Olivia McCloskey (Year 11) who will be representing Northern Ireland in the European U-17 Netball Squad. A great achievement girls!

We wish all our students and staff well as we enter a new year.

Mrs A McNamee
Principal

Edgar Graham Public Speaking Competition

In February, I had the pleasure of accompanying Lucy Symington and Alice Lukasik to the Senate Chamber in Stormont, where they both took to the podium and competed in the Edgar Graham Public Speaking competition.

The standard of competition was exceptionally high. We listened to many passionate and courageous young speakers deliver outstanding speeches, all of which highlighted a variety of issues facing today’s modern society.

I was particularly delighted that Lucy’s speech was recognised with a trophy for ‘highly commended speaker’ and that Alice received a glowing written report from the adjudicator. They should both be exceptionally proud. Not only are both girls exceptionally skilled public speakers but their politeness and general demeanour make them an absolute credit to themselves and their subject teachers.

Miss F Smyth

Lucy receiving her award
The staff and students of Lagan College welcomed a large number of prospective pupils and their parents to our Open Day on Saturday 14th January, where they sampled the wide range of subjects on offer. The visiting children assisted with experiments in Science, tried out their cooking skills in Home Economics, took part in a drawing challenge in Art and Design and joined students playing the drums in the Music Department, amongst other things. An enjoyable day was had by all!
A Level Drama Showcase

Congratulations to our AS and A2 Drama students who all performed incredibly for their final performances at the end of January!

The AS group performed 'Woman', an adaptation of 'A Dolls House', while the A2 students wrote, directed and then performed 'Absolutely Unethical!'

Miss Smyth Gets the Chop

Well done to Miss Smyth from the English Department, who very bravely cut off her waist length hair and donated it to The Little Princess Trust, a charity that uses real hair to make wigs for young chemotherapy patients. Friends, family and colleagues sponsored Miss Smyth to get the chop, and in doing so she raised £1757 for the Craigavon ENT Department!

Miss Smyth was absolutely delighted with the amount of money raised and we at Lagan College are very proud of her!

Year 13 Taster Day at Queen’s

On Wednesday 25th January I went to the Queen’s Management School. I attended two talks the first of which was on Accountancy. The talk was led by a professor who spoke 4 languages, English being his third. As an A-level Spanish student this was really interesting as I am still deciding if I want to study Spanish at degree level. The lecturer was a qualified accountant in three different countries and had taught at some of the most prestigious universities in the United States. The talk helped to give an insight into what life would be like as a student on the course. The lecturer also explained that the University has experience in supporting students who want to become qualified accountants in other countries and he also spoke about the numerous international opportunities and connections that the school has.

The next talk that I attended was about the Actuarial Science Course. This is a career that has never really appealed to me but I was keen to find out more about what an actuary does. This session was more practical based with discussion and practical activities. It was interesting to see that the probability we were learning in A-Level Maths had a real life use. The day was very useful because we got to speak to staff and students of the University and get more of a feel for what life would be like as a student.

David May 13TAG
Year 14 History Trip to Dublin

Even though it was only just light on the morning of 21st February 2017, History students could spot our very dapper, knowledgeable and eccentric guide for the day: Clive Scoular, a local historian. His bright outfit lit up the dark morning but his anecdotes proved to be even more illuminating!

Clive took the classes in the footsteps of the insurgents of the Easter Rising, 1916. He began, as James Connolly began, outside where the Liberty Hall once stood. Connolly reportedly told the stunned Volunteers, “We could all be dead in 10 minutes!”

In a brilliant whirlwind of a tour the students were taken to the key strongholds taken in that Easter week including: The GPO, South Dublin Union, The Royal College of Surgeons, Boland’s Mill, St Stephen’s Green and the Four Courts.

Some of these places are not on the usual tourist route, like the South Dublin Union, where we heard of one of the insurgents being shot 26 times and surviving (Cathal Brugha was his name, in case you are interested)!

The day finished at Kilmainham Gaol and its recently refurbished museum. The tour took us through the jail’s buildings as they evolved over time: the “innovative” gaol as it was first built with rooms for each prisoner; the back-breaking stone breakers yard; the “cell” that held Parnell; the cells of the 1916 insurgents and the wall where executioner’s bullets shot the leaders into martyrdom and legend.

It was fascinating a trip and has proved very helpful to our understanding of this crucial period of our history.
Thanks to Clive Scoular and the Year 14 History class for making it such an enjoyable experience.

Mr P Mulholland
As part of the College’s 35th Anniversary celebrations, the Parents’ Council hosted a Fashion Show in the Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast on the 26th February, with over 300 people attending the event. Students, staff and parents ‘strutted their stuff’ on the catwalk wearing the latest fashion trends for Spring/Summer 2017. The event was styled by Sharon Elkin, the proud mummy of Zac, Year 13 and Bruce, Year 11. Sharon was ably supported by Jenny Rice, Chair of Parents’ Council.

The students, staff and parents modelled clothes from Peacocks, Blue Inc, Burton’s Menswear, Tommy Bowe Designs, Silhouette and Sharon Elkin Designs. The evening was a walk through fashion trends from the Roaring 1920's, nifty 1950's, electric 1980's and of course, focused on current styles for the season ahead. There was a fabulous atmosphere with models being warmly supported by the audience, which made their catwalk experience one to remember. The evening was a great success, raising over £3000 for Barnardos, the College's chosen charity this year, and the student Recognise and Reward scheme operated within the school.
Laureate na nÓg heads back to school in his home city

Children’s Laureate PJ Lynch made a return to school and his home city at the beginning of February to host a special illustration workshop with pupils at Lagan College, supported by Booktrust NI.

Well known for his detailed illustrations, many inspired by traditional stories, myths and legends, Year 10 pupils had the opportunity to explore drawing techniques with the award-winning illustrator, as part of an event to promote creativity and reading for pleasure.

Appointed as Laureate na nÓg in May 2016, PJ Lynch is the fourth artist to hold the prestigious title. An initiative of the Arts Council with the support of Arts Council of Northern Ireland, the Department of Children and Youth Affairs, Children’s Books Ireland and Poetry Ireland. The honour was established to engage young people with high-quality children’s literature and to underline the importance of children’s literature in our cultural and imaginative lives.

The event was one of a series of author visits to secondary and primary schools, funded through the National Lottery by the Arts Council of Northern Ireland.

Speaking at Lagan College, PJ Lynch, said: “It’s a great thrill for me to be back in Northern Ireland in my role as Laureate na nÓg. From CS Lewis to Oliver Jeffers and with people like Martin Waddell, Anita Jeram and Sam McBratney in between, Northern Irish authors and illustrators have made a huge contribution to the world of Children’s Books. I see it as my job to remind our children of that and maybe to encourage a few budding picture book creators from the next generation.”

PJ Lynch is currently based in Dublin and has worked as a children’s book illustrator since leaving Brighton College of Art in England in 1984, and has illustrated over twenty books, including modern editions of classic books such as Charles Dickens’s *A Christmas Carol* and *The Snow Queen* by Hans Christian Andersen.

Mrs Durkin, Librarian, and Miss Rogan, Art Teacher, were delighted to host the event and all the children involved thoroughly enjoyed the entire experience.
It was a Sunday morning when we woke up and we were excited to go away to Spain with our class. The flight to Malaga was tiring as we had been up since 4am. We got to spend a few hours in Malaga, it was really amazing and the food was splendid. The shops in Malaga offered a variety of different Spanish products and we ended up buying some souvenirs. After that we headed to the little village (Vejer) where we would spend the next 5 nights. The bus journey lasted 3 hours from Malaga and we were exhausted when we got there.

After sight-seeing, we were introduced to our families. We were very nervous and didn’t know what to expect but our families were very welcoming, making it a lot easier for us. Every day we attended school from 9am to 1pm. From the classes, we have improved our vocabulary extensively, we learnt lots of different important vocab that will prove to be very useful for both our written and oral exams. The classes also consisted of learning about Spanish culture and playing games in Spanish.

Once the classes were over we all went back to our families for lunch. After lunch we then had free time to explore the village where we played football with the local Spanish kids at the football pitch. Every night we had dinner with our families and each night the food was exceptional. We ended up trying many different Spanish dishes, and enjoyed them all. During the day, there was a different activity planned for us each day. On the Wednesday we visited the city of Cadiz where we saw the sights, learning about the culture and history of the city. On Tuesday, we visited the beach because the weather was so great, where some of our class mates got the chance to show off their muscles and bring out their masculine side.

On Thursday we got the chance to learn how the famous Spanish meal paella is made, giving us the chance to go out and buy the ingredients ourselves in the local market. The fish from the market was amazing, even though it didn’t smell the best. On the last night we were treated to dinner in a restaurant by Sonia and Mrs Connor.

The one thing that was strange to us that we found out about when we first arrived was the fact that shops closed at 2pm and opened at 5pm again. This is because the Spanish people eat their lunch as the main meal of the day and then sleep afterwards, before going back to work.

Overall the Spanish trip was a fantastic experience that we thoroughly enjoyed. Not only was it fun but we also feel it has helped us to improve our Spanish. The host families were lovely and we have kept in touch with them. We were was very fortunate to get the chance and would definitely go back again if the option arose.

Caleb Keating, Abbey Lowey and Klaudia Paluchiewicz
Our PE ski trip this year was to Andalo in Italy. Forty students and four staff travelled out at the start of February. We were so lucky to have the opportunity to ski in all conditions. We skied in snow, crazy blizzards, sleet, beautiful sunshine and fog. The students skied for four hours every day with their instructors. Our twenty eight beginners made exceptional progress over the week. By the end of the week all of our skiers were snowploughing down the red slopes. Our advanced groups were all carving and making parallel turns on the black slopes.

Our apres ski was so much fun. We went ice skating, swimming and snow karting. We also had a quiz, a disco and a pizza night. The trip was so enjoyable and the students were a credit to the school.

Shoop shoop.

Mrs R McKnight
Recently the Learning Support Department, with the support of the Parents’ Council, purchased a new computer program called Lexia which aims to improve reading and other literacy skills through the use of fun games. Sixty students across Years 8-10 were selected to take part, with Year 8 using the computers during Registration and Years 9-10 having the chance to use the iPad app. The aim is to complete around 200 minutes per week on the program, and we have several students meeting this target – pictured are our current top 2 students: Tino (Year 10) and Lucy (Year 9). Well done guys!

Mrs R Gordon
**Living Law**

On 24th February, the Living Law students in Year 13 visited Stormont where they listened to presentations by the Education Officer for the NI Assembly and the First Legislative Council. This was followed by a Tour of the Senate and Assembly Chambers. It was a very interesting day and a great chance to hear some of the stories behind the building and it's history.

Mrs K Bingham  
Head of Careers

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**Four Corners Festival**

On February 3rd, I was lucky to be picked to go on a trip with two other students, James Mullan and Julia Klaneckia, to participate in the Four Corners Festival at Queen’s University, Belfast.

When we arrived at the campus, James and I were placed in the Green Team, whilst Julia was placed in the Red Team. There were many students from other schools joining us and we even had a little challenge to start the day off! The challenge was that we were given a card with statements on it such as, “Has visited the Eiffel Tower”, and we had to find someone in the room who matched that statement. This helped us to get to know our teammates before we were taken on a guided tour around the wonderful campus. We visited the Art Department and the Architecture Department, as well as many more.

It was both exciting and motivating to see students working away in their areas.

Once we had finished the tour, my group was taken to an animation workshop where we listened to an inspiring talk by a lecturer about what the course entailed. It was great fun! We were asked questions, told entertaining stories and even saw some of the work that the students had created. Our group was also given advice for future careers, and how to choose subjects whilst still leaving our options open, which we all found very useful!

Our second workshop of the day was Business Studies and we were tasked with creating a birthday party organising company. This was surprisingly difficult! We had to design a poster which included all of our information for our business plan and there was a prize for the best one.

Our final workshop was in ceramics and textiles. We were given some clay and instructed to make a lucky charm as the lecturer talked to us about the craft. It was a very relaxing experience.

After lunch, the Lord Mayor arrived and each group of students were photographed with him. This trip was very motivating, to say the least. It really showed us just how amazing university can be, and even if it isn’t what every student wants, its always an option for you to pursue your dreams.

Rebecca Wilson  
Year 10KDY
A Welcome Visitor to Home Economics

Early in February, two of our Year 11 GCSE Home Economics classes were able to enjoy a visit to Home Economics by Wendy Donaldson from the LMC (Livestock and Meat Commission). Wendy joined us as part of the excellent education support offered to school by the LMC and provides an excellent cookery demonstration for our GCSE classes. This was a really useful session and the students enjoyed Wendy’s practical cookery demonstration and its tasty results. We can highly recommend the Lamb Curry!

The students also benefitted from Wendy’s amazing knowledge about not only meat and meat products produced in Northern Ireland but were also able to revise their nutritional knowledge with her and Wendy was very impressed with their answers!

These sessions provide lots of ideas that our students can use for their GCSE Practical Exam and also encourages them to try a few new ingredients – the lamb was a pleasant surprise for many who had never tried it before!

We look forward to our students using some of the dishes and tips Wendy shared with us and know that they learnt a lot from her visit. We also look forward to another visit next school year. Until then we can all check out the LMC website for some tasty recipe ideas – www.food4life.org.uk.

Year 8 & 9 Rugby at Lagan

Year 8 and 9 boys rugby is currently being developed here at Lagan College. Coaches from Malone Rugby Club are helping the PE department to develop the skills of those boys who are interested in playing more regularly. The Year 8 teams have games coming up against Newtownbreda and Campbell College. We wish them luck. Sessions take place for Year 8 and Year 9 boys each Wednesday after school.

Mr N McGuigan
Football

Year 11 v Saintfield in the North Down League. Won 6-0
A good win against a determined Saintfield squad. Goals from DJ McShannock (2) Ryan Harvey (2), Carlo Corbetta and Arthur Hughes.
Man of the match - Ethan McCarthy

Year 12 v St Malachy’s College, Castlewellan in the NI cup. They had to pull out.

12 v La Salle Belfast
The Year 12 Football squad (17 of them) were superb! We lost 5-2 to a very strong La Salle team in the Belfast Cup. We had them scared as at one stage it was 3-2 to them for 20mins. The effort, performance, behaviour and attitude was superb from all the lads. Goals- James McCarthy and Daniel Smith
Top Men- James McCarthy, Aaron Crothers, Youcef Cherifi and Daniel Smith

Year 11 v De La Salle Downpatrick. Lost 3-1 in the North Down League
A great game as we were only 1 nil down at half-time. Super sub Arthur Hughes scored and we started to dominate the game with Christy McCallan getting to grip with our midfield. Ethan McGrath( Man of the match) kept them quiet at the back. We lost 2 poor goals very late on to lose the game.

Year 9 beat Nendrum College. Won 8-0
Charlie Lindsay scored 5!

Year 9 beat De La Salle. Won 5-1
A great victory against a team that beat us 2-0 last year. A good solid team performance. Goals-Charlie Lindsay scored 4 and Frank Sikalie got 1!

Year 8 v Priory College in the North Down league. An amazing 4-4 draw.
This little team of dynamos came back from 4-1 down to draw 4-4 and in fact, almost won it at the end. Goals- Nathan Leckey (2), Cameron Hamill and Gary McDonald. Top Men- Goes to everyone after a spirited comeback that took a mighty squad effort.

Year 8 v Devenish College in the NI cup. Lost 3-1.
It sounds like it was not close but it was! At 1 nil down we hit the post 3 times and the bar once before we got a penalty, converted by captain Nathan Leckey, to equalise the game. We went hard for a winner but gave away a penalty late on to dampen our spirits and then let in another. Top Men- Our twin terrors Cameron and Carter Hamill.

Year 11 v Colaiste Feirste in the Belfast Cup
A good game to be involved in. Again 1 nil down with Arthur Hughes getting the equaliser. The game ebbed and flowed but their star striker got 2 goals to win the game.
Top Men- Christy McCallan, Ethan McCarthy, Matty Winchester and Charlie McKinney.

Year 10 v Ballyclare Secondary in the NI cup. Won 3-0
A good win for the guys who are progressing in a lot of cups. Well managed by Mr Jose MacMannus. Goals 2 from Man of the match Oran Magee and from Callum Deans.

Year 8 v Nendrum College in the North Down League. Won 5-1
We went 1 nil down in this game but got back to 1-1 before half-time. A storming second half sealed the win. Goals- Carter Hamill, Corey McClean, Mohammad Abdul, Cameron Hamill and Ryan Crone.
Top Men. Abdirahman Jama and Eamon McWilliams.
Football

6th Form in the NI Cup v Strabane Academy. Lost 2-0
Out of the cup now and a little disappointed. They had a fairly strong team with a few county players from Tyrone Milk Cup squad but we still should have performed better.
Top Men- Jake McCrea, Darragh King and Ben Thompson.

Year 10 v St Columb’s College Derry/Londonderry in the NI cup. Lost 1-0
Even though we lost the game we are still very proud of the team. St Columb’s are recognised as the strongest team in this age group in NI. The whole team deserve immense credit.

Year 10 v Bangor in the North Down. Won 5-1
Great result considering this was the day after the above game and also that Bangor have won our district for the last 2 years!
A superb performance with goals from James Wilkinson (2) and Jack Lozano again on the scoresheet and another great win for a developing side.

Year 10 v OLSPK in the Belfast cup. Lost 1-0
We lost 1 nil in extra time after an absorbing cup match. The game swung from end to end with all players involved in a superb show of quality. After their late goal in extra time we had a few chances with Callum deans cracking the crossbar with a header and other goalmouth scrambles.

Year 10 v Nendrum in the North Down. Won 7-1
The squad got back to winning with ways with a strong win.
Goals from Jack Lozano(3), Curtis Farrell 2, Leon Skillen and James Wilkinson 1 each.

Year 10 v Saintfield in the North Down. Won 3-0
On an awful day (horizontal sleet!) the lads chalked up another win to push towards becoming finalists.

Year 11 v Bangor in the North Down. Lost 3-2
A big dent in the year 11s hopes of reaching the final. We led twice only to lose to 2 late goals in a gallant Bangor comeback. Christy McCallan and Ethan McCarthy got the goals and both lads featured well in a super match. Our defence and goalkeeper James Howard also had good games.

Year 9 V Colaiste Feirste in the Belfast Cup quarter final. Won 7-0
Obviously a mega result and a great team performance to gain such a super win at this stage of the cup but even more amazing is the fact that Charlie Lindsay scored all 7 goals!!!!!!!
Bring on the semi finals.

Year 8 v Bangor in the North Down. Won 2-1
A good win for the young year 8 squad who beat their rivals in a tight game.
Goals from Nathan leckey (a nice free kick) and Cameron Hamill.
A good all-round performance but top men were:
Eamonn McWilliams, Eamonn Bolton, Abdrihman Jama and Cameron Hamill.

Sporting Success

Congratulations to Erin Woods (Year 12) on making the final squad for the Belfast Area U17 hockey team. We wish her luck in the upcoming training sessions and NI Area tournament.
Cross-Country

Congratulations to Jessica Scott and Lily Moore who have both qualified for the Ulster Championships in March. Well done to all our other cross-country runners who took part!

Basketball

Congratulations to the Year 9 basketball squad who won the Castlereagh and Lisburn District Schools Basketball Tournament.

Hockey

Our U16 XI and U18 XI both won their semi finals to reach the U16 and U18 finals of the Northern Ireland High Schools Cup final. The U18 XI defeated Castlederg 3-1 and the U16 XI defeated Slemish 5-0.

We wish both teams the best of luck for their respective finals, which will take place at the beginning of March.
Netball

Congratulations to the members of the Year 9 and 10 B team on their win against St.Patrick's Lisburn.

Year 10 won 16-4 MVP Amy Sherry
Year 9 won 6-2 MVP Rosa Day

Fantastic play from both teams! Well done!

Congratulations to Year 9 and 10 girls on their brilliant matches against Forthill.
The Year 10s won 13-4. MVP- Laoise Martin
Unfortunately, the Year 9s got beaten 7-3. They played 3 brilliant quarters but Forthill came back in the last. MVPs- Rebecca Carrothers and Abbie Hession

We are very proud to have two players selected to represent Northern Ireland in the European U17 Championships! Laura Mills (Year 12) and Olivia McCloskey (Year 11) will be representing Northern Ireland at the Antrim Forum in March.

Laura is participating in the Championship section facing England, Scotland and Wales. Olivia will be playing in the Challenge section against Gibraltar, Republic of Ireland, Switzerland and Dubai. Good luck girls, do Lagan College proud!

Miss J Kennedy
Head of Girls PE

Calendar

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>March 2017</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Thursday 9</td>
<td>Ceili</td>
<td>7pm</td>
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<tr>
<td>Friday 17</td>
<td>St Patrick’s Day Holiday School Closed</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mon 27 – Monday 3 &amp; April</td>
<td>Year 11 Assessments</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>April 2017</th>
<th></th>
<th></th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Friday 7 - Monday 24</td>
<td>Easter Break for students</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 10 &amp; Tuesday 11</td>
<td>Staff Development Days (Staff only to attend)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monday 24</td>
<td>All School Return</td>
<td></td>
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