

School Newsletter

June 2019



Dear Parent/Guardian

Once again we have reached June and in doing so reflect on the experiences and achievements of our pupils throughout the past year. There have indeed been many of these, a snapshot of which you will see within this newsletter. It is important that we congratulate the individual and collective achievements of our pupils and this I do most enthusiastically.

Sports day was a particularly enjoyable day – the sense of community and sportsmanship was evident throughout the day. I want to congratulate all those who participated.

Our Year 12 pupils have now completed their GCSE exams and I hope they all enjoy a well-deserved break during the summer months. I want to wish each and every one of them every blessing for the future and I look forward to seeing them on results day in August.

As you know, Year 12 pupils will not be on their own leaving this summer. I too will be saying 'goodbye'. After a teaching career of 37 years in this school, and having been a pupil here myself, it will undoubtedly be a massive change for me personally, the thought of not being here every day is difficult to comprehend.

To teach in, and latterly to lead, this wonderful school has been the most amazing honour. It has indeed been a privilege to play a part in the holistic development of generations of young people. I am extremely proud of the achievements of each and every one of them.

I also want to pay tribute to the Governors, Teachers and support staff who work tirelessly and with great professionalism to ensure that every individual pupil receives the education he or she needs and deserves.

City of Armagh High School is a school filled with confidence as it faces the years ahead, I look forward to watching, and indeed supporting, its future development.

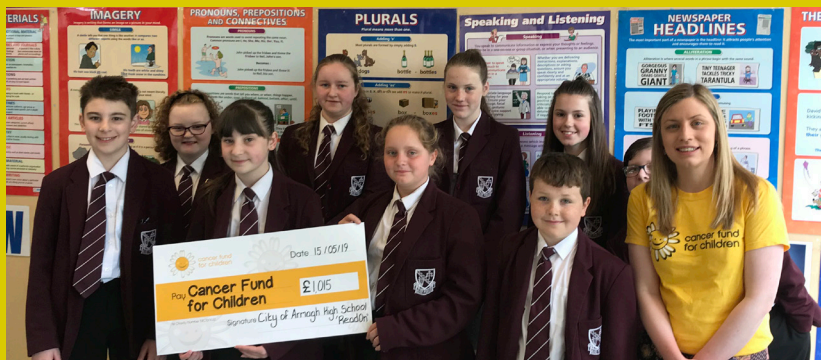
In closing, I want to thank you, the parents, for entrusting your child's education to us. I also want to thank you for the support you have given me personally over the years and for the many kind messages I have received in recent days – it is not taken for granted and is very much appreciated.

I wish you and your family a very enjoyable summer – let's hope the sun shines!

D Livingstone



The top collectors in our sponsored read for the NI Cancer Fund For Children. Well done everyone and to Mrs Black for organising the event.



This year in Scripture Union we had a number of fun events and meetings. We met every Lunch time on a Wednesday to join together for one reason - God. We completed a range of fun activities like arts and crafts, played lots of new games, and listened to the interesting guest speakers who kindly visited us throughout the year, including Rev. Pete Smith and Rev Paul McAdam. We also enjoyed numerous visits from SHINE and from Logos Ministries. During the year, we also had a number of pupils who bravely took over SU, and led us in scripture, quizzes and interactive games and stories.

A few of the highlights from our year were the trips and out-of-school events. At Christmas time, we went to the Market Place Theatre to watch a performance of Aladdin. To mark the end of term, our summer trip saw us at The Rink in Portadown to do some roller blading. Both trips were thoroughly enjoyed by all. In March, we were kindly invited to the annual SU dinner dance along with The Royal School Armagh, Monaghan Collegiate and others. It was a night we won't forget.



After the exams, Year 12 pupils returned to school for a special BBQ to informally close their time at the school before they move on to their next adventure in education. A big thanks to Mrs Smiton for organising the event and Miss McKee for cooking the food.



Sports Day

Sports Day took place at the end of May. Pupils competed in a packed programme of events as they ran, threw or jumped to win valuable points for themselves and their house.

Congratulations to all our competitors but especially to Evelina Tomkeviciute, Alex Philips, Jessica Dodds, Denise Morrison, Nathan Bell, Jonathan Armstrong, Cayden Benson and Nathan Hamill who were top Athletes in their Year Group.



Master Chefs

Young chefs in the making! Congratulations to Rebecca, Oliwia and Rebekah for winning the Pinkertons School Cooking Competition at the Armagh Show.



My JK Adventure

Following Junk Kouture 2018, Junk Kouture 2019 did not disappoint. With an astonishing 5 entries getting through to the Regionals and one entry getting through to the finals, it was a unique experience I will cherish forever. While working on such a big project with my friend Leah Rainey, we had our share of ups and downs, which we managed to work through and hence improve our work even more.

Despite not making it through to the All Ireland Finals, in the end however, it was all worth it. Right from the beginning it was an amazing experience, and then once we finished the dress, a wave of accomplishment came over us. At that point it didn't matter if we got through to the Regionals or not, it was the fact that we had done it, we had set out on a journey and had made a dress that we were both proud of.

It was quite a funny story on how we found out that we had reached the Regional Finals; Leah and I were hanging out on the day the results were to be announced, and we had just decided to go to Sainsbury's. We were refreshing the page literally every five minutes when suddenly the page began showing the names of the entries that had got through. We scrolled down through the names and there it was, we were through! The moment it happened we both immediately called everyone we could think of, and then we got food and celebrated!



Finally, the day of the show had arrived, something we both had been preparing for every day, rehearsing, making adjustments to the dress and just having fun. I was quite nervous, thinking I'd mess up my performance on stage, but once we got there it all went smoothly thanks to Mrs Creighton's guidance. We were put into changing rooms, ranging from 10-20 people in each one and that day I talked to more people than I had ever talked to in my life. Each person was really nice and it felt like a real community spirit was taking place in that room; if something on anyone's dress broke, almost everyone would come over and offer to help fix it.

Overall, it is something I will never forget, the memories I made, the people I met and I would definitely recommend everyone to try it at least once so they can have their own JK adventure.

London Trip

On the 12th to 15th March 2019, thirty-nine Year 10, 11 and 12 students along with six members of staff departed on a four-day cultural visit to London. The group left school at 3am on the Tuesday morning to Belfast International Airport for an early flight to Gatwick. It was a wet week but the spirits of both staff and pupils were not dampened throughout their four days in London.

An action packed week was enjoyed by everyone. The highlights of the trip included a cruise on the River Thames, visits to the historical landmarks such as Buckingham Palace, and 10 Downing Street. A guided tour of the Houses of Parliament. Other activities included visits to Madame Tussauds, Covent Garden and the London Eye. Everyone enjoyed an Open Top Bus tour of the sites of London, while not forgetting a spot of shopping on Oxford Street.



We also spent a night at the theatre watching the amazing musical Matilda. Overall the trip was a huge success, and the students certainly will have many lasting memories. A special thanks must go to the staff of Ms Monaghan, Mrs Stevenson, Mrs Berry, Mr Hutchinson and Mr Morrison for giving up their time to make trip such a success. Roll on Paris!!!

Written by Miss McKee



On Friday 14th June the GCSE Art Exhibition was open to parents and friends of our GCSE students. It was great to see all the creativity of our students. Well done to Paul Chadwick, Rachel Boyd, Tia Morrison, Ugne Daugelaite and Rachel Irwin who were all exhibiting and thanks to all the staff who supported the event.



This year at the Balmoral Show Year 10 pupil Annabelle Hendren with Palmsfeild Royal Trooper won her Show Pony Class and received the award of Best Rider at the Championship.

Well done Annabelle.



Coding for August Competition

During the month of June, Key Stage 3 pupils have been coding their LEGO robots in preparation for the World International Robotics Competition at Ulster University on the 1st August. Interested pupils have been given a form with details of the competition and if your child has lost theirs, please contact the school to receive another form. Forms should be returned before the end of school on Friday 28th June.



Southern Regional College Awards

Today our Year 12 students enjoyed a lot of success at the SRC awards ceremony at the City Hotel. The class of 2019 have worked hard all year and today was a celebration of their achievements. Congratulations to Samuel, Hollie, Taylor, Kylie, Stuart, Patrick, Stephen and Dylan who picked up prizes for Wall Tiling, Hairdressing, Beauty, Catering, Joinery, Graphics, Motor Vehicles and Hospitality.





Dates for the Diary

Thursday 1st August -	LEGO Coding Competition - Ulster Uni.
Thursday 22nd August -	GCSE Results
Friday 30th August -	Year 8's and Prefects (Year 8 LSC/ASC)
Monday 2nd September -	Year 9 and 11. (Year 9 and 11 LSC/ASC)
Tuesday 3rd September -	Year 8, 10 and 12 (Year 8, 10 and 12 LSC/ASC)
Wednesday 4th September -	All pupils attend school
Wednesday 18th September -	Colour Run
Monday 30th September -	Pupil Holiday
Tuesday 1st October -	Year 12 Parents Meeting
Wednesday 9th October -	School Formal
Wednesday 16th October -	Year 11 Parents Meeting
28th October - 1st November -	Half Term Holiday
Monday 11th November -	Year 9 Parents Meeting
Thursday 21st November -	Prize Night
Friday 22nd November -	Pupil Holiday

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL SCHOOL HOLIDAYS/EVENTS ARE ON OUR WEBSITE