

Brownlow Integrated College

Newsletter

Issue 25

April/May/June 2015



Prefects' Residential in Tollymore June 11th 2015

The new prefects for 2015-16 have been selected and have taken their posts for next year. Well done to those who were appointed. The names of the new prefects are listed below:

Kaithy Dundon
Brenna Goff
Aimee McConville (Dep HG)
Shannon Jefferson
Robyn McKeever (HG)
Lara White
Lisa-Marie Higgins
Carla Magee
Lydia Bell
Emily Bibb
Aoife Toman
Mariana Nobre
Dean Murphy (Dep HB)
Thomas Frampton (HB)
Bailey Fenner
Callum McAlorum
Adam Forsey
Jordan McConville
Eddie Tavares
Ronan Welling
Darragh Grey
James Moore
Luke Spence
Luke McFeeters
Justas Raulynaitas

On the 11th of June the new prefects took a two day trip to Tollymore Centre for an opportunity to build our confidence and work on becoming more of a team. To achieve this we took part in two outdoor activities: bouldering and a high ropes course. Both activities were a lot of fun and a great way to developing teamwork, for example in bouldering it was even as simple as helping someone over a rock or reassuring someone who was

feeling nervous about something, which I definitely was. Bouldering was also a great opportunity to try things you wouldn't usually think of doing such as jumping off a high ledge into the water or climbing through small spaces whilst being splashed by water!

The high ropes course was also an opportunity to gain trust in your teammates, as they were the ones keeping you from falling by holding the ropes for you. We also encouraged each other to try everything and helped each other along if we were afraid.

I think that we all did a good job helping each other and became a good team overall. I talked to and got to know others that I hadn't known quite so well. It was definitely an amazing experience and a lot of fun. By Lisa Higgins

More pictures of the prefects residential on page 10.



Ramadan 2015

This year the Muslim tradition of Ramadan begins on 17th June, so some members of our school community are currently fasting (not eating) for Ramadan.

Ramadan happens once a year, on the 9th month of the Islamic calendar. Most Muslim people take part from the age of twelve.

Throughout the holy month of Ramadan, Muslims will fast from dawn until dusk for thirty days. Some Muslims fast longer (yes longer!) hours than others- it depends on where they live. For example in Sweden people fast for 20 hours but in Australia people only fast for 9 hours- it really depends on the sun.

Ramadan does not happen on the same date each year as it follows the Islamic calendar.

Ramadan is from the Arabic **ramida** or **arramad**, which means scorching heat or dryness.

There are several reasons for fasting: to control how we eat, to know how the poor feel without food and also to make us aware of how much we waste. The food that we throw away could be eaten by those in need. No one knows if they'll ever end up hungry or in need.

At Ramadan we remember that we are all human beings and should look after each other.

By Lorna Burns



The End of the Building Work!

Over the past year our school has been renovated and we have some lovely new rooms. We have fourteen new rooms altogether. Mrs Norton got eight... two teaching rooms, four practice rooms and two stores. Mrs Darrah's, Mrs Murray's, Mr Downard's and Miss Toner's rooms got redecorated and we have a great new library. We also have a new medical room. As the rooms were being prepared there was a lot of disruption around the school. At the start we had to go to dinner the long way and we had to line up outside to wait for dinner even when it was raining, which was not very pleasant! We are all glad that the builders are gone!



Above is our beautiful new library, which we are all looking forward to using next year.

What's been happening lately with year 9?

On the 1st of June we started our summer exams. I was very nervous about them. The first day was stressful. We were in the same room all day. The first exam was English. It was quite easy because I revised a lot for it. The two weeks before the exams were filled with revision- it was very hard and stressful. The exams weren't difficult, but I was happy when they were all done. Overall I did really well!



In the past week I won a trophy in a competition at the Hub. I was awarded a big trophy as I was placed 1st. I have attended singing classes for the past five months and it has all paid off. My mum and I were very proud of my achievement. I had a great day with Fiona Thompson, my singing teacher. She has really helped me a lot.



On Wednesday there is an event happening called "junior school game of three halves" where we will play gaelic, rugby and football. It is being held in Brownlow leisure centre. It's kind of an honour to be picked for this event. I've played football for years and I love it. I played Gaelic last year and played rugby in primary school. I can't wait!



Mr Wright gets a bit wet at the end of year Icthus barbeque!

A year at Icthus would not be complete without a celebratory BBQ. On Wednesday the 17th of June, the Icthus pupils and staff members held their annual barbeque where they took part in various activities organised by Mr. Wright, ate burgers and hot-dogs prepared by our world famous chefs Miss Craig and Mr. Creber and finally had a water fight to officially initiate some new members into the Icthus family. Mr Wright thoroughly enjoyed the water fight in which staff were outnumbered and lost to the pupils.

The afternoon was great fun and we hope that the next year at Icthus will be as amazing and successful as this one. Thank you to all the participating pupils and especially to the members of staff who made not only the barbeque but the whole year's activities possible.



Year 11 Shannaghore Residential 20th– Mr Brankin spotted in the kitchen!

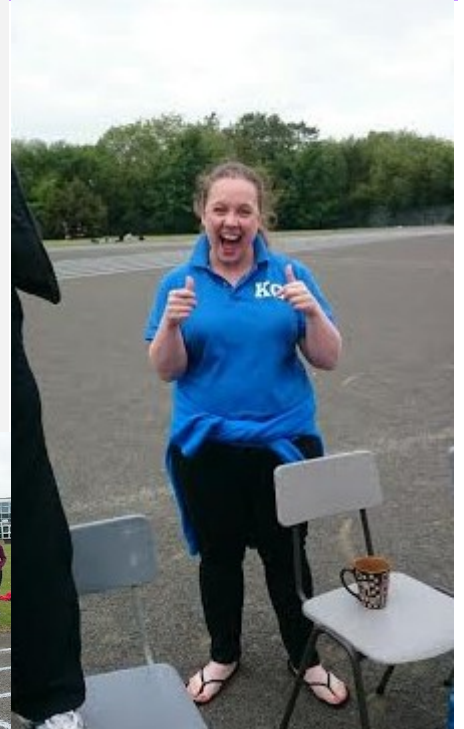


Year 11 went with their form teachers to Shannaghmore for some end of year rewards "craic". They were entertained by several past pupils who performed in the centre in the evening. There are rumours of Mr Brankin in the kitchen, spotted with a cooking implement. As yet it is not known whether he actually cooked anything. Pictured here are pupils toasting marshmallows by moonlight and lighting sky lanterns.

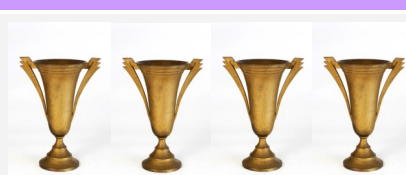


Antrim and Sperrin share the House cup for 2015

After an eventful sporting year and an exciting sports day, the winners of the house cup this year are both Antrim and Sperrin! Both houses drew in points so that they lifted the cup together. Well done to all involved! The day started out cloudy but became sunny and warm as time passed so that most people ended up sunburnt! See page 7 for more accounts of the day.



Sports Day top athletes receive their trophies



Pictured below are the top BIC sports day 2015 athletes. The day was a great success and was enjoyed by pupils and staff alike. Thank you to PE staff for organising the day.

There were many medals distributed for individual events but here we have best year 8 girl, Thalia De Araujo (Sperrin) and best boy, Damian Johnston (Antrim), both 8E. Year 9 best overall athletes were Melanie Lucas 9M (Sperrin) and Taylor Simoes 9E (Sperrin). In year 10 Lauren Finnegan 10L (Antrim) and Dawid Ziemba 10M (Antrim) won best overall trophies. Best senior athletes were Shannon Jefferson 11E (Sperrin) and Adam Duddy 11M (Antrim). There are further trophies for the athletes who were best of the best: Best girl overall was Shannon Jefferson and best boy was a tie between Dawid Ziemba and Taylor Simoes. In other photos, top left Sperrin collect the sports day 2015 shield, and Antrim and Sperrin house masters and mistresses with house captains pose with the swimming gala shield, sports day shield and House





This activity was hosted by Ballyknock Riding School in Moira and lessons taught by Jennifer Howe. Jennifer is ill in hospital and we wish her a speedy recovery. Pupils attended lessons for several hours over three days during school holidays and were helped by Mr O'Braonain and Mrs Norton. Thank you to both members of staff for giving up their time to allow pupils to experience this exciting activity. Horse-riding was open to any interested pupil, so listen out next year if you think you might enjoy it! Pictured left are John Hogan and Rachel King and above are the group of staff and pupils who attended.

Parent Teacher Association

A Parent – Teacher Association is an excellent way of bringing parents, teachers and the local Community together to raise funds and support the school.

PTA Activities include:

Fund-raising to help Schools provide additional resources and extras for pupils.

Organising social events for parents and children.

Organising meetings to inform parents about educational issues.



Brownlow Integrated College has not had an active PTA for a number of years **BUT** we are very keen to start a new PTA in the new academic year. All parents, teachers and school staff can get involved in a PTA even if they only have a small amount of time available. It is a great way for parents to become more involved in school life.

If you are interested in helping to support us in this new venture in starting a PTA please do get in touch with us in September – we would be delighted to hear from you!

Attention all parents/ grandparents/ big sisters and brothers!

How was your Sports Day 2015?

On sports day the 16th of June 2015 I was in the finals in 100m and 200m and I came 3rd in all of my races.

Sports day was on the 15 June and the weather was sunny for parts of the day and was a wee bit cold for some other parts of the day.

I was in all events and did quite well. My house (Antrim) won the relay race. I enjoyed the day because I love sports and also because I got out of work!

Sports day was on the 16th June 2015. It was a warm day. I took part in the shot putt I think I did well. My house (Sperrin) did well and I enjoyed watching people race. Over all it was a brilliant day.

The weather was really nice. I am in Antrim. I didn't do so well but my house did (Antrim)! I enjoyed it because my friends were there and we had good fun.

Jamie Foster

The weather was sunny for parts of the day and a little cold for some other bits. I was in all events and I came 1st in three and 2nd in one. My house won the boys relay. I enjoyed the day because I love sports and I also enjoyed it because I didn't have to do any work!

I was in all five events. I didn't win any but I did well for my house which is Mourne. I enjoyed waiting for my events because I was out in the sun with my friends.

Sports day started on Tuesday 16th of June 2015. The weather was not the greatest but thankfully it did not rain. The events I was in were the 100, 200 and the 800 metres. I was also in shot put and discus. I think I did okay but I was not the best in them. The house I am in is Sperrin. We are the champions at the minute but there might be a new champion this year. I enjoyed sports day very much because it's a day to look forward to and have fun.

Sports day was on the 16th June 2015. The weather was warm. I was in the 800m and also the 100m and I also took part on the long jump and also shot putt. I came 11th in the 800m and I got 3.67 in shot putt and 1.22 in the long jump. I am in Sperrin. I enjoyed sports day, the only part I didn't enjoy was getting sand in my eye!

Ben Hawthorne

I am in Sperrin and my house did well. I enjoyed the day because I liked watching people running in the races. Some of them were very fast!

Sports day was on 16 June and the weather was good. It was warm and cloudy. I entered all events and I won all events I was in. I am in Sperrin house and I enjoyed the day. It was a good day.

Taylor Simoes

On Tuesday 16th June Brownlow held an event called sports day, where Antrim, Sperrin and Mourne compete in different events (shot putt, discus, 100m, 200m, 800m, long jump, javelin and high jump). My house is Antrim. I got into 2 finals which were 100m and 200m. I came 2nd in both them and I came 2nd in discus and came 6th in 800m. Hopefully Antrim win and hopefully I have helped them to win!

Jay Patterson

Sports Day was held on the 16th June and the weather was warm. The events I was in were 100m, 800m, shot putt, long jump, 100m finals and relay, which made me very tired. I did really well in my events! I got into the 100m finals and into the relay for Sperrin and I was surprised that I was in the finals for year 8. I went up against some of the fastest boys in year 8. Everyone was cheering me on which gave me more motivation, including my brother, which made me go even faster! Sperrin did very well and I enjoyed it!

Nathan Toland

The hardest events were the running events. Especially the 800m!





French Trip 2016 Reminder

In June next year there will be 46 pupils and 6 staff heading to Paris and Normandy on the school French trip (26th—30th June 2016). Below is a reminder of payment dates for the trip, although if you wish you can pay smaller amounts at more regular intervals. There will be more information about the trip next year and there will be a parents afternoon closer to the departure date.

Total cost £550		Balance after payment
Initial deposit 15 April 2015	£120	£430
2 nd deposit 10 June	£120	£310
Fri 11 th September	£50	£260
Fri 9 th October	£50	£210
Fri 6 th November	£50	£160
Fri 11 th December	£50	£110
Fri 12 th Feb	£50	£60
Fri 11 th March	£60	0

Information for 2015-16

GCSE Results

GCSE results will be available on Thursday 20th August 2015. Please note that exam results **will not be given out before 9.30 am** and results **will not** be given over the telephone.



School Meals 2015/16

The cost of school meals will be **£2.60** for the new academic year. I would encourage all pupils to make use of the excellent canteen facilities we have at the college.



School Fund

A contribution of £20 per pupil or £25 per family is requested for School Fund which is collected during the first week of September.

It is important that all families contribute to the fund so that we can continue to provide events and activities which are not funded by the Department of Education's school budget.

Uniform

Well done and thank you to parents and pupils on the huge improvement in school uniform this term. School uniform is looking great at the minute!

Over the summer most of you will be shopping for new uniforms and we'd ask you to bear one or two points in mind:

In September the weather turns chilly, so please remember to buy a school jumper to keep warm as hoodies are NOT allowed to be worn to, from or in school.

If you're not a fan of the school jumper you can buy white tee-shirts for underneath the school shirt/blouse. Long sleeved and even thermal tee-shirts can be purchased in many shops, including Asda, Tesco, Sainsbury's, M&S etc.

A dark coat can also be worn over the school uniform and left in form class during the day, ready for home time. Dark jackets should not be worn under the blazer.

If your child is keen to have a piercing, please ensure that this is done at the beginning of the summer, to allow wounds to heal before the term begins. Only one set of plain studs should be worn in the ear lobe on return to school in September.

There are a small number of hoodies in the school office, which have not yet been collected. Any not collected by September 1st will be given to charity.

Mentoring 2015

Mentoring Programme Update June 2015

Aims of the mentoring programme:

1. Pupils are supported to reach their full academic potential. Home-school links are developed and strengthened. Parents are regularly informed of their child's progress and become more fully involved in their child's education. The raising of academic standards and achievements.

Thank you for another very successful year's mentoring! Parents and pupils supported both KS3 and KS4 mentoring days in force and the feedback received through parental questionnaires was nothing short of fantastic!

Attendance Figures on Mentoring Days:

**KS3: Dec Total - 80% Pupils, 81% Parents : May Total – 85% Pupils, 84% Parents
: 92.8% Parents engaged in at least one KS3 Mentoring Day this year – fantastic!**

One of the aims of KS3 mentoring is to establish good habits early, so that by the time these pupils reach GCSE they are well into the swing of tracking assessments, self-evaluation and target setting for improvement with parental support.

Feedback from parental questionnaires showed overwhelming support for the KS3 programme and if we can sustain and develop this parental support through to GCSE years it can only be of huge benefit to our pupils!

**KS4: Apr Total – 63% Pupils, 62% Parents, Feb Total - 71% Pupils, 68% Parents
Oct Total - 72% Pupils, 71% Parents**

: 86% Parents attended at least one KS4 Mentoring Day this year – again excellent!

We are starting to note a strong correlation between the number of mentoring days attended by year 12 pupils and parents and the number of A*-C grades the pupils achieved. The more mentoring sessions attended the greater the number of GCSE grades achieved at A*-C! We are very keen to monitor this over the next few years!

Parents Comments from Evaluation Forms:

- Excellent idea – well done by all involved.
- The mentor explaining every subject in detail.
- I like the personal attention given to my son and it keeps me well informed on his progress.
- Fantastic encouragement given.
- Thrashing out problems.
- It has helped me guide him better.
- It has helped (pupil's) confidence.
- Found it extremely beneficial in helping gauge progress and cover any concerns.
- As parents we could see how work has improved.
- Very informative in an informal manner.

Thank you for your continuing support of the mentoring programme – by working together we can make a real difference. We very much look forward to working with you again next school year!

Mrs J Thompson – Pupil Inclusion in Education Co-ordinator

Prefects' Residential Gallery



Even more photos!



The new prefects for 2015/16



Mrs Walker wins the pensioners' long jump on sports day.

Good bye to some old and new friends!

This June we are saying a fond farewell to Mrs Anne Morrow from the school office who is leaving BIC. Many of you will know her as the lady with the glasses behind the window! Mrs Morrow has been with us for 13 years and we are sad to see her go and would like to thank her for all her hard work keeping the staff and pupils of BIC in order over the years. Best of luck in your new job Mrs Morrow! We'll all miss you very much!

Goodbye and many thanks also go to Miss Toner from Maths, Mr Stewart, who worked in Technology while Mr Mulholland was off sick, Miss Hall, who replaced Mrs Quinn who was on maternity leave and Mrs Kerr who came in to cover Mr McCormick, who was ill.

The staff, pupils and parents of Brownlow Integrated College wish you all well in the future .

What a talented bunch we are!

Some of our talented students have achieved great things in the last few months.

SRC Full Attendance award y11

Nicole Hobbs, Melissa Lucas, Robyn Lyness, Danielle Lamb, Dylan Nugent, Joel Black, Marianna Nobre, Carla Magee and Ruben Prosodio all achieved full attendance at SRC this year, with Adam Duddy and George Hobbs also achieving very good attendance.

Archery

Recently, I won a silver medal at my archery club in Banbridge. The category I won was the 14 year old boys competition. I was 5 points away from getting a gold medal. My club is called the Ballyvally Archers in Banbridge Leisure Centre. I have been doing archery for seven weeks. This was my first competition and I hope to take part in my second, which is called the hunting Trail open shoot, in July or August. This is an outdoor shoot.

Michael Toland 10L



Dancing

On the 7th of June 2015 I went to my first dancing competition. I dance for CB Dance Crew. My dance teacher helped me make up my routine. When I danced I came first ! I was really pleased!

Ju Jitsu

I have been doing Ju Jitsu for 9 years in Brownlow leisure centre. On the 9 of May of 2015 I went to the Dojo in Belfast to try and earn my Black Belt. I had to display all the moves. I also then had to do a written test on everything I have learnt from the very beginning. I passed so I was presented with my new black belt. This was a very proud moment in my life because all my hard work had paid off.

Ethan Rice 10M

Principal's Letter June 2015



Dear Parent

This has been a busy year for Brownlow and one in which we were able to celebrate excellent GCSE results. It also has been great to see our new music suite and library developments take place along with the upgrade of English and Modern Language teaching rooms.

At the end of March 2015 the Education and Library Boards were replaced by the Education Authority of which Brownlow is part of the Southern Region.

It also has been a difficult year in terms of the cuts to the education budget and trying to reduce the impact in the classroom.

In my letter to parents last year at this time, I mentioned what 'Integration' meant in Brownlow. Integration is about bringing together under one roof, people of different faiths, cultures, nationalities and backgrounds. It is about learning about each other while feeling safe to be yourself. It involves discussing and experiencing differences in a controlled educational environment. Integration is about not always agreeing with someone but acknowledging their right to have a different opinion.

As we see our politicians pushing a model of 'Shared Education' forward it is now even more important that all members of the Brownlow Integrated College community promote our college to our friends, neighbourhood and wider community.

In order to help to do this we hope to establish a strong and active Parent/Teachers' Association and I would encourage as many parents as possible to get involved. Please see information in this newssheet on how to get involved.

In conclusion, on behalf of the staff and governors I would like to thank you for your support for the college throughout the year and wish you all a pleasant and safe summer holiday.

S J Creber
Principal