



### Awards Ceremony 2014 by Maja Ochojska

On Friday the 21st of November the Awards Ceremony for the academic year 2013-2014 took place. This is the most prestigious ceremony in the school calendar, when we recognize the hard work and effort of students who achieved academic or sporting success. On behalf of the whole school I would like to congratulate the winners, thank staff members for organizing the event and students who provided fantastic live music. The speeches delivered by the Head Boy Stephen Stewart and the Head Girl Catriona Palmer were inspirational and very heartfelt. The guest speaker was Mr. Brian Doran, the Chief Executive of SRC.

We got to catch up with some of the year 12s who left last June and celebrated their GCSE achievements, beating the Northern Ireland average

for 5 A\*-C grades including English and Maths. This has been another remarkable year for BIC, full of successes, achievements and joy. We look forward to continued success next year!

Pictured below are some of the prize-winners, including, bottom left, winner of best GCSE results 2014 Iris Wong. Iris achieved 4A\*s, 4As and 1 C in her GCSEs. Also included are some of last year's year 12 subject trophy winners and current pupils who won sports awards in 2014, together with pupils who won form awards and effort and progress awards.





## BIC represented in local community events



Head Girl Catriona Palmer and Head Boy Stephen Stewart represented BIC pupils and staff on two important local occasions recently. According to recent tradition, Brownlow was represented in the wreath laying ceremony at the Cenotaph in Lurgan, along with other local schools. Catriona and Stephen had a very different experience the very next week when they attended the inaugural mass for Father Byrne at St Anthony's Parish. As an Integrated school we embrace and celebrate all cultural events and see this as central to our ethos. A big thanks to Stephen and Catriona for giving their time on our behalf.

## Maths, Maths everywhere

Mr Weir's November maths challenge:

In my row in the theatre the seats are numbered consecutively from T1 to T50. I am sitting in seat T16 and you are sitting in seat T39. How many seats are there between us?

Answers:

A 23    B 22    C 21  
D 20    E 19



## Staff, pupils and parents give generously for CONCERN

This month we raised a massive £417.00 for Concern, our chosen charity for the year. The fundraising events included a bun sale, bucket collection, giving up something important and a raffle for a jar of sweets. A massive thanks to all pupils, staff and parents who donated generously. A special mention must go to the girls of 9L who give up their free time to help organise events and collect funds. In the picture are Sarah Matzen from the charity Concern and 9L girls.



Attached is a photo from the Extended Schools Collaboration with Lismore at the Watersports Centre. Pupils in the picture are Keelan Mullally, Jude Cochrane, Kyle Rock, Jamie McCaugherty, Jake Lavery and Melanie Lucas

## BROWNLOW

## BREAKFAST CLUB



EVERYONE WELCOME!

Every morning from 8.15am  
in Miss Gilmore's HE room.

**20p per day**

## BIC staff in China

Two of BIC's staff members recently travelled to China on a fund-raising expedition for Action Cancer, which involved them taking part in a challenging experience which they will never forget! Mrs Devine has written an account of their journey which makes fascinating reading.

It all began in October 2013. Helen and I decided to register for a "challenge" and raise money for Action Cancer in Northern Ireland at the same time. Our challenge was to trek the Great Wall of China and to raise over £5000!

We had a year to raise the funds and get fit. From collecting at football matches, cooking lunches for the teachers, door to door collections, raffelling school Christmas dinners, coffee mornings and donations from generous people, the money started to mount up.

All of a sudden it was 10th October 2014 and we were off to trek the great wall of China, which is over 2000 years old and measures 6400kms in length.

We met up with the rest of the group in Heathrow airport, as people from England were coming too. There were 14 of us in total- all different ages and walks of life but everyone had raised money for a different charity.

After travelling for a day and a half we arrived in Beijing airport and then transferred to our hotel in the Changping district in time for dinner and bed.

We were up very early the next morning to begin our trek!

The first day was a bit challenging as the wall was steep in many places and unrestored and we were walking along uneven terrain and down slopes where it was difficult to get a foothold. Mind you, the scenery was wonderful with views of the mountains fading into the distance. Our Chinese guide told us the first day was probably the hardest, but the next day as we were climbing the "heavenly Steps" (1000 in total) we were not convinced the toughest day was over! On Tuesday we walked through Black Dragon Pool Park- a walk in the park compared to the previous two days. The scenery was different as it is a nature reserve set in a deep valley with cliffs rising on either side of clear pools. By the end

of that evening we had walked over 27kms and spent over 19 hours trekking.

The best was yet to come however, as the next day we spent 8 hours trekking along the Gubeikou Great Wall. This section of the wall is known as the "Wild Wall" as parts were extremely steep and crumbling. At various stages the path was literally like a wide goat track but we were surrounded by magnificent views. Beautiful autumnal colours, mountains as far as the eye can see and the wall stretching on forever ahead of you and behind you. A truly breath-taking sight!

By the end of the trek we had walked over 45kms, met some wonderful people, eaten some weird concoctions and come away with great stories and lots of memories. We also had a glimpse of life in China and its people.

To quote Ralph Emerson "life is a journey, not a destination" and ours was an epic journey!





## Meet our two newest members of staff

Our Roving reporter Maja Ochojska has interviewed our two newest members of staff to help us get to know them better. Here's what she discovered from her interviews:

Mr Wright lived in Luton for most of his life until he came to QUB when he was eighteen. He has lived in Belfast ever since. He went to school in Queensbury School, Luton, which was the closest school to home. He says "It took me less than 5 minutes to walk to school, but I still ended up being late quite a few times, which wasn't very smart!"



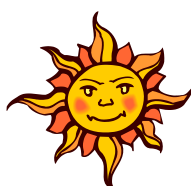
Mr Wright taught English in North Belfast for two years, in Boys' Model School. He also spent a year working for British Red Cross in Belfast, managing the organisation's work with young people in Northern Ireland and the Isle of Man. Mr Wright says "I love sports, although I'm far better at watching than playing. I'm particularly keen on football and rugby and support Luton Town and Ulster (as well as being a closet Manchester United and Glentoran fan)"

I have a real passion for music and play a few musical instruments. I like all the staff and pupils at Brownlow, as everyone has made me feel very welcome in my short time here. I dislike the fact that because of the new building work I have to walk further than anyone else to the canteen and the staff room! I love the French



songs I hear from next door, especially when sung by Mrs Darrah! (What good taste Mr Wright has!)

Mr Wright also worked for two summers in California and recommends working outside in the sunshine, which makes a nice change from the weather back here!



Mr Stewart is from Clones, County Monaghan in The Republic of Ireland. He went to Monaghan Collegiate School and then to Stranmillis University College, Belfast. As well as working as an English language assistant in Austria, Mr Stewart has worked in Malone Integrated College in Belfast and at Ashfield Boys School. His favourite sports are football, rugby, table tennis and golf.



At the time of interview Mr Stewart was reserving his judgement on his likes and dislikes about BIC, although he did say that Mr Mulholland makes a nice cup of tea and Mr Murdock eats his lunch!



Some interesting facts about Mr Stewart are that he has an Ulster and All-Ireland medal in table tennis and that he is a huge Manchester United fan, especially Paul Scholes. Mr Stewart is from a farming background and loves dogs.



### More netball success for the junior girls

Our Brownlow Year 10 Netball team celebrated victory on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> of November after a 13-10 win over Drumcree. The Year 10 team were Danielle Hughes, Lauren Finnegan, Lara Gray, Angela Driscoll, Deion Robinson, Marlena Latka, Maja Ochojska, Skaidre Skiezauskaite. The Year 9 team (Katie, Shannan, Naomh, Beth, Sarah, Melanie, Morgan, Patrycja, Amy J, Amy Williamson, Chelsea Bell, Chloe, Mia, Chelsea Bradley) drew 13-13.

