



GLASTRY GAZETTE



November 2015

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*and much
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EDITORIAL

Welcome to the first newsletter of the new school year. In September we welcomed 111 Year Eight students to Glastry and we hope that they will enjoy every aspect of their education here. Following Mr Gilmore's departure, Mr Viner has been appointed Assistant Vice-Principal. Mrs Thompson and Mr Gray have been appointed Heads of Year Ten and Eleven respectively and Mr Breen Head of Sixth Form, with Mrs Gargan now Head of Business Studies. We also welcomed Miss McMillan and Miss McShane to the teaching staff.

The start of the school year is always an exciting time and there is so much to look forward to in the months ahead. There are clubs in school which cater for many interests, so why not try one out? Rehearsals are well under way for the school production of 'The Wizard of Oz' and with all the activities and trips planned, it's going to be another memorable year.

MR GILMORE



There was not a little sadness, and much pride in the school and local community, when it was announced in June that Mr Gilmore was leaving Glastry, having been appointed Vice Principal of Bangor Grammar School.

Mr Gilmore's first association with Glastry was in 1988, when he enrolled as a Year Eight student, and apart from four years at Stranmillis and a short period of temporary teaching in other schools, Mr Gilmore has been here ever since. Throughout these years Mr Gilmore immersed himself totally in the school and probably knew more about the workings of Glastry than anyone else.

In addition to his official school responsibilities, which encompassed Head of Sixth Year, Business Studies, Timetabling, Reporting and Collaboration, and latterly Assistant Vice-Principal, Stephen was widely known for the many ways in which he helped many students and staff, and for the numerous school trips which he organised. Nothing was ever too much trouble for Stephen, who always sought to help others and to do his best for everyone. Ski trips, visits to Paris, London and further afield became regular fixtures of the school year and Stephen even managed to organise a much-anticipated annual staff trip. Added to this were Scripture Union, sixth form formals and charity events, to name but a few.

With an eye for detail, artistic flair, imagination, superb organisational skills and a willingness to help, Stephen will be very much missed from our community, but will, no doubt, contribute significantly to the work of Bangor Grammar. The college community would like to wish Stephen every success in his new school and future career.

INTERVIEW WITH ASSISTANT VICE-PRINCIPAL, MR VINER



1 How long have you been teaching? Have you taught in any other schools?

I started teaching in 2002 and taught at Royal Wootton Bassett School in England for 4 years. I have been teaching at Glastry College since 2006.

2 Why did you choose Geography to teach?

Growing up I loved the outdoors and at school I found Geography helped me to make sense of the world around me. Understanding the big issues we see in the news everyday like climate change, migration or conflicts is really important and they're all geographical.

3 Why did you choose to teach here?

I'm not sure I chose Glastry, but rather Glastry chose me. Indeed, being a farmer's son I knew I was meant to be here when, on my first day, I was in Mobile 9 and a dairy cow tried to poke its head through the window to say hello!

4 What change would you like to see in the college?

The change I would like to see is for every pupil in the College to be fully committed to an extra-curricular activity. When I was at school I valued and benefited so much from being a part of sports teams and drama productions.

5 Would you like to be Principal one day?

With my chances of becoming an international cricketer now pretty slim, yes, I'd like to be a Principal one day, but I dream of being Prime Minister!

FESTIVAL OF RUGBY CELEBRATES THE LIFE OF CHRIS FERGUSON

Mr Viner

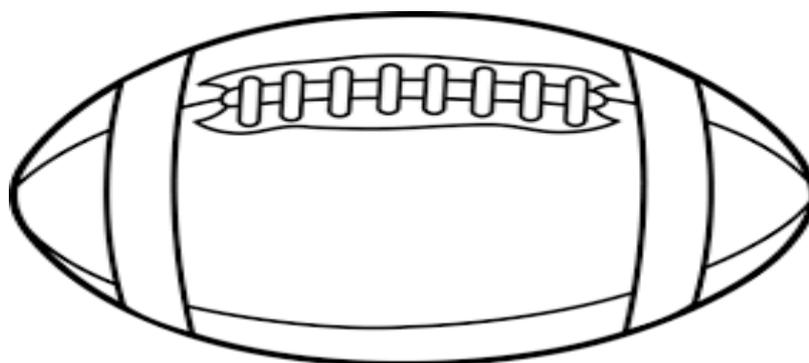


Ten years ago a rugby ball could have been mistaken for a dinosaur egg at Glastry College, until Mr Chris Ferguson started to teach in the college. Chris introduced rugby to the college, and over the years, the sport has gone from strength to strength. Tragically, Chris died almost one year ago, and, as a tribute to his memory, staff and students organised a Festival of Rugby on Saturday 10 October when over 60 current pupils, twenty former pupils, fifteen staff and hundreds of parents, former parents and spectators gathered at the *Clay Pits Arena* to participate in and enjoy the sport which Chris so loved so much. Indeed, it was Chris' love of rugby, enthusiasm for extra-curricular activities, and vision and desire to provide opportunities for pupils to learn and develop as individuals outside the classroom, that led to rugby becoming such an important part of college life.

The event kicked-off with our Year Eight pupils competing against each other in an 8-a-side game. Both teams displayed some superb running rugby with slick handling skills and excellent tackling – all elements of the game they have been developing in their PE lessons and rugby training after school on Wednesday afternoons.

Following this excellent start to the day, Year Ten played Year Nine, with the former winning by 15-10.

The highlight of the day was the match between staff and former students. Following a hotly contested match, the former students won by 12-6. For a full report of the match, please see the college website.



At the end of the game the players were delighted to be photographed with Peter Brown, Ulster Rugby's most recent signing. Indeed, the College would like to thank Peter for his support and for his willingness to be photographed with so many of the pupils and female staff! It was even overheard that he was quite impressed by the standard of rugby on display! That standard, amongst the ex-pupils in particular, and of course, rugby at Glastry, were only possible because of one man's vision. Indeed, as the game ended, all of the players walked from the pitch sharing laughter, stories, handshakes and man-hugs in what they hoped was a reflection of that vision, just as they had stood at the start of the game, shoulder to shoulder, in prayers of thankfulness for the life of Chris Ferguson which they were blessed to encounter.



Past Students



Current Students

ULSTER YOUTH TRAINING CHOIR

Erin Johnston Y 13

Earlier in the school year, the conductor of the Ulster Youth Choir took a workshop for the school choir in Glasry, and following auditions, Caitlin Warden, Luke Bristow and myself secured places on the Ulster Youth Training Choir Summer Course which took place from Sunday 2nd August – Sunday 8th August 2015 in Campbell College, Belfast. Throughout, the week there were early starts, a range of activities and intense singing rehearsals for seven hours every day! Although the majority of our time was taken up by singing, we also attended musicianship classes and were given recreational time to relax. We also took part in football rounders, a movie night, numerous team building exercises and a Talent Show where Luke played the flute.

Straight after breakfast every day we attended sectional rehearsals where we learnt our part of the song and every night we attended full rehearsals. In addition, we had two individual singing lessons with renowned opera singer, Owen Gilhooly, where he tailored the lessons around our experience and vocal range. On the final day of the course we held a concert in Good Shepherd Church in Belfast, which was absolutely incredible!

I feel that we gained a lot from the week - especially working with some of the best choir conductors in the world - and I feel it helped us learn about the fundamentals of singing and how to keep our voices healthy. I would highly recommend this experience to anybody who has an interest in singing especially in choirs and to a high standard – you will enjoy it!



ACCELERATED READING

Miss Dougan

Accelerated Reading is now back in full swing for all Year 8-10 pupils with the library open every lunch time. The race is on to see who will read the most words and who will make the most reading progress in each English class between now and Halloween, when fabulous prizes will be awarded.

Even better news is the fact that each English classroom now has a number of tablets for you to take a Book Quiz when you have finished your work, if you don't fancy going to homework club at lunch time! Some Year Eight pupils will even have a special reading mentor, selected from our Year 13 pupils, to help with their reading progress. Remember, each pupil must take at least one book quiz by half term. The challenge is set..... who will be the first Word Millionaire of this academic year?

CONTINUED ATHLETIC SUCCESS FOR YEAR ELEVEN STUDENT

Jack Cairnduff, a Year 11 student, continues to excel in the world of gymnastics and tumbling. Jack, who started athletics at the age of six, and who is a member of Rathgael Athletics and Tumbling Club, continued his winning form throughout the last school year.

Jack represented Glasry in the British Schools Tumbling Finals and finished sixth. In the Gymnastic Ireland National Championship, Jack qualified for two final events and finished in third place. In the National Trampoline Finals, Jack was selected to represent Northern Ireland at Level Six, and qualified for the British Championship where he secured sixth place.

Jack is clearly a gifted and talented athlete and the college wishes him every success in the future.

YEAR EIGHT BOYS SOCCER – FIRST FIXTURE

Mr Ferguson

A few weeks ago we had our first fixture of the year and had a nervous win against St Colmans 3-2. The team started very well and were 3-0 up, and cruising towards victory. However complacency set in, and before we knew, St Colmans had scored twice making it 3-2. By the end of the game Glastry were defending frantically, but managed to hold on. Glastry need to learn from this score and move their game forward as they have the potential to do very well. Goalscorers were Ross Davidson(2) and Darcy Lant (1). Well done, boys!

Squad

C Strain GK, M McAllister GK, J Elliott, S Price, Jed Thompson, R Thompson, B Hawthorne(captain), D Moore, D Lant, J Hughes, D Graham, A McCormick, Jack Thompson, R Davidson, N Schuzler L Carlile.



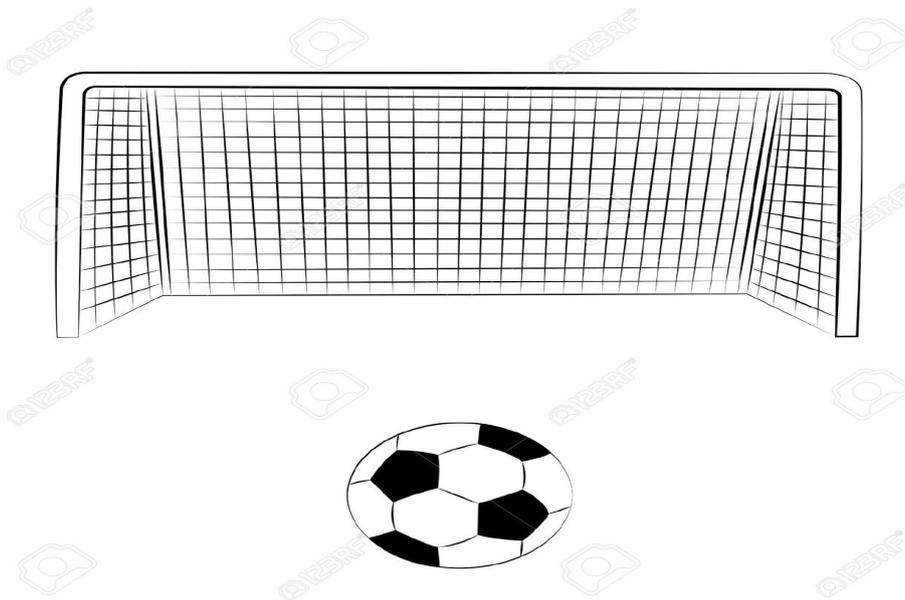
YEAR TEN BOYS SOCCER – FIRST FIXTURE

In the first fixture of the year Glastry gained an outstanding result against St Colman's winning 5-0. This team have enormous potential and delivered in every part of the pitch. Early in the match Curtis Chambers pulled off a great save, which might have had a bearing on the overall result if it had have gone in.

Matthew Moore was in tremendous form and, as captain of the team, led by example and inspired the boys to a terrific performance chipping in two goals, one of which was a spectacular header after good play from Robbie Adair down the right wing. It is hard to pick out a man of the match as there were a lot of contenders. Kobe Watson and Ben McBride were solid at the back and delivered the ball swiftly to the midfield, which gave them the opportunity to set up the attack. Casey Courtney and Matthew Burke had solid performances in midfield, which in turn gave the front two of Matthew Dalley and Rhys Dunleavy a chance to shine, both scoring goals in each half. Robbie Adair managed to score one as well. Overall a great start to the campaign! Well done boys!

Squad

Casey Courtney, Matthew Burke, Matthew Moore(captain), Matthew Dalley, Robbie Adair, Curtis Chambers(GK), Jay McKay, Ben McBride, Andrew Ashwood, Elliott McKee, Kobe Watson, Rhys Dunleavy.



INTERVIEW WITH HEAD GIRL BECKY PARKER

1 Why did you want to be Head Girl?

I wanted to be head girl as I am committed to promoting the caring ethos of the school by being myself and encouraging others to achieve their potential. I believe that being Head Girl will open many opportunities for me in the future.

2 How did you become Head Girl?

I applied to be a prefect by filling in a form and from that I got shortlisted to attend the interview for Head Girl and was interviewed by senior staff.

3 Is it difficult being Head Girl?

It can be difficult but it is rewarding and well worth it.. It can be very time consuming having to organise events such as prefect days out, prefect rotas, formals and a prize night speech etc. on top of my A-level work and other commitments; however, I do enjoy the role I play in the school and hope to be a role model for younger students.

4 Do you like the job?

I enjoy the challenge and the rewarding aspects to it, such as helping others. It has also allowed me to gain skills such as team working and organisation skills. These will help me when I leave school either to go on to further education or employment.

5 Are there any after school clubs you would recommend?

I would recommend Drama as I really enjoyed it. It gave me a chance to meet new friends, gain confidence and it helped me learn how to express myself.

6 What responsibilities do you have?

My role as Head Girl is ensuring all prefects are doing their job, it is also listening to the problems of students within the school that taking their suggestions to student council meetings so that they are then listened to.

7 What class were you in when you were in Year Eight? 8C

INTERVIEW WITH HEAD BOY LUKE BRISTOW

1 *Why did you want to be Head Boy?*

I wanted to become Head Boy because I felt I should give Glastry something back. Glastry helped me to become the person that I am today, and I needed to thank them. I felt that becoming Head Boy, I could do this as I have grown so much academically and as a person. It also shows future employers that I am dedicated and so it will help to get a job in the future.

2 *How did you become Head Boy?*

To become Head Boy, I had to fill out forms to become a prefect first. The Senior teachers then chose who completed the best application forms and then interviewed them.

3 *Is it difficult being Head Boy?*

Being Head Boy is good but it can sometimes be quite hard. Having to organise the prefects can be a daunting task, however, I enjoy doing it and that is what is important.

4 *Do you like the job?*

Yes! I really enjoy having the job as I get to meet a lot of new people as well as getting to talk to a lot of people.

5 *Are there any after school clubs you would recommend?*

The two school clubs that I go to are SU and Choir. I would also recommend rugby and archery. As well as this, I think the Art club is good as well.

6 *What responsibilities do you have?*

As well as having to organise the prefects, I have to organise the famous Glastry College Formal, write speeches and take part in the Student Council. I also have to check that everybody is behaving on the buses.

7 *What class were you in when you were in Year Eight?*

In Year 8 I was in 8R. It just shows you that you can do anything if you put your mind to it!

THE BELFAST TATTOO

Danielle Andrews Y12

Five months ago, I thought I would be brave and audition for the Belfast Tattoo. I had no real idea what it really involved, but I had been told that some of the best Irish dancers had the opportunity - if they were talented enough -to perform during this festival. So I thought - why not give it a go?

I sent in my audition video, not really expecting to hear a reply with over 200 other interested dancers having applied and with only 40 places available. I thought I didn't have a chance. However, within a few days a letter arrived with brilliant news—I had been selected! I squealed with delight! I was so loud I think that the whole of Ballyhalbert heard me! But then the nerves set in. Was I talented enough to dance in front of hundreds of people in the Odyssey Arena?

However, once the two hour training sessions started, which happened every Friday night, the nerves quickly disappeared. I was too tired to be nervous! Then in the blink of an eye, the time had arrived for our show stopping extravaganza. It really was like something out of the movies - lights, camera, action. The shows were amazing. We all looked fabulous due to wearing handmade costumes and having our makeup and hair done professionally - I actually felt like a professional dancer - well, a nervous professional dancer. All too soon the shows were over, the audience gone and the lights faded. However, I can still remember it all so vividly. It was such a memorable experience that I can't wait to apply again next year.



MEETING A CLASSICAL MUSIC SUPERSTAR

Hannah Thompson Y 12

Before getting off school for the summer holidays, Erin Johnston and I had thought about going to an event led by a very famous classical music conductor, called John Rutter. To see him we had to attend a 'Come and Sing' event in St Mark's church in Armagh, which is quite far away for two teenagers to travel to alone. After discussing costs and how to get there, we thought that it was no longer a possibility, and dismissed the idea.

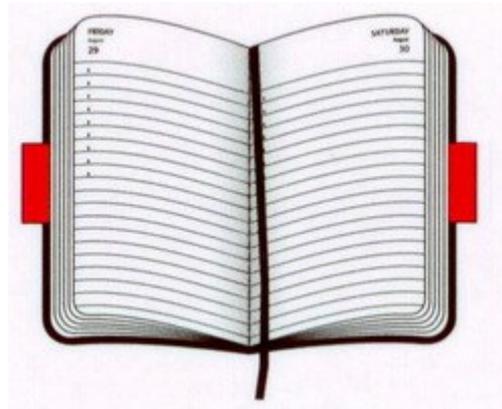
Not too long after this, we got news that Erin's mum had agreed to drive us there - the one and only Cathy Johnston! We couldn't believe our luck when we knew we were definitely going, but Dr Timpany just didn't believe it - full stop!

On the 27th of August, not long before the new term began, we travelled to Armagh. Everyone was split into different singing groups: alto, tenor, bass and soprano. During the evening we sang various pieces of music, in different languages too - all of which were conducted by Rutter himself.



At the end of the evening we got books of his music signed, and we also managed to get a selfie using Erin's selfie stick!

This was definitely a worthwhile experience for the both of us, as it showed our own choir practices are a lot more straightforward. I feel that our involvement in choir brought this opportunity as we probably would never have known who John Rutter was otherwise. We learned that although Rutter is a world famous conductor, he is very down to earth and it was a great opportunity to have met him.



DIARY DATES

12 November	PTFA Night at the Movies
17 November	Year Eight Parental Consultation
18 November	Killyleagh Trip (Duke of Edinburgh)
30 November	Exam Week
1 December	Sixth Form Parental Consultation
10 December	Carol Service
15-16 December	School Production 'The Wizard of Oz'
17 December	Non-uniform Day
18 December	End of Term
4 January 2016	School returns

Stationery Shop



Item	Price
Pencils	£0.10
Mechanical Pencils	£0.40
Pencil with Rubber end	£0.15
Erasers	£0.10
Sharpeners	£0.10
Canister Sharpeners	£0.15
Pens	£0.10
'4 Colour' Pens	£1.50
Gel Pens (Blue/Black/Red)	£0.15
Correction roller	£0.40
Highlighters	£0.15
Pack of 4 Highlighters	£0.50
Pack of Colouring Pencils	£1.00
Rulers	£0.20
Protractors	£0.20
Compasses	£0.60
Maths Set	£2.00
A4 jotters	£0.40
A5 jotters	£0.30
A4 refill pads (80 leaf)	£0.65
Calculators (basic)	£1.00
Calculators (scientific)	£6 / £3
Plastic Folders	£0.50
Zip folders (red/blue)	£0.60
Project folders	£0.15
Cardboard Folders	£0.10
<i>and much more.....</i>	

*Every
Tuesday,
Wednesday
and
Thursday
lunchtime*

*Hatch
opposite
HE1*