A long established tradition of achievement, success, quality teaching and learning
FOREWORD

The Board of Governors’ Report for 2009/2010 highlights, in considerable detail, the school’s continuing achievement in every aspect of its life and work.

St Mary’s was described in ‘The Sunday Times’ (Autumn 2009) as ‘impressive’, ‘remarkable’, and offering a ‘culture of excellence and achievement’ and, as I reflect on these accolades, it is fitting to place them firmly in the context of our school motto: Gloria Deo Soli. These simple, powerful words confirm for us our motivation and purpose in all that we do in St Mary’s.

The St Mary’s community is defined by ‘exemplary’ pupils (ETi, February 2008) and ‘supportive’ and ‘encouraging’ parents/guardians. They, in turn, would wish me to pay tribute to the staff of St Mary’s who are unrivalled in their dedication and loyalty to the school.

Should you wish to discuss any issue arising from the contents of this report, please do not hesitate to contact me at the school (8.30 am- 5.00 pm) on or before 9 December 2010.

__________________
D A Lambon
Principal and Correspondent to the Board of Governors
December 2010
CHAIRMAN’S INTRODUCTION

I am very pleased indeed to introduce the Board of Governors’ Annual Report for 2009/2010.

It is, as always, a source of great pride and admiration for Governors to record the many achievements and successes of the school. The indefatigable efforts of students and staff and the generous support and encouragement of parents/guardians ensure an environment where success is achieved and valued. In the local and wider community, St Mary’s rightfully takes its place as a leader.

The report’s centrefold gives pride of place to the impressive and diverse range of awards which have affirmed the school’s work this year. From the National Training Award to the Green Flag Award and the prestigious EFQM recognition, St Mary’s proves again and again that it is a market leader not only in its academic and extra-curricular work but also in its organisational structure and systems.

I am particularly pleased to draw your attention to the Investor in People Gold Award, received in August 2010. St Mary’s first became an Investor in People organisation in 1999 and its Gold status some eleven years later, places it among the top 4% of organisations in the United Kingdom.

St Mary’s has long recognised the value, indeed necessity, of recruiting, retaining and developing the highest quality staff. The Investor in People Gold Award recognises their work, talent and selflessness:

‘The culture of the school ensures that everyone is given the opportunity to learn and emphasis is placed on individuals taking responsibility for their own development, on a professional level through an extensive range of opportunities available and on a personal level through the wide ranging number of extra-curricular activities on offer.’

Investor in People Assessment Report – June 2010

You will also note with interest the strides which have been made in forging international links in Africa as part of the ‘Connecting Classrooms Project.’ These significant developments will give a global context to the school’s work and create exciting opportunities for teaching, learning and future employment.

I commend this report to you and, on behalf of the Board of Governors, I wish to thank staff, pupils and their parents/guardians for their continued hard work and interest in the school.

Paddy Bradley
Chairman, Board of Governors
December 2010
## CONTACT DETAILS

| Name and Address                  | St Mary’s Grammar School  
|                                  | 3 Castledawson Road  
|                                  | Magherafelt  
|                                  | Co Derry  
|                                  | BT45 6AX  |
| Telephone:                       | 028 7963 2320  |
| Fax No:                          | 028 7963 4250  |
| E-Mail:                          | info@stmarys.magherafelt.ni.sch.uk  |
| Office Hours:                    | 8.30am – 5.00pm  |
| Principal:                       | Mr D A Lambon  |
| Chairman, Board of Governors:    | Mr P Bradley  |
| Enrolment:                       | 1079  |
| Admissions No:                   | 154  |
| Age Range:                       | 11-18 years  |
| Type of School:                  | Voluntary, Co-educational Grammar School  |
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### MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2009/2010

#### MEMBERSHIP UP UNTIL MARCH 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr P Bradley</td>
<td>1 Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Monsignor O'Bryne</td>
<td>1 Deputy Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss E Bradley</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ms M Diamond</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr J McBrien</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs M Brown</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr J McKee</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr S McNeill</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs M Carr</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr D Lambon</td>
<td>Principal and Correspondent to Board of Governors</td>
</tr>
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#### MEMBERSHIP FROM MARCH 2010 - PRESENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Role</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mr P Bradley</td>
<td>1 Chairman</td>
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<tr>
<td>Monsignor O'Bryne</td>
<td>1 Deputy Chairman</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Miss E Bradley</td>
<td>1</td>
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<td>Ms M Diamond</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr R Scott</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rev. Fr Gates</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr J McKee</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr S McNeill</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mrs M Carr</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr D Lambon</td>
<td>Principal and Correspondent to Board of Governors</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

1. Appointed by Trustees
2. Appointed by the Department of Education
3. Elected by Parents
4. Elected by the Teaching Staff
## SUBJECT CHOICE 2009/2010

### GCSE LEVEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Subject</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional Mathematics</td>
<td>History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art and Design</td>
<td>Home Economics</td>
</tr>
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<td>Biology</td>
<td>ICT</td>
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<td>Child Development</td>
<td>Irish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Literature</td>
<td>Religious Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Science – Double Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>Technology and Design</td>
</tr>
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</table>

### GCE AS LEVEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applied Business</td>
<td>History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art and Design</td>
<td>Home Economics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>ICT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Studies</td>
<td>Irish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design and Technology</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Literature</td>
<td>Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Religious Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Health and Social Care</td>
<td>Theatre Studies</td>
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</table>

### GCE A LEVEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Subject</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Applied Business</td>
<td>Health &amp; Social Care</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art and Design</td>
<td>History</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>ICT</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Business Studies</td>
<td>Irish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Chemistry</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Design and Technology</td>
<td>Music</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English Literature</td>
<td>Physics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>French</td>
<td>Politics</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Further Mathematics</td>
<td>Religious Studies</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>Spanish</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>German</td>
<td>Theatre Studies</td>
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### THE CURRICULUM 2009/2010

#### KEY STAGE 3 (YEARS 8-10)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS OF STUDY</th>
<th>SUBJECTS</th>
<th>YEAR 8 NUMBER OF PERIODS PER FORTNIGHT</th>
<th>YEAR 9 NUMBER OF PERIODS PER FORTNIGHT</th>
<th>YEAR 10 NUMBER OF PERIODS PER FORTNIGHT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>English with Library Skills</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
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<td>7</td>
<td>7</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Financial Capability</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and Technology</td>
<td>Science</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Technology and Design</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>3</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Information Technology</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>Environment and Society</td>
<td>History</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geography</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Home Economics</td>
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<td>Creative and Expressive Studies</td>
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<td>4</td>
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<td>Art</td>
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<td>Music</td>
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<td>Language Options</td>
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<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Irish</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>German</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Spanish</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Religious Studies</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Learning for Life and Work / PSE</td>
<td>2</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
### KEY STAGE 4 (YEARS 11-12)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>AREAS OF STUDY</th>
<th>SUBJECTS</th>
<th>ALL PUPILS NUMBER OF PERIODS PER FORTNIGHT</th>
<th>OPTIONS NUMBER OF PERIODS PER FORTNIGHT</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Year 11</td>
<td>Year 12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>English</td>
<td>English</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>8</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>English Literature</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>Mathematics</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>8 or 9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>*Additional Mathematics</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Science and Technology</td>
<td>Either: Double Award</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Or: Chemistry</td>
<td>or</td>
<td>7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Physics</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>+ Biology</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Technology &amp; Design</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ICT</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
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<td>Environment and Society</td>
<td>Child Development</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>History</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Geography</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Home Economics</td>
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<td>6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Economics</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Creative and Expressive Studies</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Art</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Drama</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Music</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
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<td></td>
<td>Physical Education (GCSE)</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td>Language Studies</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>French</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Or: Irish</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Or: German</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Or: Spanish</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>6</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Religious Studies</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>6 or 7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Learning of Life and Work/Careers and PSE</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Additional Mathematics = Two groups study Mathematics and Additional Mathematics in the allocated time over the fortnight.*
## ANNUAL ATTENDANCE RATES AND LEAVERS’ DESTINATIONS

### ANNUAL ATTENDANCE RATES

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Annual Attendance Rates</th>
<th>Number of possible attendance sessions</th>
<th>Number of sessions attended</th>
<th>% Attendance</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>393808</td>
<td>379280</td>
<td>96.3</td>
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### SCHOOL LEAVERS’ DESTINATIONS

**Year 12, 13 and 14**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Number Of Leavers</th>
<th>HE</th>
<th>FE</th>
<th>Another School</th>
<th>Training/ Apprentices</th>
<th>Employment/ Gap Year</th>
<th>Other/ Unknown</th>
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<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>22.2</td>
<td>66.6</td>
<td>5.6</td>
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<td>5.6</td>
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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>5</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>80.0</td>
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<td>0</td>
<td>20</td>
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<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>136</td>
<td>91.9</td>
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### PUBLIC EXAMINATION RESULTS

#### KEY STAGE 3 SUMMARY OF RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No of pupils in Year 10</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009/2010</td>
<td>157</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>% achieving Level 5 or above</th>
<th>% achieving Level 6 or above</th>
<th>% achieving Level 7+ or above</th>
<th>% achieving Level 8 or above</th>
</tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Eng</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Assessment</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>67.3</td>
<td>-</td>
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<td><strong>External Test</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>98</td>
<td>61.5</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Maths</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teacher Assessment</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>87.2</td>
<td>32.7</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>External Test</strong></td>
<td>100</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>87.2</td>
<td>26.9</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*In the tests in English, Levels 7 and 8 have been combined into a single band ‘Level 7 and above’
A pupil falling into this band is given the result ‘7+’
Key Stage 3 tests in all subjects and Teacher Assessment in Science are now voluntary
### YEAR 12 PUPILS

#### GCSE SUMMARY OF RESULTS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>No of pupils in Year 12</th>
<th>% entered for 5 or more subjects</th>
<th>% entered for 1-4 subjects</th>
<th>% achieving grades A*-C</th>
<th>% achieving grades A*-G</th>
<th>No of subject entries</th>
<th>% A*</th>
<th>% A*-A</th>
<th>% A*-B</th>
<th>% A*-C</th>
<th>% achieving no grades A*-G</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>149</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>100</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1384</td>
<td>24.8</td>
<td>63.1</td>
<td>91.6</td>
<td>99.1</td>
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#### GCSE % Achieving Grades

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Number Entered</th>
<th>A*</th>
<th>A</th>
<th>B</th>
<th>C</th>
<th>D</th>
<th>E</th>
<th>F</th>
<th>G</th>
<th>U</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Additional Maths</td>
<td>58</td>
<td>15.5</td>
<td>39.7</td>
<td>34.5</td>
<td>10.3</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art and Design</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>38.7</td>
<td>54.8</td>
<td>6.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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<tr>
<td>Biology</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>57.1</td>
<td>33.3</td>
<td>9.5</td>
<td>0.0</td>
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<td>0.0</td>
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#### GCSE TREND DATA

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EDUCATION FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING (EMU)
HABITAT FOR HUMANITY GLOBAL VILLAGE TRIP

On 26 June 2010, a team of 18 students and teachers from St Mary’s and Magherafelt High School travelled to Guatemala in Central America for two weeks on the school’s first ‘Habitat for Humanity Global Village Trip.’

During their time in Guatemala, the team built two houses for families living in impoverished conditions. They dug foundations, mixed cement and laid blocks, alongside the families and local masons.

In preparation for the trip, all team leaders, including Miss C McKillop and Mr W McPhilomey attended extensive training facilitated by Habitat for Humanity NI. The training involved two Saturdays covering health and safety, planning and fundraising and a residential, which covered management skills, team dynamics, conflict resolution and cultural diversity.

Our aim in St Mary’s was to raise £18,000, some of which was paid by the students and their families and some of which was gathered through a number of fundraising projects. The team began fundraising in June 2009, with the Year 8 Art Exhibition as their first official fundraiser. Throughout the year, they embarked on bag packs, teenage discos, sponsored cycles, salsa nights, socials, marathon relays, tea and coffee mornings, Mario-Cart tournaments and quizzes, to name but a few of their fundraising ventures. The St Mary's team were supported during Lent by the Year 8 Boxercise, the Year 9 Orienteering, Year 12 Lenten donations and Year 14 ‘Battle of the Bands.’ Nearly every member of the St Mary’s staff and every student has contributed in some way. The support from the Magherafelt and surrounding communities has also been superb.

Our final fundraising total exceeded £25,000. The excess money raised will go directly to Habitat for Humanity, Guatemala to help fund more housing projects for more families in need.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY GOOD RELATIONS AND CITIZENSHIP PROGRAMME

Since its launch in the Autumn of 2006, ‘The Habitat for Humanity Good Relations and Citizenship Programme’ has provided an opportunity for young people to work together, challenging stereotypes and creating greater awareness of the global challenges facing us all. The programme brings together students from diverse backgrounds for two classroom sessions and one day of building on-site. Classroom discussions are designed to encourage and motivate students to consider objectively the factors influencing their society and then to demonstrate the role they can play in reconciling and regenerating communities.

As part of the Habitat team, eleven pupils in Lower Sixth teamed together with pupils from Magherafelt High with the aim of getting to know one another and raising some money. They visited the Shankhill area in Belfast to rebuild some of the previously derelict houses there. Following on from the success of the programme and the site day, through events such as ‘Sponsored Dingbats’ and ‘St. Mary’s Got Talent’ the Lower Sixth Habitat team managed to raise over £2000 for the charity. This was over and above our target of £1230.
COMENIUS ‘MIGRATION’ PROJECT
St Mary’s is currently working towards a Comenius Project focusing on Tomorrow’s Entrepreneurs – Preparing for the World of Work. We are forging links with staff and students from Almere, in the Netherlands, Stuttgart in Germany and a school from Meram in Turkey on a European Comenius Project. This project will take place during the academic years 2010-12. There will be a planning meeting in Belfast for the partner schools from the 8 -12 January 2011 to include cultural activities, cluster group work and preparation submission of application to the national agencies. Students involved will communicate through our Virtual Learning Environment, sharing their knowledge and experience of migration in their lives and that of their families. At the end of the project, there will be a publication detailing all the curricular and extra-curricular work undertaken and accounts of the exchange visits. Staff will also have an opportunity to share resources and experiences with European colleagues in their dedicated ‘virtual staffroom’ as part of the VLE. It is anticipated that there will be trips to our partner schools on each of two years of the project.

CONNECTING CLASSROOMS SUB-SAHARAN PROJECT
St Mary’s, in partnership with St Pius X and Rainey Endowed, was successful in its application to the British Council’s ‘Connecting Classrooms’ Sub-Saharan project for 2010-12. In May 2010, Mr Lambon attended a conference in Nairobi in order to create working partnerships with several schools in Africa. In 2010-12, St Mary’s, Rainey Endowed and St Pius X will work with two clusters of schools, one in Kenya and one in Rwanda. There will be an exchange of video diaries between students and a sharing of culture through music and video conferencing between Sixth Form students. It is hoped our African colleagues will join us in 2011 for our Science Fair.

ACTIVITIES AND ACHIEVEMENTS 2009/2010
GCSE AND A LEVEL TOP CANDIDATES IN NORTHERN IRELAND
St Mary’s is pleased to report that CCEA has advised the following top candidates in Northern Ireland:

A LEVEL

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Position</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Bernadette Kevin</td>
<td>Irish</td>
<td>3rd</td>
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GCSE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Subject</th>
<th>Position</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Maeve McCarney</td>
<td>Double Award Science</td>
<td>1st</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Caitriona McAteer</td>
<td>Irish</td>
<td>1st</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiona McKay</td>
<td>Irish</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Enda Boorman</td>
<td>Irish</td>
<td>3rd</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Catherine McColgan</td>
<td>Physical Education</td>
<td>2nd</td>
</tr>
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</table>
Vincent McKenna (Year 14) won a SPECIAL MERIT AWARD in Category A (16-18 years) of the 56th Texaco Children’s Art Competition.

Almost 30,000 entries were received but they were whittled down to 161 winners when the prizes were awarded in Dublin on 26 May 2010.

Chairman of the judging panel, Professor Declan McGonagle, said all the young artists had exhibited “great skill, technique, imagination and maturity.”

Presenting the prizes, Minister for Children Barry Andrews said the competition was always held in the highest esteem. “30,000 applicants around the country and you are the people that have come to the top,” he told the winners. “You should be really proud of yourselves.”

YEAR 10 CREATE A COLLABORATIVE CERAMIC WALL MURAL FOR MID-ULSTER HOSPITAL’S DAY PROCEDURE UNIT

All Year 10 pupils from St. Mary’s participated in a collaborative fine art project at school to design and make a ceramic wall mural inspired by the theme ‘A Shared View.’ This is now on permanent public display in the Day Procedure Unit at the Mid-Ulster Hospital, Magherafelt. (see copy on Front Cover)

YEAR 10 & 11 CERAMIC WORKSHOP WITH CERAMICIST, DIANE MCCORMICK

The Art & Design Department of St. Mary’s Grammar School, Magherafelt invited designer Diane McCormick to the school. Diane’s work is well recognised throughout Northern Ireland and, in particular, her wall murals, including those for numerous hospitals, a restaurant, a bus station, shops, an arts centre, a Church, a major charity, arts awards and a museum. During the workshop Diane demonstrated many specialist clay techniques and pupils were given the opportunity to create their own ceramic tiles under her guidance.

TRUE COLOURS 2010

The Art & Design Department took over seventy pupils to view the inspirational ‘True Colours’ exhibition, displaying the best of A Level and GCSE throughout Northern Ireland. Five students had their work recommended for the 2009/2010 exhibition.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>GCSE</th>
<th>Tabitha Tohill-Reid</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Kathleen Rottenbacher</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Rachel Mulholland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AS Level</td>
<td>Deborah Madden</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>A2 Level</td>
<td>Grainne Cassidy</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION 2010

The Art & Design Department ran a successful ‘Design a School Christmas Card 2010’ which attracted many entries from Years 8-10. The first place was awarded to Alice McCormick, (Year 10) who created a beautiful oil pastel study of an angel, titled ‘Emmanuel.’
The Business Studies/Economics Dept during the academic year 2009-2010, has undertaken the following activities:

**MAKE YOUR MARK CHALLENGE**
Students in Year 13 entered this competition which marked Global Entrepreneurship week. It was a one day competition, (Monday 16 November), during which students had to come up with unique and inspiring ideas for new products and services in response to a secret brief launched online. The theme was the environmental impact of their idea. A great day of debating, discussions, and team building ensued. Each group had to present their ideas to judges, made up of an Invest NI representative and Mr Jim Eastwood, a local business consultant.

**STOCK MARKET CHALLENGE**
Year 11 participated in a Stock Market Challenge organised by FOSEC (Foyle School and Employer Connections). St Mary’s entered two teams; our pupils took on twenty-five other young fund management teams from various local schools and were placed within the top ten. The competition gave pupils the chance to experience the excitement of buying and selling shares on a live trading floor. Each team started with £15,000 in ‘virtual’ cash to invest, by interpreting and analysing information from the Stock Market. The simulated live trading took place over a two hour period. One of the teams finished within the top ten. All loved the challenge and the day’s activities.

**RENSBURG SHEPPARDS SCHOOL FANTASY SHARE RACE**
A group of Year 13 students met regularly during the first and second term to negotiate the acquisition and management of a fictional portfolio of investments. The concept behind the competition was to give students a greater understanding of investment, quoted companies and the stock market, as well as hands on experience of managing a portfolio. The St Mary’s team, led by Oliver Scullion and Laura Hughes, were placed within the top ten out of thirty local schools.

**MINI ENTERPRISE SCHEME**
The Mini Enterprise Scheme ‘SMG’ enterprises, was organised again with a group of Year 13 students as an enrichment programme to complement their A Level studies. All those who participated received a Key Skill of ‘Working with Others’ worth 20 UCAS points. The group met at lunch times and at break throughout the school year. The Managing Director (Rachel Kelly) and Assistant Managing Director (Conall McErlean), who were democratically elected by the members of the group, led a very successful team this year. They made an astonishing £2,500 profit through various trading activities. Some of their most profitable activities involved selling candy apples at Halloween, candy canes with personalised messages and sports gear to the school community. They donated all of their profit to various charities, £1000 to Marie Curie and the remainder to local charities. The group ceased trading in May to focus on their AS exams.

**INSTITUTE OF DIRECTORS SHADOWING SCHEME**
Laura Hughes, a Year 13 pupil ‘shadowed’ a director from Cookstown Borough Council. She participated in meetings, was given the opportunity to observe how strategic business decisions were reached and followed the Managing Director’s busy schedule during the week. The two IOD students who shadowed directors last year – (Andrew Keenan who spent a week shadowing Ms Eileen Lavery, in the Legal Department of the Equality Commission, and Michael Murray who shadowed Mr John McAfee at Copelands, Cookstown) were invited to the IOD’s headquarters in Belfast last October to present reports about their experiences to a panel of judges, made up of leading local entrepreneurs. The boys were placed first and fourth respectively in Northern Ireland. Andrew won a cash prize.
SUCCESS IN GCSE DRAMA

The Drama Department was delighted to learn that, once again, pupils from the school excelled in their study of the subject. In 2009, Aisling O’Brien achieved First Place in Northern Ireland in GCSE Drama, with full marks, while Eimear McCollum achieved Third Place in Northern Ireland in the subject.

On Friday 23 April 2010, Aisling attended the CCEA Celebrating Excellence Award Ceremony which was held in the Examination Board’s headquarters at Clarendon Dock, Belfast. During the ceremony, Aisling was presented with an award in recognition of her outstanding achievement.

THEATRE VISITS

THEATRE VISIT TO 'THE BEAUTY QUEEN OF LEENANE'

On Wednesday 30 September 2009, Drama and Theatre Studies students from St. Mary’s Grammar School and Drama and Performing Arts students from St. Pius X College travelled to Elmwood Hall in Belfast to see the Lyric Theatre’s production of The Beauty Queen of Leenane by Martin McDonagh. The production starred Belfast born Hollywood actress Geraldine Hughes who has appeared in movies such as Rocky Balboa and television programmes such as ER and Murder, She Wrote. Following the production, students had the privilege of meeting Geraldine Hughes and engaging in a question and answer session, during which they discussed the production and the actress’s journey from West Belfast to Hollywood.

YEAR 8 THEATRE VISIT

On Friday 13 November 2009, Year 8 students travelled to the Millennium Forum Theatre in Derry to enjoy a performance of Annie.

THEATRE VISITS IN 2009/10

Thursday 22 October 2009 Macbeth – Who is that Bloodied Man? by Teatr Biuro Podróży (Poland) in Barrow Square, Belfast.

Saturday 14 November 2009 Annie in the Millenium Forum Theatre, Derry

Thursday 4 March 2010 The Sound of Music in the Grand Opera House, Belfast.

THEATRE VISIT TO THE NATIONAL THEATRE OF IRELAND

On Saturday 1 May 2010, Year 13 Drama and Theatre Studies travelled to the Abbey Theatre in Dublin, the National Theatre of Ireland, to see the theatre’s latest production – Macbeth by William Shakespeare. The visit was part of students’ preparation for Unit 4 (Text in Context) of the A2 Drama and Theatre Studies course. This unit requires students to engage with a contemporary production of a play written in a specific historical period and to compare this production with the original performance context of the play. During their visit, students had the opportunity to discuss the production with members of the cast and Andrea Ainsworth, Voice Director at the Abbey Theatre. Following this, students were treated to a behind-the-scenes look at the production.
**ECHO ECHO DANCE THEATRE COMPANY PROJECT**
Between February and April 2010, a group of Drama, Theatre Studies and Performing Arts students from St. Mary’s Grammar School and St. Pius X College participated in a weekly session with Echo Echo Dance Theatre Company during which they explored approaches to contemporary dance.

**YEAR 8 DRAMA CLUB**
During Term One, Year 8 pupils participated in the weekly Drama Club. Led by Miss McGuigan, pupils explored “Drama through the Ages” creating and presenting their own unique performance.

**COMMUNITY LINKS**
In 2009/10, the Drama Department continued to extend its community links. In December 2009, Year 13 Drama and Theatre Studies students attended Kilronan Special School to assist with the school’s annual Christmas production.

**LUNCHTIME THEATRE AND PRACTICAL EXAMINATION EVENINGS**
Lunchtime Theatre continued to thrive throughout the year as Drama and Theatre Studies students showcased their performance, design and technical work. Throughout 2009/2010, audiences were treated to a range of performance work including improvisation, scripted performance, devised work, monologues and duologues. Performances this year included:

- *The Plough and the Stars* by Sean O’Casey
- *Translations* by Brian Friel
- *Dancing at Lughnasa* by Brian Friel
- *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett
- *Widows* by Ariel Dorfman
- *Shirley Valentine* by Willy Russell
- *Tea in a China Cup* by Christina Reid
- *My Mother Said I Never Should* by Charlotte Keatley
- *The Burial at Thebes* by Seamus Heaney
- *An Audience with the Mundy Sisters*
- *The Taming School* – a Year 14 adaptation of *The Taming of the Shrew*
- *Two Roads Diverged* - a devised performance by Year 14 students.
Between 3 – 7 November 2009, St. Mary’s Grammar School presented Sean O’Casey’s classic Irish drama *Juno and the Paycock*. Affording pupils the opportunity to work in a professional theatre context and alongside industry professionals, the play was staged in the Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown and enjoyed the support of a number of leading theatre practitioners.

Throughout the rehearsal process, cast members had numerous opportunities to work with professionals from various theatre disciplines. In September, pupils were privileged to participate in a master class exploring accent with Andrea Ainsworth, Vocal Director at the Abbey Theatre, Dublin. In October, two of Northern Ireland’s distinguished practitioners, Dan Gordon and Peter Ballance, facilitated cast workshops exploring areas such as language, vocal technique and character development. In addition, pupils gained an insight into other theatre arts through their engagement with a professional make-up artist, costume designer, set designer and lighting designer.

This production, the first play to be staged by the school in many years, proved to be a great success. Receiving huge acclaim, the production was favourably compared to professional productions of the play.

In a letter to Mr D. Lambon, Principal, Tony McCance, Manager of the Burnavon Theatre, Cookstown said: “I felt compelled to write to congratulate … staff and pupils … on what was a fantastic production of this O’Casey classic.” He continued: “Over the last ten years, our venue has hosted a number of post primary schools staging a broad and diverse range of productions with various cast sizes and I have to say that your school has upstaged each and every one of them.”

Paul Sleet, Drama Field Officer with NEELB, offered the following response to his experience of the play: “This was by far the most professional school production I have seen in recent years. Any school would have been proud to showcase the talents of their pupils and staff in a professional theatre with such attention to detail.”

Fr. Moore, School Chaplain, found the play to be a “very enjoyable and moving experience.” He felt that “it could go to the West End in London.”
Dan Gordon, offering his evaluation of the production, said: “I have the strong impression that the Drama Department itself has a particularly enlightened approach to the holistic development of the subject and thought this very evident when attending workshops and rehearsals for the recent production of Juno and the Paycock. In my experience, school productions often become about the end result rather than the processes of developing and enhancing the skills and understanding of the performers. I am satisfied that, in the case of the St Mary’s Drama Department, this is clearly not the case – the finished production was the product of a uniquely tailored process for each individual involved and I am convinced it will have far reaching benefits in the lives of the participants.”

He continued: “The investment of staff time – their levels of emotional engagement – the financial commitment by the school – the cultivation of relationships with a number of significant arts professionals – the utilisation of major outside resources are all far and above what I believe is expected of the average school.”

Peter Ballance provided the following evaluation of his experience of the production: “There was a sound understanding of the principles of theatre production with a fully engaged management team that were both dynamic and knowledgeable. I was particularly impressed with the technical standards set and would place the overall production values with those set by professional theatre companies. I witnessed the positive effect this had upon the students and this was reflected in their commitment and duty. I would have no hesitation in recommending this institution to any body that would encourage the setting of high standards within the field of the performing arts.”

Following the production, cards and letters of congratulation arrived to the school.

Mrs M. White, Principal of St. Pius X College, wrote: “Congratulations on the success of ‘Juno.’ It was a production worthy of professional actors.”

Other letters received from people who had attended the play included the following comments:

“We just felt we had to write to you to congratulate you all on a wonderful production of Juno. For a school to take on such a heavy play, it was nothing short of excellent. We have seen this play a couple of times before done by ‘professionals’ in the Lyric Theatre, Belfast, but were more than impressed with the “just as professional St. Mary’s production.”

“It was truly a magnificent production. Many of my friends who had previously seen the play in the Abbey in Dublin and the Lyric in Belfast all commented on how the St. Mary’s production was equally as good, if not better, than these professional productions.”

As part of its focus on Magherafelt in the February 2010 edition of the magazine, Ulster Tatler featured an article on the play.
A number of Sixth Year students represented St Mary’s in the Rotary International Youth Leadership Competition (Eimear O’Boyle, Aisling O’Brien and Siobhan McCrory) in November. The competition, aimed at pupils aged 15 to 18, provides a unique opportunity for successful students to develop their leadership skills with guidance from business professionals. Eimear O’Boyle won first place in the Competition and she joined twenty-three students from all over Ireland as a regional winner. Her prize consisted of a week long Leadership Development Programme in Belfast and Dublin before setting off to the European Parliament in Strasbourg for five days in February.

Three sixth form pupils: Natasha McKee, Aimee Johnston and Sarah McKenna participated in the prestigious Soroptomist Public Speaking Competition with Natasha McKee achieving first place. Natasha went on to compete in the Northern Ireland final and was highly commended.

Throughout Term One, Year 10 battled it out in the Internal Inter-class Debating Competition with Year Nine participating in Term Two. There was a very positive up-take and the competitive element between classes attracted large audiences every Tuesday lunchtime. 10D won the Year 10 Competition in December, adjudicated by a tough panel consisting of Mr Lambon, Mrs Lennon and Miss McAllister. 9E won the Year 9 Competition in April, again judged by Mr Lambon and Mrs Lennon. All winners were awarded Gift Vouchers with Michaela Mills 9B receiving a special award for ‘Debater of the Competition.’

A number of Year 8 pupils entered the Young Writer’s Poetry Competition and had their poetry entries published. They were awarded Certificates for their participation.

In October the English Department were pleased to welcome the Arty Fact Theatre Company to the school. The Company performed Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck to an audience of Year 11 and Year 12 English Literature students from St Mary’s Grammar along with Year 12 pupils from St Pius X College who study the text as part of their GCSE Literature Course. Following the performance, pupils had the opportunity to engage in a discussion with the actors about the performance and the text itself.

To celebrate National Poetry Day in November, the English organised an internal poetry Competition on the theme of ‘My Hero’ for Years 8 -12. With a record number of entries from across both Key Stages, Maria Maynes, a Year 9 pupil, was selected as the winner and received ‘Guitar Hero,’ a highly appropriate prize, for her Play Station.
GEOGRAPHY

NORTH ANTRIM COAST - YEAR 14
Participation in fieldwork activities is an important element in teaching and learning in the Geography Department. On 24 September 2009, all Year 14 Geography students participated in a fieldwork activity on the North Antrim coast to observe coastal features and a variety of coastal management strategies to protect the coast from erosion.

NORTH ANTRIM COAST – YEAR 11
The introduction of the Revised GCSE Specification in Geography meant that “coasts” as a topic was taught at this level for the first time. Year 11 had the opportunity to participate in fieldwork relating to the topic. They visited the North Coast including Ballintoy Harbour, Whitepark Bay, White Rocks Beach Portrush and the West Strand in Portrush. At these various locations, they observed the coastal features formed including a raised beach, caves, an arch, sea stack and sand dune systems. They were also able to observe the human impact on the coastal environment and the variety of methods used by people to protect the coastline in different locations.

Year 13 Students participated in fieldwork activities along the River Roe

GEOGRAPHY OF CONFLICT
On 16 and 17 December 2009, Year 10 students visited Belfast, as part of the Geography of Conflict. The focus of the visit was to look at the evidence of territoriality in Belfast as manifested by signs such as wall murals in different parts of the city.

The visit ended with a tour of Crumlin Road Gaol where the students experienced a guided tour of the former prison and saw inside the different wings of the prison, where former Loyalist, Republican and other criminals were housed.

GEOGRAPHY PLUS CLUB
At Key Stage 3, the Geography Plus Club continued to meet weekly, with Year 8 and Year 9 pupils in attendance. Pupils enjoyed taking part in a wide variety of activities designed by the staff of the Department.
SCHOOLS GEOGRAPHY CONFERENCE

On Monday 14 December St. Mary’s Geography Department hosted a Schools Conference for A Level Geography students. This was facilitated by three senior lecturers from the School of Geography, Archaeology and Palaeoecology, Queen’s University Belfast. The Conference was attended by AS and A2 students of Geography from St. Mary’s, as well as students from partner schools within the Magherafelt Learning Partnership - St. Pius X College, Magherafelt High School and Rainey Endowed School. The topics addressed during the Conference included the use and application of GIS (Geographical Information Systems) and the hazards of living close to the earth's plate boundaries.

VISIT TO SCOTLAND

On 30 and 31 March 2010, Year 14 students, accompanied by Mrs. C. Bradley, Mr. A. Grant and Miss G. Connolly visited Scotland, where they were participated in a number of workshop activities and visits to help with the revision of the A2 Geography Specification.

HUNTERSTON B NUCLEAR POWER STATION

Hunterston B Nuclear Power Station was the first port of call. The students were given a presentation providing them with a positive insight into the working of a nuclear power station. They were also given an opportunity to engage in a question and answer session for revision with one of the managers of this nuclear plant.

DYNAMIC EARTH CENTRE, EDINBURGH

The Dynamic Earth Centre looks at our planet’s past, present and future, with a series of interactive exhibits and impressive technology. Dynamic Earth presents all aspects of the planet we live in; population growth and concepts of time. It gave students the opportunity to both revise and to discover for themselves the very close links between key aspects of the Human Geography course and Physical Geography. Students were able to travel back in time 15,000 million years, feel the earth move beneath their feet as they encountered erupting volcanoes and experience for themselves, the chill of Polar ice. The visit to the Dynamic earth centre helped the students to revise many aspects of the A2 topic “Our Dynamic Earth”
BRITISH GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, EDINBURGH

Founded in 1835, the British Geological Survey (BGS) is the world's oldest national geological survey and the United Kingdom's premier centre for earth science information and expertise. BGS carries out research in strategically important areas including energy and natural resources, vulnerability to environmental change and hazards, and Earth System Science. Year 14 students were very fortunate to be able to visit the BGS, based at Murchison House part of the University of Edinburgh where they were welcomed by Professor Ted Harris. During their time at the BGS, students were given detailed information relating to earthquake activity, including the causes and impacts of earthquakes. The most interesting part of the visit for our students was hearing about the role of the BGS in monitoring earthquakes worldwide. They were able to see for themselves a seismometer, used to measure the intensity of earthquakes and learn how this piece of equipment works. In addition as a result of this visit the Geography Department have enrolled to become part of the School Seismology Project which enables schools to detect signals from large earthquakes happening anywhere in the world. The sheer destructive power of earthquakes has always held a fascination for children. This project capitalises on this natural interest by making use of earthquakes and seismology as a unifying theme to teach a range of basic concepts. Students will be able to detect world earthquakes in the classroom using a simple seismometer system and exchange their earthquake data with schools around the world.

HOME ECONOMICS AND HEALTH EDUCATION

In 2009-2010, Key Stage 3 Home Economics students attended a cookery demonstration by the Livestock and Meat Commission, completed their Heart Start Certificate under the expert guidance of Mrs Mooney, and were for the first time awarded our own internal certificate ‘Skills in Food Preparation and Food Hygiene’ They also participated in several cookery competitions. Shannon McGeehan 9A competed in the regional final of Future Chef in February and was highly commended for her skills as the youngest competitor.

SCHOOL NUTRITION ACTION GROUP

This year the SNAG group created a new smoothie (Brain Booster) for Café Bordeaux and also developed a recipe for a healthy Spicy Chicken Pitta.

HEALTHY EATING AWARDS

In September and February students with the highest Healthy Eating Points were awarded vouchers totalling £65.
HISTORY

HISTORY CLUB
The History Club met two and often three times per week. This year, the focus was on allowing Year 11 students not currently studying History to get a taste of what the subject offered at GCSE level through provision of a course snapshot. Year 12 also participated to review last year’s work in time for GCSE exams in June.

LINKS BETWEEN DEPARTMENT AND QUEEN’S UNIVERSITY, BELFAST.
A new link has been established between St. Mary’s and the School of Politics at Queen’s University, Belfast to inform lecturers about input for AS and A2 student conferences and to facilitate the upgrade of the website at Queen’s which provides areas to support for A Level students, including pod-casts and access to expert opinion. It is hoped that this will be an ongoing arrangement with mutual benefits in the coming years.

SCHOOLS’ QUESTION TIME.
A team of Year 13 History and Government and Politics students took part in BBC’s Schools’ Question Time competition. This was the first year St Mary’s has entered so the roles and strategy were new to all involved. The team reached the UK final, with fourteen other schools from England, Scotland and Wales. St Mary’s was the first school from Northern Ireland to reach this stage of the competition. With the co-operation of all the MLP schools, St Mary’s was able to host the event on Tuesday 16 March 2010 in the Drama Theatre. The audience exceeded one hundred pupils from seven different schools in MLP. The NEELB ‘Big Truck’ was present to record the proceedings, with many pupils involved in various production roles alongside the professionals. The Schools’ Question Time committee received over two hundred question suggestions in the period before the event, which demonstrated the enthusiasm for Schools’ Question Time across the school. The BBC Judges said:

‘This was a very strong event from a highly committed and well organised group of students. The judges were impressed by the hard work that had gone into the event, and the efforts made by the team to reflect the diversity of their local community.’

WORK-SHOP
St. Mary’s was invaded by a group of Normans from the Navan Educational Outreach Centre in November who proceeded to instruct the Year 8 pupils how to build a shield wall. They also invited them to cast their votes in a sort of Medieval ‘Britain’s Got Talent’ when they had to choose who should be next king of England. We were pleased to be able to invite representatives from across the MLP to join us.

HOLOCAUST SURVIVOR
A group of Year 13 students were given the opportunity to attend a talk given by Mr. Rudi Oppenheimer, a Holocaust survivor, to help inform their study of Nazi Germany at AS Level. They were accompanied by Mrs McCormick to Magherafelt High School at the invitation of its History Department.

AS LEVEL SOURCES LECTURE AT RAINEY ENDOWED
Year 13 students attended a lecture given by Mr Ken Ward from the University of Ulster on the use of evidence in the Rainey Endowed School.
**MUSIC**

**ADESTE FIDELES**

The Music Department contributed music for the school’s annual Carol Service ‘Adeste Fideles’, held this year in the Burnavon Arts & Cultural Centre, Cookstown on 14 December 2009 and featuring the Junior and Senior Choirs, String ensemble and Soloists. The Carol Service saw the first performance of a newly formed Staff Choir. The Staff Choir performed the carol ‘Mary Had a Baby’ and featured sixteen members of the teaching staff. The Music Department also contributed to a number of Carol Services within the school.

**IRISH TRADITIONAL GROUP**

The Irish Traditional Group was chosen for the UK National Festival of Music for Youth held in the Sir Adrian Boult Conservatoire, Birmingham in July 2009. This featured some of the best young Traditional musical ensembles in the UK and the St Mary’s The Senior Traditional Music Ensemble performed in the World Music category. They were then chosen to represent Northern Ireland in the School Proms. This took place in the Royal Albert Hall, London on 10 November 2009.

**BATTLE OF THE BANDS**

Upper Sixth, in conjunction with the Music department, organised a Battle of the Bands competition for their chosen Lenten Charity. The winners were a band featuring Mr Kennedy on bass guitar and over £1,500 was raised as a result.

**EXAMINATIONS**

- Thirty four pupils were prepared for and passed Trinity Vocal Examinations in May 2010
- Twenty three pupils successfully took Associated Board examinations in June 2010.

**MODERN LANGUAGES**

**MLANI (MODERN LANGUAGES ASSOCIATION, NORTHERN IRELAND)**

In January 2010, Miss Donoghue attended the Weil Award ceremony in University of Ulster, Belfast along with Brian Quinn. Brian was awarded the Weil award for his excellent performance in the study of two A’ Level languages. Brian was the highest placed boy in Northern Ireland who studied two languages (French and Spanish) at A’ Level. This is the second consecutive year that a St. Mary’s language pupil has won the Weil award. Brian is continuing his language studies at Cambridge University.

**STRASBOURG**

For the second consecutive year, Eimear O’Boyle represented St. Mary’s and Northern Ireland at the European Parliament Young Europeans Conference.

**A’ LEVEL LANGUAGES**

Pupils from Years 13 and 14 attended the University of Ulster, Coleraine Languages Open Day in early February. Pupils had the opportunity to attend university lectures based on their AS and A2 specifications. It proved to be a most informative day.
EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

The Languages Department celebrated the annual European Day of Languages with a wide range of activities. Year 8 took part in a European flag quiz, Year 9 watched films in French, Irish and Spanish, Year 10 had their annual European Quiz and Year 11 played ‘Who wants to be a Millionaire?’ in French.

FRENCH

HOLY FAMILY FRENCH CLASSES
A large number – 30 students – went into Holy family Primary School for the day as part of the school’s European Day of languages celebrations. The Year 12 and 13 pupils worked in pairs to teach the Primary 5, 6 and 7 pupils some basic French. All pupils and staff enjoyed the day.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES
The French Department welcomed a visiting Economics teacher from Alsace who participated in a number of French classes. He spoke to Years 13 and 14 about the French education system and spoke about himself and his region to Years 9 and 10. Year 13 and 14 pupils had the opportunity to sample Provencal cuisine throughout the year. Valérie prepared a series of typical Provencal dishes which the pupils enjoyed as they watched some French DVDs during lunch-time cultural classes.

LE CLUB FRANÇAIS
The junior French club ran in the first two terms of this year. Pupils had the opportunity to play interactive language games and to watch DVDs in French.

GERMAN

Klub Deutsch continued every Thursday at lunchtime for Year 8. Pupils enjoyed participating in quizzes, playing bingo, learning songs and tongue twisters. The pupils had lots of fun using the interactive whiteboard to play snakes and ladders, timing exercises, matching activities, fling the teacher and lots of other fun games. They were able to discover lots of exciting information about German festivals and celebrations and even had the opportunity to use their vocabulary knowledge to create their own robots. A very enjoyable experience was had by all the pupils and there was lots of opportunity to learn new vocabulary and improve their knowledge of German culture.

The German Department has established a pen pal link with Gymnasium Oesede in Georgsmarienhütte which is situated near Osnabrück. This link will provide pupils with the opportunity to exchange projects and information about Germany and Ireland and will allow pupils to practise their language skills and make some new school friends in Germany.

The German department ran a weekly after school class for staff. The class was run by our German assistant, Mr Lucas Leister and was of particular benefit to members of staff who were planning to go on the Year 9 ski trip to Austria. The “students” were all very keen and made considerable progress with the language. Year 9 pupils heading on the trip were also able to avail of the opportunity to attend lunchtime classes with Miss MacOscar so that they could learn some essential phrases for their time in Austria.
SPANISH

CLUB ESPAÑOL
Club Español, led by our Spanish Assistant, Berta, gave pupils the opportunity to play games and learn songs in Spanish during Tuesday lunchtimes.

NEELB WORKSHADOWING PROGRAMME
The Spanish Department hosted a visit by Ana Villavieja and Sergio Hermose from Castilla La Mancha on a workshadowing programme organized by the NEELB. Our visitors came to St Mary’s on Monday, 17 May and spent the week observing classes and school life in general. They each spent a day with a Year 9 pupil and also had the opportunity to see how their respective subjects of Music and PE were taught.

REVISION CONFERENCE
Year 14 and Year 14 students accompanied by Señorita Mateo, joined with the Rainey for an AS/A2 revision conference at the University of Ulster in Coleraine.

ITALIAN
GOML Level 1 Italian was successfully completed by thirteen pupils from across the Key Stages. They attended lunch-time classes with Mrs. Mallon and are keen to progress to the next level in the next academic year.

A group of students receiving their GOML1 Certificates

IRISH
September 2009 saw the continuation of the work of Club Mhuire, the Irish language lunch time club, which was facilitated by Year 13 Irish students. Activities continued throughout the year and included bingo, film-viewings and quizzes, to name but a few – all carried out through the medium of Irish. The Christmas quiz, Teachers v Pupils, proved popular once again and we thank the Gaeilgeoirí amongst the staff for their support and participation. Many thanks also to Mr Piaras Sherrit and Ms Kennedy for making Irish lessons available to members of the school community after school.

October 2008 saw the continuation of the now annual Turas Gaeltachta, which brought twenty AS and A2 level students on an overnight residential to the Gaith Dobhair Gaeltacht. In the company of the Music department nd the St. Mary’s traditional group, students had the opportunity to participate in a live broadcast of the popular Rónán BEO show, broadcast daily on RTÉ Raidió na Gaeltachta. Congratulations to all those who, so ably, represented St. Mary’s. Réamonn Ó Ciaráin, Regional Manager of Gael Linn, visited St Mary’s in January and spoke to pupils from Year 8, 9, 10 & 11 about the Irish language in general, employment opportunities for Irish speakers and opportunities to attend courses in the Gaeltacht.
A number of students, namely Éanna Ó Bodhráin, Roibeard Mac Pharthaláin, Orlaith Ní Choilm, Caitríona Nic an tSaoir, Aisling Ní Bhriain, Lára Nic Aodha agus Amy Ní Dhoibhlin, represented St. Mary’s in the prestigious public speaking event, Abair, with Orlaith and Éanna achieving 1st and 2nd place, respectively, at GCSE level, and Amy, building on previous success, securing 1st place in the regional bout. Comhghairdeas libh go léir.

February mid-term saw members of the Irish department, along with honorary member, Mr N. Mc Shane, perform outside of their usual comfort zones. An Bhearna Bhaoil, an interactive game show through the medium of Irish, required competitors to excel both physically and intellectually in a wide variety of tasks. Embracing the competitive element of the show, students Brian Ó Doibhlin, Conall Mac Fhirléinn and Deirdre Ní Dhoibhlin competed valiantly against the St. Mary’s staff. The winners of this encounter will be announced when the show airs on BBC2 in the autumn season.

Seachtain na Gaeilge – Irish Language Week – was the focus of the Department’s attention during the spring term and a huge variety of activities and events took place early in March:

- Year 9 pupils visited Croke Park and had an Irish-medium tour of the stadium and GAA Museum.
- Year 10 pupils enjoyed an Irish language quiz and céilí hosted by Réamonn Ó Ciaráin (Gael Linn) and were presented with Fáinní Airgid in recognition of their growing fluency.
- An Céilí Mór, the whole school céilí provided an enjoyable evening for the huge number who attended with the Mc Stocker Céilí Band providing the music and Mary Mooney providing the direction.
- Year 8 pupils were treated to an introduction to céilí dancing one afternoon, with excellent instruction given by Ms Kennedy.

On the 26 March, A2 students of Irish were afforded the unique opportunity to attend an Irish literature workshop with much celebrated poets currently on the A2 specification. Pictured left, is the much renowned poet Nuala Ní Dhomhnaill who gave an inspirational lecture at the event in University of Ulster at Magee, Derry.

Reviving an old tradition, April saw the awarding of the most sought after accolade for the Irish linguist. The Fáinne Óir is an award which represents fluency and pride in the Irish language. A member of Cumann Gaelach Chnoc na Rós, visited the school and awarded Beaumardín Caomhánach, Déirdre Ní Dhoibhlin, Clíodhna Ní Bhrolcháin, Séana Ní Shuibhne, Bearnaí Mac Conmidhe and Órlaith Ni Choighligh with the Fáinne Óir, much to the pride of the department.

Year 11 pupils visited the Gaeltacht in mid-June, experiencing the wonders of Páirc Náisiúnta Ghleann Bheithe (Glenveagh National Park) and Ionad Cois Locha, Dún Lúiche (Dunlewey Lakeside Centre).

The extra-curricular remit of the Irish department drew to a close with the now well established visit of Year 8 pupils to Belfast Zoological Gardens where they enjoyed an Irish-medium tour of the zoo.

The Irish Department would like to congratulate Emer McKenna, Ailise Mulholland and Chloe Ledgewood (yr 8) on their achievement of an A* Grade in GCSE Irish. We wish the girls every success in the future as they prepare for the GCSE Gaeilge paper. Comhghairdeas libh go léir.
“What I like really like about this school is that if you give the children an opportunity they don’t just take it, they grasp it with both hands,” says Mr Lambon, Principal of Magherafelt’s very successful and busy Catholic grammar school. “From the challenge of cycling across Northern Ireland for five days in the pouring rain, to getting their Duke of Edinburgh’s Gold Award, from performing at the Albert Hall in the Schools Proms, to entering a Young Innovators’ competition and coming fourth in the world, pupils really do throw themselves into school activities with spirit and determination.”

The students’ impressive achievements outside the classroom are only surpassed by their outstanding academic performance inside it. St Mary’s Grammar School, Magherafelt has a long tradition as a high achiever among schools in Northern Ireland but this year it has outdone itself, recording its best results yet. A remarkable 59.7% of A-level papers were awarded an A grade and 26.5% merited a B. At GCSE, a striking 65.5% of the 1,515 papers sat achieved an A* or A. Taken together, they represent the school’s best ever set of examination results. The hard work put in by St Mary’s pupils puts it in second place in Northern Ireland and moves it up to 32nd place overall. It ranked 55th last year.

Mr Lambon attributes the impressive results haul to a number of factors including a good year group, a strong focus on revision and preparation for exams and personalised learning, as well as committed, hard-working staff. “Pupils are hungry,” says Mr Lambon, who became the selective co-educational school’s first male Principal when he was appointed in 2004. "Parents appreciate there is a culture of excellence and achievement," he adds.

Founded in 1927 by Monsignor John Ward, the local parish priest, to provide secondary education for Catholic girls, under the direction of the Sisters of the Holy Family of Bordeaux, St Mary’s started out with just 10 pupils. It flourished and grew throughout the 1940s and in 1978 began enrolling boys, with 37 joining 587 girls. Today it has 1,100 pupils drawing children from the counties of Derry, Tyrone and Antrim.

Mr Lambon praises the vision and hard work of his predecessors, saying it is they rather than he who should take the most credit for making the school what it is. He speaks of former inspirational heads such as Sister Immaculata O’Connor, who as Principal between 1977 and 1995 formed the Friends of St Mary’s to raise funds to finance a £6m building programme which included a large sports hall, fitness suite, sixth-form study area and general purpose classrooms, and Mrs Una O’Kane, Mr Lambon’s immediate predecessor, who is widely associated with further enhancing the academic reputation of the school and increasing its extra-curricular programme.

Mr Lambon has been doing a pretty good job himself. The school got a glowing report from inspectors last year. They commended St Mary’s on its inclusive pupil-centred ethos, the high levels of professional commitment and dedication of teachers, the excellent standards achieved by pupils in public examinations, the quality of the teaching and the outstanding leadership and vision of the Principal.

“The quality of education provided in this school is outstanding,” the report concluded. “The educational and pastoral needs of the learners are being very well met. The parents and the community can have confidence in the school’s capacity for sustained self-improvement.”

The list of A-levels is long and impressive, ranging from English Literature and Theatre Studies to History and Applied Business. On leaving, 97% of pupils go to university. In May 2007, St Mary’s was designated as a Specialist School for Science, which has led to investment in more staff, specialist equipment and computer technology.

The status also helped it spearhead personalised teaching and learning, which has now been extended to other subjects. Form teachers work with pupils on an individual basis, setting targets and monitoring progress and, in addition, a number of A-level subjects including Science, Maths, Music and Home Economics have timetabled periods for teachers to spend extra time with individual pupils. The school carries out assessments on pupils in Years 11 and 13 to establish what students might expect to achieve in public exams and then encourages and supports them to aim higher.

Progress is tracked using a range of data. The emphasis is on personal improvement rather than wholesale improvement across the school. "We want to raise their individual performance," says Mr Lambon. However, the school’s results show that when every child is trying his very best, the knock-on effect is that the whole school benefits. From this year, revision courses will be offered in all GCSE and A-level subjects.

St Mary’s also collaborates with the other four secondary schools in the town, sharing its ideas and facilities and benefitting from those of the others. In the sixth form, students can undertake subjects at other schools if they are not available at St Mary’s because of timetable clashes, while pupils from other schools can choose to study at St Mary’s. The collaboration is part of the personalised learning approach. It extends choice and gets staff working together.
Everyone buys into the St Mary's experience: students and teachers.

"What makes it so special is that every single member of staff is involved not just as a teacher but with extra-curricular events," says Mr Lambon. "One teacher currently on maternity leave came in to coach the football team because they had a match coming up, and every teacher was involved in the recent school play Sean O'Casey's 'Juno and the Paycock.'"

Pupils fit in a raft of activities between classes from concerts, carol services and lunchtime theatre to public speaking, debating and literary competitions, in which it has a record of success. On the field, there's plenty of action with a wide range of sports on offer, from athletics, golf and rugby to swimming, badminton and tennis. The school is best known, though, for its camogie (a combination of hockey and lacrosse) and Gaelic football teams, which are among the best in Ireland.

To widen the experience of pupils, the school organises theatre outings and trips abroad. Recent destinations have included countries such as the US, Japan, Switzerland and Ecuador. Senior pupils are encouraged to do something for the school or wider community to develop a sense of citizenship and responsibility. Older students coach children from feeder schools at sport and act as mentors in Science and Drama for younger pupils, or simply inspire them through their own deeds. When pupils came back from doing their Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award, they spoke about it to younger pupils.

"We show pupils what they can do by the role models they have in front of them," Mr Lambon says.

And those pupil role models have role models of their own - the staff. "In many schools they talk about strong leadership," says Mr Lambon. "I find in this school every single member of staff is a leader. They all know exactly what is required and they do it willingly."

Change is on the horizon, though, for this highly selective and very successful school. Like other grammar schools in Northern Ireland, despite the ending of the national 11-plus last year, St Mary's is still selecting pupils with its own entrance test, but not for much longer. While the education department cannot prohibit independent selection tests, it frowns upon them and so do the Catholic bishops in the province, who have decided that selection should cease by 2012.

The 11-plus has been deemed to unfairly advantage grammar schools in terms of enrolment and sustainability, as funding at less popular non-selective schools has suffered through falling pupil numbers. Education, the bishops say, is not primarily about the excellent academic performance of some, but about helping all young people develop as rounded human beings.

St Mary's usually gets 200 applications from children who have successfully completed the 11-plus, and about 90% of whom score an A in the test. "It is going to be a change for all of us," says Mr Lambon. "We have no choice."

"Rather than be obstructive to change we want to embrace it to achieve the best education for the town."

Mr Lambon admits it will not be easy. "To make a quantum leap from a highly academic selective school to a non-selective environment takes time. We offer 27 A-levels. The vast majority are academic rather than vocational. We know that we have to change but it is going to take a number of years to do so."

While doubtful that a non-selective school would produce 60% A grades at A-level, Mr Lambon says St Mary's did not set a target for the school; targets came from individuals. The school will use the same system of getting each child to achieve their very best. He also says that the whole community buys into education whether it is selective or not and that all schools in the town are popular and oversubscribed. "I am uniquely fortunate that the staff I have are excellent and very hard-working and consequently whatever change is on the horizon they will do their best for every pupil," says Mr Lambon, who is keen to point out that academic success is not everything. He would be as happy seeing the football or camogie team winning the all-Ireland finals. "That would bring joy to all the school," he says.

**NATIONAL TRAINING AWARDS**

National Training Awards recognise outstanding achievement and success through training and skills development and the competition operates throughout the United Kingdom. The Awards focus on the importance which organisations place on the development of their people through a clear commitment to their continuity education and training. In 2008/09, St Mary's submitted an entry for a National Training Award entitled: *The Play's the Thing* (**Hamlet**). The focus was on the considerable professional training which the school offered to all its staff during the production of **Oliver!**, Grand Opera House, Belfast, November 2007. The judges made a day-long visit to St Mary's on 6 July 2009 to confirm the details in the entry and to review major evidence.

In August 2009, St Mary's was shortlisted in the ‘Medium Employer’ category and on 15 October 2009, at the National Training Awards prestigious event in the Harbour Commissioners’ Office, St Mary’s won a Northern Ireland Award and a UK Award. As a UK winner, St Mary’s was represented at UK National Training Awards ceremony in the Royal Horticultural Halls in London on Thursday 10 December 2009. Throughout 2009/2010 St Mary's acted as a mentor to other school submitting entries to National Training Awards. Mrs O’Brien and Mrs Daly facilitated training sessions.
AWARDS

SHARING EDUCATION PROGRAMME

The Magherafelt Learning Partnership (MLP), in association with Queen’s University, Belfast has launched an exciting new post-16 project which will provide Year 13 students with access to an extensive curriculum enrichment programme.

‘Curriculum Enrichment’ refers to the courses and activities undertaken by students who are interested in self-development beyond that which is offered by those subjects selected for curriculum study and is an increasingly important element of a student’s profile when they begin to seek university admission or employment. Project Co-ordinator Ms Brenda McNulty stated:

‘This is a unique opportunity for Year 13 pupils to broaden their portfolios, gain experience and acquire skills, all of which will stand them in good stead for life at university, in the workplace and beyond.’

With over thirty courses on offer, including Law, Mandarin Chinese, Aromatherapy and Internet Authoring, students will be able to pursue academic, vocational or personal development interests. Speaking about the programme, Mr David Lambon, Chairman of the Magherafelt Learning Partnership, said:

‘As Chairperson of the MLP, I would like to wish every success to the young people who will take part in this very innovative project. The SEP project is a tremendous opportunity for the schools in Magherafelt to work together for the benefit of all of our pupils. We are delighted with the enthusiastic response from our sixth form pupils and look forward to the courses beginning in the near future.’

The Sharing Education Programme (SEP), which is managed by the School of Education at Queen’s University, is funded by Atlantic Philanthropies and the International Fund for Ireland. The programme aims to encourage schools in Northern Ireland to engage in cross-sectoral collaboration as a means of improving the educational and personal development opportunities of young people. Through the bringing together of pupils with different uniforms in the same class, the Sharing Education Programme also seeks to address the issue of social division in Northern Ireland.

Having submitted an application for SEP funding in December 2009, the Magherafelt Learning Partnership received notification from Queen’s University that it had been successful in its bid and would receive a share of the £3.6 million available as part of the programme to further develop its collaborative practice.

From September 2010, Year 13 students within the MLP will be able to avail of a common curriculum enrichment programme which will be delivered across the partnership schools in Magherafelt – St. Pius X College, Magherafelt High School, Rainey Endowed School, St. Mary’s Grammar School, Sperrin Integrated College, Kilronan Special School and Northern Regional College.
AWARDS

INVESTOR IN PEOPLE AWARD

St Mary’s has been an Investor in People organisation since 1999 with successful re-accreditations in 2001, 2004 and 2007. In June 2010, St Mary’s sought Gold Status and was delighted to be awarded it in July 2010. The recommendation said:

‘On the basis of the site visit and review of relevant documentary evidence I have no hesitation in recommending that St Mary’s Grammar School continues to be recognised as an

Investor in People. The site visit confirmed that in terms of their strategic planning, people management practices and evaluation many of their practices exceed the requirements of the Standard. 166 additional evidences requirements have been met and it is recommended that St Mary’s should be recognised with an Investor in People Gold Award.’

Having achieved Investors In People Gold, St Mary’s is one of “a prestigious group of role model organisations who promote Investors In People through series of best practice sharing activities.”

St Mary’s will pursue becoming a Champion organisation throughout 2010/2011.

EUROPEAN FOUNDATION FOR QUALITY MANAGEMENT

The European Framework for Quality Management is a prestigious international standard against which organisations can benchmark their performance strategies. St Mary’s submitted its application in September 2009 and was delighted to be awarded the prestigious Prizewinner Award at the Gala Ceremony on 28 January 2010 in the Ramada Hotel.

The EFQM reported highlighted that:

► The leadership team has established a culture that supports the achievement of the school aims. There is a clarity of roles and responsibilities both within the Senior Management Team and in a structured way throughout the staff. Individual members of the SMT demonstrated strength within individual roles but also reflected a sense of coherence and common purpose.

► Heads of Department and Year Heads demonstrated clear understanding of their roles in the key areas of pastoral care and promotion of effective learning.

► The school development plan has been developed based on the present and future needs of the school and has driven focused activities across a range of areas eg in achieving specialist school status, ICT investment and the Magherafelt Learning Partnership. The strong emphasis on action planning and self-evaluation underpins the school’s capability to identify and address areas for improvement. There is clear evidence of identified areas being systematically addressed.

► There is significant attention to detail paid in understanding the needs of individual students, both academically and pastorally, through personalized teaching and learning. Specialist School status has enabled the school to access additional resources giving teaching staff more time to mentor students. It is also clear the important role extra-curricular activities play in the development of the ‘whole student.’ The effectiveness of this approach is evidenced through the schools academic and extra-curricular achievements.

► Another key element in the motivation of employees is that the culture is supportive of individual personal and professional development. In addition to the ‘standard’ PRSD process staff are encouraged to participate in reflective practice (in a very positive manner) to understand and address their development needs.

ACTION CANCER AND HEALTH ACTION AWARDS 2010

St Mary’s won a 2010 Action Cancer Health Action Award. We were selected as a Silver Award Winner in recognition of our outstanding commitment to promoting healthy activities for pupils and our determination to improve pupils’ lifestyles. An Award ceremony was held on 12 October 2010 at BBC Blackstaff Studios.
AWARDS

ECO SCHOOLS PROJECT
In April 2010 St Mary’s achieved its first Green Flag Award. The Eco Committee, which is made up of pupils from each year group, have been working over the past two years, under the guidance of the Eco Schools Project, to fulfil the criteria for a Green Flag Award. The main focus areas have been; Litter, Recycling, Biodiversity, Energy Efficiency, and Healthy Eating. The assessors were very impressed by the successes of the committee and the range of active learning strategies which were taking place within the curriculum to increase pupil awareness on health and environmental issues. The assessors made the following comments about the strengths of the school evident in the assessment visit:

‘For a large school (1100) the Eco-Committee and sub committee system works very well and could be used as a model example to other post primary schools. The way that the pupils have gone into primary schools and worked with pupils there, is to be encouraged by all Eco-Schools!’

They made the following suggestions regarding our next Green Flag Application:

‘Continue on all projects as they are doing. The work that has been achieved is very impressive and the school should continue to build upon these achievements – well done!’

THE IRISH NEWS
In June 2010, St Mary’s was designated Northern Ireland’s top performing grammar school based on government exam data. The article read:

Grammar Performance Lists
NUMBER OF STUDENTS ACHIEVING TOP A-LEVEL GRADES KEEPS RISING

Whatever the merits of the argument that A-levels have been getting easier, the fact is that more pupils than ever now achieve top grades. In the five years that The Irish News has completed performance lists for post-primary schools, the Northern Ireland average of pupils achieving at least three good A-levels has seen increase after increase.

Ministers, exam officials, pupils and teachers’ unions all reject the notion that exam standards have dropped. According to the latest Government data, three out of every four grammar pupils left school with three C’s of better last year. Achieving three or more A-levels at grades A to C, especially as most are geared towards taking these exams. Using newly published statistics for the 2008/09 academic year, The Irish News today lists the thirty schools with the highest proportion of students achieving the mark.

According to the Department of Education figures, the average for grammars across the Northern Ireland was 75 per cent, slightly higher than the previous year. The list provides a snapshot of an important aspect of school performance, although this will obviously fluctuate from year to year, particularly when numbers of pupils are small. It does not claim to represent all the achievements of a school or of all pupils attending the school. Where two or more schools had the same percentage of pupils with three good A-levels, the proportion achieving seven or more GCSE grades at A* to C was used as a tie-breaker in the list. For the third year in succession, this tie-breaker was required to separate the top two.

St Mary’s Grammar School in Magherafelt, which is the only school to have been in the top three in each of the last five years, emerged as the top performer – 92 per cent of its pupils achieved three or more A-levels at grades A to C.

"Academic excellence is just one point we focus on but, in common with many of the schools on the list, we are much more interested in education in the widest possible sense," Principal Mr Lambon said. "Our extra-curricular portfolio is wide and varied and we are always keen to strengthen that. The school’s designation as a science and PE specialist has been a major factor in its continued success” he said. “Specialism has allowed St Mary’s to create an environment of personalised teaching and learning to enhance progress, achievement and participation. I’m delighted because it is recognition for our staff, students and parents.”
BT INTERNET RANGERS
In January, a number of Year 11 GCSE ICT students entered a BT Internet Rangers Competition to encourage older people online.

We were very pleased that Nuala O’Neill in 11B won first prize and she was the happy recipient of a brand new laptop and £250!

BRING IT ON EVENT WITH YEAR 12, WEDNESDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2010
A group of twenty Year 12 students took part in this event. It provided them with an opportunity to learn about ICT in the real world and to meet ICT professionals.

VIDEO CONFERENCE SESSION
THINK BEFORE YOU POST
To commemorate Safer Internet Day 2010, on Tuesday 9 February, a group of Year 9 pupils participated in an interactive video conference. They joined pupils from Carrickfergus College, Rainey Endowed School and St. Pius X College to discuss ways of staying safe online. In November 2009, Year 13 ICT students had the opportunity to avail of a lecture on a range of Multimedia Design courses offered by University of Ulster, Magee Campus.

MATHEMATICS

SENIOR UK MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE
All Year 14 pupils who are studying A Level Mathematics, participated in this competition: two students gained gold certificates, three gained silver certificates and five students gained bronze certificates.

INTERMEDIATE UK MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE
All Year 12 pupils who are studying GCSE Level Mathematics, participated in this competition: two students gained a gold certificate and thirteen students gained silver certificates and twenty-six students gained bronze certificates. Conor McAuley was invited to take part in the next stage of the competition, entry to which is by invitation only and reserved for those students who did exceptionally well in the first round.

MATHEMATIQUES SANS FRONTIERES COMPETITION
All Year 13 students who are studying AS Level Mathematics took part in the competition at the advanced level.

BP ROADSHOW
Year 13 and Year 14 students from the Mathematics, Economics and Business Studies Departments participated in a joint activity organised by the Mathematics department.

‘HATS’ MINI-BUSINESS DAY
All Year 10 pupils participated in a Mini Business project called ‘HATS’ in which their task was to make and sell ‘HATS’.

YEAR 9 & 10 NEELB COMPETITION
Two pupils from both Year 9 and Year 10 participated in and won the NEELB Maths Team Competition. All schools from the North Eastern Board take part.

A large number of Year 8 pupils have participated throughout the year in the monthly numeracy puzzles and quizzes.

Maths Team Challenge Winners
Conor McPeake, Ciara McCullagh, Eoin Devlin and Eimear Cassidy

Year 13 and 14 Mathematics pupils attended revision sessions for their AS/A2 exams at Rainey Endowed School in December 2009.

‘The ICT Department encourages pupils to develop and broaden their personal ICT skills and supports them both inside and outside the classroom.’
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

One of the aims of St Mary’s, is to “develop the Catholic faith” and the “spiritual growth of each child.” Today, in a world challenged by the social, economic and cultural changes, the Religious Studies Department in St Mary’s, is very committed to nurturing the faith life of the pupils, not only through the taught curriculum, but also through the various extra-curricular activities they organise.

RETREATS

“People who love each other fully and truly are the happiest people in the world. They may have little, they may have nothing, but they are happy people. Everything depends on how we love one another.”

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

This year, the Religious Studies Department launched a new and exciting initiative aimed at developing and enhancing a focus on faith entitled ‘Faith Development Week.’ This week of reflection, dedicated to prayer and contemplation, enabled pupils across each of the Key Stages to rekindle and deepen their personal relationship with God and each other leaving them spiritually refreshed and revitalised.

LOWER SIXTH, YEAR 10 AND YEAR 12

Lower Sixth, Year 10 and Year 12 took part in a full day retreat delivered by Apostolate for Pure Love. Pupils had the unique experience of enjoying a retreat which enabled them to explore the importance of chastity and faith in their lives.

YEAR 8 AND YEAR 11

Year 8 and Year 11 pupils participated in a full day retreat delivered by Michael McGowan, Accord. Pupils participated in a range of activities, again, exploring the connection between relationships and faith. In this environment, pupils were afforded the opportunity to explore the nature of their relationship with God and God’s relationship with them. This proved to be an extremely enjoyable and enlightening experience for pupils.

“Faith in action is love, and love in action is service. By transforming that faith into living acts of love, we put ourselves in contact with God Himself, with Jesus our Lord.”

Mother Teresa of Calcutta

YEAR 9

Year 9 pupils participated in a full day retreat organised and delivered by members of the Religious Studies Department. As part of this experience, pupils were provided with the opportunity to focus on several areas which included relationships at home, with friends and Jesus Christ. Afterwards, pupils reflected that this was a very enjoyable and spiritual experience.

“Faith is a living, daring confidence in God’s grace. It is so sure and certain that a man could stake his life on it a thousand times.” (Martin Luther)
JOHN PAUL II AWARD

This year, the RE Department launched the John Paul II Award with Year 13 students. The Award, created to commemorate the late John Paul II, allows the youth of today to explore and understand that faith and religion are for living as well as for learning. Students can expect to receive their award in January 2011.

MUIREDACH AWARD

The RE Department launched the Muiredach Award this year with Year 11 and Year 12 students, enabling them to demonstrate their faith in action by becoming involved in three school based faith projects plus one parish project. The Award will provide a solid platform for those, who in later years, may go on to take the Pope John Paul II Award.

MASSES

“Whoever eats my body and drinks my blood ... I will live in him.”

Fr David Moore, the school Chaplain, celebrates Mass every Wednesday morning in the school Oratory throughout the school year and during Lent. These Masses are very well attended, evidence that the faith is truly alive and thriving in St Mary’s.

Throughout the year, Masses are also celebrated to mark key events: In September, the St. Mary’s Community, together with parents/guardians and Year 8 pupils, come together to worship and to ask God to bless and be with them as they begin their St Mary’s journey.

The U6th and Year 12 pupils choose to celebrate the end of their academic endeavours in school with a Year Group Mass. Parents/guardians are invited to join students for these joyful occasions, enjoying the music, inspirational and reflective power-points. These celebrations are very important to staff, parents/guardians and pupils. They are an important part of the fabric of St Mary’s and in the words of one young scholar:

“I go to the Eucharist day after day, every day I can, because that is what I am about.”

SPECIAL ASSEMBLIES

‘The place of religion is to be the yeast in the dough, to enable us to be ‘fully alive’ to God and God’s revelation.’

This year saw the RE Department launch yet another new initiative – Special Assemblies. In November, Mrs. Fullerton, along with six John Paul II Award students, presented a special assembly to all year groups on the importance of the month of November. In January, Mr. G. Robinson, together with students from Year 10, developed this by presenting a special assembly to all year groups on Church Unity, which complimented and extended teaching and learning explored in the classroom. Finally, Mr G Maynes and a number of students from Year 8 – 14 brought this programme to a memorable climax in March, with an extravaganza of music and dance exploring the importance and significant role of our patron saint, St. Patrick.

RE COFFEE CLUB

This year, the RE department launched a new extra-curricular initiative: the RE Coffee Club. This Club was open to all students Years11-14. The aim of the Coffee Club was to provide students with an opportunity to bring their Catholic faith to life, to explore their Catholic values and discuss issues from the world around them. The success of this venture can only be measured in terms of the students’ enthusiasm and fundraising efforts which culminated in a fashion extravaganza ‘St. Mary’s Does It in Style’ which raised £2500 for charity.
TECHNOLOGY

FIRST LEGO LEAGUE CHALLENGE
The First Lego League Team were involved in the Regional Final in November 2009 at The Odyssey, Belfast and received an award for teamwork. They received medals, certificates and a Lego Trophy.

YOUNG INNOVATORS COMPETITION
NORTHERN IRELAND REGIONAL FINAL JUNE 2010
Over 600 pupils from schools throughout Ireland competed at the Sentinus Young Engineers for Britain Regional Finals, which is one of the largest events of its kind in the UK and provides a showcase for students to demonstrate the wealth of creativity and innovation which exists in schools and colleges. A2 Technology and Design pupil Vincent McKenna was awarded the Overall Winners prize at the Young Engineer for Britain Regional Final in the Odyssey, Belfast. Vincent will represent Northern Ireland at the National Finals ‘Big Bang Competition’ which will be held in London in 2011. In addition to this success Christopher Kane - Crest Gold Technology award Runner up (17-19 years old) and Hugh Henry - Northern Ireland Young Engineers Class C (17-19 years old).

THE BIG BANG COMPETITION NATIONAL FINALS, MANCHESTER MARCH 2010
The Big Bang Competition is the biggest ever UK celebration of young people’s achievement in science and engineering with prizes being awarded to students aged 11-19.

TECHNOLOGY AND DESIGN CREST AWARDS JUNE 2010
CREST is a national accreditation scheme designed to recognise individual student achievement in science and technology through a practical problem solving approach. CREST stimulates industry linked project work and accredits students’ achievements at Bronze, Silver and Gold levels.

- 156 KS3 pupils received Bronze CREST Awards
- 5 Pupils received Gold CREST Awards

22,545 PEOPLE, NINE ROBOTS, A LEMUR, A COFFEE POWERED CAR AND AN OLYMPIC GOLD MEDALLIST FLOCK TO THE BIG BANG: UK YOUNG SCIENTISTS’ AND ENGINEERS’ FAIR
The Fair, which features the prestigious National Science & Engineering Competition, and is thought to be the largest single celebration of science and engineering aimed exclusively at children and young people. 22,545 people attended the Big Bang Competition. Michael John Lynch (Past pupil) attended this competition where, with his A2 Level Project ‘Time cop.’ He won Young Engineer for Britain, Manufacture and Finish Award – Trophy & £750, highly commended for Young Engineer for Britain (Short listed in the top 5) - £150 and Crest Research Award.  His project Time Cop – Set top box enables the controlled usage of electronic entertainment products for children in the home. Through the use of coupons, this product can be used as a reward system for WIFI, TV, Games consoles etc.
The Student Council was established in January, 2010, under the leadership of Mrs I Hynds. Its main aim is to give the student body in St Mary’s a voice in expressing their views on issues which concern them.

Following a series of Year Group Assemblies, which outlined the principles and workings of the Student Council, nominations opened and class representatives were chosen.

Manifesto Week created huge interest and excitement as candidates outlined their manifestos and persuaded fellow students to pledge them their votes.

Polling Day was even more exciting and proceedings were executed with a thoroughness and integrity of which the NI Assembly would be proud!

The successful candidates later visited Stormont where they spent the day in Chambers, learning how to execute their duties effectively.

The Student Council meets every Monday at lunchtime to discuss issues that have been raised with them by their respective Year Groups.

Achievements to date include:

- School Council Mandate
- School Council Logo
- the re-introduction of morning registration for a trial period.

**THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH AWARD SCHEME**

The Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme was founded in 1956, as a programme of personal development for boys between 15-18 years. Within its first year, the lower age limit was reduced to 14 years, where it has remained. A girls’ scheme was launched in 1958 and the two schemes were amalgamated in 1969.

The upper age limit has been increased on a number of occasions and is now at twenty five years. Today, the Award is a major international programme, operated in over one hundred and twenty countries. Its basic philosophy is that it offers the opportunity for young people to develop personally and connect with others, through a range of new experiences. It is not a competition but rather a balanced, progressive framework to allow young people to focus on their interests, improve their abilities and try something entirely new. Each level of the Award – Bronze, Silver and Gold – is assessed across four sections: Physical, Skill, Service and Expedition. In 2009-2010, twenty eight Year 10 pupils successfully completed the Bronze and sixteen Year 13 pupils successfully achieved the Gold Award. This is the second cohort of Gold Award winners and these high achievers have declared it to be an exhilarating experience, full of challenge and reward.
TRAVEL

‘Travel is more than the seeing of sights, it is a change that goes on deep and permanent in the ideas of living.’ Miriam Beard

NEW YORK

On 1 February 2010, 44 students from St. Mary’s Grammar School, Magherafelt set off on the Drama Department’s eagerly anticipated theatre trip to New York. Accompanied by Mr Quinn, Mrs O’Brien, Mrs McAuley, Mr Campbell and Mr Tracey, the students had a fast-paced, action-packed week ahead of them.

Upon arrival, students spent time browsing Times Square, an area to which they would return many times during the week, before enjoying dinner at Bubba Gump Shrimp Company.

During their first full day in New York, students visited the NBC Studios where they were given a behind-the-scenes tour of newsrooms and the studios of other NBC television productions such as Dr Oz. Students had the chance to take part in a mock news broadcast, taking on roles such as newsreader and weather presenter.

Following the NBC Studio tour, students boarded their coach for a guided tour of New York City, stopping off periodically to roam areas such as Chinatown and Strawberry Fields, which contains a memorial to The Beatles member, John Lennon. The guided tour ended at the Rockefeller Centre where students spent the evening ice-skating before having dinner at the Hard Rock Café.

On Wednesday 3 February, students made their way to The Actor’s Temple where they participated in a Broadway Theatre Workshop focusing on Musical Theatre Song and Movement. During this workshop, pupils met performers from musicals Billy Elliot and The Phantom of the Opera and engaged in a question and answer session with these performers about their background, training and careers. Following questions and answers, pupils explored song and movement in relation to the opening scene of The Phantom of the Opera. After this active physical and vocal workout, pupils enjoyed a leisurely afternoon viewing New York City from the top of the Empire State Building, before dining out in Planet Hollywood and spending a little more time experiencing the atmosphere of Times Square.

Thursday saw students travel by ferry to Liberty Island where they visited the Statue of Liberty before travelling over to spend time on Ellis Island. Later in the day, students took time to view Ground Zero and to stroll around Wall Street before making their way to the Imperial Theatre to see Billy Elliot.
On Friday, the focus of the tour turned to “costume research” as students travelled to Woodbury Commons Outlets to spend the day engaging in some retail activity. The evening was spent at the Minskoff Theatre where students were in awe as they witnessed the theatrical spectacle that is *The Lion King*.

Further “costume research” was on the agenda for Saturday as students spent the morning in Macy’s Department Store. The afternoon was spent on Fifth Avenue with many students choosing to dine in the famous Trump Tower before browsing in Tiffany’s.

Alas, all good things come to an end. Sunday arrived and, in thanksgiving for the smooth and memorable week that had just passed, teachers and students attended morning mass in St. Patrick’s Cathedral on Fifth Avenue where students from St. Mary’s were asked to participate in the weekly collection and where everyone managed to catch a glimpse of James Bond star Pierce Brosnan who was also in attendance at morning worship.

**YEAR 9 SKI TRIP**

The annual Year 9 ski trip, led by Mrs Carr, went to Ehrwald in Austria for the first time this year. In total there were sixty one students and seven staff. The group flew from Belfast to Munich and spent a few hours sightseeing in Munich before travelling on to Ehrwald. St Mary’s were well looked after in the Sonnenburg hotel which is situated in a picturesque setting at the foot of the towering Zugspitze Glacier. From here, students were able to ski directly from the hotel or travel a few minutes by bus to another ski area, the Ehrwalder Alm. A day was also spent skiing on the Zugspitze glacier. Snow conditions were perfect and a great week was had by all!
CHILDE PROTECTION

St Mary’s is fully committed to the principles of Child Protection outlined in Pastoral Care in School: Child Protection DENI 1999.

‘As well as their statutory responsibilities in relation to pupils’ learning, schools have a pastoral responsibility towards their pupils and should recognise that the children and young people in their charge have a fundamental right to be protected from harm. In particular, schools are expected to do whatever is reasonable, in all circumstances of the case, to safeguard or promote their pupils’ safety and well-being.’

The Designated Teacher for Child Protection is:

Mrs S O’Brien

The Deputy Designated Teachers for Child Protection are:

Mrs E Daly
Mr F Dunlop

In February 2008, ETI completed a standard Inspection in the School during which the school’s provision for pastoral care, including Child Protection was evaluated. The report found:

‘The quality of the arrangements for pastoral care and child protection in the school is excellent. The school has procedures in place which implement the guidance outlined in the relevant DE Circulars. The governors, staff, parents and pupils are fully aware of the school’s procedures and have had the opportunity to contribute to a range of effective policies which guide the work of the school.’

Throughout 2009/2010, training in Child Protection (Policy and Procedures) was given to all new and Beginning Teachers and newly recruited staff across the school. This was facilitated by Mrs S O’Brien, Designated Teacher for Child Protection. Mr Lambon, Mrs O’Brien and Mrs Daly attended training for Child Protection Officers in the Antrim Board Centre in May 2010.

A detailed Child Protection Policy document is available on request from the school office or can be downloaded from our website www.stmarysmagherafelt.com
SPORTS REVIEW 2009/2010

The Physical Education Department in St Mary’s aims principally to promote the healthy physical, social and psychological development of all pupils. Accordingly, it offers to every pupil a wide and varied range of sporting activities through its curricular and extra curricular programmes.

St Mary’s Physical Education and Sports Staff includes four full-time teachers with other members of staff coaching in specialised areas.

The school offers the following range of sports:

- aerobics
- cross-country
- hurling
- squash
- athletics
- Gaelic football
- netball
- swimming
- badminton
- golf
- outdoor education
- table-tennis
- camogie
- gymnastics
- rounders
- tennis
- circuit-training
- health-related fitness
- rugby
- volleyball

Throughout the year, individual pupils and teams are entered for Area Board, Regional and Provincial competitions. Successful teams compete regularly at All-Ireland level.

For the third year, The PE department was proactively involved in the Specialist Schools initiative, in collaboration with the Science Department. The pupils enjoyed an improved range of personal development opportunities, involving a number of outside agencies, and we were able to further develop links to our feeder primary schools and the community in general.

A-LEVEL PHYSICAL EDUCATION

In preparation for the AS and A2 examinations, the PE classes travelled to the Antrim Board Centre for a one day revision course. The chief examiners from a number of the examination boards were present to lecture and to field questions. The AS level PE class used Open Mind software to develop a number of websites which they used for revision.

The A level classes were given the opportunity to participate in a wide range of certified coaching qualifications and PE specific workshops throughout the year. They attended Lucozade Sport workshops held at St Mary’s in conjunction with UUJ and were invited to a question and answer session with English International and Premiership Footballer, Andrew Johnson.

ATHLETICS

Track and Field

This year proved a very busy year for Track and Field Athletics. St Mary’s pupils competed at District and Provincial level in track and field athletics.

- Twenty St Mary’s athletes were entered for the Ulster Secondary Schools Athletics Association District Championships held in Antrim in May.
- Fifty pupils were entered for the NEBSSA track and field district championships in Antrim. The team won a number of medals with notable performances from Ben McLaughlin, Odhran Totten, Bronagh Kelly and Roshan O’Donnell allowing them to qualify for the NEBSSA finals. These four pupils qualified for the NEBSSA finals where they competed against fifty-four other schools from the Board area. The finals were held at the Antrim Forum. Ben McLaughlin ran a superb race to win the 1500m. Miss M Convery attended the NEBSSA AGM in June thus ensuring our continued involvement in NEELB competition.
CAMOGIE

Senior Team
The Senior Camogie team competed strongly throughout the Ulster Senior ‘A’ Competition and recorded a superb win against St Mac Nissi’s College, Garron Tower in the league stages, but were, unfortunately, narrowly defeated in the Ulster Semi Final stage against a very strong St Patrick’s, Maghera team, who were the eventual winners.

Captain: Sarah Maguire

7-A-Side Team
The 7-a-side team competed in the Ulster Colleges 7-a-side tournament at St Genevieve’s in September. The team played at an extremely high level and were unfortunate to lose their match against eventual winners St. Patrick’s College, Maghera in the early stages of the competition. St. Mary’s finished semi-finalists.

Captain: Ruby-Marie Rice

Junior Team
A tenacious Junior Camogie team competed in the Ulster Junior ‘A’ Colleges competition and, after an outstanding victory in the Ulster Semi Final against Cross and Passion, went on to face St. Patrick’s, Maghera in the Ulster Final in December in Casement Park, Belfast. The girls were unfortunate to be narrowly defeated in the closing stages of the game.

Captain: Rachel Mulholland

U-14 Team
The U-14 team are currently competed in the Ulster ‘A’ 15 a side competition. This competition included three schools all of whom played twice on a league basis and has already included some very close encounters with St. Patrick’s College, Maghera and Cross and Passion, Ballycastle.

Captain: Aine Mulholland

YEAR 8 TEAM
St Mary’s, Magherafelt hosted the Group 1 section of the Ulster Colleges Year 8 Camogie Championship. Four teams participated in total with visiting schools from St. Patrick’s, Maghera, St Pius X, Magherafelt and St Colm’s Draperstown. Many exciting games were played with some tremendous scores from pupils of all schools. The eventual winners of the Group competition were St. Mary’s, Magherafelt who beat St Patrick’s, Maghera in a closely contested and exciting final. The St. Mary’s girls then progressed to the Ulster Semi final where they overcame St Patrick’s, Keady to reach the Ulster Final. This match took place in Dunloy against a very talented Cross and Passion College, Ballycastle side. The game ebbed and flowed, however, St Mary’s were eventual winners after taking some very fine scores particularly in the second half. Captain, Ciara McAuley, lifted the Ulster Colleges cup for St. Mary’s, the first time since 2003.

Internal Camogie Competitions
Three internal camogie competitions were organised to allow every girl in Year 8-10 to compete in competitive camogie in school. Each team competed in at least two games resulting in very entertaining and competitive finals.

A Jubilant Year 8 Team after winning the Ulster Colleges Cup
CAMOGIE ALL STARS

St Mary’s were awarded three Ulster College All-Stars Awards this year. Sarah Maguire (Year 14) and Rubymarie Rice (Year 12) were awarded their first All Star Award while Rachel Kelly (Year 13) received her second Award, which is a very significant achievement in Ulster Camogie. The girls were to compete in the All-Ireland College’s inter-provincial competition but unfortunately, due to bad weather conditions, the competition had to be cancelled and will, hopefully, take place in the Autumn.

COACHING MODULE

Twenty-two Year 13 students attended a six week coaching module taken by Chris Collins (Derry Development Officer). The course lasted for eight weeks and involved both theory and practical sessions. All the pupils were awarded the GAA Foundation Level Coaching Award and are qualified to coach underage teams. As a follow up from the coaching award, all the participants attended a course on Child Protection, taken by Brian Smyth, and gained a qualification in this area. They also attended a one day course on teaching the Fundamentals of Gaelic Football, taken by Richard Ferris. All our pupils had an opportunity to coach younger pupils from St Mary’s and Holy Family Primary School. In addition to this, our new coaches ran the annual Top Link Festival for our feeder primary schools.

COACHING CONFERENCE

The school once again hosted the annual Derry Coaching Conference on Saturday, 6 March. There was a wide range of workshops available and the Derry Coaching Manager (Chris Collins) invited any interested members of staff to attend. St Mary’s also hosted the Oakleaf Centre of Excellence Hallowe’en camp run by the Derry County Board and many of our Year 9 and 10 pupils attended.

BRONZE MEDALLION LIFE SAVING

Six pupils from the Year 11 GCSE PE class successfully obtained their Bronze Medallion Lifesaving Award.

BASKETBALL

Two Year 10 teams competed at the Maghera Leisure Centre Secondary Schools Basketball Competition in December. The Boys’ A team won the competition while the Girls’ A team reached the semi final stage.

BT ULSTER COLLEGES ‘ROAD SHOW’

BT brought their ‘Road Show’ to St Mary’s which gave the pupils the opportunity to demonstrate their football and hurling skills in an inflatable pitch. At the end of the year St Mary’s aggregate score was the best in Ulster, and consequently, we were awarded playing gear to the value of £500 at a presentation in BT Tower in Belfast.
CROSS COUNTRY RUNNING

The Cross-Country Club enjoyed much success at local, district and provincial levels during 2009/2010. Some of the most notable achievements included:

- **Ben McLaughlin** – placed 3rd in the Year 10 Boys' NEBBSA Championship
- The Junior Boys' team (Ben McLaughlin, Matthew Devlin, Odhran Totten, Mark Boyle, Fintan Devine and Ruairi Donaghy) qualified for the Ulster Final
- **Ronan Bothwell and Fergal Duffin** (Intermediate Boys) qualified for the Ulster Final.
- Six relay teams (Year 13 pupils) competed in the Belfast Marathon

Participation in training on Wednesdays and Fridays was very good throughout the year and some of the performances from Year 8 and 9 pupils were very encouraging.

DANCE

**Dance Competitions**

Year 9 and 10 girls enjoyed dance competitions within their year groups. Each group created and choreographed their dance to a song of their choice. There were five group finalists in each year group. The final dance off took place in June. All the girls put a huge effort into their performances with great time and dedication spent on perfecting their routines.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year 9 Dance Finalists</th>
<th>Year 10 Dance Finalists</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Team 1</strong></td>
<td><strong>Team 1</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Andrea Laverty, Emer Donaghy, Ciara Hampsey, Bernice Kealey, Mairead Mitchell, Ella-Maria Logan, Emer McGirr, Cassie Duffy</td>
<td>C J De Guzman, Tara Wilson, Rebecca Donaghy, Julie Breen, Claire O'Neill, Carla McCoy, Aoife Marley</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Team 2</strong></td>
<td><strong>Team 2</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Maria Lagan, Niamh Marshall, Eimear Hughes, Keeva Madden, Catherine Birt.</td>
<td>Ciara Smith, Eibhlin McAteer, Grace Collins, Mary Donnelly, Meadh McGee, Kerri McNicholl</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Team 3</strong></td>
<td><strong>Team 3</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kerri Wilson, Brinin Anderson, Leonie Devlin, Leanne McNicholl, Kate McKeefry, Niamh Quinn, Eimear Cassidy.</td>
<td>Nicola Cunningham, Toni Duffy, Emma Glenn, Megan Johnston, Clare Kelly, Kate Lagan, Aideen McAuley, Meadhbh McElroy, Eimer McGuckin, Jamie McVeigh, Lauren Miller</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Team 4</strong></td>
<td><strong>Team 4</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td>Olivia Young, Niamh Mullin, Orla McErfean, Rebecca Hastings, Nicola Russell, Lara Hartnup.</td>
<td>Alice Loughran, Alice McCormick, Credh Glasgow, Niamh McAteer, Niamh Fullen, Claire Totten, Louise Lennon</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Team 5</strong></td>
<td><strong>Team 5</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Helen McKeever, Claire Cosgrove, Abigail Law.</td>
<td>Grainne Mc Closkey, Emma Diamond, Claire Kilpatrick, Lauren Kearns, Chloe Glasgow, Mairead Hughes, Martha Coogan</td>
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GAELIC FOOTBALL

- The Year 8 team competed in the Ulster Colleges blitz hosted by St Mary's CBS, Belfast in June. They were very competitive in every game.
- The Year 9 team reached the quarter final of the D'alton Cup competition where they were defeated by the eventual Ulster Champions, St.Patrick’s, Cavan. This team was coached from September with Diarmuid Scullion, Derry Development Coach, taking the team every Wednesday from September to December.
  
  **Captain**: Joseph Quigley

- The Year 10 team competed in the Corn na nOg competition and qualified for the quarter finals where they were defeated by St Patrick’s, Maghera.
  
  **Captain**: Paddy McElroy

- This year the Year 11 Boys entered the Brock Cup competition and recorded their most successful year to date. Having emerged from their group with impressive wins over St Patrick’s, Cavan and St Mary's Belfast, the boys proceeded to the Quarter Final Stages where they were eventually defeated by St Patrick’s Academy, Dungannon (the eventual finalists). This group of players recorded their first ever qualification to the knock-out
stages whilst representing the school. They have worked extremely hard this year, showing commitment and drive and are a credit to both themselves and their school. After the huge progress made this year the team now look forward to the Rannafast Cup next year with renewed confidence. Captain: John McIvor

- The Year 12 team competed in the Rannafast Cup competition recording a victory over St.Louis, Ballymena. Captain: Niall Higgins
- The MacRory Cup team had a successful year. They reached the final of the MacCormick Cup for only the second time in the school's history and the semi final of the MacRory Cup, having defeated Monaghan in the quarter final. On both occasions St Mary’s was defeated by Omagh CBS. Four of the team went on to represent Derry and two represented Antrim in the Ulster minor championship. Captain: Charles Gilmore.

Ladies

- The U14 team defeated St Pius but lost against St. Catherine’s Armagh and so failed to qualify for the knock-out stages. Captain: Medb O’Dolan
- The U16 girls defeated Dean Maguire, Carrickmore but were unable to fulfil their remaining fixtures due to camogie clashes. Captain: Catherine McColgan
- The U20 girls had an excellent year as they progressed to the Ulster Final, losing out to a very strong St. Patrick’s Academy, Dungannon. Captain: Aine McCusker

HANDBALL

Two members of the department, Mr McElholm and Miss Convery, attended a launch of ‘GAA Handball in Schools’ in Cookstown. In order to broaden the range of activities available to the pupils and introduce a new sport (Specialist School’s Development Plan), three indoor handball alleys will be constructed for 2010/2011.

IRISH FOOTBALL ASSOCIATION GRASSROOTS COACHING AWARD

Fifteen pupils were nominated by the school for the Northern Bank Future Champions Sports Academy which were held at various venues in the Board area in February. Our pupils were nominated in a number of sports including athletics, squash and badminton and all received intensive coaching in these. Many of the pupils progressed through the pathways and reached the elite standard in their chosen sports, some of them representing their region in the Junior Championships.

OUTDOOR PURSUITS

As part of their GCSE Physical Education course, thirty Year 11 students completed an intensive course in orienteering over three full days in June at the Woodhall Residential Centre, Kilrea. This activity formed part of their GCSE practical coursework. All the pupils scored highly.
OLYMPICS PROJECT-LONDON 2012

As part of a collaborative project between ourselves and Magherafelt High School, a small number of teachers are organising a trip to the Olympics in London 2012. This project involves twenty-eight year 9 pupils experiencing a full range of activities based around the modern Olympic movement. We hosted a number of collaborative events this year including a workshop focussing on Irish Olympians. We invited Maeve Kyle, a former Irish Olympian, to address the pupils and recount her Olympic experiences as both an athlete and coach. Maeve brought her Irish vests, Olympic programmes and her medals to show the pupils. We also produced a Powerpoint presentation on former notable Irish Olympians. St Mary’s has also signed up to the Get Set programme and the Get Set Network which are the official London 2012 communities. We have our own specific web page on which teachers and pupils can contribute. https://getset.london2012.com/en/your-space

SKY SPORTS LIVING FOR SPORT

‘FunSports’ project as part of the Sky Sports Living for Sport project was offered to our Year 8 pupils which enabled them to participate in a range of activities every Thursday for six weeks at the Meadowbank sports arena. I organised this initiative under the Sky Sports Living for Sport project. This involved a protracted application process and the creation of a comprehensive case study on their website. www.skysports.com/livingforsport An average of seventy-five pupils from Year 8 attended the six sessions which were facilitated by a number of staff. One of the participating pupils from Year 8 was nominated for the Sky Sports Living for Sport Student of the Year award.

GIFTED AND TALENTED WORKSHOPS

The department organised two coaching workshops on two Fridays in February (5 and 12 February). All members of the senior teams in school were invited to attend both the sessions. The sessions focussed on Circuit Training/Strength and Conditioning and on Nutrition (Feeding Performance). Both workshops were free of charge and Lucozade supplied drinks. They were held in the Drama Studio from 4-6 pm. The workshops were designed to benefit all of our elite athletes in Camogie, Hurling, Senior Ladies Football and Senior Boys Football. All AS and A2 PE students were also invited to attend. The workshops were an innovative venture with collaboration between SINI Sports Institute Northern Ireland), UUJ, Lucozade Sport and St Mary’s Grammar School. All the local post primary schools were invited to attend, with letters sent to Heads of PE and Principals.

RUGBY

All the Year 12 pupils experienced a six week block of rugby taken by the local Youth Development Officer. On Friday 9 October, St Mary’s hosted the IRFU Tag Rugby Coaching Course. Twenty-nine Year 13 pupils from all the local schools (St.Mary’s, St.Pius X, Sperrin, Rainey) achieved this qualification. In the afternoon, a number of primary school pupils from Holy Family joined us and experienced an afternoon of Indoor Rugby Coaching from the newly qualified coaches.
GOLF
St. Mary's entered a golf team for the first time into the Darren Clarke’s School Golf Spring League. This competition allowed them to play in four fixtures. Three of the fixtures took place at Moyola Golf Course in Castledawson and the fourth at Strabane Golf Course. The team consisted of twelve players who were rotated for each of the fixtures. For the first time we had lady golfers, Lucy McGuigan and Tara Wilson, representing St Mary’s in an official competition. The team came third out of five teams but, unfortunately, missed out narrowly on reaching the Ulster Finals. The participants thoroughly enjoyed the competition and performed admirably. St Mary's golf team also participated in the N.E.B.S.S.A. qualifiers held at Moyola golf course. The team competed very well but narrowly missed out in making the final. The fourball representing the school was captained by Patrick McGuigan and comprised of Michael Meenan, Michael Grant and lady golfer Tara Wilson. The team competed very well and came third out of seven competing schools.

SPORTSDAY 2010
Sportsday 2010 was again a very successful event. The development of the event continued with a wide range of fun activities involving all the pupils. The awards were presented after the event at a special prize ceremony held in the Assembly Hall. Mr. Gerry McElwee from the Ulster Cancer Foundation visited the school on Sports Day and provided us with sachets of sun cream for the pupils to use. The behaviour and co-operation demonstrated by the pupils were notable.

Victor Ludorum: Joseph Quigley     Victrix Ludorum: Eimear McGuigan

SOCRER
CARNEGIE CUP (SENIOR TEAM)
St Mary’s began this year’s Carnegie campaign with a great deal of optimism. A 2-0 against fierce rivals and soccer kingpins, St Louis, Ballymena, signalled their intent. However, Rathmore proved to be a formidable force in the second round and after a replay, ran out 3-1 winners. Conor Kearns and Aaron Devlin were the star performers for St Mary’s while up front Nathan Rocks and Fergal Duffin led the line brilliantly. Next season the team will be that little bit older and wiser. Here’s to a successful Cup run!

SPORTHALL ATHLETICS
Seventy five pupils represented the school at a series of Sports Hall Athletics events in January. St Mary’s pupils excelled at the County Derry finals, held at Meadowbank Recreation Centre. Seventy-five pupils represented the school, winning a range of medals. There were many notable performances especially from Ellen Convery, Hannah Lydon, Odran Totten, Roshan O’Donnell, Catherine Hegarty, Bronagh McGuckin. Six pupils were selected for the County Derry team which, after intensive training, participated in the West of Ulster championships held in Magherafelt. Following on from this event, four pupils competed in the Ulster finals, also held at Meadowbank.

As a result of their performance at the Ulster Final, four of our pupils (Ben McLaughlin, Odran Totten, Michael McHendry and John McIvor) were invited, as part of the Derry under 15 team, to compete in the UK Championships of Sports Hall Athletics in the NEC Birmingham in April. The three day visit also afforded them the opportunity to visit the Alton Towers theme park.
Swimmers from St. Mary’s were entered for the Ulster Grammar Schools Swimming Championships, the Irish Schools Swimming Association Championships and the Minor Schools’ Championships. The following pupils took part in the Ulster Minor Schools Championships:


Many of them improved on their “personal best” times.

The following pupils reached the finals:

Aedan Quinn: 4th Breaststroke, 6th Backstroke
Ronan Donnelly: 3rd Breaststroke
Tiernan McCloy: 4th Butterfly
Rory McGurk: 5th Individual Medley
6th Backstroke

Aedan, Ronan, Conan and Rory were 4th in the Medley Relay.
Aoife, Tonicha, Bridget and Una were 4th in the Freestyle Relay

**STRENGTH AND CONDITIONING-YEARS 13 AND 14**

This year, Miss Convery, PE technician, was available for any pupil who wished to undertake a personal training programme. Miss Convery met with the pupil, assessed their needs/targets and gave the student a personalised programme which could be carried out in the gym. The pupil was supported throughout the duration of the programme which was specifically tailored for weight loss, muscle gain and so on. Both boys and girls were most welcome to avail of her expertise.

**SWIMMING**

**ULSTER COLLEGES ALL STARS**

Fergal McGrenaghan, Conor Kearns, Charles Gilmore and Conor McCann reached the final All-Star football trial and were all unlucky not to have made the team.

Conor McCann represented St Mary’s at the Hurling All Star trials.

**YOUNG AMBASSADORS (OLYMPICS 2010)**

Ruairi McCann and Aimee McGuckin were appointed as Olympic Young Ambassadors by the Youth Sport Trust and will experience a range of personal development opportunities in the run up to the London Olympics in 2012. They attended a conference in March and Ruairí was given the honour of opening and closing the conference. He has since been invited by the YST to take a leadership role in the initiative in Northern Ireland.

**ASSOCIATION FOR PE IN N IRELAND**

Miss S Lee attended an Interboard PE panel presentation on ‘Promoting Improvement in Physical Education’ delivered by Mark Barr (ETI) PE.
McGirr Sponsorship Deal for Senior Football

St Mary’s and McGirr Architects embarked on a new sponsorship deal this year. The generous contribution from McGirr Architects helps in the preparation of our MacRory Cup team.

Coaches Lunch

A special lunch was held in Café Pierre to thank all members of staff for their input into extra curricular sport in the school. Twenty-six members of staff were invited to this annual event.

CCEA

Two members of the department attended a course on controlled assessment for GCSE PE in Cookstown in January.

Performance Analysis Workshop

Two members of the department attended a Focus X2 Performance Analysis Workshop in Cookstown in December.

FUN RUN

In October 2009, the PE department organised a Fun Run for Year 8 and Year 9 pupils to raise funds for the school’s production of ‘Juno and the Paycock.’

TOP LINK

‘Designed to enhance links between schools, TOP Link encourages 14 to 16 year olds to organise and manage sport or dance festivals in local primary and special schools.

Part of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport Step into Sport programme, TOP Link is connected to existing school leadership work such as the Junior Sports Leader Award and the Community Sports Leader Award.

As well as developing school links, TOP Link also uses PE and sport to train and encourage young people to become leaders who can use their skills to benefit the wider community’.

For the fifth year, St Mary’s students became involved in the Top Link Programme. The department organised a primary school Gaelic football event, in June 2009, which was run by our Year 13 students, all of whom had attained coaching qualifications in Gaelic Football and Child Protection Certificates. Thirteen of our larger feeder primary schools took part with a total of 150 Primary 7 pupils participating in a comprehensive coaching programme, lunch and a competitive blitz. Paul Whitten from the Youth Sport Trust presented the school with a plaque in recognition of our contribution to the Top Link Programme.
CAREERS EDUCATION AND GUIDANCE

Careers Guidance forms an integral part of all pupils’ studies from Year 10 to Year 14. Formal careers classes are timetabled one period per fortnight from Year 10 upwards. During these classes pupils take part in a taught programme incorporating elements of both Careers Education and Education for Employability.

Throughout all Year Groups, pupils are guided towards being able to make informed decisions in relation to their future. Specific guidance is given on subject choice in Year 10 and Year 12. In Year 12, pupils have the opportunity to investigate all the options which they may consider on completion of their GCSE examinations.

In Years 13 and 14 pupils have classes in Careers Education. As well as attending the taught classes, pupils are encouraged to use the Resources in the Careers Library for private research. Individual and group interviews take place with all pupils in Years 13 and 14 to help guide them towards making suitable choices for third level courses for the world of work.

All pupils in the school have access to a purpose built Careers Suite which includes a well stocked and regularly updated Careers Library.

PERSONAL CAREERS PLANNING

All pupils are encouraged to develop their own Personal Career Plans to which they are introduced in Year 10. By being involved in small group interviews with their Careers teacher, as well as having a taught programme of Careers Guidance, they gain confidence in making an informed choice of subjects which they choose to take at GCSE Level.

EDUCATION FOR EMPLOYABILITY

All Years 8 – 12 pupils took part in a Programme of Education for Employability linked to Learning for Life and Work. As well as engaging in taught classes, all pupils in Year 8 took part in an Activity Day focusing on Entrepreneurship delivered by ‘Eastwood Business Mentoring’, as a conclusion to the Programme. Year 9 pupils engaged in a Project Based Assignment which concluded with a presentation from Mr John Murtagh, Magherafelt District Council. Year 10 took part in a Tourism Exercise, introduced by Mr Jim Eastwood, and judged by him at the end of the year.

GUIDANCE INTERVIEWS

Guidance Counseling forms a very important part of all the work carried out in the Careers Department and this is particularly important with pupils in Years 12, 13 and 14. All Year 12 pupils have the opportunity to be interviewed by a representative from the Careers Service who visits the school one morning per week.

On obtaining GCSE and ‘A’ Level results, all pupils in Year 12 and 14 receive extensive support and guidance. The Head of Careers works closely with Year 14 pupils in August helping them to secure places in Third Level Education. In Year 10 and 12, pupils are interviewed before making their final subject choices and parents are encouraged to meet with their son’s/daughter’s Careers teacher if they have any concerns about their choices. Guidance interviews can be arranged at any time for pupils either through referral from any member of the teaching staff or at the specific request of an individual pupil.
LINKS WITH EXTERNAL AGENCIES

Alongside the taught programme of Careers Education, there is a comprehensive programme of extra-curricular activities organised by the Careers Department. The Magherafelt Learning Partnership organises a large Careers Convention on a biennial basis. This brings together representatives from business and education from all parts of Ireland as well as from Scotland and England. This year the MLP Careers Convention was hosted by St Pius X College.

The Careers Department has developed close links with many outside agencies and Northern Ireland Companies who visit the school regularly to give presentations to the pupils.

As a conclusion to the programme of classes in Interview Skills, all Year 14 pupils take part in a Mock Interview carried out by panels of professionals from a wide range of career areas as well as representative from universities. A detailed assessment of the pupil’s performance in this event helps pupils to identify their strengths and can also point to areas for improvement. Specific interview preparation is also conducted for pupils who are applying to Oxbridge.

All pupils in Year 13 take part in a Work Shadowing Scheme organised and monitored by the Careers Department. This scheme provides pupils with the opportunity to spend time in some of the largest companies and organisations across Northern Ireland and beyond.

A programme of Careers Presentations from invited speakers targeting Year 12, 13 and 14 pupils is on-going throughout the year, ensuring pupils are kept fully informed of new opportunities in both the world of Employment and Further and Higher Education.

All Year 14 students have the opportunity to attend Medical and Paramedical Open Days organised by a number of Health Trusts as well as the Programme of University Open Days which take place in early September.

Linked to Specialist School for Science status an additional programme of activities was planned by the Careers Department. This included an additional employability activity day for Year 11 delivered by Genesis and a presentation by Eastwood Mentoring on interview preparation.

THE CARERS EDUCATION PROGRAMME AND EMPLOYABILITY PROGRAMME

The Careers Education Programme and the Employability Programme are delivered alongside a very comprehensive range of activities, which forge links with organisations outside the school.

Careers Service NI
There is a very closely structured link with the local Careers Officer, Mrs F Hyndman who supports the work of the Careers Department. She:
- gave a class talk to all Year 10 and 12 pupils
- helped all Year 12 pupils complete the Occupational Interests Guide
- conducted the Year 12 Assessment for interview, as part of Year 12 Induction
- carried out individual interviews with Year 12 pupils
- attended the Year 12 Parent/Teachers Evening

A Service Level Agreement was signed by both the Principal and Head of Careers.

Year 13 Work Shadowing
All pupils completed four days’ work shadowing during a mid term or at the end of June, in a variety of career areas. Pupils were encouraged to broaden their horizons and to consider career areas which might offer slightly different types of opportunity.
Year 14 Mock Interview Programme
All pupils in Year 14 had the opportunity to take part in a Mock Interview carried out by professionals from a wide range of career areas as well as representatives from Northern Ireland Universities. Pupils were assessed on their preparation and performance and were given verbal as well as written feedback.

Oxbridge Interviews
A group of highly skilled professionals worked closely with those pupils who applied for Oxford and Cambridge, culminating in a very comprehensive interview, in preparation for their Oxbridge Interview.

Opening Evening Altnagelvin
Ten Year 14 pupils attended an open evening in Altnagelvin Hospital for Medicine.

University Open Days
Year 14 University Open Days: all Year 14 pupils visited Queen’s University and the Jordonstown Campus of the University of Ulster. A few pupils availed of the opportunity to visit Open days in the Republic of Ireland and UK.

A number of Year 13 pupils attended a talk in St Pius X College, Magherafelt from the Scottish Universities and the Rainey on Oxford University.

Eight Year 13 pupils attended a conference on medicine at Queen’s University in the medical Biology Centre in Belfast.

Two Year 13 pupils went on an Open Evening on Pharmacy at Altnagelvin.

Four Year 14 pupils visited the Dental School at Royal Victoria Hospital.

A number of Year 13 pupils attended Open Morning Sessions on Health Related careers eg Speech and Language in Magherafelt Oaktree Centre and a range of health related careers at Altnagelvin Hospital.

Additional Organisations:
- **Sentinus** – some of our pupils attended a conference on career opportunities in STEM subjects
- **Genesis** – representatives from Genesis worked closely with Year 11 pupils on an activity which involved product design
- **F G Wilson** – some of Year 13 participated in the CPS Simulated Work Environment at the plant in Larne and all Year 11 pupils were given a talk by a representative from F G Wilson on the range of careers within the company.
- **Magherafelt District Council** – a representative judged Year 9 pupils’ displays on recycling as part of the Employability programme
- **Eastwood Mentoring** – Jim Eastwood
  - delivered a session to all Year 14 on interview preparation
  - presented an assembly to Year 12 on completion of their CV
  - delivered an Activity day for all year 8 pupils on Enterprise
  - delivered a lesson to each Year 10 Class on marketing/promoting a good or service.
STAFF DEVELOPMENT AND TRAINING
OVERVIEW OF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT 2009/2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>DATE</th>
<th>COURSE/MEETING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>24 August 2009</td>
<td>Staff Meeting/ Departmental Meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Specialist School: Into Year 3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24 August 2009</td>
<td>Committee Meetings/Heads of Year/Departmental Meetings</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>26 August 2009</td>
<td>Employability &amp; Citizenship Training</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Departmental Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td>27 August 2009</td>
<td>Pastoral Team Meetings/ Heads of Department</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Epipen/CPR /CPR Training</td>
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<tr>
<td>28 August 2009</td>
<td>EFQM Submission</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Departmental/Pastoral Meetings</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Epipen/CPR/CPR Training</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>21 December 2009</td>
<td>Departmental developmental work on GCSE/A2 Specifications</td>
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<tr>
<td>4 January 2010</td>
<td>ICT Development</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1 April 2010</td>
<td>Coursework Moderation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4 May 2010</td>
<td>Departmental developmental work on GCSE/A2 Specifications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30 June 2010</td>
<td>Forward planning for September 2010</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

OFFICE STAFF
In June 2008 all office staff were set a target to achieve European Computer Driving Licence (ECDL). This has now been achieved and during 2008/2009 was further enhanced with staff being given the opportunity to attend Advanced ECDL. Several staff successfully obtained 'Expert Status' having passed all modules in Advanced ECDL. During Term One in 2009/2010, Publisher training was offered during twilight sessions where all office staff obtained a certificate in 'Design' using Publisher (CLAIT). Other training opportunities during 2009/2010 included:

Invigilator Training
Invigilator training was undertaken in November 2009, by the office staff who invigilated during the Entrance Assessments in 2009.

Irish
Some staff availed of after-school Irish Classes from October 2009 to January 2010.

Emergency Life Support Training
One member of office staff completed a one-day Emergency Life Support Training (ELS). This now allows her to assist the ELS Trainer in St Mary’s as well as lead a group on her own.

SIMS Training
Relevant staff attended the following SIMs training:
- Voluntary contributions on SIMS.net
- Lesson Monitor
- Confirmation of CTF/End of Year Overview

CAFÉ BORDEAUX
The staff of Café Bordeaux completed training in:
- Health and Safety
- Till duties

CLEANING STAFF
The Cleaning Staff completed training in:
- Management to Reduce Spread of Swine Flu
- Guidelines for the safe disposal of contaminated waste materials, body fluids and blood.

EPIPEN/CPR TRAINING
As part of the St Mary’s Staff Development Programme in August, key members of office, Café Bordeaux and cleaning staff undertook Epipen/CPR Training.
St Mary’s Grammar School, Magherafelt was designated a Specialist School for Science on 31 May 2007. Education Minister, Caitriona Ruane acknowledged the strength of the school’s application and its willingness to ‘engage meaningfully with other education partners and the wider community to enrich the learning experiences and life opportunities of young people and for the benefit of their local community.’

PARTNERS

‘We welcome the opportunity to network with other schools with the aim of raising attainment and access and making relevant connections between the school experience and the world of life and employment.’

St Mary’s Specialist School Application

St Mary’s established close partnerships with a number of local schools and businesses:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Local Schools</th>
<th>Businesses</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>St Pius X College, Magherafelt</td>
<td>FG Wilson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sperrin Integrated, Magherafelt</td>
<td>Genesis</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Holy Family Primary School, Magherafelt</td>
<td>Northgate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>New Row Primary School, Castledawson</td>
<td>Bank of Ireland</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St Patrick’s Primary School, Loup</td>
<td>Chambers</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

PRIMARY SCHOOL PARTNERS

The links established and developed in Years 1 & 2 of the Specialist School Programme were further strengthened in Year 3.

FORCES AND ENERGY DAY

October 2009
Primary 7 pupils participated in a Forces and Energy Activity which included a carousel of energy changing demonstrations; the development of ‘fair tests’ and a ‘tug-of-war’ competition.

BIODIVERSITY DAY

June 2010
Primary 6 pupils from our three primary partner schools, Holy Trinity Cookstown and Anahorish Primary School participated in a BIODIVERSITY Day in June. Pupils used a range of techniques to observe the plant and animal life of hedgerows and ponds.

ECO SCHOOLS PROJECT

St Mary’s Eco-Committee assisted partner Primary School in the setting up and delivery of the Eco School’s Project. Funding was made available for each school to develop its school grounds to increase opportunities for pupils to engage in Biodiversity activities. New Row Primary School, Castledawson received its Green Flag Award this year.

STEM MODULE

Rocket Design April 2010
Primary 7 pupils from New Row, Castledawson and St Patrick’s Loup, visited St Mary’s to use the STEM Module to investigate Rocket Design.

STEM MODULE - MISCROSCOPY

June 2010
Primary 7 pupils from Holy Family, Magherafelt visited St Mary’s to use the STEM Module to investigate Pond Life.

ECO SCHOOLS PROJECT

St Mary’s Eco-Committee assisted partner Primary School in the setting up and delivery of the Eco School’s Project. Funding was made available for each school to develop its school grounds to increase opportunities for pupils to engage in Biodiversity activities. New Row Primary School, Castledawson received its Green Flag Award this year.
YEAR 11 TALK ON CAREERS IN FG WILSON
All Year 11 students attended a talk on FG Wilson and the range of careers they offer. Pupils were also given and insight into the life of an engineer employed by F G Wilson.

YEAR 12 PROBLEM SOLVING WORKSHOPS FOR FUTURE ENGINEERS
The course was developed and delivered by Mr P Magee, Electrical Engineer and Mr I Henderson, Mechanical Engineer. The aim of the course was to give pupils and insight into the work of Mechanical and Electrical Engineers. Twenty-eight Year 12 pupils completed the problem solving exercises, based on real-life problems which would occur regularly for engineers at FG Wilson. Mr P Magee and Mr I Henderson assisted pupils in the completion of the tasks.

YEAR 12 ELECTRONIC INDUCTION
A group of FG Wilson employees came to St Mary’s and facilitated a workshop on Electromagnetic Induction to the Year 12 Triple Award Science pupils.

VISIT TO FG WILSON SIMULATED WORK ENVIRONMENT
A group of seventeen Year 13 Physics and Technology & Design students enjoyed an educational visit to FG Wilson (Engineering) Plant in Larne in March 2010. FG Wilson is one of our Specialist Schools industrial partners. They are a global company with over three thousand employees and forty years of experience in the supply of diesel and gas powered generator sets, with headquarters in Northern Ireland. During their visit the students took part in a Simulated Work Environment (SWE) and had a tour of the Acoustic Centre situated at the plant.
CHEMISTRY DEMONSTRATION LECTURE AND CAREERS PRESENTATION AT LOUGHREY COLLEGE

Sandra Witherspoon and Liz Simpson presented an interactive and engaging demonstration lecture to all Year 11 students on the role of acids in food. The students were given an insight into the number of different career opportunities through studying Food Science/ Food Technology and various other courses at this College.

EDUCATIONAL VISITS

National Science and Engineering Week At The University Of Ulster
A group of Year 9 pupils attended and participated in a fun Science Day which included a range of activities, demonstrations and talks.

Chemistry Alive Event at University of Ulster At Coleraine
Ryan McKenna, Year 13 was successful in his application for the one day Pharmacy Master Class for A Level students, organised by the Biomedical Department at the University of Ulster at Coleraine. Ryan had the opportunity to participate in practical work, discussion sessions on drug formulation and a tour of the pharmacy facilities.

Salters’ Festival of Chemistry at the University of Ulster, Coleraine
Tonicha Donnelly, Michael Doyle, Siobhan Comer and Caroline Collins, all Year 8, successfully completed the practical challenge at the Salters’ Festival of Chemistry at the University of Ulster, Coleraine. All students were presented with certificates for their participation in this event.

Chemistry Society ‘Flashes And Bangs’ Lecture, Queen’s University, Belfast
Dr Marie Migaud and Dr Chris Hardacre presented an interactive and engaging demonstration lecture to all Year 13 Chemistry students in Queen’s University, Belfast. Students found this a very interesting talk with a successful balance of practical experiments and careers information. The students were given an insight into a number of different career opportunities through studying Chemistry/ Chemical Engineering and the requisite entry requirements were presented.

BT YOUNG SCIENTISTS (RDS DUBLIN)

A group of Year 12 pupils: Orlagh Mc Collum, Helen Quinn, Luciana Lupari, Catherine Mc Closkey and Aoife Donaghy entered a project entitled ‘Does listening to music decrease our learning ability?’ This was the first time the school had entered the BT Young Scientist competition. The project tested the recall ability of 100 Year 9 pupils as they listened to pop music, classical music, music of their own choice and a control group with no music. The findings indicated that there was little difference in any of the test groups and although music did not assist their recall, it indicated no ill effect. The project gained a very positive report from the judges and the Year 12 pupils had a very rewarding and social experience as they competed with 500 entries from all over Ireland.
CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD COMPETITION 2010

Irish Chemistry Olympiad

Bernadette Kevin, Sean Forbes, Shane McLarnon and Stephen Sweeney took part in the first round of the Irish Olympiad Competition which took place in Queen’s University, Belfast. Bernadette won the Bronze medal and Sean, Shane and Stephen were highly commended.

Bernadette Kevin, Sean Forbes, Shane McLarnon and Stephen Sweeney

British Chemistry Olympiad

Year 14 students Bernadatte Kevin, Vincent McKenna and Terrie Duffin were highly successful in the first round of British Chemistry Olympiad Competition. They were awarded the Bronze certificate and the following students were highly commended:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Catherine McCusker</th>
<th>Lisa Rogers</th>
<th>Stephen Sweeney</th>
<th>Shane McLarnon</th>
<th>David McGuckin</th>
<th>Mary McAllister</th>
<th>Dermot Ryan</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Andrew Keenan</td>
<td>Nicholas Collins</td>
<td>Aidan McKeown</td>
<td>Malachy Doyle</td>
<td>Sean Forbes</td>
<td>Michaela Donaghy</td>
<td>Lauren Crawford</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deirdre Devlin</td>
<td>Shane Donnelly</td>
<td>Johanna McAuley</td>
<td>Helen Close</td>
<td>Michael Mullan</td>
<td>Catherine O’Boyle</td>
<td>Seamus O’Brien</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

UK PHYSICS CHALLENGE

All Year 12 Triple Award students participated in the UK Physics Challenge competition. They all prepared for and sat a one hour Physics paper (structured questions) during school time. This was then marked and the students received participation certificates.

UK PHYSICS AS OLYMPIAD

All Year 13 Physics students took part in the UK Physics AS Olympiad. Paul Cosgrove received a Bronze Medal Award and the other students received Participation Certificates.

UK PHYSICS OLYMPIAD

Fearghal McGrenaghan and Hugh Henry took part in the Year 14 UK Physics Olympiad. Fearghal received a Bronze Medal Award and Hugh received a Participation Certificate.
MAGHERAFELT LEARNING PARTNERSHIP

The MLP was established in 2007. It provides a full microcosm of the post-primary sector of Northern Ireland: it includes controlled, grant maintained, integrated, maintained and voluntary grammar, both denominational and non-denominational; only Irish Medium and single sex education is absent. Every school is co-educational, varying in size, type and history. The schools and Northern Regional College also have a long-standing history of working together, both in terms of pupil curricular provision as well as continuing professional development of staff. The MLP vision for the future of our schools and the purpose behind them can be summarised thus:

- Education is central to our future;
- Partnership will look to build community cohesion by ensuring equality of opportunity through the removal of barriers to participation in education and seeking to minimise variation in outcome through the provision of relevant and appropriate curriculae.

Shared activities to date include:

AS COLLABORATIVE SUBJECTS

In 2009/10, the MLP continued to evolve into a Learning Community offering a much wider choice of subjects to Sixth Form pupils. In total there were 12 collaborative subjects on offer in common agreed timetable slots on Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday running from break through to lunch. The subjects were: Government and Politics, National Certificate in Sport & Leisure, Further Mathematics, Chemistry, Spanish, Moving Image Arts, Biology, French, Music, National Award in Construction, Health & Social Care (Single Award) and the National Award in Engineering. Ten of these subjects were chosen by twenty seven pupils (one per pupil) who went on to complete the AS course with excellent results. Each of the main stream schools had at least one collaborative pupil. Virtually all of these pupils are continuing their studies into A2.

Schools have a requirement to meet the Entitlement Framework by 2013 which demands that Sixth form pupils have access to at least 27 subjects with at least one third being applied and one third general. Of the twelve collaborative subjects on offer, five of them were applied which was of immense benefit to those schools whose Post 16 curriculum has traditionally been almost exclusively general subjects.

In the 2010/11 academic year, there are fourteen collaborative subjects on offer with fifty four pupils embarking on one collaborative AS course.

Mrs Millar (Principal/ Kilronan Special School), Mr Robinson (Principal/ Rainey Endowed), Mr Lambon (Principal / St Mary’s Grammar School), Mr McCluskey (Principal / Magherafelt High School), Mr Rowan (Principal/ Sperrin Integrated College) and Mrs White (Principal/ St PiusX College), pictured with respective students.
CAREERS AND HIGHER EDUCATION CONVENTION
A tremendously successful Careers and Higher Education Convention was run on 25 February 2010 in St Pius X College with over one hundred and thirty exhibitors from the business and education sectors taking part. The Convention was attended by an estimated 2,500 – 3,000; Year 10 and Year 11 pupils in the afternoon, with Years 12, 13 & 14 pupils and their parents in the evening. Using Video Link, the Convention was opened by Dr Seamus Boyd, Director of one of the largest pharmaceutical companies in the world. The Convention presented workshops on STEM and the Allied Health Professions; cookery presentations; Past Pupils Law Forum as well as exhibitions on the major professions, local and national employers, Further and Higher education in Northern Ireland, Southern Ireland and Great Britain. A number of exhibitions were aimed primarily at pupils from Kilronan Special School. In line with the current economic climate there was a particular focus on STEM related careers. The event was streamed live on the internet using neelb.tv where pupils from the MLP schools acted as presenters, interviewers and runners. Parents of Year 13 pupils, in particular, found the exhibition to be of immense value with many taking the opportunity to familiarise themselves with the opportunities available to their children. The exhibitors passed many favourable comments on the pupils in terms of their behaviour and the thoroughness of their school-based preparation enabling the pupils to ask informed questions. The Convention was organised by the MLP careers subgroup with the assistance of Mrs Anne Kearney (NEELB Careers Field Officer)

STAFF DEVELOPMENT
The MLP Pastoral subgroup organised a Staff Development Day on the 1 June 2010. In attendance were all the Pastoral Vice-Principals, Heads of Year and KS Co-ordinators. In the morning, the programme consisted of training in the implementation of the Critical Incident Management Policy, written during the year by the Pastoral Team. Input from the Ms Elaine Roub, Northern Ireland Regional Young Cruse Co-ordinator complimented that of Mrs Shelagh O’Brien. In the afternoon the programme took the form of a number of presentations and workshops on Behaviour Management and Reward Systems.

As well as organising the Convention the MLP Careers subgroup undertook in-house training on the processes needed to fulfil the requirements set out in the Department of Education’s ‘Evaluating the Quality of Education, Information, Advice and Guidance provided by Schools, Colleges and Training Organisations’ and ‘Quality Indicators – Careers Information’. Training in raising the awareness of STEM was undertaken with the assistance of Mrs Arlene Todd (NEELB). A major STEM event for Year 10 pupils at Meadowbank Leisure complex was organised by Rainey Endowed School and opened by Miss Wendy Houvenmagal (Olympic silver medallist in cycling).

Members of the MLP ICT subgroup undertook three days’ training in the use and construction of a Virtual Learning Environment with a particular focus on Fronter. Schools are currently targeting the use of a VLE with the collaborative subjects to help support pupils who are only in the host school for about 20% of the school week.

There are eight sub-groups operational within the MLP: The Principals Steering Group, and the Pastoral, Timetable, Coordinators, Careers, SENCO, Examination Officers and ICT subgroups. With each school being represented on all the subgroups and providing the chair-person for at least one of the subgroups, opportunities exist for the sharing ideas and educational experience.

FUTURE DEVELOPMENTS
The MLP is actively considering how to further widen curricular choice to Sixth form pupils, the development of the Bright Futures website, the use of video conferencing, the development of SEN provision/SENCO expertise, CEIAG, and the continued up-skilling of Year Heads.
SECURITY

The school continues to monitor and measure the effectiveness of all existing security measures undertaken, and balances personal freedom with the need to provide adequate security for pupils, staff, visitors and protecting the fabric of the school premises.

The school is investing in updating the fire security and intruder alarm system in the incoming year.

An extension to the school’s CCTV system has provided greater security in the school site giving added reassurance for the safety of staff, pupils and the school estate.

The school has separated pedestrian and vehicular access where possible and continues to monitor all vehicular traffic within the school site including school buses.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT

Financial Statement for the Financial Year Ending March 2010

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>INCOME</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Department of Education Northern Ireland</td>
<td>4,924,922</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Income</td>
<td>82,745</td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL INCOME</strong></td>
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<tr>
<th>EXPENDITURE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL EXPENDITURE</strong></td>
<td>5,162,389</td>
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<tr>
<td>OPERATING DEFICIT</td>
<td>154,722</td>
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<tr>
<td>RETAINED DEFICIT – carried forward</td>
<td>71,128</td>
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The school undertook extensive refurbishment work to the Art Department, staff room and office suite during this period and plans to return to a break even position over the incoming financial years.