



BOARD OF GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS
ACADEMIC YEAR 2023/2024

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St Malachy's College Board of Governors

The Board of Governors met on five occasions during the year. In addition, the sub-committees of the Board met to deal with issues such as the strategic direction of the College, curriculum, appointment of teachers, finance, auditing of accounts, safeguarding, staffing, premises, discipline and the admission of students.

Board Members	
Trustee Representatives:	Sir Gerry Loughran (Chairman) Fr Colin Grant (Vice Chairman) Mr Feargal MacElhatton Mr Michael Wilson
Nominated by DENI	Mr Gerry McGinn Mrs Marie Louise Horwood Mr Gavin Boyd
Elected Parent Governor	Mr Martin Sherlock
Elected Teacher Governor	Mr Aaron Douglas
Secretary	Mr Paul McBride (Principal)

MISSION STATEMENT

"St Malachy's College, as a Catholic school, is dedicated to providing academic excellence in the context of a Christian community ethos. It seeks to preserve its traditions of spirituality and learning so that all pupils, staff and parents can experience continuity in achievement and further their own spiritual, educational and personal growth in a pleasant interesting, and stimulating environment. "

The Board of Governors of St Malachy's College is very pleased to present to the annual report for the academic year 2023 – 2024.

The year just past has been another very busy and highly successful one for the College Community. There has been increasing emphasis on developing a medium term strategic approach to improvement and the process of self-evaluation. However, the Board is committed to its Mission Statement. It is based on the premise that belief in a God of love, justice and forgiveness is essential to the education of the whole person. What makes the Catholic school distinctive is its religious dimension, and this is to be found in:

- The education climate and culture
- The personal development of each student, teacher and member of the school community
- The relationship established between culture and the Gospel
- The illumination of all knowledge with the light of faith
- A synthesis of culture and faith.

The Board is fully aware of the need both to foster the needs of all pupils and to continue to make its unique contribution to building relationships in the community.

ENROLMENT

Total numbers enrolled on, the official school census – 1179

STAFFING

We welcomed the following members of staff:

Mrs Clare Montgomery Rintoul - Head of French
Mrs Lisa Kerr - Head of Business Studies & BACS
Mrs Nicola Jones – Teacher of Science
Mr Mark Fleming -Teacher of Spanish & French
Mr Gavin Pollock – Teacher of Home Economics with Health and Social Care
Mr Eamon Cooke – Teacher of Maths & Digital Skills
Mr Andrew McKillen – Teacher of A2 Computer Sc

Departures

The following member of staff left the College:

Mr Nick Hammersley – Head of Religious Studies

We are happy to acknowledge the tremendous work done by the members of staff and wish them every blessing.

RELIGIOUS ETHOS 2023-2024

In an increasingly secular world, often charged with the sterility of merely functional or transactional educational outcomes, our College Mission Statement shines as a beacon of tradition and hope, a hope that our College men will charge the world 'with the grandeur of God' as the poet says. St. Malachy's is a Catholic school, which is dedicated to providing academic excellence in the context of a Christian community ethos.

Be it known to all who enter here: Christ is the reason for all we do. He is the invisible presence in every classroom, made visible through our relationships with the pupils and with each other.

Our Catholic education provides our young men with a lens with which to view the world. That lens is the gospel message of Jesus Christ and that every human being has an innate dignity, a glory from within. We seek to form good men with a conscience and desire to develop that 'gloria ab intus', their gifts and talents, so that their excellence may be used at the service of others for the good of the world, a world that is consequentially more beautiful, good and true because of them. Our ethos in every aspect of College life; academic, sporting, artistic and musical, seeks to facilitate the ideal of St Irenaeus that 'the glory of God is the human being fully alive.' Inspired by this ideal, the College, seeks to ensure that all pupils and staff experience opportunities for their own spiritual growth and faith development. In view of this, the following opportunities were provided.

This year saw the formation of a Chaplaincy Team of senior and junior students, aimed largely at encouraging the participation of the boys in the liturgical life of the College, introducing them to the idea of ministry and providing opportunities for charitable work and outreach to the local community. In essence, to give our boys a lived experience of a faith that matters. Some boys actively participated in the daily Morning prayer in the College Chapel and on a Friday at our morning Mass celebrated by Fr Spence, senior students were Ministers of the Word and junior students took the role of Altar Servers. Music was provided each week by Jack Fusco on the College Chapel Organ. Numbers have grown significantly at this Mass and we regularly would have 30/40 students attending as well as staff. A group of seven students were trained and commissioned as Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion. At our annual St Malachy's Day Mass 27 students were involved in various ministries on the day and really did the College proud with their commitment and preparation.

At the beginning of the academic year each year 8 class had a mini -retreat with Rev Dowd as part of their induction into College life and every form class from years 9-14 were welcomed by Rev Dowd for a session of refamiliarization with the College Chapel after its reopening in May 2023. RE staff were also encouraged to bring their class to the Chapel at least once a term for prayer. Various other year group liturgies were celebrated in the College Chapel. Each year group gathered for both Advent and Passion Services. Once again the senior and junior students of the Chaplaincy team led the services for their peers. It was also a joy to be able to host a Carol Service for staff which was a truly beautiful experience with music provided by the boys.

It was a pleasure to be able to welcome back the Old Boys for the Mass for deceased College staff celebrated by Canon Gunn in November.

Our religious ethos is always evident in the generous way our boys respond to those in need. Two groups of Yr13 students volunteered in Newington Day Centre as part of their Enrichment Programme. They worked with a group of elderly men and women creating scrapbooks of photos of their lives. Our charitable effort at Christmas was an outstanding success. RE staff member, Ms Carla Brennan successfully organised groups of boys and staff in the collection of 670 tonnes of food for the North Belfast Foodbank.

Ms Patricia Morris and Ms Tara Bell were both involved in preparing students to compete in the Ethos Cup. Our annual Lenten Fundraising raised £800 for Trocaire and £500 for the Northern Ireland Hospice. In June Rev Dowd recorded videos which were shared via Parent App to allow the wider College family to participate in the Diocesan Novena to the Sacred Heart.

D. Finance

The Finance and Audit Committee of the Board of Governors has met regularly during the year to fulfil all the legal obligations, and to examine the proposed annual budget for 2024-2025. The College auditors gave a very favourable report on the College's financial and accounting procedures in respect of the 2023/2024 year.

Income and Expenditure for 2023/24

Expenditure		Income	
Teaching staff	£4,706,998	DENI	£7,494,870
Other staff	£1,823,258	Grants	
Other Operating Costs		Other income	£276,491
Stationery, books & materials	£163,387		
	£93,576		
Examination fees	£21,561		
Purchase of equipment	£79,355		
Rent, rates, insurance	£244,539		
Heat, light & power	£88,051		
Maintenance	£50,876		
Transport	£15,902		
Postage and telephone	£45,143		
Advertising & printing	£28,089		
Cleaning materials	£24,104		
Hire & contracted	£25,491		
Audit & professional fees	£121,701		
Other costs	£97,658		
VAT	£1,099,433		
	<u>£7,629,689</u>		<u>£7,771,361</u>
Surplus	£141,672		
	<u>£7,771,361</u>		<u>£7,771,361</u>
Accumulated surplus at 1 April 2023			<u>£150,537</u>
Accumulated surplus at 31 March 2024			<u>£292,209</u>

The College prepares financial projections for a three-year cycle and plans to achieve a break-even financial position by 31st March 2027.

School Meals Revenue Account

Expenditure		Income	
Food	£212,655	Sale of meals	
Wages	£115,611	DENI Grants	£215,360
Heat & light	£13,957	Other income	
Other costs	£15,212		£108,962
			£60,509
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£357,435		£384,831
Surplus/(Deficit)	<hr/>		<hr/>
	27,396		£0
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£384,831		£384,831
	<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>
Accumulated deficit at 1 April 2024			<u>£(39,125)</u>
Accumulated deficit at 31 March 2023			<u>£(11,729)</u>

The College operated the following additional accounts in the year ended 31 August 2024:

Pitch Account

The College operates an account for the letting of our 3G pitch. At 31 August 2024 there were fund reserves of £55,282. Reserve Funds accumulated will eventually be used to replace the pitch surface.

Fund-raising Account

The College operates a fund-raising account. Funds raised from the College's designated charities are lodged into this bank account and cheques written to the charities accordingly. Money is also lodged in relation to fundraising activities undertaken by the College, donations from alumni and money raised for school trips.

At 31 March 2024 there was a cash balance of funds of £147,904.

SUMMARY OF CURRICULUM POLICY

The College seeks to develop the potential of every pupil through the provision of a broad, balanced and relevant Curriculum that is in keeping with legislative requirements. The Curriculum on offer is reviewed annually and all measures are taken to ensure its composition reflects the needs of the current cohort of students at each key stage, particularly at GCSE (KS4) and AS/ A2 level (KS5).

Key Stage 3

The College KS3 Curriculum continues to be reviewed within the current cycle of SDP and period of extension. This review has focused on the inclusion of digital skills and uses of digital platforms to enhance learning.

In year 8, all pupils follow the same Curriculum, which includes a total of fifteen subjects as well as discrete provision for Learning for Life and Work (LLW). Elements of LLW are also infused across the learning areas. Across Year 8-10 an Enrichment Programme has been established; this infuses various opportunities which include workshops on pertinent pastoral matters, health and well-being, study skills and a range of sports.

In Years 8 & 9 students are allocated a library period fortnightly during which a focus is placed on reading for enjoyment and enables further promotion of the Accelerated Reader programme which has been well established across KS3.

The students study the following courses:

Art & Design	Science
Physical Education	Technology
Drama	Home Economics
Music	Mathematics
English	Geography
History	LLW*
Religious Studies	Digital Skills

And two languages from French, Spanish and Irish

*LLW coupled with the tutorial programme includes the delivery of:

- Personal Development (Pd)
- Citizenship (Cz)
- Employability (Em)

The teaching development of Digital skills has now been extended and phased into Years 8 and 9, with students have at least one period per week in the newly refurbished Digital Hub. This new innovative curriculum on offer includes basic ICT skills, programming, robotics, cyber security as well as creative digital skills including animation.

Key Stage 4 & 5

At Key Stages 4 & 5 the Curriculum satisfies the Entitlement Framework. This is to ensure that all our pupils have access to a broad range of courses, both general and applied. The College in partnership with other schools from the North Belfast Area Learning Community (NBALC) fulfils the requirement of the Entitlement Framework. (minimum requirement: 21 courses on offer at GCSE and A-Level, at least one third of courses to be applied.)

The College Curriculum is audited annually to ensure the EF requirements are satisfied.

Key Stage 4:

Choice of Subjects for GCSE - All students study 9 or 10 GCSE subjects.

Core subjects (studied by all students) include Religious Studies, English Language, English Literature and Mathematics

All students also choose five other subjects from the groups below.

GROUP A Science (Pupils must select from the three options)

- Triple Award Science (Biology, Chemistry, Physics)
- Double Award Science (equal to two subject passes – incorporating Biology, Chemistry and Physics)
- Single Award Science

GROUP B Languages (all students select at least one language)

- French
- Spanish
- Irish
- Gaeilge

In exceptional circumstances, based on baseline and diagnostic tests, as well as school performance data, a small number of pupils may be exempted from the requirement to study a language at GCSE. This decision must be made after consultation with the Careers Department/ SENCO / Heads of Languages/ Vice Principal Curriculum and Parents.

GROUP C

- Art and Design
- Business and Communication Systems (BACS)
- Business Studies
- Moving Image Arts
- Computer Studies
- Drama
- Geography
- Government + Politics (additional subject outside normal school hours)
- Home Economics
- History
- LLW
- Leisure & Tourism
- Music
- Physical Education
- Technology and Design

Pupils of proven ability may be selected for Further Mathematics. These students will complete GCSE Maths in Year 11 and GCSE Further Maths in Year 12.

Key Stage 5:

The Sixth Form Curriculum aims to build upon the foundations laid in KS4.

The College tries to accommodate any combination of subjects. Students normally study three subjects for AS, pupils with a strong GCSE performance (25 points and above) are encouraged to study a fourth subject at GCE AS-level. Most students take three subjects through to A2 level but some who attain top grades at AS may continue to study four.

The following subjects have been offered at KS5 A-level or AS-level: (2023-24)

Art & Design	Biology	Geography
Moving Image Arts*	Chemistry*	History
Physics *	Religious Studies	Spanish*
Music*	Mathematics*	Sociology*
Drama*	Further Mathematics	Business
Studies English Literature	Design & Technology*	Politics
CTEC Applied ICT	Economics	
	French* Journalism (A2 only)	
	Computer Studies (SSD)*	
	Irish* Health & Social Care	
	BTEC Travel & Tourism*	
Physical Education	BTEC Sport	

*Indicates subjects which may be offered within an aspect of collaboration, linking with another school from within the North Belfast Area Learning Community (NBALC) – see Section 8 for more details.

All pupils are required to supplement their A-level studies by taking additional courses in Religious Education (except for students taking A-level Religious Studies), Tutorial and Careers Education. Students are encouraged to include time for Physical Education (personal fitness training) as well as partaking in a choice of enrichment opportunities.

Examination Results & Leavers Destinations 2023-24

In the summer of 2024, all schools and Colleges returned to public examinations after with no mitigations in place. At the beginning of the academic year the various examination boards outlined how they planned to return to the pre pandemic standards (2019).

In August 2024 the outcome of this examination series was produced. These are documented in Appendix 1 (pages 33-37).

Collaboration with other Schools

In 2023- 2024 KS5 Collaboration continues to take place among the NBALC within Post-16 Provision, with the 11 schools involved having aligned timetable blocks in both Year 13 and 14. This work continues to enable young people from North Belfast to access a wider range of courses and the work has been described as best practice and has been showcased among other ALCs in Belfast.

This collaboration involves partnerships with BRA, Dominican College as well as the two Model Schools for Boys and Girls, Edmund Rice College and Hazelwood Integrated College

Overview of Collaboration 2023-24

Students from St Malachy's College accessing courses within NBALC

Host School	Year	Subject	No of pupils
Dominican College	14	Sociology	3
Dominican College	14	Financial Capabilities	4
Girls' Model	14	Performing Arts	1
Dominican College	13	Home Economics	2
Dominican College	13	Design and Technology	2
Dominican College	13	Sociology	3
Dominican College	13	Moving Image Arts	2*
Boys'' Model	13	Travel and Tourism	2

***MIA students also study Sociology and are included there as well.**

Students from other schools accessing courses in St Malachy's

Home School	Year	Subject	No of pupils
BRA	14	MIA	4
Dominican College	14	French	1
Dominican College	14	Technology	3
Dominican College	14	Politics	1
Dominican College	14	Music	3
Edmund Rice	14	Health & Social Care	1
Dominican College	13	French	3
Dominican College	13	Politics	1
Boys' Model	13	Chemistry	2
Boys' Model	13	Physics	1
Hazelwood	13	Spanish	1
Edmund Rice	13	Irish	2

SHARED EDUCATION

Shared staff day: All staff had the opportunity to take part in a joint staff day in term one. It was an extremely successful, with staff from both schools being able to choose from a menu of lectures delivered by St Malachys and BRA staff. We were also very fortunate to have a keynote address and workshop on Retrieval from Kate Jones.

Staff training: St. Malachy's staff enthusiastically embraced the online CPD modules on the EA Shared Education hub.

Drama: Bugsy Malone play - this was a huge undertaking between both schools. Especially the Drama and Music departments. The play was a huge success and highlighted the strong collaboration between our two schools.

All involved got a lot out of this experience, increasing confidence in themselves by working on the stage and with students they were not familiar with. Bonds have been created for life!

Music:: For the occasion of the recent 174 Trust anniversary. St. Malachy's College and Belfast Royal Academy marking the start Advent and celebrating 174 Trust's 40th Anniversary. A wonderful event getting everyone into the Christmas Spirit in North Belfast.

History: Thirty of our Year 11 History students accompanied by Mr McStravick and Miss McVeigh were fortunate to be invited to a shared education event at Belfast Royal Academy. This event was part of Holocaust Memorial Day which takes place each year on 27th January. The Holocaust Education Charity Generation2Generation delivered an insightful and engaging presentation on the Holocaust using survivor testimony, artefacts and multimedia tools. This morning's session was led by Diana Cook who retold her mother's Margot Pogorzelski's experience of The Holocaust. Margot's story was presented by her daughter using family photos and voiced extracts from a brief memoir Margot wrote describing her childhood and early adult life. By telling her family story Diana looked at how collective sympathy for the plight of refugees can turn to fear and prejudice in no time at all. This presentation was particularly resonant for the year 11 pupils who have just finished studying the escalation of racial persecution in Nazi Germany from 1939-1945 as part of their GCSE History course.

Politics: Seven students attended a Politics in Action group, alongside BRA and Fortwilliam. They produced a project which addresses some aspect of local politics which they feel should be improved and produce a final report which they presented to local MLAs and journalists at Stormont. There were five sessions this year which are held in the various schools and then the final presentation at Stormont. MLAs, MPs and local journalists/media personalities also attend the sessions and the students had the opportunity to tell them about their project and to ask them questions about the current political situation/events. They delivered their final project on Thursday 29th February at Stormont. I have attached their final project.

English: On Wednesday 28th February our Year 13 English students, along with BRA, visited Seamus Heaney's Homeplace. This was a great opportunity for both schools to find out more about Heaney's life and influence. They even had the opportunity to attend a lecture hosted by a professor of English at Queen's University Belfast. This provided valuable insight into the poets the students are studying at AS Level. They had a great time and we wish them every success in their upcoming AS Level examinations!

Y8 students attended the launch of the NBALC 2023/24 Poetry Anthology at RBAI. This year, students were asked to compose poems on the theme of 'Identity'. Four students from 8E had their poems selected and were invited to read their poems aloud to an audience that included: the Belfast Lord Mayor, Ryan

Murphy and representatives from the John Hewitt Society and the Ulster University. A special thanks go to Ms Herron from Belfast Royal Academy for curating and editing this year's beautiful anthology.

LLW - Once upon a time in Northern Ireland: The BBC and the Northern Ireland Education Authority yesterday hosted a special screening of the multi-award-winning documentary, *Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland*. Screened at the Queen's Film Theatre Belfast, 180 teenagers from ten schools (including St Malachys College, and BRA) were invited to attend the event, alongside teachers and school leaders. Pupils from our Year 12 GCSE Learning for Life and Work classes attended the screening and contributed to the Q&A session at the end.

The event was hosted as part of an EA Shared Education pilot to explore how the acclaimed documentary series might be used as a resource in schools, to help the next generation to better understand Northern Ireland's past.

Geography/Science: BRA were not able to commit to the cooperation Ireland schools for climate change project this year, we have linked in with Boys Model.

We have 6 Y13 students participating in this programme; as well as 6 Y13 pupils from Boys Model. Unfortunately, the trip to Galway was cancelled last minute by cooperation Ireland. The boys really benefitted from this project and have UCAS points to show for it.

Building on the themes of last year, in this programme, we will be supporting our pilot schools to deliver EcoEd4All science courses between October and January 2024. Each course takes approximately 90 minutes to complete and is provided by our Programme Partner, Alison: the Free Empowerment Platform. Upon completion of the online courses, schools and pupils will begin climate-related social action projects, alongside cross-border partner schools.

SPECIAL NEEDS PROVISION

The Special Educational Needs Provision in St. Malachy's College ensures that the needs of all students with specific, individual learning, and medical needs are supported within an inclusive and socially integrated learning environment.

The College's policy and procedures on Special Educational Needs (SEN) follow the Department of Education's Code of Practice on the identification and assessment of SEN.

Our Learning Support Co-Ordinator, Mr Aaron Douglas, leads the team, and is responsible for the identification, assessment and coordination of the arrangements and facilities for students with short and long-term SEN.

In the academic year 2023-2024, there were 142 (12.1%) students on the SEN Register and 335 (28.5%) on the Medical Register. This included 48 (4.1%) students with a Stage 3 Statement of SEN. In addition, 159 (13.5%) students received Examination Access Arrangements in the College.

All students on the SEN register have an Individual Education Plan and are currently in receipt of support which is tailored to each student's specific needs within the classroom. The College buildings are fully compliant with disability legislation. College staff work in consultation with parents and outside agencies to make appropriate arrangements for students and visitors with disabilities.

Over the last year learning support and teaching staff have accessed a range of professional development courses provided by the Education Authority and external providers. Areas addressed included: AAIS Emotional Regulation based on the principles of Zones of Regulation; Level 1 & 2 Autism Awareness & Intervention Strategies; Supporting Young People with ADHD in a Post Primary Classroom; Access Arrangements for Post Primary Pupils with Literacy Difficulties; and Dyslexia Friendly Post Primary Classroom.

K. Arrangements for School security

(c.f. The Education (NI) Order 1998 – Article 15)

The Board of Governors of St Malachy's College is committed to providing a safe and secure environment for staff and visitors in the College.

Access

Entrance to the College property for students is normally only by the Antrim Road gate. The Lincoln Avenue and Crumlin Road gates are open only for limited periods at the beginning and end of the school day to facilitate staff parking.

Visitors

Parents and visitors are welcome to the College. However, all visitors must report to the College Office. If they are proceeding beyond the office, they will be issued with a visitor's pass for the duration of their stay on College premises.

Meetings between visitors and staff will normally take place by appointment. Visitors and parents are not permitted to approach staff directly in their classrooms.

Cars

In the interest of safety and to avoid congestion, parents are asked not to bring cars on to the school premises at the beginning or end of the school day. Only staff or visitors that have signed in, are permitted to park on the College site.

General security

The College monitors every visitor to the College and utilises a range of security measures including intruder alarms, CCTV coverage and security lighting. The College employs caretakers / security guards to monitor the Lincoln Avenue entrance from the end of the school day to late evening while our sports facilities are used by external groups. These measures assist in providing a safe secure environment for pupils, staff and visitors.

CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION, ADVICE AND GUIDANCE 2023/24

The Careers Department works in partnership with two Careers Advisers from the Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) to provide CEIAG at the College.

All students in Y10 – Y14 are scheduled one lesson of Employability/Careers Education per two weeks. Methodology is varied according to year group and topic, and includes teacher and PowerPoint presentations, videos, class and peer group discussions, individual research and reflection, and a range of topic workbooks.

At Key Stage 3, the CCEA Education for Employability programme, with its emphasis on pupil-centred learning and preparing young people for life after school, influences the careers programme. In addition to Careers lessons, some Key Stage 4 students also study CCEA GCSE Learning for Life and Work, of which Employability is a major component. In the Sixth Form, the emphasis is on preparing students for university, higher level apprenticeships, and accessing experiential learning in preparation for the world of work. Pupils are encouraged to apply for and participate in virtual and in-person work experiences and provided with all application details in class and through the Google Classroom platform.

Careers staff, supported by academic staff, advise on all aspects of subject choice, and guidance was provided to class groups and individuals as required. C Johnston and L Graham presented to parents of Year 10 and 12 students to provide age-specific subject choice guidance. GCSE and AS/A Level Options Booklets were produced to support students in making their subject choices and to inform parents about the curricular offer. GCSE and AS/A Level Options Events were held during the second term. Careers staff were available for consultation by pupils and parents post examination results in August to advise students who were required to make alternative subject choices for AS-Level.

All Year 12 pupils had a Career Guidance Interview with one of the DEL Careers Advisers, either face-to-face, on-line or by phone. Career guidance interviews were offered to all pupils in Years 10, 13 and 14 and were arranged as required throughout the year. Since the pandemic NICS have conducted these interviews via telephone, which has enabled more speedy and efficient progress through the years groups, enhancing the number of interviews we can complete. From Year 10 onwards, pupils are expected to produce a realistic Personal Career Plan.

All Year 13 students were offered the chance to participate in the Work Experience programme. A large number of students took part and gained vital skills and experience in the industry of their choice. Staff visited all student who took part and ensured successful completion of placements. Feedback from students and employers was highly positive.

Events:

- Aug 2023 Advice sessions for former Year12 students - Following publication of GCSE results.
- Aug 2003 Staff Day training on UCAS references and ‘A Year in Careers’
- Sept 2023 Year 12 Apply for Careers Guidance Interviews

Careers Advisers Mr D McGranaghan and Ms J Dorish began their interviews with all Y12 classes to re-introduce themselves in advance of beginning personal career guidance interviews. They outlined the support they can offer Y12 pupils this year and facilitated the completion of pupils’ ‘Application for Careers Advice’ forms. Year 10 and 14 students who requested careers advice were interviewed.

- Sept 2023 UU Open Days - Belfast, Coleraine and Derry campuses
- Sept 2023 St Mary’s UC open day
- Oct 2023 BT: Get Work Ready
- Nov 2023 Mock MMIs
- Jan 2024 Mock Teaching Interviews
- Jan 2024 Generation Innovation workshops
- Feb 2024 Dominican College Fortwilliam Careers Convention for Years 12-14
- Feb 2024 Medicine event at Waterfront Hall
- Feb 2024 GCSE Options Talk for Year 10 Students and Parents
Advice on subject selection, Careers considerations and Labour Market Information.
- Feb 2024 A Level Options Talk for Year 12 Students and Parents
Advice on subject selection, Careers considerations
- April 2024 ‘You’re Hired’ for Year 12 students
- April 2024 Mock Interviews with Business Representatives for Year 13 students
- May 2024 Personal Economics Event for Year 11
- May/ June 2024 Digital Alumni Conferences
- June 2024 UCAS Registrations for Year 13
- June 2024 Year 13 Work Experience

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

St Malachy's College has an unrivalled reputation for excellence across a wide range of sports. The College is widely recognised for excellence in the delivery of curricular Physical Education and provision of a varied extra-curricular sports programme.

The floodlit 3G pitch is a terrific facility that benefits both the pupils and the local community. The College makes full use of the pitch for curricular and extra-curricular activities up to 5.30pm Monday to Friday and manages the community use from 6.00pm to 10.00pm during the week and at weekends. The pitch is used for PE classes, extra-curricular sport, outside clubs and for students before school, at break time and lunch time. Due to the very heavy usage, the quality of the playing surface diminished significantly, and we were delighted that the pitch was refurbished. The PE Department appreciates the financial pressures currently being placed on school budgets but again welcomes the positive comments from our College Principal with regards to the potential for extending and refurbishing the staff area.

Usage of the Fitness Suite by both staff and students continues to increase. The Key Stage 4 PE students have benefited from an overhaul of the programme to make it more specific to their level of performance. The Fitness Suite is of great benefit when assisting in the physical preparation of the various school sports teams. Many players who are involved in College teams use the Fitness Suite before, during and after school. Key Stage 5 students have access to the Fitness Suite for four periods during the week as a break from their studies and to maintain and develop their personal fitness levels. In addition to weight resistance machines, cardiovascular fitness machines and free weights, the department has added Swiss exercise balls, resistance bands, skipping ropes, a punch bag, dip bars and chin up bars to enhance the experience. Again, the refurbishment which was completed in the last couple of years has made a tremendous difference to the positive experience of the users.

Regarding examination PE in the 2023-24 academic year, there were two Year 11 and two Year 12 class studying GCSE Physical Education (CCEA) with healthy numbers in each.. After school booster classes, at GCSE, AS and A2, help those boys who are under performing or having difficulty with specific topics. The department staff and the boys have benefitted greatly from the introduction and delivery of the BTEC in Sport at KS5. This has provided another academic pathway for our boys.

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES AND STAFF

The College curricular and extra-curricular programme endeavours to promote a healthy and active lifestyle and lay the foundation for further development of interest in sport after school and in the community.

The well managed programme makes a significant contribution to the physical, social, mental and moral education of our pupils and should:

- Contribute to the health and well-being of pupils
- Help develop pupils' self esteem
- Extend the benefits of PE lessons
- Offer opportunities for competitive challenges and representative honours
- Contribute to the development of excellence

Tribute must be paid to all staff for their commitment in giving of their own time for our extra-curricular sports programme. The College offers a wide and extensive range of activities at a variety of age groups, by providing equal opportunity and encouraging high participation rates. Our extra-curricular sports programme is successful

because of the commitment of our pupils, dedication and professionalism of the staff, the continuing support of parents, the senior management and our Principal, Mr. McBride.

In addition to teaching staff, the College is forever grateful to many past pupils and parents who also assist with sport development in the College and who, as proud Malachians want to maintain the rich sporting reputation of the College throughout Ireland and beyond. Mr Danny Fulton has assisted greatly in the development of our Basketball and Golf teams. Martin Sherlock has been a tremendous advocate and mentor for the department. They have all given of their time, energy and expertise. The PE staff and the boys are very grateful of this invaluable help and support.

Mr. Molloy, as Teacher in charge of Basketball and Soccer continues to do an outstanding job in co-ordinating the coaching of various teams throughout the school. This includes working closely with staff to ensure all our teams get an appropriate pitch allocation for training, that all games are played on time with a minimum of disruption and crucially that we ensure the boys who are out of class to represent the College are up to date with their academic work. Mr. McAlister continues with the responsibility of Teacher in charge of Athletics and Cross Country and the boys have been hugely successful again this year. Mr Michael Cooke also continues to work closely with our athletes and has been a huge part of their success. Mr McClean, as Teacher in charge of Gaelic Games, is co-ordinating the development of our Gaelic Football and Hurling teams. A focus for him has been the earlier introduction of after school Gaelic Football sessions from September rather than waiting until after Christmas.

The large number of members of staff in the College that help with the delivery of these activities, and where necessary, assisted by coaches from outside agencies include:

<u>Activity</u>	<u>Staff Member</u>
Athletics / Cross Country	Mr Joe McAllister Mr Michael Cooke
Basketball	Mr Adrian Fulton Mr Phil Molloy
Gaelic Football	Mr Andy McClean Mr Kevin Niblock Mr Aaron Douglas Miss Patricia Morris Mr Mark Kelly Mr Gavin Pollock Mr Mark Donegan
Golf	Mr Danny Fulton
Hurling	Mr Andy McClean Mr Mark Kelly Ms Linsey Norton Miss Tara Bell Mr Eamonn Cooke
Soccer	Mr Phil Molloy Mr Pat McStravick Mr Patrick McAllister Mr Chris Johnston Mr Kevin Niblock Mr Declan McQuade Miss Jess McQuiston

EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

Year 8 Induction Sports Camp

To kick off the new academic year the P.E. Department, assisted by other staff members and several past pupils, hosted a two-day sports camp for our new Year 8 intake, the week before school was due to begin.

The pupils were given the opportunity to meet their new peer group and classmates in the informal setting of the P.E. Department, and, using sport as the vehicle, get to know their new surroundings, having come from feeder primary schools across our ever-widening catchment area.

The boys were given expert coaching in Soccer, Gaelic Football and Basketball over the two days. Perhaps more importantly, they were given the opportunity to meet, mingle and converse with their new classmates and hopefully establish the beginnings of new friendships for the next seven years and beyond.

Martin McMullan Shield Annual Year 8 Cross Country Race

The Year 8 pupils participated in the annual Martin McMullan Memorial cross-country championship at the end of September. The pupils travelled in convoy to Mallusk playing fields accompanied by the PE Dept staff and Classroom Assistants. Mr McBride also took time out from his busy schedule to come up to Mallusk and encourage the pupils. The pupils took part in a warmup routine, before it was time to set off in the race. Mr. Joe McAlister issued the boys with last minute instructions, and they were off on their way around the 1.5km course, which had been expertly marked out and marshalled by members of the college junior running club. It was a terrific event with over 170 participants. A very close race ensued up front and the remainder of the field put in a tremendous effort to contribute to their class team totals, giving us an exciting team race as well as individual battle.

Some days later, Year 8 pupils attended a special assembly in the Sports Hall for the presentation of individual awards and team prizes by Mr McBride and Miss Keelan.

Making Sporting Memories

The extra-curricular sporting opportunities for our boys are tremendous and one key feature which contributes to daily life and the culture of the College. The commitment, dedication, and enthusiasm of so many staff, teaching and support, allow our students to develop lifelong friendships through sport. The buzz, the excitement, the anticipation, the analysis, the wins and the losses, are the lifeblood of sporting world in the College. So much happened over the past year to reflect this fact.

Starting with Sports Day 2023, we hope you enjoy reading the update as much as we enjoyed making the memories!

A celebration of the sporting talent St Malachy's has to offer, the sun shone on an excellent Sports Day in June 2023. Stiff competition, fair play and team spirit were evident over the mix of traditional events in a fantastic day for the College.

The Martin McMullan Memorial Race

The Martin McMullan Race for Year 8 pupils is one of the great College traditions in our athletics programme. This year, due to an extended period of very poor weather, the decision was taken to roll back the years and host the race on the College site. In addition, we used a loop around the Girdwood Hub. It was another very enjoyable event, and a huge credit must go to all the boys who competed on the day. It was a highly competitive event as always with Lucas Mooney holding off a surging Micheál Conlon to take top spot on the podium, with James Rafferty in 3rd place. The presentation was held the following week in the College Hall. The Top 30 individual finishers are listed below along with the team event.

Athletics

District Cross Country

The Year 8s set the tone for the day with a narrow victory over Methody to finish first out of 13 teams. After a relatively poor start Thomas Coy charged through the 85 man field to get up to second place with a few hundred metres to run, only to lose a couple of places in a very close sprint finish. Patrick Hume and Cormac Leheny ran

fine races to finish in 6th and 7th. Peadar Sheridan rounded out the scoring quartet in 18th place to secure the first team title on offer.

Tiernan Conway and Cillian McMullan were always to the fore in the Minor boys (Year 9) race with Tiernan a clear second and Cillian just pipped for the bronze medal on the line. Sé Sweetnam finished in 9th and Aidan O'Hara (13th) won his battle with Ethan Connolly (15th) to complete the scoring.

The Junior boys placed all their scorers in the top seven to secure the third title of the days in excellent fashion. Ben Neal ran in the top three throughout the race and was rewarded with the individual bronze medal. A trio of the recent victorious Gaelic team filled 5th to 7th places with Darragh Rooney, Daire Donnelly and Cathair McKenna finishing in that order. Darragh was unlucky as a slight wrong turn towards the end cost him 4th place, whereas Daire and Cathair had strong finishes to pick up several places in the run in.

Finn Diver led the Inter boys race from start to finish and looked comfortable in doing so. He was superbly backed up by a pair of year 11s who still have another year in this age group. Jude McGann picked up the individual bronze and was closely followed by Eoin McConnell in 4th. Donal Owens finished up their scoring with a strong 7th place. The senior boys packed well finishing five runners in a row from 5th to 9th place to complete the sweep of all the boys' titles on offer. Odhran Rafferty was the first green vest across the line, closely followed by Ronan McAree, Diarmuid Hanna, Adam McCann and Evan Stanley. All these teams went on to compete for Ulster titles and All-Ireland qualifying berths.

2023 Ulster Schools Cross Country

Super seniors save their best for last.

St Malachy's Senior Boys claimed the Ulster title in fine fashion with an excellent team display at the Ulster Schools Championships at Mallusk in February. A group of Year 14 students produced the goods in their last outing in a provincial Championships in College colours. Evan Stanley ran the best race of his life to claim 5th place, Diarmuid Hanna showed his class in 8th with Ronan McAree close behind him in 9th. Odhran Rafferty rounded out the scoring quartet in 11th place to give St Malachy's a convincing victory with 33 points, well ahead of St Michael's Enniskillen (80 points) and St Colman's Newry (108 points). Adam McCann ran strongly to back them up in 20th place. The Intermediate Boys ran strongly to claim the team silver behind a very good St Michael's squad that will be firm favourites for the All-Ireland title. Such are the high standards that Finn Diver sets himself that he will be disappointed with his individual 4th place finish. Year 11 pupils Eoin McConnell and Jude McGann ran well in 17th and 24th respectively, Donal Owens completed the scoring in 38th place. Both the Junior (Year 10) and Minor (Year 9) teams finished in fourth place and were unlucky to narrowly miss out on a place at the All-Irelands. Tiernan Conway ran a fantastic race to lead the Minors in 7th place and claim an individual qualifying place for the All-Irelands. Top finisher for the Junior boys' team was Ben Neal in 30th with Cathair McKenna close behind in 35th. The Mini Boys team gained great experience, finishing in fifth place at their first Ulster Championships. Thomas Coy got a much better start and ran a superb race to finish in 9th place. At the Irish school's Cross-Country Championships Finn Diver claimed a fantastic individual bronze medal in horrible conditions in Waterford.

2023 Ulster Schools Track & Field Championships

On a fine Saturday at Antrim Forum Finn Diver (Year 12) led every step of the way in the Inter Boys 1500m to claim a convincing victory. It was a sweet win for Finn as he had also led the first 2900m of the 3000m on Friday evening, before being passed for the gold in the closing stages. He was rewarded for his front running in the 3000m with a personal best and sub nine min clocking. There were no such troubles in the 1500m as he pulled away on the last lap for a strong win. He qualified for the All-Ireland Championships in both events. Finn Diver was presented his gold medal for the 1500m by Gerry Carson, President of Athletics NI and a past pupil of the College.

Ciaran Lopes (Year 10) claimed an excellent, if unexpected triumph in the Junior Boys Long Jump. Having finished 3rd in the Districts a couple of weeks previous, Ciaran added a massive 32 cm to his personal best to jump 5.38 m for gold. This was a fantastic achievement in only his second ever official competition. Ciaran needed every bit of the extra distance with the top five in the event only separated by 15cm. Ben Neal (Year 10) was the next best of the College athletes. He ran a brave race in the Junior Boys 800m, leading through the first lap. The first two passed him early on the second lap, but the third placer only caught him with 100m to go and they fought a great battle down the home straight, with Ben losing out on the bronze medal and an All-Ireland berth by a mere two tenths of

a second. Year 8 pupils Cormac Leheny and Thomas Coy gained valuable experience in the 800m in their first visit to the Ulster Schools Championships.

Jude McGann (Year 11) ran a pair of strong races, against athletes mostly a year older, in the Inter boys 800m and 1500m. In the 800m he equalled his personal best and then only one hour later came back to finish sixth behind Finn in the 1500m in a new personal best time.

On Friday evening Ronan McAree (Year 14) earned his highest finish in a provincial championship in 5th place. After a slow start to the race the top four pulled away and Ronan found himself in a race for 5th. He bided his time and struck on the last lap to finish his last race for the College in style. In the 3000m Eoin McConnell (Yr11) ran a big personal best of 9.50 to finish in the top 10, his first time under 10 minutes for the distance.

At the Irish Schools Track and Field Championships in Tullamore Finn Diver ran a brilliantly executed race to pick up a fantastic silver medal. With the leader heading off at record pace, Finn settled into the chase group and conserved his energy for a big effort on the final lap. His plan worked and he pulled away from the chasers over the final 200m to secure the silver.

Basketball

Year 8 Basketball

Every April, as part of the preparations for the Year 8 Vince Halloran Tournament, our basketballers make the short trip across the city to Our Lady and St Patrick's College Knock.

Having practiced throughout the year, this day is all about exposing the boys to playing competitive games against different opposition. It is always an enjoyable experience for every player with learning in a fun environment the focus. The boys went on to play in the Vince Halloran Tournament in Lisburn Racquets. The 2023 games against OLSPCCK, Rathmore and St Pat's Armagh were all very competitive, but the boys dug really deep in the final to come away with the win.

U14 All Ireland Semi Finalists 2023

The U14 squad was drawn in a four-team tournament in Malahide Community School. The winners would advance to the semi-finals of the U14A Schools Cup. Standing in our way were the hosts, alongside Our Lady's Castleblayney and St Pat's Cavan. It was a straight shoot out, winners go through, no backdoors. An excellent all-round display from the team, with outstanding contributions from Layden O'Neill and Tiernan Conway helped the College to three victories on the day. Jude O'Carroll showed his shooting touch along with young Year 8 talent, Oliver Donnelly. Eamon Loye, Ethan Carr and Connor Lundy helped to dominate the boards while Fionn Marley, Joe Devlin, Adam Savage and Eamon Tohill worked tirelessly at the defensive end and out on the fastbreak.

League Year 10 Regional Report

Regional 'A' Winners and All Ireland Finalists 2023

The All-Ireland Schools League competition for our U15 boys tipped off in September 2022. This competition starts on a regional basis, with the top 16 teams in Ireland advancing to the knockout stages of the All-Ireland League Playoffs. These games were played on a home OR away basis against seven other teams in the North-East Region. The team went undefeated against St Mary's Drogheda, St Joseph's Drogheda and Rathmore. A victory on a score line of 47 – 35 over Our Lady's Castleblayney in the semi-final resulted in a trip to the Phoenix Centre, Carrickmacross for a matchup against St Pat's Cavan. The team dug in defensively to win a close contest and become North East Regional Champions on a score line of 44-30. Two further impressive wins including one over Colaiste Iognaid, Galway saw the team advance to the All- Ireland semi-finals to cap off another fine season.

The boys won a thrilling encounter against Mercy Mounthawk, Tralee by the narrowest of margins, 41- 40. What a game! Unfortunately, the boys just came out on the wrong end of another tight affair against Rathmore, Co Kerry in the All-Ireland Final.

U16 Regional Winners and All Ireland Schools Semi Finalists

Drawn in the first round of the All-Ireland Schools Cup against a highly fancied Colaiste Eanna team from Dublin, the U16 team put up a very spirited display and were leading going into the last quarter in the College Sports Hall. Unfortunately, an extended run of possessions without scoring in the final quarter saw the boys come up just short of advancing to the second round, so all efforts would have to be focused on the All-Ireland Schools League competition. The U16 team had a very successful campaign coming through the combined North and North East region undefeated. These victories included wins over St Mary's, Drogheda, St Joseph's Drogheda and Rathmore. The final was a low scoring battle, the final score-line of 24-22 saying it all! In the U16 basketball Round of 16, the team again rose to the challenge of a visiting team, in this case, Belvedere College from Dublin. This victory took the boys to the quarter final stages of the All-Ireland Schools League which was a terrific achievement.

The U19 team had a very successful campaign coming through the combined North and North East region undefeated. These victories included wins over St Mary's, Drogheda, St Joseph's Drogheda and Rathmore. The team had standout performances from Luke and Michael Donnelly as well as Jake McCotter, but it was certainly an all-around team effort.

After beating Dunshaughlin Community School., Co. Meath on a score-line of 65-42. the regional final was a much tighter affair. The final was an excellent contest between the College and St. Pat's Cavan in The Phoenix Centre, Carrickmacross, Co. Monaghan. Michael Donnelly was at the forefront of the second half revival with four big three-pointers to lead the team to a 65-58 victory. The team then progressed through the round of 16 with a superb victory over Presentation College, Bray. The quarter final was played in the Oblate Hall in Inchicore. In another super team performance, the boys dug out a hard-fought win against Knockbeg College, Carlow on a scoreline of 58-52. Unfortunately, we met our match in the semi-final, losing in the National Basketball Arena to Colaiste Eanna, Dublin the eventual winners.

U16 and U19 North East Regional Champions 2023-24

The Under 16 basketball team beat St Patrick's College Cavan in an exciting regional final in the Phoenix Centre Carrickmacross in November 2023. The Under 19 basketball team beat Templeogue College Dublin in a pulsating All-Ireland quarter final in the College Sports Hall to set up a semi-final clash against Malahide Community School.

The Brian Molloy Memorial Tournament

In June 2024, current and former College basketball players once again graced the Sports Hall to remember former pupil, Head of PE and basketball coach Brian Molloy. In all honesty, this is a tournament that we should host every year but only manage to do so on an occasional basis.

On this occasion, as well as competitive games and friendly banter, the old boys were contributing financially to the U16 basketball players tour to America in October 2024. We want to thank all those who participated in the tournament and helped to make the day a huge success and very enjoyable.

Football Roundup

In the reset edition of The Collegian, we highlighted the several highly notable performances over the last number of years as well as some photos of the many boys involved from Year 8 all the way through to Year 14.

The dynamic has changed with so many of our older boys training several nights a week. Therefore, Year 8 – Year 11 teams have a regular training slot one day a week and the older boys, Year 12 – 14 play competitive matches for the College, but don't have an allocated training day. This model works very well. Key Stage 3 students, regardless of ability, are all welcome to training sessions and turn out on a weekly basis.

As Year 10 squads, both the current Year 11, and current Year 12 groups, had terrific seasons. They won both the Belfast Cup and Northern Ireland Cup. Winning one competition is extremely difficult but to win two is very unusual and a tremendous achievement. To repeat this achievement in successive years is out of this world!

The Year 12 group beat St Mary's CBGS 1-0 in the final at the Welders, Ciaran Boyle getting the only goal in a close encounter. In the Northern Ireland Cup, held at the Coleraine Showgrounds, the game finished 2-2 and went to extra time and penalties. The penalty shootout was dramatic, as first the advantage swung towards St Columb's, Derry, and then back towards St Malachy's. Rory Finney, our goalkeeper, made two terrific saves to help turn the tie in our favour.

The current Year 11 squad repeated the feat in 2023. In the Belfast Cup Final, the team beat Boys Model 3-0, with Cian Shivers, Michael Jennings and Sean Cassidy getting on the scoresheet. In the Northern Ireland Cup, the boys had a terrific 2-0 win over Lurgan Junior High with once again Cian Shivers hitting the back of the net alongside Cathair McKenna.

The Success of Year 8 Football

Mr McStravick of the History Department has led the Year 8 football squads for many years. Once the season starts, upwards of 80 boys flock to his training sessions on a weekly basis.

Over the years, Mr McStravick has been ably supported by members and former members of staff. Even though his teams have won several Belfast and Northern Ireland cups, the real value of the Year 8 football experience is in the friendships that form and flourish ever year.

St Malachy's lift Translink Cup for the first time 2023

The Translink Schools' Gold Cup involves the eight post-primary schools who have been awarded the Gold Schools Quality Mark accreditation by the Irish FA Foundation.

The Schools Quality Mark accreditation supports schools to put structures in place to develop football. This competition involves schools playing each other across three age groups (U13, U15, U17).

Schools are ranked by their performances over all age groups with one school winning the Translink Gold Cup and claiming 'Top Football Performance School' status in Northern Ireland.

For the first time, St Malachy's lifted the Translink Cup in 2023.

A Vibrant Gaelic Games Scene at the College

Gaelic games are vibrant in the College, and very much part of the fabric of its daily sporting life. Since our last publication, a great deal of work has been done by members of the teaching and support staff into nurturing and developing the skills of our boys.

We have had great support at Board of Governor level as well as past pupils who are keen to invest in the promotion of Gaelic games. So much excellent coaching and skill development are already happening in lots of clubs. It is terrific to see our boys who compete against each other in a club setting, standing shoulder to shoulder and building lifelong friendships in St Malachy's gear. We have included some of the recent successes in this part of the Sports section, including Gaelic Football, Hurling and Handball.

Our boys bring back Ulster Schools McGourty Cup 25 May 2023

This spirited group of young men fought through a very tough semi-final against St Patrick's Keady, a side that equally matched our skill and determination during an exciting and nerve wrecking game which resulted in extra time. Here, the boys showed a greater determination and hunger and eventually edged ahead in the last few minutes of extra time. The boys went on to a convincing win against St Colman's Newry where the hurling they put on display was a credit to the College and testament to their hard work and determination. The boys brought back the Ulster Schools McGourty Cup!

History makers lift McGreevy Cup for the first time

This fantastic group of young men capitalised on successes in previous years to win the McGreevy Cup for the first time in the College's history. They held off a super second half fight back from St Patrick's Armagh, the defending champions, at the Eoghan Ruadh pitch in Dungannon. Se Whittaker and Brendan Herdman gave brilliant performances in midfield, as did Addison Morris at half back and free taker Aidan Johnston. They led by four points to no score coming up to half-time, but Armagh sprang into life with a goal from their top player Josh Lucas, making for an exciting second half. The key moment was Codhran O'Rourke's goal that gave us the ability to hold on to clinch a first for the College.

European Junior Handball Championships in Friesland, Netherlands

Shea Bell, Darragh McIlroy, Ryan Garcia and Declan McGinley travelled as part of the County squad with coach and past pupil Dan McVicker, alongside former three-time World Champion Fiona Shannon. Darragh was narrowly beaten in the final of the boys 15&U singles in a fantastic match.

Shea and Darragh were desperately unlucky to lose the final by a singlepoint in a very tense final against the European number ones. Both lads cemented their status as the of the best U15 players in Europe. Also competing, Declan McGinley and Ryan Garcia competed in the fiercely competitive 17&U and 19&U Categories. Both played fantastic handball to reach the quarter-finals.

Swimming

Year 10 pupil Aidan O'Hara had his first taste of international swimming on a recent trip to Copenhagen for the Lyngby Invitational Open Gala. The up-and-coming swimming star swam his heats in the 25m pool, managing PBs in his 25m, 50m, and 100m free, along with further PBs in his 50m and 100m back stroke.

Amazingly, Aidan qualified for the finals in his 100m free and 50m back stroke in a very tough 14-15 year old age group – he is the youngest in that group, only turning 14 in February.

The finals were nerve-wrecking for his dad standing watching beside the 50m pool as the lights were dimmed. Pumping music and individual introductions for each competitor added to the atmosphere. All the races were streamed live on YouTube.

Aidan swam two fantastic swims in the finals achieving a second place in the 100m free, and third place in the 50m back stroke, topping off the podiums with two second places and two third places overall for the gala. After a memorable trip and an amazing experience Aidan is now attempting to achieve qualifying times for the Irish Nationals, being held in Limerick in July.

He heads to the Swim Ulster Long Course Gala Bangor Arena, and the Ulster Senior Schools Gala where he will compete on behalf of St Malachy's.

Aidan qualified and competed in his first Swim Ulster Short Course Open Championships last November. This is an extremely competitive competition and to even qualify is an achievement especially being only 13.

Aidan was the only male swimmer from his club Alliance who qualified, as times are so difficult to achieve. He swam his 200m back stroke finishing in the top 20, meaning qualification to the finals. In the finals he achieved a personal best swim and finished 14th an overall – remarkable considering the age range of the swimmers in the final was 1

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Music Department Mission Statement

To inspire, engage and nurture musical excellence within a supportive and aspirational environment, and provide all pupils with opportunities to fulfil their musical potential and live out their **Glory From Within**.

Staff

Mr David Strange *Head of Music*

Mr Paul Davison

August, Wednesday 30 - At our annual Music Staff Meeting, the Peripatetic Teachers focused on lesson structure, and support and challenge.

September, Friday 8 - All GCSE and A Level Music students attended a workshop at the Grand Opera House with Matthew Quinn (OM). Matthew rehearsed and explored 'One More Day' from Les Misérables and the Introit and Kyrie from Mozart's Requiem, all of them being set works from the CCEA Syllabi. The boys enjoyed meeting Matthew and it was great to work with an OM Musician.

October, 2023 - EA Music launched in 2022, in partnership with the Ulster Orchestra and with the support of the Arts Council of Northern Ireland. Our Bassoon Scheme 'To Bassoon & Beyond', students and teacher were acknowledged in October 2023 when the project gained national recognition by winning Classic FM's Best Learning Initiative! A huge congratulations to all the new young bassoonists along with their EA Music Service tutor, Krista Gallagher.

October, Friday 20 - The Year 8 Mass provided another wonderful performance opportunity for our newcomers – the entire Year 8 were prepared to sing all responses and hymns, and the instrumentalists performed a number of solos during offertory and communion. Well done to all boys involved.

October, Friday 27 - The College community made its usual annual visit to St Patrick's for the Feast of St Malachy's Mass. The College Choir, Chamber Choir, Senior Strings (including Finn Harding, oboe and Eoin Brown, clarinet – who played the Entrance of the Queen of Sheba), the Irish Traditional Group (including Caolan Fitzsimons, who sang Lady of Knock), and Jack Fusco (organ) all performed during the Mass. The College Orchestra also performed Tchaikovsky's Mazurka (from Swan Lake) at the end of the Mass. The musical contribution at this Mass was of a particularly high standard, and very memorable performances from all. Congratulations and thanks to all the boys involved.

November Monday 6 Buggy Malone – rehearsal all day

Tuesday 7 rehearsal all day, evening show

Wednesday 8 Buggy Malone – evening show

Students from Year 8 right up to Year 14 were involved in performing Buggy Malone in The College Hall on 6 -8 November 2023, along with our friends from Belfast Royal Academy. Between the boys and girls in the cast, the amazing musicians in the band and a trusty stage crew, there were 67 students involved, ably assisted by a wonderful team of prefects helping out with ticket sales and the Tuck Shop. Everyone involved worked very hard to make sure this toe-tapping musical was a success. Congratulations to Mrs Pauline Hughes and Mr Paul Davison on a fabulous joint production.

November, Monday 13 - The Chamber Choir provided the music once again for our Old Boys' Mass in the College Chapel.

November, Wed 15- Fri 24 - During mid-November, a number of boys represented the College at Hollywood Music Festival and did very well indeed. Congratulations to all the boys who put their names forward for this competition – it’s not easy standing up on stage, solo, having your playing judged in public. Results were:

Hollywood Music Festival 2023 Results

Piano Sonata Open	Senan Sheridan 1st + £100 Jack Fusco 3rd Aodhan Fearon commended
Piano Solo repertoire 16 years and under	Aodhan Fearon 1st + £40
Piano Advanced (Grade 8-8+)	Senan Sheridan 1st + £50 Jack Fusco 3rd Aodhan Fearon commended Simon Mulholland commended
Piano solo repertoire 17 years and over.	Jack Fusco 1st + £50
Rowel B Friers Memorial Prize	Jack Fusco
Sharon Yarr Cup + £50	Senan Sheridan
Piano intermediate (Grade 4-5)	Conor Rocks commended
Woodwind Grade 4-5.	Conan Nulty 3rd
Brass Grades 4-5.	Peadar Sheridan 1st + £30 Donal Creagh 2nd
Strings Grades 4-5.	Ruarcc Sheridan 1st + £30
Percussion. Untuned Grades 1-5	Tommy Faherty McConnell 1st
Post-primary School Orchestra	St. Malachy’s College Senior Strings 1st

November, Tuesday 28 - The College Musicians were on fine form for the first major concert of the year – the Autumn Concert – held in the College Hall. The programme featured all the College ensembles – Jazz Band, Irish Traditional Group, Senior Strings, Brass Ensemble, Junior and Senior Choirs, Chamber Choir, and the College Orchestra. There were also fantastic solos from accomplished senior musicians Paul Conlon, Jack Fusco, Senan Sheridan, and our very own ‘Micheál McBublé’ – Caolan Fitzsimons. Congratulations to all of the musicians and staff involved, and thank you to parents, friends and the wider College community for turning out in such large numbers to support.

December, Saturday 2 - FOSM Gala Dinner, Jazz Band

December, Friday 8 - On Friday 8 December, the Chamber Choir and a few instrumental soloists travelled to South Belfast to perform a lunchtime concert for the residents of Annadale Private Nursing Home, one of whom is a very special lady to College musicians. Mrs Mary Mallon taught at the College for many years. The Chamber Choir sang carols and Christmas music, Finn Harding and Ciaran Finlay (both LVI) sang solos, and Jack Fusco Yr13 and Senan Sheridan Yr 12 both played piano. Mrs Mallon was conducting along for much of it and offered some insightful advice for staff and pupils afterwards. It was also great to see Mrs Geraldine Pettigrew, who was Vice Principal at the College in the 1990s, who was visiting Mrs Mallon. A huge thank you to the boys and Mr McGrath who accompanied.

December, Friday 22 - A busy end of term included the usual Christmas Services for all year groups, and Prizegiving Performance from the Senior Strings, but a real festive highlight for students and staff at the College is the end of term Staff Carol Service, which featured Senior Strings and Chamber Choir this year.

January, Wednesday 17 & Thursday 18 - Our January Open Nights featured a range of musical performances across the school including Jazz Band and Irish Trad Groups, a highlight being Jack Fusco rehearsing Mozart Piano Concerto no.20 with the Senior Strings in the Library. Many thanks to all the students who gave up their evenings.

Late February - There were many standout Ballymena Music Festival successes this year. Our Pianists did very well indeed. Congratulations and thanks to all of the boys who took part.

Ballymena Music Festival February 2024

Class	Name	Result
Post Primary Choir Open	Senior Choir	Highly commended
Composition	Jack Fusco	1st + £50
Concerto	Jack Fusco	3rd
	Senan Sheridan	1st + £150
String Orchestra Open	Senior Strings	1st
Viola solo yrs8-10	Ruarcc Sheridan	1st
	Conor Rocks	2nd
Double bass solo Yr9+under	Conor Laverty	1st
Piano Solo Open	Senan Sheridan	1st + £150
	Jack Fusco	2nd
Piano Sonata	Senan Sheridan	1st
	Jack Fusco	2nd
Flute Solo Yrs8-10	Conan Nulty	2nd
Clarinet Solo Yrs8-10	Finn Doherty	2nd
Brass Solo Yrs8-10	Thomas Lewis	2nd
Brass Solo Yrs11-12	Callan McGoldrick	2nd
Double Reed Solo Yrs10-12	Oliver Boyle	1st
	Oisin Finucane	H Commended
	Adam Gray	3rd
Piano solo Yr 10/11	Oliver Boyle	H Commended
	Stephen Chen	H Commended
	Adam Gray	3rd
Piano Solo Yrs 12-13	Jack Fusco	1st

Ballymena Music Festival Young Instrumentalist of the Year Award 2024

Jack Fusco 1st + £400
 Senan Sheridan 2nd + £100

March, Sunday 3 - The College Senior Choir performed Verdi's Chorus of the Hebrew Slaves from Nabucco, and Orff's O Fortuna from Carmina Burana with St. Dominic's Choir and the Irish Doctors Orchestra on Sunday 3rd March in the Ulster Hall. During the concert the boys also performed two of their own numbers – Billy Joel's And So It Goes and The Soldiers' Chorus from Faust by Gounod. The boys received a rapturous applause from a packed Ulster Hall audience, and gained many new fans! Their a cappella Billy Joel rendition was sensitive and emotive, with beautiful dynamic contrasts and phrasing; and their Gounod was rousing and characterful, fittingly beefy, but always well-balanced. Many Doctors in the orchestra commented on the boys' excellent sound, volume, ensemble, and the conviction and gusto with which they delivered their performances. Congratulations to our Senior Choir and their conductor Mark McGrath on their inspiring performance. And thank you to the Irish Doctors Orchestra for the invitation!

Belfast Music Festival, March 2024

Strings Gr3-4	Conor Laverty	H Commended
	Ruarcc Sheridan	1st
	Conor Rocks	2nd
Brass Gr3-4	Aodhan Sharkey	2nd
	Alfie Chandranath	J 3rd
Strings Gr5-6	Ciaran Brown	
Woodwind Gr3-4	Conan Nulty	2nd
	Oisin Finucane	H Commended
	Adam Gray	H Commended
	Oliver Boyle	H Commended
Woodwind Gr7-8	Eoin Brown	1s

Senan Sheridan has had a very successful year on the Piano competition circuit, but the icing on the cake for him was when he won the Patricia Read Memorial Cup Final (U18) at the Feis Ceoil, in Dublin, during March. Congratulations Senan, on a fantastic victory – this is a huge musical feather in the cap!

A number of our middle school and junior musicians competed in the Belfast Music Festival this year, which is the first time in many years that the College has participated in it. Well done to all the competitors.

June, Tuesday 26 - The Spring Concert this year featured some of our most ambitious repertoire choices to date, including the Orchestra performing the first movement of Beethoven's 5th Symphony, Jack Fusco performing Mozart's Piano Concerto No.20, a Vivaldi Double Violin Concerto, music from Haydn's Creation, and much more. The Irish Trad group performed one of Jude Scott's own compositions. And we said thanks and farewell to 17 brilliant Upper Sixth musicians, who contributed to our Music Department with loyalty and distinction over the last seven years.

June, Wednesday 12 - The Junior Concert was held in the College Chapel, and the boys entertained a packed Chapel audience. Groups involved included Junior Choir, Junior Strings, the newly formed Junior Wind Band, Irish Trad and Brass Ensembles, as well as thirteen Junior soloists! A great concert, enjoyed by all. Well done to all the boys who performed.

Pupil Music News from 2023-2024

In April 2023, **Jack Fusco Year 13** (harpichord) was awarded a place in the Irish Youth Baroque Orchestra. This orchestra is comprised of young Irish musicians aged 18–24 who study at conservatoires across Europe. At 16, Jack was the youngest in the group. They performed in the National Concert Hall and St Anne's in Dublin. Congratulations, Jack!

In August 2023, **Senan Sheridan Year 12** (piano) was invited by acclaimed Northern Irish pianist Michael McHale to perform Gershwin's Concerto in F during rehearsals with the Ulster Youth Orchestra, for their 30th anniversary concerts. Senan rehearsed and performed for two days under the watchful eye of renowned Venezuelan-American conductor, Ilyich Rivas. Fantastic, Senan! He also recently performed Mozart's Concerto No. 10 for Two Pianos, K. 365, first movement (March 2023) alongside Jack Fusco and the College Orchestra, as well as the abridged version of Rachmaninoff's Piano Concerto No. 2 with CBSM's ICE ensemble in August 2023.

Since entering his first local music festival in 2022, Senan has won numerous awards, including Most Promising Pianist and the Musician of the Year at the Portadown Music Festival in both 2022 and 2023, the Most Memorable Performance of Contemporary Music and the Most Promising Pianist of Secondary School Age at the Irish Youth Piano Festival, 2022. He was also awarded the Best Junior Young Musician (Under 16) at the Northern Ireland Young Musician of the Year, 2022.

More recently, he was awarded 2nd place in the Junior Concerto class of Feis Ceoil, 2023 as well as 1st place in the Open Sonata class and an award for the competitor with the highest mark (94) across graded piano classes at the Hollywood Festival of Music, 2023. Senan is also founder and leader of a piano quintet that was awarded the highest mark (95) across all instrumental classes in this year's festival. Senan previously studied piano with Ruth McGinley, and Professor Réamonn Keary at the Royal Irish Academy of Music, Dublin.

Jude Scott Year 14 (Irish flute) performed in Belfast Tradfest in July 2023. Also in July, Jude was awarded third place in the Ulster Fleadh. In October 2023, Jude was part of the warm-up act for Flook, a world famous Irish traditional band, who played the Duncairn in October 2023. Jude and Ronan McLaughlin Yr9 (fiddle) are both playing with The Fureys in January 2024 as part of their Waterfront show.

Connor Rogers Year 12 performed in Les Misérables with BSPA during Summer 2023. He is also currently a member of the group Adoro.

Eoin Brown Year 14, Liam Alexander Year 13, Finn Harding Year 13 and Connor Rogers Year 12, all performed with National Youth Choir Northern Ireland in July 2023.

Finn Harding Year 13 performed in Bernstein's Westside Story with the James Huish Academy, in Avenue Arts Centre, Belfast at the end of August 2023.

Caolan Fitzsimons Year 13 currently has a lead role (Hans) in Frozen - The Musical, with NISMAT. Caolan's band, AOA, have also been busy outside of school performing at a Pure Mental charity event, and in several other venues around the city.

Special thanks to our Senior Leadership Team who have been very supportive of our many musical activities, concerts and workshops this year, and of course to our Music Staff Team including Mr Davison, Mr McGrath, and our dedicated Peripatetic Staff and Support Staff who all give of their time and talents to enhance the musical learning and teaching offered here at the College. Gloria Ab Intus.

David Strange

Appendix 1 Academic Outcomes Summer 2024

GCSE

All year 12 students are entered for GCSE examinations with the following examination boards:

- Computing - WJEC
- All other subjects - CCEA

Category	
Number of students in Year 12	176
Number of students in Exam Cohort	173
Number of Students level 5 SEN	6
% entered for 5 or more GCSEs	100%
% achieving 5 or more GCSEs A*-C	99.4%
% achieving 5 or more GCSEs A*-C including English & Maths	99.4%
% entered for 7 or more GCSEs	100%
% achieving 7 or more GCSEs A*-C	93.7%
% achieving 7 or more GCSEs A*-C including English & Maths	93.7%

GCSE Cumulative Data

<u>SEN Edit</u>	A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E	F	G	U	Total
2024	222	535	392	247	150	64	20	6	4	3	1639
% of Grades	13.5	32.6	23.9	15.0	9.1	3.9	1.2	0.4	0.2	0.2	
Cumulative	13.5	46.1	69.9	85.0	94.1	98.0	99.2	99.6	99.8	100	

GCSE Results by Subject

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E	F	G	U	X	A*-C	A*-B
Gaeilge	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.0	100.0
Art & Design(3510)	11	0	7	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.0	81.8
Biology(1010)	24	8	12	3	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.0	95.8
Business and ICT(AA5)	37	3	8	6	7	6	1	4	0	2	0	0	81.1	45.9
Business Studies(3210)	25	4	10	7	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	92.0	84.0
Chemistry(1110)	24	9	11	3	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	95.8	95.8
Design and Technology(8900)	38	0	3	5	16	4	6	2	2	0	0	0	73.7	21.1
Drama(5210)	8	0	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.0	87.5
English Language(5030)	173	17	56	54	35	8	2	0	0	1	0	0	98.3	73.4
English Literature(5110)	171	27	50	45	22	22	5	0	0	0	0	0	97.1	71.3
French(5650)	17	1	3	3	1	5	4	0	0	0	0	0	76.5	41.2
Geography(3910)	45	2	10	13	10	4	3	2	0	0	0	1	86.7	55.6
History(4010)	63	8	21	16	10	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	95.2	71.4
Home Economics(3310)	11	0	2	4	1	2	2	0	0	0	0	0	81.8	54.5
Irish(5550)	32	8	12	10	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	96.9	93.8
IT/Art(8210)- MIA	13	0	3	2	2	6	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.0	38.5
Leisure & Tourism(0004)	9	0	0	4	1	2	2	1	0	0	0	0	77.8	44.4
Mathematics Further(2330)	90	12	33	21	15	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	97.8	73.3
Mathematics(2210)	173	27	90	49	5	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	99.4	96.0
Music(7010)	8	2	4	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.0	87.5
LLW(4810)	15	0	5	2	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	93.3	46.7
Physics(1210)	23	12	10	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.0	100.0
Religious Studies(4610)	175	20	49	35	27	23	12	4	1	1	2	1	88.0	59.4
Science Single Award(1310)	10	0	2	1	3	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.0	30.0
Spanish(5750)	107	9	48	19	22	7	1	1	0	0	0	0	98.1	71.0
Sport/PE Studies(7210)	33	2	8	8	3	5	6	1	0	0	0	0	78.8	54.5
Computing (9-1)	29	5	5	12	2	3	0	2	0	0	0	0	93.1	75.9
Polish	3	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.0	100.0

DA Sc	Ent	**	*A	AA	AB	BB	BC*	c*c*	c*c	CC	CD	DD	DE	EE	FF	U	% A*C	% A*B
	139	14	12	23	10	18	18	13	10	8	8	1	1	1	1	1	93.5	61.9

A Level

Category	
Number of Students in Year 14	116
Number of Students in Year 14 (included in academic data)	109
Number of students level 5 SEN	6
% achieving 3 or more A level passes grades A*-C	74.3%
% achieving 3 or more A Level passes grades A*-E	99.1%

A2 Cumulative Data

<u>School Data</u>	A*	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	X	Total
2024	41	91	88	78	28	11	-	3		340
% of Grades	12.1	26.8	25.9	22.9	8.2	3.2	-	0.9		
Cumulative	12.1	38.8	64.4	87.6	95.9	99.0	-	100		

A Level Results by Subject

<u>Subject</u>	<u>Entries</u>	<u>A*</u>	<u>A</u>	<u>B</u>	<u>C</u>	<u>D</u>	<u>E</u>	<u>U</u>	<u>A*-C</u>	<u>A*-B</u>
Art & Design(3510)	4	2	0	2	0	0	0	0	100.0	100.0
Biology(1010)	21	3	5	6	4	3	0	0	85.7	66.7
Business Studies(3210)	32	0	6	14	5	5	2	0	78.1	62.5
Chemistry(1110)	30	8	7	8	4	2	1	0	90.0	76.7
SSD /Computing(2610)	5	0	1	4	0	0	0	0	100.0	100.0
Design and Technology(8900)	5	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	40.0	20.0
Economics(4410)	14	0	1	3	7	2	1	0	78.6	28.6
English Literature(5110)	6	0	1	3	2	0	0	0	100.0	66.7
French(5650)	4	0	1	1	2	0	0	0	100.0	50.0
Geography(3910)	9	0	1	2	5	1	0	0	88.9	33.3
Health & Social Care(0003)	17	0	3	5	8	1	0	0	94.1	47.1
History(4010)	19	1	3	6	5	3	0	1	78.9	52.6
Irish(5550)	3	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	66.7	66.7
IT/Art(8210)- MIA	3	0	0	3	0	0	0	0	100.0	100.0
Mathematics Further(2330)	9	4	1	1	1	1	0	1	77.8	66.7
Mathematics(2210)	57	12	21	11	10	3	0	0	94.7	77.2
Music(7010)	5	1	0	1	2	0	1	0	80.0	40.0
Performing Arts (Voc)(0015)	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	100.0	100.0
Physics(1210)	38	6	12	6	7	3	4	0	81.6	63.2
Politics(4830)	9	0	1	2	5	1	0	0	88.9	33.3
Religious Studies(4610)	11	1	0	4	6	0	0	0	100.0	45.5
Sociology(4890)	3	0	0	0	1	1	0	1	33.3	0.0
Spanish(5750)	9	1	4	2	2	0	0	0	100.0	77.8
Sport/PE Studies(7210)	6	0	3	2	1	0	0	0	100.0	83.3
Financial Capability	4	1	2	1	0	0	0	0	100.0	100.0
CTEC Diploma in ICT	16	0	16	0	0	0	0	0	100.0	100.0

Performance in Public Examinations 2018-19 and 2023-24

	2018-19		2023-24	
	School	NI Average (Boys' Grammar)	School	No NI Data Available
% achieving 5+ GCSEs at Grade A*-C	98.2%	93.8%	99.4 %	-
% achieving 7+ GCSEs at Grade A*-C	91.6%	86.6%	93.7 %	-
% achieving 3+ A Levels at Grades A*-C	75.5%	74.4%	74.3%	-
% achieving 2 A Levels at Grades A*- E	100%	99.3%	99.1%	-

Destination of Leavers in 2023/24

Year Group (start of year)	No. of Pupils in Year Group	% to Higher Education	% to Further Education	% to another school	% in Employment	% Other
14	118	84.7%	10.2%	0%	3.4%	1.7%

CONCLUSION

2023/24 has been another highly successful year for the College. Under guidance from DE, the College produced a 3-year School Development Plan, which builds on the previous plans, sets challenges and creates opportunities across key areas. Departments focused on routines within the classroom setting, combining raising Standards through High Quality Teaching & Learning with a focus on maintaining outstanding pastoral care. The College mission statement and motto, “Gloria ab intus” underpins the SDP encouraging each student to strive for his unique glory from within. The newly formed Chaplaincy Team of senior and junior students made a strong contribution to faith development and the refurbished College chapel enhanced the services and celebrations of faith throughout the year.

Curriculum highlights included the introduction of an extra-curricular GSCE opportunity for students wishing take an 11th subject outside of the timetable and our strong links with the NBALC continued. 2023-24 was the second year of our three-year Digital Hub pilot which has focused on the development and delivery of a new and relevant Key Stage 3 digital curriculum. This has been highly successful with students embracing workspace skills, producing digital portfolios and becoming skilled in aspects of programming and animation, learning about cyber security and developing digital media projects. We have already invested in 7 staff and 360 learners. Through the Digital Hub, the College is progressing a visionary and innovative digital curriculum that is skilling our learners for third level education and future careers. Schools across The North Belfast Area Learning Community (NBALC) regularly attend timetabled classes in the Digital Hub.

The Pastoral teams continued to develop an age-appropriate preventative curriculum with the introduction of accredited modules in the Key Stage 4 pastoral curriculum. A new Pupil Attendance Policy was ratified and pupil attendance in post Covid society was a central focus.

Enhancing opportunities for capacity building and leadership at all levels was enhanced by the establishment of a Leadership Development Programme within the College to allow middle leaders the opportunity to participate in whole school strategic planning. 11 staff applied for the programme and focused on areas including attendance, target setting and service leadership. These staff presented to others as part of the College’s dynamic and strategic Continuing Professional Development. Leadership among the student body was strengthened by the Student Council who led in the development of an eco-friendly uniform exchange scheme and other environmental initiatives.

Partnership with our Parents/Carers is at the core of our success at St. Malachy’s. 2023/24 saw the re- introduction of the College annual Gala dinner organised by The Friends of St Malachy’s Parent Association. Proceeds from the association’s fundraising activities being targeted to directly support and enrich our pupils’ curricular and extracurricular experiences.

In terms of sporting achievements, it was a highly successful year for the College. St Malachy’s Senior Boys claimed the Ulster 2023 Schools Cross Country title and in basketball, the U16 and U19 teams were North East Regional Champions 2023-24. Soccer successes included terrific seasons for both the current Year 11, and current Year 12 groups, who lifted the Belfast Cup and Northern Ireland Cup. For the first time, St Malachy’s lifted the Translink Cup in 2023, thus claiming ‘Top Football Performance School’ status in Northern Ireland. There were notable successes in Gaelic football with Year 8 winning the Ulster Schools McGourty Cup.

I thank and congratulate the Board of Governors, all staff, and the boys for their hard work, success, inspiration, and loyalty to St Malachy’s College. I thank also our parents/carers who continue to work in partnership with us so that the boys continue to thrive in all aspects of College life. 2023-24 has enabled all members of the College community to work together and thrive so that we continue to fulfil our core mission and “experience our own spiritual, educational and personal growth in a pleasant, interesting and stimulating environment.”

Gloria ab intus!