

02

October EverGreen

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FROM THE SULLIVAN COMMUNITY

INSIDE

04 Beauty and the Beastl

06 World Mental Health

10 Careers

16 Pupil success

And lots more.....



October

"For me, one of the things that makes Sullivan special is seeing our young people find their place within the school community."

One of the things that stands out about life at Sullivan is just how many different ways our young people find opportunities to connect. Whether through friendships, shared interests, representing the school or getting involved in something new, there is a real sense of community in the everyday life of the school. With our wellbeing focus this month being Connect, one of the Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing, October has provided plenty of opportunities to recognise just how important those connections are.

To mark World Mental Health Day, our pupil led Year 14 Wellbeing Committee organised a range of activities for our younger pupils, including mindfulness colouring and a worry tree. These encouraged pupils to take some time to reflect on their own wellbeing and the importance of looking after one another. It has been particularly encouraging to see our senior pupils taking the initiative and creating these opportunities for others.

We have also been celebrating Black History Month under the theme Honouring Our Communities. Our Year 14 Wellbeing Committee have once again been at the heart of this, producing celebratory posters, presentations and some brilliant 'Finish the Lyric' videos, alongside a celebration of Black musicians in the Silver Robin at break time. These activities have provided opportunities to learn from one another, celebrate different cultures and recognise the people and experiences that enrich our communities.

Beyond these events, October has offered so many opportunities for our pupils to get involved, share their talents and support one another across all aspects of school life.
For me, one of the things that makes Sullivan special is seeing our young people find their place within the school community. Whether through shared interests, new experiences, friendships or simply looking out for one another, it is these connections that help create a sense of belonging. They are an important reminder that wellbeing is not just about the activities we organise, but about the community we create together.

Mrs Bowman- Kinnear
Senior Leader: Pupil Wellbeing



Beauty and the *Beast*

Pupils lit up Stranmillis Theatre with a stunning performance of the Broadway Musical.



As we close the curtain on Beauty and the Beast, we reflect on what was a truly memorable production and an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. Beyond the performances on stage, pupils developed confidence, teamwork, resilience and lasting friendships through months of rehearsals and preparation. We are immensely proud of our cast, orchestra, crew and production teams, whose hard work and dedication brought the story to life. Thank you to our staff, parents, and wider school community for their support in making the production such a success.


Disney
BEAUTY AND THE BEAST
THE BROADWAY MUSICAL
STRANMILLIS THEATRE
Lyrics by
Howard Ashman





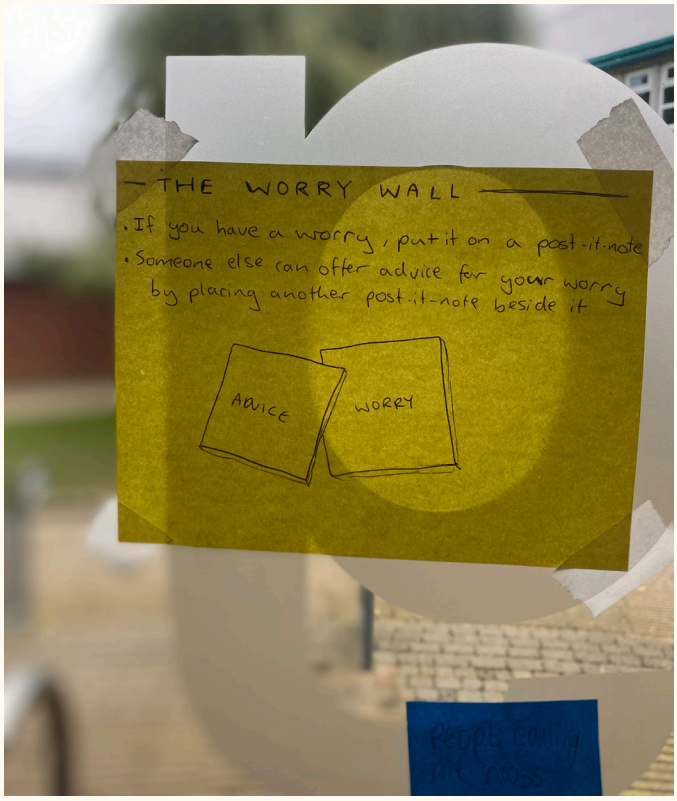


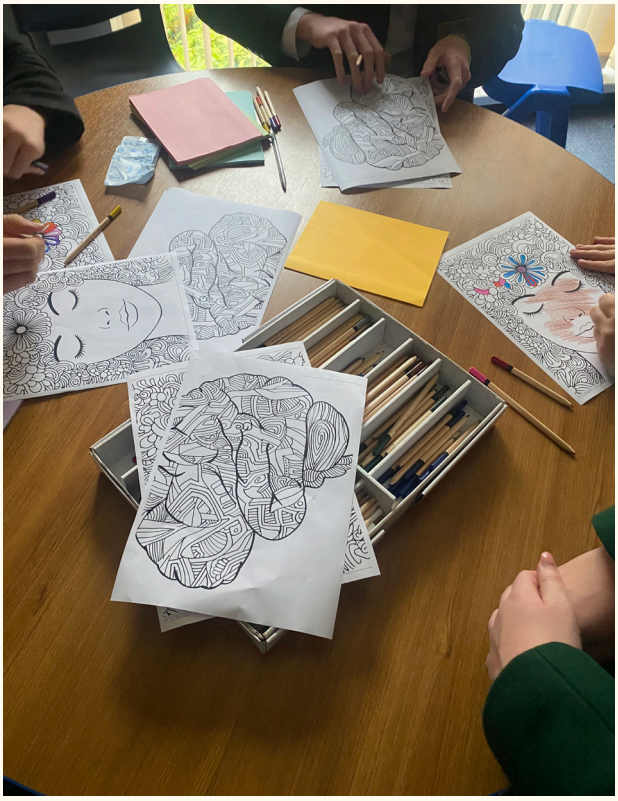






world *mental health* day

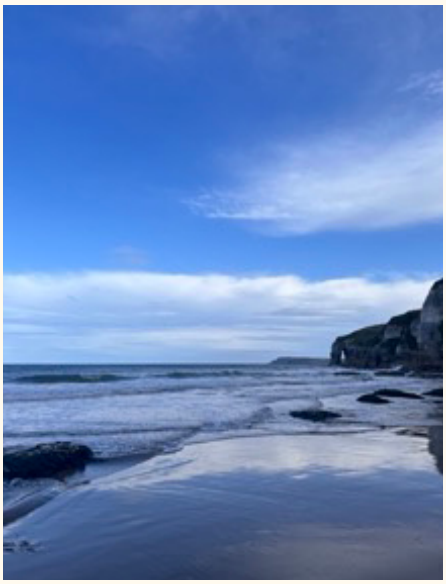






World Mental Health Day was led by the Year 14 Wellbeing Team. Pupils took part in Wear it Yellow, mindfulness colouring, and a range of activities promoting positive mental health and wellbeing.

outside the *classroom*



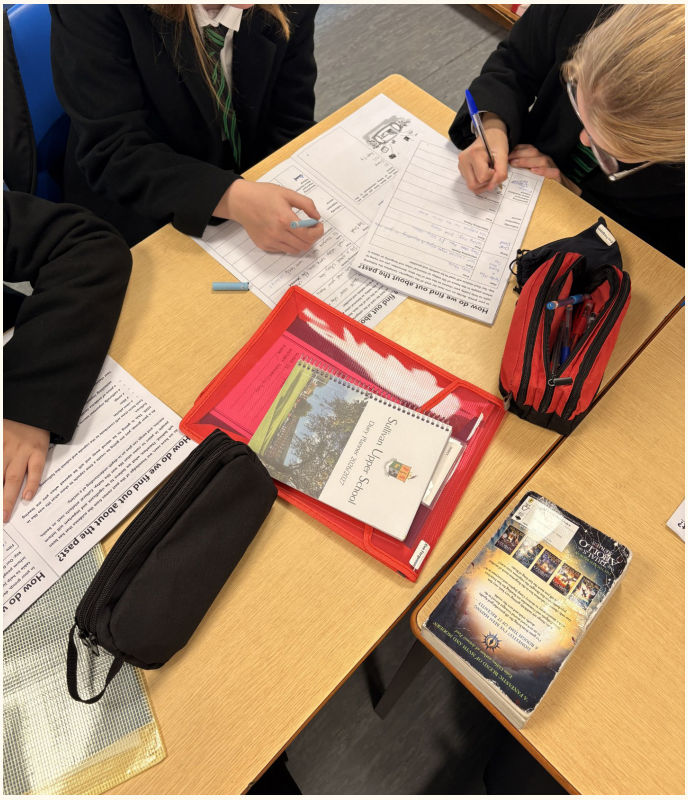
AS GEOGRAPHY

A2 geographers enjoyed their final Geography Field Trip to the North Coast before half-term. They studied relic landforms & local geology; whilst learning about the negative impacts of coastal management.





AS GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP





HISTORIANS EXPLORE HOLYWOOD

In October, year 8 have been introduced to History with a time capsule - making justifications for what evidence best represents Sullivan in 2026. Meanwhile, year 9 have been exploring local and school history with some walking tours of Holywood!







FENCING

A busy month for our Sullivan Fencers. In the Derry Open there were 11 fencers representing the school and in the NI Junior Foil Series (round 1) 14 fencers competed and there were a total of 8 medals - 2 gold, 3 silver and 1 bronze.

special events

STUDY SKILLS DAY

Year 13 pupils took part in the Eye4Education Skills Day. This events seeks to assist pupils in building their confidence and to develop key employability skills to effectively prepare them for the world beyond school. Thanks as always to the professionals who give of their valuable time to offer constructive feedback to help pupils align their performance with real-world workplace expectations.









SIXTH FORM ENRICHMENT

The first Sixth Form Enrichment programme has just finished with 50 of our Sixth Form pupils completing the PEACE of Mind course. Huge thanks to Manus and David for leading these sessions. Pupils are looking forward to completing their facilitator training and using what they have learrnt to benefit KS3 pupils later in the term.



CAREERS FAIR

Careers Fair, organised annually by the Sullivan Alumni Association, welcomed over 600 students and provided valuable opportunities to explore a wide range of career pathways. Former pupils, local businesses, organisations and professionals shared their experiences and advice, helping students make informed decisions about their futures.

The Association extends its thanks to all exhibitors, the Mayor of Ards and North Down, Cllr Craig Blaney, and the County Down Spectator for their support. The event's continued success highlights the strength of the Sullivan community and its commitment to supporting students beyond the classroom.





PUPILS DURING DROP EVERYTHING AND READ / PHACKS

drop everything and read

On Friday 2nd October the whole school community celebrated the joy and power of reading as they participated in our ‘Drop Everything And Read’ event. At the signal of a bell everyone stopped what they were doing in class to pick up a book and enjoy 20 minutes of reading for pleasure.







'The whole experience was unreal'

Sam Mairs | Beast

pupil success





*WANT TO TELL US ABOUT YOUR SON/DAUGHTER'S SUCCESS OUTSIDE OF SCHOOL?

CONTACT: **INFO@SULLIVANUPPER.CO.UK**

SHOW-JUMPING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Tilly Ham who represented Sullivan at the start of October and won both the 90cm and 1m class. Schools show jumping competition has started up again which runs over 4 weeks. There are schools from across NI competing and there were 45 indiviuals in Tilly's class.

BOULDER-ING SUCCESS

Northern Ireland boulder-ing second place school.
Megan Orr Novice under 17 winner
Nathan Dowie novice un-der 19 winner
Daniel Shine under 19 boys overall winner.



TENNIS SENSATION

Congratulations to Charlie McVeigh who won two European tennis tournaments in the age group above him during the Halloween Holidays.



MOUNTAIN RUNNING

We had 4 runners who had qualified through regional trials to represent Northern Ireland in the British & Irish U18/U20 mountain running championships: Maia Johnston, Coco Smith, Holly & James Blease. All 4 had strong runs on the testing course in the Mourne Mountains





our *Prep* *depart*ment
SULLIVAN PREP



From cross-country and hockey torunaments to rugby and Dreamspace Ambassador training, theatre trips, parent-teacher consultation and a brilliant Spooky Fun Night, our pupils have embraced every opportunity in October with enthusiasm.











PAST PUPIL VISIT

In June, we had a visit from two past pupils, Dick Pentland and David Reynolds who returned to see how the school has changed since 1939!

‘Returning back to Sullivan after 60years was both nostalgic and inspiring.

The school campus has expanded almost beyond recognition, with facilities for a broad curriculum including film making, ICT, performing arts and technology and design. A remarkable contrast to the six traditional classrooms and single science lab we occupied in 1939.

More impressive still, however, were the pupils themselves. We were struck by the confidence and maturity of Tilly Ham, Skye Eggleton, Harry Riddle and Sam Irwin. The obvious pride they take in their school and the comfortable yet respectful way they interacted with their teachers.



Prize Day

A YEAR OF GROWTH



We gathered together to celebrate the success of our pupils and reward their hard work and efforts on this special occasion. We welcomed local Councillor Gillian McCollum as our Guest of Honour who congratulated our pupils and encouraged them to consider the politics of belonging, and the need to create a culture where everyone belongs.



Mr Mairs gave his prize day address which included the following:

Today's address, therefore, is not intended to be a summary of everything that happened last academic year. Rather, it is a reflection on what has stood out most to me as I have looked back on the year.

One of the phrases I often use when describing Sullivan is that we are a greenhouse, not a hothouse. A hothouse focuses on producing one thing. A greenhouse creates the conditions in which many different things can flourish.

So as I reflected on the last twelve months, it struck me that what I have seen repeatedly is the results of that greenhouse: growth. Growth in academic achievement, growth in confidence, growth in opportunity, growth in community and growth in character. That, more than anything else, seems to me to capture the story of 2025-26.



House Points

OCTOBER SUMMARY



McALESTER

HEAD OF HOUSE
MR D GREEVES

2552



GRANT

HEAD OF HOUSE
MRS L MAYNE

2805



PRAEGER

HEAD OF HOUSE
MRS P RICHARDSON

2736



SPEERS

HEAD OF HOUSE:
MR N UPRICHARD

3157

Sport at Sullivan



IRISH SCHOOLS HOCKEY











YEAR 8 FIRST FIXTURES

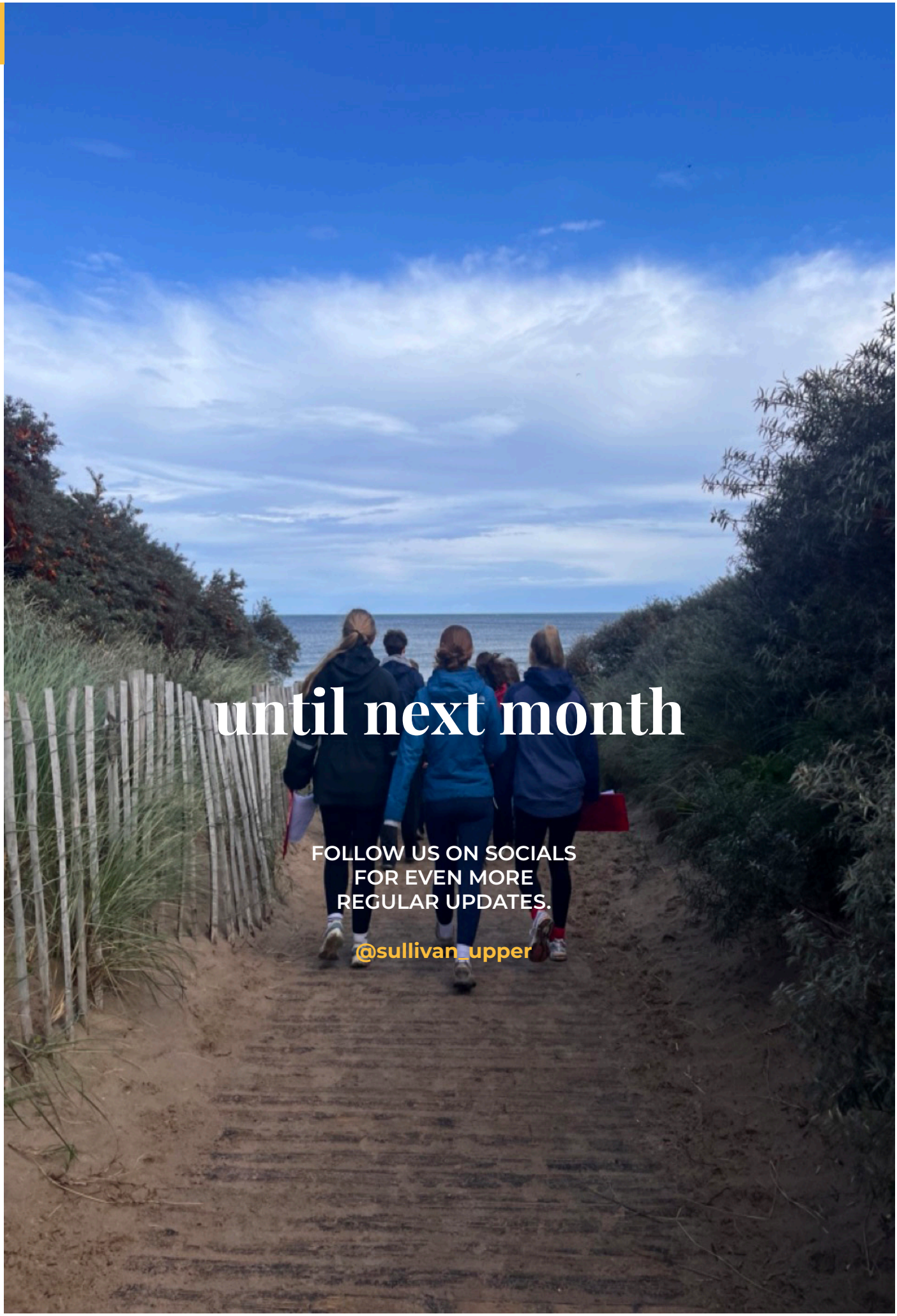




GIRLS RUGBY BLITZ







until next month

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FOR EVEN MORE
REGULAR UPDATES.

@sullivan_upper