

Sullivan Upper School Monthly Newsletter

DATES FOR DIARY - DECEMBER 2019

M-F	2-6	Yr13 Work Shadowing Week	
Tu	3	School Examinations finish for Yrs11&14	
W	4	Young Enterprise Trade Fair Yr13	9.00-3.00
Th	5	Yr14 Formal	4.30-9.00
F	6	School Examinations finish for Yr12	
M	9	LLW Programme - Yr10 Learn to Earn	9.00-12.00 and 1.20-3.30
M-F	9-13	Various out of school Christmas Musical Events Yrs8-14	
F	13	Christmas Jumper Day	
F	13	Yr13 Pastoral Talk from Action Mental Health	Periods 3&4
Tu	17	Christmas Carol Service (Yrs8-14) in Holywood Parish Church.	7.30
Fr	20	Carol Concert in School Hall for pupils in Yrs8-10 and Yr14. Finish at 11.00 for Yrs11-13. Finish at 12.00 for Yrs8-10 & Yr14. Autumn Term Ends	Buses @12.05
M-F	23 Dec- 3 Jan	CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS	School closed

BADMINTON NEWS

Well done to Patrick Gemmell, Daniel Griffin and Yashwin Shyam who took part in the Ulster Badminton Champion of Champions competition. Congratulations to Yashwin Shyam who was the runner up in the Junior Boys Competition.



PUBLIC SPEAKING

Year 13 students recently participated in the Business and Professional Women's network Public Speaking competition.



David Good gave an excellent speech about the importance of appropriate language in public discourse. Sophie Hewitt and Peter Ritchie chaired an engaging presentation on Climate Change given by a student from Forthill College. It was a stimulating and motivating evening with students from Rathmore Grammar, St Mary's College Magherafelt, Forthill College and Strathearn School.

Sophie also competed in the Soroptimist International Bangor event on the 20 November and delivered a thoughtful speech 'Young women of today - is it a glass ceiling or a sticky floor?'

The **EcoClub** ran a quiz for National Tree Week to raise awareness of natural climate change prevention methods, with first and second place teams taking home some trees to plant – so congrats to them!



Sullivan Upper School Monthly Newsletter

Sullivan Fencing: NI Junior Foil Series Round 1

Round 1 of the 2019/2020 NI Junior Foil Series was held on Sunday 3 November 2019 at Hunterhouse College. This was the first junior competition of the new fencing season and the first of six NIJFS championship rounds to be held across the school year, each round in a different school or club.

Ten Sullivan fencers entered the event, with 7 of them winning medals.

U12s

Year 8 beginner, Amelia Penny, was our only entrant in the girls' event in this category, finishing a creditable 5th in her first ever competition.

U14s

Finn Neely and Edward Lilley both made the semi-finals in the boys' U14s. Though neither made the final, both came away with bronze medals for joint 3rd. In the girls' U14s Charlie Beimers took a bronze medal, while Alexandra Ong suffered a narrow defeat in her quarter-final to finish just outside the medals in 5th.

U16s

In the girls' competition in this age group Victoria Morris, the current U16 champion, didn't lose a fight all day, taking gold in the final with a convincing 15:6 win. Izzy Evans and Alex Atkinson fought their way through to the semi-finals, where they both lost (Izzy knocked out by Victoria), both finishing in the bronze medal positions. Alexander Penny won 5 out of his 6 U16 poule fights, making him second seed going into the knock-out stage, while Keir Murray was seeded 6th with 2 poule wins. Keir finished 6th overall, while Alexander made the last 4, losing his semi-final fight to finish up with a bronze medal.

Round 2 takes place on Saturday 14 December 2019 in RBAI in Belfast.



EcoClub have been involved in Energy Saving Week. We challenged the Junior School classes to reduce their carbon emissions by completing 5 simple tasks. 162 pupils took part and we are currently waiting to find out how much Co2 this saved.



Sullivan Upper Geographers represented the school at the annual Geographical Association's World Wise Quiz.

The team fought off tough competition and

finished in second place. Well done to Michael Johnston (captain), Alexander Penny, Conor McKeown and Mick McGuinness (reserve).



Sullivan Upper School Monthly Newsletter

Sullivan Fencing: 2019 Derry Open

The second home (N Ireland) open fencing tournament of the year, the Derry Open, was held on 16 and 17 November 2019 in the Magee Campus of the Ulster University. Three SU fencers took part: Izzy Evans and Victoria Morris in the women's foil, and Alexander Penny in the men's foil.

In the first poule round of the women's foil event, Izzy and Victoria both won 3 out of their 5 fights. Then in the second round Victoria won 4 from 5 and Izzy 2 from 5, making Victoria the 2nd seed and Izzy 4th as they went into the knock-out stage. Both made it to the semi-finals, Izzy losing a tough fight with the number one seed 10-15 to finish third, and Victoria taking a convincing 15-5 win to go into the final. In the final, Victoria was unable to overcome the top seed, finishing with the second place trophy.



The first poule round of the men's foil saw Alexander win 1 fight from 4, then repeat that result in the second round. After going into the knock-out stage seeded 10th, he lost his last 16 fight, but as the youngest competitor in the event, Alexander put up a strong performance against much more experienced fencers.

The next event for SU fencers will be the N Ireland Open at Grosvenor Grammar School on 7 and 8 December 2019.



Inspire were in school recently to collect the money we raised for them during our Mental Well Being day in

June. They also delivered an Inspiration Point, which has leaflets containing information on good mental health and wellbeing.



Seana McRandal (11D) won the Gold medal at the NI Savate National Squad at the Irish Open Championships in Co Mayo recently.



Mrs Johnston and Ellen Smith (Yr14) got to meet broadcaster and adventurer Ben Fogle at the Ulster Hall after his Tales from the Wilderness tour.



First Day

Constant roar from the heart of the sea,
Barefoot on the beach,
Water murmurs onto silky sand,
Bees hum and zoom,
This is paradise.

Bare feet are forced into school shoes
Adventure replaced by routine,
Barbeques swapped for school dinners,
Late nights and pyjama days
Now early to bed and early awake.

A new school term.

Hugs, kisses, good luck wishes,
And I'm ready to go to school.
But wait! No school year can start without a photo!
Turn a little left. Now a little right.
That's perfect. Say cheese!!!

My heart beats like a bass drum,
My head a flurry of thoughts.
What if the teachers don't like me?
Or if I don't make any friends?
Or if I get on the wrong bus and end up in the middle of nowhere?

I smell the herbs and spices coming from HE,
And the year eleven's perfume.
Hear the approaching teacher's footsteps,
The whack of a stick and ball, and the continuous hum of voices.
See the warm, friendly faces ready to help,
And the endless corridors, each identical to the one before.
Taste my success, with the help of this amazing school,
I will go far.
The heavy bag on my back weighs me down,
But nothing can dampen my smile.
Not today.

A poem written by Ella Anderson (8A) about her First Day at school inspired by Roger McGough's *First Day at School*.

Sullivan Upper School Monthly Newsletter

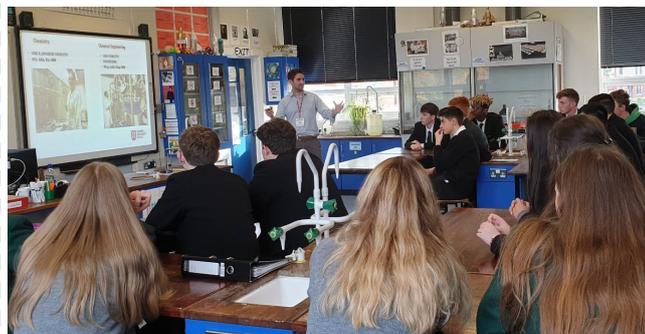
Ulster Open Short Course Swimming Championship

A number of Sullivan pupils qualified to swim in the Ulster Short Course Swimming Championships 2019 held in Lisburn this month - Tom Uprichard, David Stinson, Emma Montgomery, Rachel Wolseley, Evan Coulter and Gene Smyth .

Particular congratulations to Tom Uprichard who won 7 medals (2 gold, 4 silver and 1 bronze) and Emma Montgomery who won three medals (2 gold and 1 bronze).



CHEMISTRY NEWS



This month the Chemistry department held two events in association with the School of Chemistry and Chemical Engineering at Queen's University. The first was a visit from past pupil, Dr Peter Knipe, who spoke to Year 13 AS Chemistry pupils about university courses available at Queen's and possible careers in Chemistry. We were delighted to welcome Peter back to his old classroom and to hear about his and other past pupils' successes in Chemistry. His talk was very

informative and gave our pupils some ideas for the future. Peter studied Natural Sciences at Cambridge University, achieved his PHD in Chemistry at Oxford University and currently works as a lecturer in Organic Chemistry at Queen's.



A group of 15 Year 12 GCSE Chemistry pupils also took part in an event at Queen's University called Chemistry at Work. This event, run by Queen's in association with the Royal Society of Chemistry, provides GCSE pupils with information about how the chemistry they learn about in school is used in the real world. The event is attended by schools from all over Northern Ireland and runs for two days across 4 sessions. Sullivan pupils attended an afternoon session on Wednesday 20 November. They heard talks from a number of different local

companies who use chemistry in their business. Pupils heard from Bombardier, Norbrook, B9 Energy, Forensic Science NI, CAFRE and McQuillan Environmental. Other companies such as BOC Gases, Almac and Glaxo Smyth Klein were also in attendance. The event highlighted the variety of career opportunities that exist if pupils continue to study Chemistry at A Level and university.



Sullivan Upper School Monthly Newsletter

Seacourt Print Workshop

On 15 October A level Art & Design pupils had the opportunity to explore drypoint printing with one of Seacourt print workshop's resident artists, Penny Brewill. The pupils spent the afternoon developing their printmaking skills, creating a body of work and learning first hand from an industry professional.



Costume Design Masterclass



On Tuesday 5 November, costume designer Sophie Wallace spent the day inspiring our young filmmakers in the Moving Image Arts classroom. Sophie, having worked major projects such as *Game of Thrones*, *Once Upon a Time* and *Pan*, was able to educate our students on a niche career path that previously very few would have considered. Sophie reminded the pupils that the costume is an important visual tool that can tell the audience a story in its own right. The pupils left considering an area of film language (costume design/mise-en-scene) with a fresh and exciting new perspective.

We are very grateful to have such wonderful industry professionals taking time out to inspire the next generation of filmmakers in our school.



Award Winning Filmmaker

Of course it's not all about the outside industry professionals coming to us, over the years our own young filmmakers have made a name for themselves by collecting awards from both CCEA and the Foyle Film Festival. This year, the department success continued. On 21st November this year Conor Brannigan (Yr13) was awarded 2nd place in the GCSE Best Film category in the Annual CCEA Moving Image Arts Showcase Awards. Conor is a talented filmmaker and continues to study Moving Image Arts at AS Level this year.



Sullivan Upper School Monthly Newsletter

NI Schools Trampolining Competition

Amazing results at the NI Schools Championships recently from our Sullivan group.

Georgie Wilson, 2nd elite year 7-8
Sam Dugan, 1st elite year 7-8
Charlotte Lewis, 1st novice year 7-8
Kiera Semple, 3rd novice year 7-8
Sullivan Team, 1st novice year 7-8
Angharad King, 3rd intermediate year 10-14
Sullivan Team, 2nd intermediate year 10-14

100% success for the entrants! They have all qualified to represent Sullivan at the Northern Zonal Finals in Newcastle Sunday 26 January 2020.

