



BOARD OF GOVERNORS' ANNUAL REPORT TO PARENTS  
ACADEMIC YEAR 2021 / 2022



## 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 up to January 2022		Board Members –January 2022 onwards following Reconstitution of the Board of Governors	
Trustee Representatives:	Sir Gerry Loughran (Chairman) Fr Colin Grant (Vice Chairman) Mr Eamonn Donaghy Mr Feargal MacElhatton	Trustee Representatives:	Sir Gerry Loughran (Chairman) Fr Colin Grant (Vice Chairman) Mr Feargal MacElhatton Mr Michael Wilson
Nominated by DENI	Mr Gerry McGinn Mr Anthony Houston	Nominated by DENI	Mr Gerry McGinn Mrs Marie Louise Horwood Mr Gavin Boyd
Co-opted	Mrs Sheila Parkhill Mr Michael Wilson		
Elected Parent Governor	Mr Martin Sherlock	Elected Parent Governor	Mr Martin Sherlock
Elected Teacher Governor	Dr David Roberts	Elected Teacher Governor	Mr Aaron Douglas
Secretary	Mr Paul McBride (Principal)	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 2021 – 2022.

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 – 1152

## STAFFING

We welcomed the following members of staff:

Miss Bethan Hallgarth – Teacher of English  
Miss Niamh McBride - Teacher of Mathematics  
Ms Siobhan O'Reilly – Teacher of MIA and Art  
Miss Erin McAleese – Teacher of HE & Health and Social Care  
Miss Jenny Thompson – Teacher of English - Temporary  
Mr Conor McGinn - Teacher of English – Temporary

## Departures

The following members of staff left the College:

Ms Tanya Artherton – Teacher of English & Drama  
Mr Tony Carlin – Head of Business Studies & Senior Curriculum leader  
Mrs Mary Muholland – Head of French  
Mrs Maria Mulvaney – Head of Home Economics  
Mrs Stephanie Rayot – Head of Sixth Form & Teacher of Spanish  
Mr Francie Toner – Head of Middle School and Teacher of Technology

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

## RELIGIOUS ETHOS 2021-2022

The College Mission Statement makes it clear that St. Malachy's is a Catholic school, which is dedicated to providing academic excellence in the context of a Christian community ethos. The College, among many other things, 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.

**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.**

The start of the year began tentatively, and more or less as "normal" yet under strict covid rules. Again, we turned to the use of on-line platforms to try and keep the spiritual life of the College alive and to engage with the College community. At the start of the year class prayer services and assemblies were conducted both on-line and, in the Chapel (still with some restrictions). As the use of the College Chapel became more open, we were able to use it more, however, we were reliant on all staff to help maintain our spiritual ethos. On 9<sup>th</sup> December there was a special Mass for Daniel Black who tragically passed away in 2021. An intimate service was held in the College chapel and a video link was available for his year group and others who wished to join in the service remotely.

Christmas was celebrated thanks to a video link from the chapel to classrooms. We were able to broadcast a whole school Advent Service for the boys and the Staff Service on the 21 December. Thanks to Fr Spence, Rev Dowd and the students who read scripture, said prayers, gave reflections and sang Advent hymns.

Obviously, during the year the various year-group liturgies, St Malachy's Day Mass, Masses for old boys and so on, could not take place as in the past. Provision for St Malachy's Day was again on-line from the College Chapel.

The usual College outreach was stopped. So, the St. Vincent de Paul Conference was limited, but some fund raising was organised for the Christmas appeal. During Lent we were able to raise money for Trócaire.

There were no retreats for the Year 14, and only limited form of mini retreat, in classes, for the Year 8s.

## 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 2022-2023. The College auditors gave a very favourable report on the College's financial and accounting procedures in respect of the 2021/2022 year.

### Income and Expenditure for 2021/22

Expenditure		Income	
Teaching staff	£4,160,952	DENI	£7,024,967
Other staff	£1,624,536	Grants	
Other Operating Costs		Other income	£106,282
Stationery,books & materials	£100,098		
Examination fees	£37,557		
Purchase of equipment	£95,711		
Rent, rates, insurance	£71,567		
Heat, light & power	£228,942		
Maintenance	£491,068		
Transport	£17,264		
Postage and telephone	£20,484		
Advertising & printing	£40,143		
Cleaning materials	£33,499		
Hire & contracted	£22,440		
Audit & professional fees	£18,966		
Other costs	£46,261		
VAT	£142,881	£1,366,881	
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Deficit	£7,152,369	£7,131,249	£21,120
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	£7,152,369	£7,152,369	
Accumulated surplus at 1 April 2021		<u>£366,201</u>	
Accumulated surplus at 31 March 2022		<u>£345,081</u>	

The College prepares financial projections for a three-year cycle and plans to achieve a break-even financial position by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2025.

## School Meals Revenue Account

<b>Expenditure</b>		<b>Income</b>	
Food	£105,056	Sale of meals	£100,459
Wages	£107,016	DENI Grants	£112,364
Heat & light	£9,562	Other income	£28,754
Other costs	£19,943		
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£241,577		£241,577
Surplus/(Deficit)	£0		£0
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£241,577		£241,577
Accumulated deficit at 1 April 2021			<u>£(4,288)</u>
Accumulated deficit at 31 March 2022			<u>£(4,288)</u>

The College operated the following additional accounts in the year ended 31 August 2022:

### **Pitch Account**

The College operates an account for the letting of our 3G pitch. At 31 August 2022 there were fund reserves of £51,691. Reserve Funds accumulated will be 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 2022 there was a cash balance of funds of £131,141.

## **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 ensured that all schemes of work have been refreshed and the strands of the NI Curriculum are being address across all departments within the Key Stage. Areas of focus will continue to include Assessment for Learning (AFL), Thematic Units & Connected Learning, Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities as well as an infusion of the Cross Curricular Skills of Numeracy, Literacy and the effective use of ICT.

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. In Year 8 & Year 9 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	Computing

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)

Plans are in place for the incoming year to establish a Digital Skills based aspect of the Year 8 Curriculum. Further information will be available in next year's report.

## **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
- 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 (20 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: (2021-22)

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	
Sport Studies in an Active Leisure Industry*		

\*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 2021-22**

In the summer of 2022, all schools and Colleges returned to public examinations after a period of two successive years when no formal examinations were sat. At the beginning of the academic year the various examination boards outlined how they planned to reduce the burden and academic demand on all students entering this examination series. CCEA, the NI Examination board, provided information on omissions across almost all subjects. This step reduced the content to be studied and number of examinations required to be entered for all students.

In August 2022 the outcome of this examination series was produced. These are documented in Appendix 1 (pages 33-37).

## **Collaboration with other Schools**

In 2021- 2022 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.

The following subject areas are currently included within Collaboration: Business Studies, Computing (SSD), Geography, Maths, Music, Moving Image Arts, French, Chemistry, Biology, Physics and Sociology.

This collaboration involves partnerships with BRA, Dominican College as well as the two Model Schools for Boys and Girls.

**Overview of Collaboration 2021-22**

Students from St Malachy's College accessing courses within NBALC

<b>Host School</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>No of pupils</b>
Dominican College	14	Geography	1
BRA	14	Business Studies	6
Dominican College	13	Music	2
Dominican College	13	Sociology	8
BRA	13	Software Systems Development	4

Students from other schools accessing courses in St Malachy's

<b>Home School</b>	<b>Year</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>No of pupils</b>
Boys' Model	14	Chemistry	4
Boys' Model	14	Maths	1
Boys' Model	14	Physics	1
Girls' Model	14	Chemistry	1
Girls' Model	14	Biology	1
Dominican College	14	French	2
BRA	14	MIA	5
Dominican College	13	French	1
Dominican College	13	Sport Studies	1
BRA	13	MIA	9

## **SHARED EDUCATION**

2021-22 was the first year of mainstreaming for Shared Education. EA and DE made it clear to schools that it was to be a period of preparation and regrouping. The time was to be used to upskill staff, increase awareness and prepare for 2022-23. There was no obligation for pupils to be involved due to Covid regulations in schools.

St. Malachy's staff enthusiastically embraced the online CPD modules on the EA Shared Education hub, with 21 certificates being awarded.

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 virtual CPD classes / lectures delivered by St Malachy's and BRA staff. Due to Covid social distancing requirements, staff members were not able to meet in person. However, another in person event is planned for Term 1 2022 and it is hoped that staff will be able to attend the events live.

A requirement for continued membership of a Shared Education partnership was the ongoing training of the Coordinators. Patricia Marcus (St. Malachy's) and Stuart Murphy (BRA) both undertook extensive online CPD training as well as guidance in the new procedures for applying for funding.

Despite there being no compulsory meeting of pupils the partnership still managed some in person events.

Year 13 Enrichment – TAMHI – the programme continues with great success. Our young mentors from Year 13 were in place before Easter to develop a series of reconciliation workshops to a group of Year 8 pupils from St. Malachy's and BRA. This culminated in a 'golf and chat' day at Cliftonville Golf Club in the Easter term.

EA has teamed with Cooperation Ireland to take part in the 'All Island Schools for Climate Action' scheme. St Malachy's and BRA were partnered with two schools from the Republic of Ireland. Pupils from Year 11 had the opportunity to complete online modules in climate change education – which mirrored part of the GCSE Geography course. They also met pupils from the other schools via zoom to discuss their projects.

The funding allowed us to purchase a number of high quality banners advertising the schools and Shared Education which can be used for other events in the future. One of these banners is used to display a 'Planet Earth' poem commissioned by Patricia Marcus from a Whitehead poet and decorated by Art students from St. Malachy's College.

These are now on display in the Geography departments of both schools to inform and educate pupils about the climate crisis. This was a pilot scheme with only six schools from the EA regions involved and it was very interesting to be part of this initiative from the very beginning.

The flagship project for 2021-22 was the introduction of No Code. No Code has been identified as an important skill in the labour market. Patricia Marcus worked with the company and pupils from both schools to design a programme specifically for Northern Ireland school children. A group of 16 pupils across both schools completed the first cycle of the course just before Easter and received their certification. They are the first pupils in the UK to complete such a course and receive certification. The team at No Code complimented our pupils on their hard work and candour, enabling meaningful evaluation to take place when the project was reviewed.

Next year No Code moves to the Digital Hub and will be offered to Year 13 pupils from both schools as enrichment. It is important to acknowledge the work of Jess McQuiston who worked week by week with the St Malachy's pupils and gained certification herself.

### CPD 2021/22 – Linked with Shared Education

- 21 Online CPD modules obtained by a wide range of staff members
- Patricia Marcus completed three further modules to meet the criteria for the school continuing to receive funding.
- Patricia Marcus is part of the EA Shared Education hub as a practitioner voice for Teaching Sensitive and Controversial Issues.
- Patricia Marcus has been asked to mentor a new partnership as St Malachy's / BRA reflects an example of best practice.
- Moving forward, a meeting in St Malachy's on 19/02/22 saw sixteen different subject and pastoral areas expressing an interest in taking part in Shared Education. While all sixteen areas may not become part of the 2022-23 programme, we are certainly in a strong position moving into Year 2 of mainstream Shared Education.

## **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 special educational needs.

In the academic year 2021-2022, there were 152 (13.4%) students on the SEN Register and 329 (28.9%) on the Medical Register. This included 56 (4.9%) students with a Stage 3 Statement of Special Educational Needs. In addition, 127 (11.2%) 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 external providers and participated in workshops facilitated by College staff. Areas addressed included Level 1 & 2 Autism Awareness & Intervention Strategies, Adverse Childhood Experiences Level 1, First Aid, DNAV, The Role of the Classroom Assistant and How to Utilise the Classroom Assistant Effectively.

## **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/carers 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/Carers are not permitted to approach staff directly in their classrooms.

### Cars

In the interest of safety and to avoid congestion, Parents/Carers 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 (Year 10-12)**

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. Due to Covid restrictions there has been a focus on widening opportunities and participation in virtual work placements. Pupils are encouraged to apply for and participate in virtual 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. Careers staff were available for consultation by pupils and parents post examination results in August. 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.

All Y12 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. The pandemic resulted in NICS making the decision that their Careers Advisers would not visit schools in-person. We made the decision that, in order to enable these interviews to continue, we would offer students access to a virtual interview (via WebEx) or a telephone interview. All of this was done in regular contact with parents, ensuring that we were able to conduct interviews in a much more normal way, despite the obvious difficulties. From Year 10 onwards, pupils are expected to produce a realistic personal career plan.

Due covid restrictions many organised events and talks were not possible. The majority of Careers events have had to be hosted virtually, utilising a variety of online platforms.

### **Year 10-12 Events:**

Aug                    **Advice sessions for former Year12 students**  
Following publication of GCSE results.

5<sup>th</sup> Sept              **Year 12 Apply for Careers Guidance Interviews**  
Careers Advisers Mrs A Morgan and Mr G Daly began their visits to 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.

15<sup>th</sup> Sept             **Careers in Technology Evening**

25<sup>th</sup> Sept            **All-Island Schools Medicine Virtual Open Day**  
In collaboration with the Northeast Cancer Research & Education Trust (NECRET), the Royal College of

Surgeons in Ireland (RSCI) and Queens University Belfast, students who are considering a future career in medicine or medical research were invited to to an information and discussion open day

18<sup>th</sup> Oct                    **Engineering Parents' Evening**

4<sup>th</sup> Nov                    **MEGA Degree Apprenticeship Virtual Evening**

For students considering a career in manufacturing & engineering. It was provided by MEGA (Manufacturing & Engineering Growth & Advancement) and Ulster University relating to their degree apprenticeship programme.

24<sup>th</sup> Nov                    **Skills Northern Ireland Exhibition**

2<sup>nd</sup> Dec                    **QUB Computing Parents' and Students Virtual Evening**

3<sup>rd</sup> Feb                    **Belfast Met talk in College Hall**

5<sup>th</sup> Feb                    **UCAS Get into Medicine Conference**

7<sup>th</sup> Feb                    **GCSE Options Talk for Year 10 Students and Parents**

Advice on subject selection, Careers considerations and Labour Market Information.

23<sup>rd</sup> Feb                    **A Level Options Talk for Year 12 Students and Parents**

Advice on subject selection, Careers considerations and Labour Market Information.

4<sup>th</sup> March                    **Ulster University Outreach Programme - Study Skills Course**

**CAFRE (College of Agriculture, Food and Rural Enterprise) Virtual Open Week**

15<sup>th</sup> March                    **Belfast Met Apprenticeship Fair**

19<sup>th</sup>-22<sup>nd</sup> April                    **Year 10 Virtual Easter Digital Arts Academies**

28<sup>th</sup> April                    **Deloitte Bright-Start Apprenticeship programme Webinar**

12<sup>th</sup> May                    **Cyber First Summer Courses**

The range of courses give students, aged 14 to17 in Northern Ireland, the opportunity to explore their passion for technology and computing through the world of cyber security.

**Year 11 A Guide to Career Options: Discover Your Perfect Traineeship & Apprenticeship**

This event tells you everything you need to know about traineeships and apprenticeships and all the opportunities we have available across the country.



## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION**

St Malachy's College has an unrivalled reputation for excellence across a wide range of sports. The College is a recipient of a 'Sports Gold Mark,' awarded by the Sports Council for Northern Ireland in conjunction with the Department of Education, in recognition of excellence in the delivery of curricular Physical Education and provision of a varied extra-curricular sports programme.

The new surface on our floodlit (3G) third generation pitch has been operational for over a year now and is a terrific facility that benefits both the pupils and the local community. The new surface has been a terrific boost to the department. 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 also 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 had diminished significantly but we are delighted with the new surface. In addition to this upgrade, we have installed new safety pads behind the main baskets in the Sports Hall. With significant financial support from Mr Bill McCotter of Belfast Star, we have also installed outdoor basketball goals which have proved very popular with our boys at break and lunch times. Again, with financial assistance from Mr Paul Graham, we have refurbished the handball alleys and as a result helped to facilitate the return of handball as an extra-curricular sporting activity. The PE Department appreciates the financial pressures currently being placed on school budgets but again welcomes the support we have received from our College Principal to date and with regards to the potential for extending and refurbishing the staff area as well.

Usage of the Fitness Suite by both staff and students continues to increase. We have refurbished the Fitness Suite at a cost of over 15K and this has helped keep the Fitness Suite as an up to date facility. 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 now added a squat rack, a number of additional pieces of cardio machines and a functional training area to enhance the experience.

Regarding examination PE in the 2020-21 academic year, there was one Year 11 and one Year 12 class studying GCSE Physical Education (CCEA). The numbers for next year are, once again, very promising at GCSE and we plan to have two GCSE classes in 2022/23. Mr Molloy and Mr McClean continue to do an excellent job at GCSE level. After school booster classes, at GCSE, AS and A2, help those boys who are under performing or having difficulty with specific topics. Mr McClean, alongside Mr Niblock, have been instrumental in delivering the AS and A2 components of the new A-Level Sports Science course. Mr Molloy, Mr McClean and Mr Niblock also make an excellent contribution to the department with their time and expertise in various extra-curricular activities.

We have continued to target and assist students that are struggling with their weight and personal fitness. We have extended the Active Summer Programme to allow for earlier intervention with a small number of students rather than wait until the summer months. The students involved received a colour booklet packed with simple advice on diet, nutrition and hydration as well as a personal exercise programme with specific targets, in an effort to help them during the summer break from routine. This has proven to be very well received by the students and parents alike, with several success stories to report.

We now provide lunch time support for identified students and for students who are rehabilitating from injury.

With the availability of the fitness suite at lunch times, the boys have an individual fitness programme to follow in an effort to improve their basic cardiorespiratory fitness and reduce their weight. Again this has proven to be a valuable use of time and resources with several pupils making great progress.

### **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. Mr Michael McKendry once again has made a great contribution to the Water Polo teams throughout the year. Mrs McCormick (mother of Tiernan and Caolan) and Mr Leggett (father of Thomas) have also helped as we entered teams in schools swimming competitions for the first time in several years. 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.

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

#### **Activity**

#### **Staff Member**

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, Mr Mark Kelly, Mr Ross Hannigan
Golf	Mr Adrian Fulton
Hurling	Mr Andy McClean, Mr Mark Kelly, Miss Linsey Norton, Miss Tara Bell, Mr Paul Graham, Mr Sean McLaren
Rugby	Dr Jonny Thompson, Mr David Burke
Soccer	Mr Phil Molloy, Mr Adrian Fulton, Mr Pat McStravick, Mr Chris Johnston, Mr Paul O'Neill, Mr Ross Hannigan, Mr Aidan McGeown, Mr Bobby Burns, Miss Jess McQuiston
Swimming	Mr Paul McAllister
Water Polo	Mr Michael McKendry, Mr Cormac Deazley, Mr Emmet Ewing, Mr Adrian Fulton

### **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 over 200 strong 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 on Thursday 30th 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 warm up routine, before it was time to set off in the race. Mr. McKillop 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 the largest field we have ever had, over 200 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 Mr Niblock.

## **BASKETBALL**

### **SUBWAY All Ireland Schools Under 19 A Boys Cup final**

**St Malachy's College, Belfast: 54**

**Templeogue College: 53**

On the way to the final, the St Malachy's results were as follows:

Round of 16: St Pat's Cavan 70 (36) - St Malachy's 78 (38)

Quarter Final: St Malachy's 91 (41) - St Andrew's Dublin 60 (24)

Semi Final: St Malachy's 75 (40) - Malahide Community School 52 (25)

### **All Ireland Schools League Results:**

St Joseph's Drogheda 65 - St Malachy's 85

Dunshaughlin Community School 53 - St Malachy's 72

St Malachy's 65 - St Mary's Drogheda 58

Regional Final

St Malachy's 77 - St Pat's Cavan 74

### **All Ireland League Playoff Quarter Final**

Templeogue College Dublin 78 - St Malachy's 68

### **U16 Basketball Squad:**

With a tough All Ireland Schools Cup draw against one of the favourites for the competition, the home advantage against Colaiste Eanna helped the College almost cause an upset! The boys put in a terrific performance against the fancied Dublin side, but ultimately just came up short, giving up the lead late in the game to lose by 5 points.

### **U15 Basketball Squad**

St Pat's Cavan	35
St Malachy's	30

### **U14 Basketball Squad**

St Pat's Cavan	26
St Malachy's	45

### **Junior Basketball Squad (Year 10)**

The Year 10 College team won the North East Schools Regional title to qualify for the All Irelands and they also reached the quarter-final stage of the U14 All Ireland Schools Cup.

### **Minor Basketball Squad (Year 9):**

The Year 9 College team is an inexperienced squad but the players have made great strides. They won the North East Schools Regional title to qualify for the All Irelands and they also reached the semi-final stage of the U14 All Ireland Schools Cup.

### **Year 8 Basketball Squad**

The Year 8 squad trained hard all year with over 30 boys attending weekly training sessions. They are a talented group and reached the final of the Vince Halloran Cup with a series of good wins over Lagan College and St Pat's Armagh in our pool games and OLSPCK in the semi- final. Unfortunately, St Pat's Armagh got the better of us in the final but it will be great for the boys to have some local competition over the next few years. The boys will be looking forward to competing at national level next year.

### **Year 10 Gaelic Football (U14 ½)**

#### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

*St. Malachy's College, v. St. Mark's High School Warrenpoint – McDevitt Cup Round 1*

**Win** 4-07 to 0-06

#### **Tuesday 30<sup>th</sup> November 2021**

*St. Malachy's College vs. Aquinas Grammar School Belfast – McDevitt Cup Round 2*

**Loss** 4-08 to 5-07

#### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup> December 2021**

*St. Malachy's College vs. St. Louis Grammar School Kilkeel – McDevitt Cup Round 3*

**Loss** 2-04 to 1-11

\*Into the **McDevitt Shield**

#### **Monday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2022**

*St. Malachy's College vs. St. Joseph's High School Crossmaglen – McDevitt Shield Quarter Final*

**Win** 3-10 to 3-02

#### **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2022**

*St. Malachy's College vs. St. Columb's College Derry – McDevitt Shield Semi Final*

**Win** 5-07 to 1-03

#### **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2022**

*St. Malachy's College vs. St. Mark's High School Warrenpoint – McDevitt Shield Final*

**Win** 1-06 to 1-04

## CASEMENT CUP FINAL REPORT

### St Malachy's end 63 year wait for Senior Hurling title

It has been 63 years since St. Malachy's Belfast last had their hands on an Ulster Schools' Senior hurling trophy. Back in 1958 they shared the Mageean Cup with St MacNissi's Garron Tower. But that wait ended tonight in Ballymena when they nervously edged their way to a Danske Bank Casement Cup title after a tough battle with St. Mary's Magherafelt.

The Antrim Road side was wasteful throughout, accumulating 16 wides, 11 of which came in the second half and a second yellow card for Cian O'Connor almost derailed their bid coming up to the second water break. Cian's brother Luke, however, posted his sixth point to give St Mary's a 0-11 to 1-6 advantage and coach and former Antrim player Andy McClean then got a couple of minutes to re-organise his team, bringing Callum Walsh back to sweep behind midfield. Although Sean McAuley made it a one point game on the restart, O'Connor hit three frees in a row to open a gap for St Malachy's. They still hit wides, but the game clincher came when Ronan Eager played a neat cross field pass for Anthony McGarrigle to hammer to the roof of the Magherafelt net from 25 metres in the 58th minute.

However, the game remained in the melting pot as Benin Kelly, a star for Magherafelt on the night, fired in a high ball that went all the way to the Belfast side's net. But there wasn't time for a second major and the Cup was on its journey to the bottom of the Antrim Road, St Malachy's winning the competition at their first attempt.

St Malachy's were the more industrious team especially during the first quarter, speedier and looking for plenty of space around the half forward line. They got early reward with points from Ronan Eager and Anthony McGarrigle inside the opening two minutes while a brilliant run by Luke O'Connor was only denied a goal by a fine save from Pádraig Kelly. However, they also were wayward in their shooting, displaying plenty of the traits of first time finalists and points from Conhuir Johnstone and freetaker Diarmuid Mulholland tied the sides after nine minutes. Despite being outplayed, the Convent was still in touch at the water break, 0-5 to 0-3 behind. Their general play improved during the second quarter, but they still trailed by three at the change of ends.

Scoring was slow enough, but the game still seemed to be going St Malachy's way until Benin Kelly careered down the middle for a Magherafelt point. Conhuir Johnstone took that as a cue only this time his direct run ended with a goal in the 44th minute. Next came the red card for Cian O'Connor and all St Malachy's good work looked like unravelling. However, they controlled matters in defence, Luke O'Connor kept tagging on points and the goal close to the end was enough to get them over the line.

**St Malachy's Belfast 1-13 St Mary's Magherafelt 2-7**

## **Athletics 2021-22**

### **Team and Individual Success at Ulster Schools Cross Country (Wednesday 9<sup>th</sup> February)**

Two team and one individual title highlighted a successful day at the Ulster Schools' Cross Country Championships at a cold, crisp Mallusk. A fantastic one two finish from Matthew Lavery and Luke Kelly spearheaded an excellent senior team victory and a storming finish from Cathair McKenna led the Minor Boys (yr9) to a superb team victory.

Matthew Lavery hit the front and started pushing the pace right from the start of the Senior Boys 6.2km four lap race. By half way Luke Kelly was the only one who could stay with him and it was clear the individual victor would come from the pair. An enthralling battle ensued with Matthew the aggressor and Luke following right behind. By the start of the last lap Matthew had opened a small gap that he maintained to the finish. Luke never gave up the chase and was only a few metres behind at the line. Luke Ferris ran a smart race to move up to 9th at the finish. Flynn Maguire stepped up to complete the scoring in 20th with Evan Stanley(23rd) Ronan McAree (24th) and Diarmuid Hanna (25th) finishing close behind.

The Minor Boys showed maturity beyond their years in their racing to claim a well-deserved team victory. The group executed their plan to stay controlled through the first half of the 2.5km race and pick up places over the second half to perfection. Cathair McKenna moved up throughout the race making his way into the top 20 with around 600m to run and then charged through the field to make his way to 12th at the finish. TJ Weatherup (23rd) Tomas Benson (26th) and Ben Neal (29th) ran superbly to complete the scoring quartet.

These two teams will move onto the Irish Schools Championships on 12th March.

The Mini Boys (yr8) team gained valuable experience of a race at this level only missing out on a place on the podium by one spot to finish 4th out of the 15 teams that qualified. Sé Sweetnam ran a gutsy race to lead the team home in 16th. He was closely followed by Tiernan Conway in 20th. JoJo Matambanadzo (43rd) and Cillian Carabine (45th) were the other scorers.

The Inter Boys (yr11&12) also claimed 4th place and were only 6 points from 3rd. Finn Diver ran an excellent race to finish in 4th place, competing against boys a year older, only losing out on an individual medal in a sprint finish. Eoin Privilege (36th), Lucas Jimenez (38th), Nathan Morris (43rd) and Adam McCann (48th) worked well throughout the 4.5km race.

Eoin McConnell was the top finisher on the Junior Boys team that finished in 7th place. His 15th place finish earned him the final individual qualifying spot for the All-Ireland's.

With two team wins and two fourth places across the five races St. Malachy's picked up the trophy for the best overall school at the Championships.

### **St. Malachy's 1999 DMR and Conor Sweeney inducted into The Penn Relays Wall of Fame**

The Penn Relays is the oldest and largest track and field competition in the United States, hosted annually since 1895 by the University of Pennsylvania at Franklin Field in Philadelphia.

On the weekend 28<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> April 2022 St. Malachy's 1999 Distance Medley Relay (1200m,400m, 800m, 1600m) team were inducted into the Wall of Fame at Penn. This team (Joe McAlister, Thomas Frazer, Francis McCaffrey and Conor Sweeney) were the first in Penn Relays history to break 10 minutes for the event. Conor Sweeney was also inducted as an individual. He was a member of four consecutive winning DMR teams from 1997 to 2000, making him the only male athlete in history to win a high school event four times in row. He also anchored the 4 by 800m team to victory in 2000 giving him 5 victories at the high school level.

The honourees were presented at a brunch at Franklin Field on the Saturday morning. Each team/individual was introduced and given the opportunity to say a few words. Sweeney emphasised the positive impact and commitment of their coach (and former College principal) Dr John Morrin. McAlister highlighted the legacy of the late 90's trips to Philadelphia. The links formed with people in the Philadelphia area have led to hundreds of pupils from both sides of the Atlantic benefiting from exchange trips ranging from Basketball to Music and Gaelic football. Thankfully some of these people were able to attend the awards brunch (including Dan Harrell, Tony Overend, Tom Meakim and John Cooke).

The 1999 team would like to thank all at Penn relays, Dan Harrell and his Philadelphia based AOH brothers for their hospitality over the weekend. They contributed to making it a truly memorable and nostalgic experience.

### **Ulster Schools T&F (Friday 20<sup>th</sup> and Saturday 21<sup>st</sup> May)**

The Ulster Schools returned to Antrim Forum for the first time since 2019 with all involved excited to be back after the Covid enforced hiatus.

Matthew Lavery was the stand out performer for the College pushing the pace in the senior boys 5000m from the start. Very quickly a group of three including team mate Luke Kelly broke clear of the field, extending their lead as the race progressed. Around the 3000m mark Luke took the lead for around a lap. The brief respite from leading seemed to refresh Matthew as he retook the pole position and pulled away for victory over the final mile to win in 15.27. Luke was pleased to record a personal best (15.44) for 3<sup>rd</sup>, especially given he had missed some time with injury at the end of the cross country season. This was Matthew's second Ulster Championship of the year, adding to the cross country title he won back in February.

Finn Diver ran a smart race in the Inter boys 3000m to claim the silver medal, a fantastic performance given he has another year in the age group. A pair of his competitors set off at a fast pace, but Finn was confident to run his own race. He paced himself well, maintained his focus throughout, and reeled in one of the pair with 600m to go. He passed him quickly and finished strongly to record a personal best of 9.20.

Matthew, Luke and Finn will compete at the All-Ireland Schools T&F on Saturday 4<sup>th</sup> June in Tullamore, Co. Offaly.

In the Junior boys 1500m Eoin McConnell (4.44) and Liam Walsh (4.48) ran gutsy races to each record personal bests and finish in 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> places respectively. Evan Stanley was pleased to record a personal best of 4.21 for 8<sup>th</sup> place in a good quality senior boys 1500m, while Diarmuid Hanna claimed 6<sup>th</sup> place (2.05) in a tactical senior boys 800m race. Aidan O'Hara finished in 10<sup>th</sup> place in the Mini boys 100m, narrowly missing out on a place in the final.



## **SOCCER**

### **U12 Belfast Cup**

1st Round: St Malachy's College 9 – 1 Blessed Trinity

¼ Final: St Malachy's College 1 – 0 Boys' Model

½ Final: St Malachy's College 2 – 0 Laurelhill

Final: O.L.S.P.K 0 – 5 St Malachy's College

### **U12 NI Cup**

1<sup>st</sup> Round: BYE

2<sup>nd</sup> Round: Glengormley 2 - 5 St Malachy's College

3<sup>rd</sup> Round: Aquinas 1 - 2 St Malachy's College

1/4 Final: St Malachy's College 3 - 0 St Columb's College

1/2 Final: St Malachy's College 5 – 1 Christian Brothers GS (Omagh)

Final: Lurgan Junior 1 vs 3 St Malachy's College

### **U13 Belfast Cup**

1st Round: BYE

2nd Round: St Malachy's College 3 – 1 O.L.S.P.K

¼ Final: St Malachy's College 7 – 0 De La Salle

½ Final: Boys' Model 4 – 0 St Malachy's College

### **U13 Translink Cup**

Game 1: vs Laurelhill (3-3)

Game 2: vs O.L.S.P.K (2-2)

Game 3: vs Ashfield (5-0 win)

Playoffs: vs St Columb's College, Derry (4-0 loss)

### **U14 Belfast Cup**

1<sup>st</sup> Round: St Malachy's 4 – 0 Rathmore

¼ Final: St Malachy's College 2 – 1 Lagan College

½ Final: St Malachy's College 6 – 1 Colaiste Feirste

Final: St Malachy's College 1 – 0 St Mary's C.B.G.S

### **U14 NI Cup**

1<sup>st</sup> Round: BYE

2<sup>nd</sup> Round: St Malachy's College v Laurelhill (*withdrew*)

3<sup>rd</sup> Round: Ballyclare Secondary 0 – 3 St Malachy's College

¼ Final: St Malachy's College 5 – 1 Christian Brothers GS (Omagh)

½ Final: St Malachy's College 1 – 0 Holy Cross, Strabane

Final: St Columb's College, Derry 1 – 1 St Malachy's College (Won 8-7 on penalties)

### **U15 Belfast Cup**

1<sup>st</sup> Round: St Malachy's College 1 – 1 St Mary's C.B.G.S (Lost 4 – 2 on penalties)

### **U15 Translink Cup**

Game 1: vs Laurelhill (5-3 loss)

Game 2: vs O.L.S.P.K (5-0 win)

Game 3: vs Ashfield (5-0 win)

Playoffs: vs St Columb's College, Derry (5–2 loss)

## **U16 Belfast Cup**

1<sup>st</sup> Round: BYE

2<sup>nd</sup> Round: St Malachy's College 2 – 1 Lagan College

*\*Callum Magee, Niall McConnell*

¼ Final: Grosvenor 5 – 2 St Malachy's College

## **U16 NI Cup**

1<sup>st</sup> Round: BYE

2<sup>nd</sup> Round: St Malachy's 5 – 0 St Pat's Lisburn

3<sup>rd</sup> Round: Boy's Model 2 – 1 St Malachy's College

## **U17 Translink Cup**

Game 1: vs Laurelhill (8-0 win)

Game 2: vs O.L.S.P.K (4-0 win)

Game 3: vs Ashfield (1 – 1)

Playoffs: vs St Columb's College, Derry (2-1 loss)

## **U18 Belfast Cup**

### **Group Games**

Game 1: St Malachy's 1-0 Model

Game 2: St Malachy's College 4 – 0 BRA

Game 3: Campbell College 3 – 4 St Malachy's College

¼ Final: R.B.A.I 1 – 4 St Malachy's College

½ Final: Rathmore 2 – 2 St Malachy's College (Won 5-2 AET)

Final: St Malachy's College 0 – 0 O.L.S.P.K (Lost 7-6 on Pens)

## **NI Cup**

1<sup>st</sup> Round: Ballyclare Secondary 3 – 3 St Malachy's College (Lost 4-3 AET)

## **NI Plate**

2<sup>nd</sup> Round: St Malachy's 4 – 3 Campbell College

¼ Final: Portadown College 2 – St Malachy's College 2 (Lost 4-2 AET)

## **International Representation**

Deputy Head Boy Aidan Kelly who captained the Northern Ireland Schools U18 football team along with Head Boy Malachy Burns celebrating winning the Jersey Cup in preparation for the U18 Home Nations U18 Championship.

Ryan Calo played for Ireland U18 team v Slovakia in Dublin

Jake McCotter, Michael Donnelly and Jake Calo all were selected for the U17 international team for games v Scotland.

## **Sporting and Cultural Exchange – the legacy**

Past pupil CJ Fulton meets up with Tom Meakim after a basketball match in Pennsylvania. CJ was on 2 trips to the USA with our sporting and cultural exchange programme. Friends for life!

Former Head Boy Lewis McGarvey, currently on a soccer scholarship at Duke, put aside his affiliation with Duke to support close friend and former College pupil CJ Fulton in the Duke v Lafayette basketball contest this past season.

## **Swimming**

Massive congratulations to Year 13 student Thomas Leggett. Thomas has been selected for the Irish Swim Team for the 2022 LEN European Junior Championships, Otopeni, Romania this summer.

## 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* (Orchestra, Senior Strings, Junior Strings)  
Mr Paul Davison (Jazz Band)

<b>Violin</b>	Mrs Lucy Drennan Mr Jonathan Griffin
<b>Cello</b>	Mrs Morag Griffin Mr Andrew Nesbitt Mr Colin Irvine
<b>Flute</b>	Mr William Curran
<b>Clarinet/Sax</b>	Mr Robert Briscoe (Brass Group)
<b>Brass</b>	Mr George Sandford
<b>Drum Kit</b>	Mr Aide McIlduff
<b>Piano/Voice</b>	Mr Simon Neill BEM (Music Theory)
<b>Guitars</b>	Mr Paul Tierney
<b>Fiddle</b>	Mr Conor Caldwell (Senior Irish Trad group)
<b>Whistle</b>	Mr Brendan Kerr (Junior Irish Trad group)
<b>Choirs</b>	Mr Mark McGrath

#### Staff updates

- Sarah Smith, Clarinet, left in December 2021 and Laura Salt, French Horn left in April 2022. We thank them for their dedication to our boys and for their inspirational teaching.
- We welcomed Aide McIlduff (Drum Kit) in October 2021. Aide is a seasoned teacher and professional player, who has played with major pop and rock musicians and bands throughout Ireland.
- We welcomed George Sandford (Brass) who replaces Laura Salt. George is a trumpet specialist who plays and teaches all brass instruments. He formerly worked for Berkshire Maestros in England.
- We also welcomed Brendan Kerr back to his alma mater (completed a Music degree at QUB), who has returned to his alma mater to coach the Junior Irish Traditional Musicians and teach Tin Whistle.

#### Peripatetic Music Service

- We continued to offer face-to-face instrumental and vocal lessons, with Covid-19 mitigations in place. Occasionally, when a pupil has had to isolate at home, his lesson has been delivered via Zoom or Google Meet by the Tutor from the College.
- Starting in September 2022, Peripatetic Music Lesson times are being increased to 30 minutes long (from 25 minutes). This extra five minutes will provide more contact time with tutors in order to cover scales and pieces in more depth, thus raising standards of playing.

- During this current year, we reduced the number of ABRSM examination periods from three to two (Spring and Summer, no Winter session). This reason was to increase the number of boys who sat exams in the Spring / Summer sessions, in order to secure enough numbers for two private visits from the ABRSM. Since we became a private examination centre, tutors have also entered some of their external pupils at St. Malachy's, who we are very happy to accommodate. Examinations were held on Wednesday 6 April and Thursday 23 June 2022. Many thanks to Mr McGrath for rehearsing and accompanying our pupils.

### **Practical Examination Results**

Sept 2021 - June 2022 (28 entries, ABRSM only)

- 7 passes
- 14 merits
- 6 distinctions

July 2021 - June 2022 (53 entries ABRSM, Trinity, Rock)

- 24 passes
- 22 merits
- 7 distinctions

### **Events and Concerts**

On Friday 22 October, we celebrated St. Malachy's Feast Day Mass with a live broadcast from the College Chapel to all tutor groups. The Liturgy was accompanied by music from GCSE Soloists (Simon Mulholland, Jieve Acman) the Senior Strings and Senior Irish Traditional musicians.

- On Thursday 4 November, distinguished musical alumnus Peter Flanagan, Cello, visited his old Music Department and rehearsed the Senior String ensemble. Peter was a pupil in the late 1970s/early 1980s. He instructed the boys on the finer points of ensemble playing, including tuning and intonation.
- On Monday 15 November, the Chamber Choir and Senior Irish Traditional Musicians provided music for the Old Boys' Mass, held in the College Chapel.
- On Sunday 5 December, in place of the usual Christmas Concert, we recorded our ensembles and soloists in the College Hall, which we then shared via our newly created YouTube channel: **St. Malachy's College, Belfast: Music Department** (<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAvJeCrAPR2wtE8Z1t3FRww>)

We aim to use this YouTube channel as a 'virtual' platform to celebrate the talents and achievements of our musicians. It is more important than ever that our young people experience the significant personal and musical benefits of live solo and ensemble performance in a safe manner, and that families and friends have the opportunity to share in and celebrate their success. The channel has now amassed nearly 10,000 views.

- On Friday 17 December, a Student Advent Service, which was pre-recorded, was accompanied by some of the newly made concert recordings featuring the Jazz Band, Irish Traditional Group, Senior Strings and Chamber Choir.

- On Tuesday 21 December, a Staff Advent Service was live streamed from the College Chapel, featuring the Chamber Choir, Senior Strings, and Irish Traditional musicians. The staff service included the customary performance of O Holy Night by the Chamber Choir, who also joined the staff for their traditional rendition of Adeste Fidelis. All musicians were treated to a mini fry-up before the service, which kept festive spirits high!
- Hollywood Music Festival began on Wednesday 19 January. Congratulations to all the boys who took part and a huge thank you to parents who provided much of the transport. Thanks also to Mr Davison for accompanying the instrumentalists.

Advanced Trad Solo	Jude Scott Darragh Conlon	2 <sup>nd</sup> 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Piano Grade 8+	Aodhan Fearon Senan Sheridan	Commended 1 <sup>st</sup> + £50
Woodwind Grade 3-4	Finn Harding	1 <sup>st</sup> + £40
Brass Grade 4-5	Alfie Chandranath	Commended
Senior Vocal Repertoire 16+	Noel McCartney	Commended
School Choir	Chamber Choir	1 <sup>st</sup>
School Ensemble	Senior Strings	1 <sup>st</sup>
Piano Under 16	Senan Sheridan Jack Fusco	1 <sup>st</sup> + £50 3 <sup>rd</sup>
Strings Grade 4-5	Felix Brett	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Woodwind Grade 6-7	Eoin Brown	3 <sup>rd</sup>
Strings Grade 6-7	Paul Conlon	Commended
Piano Grade 6-7	Jieve Acman Simon Mulholland	Commended Commended
Piano Sonata Open	Jack Fusco	2 <sup>nd</sup>
<b>Rowel B Friers Memorial Trophy</b> for the performer with the highest mark in Piano classes A9-A13	<b>Senan Sheridan (91)</b>	
<b>Burnside Shield</b> for the Best Secondary School Choir	<b>St Malachy's College Chamber Choir</b>	

- On Thursday February 10, the College held its first public event since the pandemic started! The Year 14 Leavers' Recital in the College Hall was a wonderful concert in which twelve of our Year 14 musicians presented a varied programme of solos and ensembles. It was a memorable night and the parents were extremely appreciative of the opportunity to see their sons perform on the College Hall stage one final time before they leave! The audience was grouped in family bubbles in cabaret-style seating at tables spaced around the College Hall. Matthew Milner was the compere and he did a great job of introducing the boys. He also threw in a few terrible jokes, which always lightens the mood. Congratulations to all the boys involved:

*Peter Fitzpatrick (Drums), Eoin McBride (Sax), James Campbell (Piano), Darragh Conlon (Violin), Noel McCartney (Voice and Trumpet), Shea Mooney (Violin), Andrew McBriarty (Bodhran and Violin), Fearghal Creagh (Fiddle), Martin Scott (Banjo), Adam McCormick (Acoustic Guitar & Voice), Ryan Irvine (Piano), Matthew Milner (Drums)*

- On the evening of Friday 25 February, the Irish Traditional Group travelled the short distance to Clifton House to perform as part of the North Belfast Festival. A warm and appreciative audience were in attendance to support the boys who presented a varied programme of modern Irish dance tunes and old favourites (e.g. Off To California, Rights Of Man, Jig Of Slurs, Rolling Waves, The Donegal Lasses, Star Of The County Down, Silver Spear, Congress Reel, Mountain Road). Many of the visitors approached the boys at the end of the concert to congratulate them and praise their performances. The concert programme was organised by the boys themselves, with Martin Scott (Yr14) taking overall responsibility for the music. Mr McGrath accompanied. Many congratulations to all the boys and staff involved for their hard work and dedication:

***Fiddles** Darragh Conlon, Paul Conlon, Fearghal Creagh, Jonah Nicholl, Eoin Mackey, Cillian O'Brien, Andrew McBriarty, **Guitars** Cathal Hegarty, Ben Toner, **Bodhrán** Andrew McBriarty, **Whistle/Flute** Jude Scott, **Banjo/Guitar** Martin Scott, **Tenor** Noel McCartney, **Accompanist** Mr Mark McGrath*

- During the first week of March, selected musicians from Years 9-12 made their way to the Braid Arts Centre for the Ballymena Music Festival. The festival did not host ensembles this year, so we decided to enter a handful of soloists instead. The boys were up against stiff competition, with many participants travelling from Dublin to take part. Congratulations to all the boys involved, and many thanks to Mr Davison for accompanying.

The Junior Instrumentalist Of The Year	Jack Fusco	2 <sup>nd</sup> + £50
Clarinet Solo, 15 - 16 years	Eoin Brown	<b>1st</b>
Bassoon or Oboe Solo, 14 - 16 years	Finn Harding	
Pianoforte Solo, 12 - 13 years	Aodhan Fearon	1 <sup>st</sup>
Pianoforte Solo, 14 - 15 years	Simon Mulholland	Commended
Composition, performed on stage	Jieve Acman	1 <sup>st</sup>
Piano Solo (Sonata) Open	Jack Fusco	2 <sup>nd</sup>

- On Friday 4 March the College Chamber Choir were put through their paces by Andrew Nunn, Director of the National Youth Choir N.I. The boys were able to audition for the NYC after the workshop. Andrew was very complimentary about our boys' singing and reading abilities. The following boys were offered places:

**Senior Choir:** Noel McCartney

**Junior Choir:** Ciaran Finlay, Eoin Brown, Charlie Rocks, Charlie Horner, Liam Alexander, Fionnbarr O Loingsigh, Finn Harding

**Training Choir:** Ciaran Brown, Donal Creagh, Joseph Donnelly

- At the invitation of the Joint North South Secretariat, six senior members of our renowned Irish Traditional Group performed at the annual St. Patrick's Day reception in the Europa Hotel on Tuesday 15 March. The NIO Permanent Secretary, Minister of State for N.I., The Right Honourable Conor Burns MP, spoke briefly to the boys. He was delighted that his father's old school was represented, and he looked forward to visiting St. Malachy's one day.
- On Tuesday 22 March, our A Level and GCSE musicians travelled to the University of Ulster, Jordanstown, to watch an Ulster Orchestra rehearsal. The UO were playing Berlioz *Symphonie Fantastique* that week, which is a set work at both GCSE (CCEA) and A Level (Edexcel).

The conductor, Adrien Perruchon, took time during the interval to speak to the boys about the work and his interpretation. Many thanks to the Ulster Orchestra LCE team who enabled our visit. Our musicians, of course, were very grateful, behaved impeccably and were a credit to the College.

One of our A Level musicians said, "this was such an insightful glimpse into the professional orchestral world! The orchestra adapted so quickly to whatever the conductor said. His interpretation was very different to the recording I normally listen to. I definitely learnt more about our set work from 'seeing' this conductor dissecting the music in such detail." The boys also attended the concert at the Ulster Hall on Friday 25 March.

- Throughout late March and early April, many after-school rehearsals were used to record the Spring Concert performances. These recordings are currently being edited for sharing on our YouTube channel. They include:  
College Orchestra: Farandole (Bizet), Dambuster's March (Coates), Slavonic Dance (Dvorak)  
Jazz Band: Mr Blue Sky (ELO), Happy (Williams)  
Chamber Choir:  
Senior Choir: Calon Lan (arr. McGrath), Steal Away, Absolve Domine  
Irish Traditional Group:  
Junior Strings: Lord of the Dance (Hardiman), Three Irish Reels (arr. Strange)
- The Music Department's ties with external GAA organisations were strengthened further this year with two events. On Sunday 24<sup>th</sup> April, five Year 14 musicians from the Senior Irish Traditional Group performed at a community sports event held by Wolfe Tones GAC, Newtownabbey. Secondly, our Senior Irish Traditional group performed once again at the GAA Ulster Schools' All Stars Awards, held in the Shaw's Bridge Crowne Plaza. The boys performed during the reception, then on stage for part of the formal dinner. The awards were compared by BBC Sports Correspondent Thomas Kane, a former Malachian musician himself! The group's performance was of course superb. It was a suitably glamorous event to mark their final performance of this academic year. Congratulations to the boys and many thanks to all of the parents for their continual support.

- Senior members of the Irish Traditional Group also performed at two summer wedding receptions, firstly for Miss Jordan (Chemistry) on 1 July in the Titanic Hotel Belfast, and secondly for OM Andrew Adams at Galgorm Hotel on 21 July.
- The official final performance of the year came from our Year 10 and 11 musicians. Holy Cross Girls' Primary School invited some musicians up to their school on Tuesday 14 June. The Year 11 GCSE class, plus a few of their Year 10 and 11 colleagues, put a mini concert together to showcase a wide variety of instruments and musical styles for the primary pupils, including Violin, Piano and Oboe soloists, an Irish Traditional Music group, a String Quartet, and a Rock Band.

### **Digital Technology**

- The Music Department has been inspired by the creation of the College's new Creative Digital Hub:
  - We have upgraded what was originally a store and a Sixth Form common room into two modern recording studios for the use of A Level and GCSE musicians.
  - A class set of iPads have arrived for use in KS3 classes
  - M1 has received a new Clevertouch Smartboard, to deliver a more interactive teaching and learning experience. M2 will follow in 22/23.

### **Future Plans**

- Shared Education – B.R.A. Both Heads of Music have met to discuss future concerts together. There is already a joint orchestra rehearsal and concert event planned for Tuesday 4 October 2022, to be held in the College, where both school orchestras will rehearse and perform together, led by Ulster Orchestra players who will take sectional rehearsals and conduct a performance for invited guests in the afternoon.
- Christmas Concert 2022 will be held in the College Hall.

Finally, a note of sincere thanks to Mr McBride and the Senior Leadership Team who enable us with the time and resources we need to achieve so much with our young musicians to maintain our great traditions of musical excellence and participation. Gloria Ab Intus!



### **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	167
Number of students in Exam Cohort	163
Number of Students level 5 SEN	11
% entered for 5 or more GCSEs	100%
% achieving 5 or more GCSEs A*-C	98.16%
% achieving 5 or more GCSEs A*-C including English & Maths	98.16%
% entered for 7 or more GCSEs	100%
% achieving 7 or more GCSEs A*-C	95.71%
% achieving 7 or more GCSEs A*-C including English & Maths	95.71%

### **GCSE Cumulative Data**

<u>SEN Edit</u>	A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E	F	G	U	Total
2022	244	493	414	251	87	23	11	3	3	3	1532
% of Grades	15.9	32.2	27.0	16.4	5.7	1.5	0.7	0.2	0.2	0.2	
Cumulative	15.9	48.08	75.08	91.45	97.13	98.63	99.4	99.6	99.8	100	

## GCSE Results by Subject

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C*	C	D	E	F	G	U	X	Q	A*-C	% A*-C
Gaeilge (5012)	2	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	2	100.0
Art & Design(3510)	11	1	4	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	11	100.0
Biology(1010)	24	14	9	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	100.0
Business and ICT(AA5)	32	0	6	20	5	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	31	96.9
Business Studies(3210)	17	2	6	6	0	2	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	16	94.1
Chemistry(1110)	24	17	6	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	100.0
Design and Technology(8900)	17	0	1	11	2	1	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	15	88.2
Drama(5210)	15	1	3	3	5	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	14	93.3
English Language(5030)	166	16	64	48	29	6	2	0	0	0	1	0	0	163	98.2
English Literature(5110)	163	14	52	64	29	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	160	98.2
French(5650)	60	12	9	10	11	11	5	2	0	0	0	0	0	53	88.3
Geography(3910)	49	6	14	9	14	4	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	47	95.9
History(4010)	66	11	21	18	11	3	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	64	97.0
Home Economics(3310)	15	0	1	2	10	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	15	100.0
Irish(5550)	24	1	3	9	11	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	100.0
IT/Art(8210)	17	0	2	6	6	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	17	100.0
Leisure & Tourism(0004)	8	1	2	2	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	8	100.0
Mathematics Further(2330)	81	17	33	11	12	6	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	79	97.5
Mathematics(2210)	91	0	26	51	6	6	1	0	0	0	0	1	0	89	97.8
Music(7010)	9	7	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	9	100.0
Personal and Social Education(4810)	12	0	5	3	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	12	100.0
Physics(1210)	24	14	8	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	24	100.0
Religious Studies(4610)	165	23	46	36	33	18	6	1	2	0	0	0	0	156	94.5
Science Single Award(1310)	19	2	4	8	4	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	18	94.7
Spanish(5750)	56	11	19	16	6	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	56	100.0
Sport/PE Studies(7210)	30	5	13	5	4	2	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	29	96.7

Subject	Entries	**	*A	AA	AB	BB	BC*	C**	C*	CC	CD	DD	DE	EE	EF	% A*-C
Science Double Award	122	11	13	28	10	14	13	12	10	4	1	1	1	1	1	94.3%

## A Level

Category	
Number of Students in Year 14	121
Number of Students in Year 14 ( included in academic data)	120
Number of students level 5 SEN	6
% achieving 3 or more A level passes grades A*-C	83.3%
% achieving 3 or more A Level passes grades A*-E	95.0%

## A2 Cumulative Data

<u>School Data</u>	A*	A	B	C	D	E	N	U	X	Total
2022	75	137	85	52	16	3	-	1		369
% of Grades	20.3	37.1	23.0	14.1	4.3	0.8	-	0.3		
Cumulative	20.3	57.5	80.5	94.6	98.9	99.7	-	100		

## A Level Results by Subject

Subject	Entries	A*	A	B	C	D	E	0	U	% A*-C
Art & Design(3510)	4	0	1	3	0	0	0	0	0	100.0
Biology(1010)	22	5	7	6	4	0	0	0	0	100.0
Business Studies(3210)	37	2	15	12	7	0	1	0	0	97.3
Chemistry(1110)	23	5	8	1	5	3	1	0	0	82.6
Design and Technology(8900)	12	0	8	3	1	0	0	0	0	100.0
Drama(5210)	12	3	2	5	2	0	0	0	0	100.0
Economics(4410)	10	2	3	5	0	0	0	0	0	100.0
English Literature(5110)	6	0	2	0	1	3	0	0	0	50.0
French(5650)	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	100.0
Geography(3910)	12	2	6	3	1	0	0	0	0	100.0
Health & Social Care(0003)	16	0	2	9	4	1	0	0	0	93.8
History(4010)	28	4	11	7	6	0	0	0	0	100.0
Irish(5550)	11	3	5	3	0	0	0	0	0	100.0
IT/Art(8210)	13	0	3	7	3	0	0	0	0	100.0
Journalism(KD1)	18	0	7	4	5	2	0	0	0	88.9
Mathematics Further(2330)	4	3	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	100.0
Mathematics(2210)	41	9	17	4	6	4	1	0	0	87.8
Music(7010)	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	100.0
Physics(1210)	32	10	13	4	3	1	0	0	1	93.8
Politics(4830)	16	3	8	3	2	0	0	0	0	100.0
Religious Studies(4610)	8	1	6	0	1	0	0	0	0	100.0
Spanish(5750)	3	1	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	100.0
Sports Science(MA11)	13	3	3	3	3	1	0	0	0	92.3

### Performance in Public Examinations 2018-19 to 2021-22

	2018-19		2019-20		2020-21		2021-22	
	School	NI Average (Boys' Grammar)	School (CAGs)	No NI Data Available	School (CDGs)	No NI Data Available	School	No NI Data Available
% achieving 5+ GCSEs at Grade A*-C	98.2%	93.8%	96.9%	-	97.4%	-	<b>98.16%</b>	-
% achieving 7+ GCSEs at Grade A*-C	91.6%	86.6%	93.8%	-	94.12%	-	<b>95.71%</b>	-
% achieving 3+ A Levels at Grades A*-C	75.5%	74.4%	100%	-	93.5%	-	<b>83.3%</b>	-
% achieving 2 A Levels at Grades A*-E	100%	99.3%	100%	-	100%	-	<b>100%</b>	-

### Destination of Leavers in 2021/22

Year Group	No. of Pupils in Year Group	% to Higher Education	% to Further Education	% to another school	% in Employment	% Other
14	124	88.8%	4.8%	0%	3.2%	3.2%

## CONCLUSION

The beginning of the 2021/22 academic year saw us permitted to gather in person in the College Hall for our traditional opening prayer service, led by the College's Spiritual Director Fr. Michael Spence. Staff reflected on many challenges overcome during the past two years, taking time to appreciate the strength of our faith-based approach and collective endeavour in helping us ensure our pupils continued to excel personally, spiritually, and academically in the most unforeseen circumstances.

2021/22, under guidance from DE, saw a one-year extension and transition to the existing SDP designed to reignite the breadth and balance of our Quality Provision in a challenging yet demonstrably supportive manner. Departments returned to basics within the classroom setting, with a strong emphasis placed on re-establishing onsite learning routines, underpinned by clear and consistent communication of high expectations for all pupils to give of their best and achieve their own personal glory from within.

A new Teaching Learning group was established to promote Rosenshine's Principles of Instruction, with explicit focus placed on strategies designed to consider lost teaching time and the stalling of skills development during the previously disrupted academic period. Our processes for Quality Assurance, including Pupil Voice, positively evidenced the impact development actions were having on pupils' learning experiences. Indeed, enhancing opportunities for pupil leadership was a key component of our sustaining school improvement work in 2021/22. The role of the Student Council was extended through the formation of sub-committees for each Key Stage. The work of the Council in championing Emotional Health and Well-Being and the wider contribution of pupil leadership to school life was commended by the Education Minister, Michelle McIlveen, during a visit to the College in June 2022.

Partnership with our Parents/Carers is at the core of our success at St. Malachy's. 2021/22 saw the introduction of ParentApp, which is now being used effectively to communicate on the daily progress of our Malachians. The Friends of St Malachy's Parent Association continued to make an invaluable contribution to the College, with proceeds from the association's fundraising activities being targeted to directly support and enrich our pupils' curricular and extracurricular experiences. I would like to take this opportunity to thank our whole Parent/Carer body for their unwavering and ongoing support for the work of staff and pupils.


Undoubtedly one of the hi-lights of this year has been the reawakening of our extracurricular provision and what a year it has been! For the first time in 63 years St Malachy's won an Ulster Schools Senior Hurling Trophy, lifting the Casement Cup. In soccer both our Year 8 and Year 10 teams achieved double success, with each squad winning their respective Belfast and Northern Ireland cup competitions. In addition, our athletics and basketball teams extended the College's proud traditions of excellence in these areas, with team and individual titles at Ulster and All-Ireland level. Not to be outdone our musicians also had an exceptional year, with the College's Chamber Choir winning the Burnside Shield for best secondary school choir.

I am very happy to report that our Year 8 pupils of 2021/22, the first intake in living memory who had not followed an academic entrance route, thrived during their first year at the College. To further support their integration into our Malachian family, a bespoke happiness and resilience programme was introduced to ensure each one of our youngest pupils enjoyed the warmth and support of our fine College. In addition, to support their burgeoning academic careers, in Year 9 these pupils will benefit from enhanced timetable provision for Mathematics and English to ensure their smooth transition continues, ultimately enabling the boys to confidently achieve their full potential at GCSE Level.

As the College approaches its 190th year, the Board of Governors are delighted to commission a new state of the art Digital Hub in 2022/23. The Department of the Economy's 10X strategy document has characterised the

current 10-year period as a decade of innovation. With our investment in this new Digital Creative Hub, the futures thinking of the College's Board is attuned to the potential of this 10X vision for our pupils. In terms of achieving our goals here, the medium- term development planning of the College will seek to further develop our approaches to explicitly teaching transferable workplace and life skills, ensuring that we, as a College community together, are supported, challenged, and empowered to develop the skills and attitude required to learn, grow, and achieve excellence in a fast moving and ever changing 21st century context.

I thank and congratulate the Board of Governors, all staff, and the boys for their hard work, success, inspiration, and unquestionable devotion 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. The past year has demonstrated that our Mission remains true, ever ready, and able to guide us to the forefront of the rich opportunities that lie ahead.

Signed:  Sir G Loughran (Chair of the Board of Governors)