

# PROSPECTUS



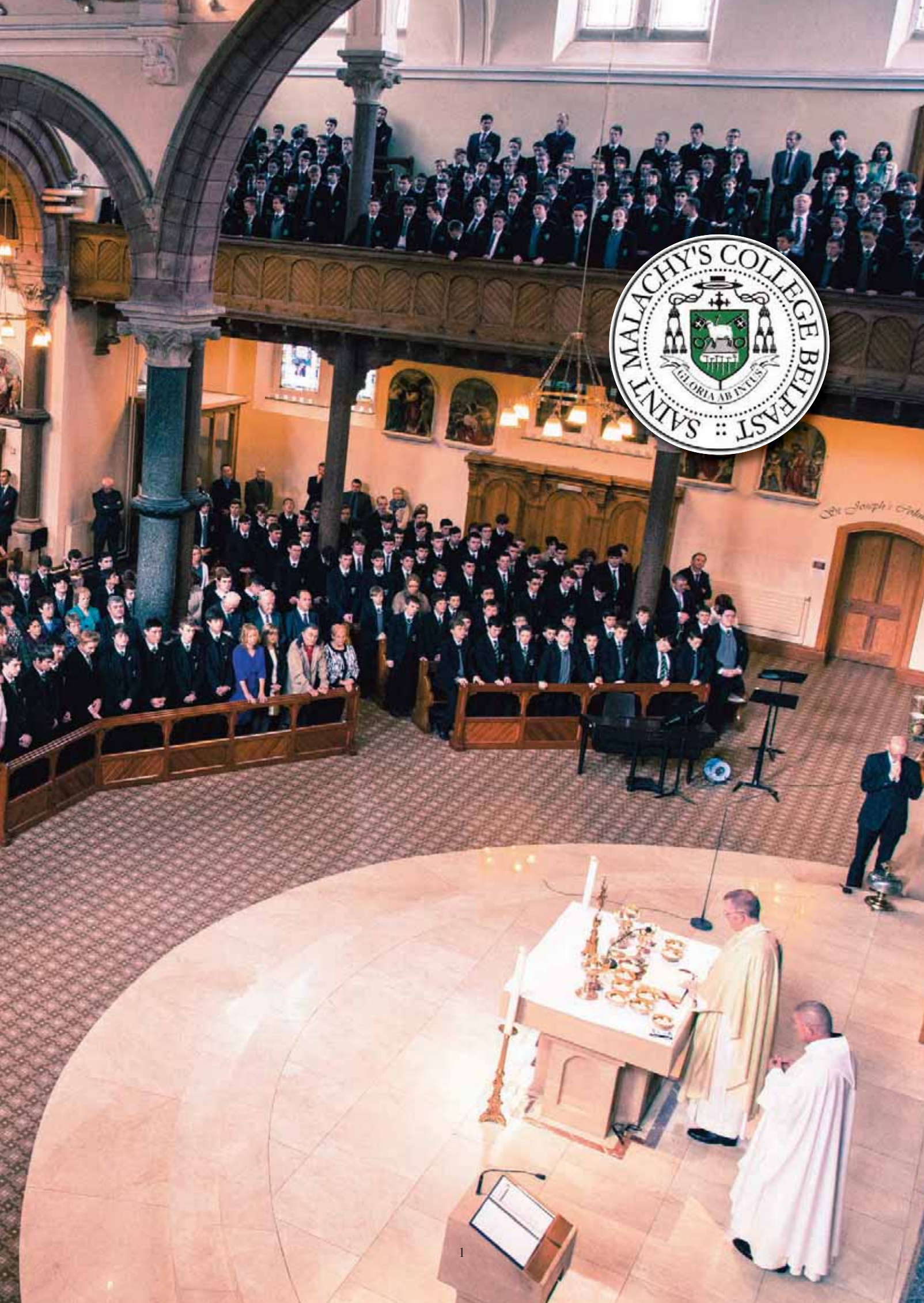


# *Gloria Ab Intus*

## *Glory from Within*

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*“ I understand exactly what it means to be a College pupil and teacher. A true Malachian is loyal to himself, his College and his badge - **Gloria Ab Intus!** ”*

Paul McBride, Principal



# Principal's Address

St Malachy's College is steeped in over 180 years of tradition that has been built around our motto, "Gloria Ab Intus" - "Glory from Within!" The College has also maintained its reputation as a flagship for Catholic education, sending out young and good men ready to embrace the challenges and opportunities of adult life in this rapidly changing world. We also celebrate the fact that a vast number of our boys become great leaders in their chosen careers, both on a local and global scale.

Our position in North Belfast is quite unique. We are an all-boys Catholic grammar school that successfully brings together pupils from an extensive catchment area and from varied backgrounds, and we quickly and smoothly accept them into our College family. Here the boys will make friends for life. Malachians constantly refer to that unique camaraderie, loyalty and special bonds which are initiated and cemented in their years at school, and then stay with them through adulthood.

What would you expect to find in a typical school day at St Malachy's College? Well, you would immediately be made to feel welcome. You would be greeted by articulate and courteous boys, and by friendly and highly professional staff members. You would find that our boys are very motivated with high levels of maturity and self-confidence. Inside and beyond the classroom, you would meet our pupils who have well-developed personal and social skills and demonstrate excellent learning behaviours. They take pride in their work and respect their environment. They work independently, in pairs and in groups, in an effective way, showing concern and support for others. They reflect critically and maturely on their learning and respond eagerly to constructive feedback from their teachers and peers. You would witness the important contribution of the pastoral provision to supporting learning which is evidenced by the boys managing and taking responsibility for their own learning and developing a broad range of independent learning skills. Before and after school, and during lunch break, you would see the boys participate, in large numbers, in an extensive range of extra curricular and curricular enrichment activities, taking on roles and responsibilities maturely, which contribute significantly to their physical, spiritual, social and cultural development, preparing them well as contributors to society. The Inspectorate found pastoral care provision in the College to be outstanding!

St Malachy's is a self-evaluating school which does not stand still and rely on its reputation for producing excellence. It is a place that is data rich and uses its analyses of relevant information to shape action planning and future developments. We are so fortunate to have in place well-established routines and values. On this foundation we are always building for the future so that every boy can realise his full potential and find his true passion for learning. These are exciting times and we are continuing to invest in and develop our buildings and resources. We are adept at marrying the beauty and strength of tradition with current and future trends and needs. Therefore our building programmes and refurbishments reflect our thinking. Our boys are already benefitting from new state of the art resources and facilities, and we have many more exciting programmes in place.

A perusal of this prospectus and a browse through our website will give you a virtual sense of what College life is like. You should come and visit us to get a real sense of what a special place it is!

*Gloria Ab Intus*

**Mr. Paul McBride**



# Our Mission










The College Chapel Windows



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

# Aims

The Governors of the College aims are:

-  To offer an experience of a learning community marked by a distinctive Christian identity which will enrich the lives of all who are involved there, and which will help pupils prepare for the changing world of work, leisure and responsibility, including duties and obligations to family and society
-  To constantly review and respond to the changing curricular needs of pupils, and to the expectations of parents and of society, while retaining a constant commitment to provide excellence in learning and teaching
-  To provide a system of pastoral care, which will exemplify justice, fairness, compassion, tolerance and forgiveness, while at the same time, set high standards of respect, self-discipline, commitment and generosity
-  To develop a healthy partnership between the College and parents in the education of the pupils
-  To operate a just and equitable policy in the appointment and treatment of staff, and in the admissions procedures for pupils
-  To encourage all staff to further their professional development within the parameters of their responsibilities in the College
-  To ensure the provision of appropriate facilities for the fulfillment of the school's functions
-  To establish relationships and to maintain links with the local community, with other schools, institutes, the world of work and organisations across the community and outside Northern Ireland
-  To build upon already existing relationships with past pupils of the College to the benefit of all concerned.

# Ethos

## *Gloria Ab Intus* *Glory from Within*

Founded in 1833, St Malachy's College is a Catholic Grammar school for boys. We take great pride in the history of the College which was opened on St Malachy's Day 3rd November 1833. The College began with eight boarders and ten day boys. Today the population has grown to over 1000 pupils. The boys, with the coat of arms of the Diocese of Down and Connor, on their school badge remain loyal to the rich tradition of the College.

The Catholic Christian ethos of the College is reflected in the school motto:-Gloria ab Intus'. This reminds us all of the importance of 'Glory from within' and we, through our work, endeavour to honour Bishop Crolly and the founders of the College.

St Malachy's, as a Catholic school seeks through its ethos to recognise and respect the uniqueness of all individuals, to enable them to reach their full potential and to help create the world as God intends it to be (John Paul II). The College works in partnership with priests and local parishes to create and sustain a vibrant sense of spiritual awareness in our pupils. Pupils actively participate in assemblies, collective worship, retreats, fundraising for charity and community work.

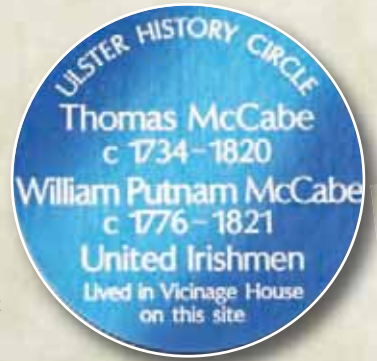
Fr M Spence, the Spiritual Director, celebrates daily Mass in the College Chapel throughout the school year.



# More than just a history - A Tradition

*The College is built on land which once belonged to the famous McCabe family. Thomas McCabe was an important figure in late 18th century Belfast. He was a watch maker, land owner, industrialist and anti-slavery campaigner. Regarded as a strong liberal voice and an advocate of Penal Law reform, he was also a founder member of the Society of United Irishmen. His son, William Putnam McCabe was an adventurous leader in the insurrection of 1798. William is buried in Paris while his father is buried opposite the gates of the College in Clifton Street Graveyard.*

Thomas's home was called Vicinage Mansion although it was quite a modest farm house situated at the top of a lane called the Cross Loaning. It had an uninterrupted view of the Belfast Lough and the growing town. The well of Vicinage can still be seen beneath the floor of the Drama Studio. At the time this house was entirely surrounded by fields extending up to the Deer Park and Cave Hill. Its nearest neighbours were the workhouse and to the north a lonely farm dwelling called Solitude.



When St. Malachy's opened its doors on the 3rd November 1833 the new college was the culmination of the efforts of Bishop William Crolly, the pioneer of Catholic education in Belfast. Crolly was determined that his flock should take full advantage of a new situation. This was a time when Daniel O'Connell had given Irish Catholics a renewed sense of confidence as his political agitation dismantled what remained of the Penal Laws. A few years earlier, in 1828, Donegall Street National School had been opened beside St. Patrick's Church. It was to a room in this building that the first students of the new college walked each morning from their lodgings in Vicinage. This 'walk' is celebrated each year on St. Malachy's Day as our students make their way to Mass in St. Patrick's.

Fr. Cornelius Denvir taught Mathematics, Latin and Greek until 1835 when he succeeded Crolly as Bishop. Other classes were taught by Fr. John Lynch and Mr Hugh Harkin. The cost of boarding was £12 per annum. Vicinage and its farm were purchased by Bishop Denvir in 1837 and numbers of students grew steadily. The Endowed Schools' Commission report of 1854 stated that there were 28 boarders and 39 day-boys. A large proportion of these boys were destined for the Diocesan priesthood although the report does mention 3 Protestant boys on the roll. Vicinage remained merely a residence until Bishop Patrick Dorrian, an energetic advocate of Catholic education, was appointed coadjutor bishop in 1860. The main buildings of St. Malachy's as we know them were constructed and ready for use in 1868. They took the place of the old Vicinage Mansion which was demolished. Dr Richard Marner had been appointed the College's first President in 1866. He presided over a College with 110 students and 5 teachers. During his time the curriculum was extended and the reputation of the College grew.

The distinctive tower above the main entrance and the Chapel wing were added in 1882. During this decade, when Dr Henry was President, students were allowed to read for university degrees (following the Royal University Act of 1879) and as many as 35 began a university course in 1886. A succession of scholarly and inspiring priests guided the College into the 20th century. P.J O'Neill (1907-18) and James Clenaghan (1918-24) faced troubled years and a background of conflict both at home and abroad and yet St. Malachy's maintained its position at the forefront of Irish education. Fr. John McCaughan's time as President saw the launch of The Collegian magazine (1925) and the formation of the Old Boys' Association (1926). During the 1920s and 30s the College made immense contribution not just to the Diocesan priesthood but the great missionary orders working in China, Africa and the Philippines. Malachians became distinguished leaders in the legal and medical professions, journalism, politics and education in Ireland and abroad.

When Dr James Hendley organised the centenary celebrations in 1933 some of Ireland's leading men were in attendance including former student, Eoin MacNeill, founder of the Gaelic League and one of the architects of the Irish Free State. To mark the centenary a unique gift was presented by priests who had been students and teachers. The renowned 'Harry Clarke' stained glass windows, painted by Richard King were installed in the College Chapel.

# THE College Badge Symbolism



**HAT and TASSELLS:** These are based on an earlier version of a bishop's hat and are symbolic of a Diocesan College. St. Malachy's was the original Diocesan College and retains a strong connection with the Diocese, particularly through the seminary which is still called St. Malachy's Seminary even if it is no longer on the original site.

**KEYS:** These represent the keys of the Kingdom of Heaven entrusted to St. Peter.

**BOOK:** The book represents the Bible, the Word of God. As Christians we are called upon to live our daily lives according to the values of the Gospel.

**THE LAMB:** The Lamb of God who gave his life for us. The lamb is at the centre of the badge to remind us that we should keep Jesus Christ and his saving message at the centre of our lives.

**THE COLOUR GREEN:** Green is the colour of life and growth but also the colour of the Holy Spirit, the source of all creation.

**GLORIA AB INTUS:** Glory from Within. True glory comes not from the possessions, position or prestige we may have, the outward trappings of success but from the content of a person's character.



The College had a miraculous escape during the horrific blitz of Easter 1941 and yet as students returned to school through the ruined streets Fr John McMullan could boast of results for that year as good as any in peace-time. St. Malachy's wonderful tradition of music owes much to the foundations laid by Fr. Kerr in the post-war years as he encouraged the growth of a school choir and orchestra. The Education Act of 1947 brought a huge increase in numbers and the need for improved accommodation. A number of temporary classrooms were built and five College priests left to found Garron Tower. The building programme initiated by Fr. Kerr was completed and expanded by Canon Walter Larkin and Fr Walsh and provided the College with an assembly hall, new classroom blocks, Sports Hall, new Clerical Students' Wing and Music Block. Boarding finished in 1973 and Fr Walsh steered the College through the turmoil and tensions of the 'troubles' with a calm and disciplined approach.

Fr. Noel Conway, one of the longest serving priests on the staff, and his successor, Fr Donal McKeown, paved the way for the digital age with provision of new technology, reorganised management structures and stronger contacts with the local community. Fr. Donal's elevation to Auxiliary Bishop provided the opportunity for the College to appoint its first lay principal in 1996. A highly successful athletics coach, Dr. John Morrin expanded cultural and sporting links with American colleges and brought in new initiatives in teaching and learning. Though of short duration, David Lambon's headship established links with European schools and brought to fruition the renovation of the old dormitories into the new 6th Form study centre, computer suites and bistro.

As Mr Paul McBride, a past pupil, begins his tenure as the 18th principal of St. Malachy's the variety of opportunity for students has increased to a level that those educational pioneers of the Victorian era could never have dreamed. International sportsmen, world class musicians, innovative scientists and literary geniuses among our 'old boys' provide role models that few schools can emulate. The professionalism, commitment and energy of our teachers still inspire our boys to be the best they can be.

The College community is determined to retain, preserve and build upon this noble legacy.

# Some famous past pupils

“If you have been part of St. Malachy's College then St. Malachy's College will always be part of you. So much of me believes that without that School I wouldn't be doing what I do. Recently, I spent the afternoon with Camilla and Prince Charles and I was invited inside No 10 Downing Street by the Prime Minister. That doesn't normally happen to kids from our area. I don't mean being acknowledged by the establishment, I mean being able to engage and be respected by them. My education had a big influence in gaining that respect.”

**Eamonn Holmes, television personality and broadcaster.**



**Ciaran Hinds,  
Star of the big screen**

In 2009 Ciaran was the guest speaker at our school prize-giving. A former pupil he has starred in many films and movie block busters, including:

*Harry Potter, Game of Thrones, Munich, The Debt and many more.*



“St. Malachy's College turned me into the man I am today through a wonderfully supportive staff and equally supportive students, I was able to hone my true passion throughout my years at the College which is filmmaking. I am now about to release my first feature film, which employed many current and past pupils from the College, and I could not have done it without the care and support of the team at the College.”

**Leo McGuigan (Young Film maker)**





**Martin O'Neill,**  
**Manager of the Republic of Ireland Soccer Team**

Martin won the MacRory Cup with the school Gaelic team in 1970 and went on to a very successful soccer career winning the English league title and the European Cup with Nottingham Forest and played in two World Cup finals. As a manager he also won League Cups with Leicester City and numerous trophies with Celtic.

Today he is managing the Republic of Ireland.



“*St. Malachy's is to blame; sparking my curiosity about history and a lifelong love of words; starting a journalistic ball rolling that would take me around the world. I played for the school Gaelic football team, played in a punk band there, and I keep coming back in my head to a great place that gave me the greatest start in life.*”

**Bill Neely**  
**International journalist and presenter for NBC Universal**



**Bernard McLaverty**  
**Writer**

Bernard is a successful and awarding winning writer. Two of his stories have been turned into successful films: 'Cal' and 'Lamb'.

# Pastoral Care



*“The quality of Pastoral Care  
is outstanding”*

ETI Inspection Report March 2014

St Malachy's College promotes an environment in which students, staff and parents are committed to the idea of excellence within a caring, supportive community. The school motto "Gloria ab Intus"- Glory from Within, encapsulates the underpinning ethos of pastoral care within the College.

Each member of staff is committed to the welfare of the students and the ethos of the school. The recent ETI report praised the *"holistic approach to supporting the boys"*. The school is divided into 3 sections; Junior, Middle and Senior. Each section has a Head of School and there is a Year Head for each Year Group. The main pastoral support for each boy is provided by his Form Tutor. The Form Tutor meets the class at morning and afternoon registration and will mentor each student throughout the course of the year. When Year 8 pupils join the College community, they are cared for by a dedicated team of Form Tutors and a Head of Year who will support them during the transition period and liaise with parents to ensure that all the boys feel settled and happy in St Malachy's.

There is a timetabled tutorial period during which the students follow a Personal Health and Social Education programme that is matched to the needs of each age group. External agencies also deliver a range of programmes on a wide variety of issues such as alcohol, relationships, personal safety, team-building and study skills.

## PREVENTATIVE CURRICULUM

As a means of fostering positive behaviour, St Malachy's College incorporates a preventative curriculum into its pastoral care provision. This encourages our boys to be aware of risks prevalent in today's society and to make informed and safe choices both within and out of the College.

We work in partnership with students, parents and carers and a range of external agencies to inform and educate.

The preventative curriculum is delivered through the PHSE programme in tutorial groups, through assemblies and enrichment activities and through a range of events and activities organised throughout the year.



“ *The taught pastoral provision is tailored effectively to the needs of the boys and is proactive in raising their awareness of the social and emotional challenges which they and others face* ”  
(ETI Report)



# Special Educational Needs

The Special Educational Needs Provision in St. Malachy's College is designed to ensure the needs of all students with specific individual learning needs such as ASD, Dyslexia, ADHD, Social, Emotional and Behavioural difficulties, are supported within an inclusive and socially integrated learning environment. **The SEN and Learning Support Department is a multi-disciplinary team of Specialist Teachers ( Literacy, Numeracy, Behaviour), Learning Mentors, Classroom and General Care Assistants and a Medical Officer. The Department is led by a Senior Teacher and SENCO and 3 Assistant SENCOs, one for each Keys Stage –**

Key Stage 3 SENCO -

Key Stage 4 SENCO -

Key Stage 5 SENCO -

The Assistant SENCOs are responsible for the management and co-ordination of SEN provision and Additional Learning Support across their assigned Key Stage.

They are supported in their work by their Learning Mentors, who work closely with the students, carefully monitoring and tracking their progress via mentoring and study support programmes.

Specialist teachers provide individual and small group tuition, focusing on the skills development and progression of the 3 strands of Special Education: - Literacy, Numeracy and Behaviour (Thinking Skills + Personal Capabilities). A team of trained and accredited Classroom and General Care Assistants ensure that each pupil has full access to the curriculum and enjoys a varied, engaging and socially inclusive experience at the College.

## KS3

Classroom Assistants are assigned to the majority of classes in Junior School and students have access to a range of literacy, numeracy and behaviour support programmes provided by specialist teachers qualified in these respective areas.

## KS4

Student timetables are adapted to allow them to follow a reduced programme of GCSEs, with access to additional specialist teaching, focusing primarily on GCSE Maths and English, and other curricular areas as required, including Behaviour Development Programmes e.g. Motivation / Study Skills Support.

## KS5

Students follow individually tailored programmes of Advanced Level Study, including hybrid options (GCSE/ AS level combined), accessing a range of vocational programmes, via increasing collaboration with other educational providers within the wider Area Learning Community. Students also have access to individual Specialist Teaching and Mentoring/ Coaching programmes.

# What our students think...



## NEW PUPILS IN YEAR 8

*"There are lots of new challenges in English because our teacher makes it exciting. It's enjoyable because we have to give presentations to the class and use new vocabulary".*

Odhran Gillespie. (St Therese of Lisieux)

*"I really like the Maths here. It is clear and really well explained".*

John Toner (St John the Baptist)

*"I fit in here and feel at home because everyone has made me feel so comfortable and they are all so friendly".*

Darragh Doherty (St Joseph's, Crumlin)

*"I love Running Club and we train several afternoons per week. The older boys are really good to us and help us build our stamina and to train us".*

Ruari Gallagher (Holy Cross Boys').

*"The coolest club in the College is Choir. It's my favourite and we rehearse a couple of times per week. I am only in the school and have already booked to go with the choir to Paris in June. We can't wait!"*

Jude Rooney (Ballymacrickett)

*"I love to play in the handball alleys before school and during lunch. It's my favourite hobby and it really relaxes me during the day".*

Murtagh Moran (Ballymacrickett)

*"I love Drama because even though I am quiet, I just love acting in front of people. It's class".*

Jack Burns (Holy Cross Boys' School)

*"I enjoy St Malachy's College because of all my teachers, friends and family supporting me. I am really glad I have chosen this school".*

Deaglan Bradley (Our Lady Queen of Peace)

*"My favourite club in school is Water polo. It is fast and fun and I am getting super fit".*

Lorcan Roberts (Holy Family PS)

*"My favourite subject in my new school is Maths. The teacher explains everything really well and we are constantly learning how to do new topics".*

Tiarnan Trainor (Holy Cross Boys' School)

*"Science is my favourite subject. I really like my teacher. He explains things well and is not strict and is super nice. We do loads of practicals and experiments. These are fun but we still learn about all the elements".*

Rory Higgins (St Therese of Lisieux)



## OTHER YEARS and NEW POST 16 STUDENTS

*"Initially, coming to St. Malachy's College seemed like a very daunting experience. After doing GCSEs I moved here. I didn't know anybody and some of the subjects were entirely new to me. I'm happy to say that not only have I made many great friends but I've also learned so much in this short space of time. This was a great choice for me".*

Conor Reid Yr 14

*"My career choices have been made possible due to being a student in St Malachy's College. I only began here two years ago and was quickly encouraged to take up piano and double bass. I am now doing GCSE Music and love the classes and the pupils in them. We have so much in common".*

Thomas McCormack Yr 11

*"St Malachy's College is most certainly a part of who I am and I proudly say that I am a part of the College. "Comfort" is an understatement as everywhere I go here, I feel at home. It has felt like this for me from day one. The care, support and genuine interest of every staff member have helped me to excel. They see us as individuals and treat us with total care".*

Kieran O'Reilly Yr13

*"I decided to join the College due to the friendly atmosphere I encountered on the occasions when I visited the school. Another reason for joining the College in 6th form was the number of opportunities that St Malachy's offered to their pupils. I wish I had joined the College earlier in my school life. I came here and fitted in right away".*

Jordan Walsh Yr 14

*"I initially heard about St Malachy's College from my older brother as a school he had wanted to attend. This encouraged me to research information on the school, especially the A-Level subjects that were taught. After phoning the school on the day of my GCSE results, I was kindly directed along the process of moving. Travelling to the school is also extremely easy and the schools location is very convenient.*

*I definitely feel very comfortable and included within the school, mainly due to the friendly teachers and students. Everyone was very welcoming.*

*The transition was much smoother than expected and I settled in comfortably within the first month. Being able to adapt to the new school environment and gain my AS results have been very rewarding.*

*The teaching quality is very high and teachers always maintain very pleasant learning environments. All the teachers are very friendly and willing to help whenever needed".*

Ilyas Bektasoglu Yr 14

# The Learning Experience



St Malachy's College aims to develop the potential of every pupil through the provision of a broad, balanced and relevant curriculum. All pupils are encouraged to participate in curricular and extra-curricular enrichment activities designed to enhance their school experience. The College learning environment is as dynamic as the learning process itself, and constantly adapts to keep pace with new developments. Further improvements have taken place to enhance the ICT infrastructure and these enable all pupils to enhance their ICT skills.

## EXCELLENCE

We believe that St Malachy's College promotes high aspirations for all our pupils by working with them to:

- understand the uniqueness of each individual pupil;
- promote literacy, numeracy and ICT to enable pupils to grow in confidence;
- ensure that, through themed projects that they can link learning from one subject to another;
- value and respect others and to celebrate diversity within the school community and beyond.

High quality teaching and learning, assessment, monitoring and tracking student progress are at the heart of our curriculum.

## PARTNERSHIP

The aims and ethos of the College are based on partnerships. These come in many forms and their success enables the school to be all that it is. We work very closely with our link primary schools to ensure that the transition from primary to St Malachy's College is a natural and positive experience. We

make sure we keep you informed of your son's progress on a regular basis through our strong Pastoral Care system. A parent can always speak to someone who knows their child. St Malachy's has a very strong Careers Education Department which works in close partnership with a wide range of local companies to provide careers advice and guidance throughout each stage of the pupil's education.

## PERSONALISED LEARNING

We seek to develop individual interests, passions and talents. Pupils with particular academic interests benefit from support from the Gifted and Talented Programme. Similarly, for pupils who require support in their learning, we have an acclaimed Learning Support Team, who will help boys gain skills and confidence at each stage of their development.

A school year in St Malachy's offers a huge range of activities – in Music, in Sport, in the Arts, in Debating, in Science and the Humanities, based on a range of learning experiences including work shadowing events such as 'running your own business'. All of these events and activities are invaluable in a rounded education. We also have a very large number of pupils participating in the Duke of Edinburgh Award scheme.

In the near future, St Malachy's will further develop technology which will enable pupils to continue to explore learning in highly individual ways. Our online Learning Platform will provide day-long, year-round support for learning tasks and individual exploration. All pupils will develop their own personalised online learning profile and this will allow their talents and interests to develop.

# College Curriculum

## KEY STAGE 3

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. Elements of LLW are also infused across the learning areas, along with opportunities for the development and assessment of the cross-curricular skills (Communication, Using ICT, Using maths).

Art & Design	Science	Physical Education	Technology
Drama	Home Economics	Music	Mathematics
English	Geography	French	History
Irish /Spanish	Religious Studies	LLW (Tutorial)	

In year 9 and 10, the curriculum is as above including ICT.

LLW includes the delivery of; • Personal Development • Citizenship • Employability

## KEY STAGE 4

### Core Subjects:

• English Language • English Literature • Mathematics • Religious Studies

**Sciences:** • Double Award Science • Triple Award Science (Physics, Chemistry and Biology)

**Languages:** • French • Irish • Spanish • Gaeilge

### Options:

• Additional Mathematics • Art and Design • Business Studies • Moving Image Arts  
• Computer Studies • Drama • Geography • History  
• Home Economics • Information Communication Technology • Music  
• Physical Education • Technology and Design

## KEY STAGE 5: Choice of subjects at A2 and AS level

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

The school tries to accommodate any combination of subjects. Pupils normally study three subjects for AS, pupils with a strong GCSE performance are encouraged to study a fourth subject at GCE AS-level. Most students take three subjects through to A2 level but some may continue to study four.

The following subjects are currently being offered at A-level: (2014-15)

Applied Business	Applied ICT	Art & Design	Biology
Business Studies	Chemistry	Computing	Design & Technology
Drama	Economics	English Literature	French
Further Mathematics	Geography	Health & Social Care	History
ICT	Irish	Journalism	Mathematics
Moving Image Arts	Music	Physics	Politics
Religious Studies	Sociology	Spanish	Sport Studies

Some of these subjects are offered through collaboration with other schools from within the North Belfast Area Learning Community. 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) and Careers Education. Students are encouraged to include time for Physical Education (personal fitness training) as well as partaking in the Voluntary Service programme. These additional courses are offered to broaden the educational experience of the pupils by providing access to knowledge, understanding and skills in a greater range of curricular areas. All students also have a weekly tutorial period.

# On the subject...

## MODERN LANGUAGES

*'If you talk to a man in a language he understands, that goes to his head. If you talk to him in his language, that goes to his heart.'*

Nelson Mandela

In St Malachy's, languages form a very important part of our students' learning experience. All boys will study two languages from French, Spanish and Irish in Key Stage 3. These languages are also offered at GCSE and A Level for those who wish to specialise in them.

Learning a language is an incredibly rewarding and life enhancing experience which opens up a whole range of exciting opportunities to our students and enables them to develop their communication skills and gain a cultural understanding of other people and other cultures.

In an increasingly globalised world, language proficiency adds significantly to our students' employability and can give them real competitive edge when applying for jobs. Our students are very keen to learn languages, to travel and take their place in a global world.

## FRENCH

'French is a language of influence and culture. It is one of the languages of global trade and international relations. It is one of the official languages of the United Nations and the European Union and is the official or administrative language in over forty five countries or regions worldwide. French is also the language of culture, opening doors onto the worlds of literature, art, music, dance, fashion, cuisine, and cinema.

Learning French in St Malachy's is a fun and rewarding experience. It is taught in a meaningful context, providing students with experience of using the language creatively and with confidence. Our goal is to enable our learners to communicate effectively in French, to gain an insight into other cultures and to empower them to take their place in a European and global context. As part of the French learning experience, students will have the opportunity to visit France, to work with native speakers and to participate in a range of cultural experiences which will enhance their linguistic learning.

## IRISH

The Irish language has a very strong tradition in St Malachy's College and aims to support the whole curriculum, whilst being a subject in its own right. We aim to teach the language in a meaningful context, providing students with experience of using Irish creatively and with confidence. We seek to provide a broad and balanced curriculum in accordance with the requirements of the Revised Curriculum for Northern Ireland.

The Irish department aims to foster a knowledge and love of the Irish language throughout the school and to develop the pupils' ability to speak Irish and to give our pupils a knowledge and appreciation of our cultural heritage, through the study of the Irish language, place names and family names, literature, music, songs, dancing and games.

There are a wide range of career opportunities for students who have Irish. These include Teaching, Youth Work, Translator, Examiner, ICT, Marketing, Civil Service as well as a wealth of opportunities in Irish language media including TV, radio and internet.

Our recent achievements include: 1st in Gael Linn Junior Quiz 2014, 2013, 2012, 1st Gael Linn Senior Quiz 2012, World Record for the Longest Conversation Ever held in Irish 2014, World Record for the Longest Conversation Ever held in Irish 2013.

## SPANISH

In St. Malachy's College pupils start studying Spanish in Year 8 and can continue through to A- Level.

If you speak Spanish, you can communicate with almost 500 million people worldwide! Think how many more employment options that gives you! And if you want to take a trip to Spain or Latin America, a little knowledge of Spanish will go a long way.

Spanish is the world's third most spoken language. Spanish is the mother tongue of approximately 388 million people in 21 countries (Mexico: 102 million, USA: 45 million, Spain: 44 million, Colombia: 44 million, Argentina: 39 million, Venezuela: 28 million, Peru: 28 million...) It is also widely spoken in many more where it is not an official language.

Spanish is the second most used language in international communication, and an official language of the UN and its organizations.

Not only is learning Spanish becoming increasingly important in terms of the global economy, it can also play a major role in your own personal development. The Spanish passion for living is contagious and once you start to learn about their language and culture, you won't ever want to stop.

## HOME ECONOMICS

In the Home Economics department, we aim to give all pupils the opportunity to examine key concepts in relation to healthy eating, home and family life and consumer issues. This incorporates practical: essential cookery skills which are important for life- long learning.

Pupils should develop an awareness of themselves as consumer in a changing economy while also getting the opportunity to develop skills for independent learning within a fun and enjoyable programme. Home Economics is taught through KS3 and KS4.

## LLW

Learning for Life and Work encompasses the subjects of Home Economics, Local and Global Citizenship, Employability and Personal Development.

In St Malachy's College Home Economics is taught as a discrete subject. Citizenship, Employability and Personal Development are delivered through the Pastoral Programme and Year 10 students have a separate class for Careers Planning. The tutorial classes are an opportunity for the students to become involved in discussion, creative projects and debate about key issues affecting their lives and receive important advice about making good life choices. We have a range of outside visitors and speakers who contribute to our programme. In addition to this the key elements of Learning for Life and Work are addressed within the other academic subjects.

## BUSINESS STUDIES

GCSE Business Studies helps students understand more about how and why businesses operate in the way that they do. Students are able to relate what they study to everyday activities, such as purchasing goods, and the news reported in the media.

Business Studies opens up a wide range of opportunities for further and higher education or on to a rewarding career. If intending to study Business-type subjects at degree level, a student would have a head start if they have completed A Level Business Studies. Former students of Business Studies at St. Malachy's have gone on to study Accounting & Finance, Management & Leadership Development, Business Information Technology, Economics & Accounting, Tourism and Hospitality Management, Business Management, International Hospitality Management and Marketing, among other courses.

## MUSIC

Music as an academic subject is studied from Year 8 through to A2.

Students are encouraged, through classwork, individual or group work, to listen, compose and perform. Students who take lessons on an instrument are encouraged to integrate this into classwork while all students study keyboard, musical notation and Music Technology.

Music Technology is taught at all levels in St Malachy's College. Year 8-10 use the app Garageband whilst Sibelius and Logic are employed at later stages for arranging and composing purposes. Through studying these courses, students will develop their knowledge and understanding of the world of music.

The College encourages involvement in external musical programmes. Many students attend the CBSM, play in CBYO, CBSM concert band, taking Summer courses with UYO and Young People's Orchestra of Ireland and UK. Singers take advantage of training at Schola Cantorum and attend summer courses in UYC and TUYC.





## ENGLISH

As teachers of English we seek to develop and expand the literacy skills already possessed by each student entering the college. The study of Literature will be a key part of this process and it will also enable each student to enhance his capacity for making judgements of a social, moral and aesthetic nature and thus come to a deeper understanding of himself and of the world in which he lives. Underpinning the work of the English Department is a positive embracing of new technologies to support and facilitate each student maximising their potential. English is a key subject in the core curriculum of the College and, in addition, flourishes at KS5 level. In addition to achieving academic excellence and examination success in English Language and English Literature, we wish all our students to acquire a 'Language for Life'; to foster strong emotional intelligence skills to help each individual adapt to, and cope with, the demands of an ever changing 21st century. Students who study English go on to enjoy careers in Law, Banking, Accountancy, Teaching, Media and the Public sector.

## BIOLOGY

In Years 8 to 10 pupils are taught Science, of which Biology is one component. At Key Stage 4, students can select either GCSE Triple Award or Double Award Science. Biology is one of the three components of both options, and students are taught by specialist Biology teachers. At Key Stage 5, students are taught AS and then A2 Biology, should they wish to continue with the subject to Advanced level.

Students are taught by a variety of methods, including PowerPoint presentations, interactive worksheets, tutorials, DVD clips, CD-ROMs, poster work, field work, practical work and increasingly iPads are becoming embedded in the teaching and learning of Biology.

Biology is now one of the most popular A level subjects in the College, and it is a useful preparation for many scientific courses at university e.g. Biological Science, Medicine, Dentistry, Optometry, Pharmacy, Veterinary Science, Sports Science and Food Science. There are many opportunities for Biologists in the fields of Ecology, Agriculture and Global Food Security, Biochemistry and Food Technology.



## CHEMISTRY

Teaching of Chemistry at St Malachy's College is designed to develop pupil's enthusiasm for and interest in the subject. Teaching Chemistry has to be fun! There is a subtle degree of magic required; what the 'ancient philosophers' called Alchemy. Academic success is quantifiable but the feeling of satisfaction and reward that teacher & pupil get from a good chemistry lesson is ultimately more enriching. Chemistry provides the technologies that have had a great impact on our society and the environment. Chemists can produce ideas and inventions that have the potential to perform phenomenal healing and produce extraordinary harm. Pupils need to develop the skill of critical thinking and an understanding of how science works and its essential role in society, as it is their society which has to decide on the moral and ethical boundaries for the progression of science. Pupils should understand that scientists try to explain phenomena and solve problems using evidence. Science should encourage pupils to think beyond themselves to their role and responsibilities in their local society, wider community and citizenship at a global level.

## PHYSICS

In Years 8 to 10 pupils study Science, of which Physics is one component. They usually have the same teacher for the three years to allow for good teacher-pupil relationships within the Department. At Key Stage 4, students can select either CCEA GCSE Triple Award or Double Award Science and Physics will be one of the three components of either option. Specialist Physics teachers teach students at this level and beyond, and again it is usually the same teacher across the two years of study. At Key Stage 5, students follow the CCEA AS and A2 Physics courses. Physics is now one of the most popular A level subjects in the College, and it is a useful preparation for many careers and scientific courses at university e.g. Physical Science, Medicine, Dentistry, Optometry, Engineering of all types, Technical Communications, Computer Games Design, Architecture, Renewable Energy Research, Nuclear Physics, Astronomy/Astro Physics and even study/train to become an Astronaut. Science should encourage pupils to think beyond themselves to their role and responsibilities in their local society, wider community and citizenship at a global level.



## MATHEMATICS

St. Malachy's Mathematics Department provides a vibrant, positive environment where all students are given the belief and the opportunity to achieve their full potential through quality learning experiences and a network of support.

We set challenging targets with high expectations for all pupils while offering a variety of approaches to teaching and learning, to engage and motivate pupils and to demand their active participation. Suitable forms of assessment are devised to support and enhance each student's ability so that all students will experience progress in their work in Mathematics. The smooth transition for pupils between Key Stages is arranged to ensure progression in teaching and learning. Enrichment opportunities are explored outside the curriculum to enhance pupils' enjoyment of Mathematics.

Career paths are many and are outlined below:

Business- Logistics, Traffic Planning, Project Management, Business Consultancy  
 Computing- Games Design, Internet Security, Telecommunications Economics  
 Engineering- Aircraft Modelling, Fluid Flows, Acoustic Engineering, Quantity Surveyor, Planner  
 Finance- Actuarial Work, Accountancy, Financial Modelling, Investment Banking  
 Mathematical Biology- Population Modelling, Epidemics and Vaccination  
 Medicine  
 Teaching and Lecturing  
 Statistics- Medical Statistics, Market Research, Government Statistics

Our Mathematics department is a very welcoming department and offers support to many students who seek additional help. Students are encouraged to call with any teacher in the department and we are always willing to assist. We look forward to working with your child in the future and inspiring him to enjoy his Mathematical experience with us.

## CAREERS

St. Malachy's College Careers Department is dedicated to the provision of Careers Education Information Advice and Guidance for all pupils at the College. It seeks to ensure that each pupil has access to a range of relevant, stimulating, personalised and supportive learning experiences to help him develop his self-awareness, explore appropriate career pathways, make well-informed decisions, and create, review and implement a suitable career plan. Careers classes are scheduled from Year 10 -14.

The Careers Department enjoys excellent support from parents/guardians, the wider College community, the DEL Careers Service, representatives from Further and Higher Education, employers from Business and Industry and a range of other relevant bodies. As a result our pupils reap the benefits of a full programme of additional activities including work experience (local and in Germany), mock interviews, career guidance interviews, careers conventions, information evenings, visiting speakers and attendance at university open days and other relevant careers events.

This is the third year of our involvement with the Comenius project and it sees our pupils conduct work placements in Germany with internationally renowned industries such as Mercedes Benz and Siemens. German students are then welcomed to Ireland and this cultural exchange and opening of minds has proved hugely successful.

## COMPUTING and ICT

The overall goal of the Computer Department is to encourage the creation of a rich learning environment which will, in turn, prepare students in the use of computers and ICT for future career paths. ICT has been widely recognised as one of the most important factors in improving pupils' progress.

The department has put in place a framework which indicates how it will meet the needs of the curriculum and implement a strategy to provide positive student experiences, impart knowledge fully and encourage entrepreneurialship.

There are several Computing and ICT courses at GCSE and A Level designed to stimulate an interest in and an enjoyment of computer technology in such a way that the students may develop skills required for a modern workplace.

Students with good computing and programming skills have an excellent chance of gaining employment at the end of their studies. It is one of the top 3 growth sectors in the UK and many companies are willing to offer highly paid jobs for candidates that have such skills.

## TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN

Technology & Design has been offered in St. Malachy's College for over 20 years in purpose-built facilities. All students study T&D at KS3 and OCR GCSE and CCEA A-Level are also currently available.

Technology and Design is a creative and rewarding subject. Our students follow a course which aims to develop their skills to design and make products. Students will gain an understanding of the technological world they live in and how they can make it better.

At KS3 all follow the programme of study specified by the Department of Education for Northern Ireland. Classes are timetabled for 3 periods per 2 week cycle. Students are given the opportunity to explore Technology through practical projects. As well as Health & Safety, they study such areas as hand and machine tools, materials such as wood, plastic, metal and control systems such as electronics and mechanisms.

Since technology includes skills in design and communication as well as understanding and using technology it is useful in many career areas, including Architecture, Engineering, Manufacture, Automotive and Building industries, and Communications. Students studying Technology and Design have continued their studies at University in many areas including Mechanical, Electrical and Civil Engineering, Renewable Energy Engineering, Surveying, Architecture, Estate Management, Technology & Design and Product Design.

## POLITICS

St Malachy's undertook the first collaborative trip to the N. Ireland Assembly at Stormont with Dominican College Fortwilliam. 19 pupils were given a guided tour of the building followed by a question and answer session with MLAs. The pupils met with Pat Sheehan, Sinn Féin MLA; Danny Kinahan, UUP MLA and Anna Lo, Alliance MLA. Each Assembly member gave a summary of how their respective parties had changed policies and strategies since the signing of the Good Friday Agreement in 1998. Following each talk the MLAs engaged in a lively question and answer session with the pupils. A range of topics were covered including voting for under-16s; shared education; flags, the past and parades, electoral success and change and the future of N Ireland politics.



## HISTORY

The History Department in St Malachy's College is a vibrant, forward-looking department. The two main History classrooms are based in part of the original school building built in 1860s on the site of Vicinage House; the classrooms are in A Block to the right of the main entrance. The curriculum studied at Key Stage 3 includes local studies relating to the area and the history of the College as well as the Plantations and the Partition of Ireland. History is offered at all levels throughout the school with senior students studying the specifications offered by the local examination board, CEA at both GCSE and GCE A Level. Past students of History have gone on to a diverse range of careers: law, medicine, accountancy, museum work, journalism, broadcasting and teaching. Students of History are quick to adopt new technologies to advance their study and trialled materials for the recent Teaching Divided Histories project run by the Nerve Centre in Derry.

## DRAMA

Drama has always been a vibrant part of College life, with a strong programme of extra-curricular activities and school plays, as well as the more recent development of Drama at both GCSE and A Level as an academic subject in its own right. Currently, all Year Eight and Nine students receive two periods of Drama a fortnight while Year 10 students have one timetabled period a fortnight. All Junior Drama classes have the opportunity to access the three main strands of Drama – making, performing and responding, and are introduced to key drama strategies and terminology in line with the Non Statutory Guidance for Drama in the Revised Curriculum. Key Stage Three students also explore a range of stimuli as a basis for improvisation, script work and introduction to Drama forms. GCSE Drama is offered as an option. A Level Drama has been offered as a full A Level for five years, and is an increasingly popular choice. Although preparation for exams is important - the Drama department strive for academic excellence. Pupils continue to have 100% success rate at both GCSE and A Level.



## PE

The Physical Education Department aims to provide every pupil with a wide range of opportunities to increase their self-confidence through an ability to manage themselves increasingly successfully in a variety of sporting activities. Children develop personal feelings about their physical ability very early in life which will often be carried through in to their adolescence and adult life, which will affect their overall confidence. It is vitally important that we empower children with the skills to enable them to reach their potential and feel positive and confident about general physical activity. The PE department provides a balance of individual, team and competitive activities aims to cater for every pupil's needs and abilities. A variety of teaching styles and environments will provide appropriately exciting, enjoyable and challenging learning situations. As well as providing a platform for developing confidence in a physical environment, the curriculum will also promote an understanding of the long and short-term benefits of exercise on the body.

At GCSE level, the boys have an opportunity to study the AQA Physical Education course. This course involves examining and developing both the theory behind performance as well as practical performance itself in a range of sporting activities. Our A-Level students have the opportunity to study the CCEA Sports Science course. Again, there is a practical element to the course as well as event management and theory relative to performance. This course is suitable for those boys who are keen to pursue a career in a sports related field.

## GEOGRAPHY

At Key Stage 3 aa classes taught Geography in Years 8 – 10  
Key Stage 4: GCSE taught the AQA Specification A  
Key Stage 5: AS/A2 taught the CCEA GCE Geography

Pupils at Key Stages 3 & 4 are welcome to join the Green Team. This is an environmental awareness group that meets once a week and partakes in voluntary work and initiatives. GCE students are encouraged to take part in Geographical Association lectures held at Queens University Belfast.

### ACHIEVEMENTS/LEAVER'S DESTINATIONS

Below is a list of some of the destinations that GCE Geography students have achieved:

Geography	Civil Law
Law with criminology	Leisure and hospitality management
Medicine	Psychology
Civil Engineering	Business management
Music	Sports studies
History	Economics & accounting
Computing	

## RELIGION

The Christian faith has an intellectual content which believers should know and master. It will enable awareness of the challenges facing Christian belief and practice in contemporary society and provide the necessary resources to identify issues and respond to them in an intellectually coherent and satisfying way. Programmes of Study reflect this journey, from Year 8 to Year 14, and this is the reason why GCSE Religious Studies is a core subject and studied by every student.

Year 8, 9 and 10 (KS3) follow a course of study based on the Fully Alive RE programme. This has been adapted in year 10 where we prepare for GCSE.

Year 11 and 12 (KS4) study for a GCSE in Religious Studies CCEA board (as of 2014-15). The study begins in Year 11 with a study of St Mark's Gospel, and in Year 12 with an understanding of Christian Ethics (from a Catholic perspective). All students will sit an examination at the end of Year 11, and the second paper at the end of year 12, the combined scores of which make up the GCSE grade.

Year 13 and 14: Students who wish to opt for a course in AS and A2 Religious Studies, study the CCEA courses for Religious Texts (Acts of the Apostles, and at A2 1 Corinthians and Galatians) and the course on Early Church History and Writers). However, every student will follow a course in Religious Studies but it is not examined.

Through studying Religious Studies, you will learn how to critically evaluate different topics and issues, developing your skills in considering evidence and arguing a case based on the evidence. Students of Religious Studies can go on to have careers, for example in teaching, medicine, law, public service, advice work, counselling, journalism, ministry, social work, charity organisations, youth work and community work.

## VISUAL ARTS

Drama has always been a vibrant part of College life, with a strong programme of extra-curricular activities and school plays, as well as the more recent development of Drama at both GCSE and A Level as an academic subject in its own right. Currently, all Year Eight and Nine students receive two periods of Drama a fortnight while Year 10 students have one timetabled period a fortnight. All Junior Drama classes have the opportunity to access the three main strands of Drama – making, performing and responding, and are introduced to key drama strategies and terminology in line with the Non Statutory Guidance for Drama in the Revised Curriculum. Key Stage Three students also explore a range of stimuli as a basis for improvisation, script work and introduction to Drama forms. GCSE Drama is offered as an option. A Level Drama has been offered as a full A Level for five years, and is an increasingly popular choice. Although preparation for exams is important - the Drama department strive for academic excellence. Pupils continue to have 100% success rate at both GCSE and A Level.

Creativity is central to the Visual Arts at St Malachy's.





St Malachy's students show their awards for First Place Films at GCSE and AS in Moving Image Arts. Pictured centre is former award winning St Malachy's student and director of "Braxton", Leo McGuigan.



# Extra-curricular - Spoilt for choice



## SCIENCE CLUB

Science club is open to all the pupils of St. Malachy's College and is there to help us all gain the experience and knowledge that science is a fun and interesting way to see the world. It is on every Wednesday at lunchtime in different science classrooms. Each week we do a new, fun experiment, such as neutralising acids and alkalis, revealing invisible ink, creating endothermic reactions, and much more. After we do the experiments, the teacher explains what happened and what fascinating reactions have taken place. Science club is a great way to learn a bit extra about science, and really helps you to see the world around you in a different way! Some come along, do experiments and just have fun during Wednesday lunch break.

## CHESS CLUB

There are, on average, three different sessions of Chess club every week. The senior teams meet separately from the junior teams and each pupil can play at his own level. However, more and more we are finding that the interplay between the year groups is producing more inventive moves and players. It's superb! Younger and older players are contributing to a thriving Chess community within the school. Chess is all about brain play and strategy and in the College the boys show amazing mental dexterity.

## AMAZING BRAINS

This was a structured Study Skills day for all GCSE pupils and covered creative and logical time management and planning for success. This course is an annual event to prepare for exams.



## MENTORING

My Mentoring with 8C has opened eyes to the daily problems and minor worries of Year 8 pupils. From leaky water bottles to worrying about homework, every day I hear something new. Nevertheless it has been a truly rewarding and fulfilling experience getting to know the boys in my class and being there as an older student who can lend a helping hand. The Mentoring programme is a bonus for the younger and older pupils alike – we all benefit!

Joseph Toner Y14



## PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The PE Department is proud of the range of extra-curricular sporting opportunities open to the boys. There is a wide range of activities including Gaelic Football, Hurling, Soccer, Basketball, Athletics and Cross-Country, Waterpolo, Rugby, Golf as well as the Duke of Edinburgh programme. Everyone is welcome regardless of ability. We strongly encourage our students to become involved as it is not only good in terms of developing their sporting talent, but it is also great socially and helps to develop lasting friendships.

## GAELIC FOOTBALL

A popular and ever-growing sport among the Junior school pupils. Despite wet, windy and inclement weather the pupils are turning out in big numbers to represent the College and their Year groups! Many of our talented young players from Year 9 are pictured in the photo opposite as they are skilled club players who are happy to unite on the pitch to represent the school.



## GOLF

The Darren Clarke Golf Championship team.



## ST. MALACHY'S RUGBY

'Big hits and big hearts' / 'Come and have scrum fun'

Training times : Tuesdays after-school, 3.30pm – 6pm

Venues : Ophir Rugby Club, Magowan Park, Mallusk.

Numbers involved : between 15 & 25 boys per session.

Notable victories or performances : a hard-fought 7s training game with mixed Ophir and St. Malachy's sides. The match was played against the elements - with the cold and rain making conditions difficult. That and the addition of a brief snowfall didn't faze the squad, whose ever-improving technical skills and individual brilliance were on-show for all to see, in what turned out to be an enthralling, high-scoring game.



### MARTIN McMULLAN MEMORIAL RACE

A long tradition in College life and now in its 40th Year.  
Well done, men!

Opposite, getting ready for the off. Every pupil in Year 8  
warming up for "The First Year Race".





## BASKETBALL

Our basketball team on a recent trip to America. Basketball is only one of the many sports that thrive in the College and has a long successful tradition in the school.

## WATER POLO

There is a long tradition of Water polo in the College and we have a real reputation as being fearless and fair. Myself and a few friends are determined that we will ensure the College teams continue for many years to come. Our Teams, here in the College are unique in that we, the older boys, mentor and train the younger boys coming through. September 2014 saw a bumper crop of new recruits and we have nearly 20 Year 8, ambitious young, players turning up weekly for their training sessions and matches. There is no sense of age divide; these "wee men" are ours. We are all in the same colours and our hearts are all for the same Team - St Malachy's College.

## DRAMA (EXTRA CURRICULAR)

Budding performers in the College get a chance to shine throughout the year outside of the classroom. Most notable last year was the collaboration between the College and our leading ladies from Dominican College, Fortwilliam to produce the timeless Broadway classic - Guys and Dolls which entertained audiences with show stopping dance routines, wise cracking dialogue and some wonderful singing from soloists and ensemble alike.

This term, twenty Year Eight and Nine students entertained a sold-out audience at The Mac with their thrilling performance of Julius Caesar as part of the prestigious Shakespeare Schools Festival.

In April, all Year Eights will get a chance to perform an extract from the well-loved Lionel Bart musical Oliver! at the Annual Concert in The Ulster Hall in collaboration with the Music department and plans are already afoot for next year's School Musical, details of which will be announced on the College website.





## MUSIC (EXTRA CURRICULAR)

All our Music ensembles showcase the hugely diverse abilities, skills and talents across the whole school. The boys are committed and friendships are often forged in the Music Department.

### Senior Choir

This group is a collection of some very fine singers, some of whom have attained their grade 8 and diploma on voice. Many have connections with St Peter's Schola Cantorum and many have been involved for the last few years with Ulster Youth Choir. The choir takes the lead in the College Feast of St Malachy celebrations, can be heard at Carol services and events around Christmas and at the Spring Annual Concert. Individual members of the choir take vocal lessons and take part in Music festivals at Hollywood and Ballymena.

### Junior Choir

The junior choir is a collection of junior boys with unbroken voices. Their repertoire is varied and they can switch from serious sacred music to Disney easily. Recently the boys have been enjoying collaboration with the choir of Hazelwood College. The choirs joined together in 2013 for the FISCA competition in the City Hall and then again this December. They are looking forward to a trip to Paris in June. The choir is open to all junior students.

### Senior Orchestra

The senior orchestra rehearses weekly. The students are auditioned for membership and seat placements. Sectionals are held by the leaders of each section to ensure that the standard of the playing is at the highest level.

### Training Orchestra

This group meet weekly to rehearse. The students from Year 8-10 represent the musicians of the future and many also play in the Senior orchestra following audition. Many students find that playing together is a great way to improve their playing, especially with regard to tuning and timing. This is a good opportunity to get used to being led by a conductor.

### Folk group

A relatively new direction for the College the music is up tempo and worshipful. The boys have been visiting local schools and care homes to play for the young and the young at heart and all are welcomed with smiles and warmth.

### String Quartet – Senior

This group is in demand more than any other ensemble. It is a group of 4 accomplished players from Year 14. This string quartet represents the College at all sorts of external events. They are available for all special school events as background music and outside of school they can be heard at weddings and many charity functions. They are very accomplished and play a wide range of music.

### String Quartet – Intermediate

This group is preparing to take over from the Senior string quartet. They are younger students, ranging from Year 8 to Year 13. They meet every week and have a wide range of music. They perform at open days and in the Spring Annual Concert

### Woodwind Ensemble

This ensemble is almost as busy as the String Quartet with external events and this year have performed in St Anne's Cathedral, City Hall, Fortwilliam and McCrory Church, Sacred Heart Church and at our own College Carol Services.

This group of senior students involves an oboe, flute, bassoon, horn and clarinet.

### Brass group.

This small ensemble of trumpets, horn and trombones led the Christmas Carol Service, which this year was hosted by Sacred Heart Church. They have been playing their robust music throughout December, the Christmas period and all its members are currently preparing for the Ballymena festival and Annual Concert.

### Traditional Group.

This group is an eclectic mix of instruments and abilities. It is a large, ever changing group which will gather in different combinations for different events. Recently heard welcoming the parents and friends to Sacred Heart Church on the occasion of the Carol Service, this group will be busy on Open nights and other external events. The group has a history of travelling to the US for St Patrick's Day and taking part in the Philadelphia Parade. Many young members aspire to this.

### Jazz Band

This selection of musicians is on demand for many internal and external events. Taking part in the Black box showcase last March was a first and they plan to continue this tradition. Saxophones, trumpets, trombones and a string rhythm section of guitar bass and drums make up this senior group who have attained a high standard of performance.

## SAPHARA

Eight boys from the College embarked on a journey to India to help underprivileged children. The boys had worked tirelessly fundraising throughout the year and raised over £8000 which will help support the education of hundreds of kids in India who would otherwise not have the opportunity to be educated. The boys spent almost three weeks in July in India, working in schools which are funded by the charity Saphara. After spending some time working in remote schools deep in the Himalayan mountain range, the boys spent a week working in the overcrowded slums of Dehradun. This was a life-changing experience for our College students who are keen to remain involved with Saphara as a result of being part of this project. The boys represented the College with great dignity and we are very proud of all their hard work.

## SKI TRIPS

Ski trips are a hugely enjoyable and longstanding part of College life. We alternate years and this allows a wide spread of pupils to travel and learn a new sport. They have always proved to be very popular and it's a lovely week away from school and family and an opportunity to relax. Boys are always keen to hone their existing levels of expertise or start from scratch, but they always have a fantastic time. Approximately 60 pupils travel on each trip and we have a real cross-section of ability levels. The school trips cater for all those levels and each boy returns home with feeling that he has achieved a higher level of competency.

# Seeing the world

Saphara - St Malachy's and Fortwilliam pupils site-seeing in India



Saphara Assembly



Saphara  
working with  
children



Versailles



Ski trip to Lillehammer 2013



Paris



Barcelona



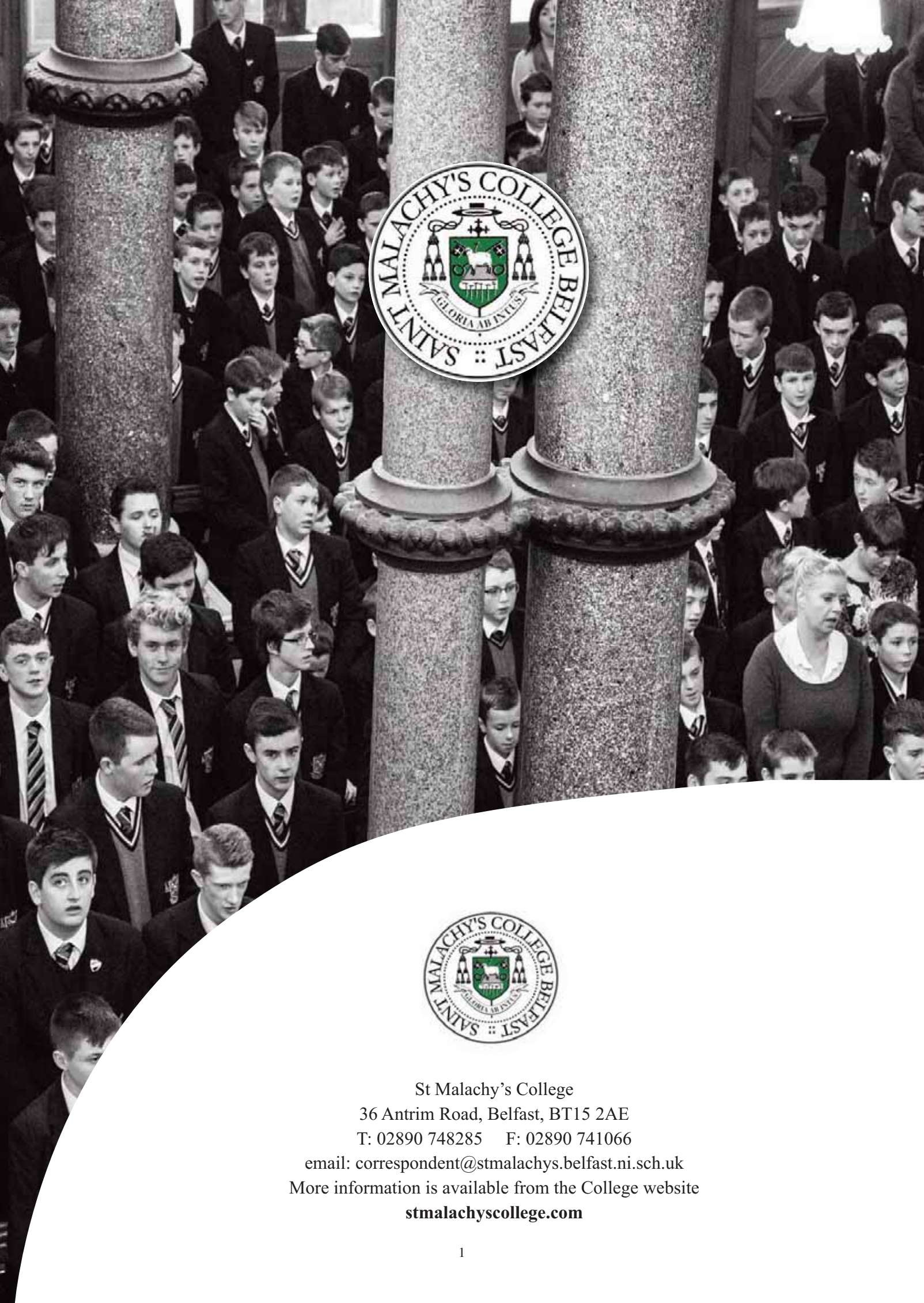
Quinn twins win in the USA



# *Gloria Ab Intus*

*Glory from Within*





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Chair of the Board of Governors: Sir G. Loughran

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