

Newsletter 28
April 2016

Sullivan Upper School Monthly Newsletter

Dates for Diary - May 2016

Monday 2 May	Bank Holiday	School closed
Friday 6–Saturday 7 May	Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition	
Monday 16 May	School Examinations begin Yrs 8-11	
Monday 30 May	Exceptional Closure Day	School closed to Pupils

Spring Concert

The annual Spring Concert showcased the musical talent of Sullivan pupils as they performed a wide-ranging programme to a packed Ulster Hall at the end of term. After an opening trumpet fanfare by Michael Hartin and Alex Mills, the band set the excellent standard for the evening with the rousing *Washington Post March* and *Selections from Mamma Mia*. The Junior Choir performed an entertaining medley of songs from the musical *Matilda* which, along with the Junior Singers, showcased the younger talent and musical potential in the school. Other highlights of the first half included the Flute Ensemble performing a piece by former Sullivan pupil Gareth McLearnon and a solo xylophone rendition of *Czardas* by Cathryn Lynch, N Ireland Young Musician of the Year 2015. The Traditional Group accompanied the Irish dancers in a *Merry Blacksmith Set* to close the first half in real style.

The orchestra, which nearly numbers 100 pupils, opened the second half with Tchaikovsky's *Romeo and Juliet* followed by a powerful performance of *Pirates of the Caribbean*. Anna Gregg and Lola Bingham introduced a complete change of atmosphere with their excellent and sensitive performance of the famous Flower Duet. The Sullivan Singers showed their versatility singing a jazz influenced *Gloria* movement by Bob Chilcott, with flute solo by Michael Montgomery, followed by unaccompanied *Only in Sleep* by Esenvalds with a vocal solo by Anna Gregg before a final rendition of *Sit Down You're Rockin' the Boat* with soloists Michael Watkins and Alex Jemphrey. The Jazz Group performed an exciting set which included



You are the Sunshine of My Life and the *Theme from Rocky*. Other items which entertained the audience were the Brass Group, Brass Ensemble and GCSE Piano Duettists, Cora Alexander and Kate Campbell. The finale, *Shine*, performed by all the pupils was led by vocalists Charlie Gregg, Michael Hartin, Owen Johnston and Adam McKenna and accompanied by a band of music tutors and staff.

Congratulations to the Sullivan Upper Senior Rugby Sevens team who were runners-up in the Annual Campbell 7s tournament.



Netball Triumph

Congratulations to the Year 8 Sullivan team on winning the South Eastern Trophy. After progressing from the group stage, playing against the seven other teams in their section, the girls went on to defeat Glenlola in the semi-final and Assumption Grammar in an exciting and closely-fought final. The victorious team: Darcy Graham (captain), Lucy Benson, Hannah Boyd, Jolee Campton, Madi Crawshay-Ralston, Sarah Gaw, Faye Griffiths, Serena Stout, Laura Whiteside and Willow Wolsey.



LAMDA Public Speaking Results

After only five months of lessons in Public Speaking with Catherine Gardiner, who also teaches extracurricular Speech and Drama, six students from Years 12 & 13 took their Grade 6 Public Speaking exam in February and all six passed with either a Merit or Distinction. Many congratulations on such an achievement especially as none of the students had any previous experience in this area. The students involved are Dylan Abbott (Y12) Iona O'Neill (Y12) James Butt (Y13) James Dawson (Y13) Michael Houston (Y13) and Niall Lee (Y13).

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Congratulations to Scott Miller (11E) who took part in the Ulster Under 16 Close Championship in Ardglass over Easter and won the final 3&1. The photograph is with Mr Alasdair Gibson (left) GUI Honorary Treasurer and Mr Terry Murphy (right) immediate Past Captain of Ardglass Golf Club.



EPTA (Belfast) pianist Rowel Friers (Yr 9) came first in the UK in the final of the EPTA (UK) piano competition 2016 held recently in London. He is the only person to have won it twice.



Belfast Music Festival

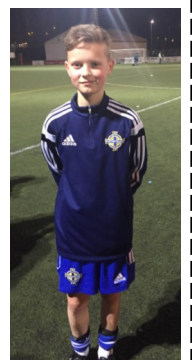
Sullivan pupils, under the tutelage of singing teacher Linda Snell, proved very successful at the recent annual Belfast Music Festival. Anna Gregg won 1st place in the Open Voice Class which also won



her the highest mark of the festival and a £100 bursary. In the Music Theatre Class, Lola Bingham came first, Owen Johnston and Orla Moore came joint second and Alex Jemphrey was highly commended. Dervla Blaney, euphonium, also won first place in the Grade 1-4 brass class.

Harry Wilson (Year 8) has been selected for the Northern Ireland U12 football team which recently participated in the prestigious Mediterranean International Cup in Spain playing against teams from all over the world. The squad had a very successful tournament.

Harry is presently in his second year of the Club NI elite player development programme and has also represented Northern Ireland against teams from Ireland and Scotland. Harry plays his club football at the Glentoran Academy.



Congratulations to Matthew Crookshanks (Yr13) on being selected for an Ulster U17 team that will play a series of matches against Scotland and England during the May Day weekend at Lilleshall National Sports Centre in England.

At the end of last term, 90 Year 13 pupils took part in the UCAS convention to help them with CEIAG and university choices.



The Northern Knights cricket team which includes current school



cricket captain, John Matchett (14D) and ex-school cricket captain Matthew McCord. They both played on Friday 22 April against Denmark for the Northern Knights team.

Congratulations to Ross Gourley (11G) who won a Gold medal playing for NI Wheelchair Basketball Club in the GB U15 Junior League Finals on 16 April 2016 at Worcester University.

