



**LONGSTONE
SCHOOL**



Board of Governors Report to Parents 2021 / 2022

Understand, Respect, Nurture, Educate

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

I am delighted once again as Chairman of the Board of Governors to place on record my heartfelt thanks and appreciation to our school principal and his senior management team for what can only be described as another successful year and that despite the continuing difficulties as everyone navigates their way out of the pandemic. Such remarks would fall short if it were not for the continued hard work and diligence of our excellent staff, classroom assistants and key school support staff without whose valuable contribution our school would not function. As an outward acknowledgement the wonderful achievement obtained by Longstone being awarded the Gold Award from Rights Respecting School is a fantastic "feather in our cap" and due recognition for the fantastic work and effort made by all to attain such a standard. May I also include and say a very special thank you to our pupils who together with their parents and carers have grasped the return to some sense of normality with both hands and willingly observed and respected the guidelines which have been enforced on them. We as a Board of Governors now have much to look forward to as the academic year we have commenced progresses, in that regard I am pleased to confirm that discussions surrounding improvements to our school building are continuing and although not at a pace which the Governors would welcome, the opportunity to see on site work commencing soon is still available. May I wish everyone a safe and prosperous academic year and finish by saying that I hope it is not very long until we can meet together as before.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Newell." The signature is written in a cursive style with a long horizontal line underneath it.

Alan Newell

Chairman Board of Governors



Welcome from The Principal

Rights of the Child Article 28

"You have the right to a good quality education"



Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome to our 2021/22 Board of Governors Report. The purpose of this report is to give you an insight into all the curricular and extra-curricular activities that took place in Longstone last year, as well as to inform you of any changes in relation to issues such as staffing, enrolment and building.

Although some challenges relating to Covid19 continued during the 2021-22 academic year, we started settling again into "normality" and pre covid19 activities were slowly introduced. This has been a year of great success with our school achieving Rights Respecting School Gold Award again following external assessment by UNICEF, and also receiving very positive informal feedback from the ETI in relation to Teaching and Learning.

It was also a year of celebration for our School's 40th Birthday. The school opened its door to pupils in 1981. Back then, there were 8 teachers and 2 classroom assistants and now there are over 100 members of staff. I feel a great privilege to be part of the school's story. Our Vice Principal, Mr McIlmoyle was one of the original members of staff and this year he has been awarded an MBE for his services to Education and Children with Special Educational Needs in the Queen's Birthday Honours list. The whole school community had the opportunity to Congratulate Mr McIlmoyle during a celebration day.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff for their hard work during the 21/22 school year, as they continued to deliver great academic and social experiences for our pupils and also kept disruption to the minimum under difficult circumstances.

Yours sincerely,

Ioannis Skarmoutsos

[Principal & Secretary to the Board of Governors]

BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPORT TO PARENTS 2021/22

The main purpose of this report is to keep our parents informed of the continued work and development of our school. This involves commenting on the many varied and diverse areas of school life that contribute to Longstone School. The Board of Governors hope that you will find this report both informative and interesting.

2021/22 PUPIL NUMBERS

Nursery	11
Primary Department	89
Secondary Department	109
Behaviour Resource	80 pupils given Outreach Support over the year, 12 of whom had placements in the Unit
Learning Support Unit	10

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The members of the Board of Governors are as follows:

EA South Eastern Region Representatives:

Mr A Newell (Chairman)
Mr G Cooper (Vice Chairman)
Mr T Allen

Parent Representatives:

Mrs J Jordan
Mr S McCauley

Teacher Representative:

Mrs A McArthur

DENI Representative:

Dr J Betts

STAFFING:

This year saw the retirement of Mrs Kerr J Campbell, LMayes, J Cole and E Trimble moved to other schools.

Congratulations go to R Crilly, R Lynch, J Blyberg, R Connelly on the births of their respective children.

Congratulations also go to Mr & Mrs McIlmoyle, B Agnew, C Mitchell and M Kennedy who all married this school year.

PASTORAL CARE:

Article 19: Governments must protect children from violence, abuse and being neglected by anyone who looks after them.

There is an inclusive ethos and nurturing environment that permeates all aspects of the school. The pupils respond positively to the high expectations of staff and, through the School Council, have taken key roles in developing the new positive Behaviour for Learning policy. The school celebrates the achievements of pupils through assemblies and the many displays in the school. The pupils are taught to care for others and have participated in a number of events to raise funds for a range of charities.

Mr J. McIlmoyle



LONGSTONE SCHOOL'S 40th BIRTHDAY

Longstone School opened its doors to pupils and staff on 1st September 1981. To celebrate their 40th Birthday we had a Fun Day in school with games, activities and an ice cream van.

The School Council also invited the original staff members from 1981 to attend the celebrations.

This included a tour of the school led by the School Council members and also the planting of a birthday tree by Mr WJ McLaughlin, the first ever Principal of the school.

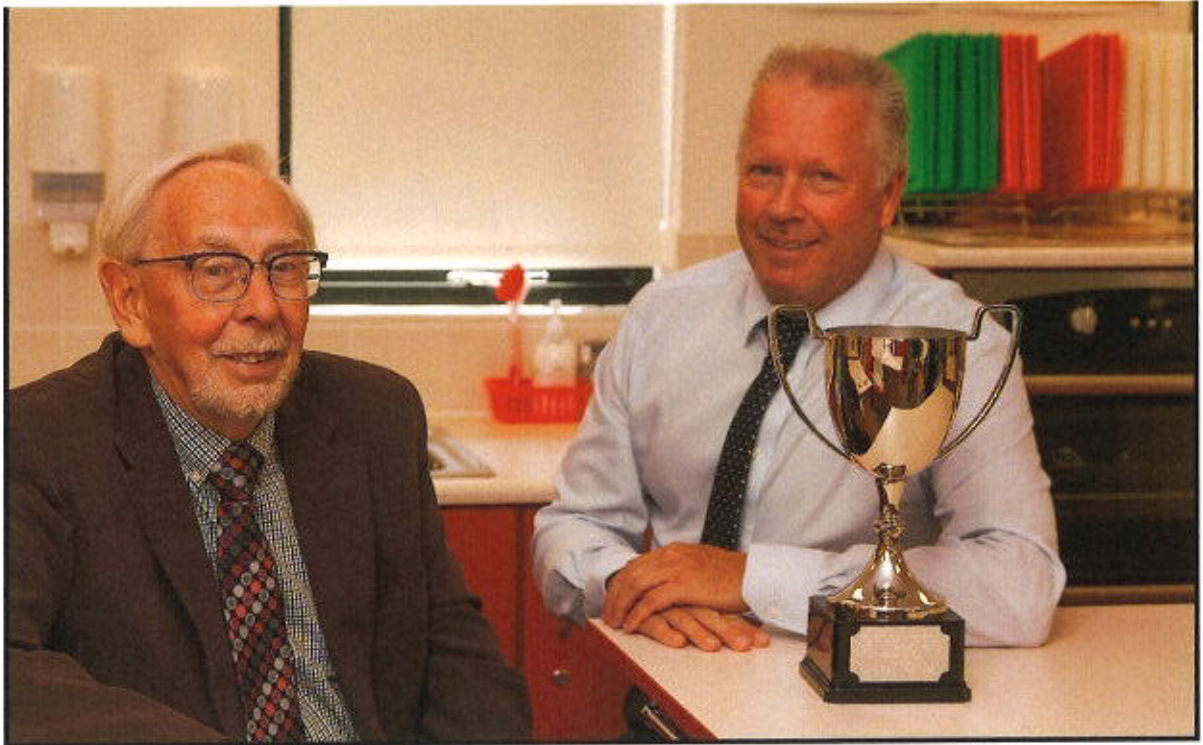


In 1981 there were 8 teachers and 2 classroom assistants and now there are over 100 members of staff.

The guests also received planters made by Year 8 in Technology and planted by members of the gardening club.

Sadly, we lost Mrs Entwistle who was the Music Teacher for 25 years and started Longstone on the same day as Mr McIlmoyle.

The event was organised by Mr McIlmoyle, Vice Principal, who was also celebrating 40 years as a teacher at Longstone School.



Mr McLaughlin presented the current Principal, Mr Skarmoutsos, with a trophy for Prize Day.



He asked if the School Council could decide who should receive the trophy.



Photo of current Principal Mr Skarmoutsos, first Principal Mr McLaughlin and his successor Mr Howard

The guests thoroughly enjoyed their visit and were amazed at all of the changes in school.

Happy Birthday Longstone School!

A Great Recognition For Our Vice Principal

In June 2022 we were extremely happy and proud to hear that our Vice Principal Mr John McIlmoyle has been awarded an MBE for his services to Education and Children with Special Educational Needs in the Queen's Birthday Honours list.

Mr McIlmoyle has served our school with passion for 40 years and his attention to detail and record keeping with regards to Safeguarding and Child protection has been invaluable to the school and the lives of all our pupils. This is a huge achievement for him personally, his family and the school.



On 27th June a Fun Day was organised in school to celebrate this achievement and to also give the opportunity to different members of our school community to congratulate Mr McIlmoyle in person. The student Council, Governors and staff past and present were able to join the celebrations.

On behalf of the whole school community I would like express how honoured we all are and congratulate Mr John Andrew McIlmoyle MBE.

I Skarmoutsos

(Principal, Longstone school)



RIGHTS RESPECTING SCHOOL AWARD

Article 42 All adults and children should know about their rights



We are absolutely delighted to announce we achieved Rights Respecting School Sustaining Gold Award in May 2022. This is the highest award in the UNICEF programme and was the result of a lot of hard work put in by pupils, parents and staff over the past three years.

The Sustaining Gold Award means we are recognised as being a school which continues to fully embed children's rights throughout our policies, practice and ethos. The pupils have also taken part in practical action projects which have helped protect and stand up for children's rights around the world both locally and globally.

The UNICEF Assessors noted in their report that the strengths of Longstone School include our commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child in all areas of school life, our ability to give our pupils a voice in making key decisions about the school and the campaigning of our active and enthusiastic School Council.

We will continue to work hard on our Rights Respecting School journey by developing a new action plan which will help us maintain our Sustaining Gold Award status.

LITTLE STARS NURSERY

Article 29: Children's education should help them fully develop their personalities.

We had another fun filled year with our 11 nursery pupils!

This year we enjoyed lots of outdoor learning opportunities using and exploring our new play equipment.

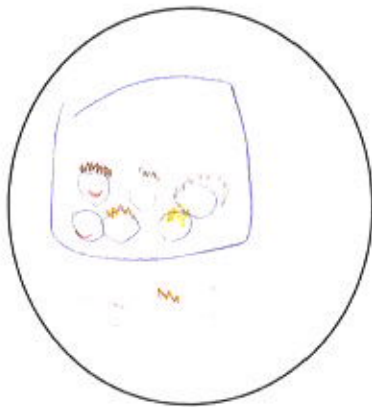


Through our Getting Ready to Learn programme, we shared play packs and book packs with each child. Our pupils were able to enjoy these at home with their families. We also shared activities and ideas for the resources via Seesaw.



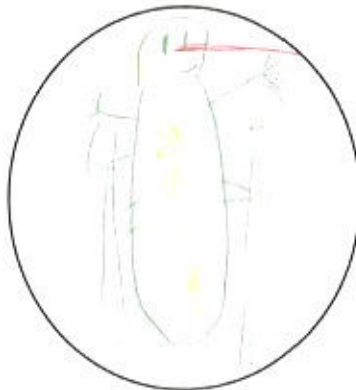
PEACE IV

In September 2021 we recommenced our Peace IV programme. Although it was not possible to run face to face sessions due to ongoing Covid 19 restrictions; our pupils enjoyed taking part in a range of virtual activities with their friends in Dundonald Primary School and Tor Bank School. These sessions covered a range of topics including: People Who Help Us, World Lego Day, Chinese New year and a Teddy Bears Picnic.



My favourite Peace IV moment was...

Seeing the boys and girls in the world



My favourite Peace IV moment was...
our Christmas fun!



My favourite Peace IV moment was...

HALLOWEEN!

Peace 
Northern Ireland - Ireland
European Regional Development Fund



This project is supported by the European Union's
"PEACE IV Programme", managed by the Special EU Programmes Body (SEUPB)

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE / KEY STAGE ONE (EFYS/KS1)

Our pupils in EYFS and KS1 have had a busy year. As things have become a little more normal we've been able to enjoy many more activities with less restrictions. Our focus remains on learning through play and with the addition of many new outdoor play resources the pupils have excelled.

In August the staff completed essential training in EDS (Eating Drinking & Swallowing), Bug Club (online reading resource) and Outdoor Play & Learning in preparation for the new school year.

We began the year celebrating 40 years of Longstone School where one of our youngest pupils featured in The Chronicle with Mr McLaughlin and many other members of staff. The new Year 1 class also had their moment of fame in The Chronicle featured with lots of other schools in the area.



Thanks to a competition run by Activity NI Santa and his Sleigh came to visit Longstone, read stories and give out presents. Our Longstone Santa and his helper also visited which caused great excitement.



When a bus broke down in our school ground we had the opportunity to learn how the recovery vehicle worked thanks to the kind man from Agnew Recovery. He also let the pupils have a turn in the lorry cab!



Outdoor Play and learning featured heavily throughout the year and we even managed to plant and grow some broad beans.

The summer months brought much fun and many celebrations including The Queen's Jubilee and Mr McIlmoyle's MBE. The highlight of the year was our Sports Day which was made even more special as parents were able to attend for the first time in 2 years.

The final week of term also included a visit from Exploris Aquarium to school. The children were able to experience engaging with and even touching some aquatic animals. With the sun shining for most of the day, it was a lovely way to finish a busy year!



Congratulations are in order for some staff in the department. Mrs Lynch had a baby boy in May. Miss Kennedy became Mrs Rainey-Kennedy and Miss Agnew became Mrs McDowell.

We have had a fantastic year, everyone has worked exceptionally hard, especially the pupils. They continue to amaze us every day with their positive attitude and enthusiasm for all aspects of school life. We couldn't be more proud of them.

Mrs K Watson

OUTDOOR PLAY

Article 31: Every child has the right to rest, relax and play

Outdoor play and learning continues to be a high profile area on the school development plan due to the positive impact for pupils' learning experiences within Nursery, Foundation and Key Stage One. Teachers from Nursery through to Key Stage 1 had the pleasure to work with Educational Mentor Joan Henderson to develop the outdoor play provision and approach. In August 2022 all Nursery and Primary department staff enjoyed a shared training session focussing on supporting pupils' outdoor play through interactions and observations.

The pupils have benefited hugely from the resurfacing of the playgrounds and soft surfacing of the area to the front of the Foundation Stage classrooms, with the introduction of new climbing equipment and slides. This has elevated the pupils recreational play and outdoor learning opportunities. Financing of new resources has provided opportunities for the pupils to explore wider areas of the curriculum.

The impact on pupils learning is exciting to watch, as their curiosity, thinking skills, creativity and risk taking continue to develop alongside the benefits of self-regulation and greater sense of wellbeing.



Mrs A Wilson

Year 3 take The Daily Mile to Stormont

As part of Children's Mental Health Week in February 2022, The Daily Mile Foundation were given special permission from the Speaker of the Assembly to host a daily mile in the grounds of Stormont. Elaine Wyllie MBE, Founder of The Daily Mile and members of The Daily Mile Foundation London along with partners from The Daily Mile Network took part in this important walk to share the benefits of The Daily Mile with our Policy Makers in Stormont.



We were delighted to have our school selected to walk The Daily Mile from the Gates of Stormont, up the Prince of Wales Avenue to Parliament Buildings where we were greeted by Policy Makers asking for support for The Daily Mile Foundation and Children's Mental Health. The Network are keen to have this activity embedded in School Policy and indeed for them to support NI Becoming a Daily Mile Nation something we have been implementing at Longstone School for a number of years now.

As well as advocating for this, some of our pupils were lucky enough to be interviewed by the media and appear on the BBC News coverage. A superb achievement!



Mrs A Cowan

We also took the opportunity to celebrate The Daily Mile's 10th Birthday with a walk to Stormont Park where the pupils in Year 3 and 4 got to enjoy a day in the sunshine and a picnic in our eye catching pink t-shirts. In the 2021/22 term the boys walked over 150 miles – Well Done to all involved!

KEY STAGE 2

The year 2021/2 saw a tentative return to normal school life after Covid. Key Stage 2 continued to find ways to extend the learning experiences of our children while maintaining safety. We had harvest and Hallowe'en activities for the children to enjoy, including a trip to Mr Melin's "Spooky Classroom", which was great fun for everyone.

We did our Christmas nativity outside as a "Journey to Bethlehem" around the school. Shepherds and wise men toured the grounds and other staff members were the inn keepers telling us there was no room. We ended at the Community Garden with songs. It was a meaningful and fun experience for everyone involved.

Some outside activities resumed this year with Swimming at Blair Mayne and a sailing experience for Year 6 which was brilliant! Some trips to the park were enjoyed to develop the gross motor skills of our children and enjoy social times together. Seasonal walks on the Greenway became a feature too, noticing the changes each season brings.

Two notable events were our Jubilee celebrations and our Year 7 Leavers Assembly. The Queen was celebrated by Crowns and an ice cream party in the garden with the gazebo draped in purple and gold for the occasion. The Leavers Assembly had a Champions Parade and a medal ceremony which celebrated our fourteen children who moved to Year 8 this year. This was recorded and sent home to parents on SeeSaw for them to enjoy at home.

As well as using this school to home app, SeeSaw , we saw the development of Bug Club (Literacy) and Doodle Maths (Numeracy) in our classes. These provide opportunities for more resources at home as well as in class for the development of our children's learning goals and levels.

Mrs G Cummings



HOPE FOR YOUTH MINISTRIES



Thanks to Colin and his team from 'Hope for youth ministries for donating to KS2 and 3 excellent Religious Studies resources.

They have been very well received by pupils and staff.
We know the pupils will enjoy these books and benefit from them.

Bible Angels
Bible Animals
Bible Families
Bible Games.

Many Thanks

Dr M O'Connell

BEHAVIOUR UNIT

Article 28: Every child has the right to an education.

How wonderful to enter into the new academic year with a greater sense of normality. Last year proved a challenging year for the Behaviour Unit staffing wise, with the result that one of our classrooms closed temporarily. Whilst not ideal and unavoidable, on a more positive note, it did allow us to support Longstone's main school by supplying cover and support during an unprecedented and ever changing situation. I personally would like to commend the staff in the Unit for their flexibility, unwavering team work and helpful attitude surrounding this.

The Behaviour Unit staff continued to provide outreach behaviour support for almost 80 pupils on a weekly basis, within their own primary school setting. As well this, we continued to facilitate full-time, temporary placements in BU2B for those that required a more intensive form of support.

We had exciting new additions to the Behaviour Unit family: Ms Jennifer Blyberg gave birth to a beautiful baby girl, Joanna, on the 22nd of December and Miss Rachael Crilly gave birth to a beautiful baby girl too, Nancy, on the 3rd of February. Both babies have already visited the Unit a few times and are both utterly gorgeous! Congratulations Jen and Rachael!

Mrs E McConnell

KEY STAGE 3/4

HOME ECONOMICS: UFU Competition - success for Longstone School pupil



The Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU) in partnership with Bank of Ireland Open Farm Weekend and competition sponsor Asda, are delighted to announce that Katelyn Millar from Longstone School, was awarded runner up in the special school's category of the 2022 "Dig in! to food, farming and the environment" schools' competition.



UFU deputy president, William Irvine said, "Congratulations to Katelyn who was awarded runner up in the special school's category in this year's competition. We received over 4,000 fantastic competition entries this year and Katelyn's picture was excellent. Every year we are impressed by the standard and creativity of entries and this year was no different. The effort and time that pupils, teachers, parents and guardians put into the competition was evident as all of the entries were of the highest standard and I would like to thank Longstone School for contributing to this.

Mrs H Strain.

The Belfast Giants Visit

Year 9 had a visit to school by Jeff Mason, manager of The Belfast Giants. He gave us a very interesting talk on the benefits of following a healthy diet and lifestyle to remain fit and well.



Some year 9 pupils and their families were lucky enough to receive tickets to a league game at the SSE Arena on 25th March 2022. It was a very enjoyable evening for everyone and thank you to the staff who also attended the events.

Mrs H Strain

MUSIC

As Covid 19 restrictions eased this year and normal timetable resumed, pupils were able to once again experience the joy of practical music making. Primary and Secondary pupils have been developing a variety of musical skills in learning to play a selection of instruments such as keyboard, xylophones, ukuleles and drum kit in class.

Despite the limited performing opportunities this year due to Covid 19 restrictions, pupils have continued to enjoy making music. For example, in the absence of the Easter Assembly, year 10 pupils recorded the song 'People Get Ready' and they produced a video as an Easter message to be viewed by the entire school.

Mr M Fenn

Green Class of the Week-9B May 2022

Mrs Strain and her class 9B won Budget Energy and U105's competition with their efforts towards recycling and reducing waste in the HE classroom. They were visited by Budget Energy's mascot Sparky to receive their prize, a class Chromebook.



Mrs H Strain

ENGLISH

Entry Level Qualification (ELQ) in English was awarded to our pupils in August 2022. Through studying Entry Level English our pupils had the opportunity to;

- engage with techniques and features in still image media;
- engage with poetry and respond creatively or personally;
- engage with drama and respond appropriately;
- explore moving image media genres and respond creatively;
- engage with a range of prose texts, be able to offer opinions and respond in writing to them; and
- communicate personal information and gather information on a topic of interest.

Navigating our pupils through blended learning, all pupils completed six units. Our results were fantastic;

- 52% awarded at level 3
- 18% awarded at level 2
- 30% awarded at level 1.

Well done to all our pupils, wishing them the very best as they move to their next stage.

M O'Connell and C Mitchell

TECHNOLOGY & DESIGN

Understanding the potential impact of technology is critical to the world around us. Technology is not naturally good or bad. Instead, its effects are complex, hard to estimate accurately, and likely to have different values for different people at different times.

Technology and Design is concerned primarily with the design and manufacture of high quality technological products. Every design is influenced by outside factors such as consumer demand, the state of the market, customer expectations and consumer laws.

Studying Technology and Design provides opportunities to tackle and resolve design and technological problems to meet human needs within a range of contexts, such as home, school, leisure, community, business and industry. Essentially, we are searching for better ways to do things, inventing solutions and taking risks. (CCEA, 2019).

These qualifications obtained in Year 12 aim to prepare our pupils for further study, work and adult life.

They are competency based, emphasising learning by doing. This helps learners develop the transferable skills needed in a changing and dynamic working environment. Pupils also gain subject knowledge and independent living skills.

Cross-curricular links were forged with Mrs Strain, HE and TD (year 9, Mother's Day trays), planters (Mr Harrison and Mr Fenn, Year 10 employability lessons) and Mr Guthrie (science, year 8) through material differences.

The technology department acknowledges and appreciates the kind donations from local suppliers;

1. Carryduff Building Supplies
2. Carryduff Sawmills
3. Carryduff Tyres
4. Carryduff Autos
5. Gilnahirk Tyres
6. Ecoparts (Nutts Corner)

August 2022 results delivered qualifications in Entry Level Occupational Studies technology, where six technology units were selected that,

- Facilitates learning in a practical situation;
- Motivates learners;
- Develops employability skills;
- Prepares learners for work and adult life; and
- Provides progression to higher learning.

These units included painting and decorating, car mechanics, plumbing and joinery skills.

100% of pupils entered passed at level 3 – a terrific result for our pupils.

Dr M O'Connell

ART DEPARTMENT

Article 29 You have the right to develop your talents and abilities

In 2021-2022, pupils have continued to enjoy learning different skills in Art. Key Stage 3 and Year 6 and 7 pupils experimented with a range of materials and equipment, allowing them to develop their creative skills and channel their imaginations into their work. Year 10 were also introduced to camera work and Photoshop in preparation for coursework next year.

Below are examples of art produced by some Key Stage pupils.



Year 8 Picasso



Clay Fish



Paul Klee Project



Dog project



Hansel and Gretel Houses by Year 9





Sweet drawings



Building project



Batik by Year 9



Food Project and ICT Project by

Senior school pupils further enhanced their knowledge of creative crafts and digital imaging in relation to art through Occupational Studies, Entry Level coursework. For this they made decorations, learned the how to use cameras properly, how to upload their work to the computer and to experiment with Photoshop to make changes to their photographs.

I am pleased to say that they all passed and I wish them all well!



Mrs M Cromie



KS4 Maths

Pupils worked very hard this year many achieving their targeted level and some achieving a level higher!

In KS4 there is the option of doing CCEA ELQ maths or OCN Entry Level Numeracy, more than half of this year's leavers chose to do the exam qualification. KS4 were learning about position and movement, handling data, number and money. There were lots of fun activities throughout the courses. Maths homeworks were all uploaded weekly onto Google Classroom. The results of both ELQ and OCN were fantastic displaying a true reflection of the work that had been done. Congratulations to the pupils of 2021/2022!!

This year there were 5 pupils entered for Entry Level Qualification Maths, this course is accredited through CCEA. The pupils worked through 6 units of fairly intensive outcomes and units. Portfolios were collated and through the many outcomes there was an opportunity for practical and fun activities.

Here is a table displaying the overall outcome of results.

Level	1	2	3
Percentage	100%		

This year there were 12 entered for OCN Entry Level Numeracy. The pupils sat an exam for this qualification.

Level	1	2	3
Percentage	8.3%	33.3%	58.3%

S.Switzer



SCIENCE

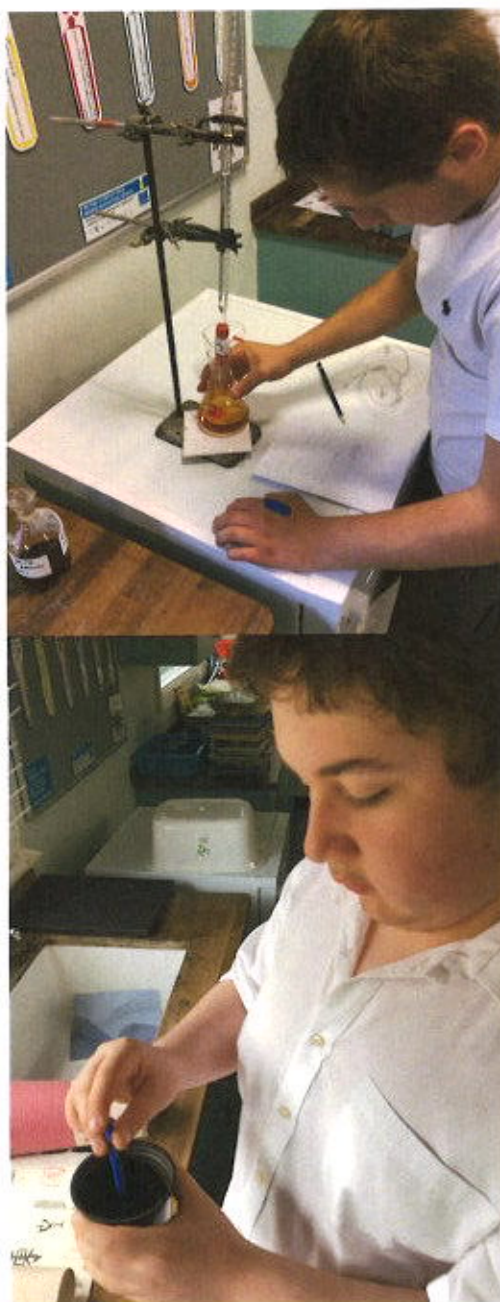
Last year the pupils in KS3 & KS4 studied Science in accordance with the Northern Ireland curriculum covering all aspects of Science within the three major disciplines of Chemistry, Physics and Biology. The main focus of Science at Longstone is to promote the skills required to be a valuable member of a team and to become an economic contributor in society.

The topics studied encourage the pupils to think scientifically, covering the following skills areas: Self-management, Being creative, Managing information, Working with others, Thinking skills, Problem Solving and Decision making.

The course is designed to cater for the three learning styles of auditory, visual and kinaesthetic. There are also opportunities to use the Cross curricular skills of Communication, Using Maths and Using ICT.

Within the course the following Key Elements are covered: Personal understanding, Mutual understanding, Personal health, Moral character, Spiritual awareness, Citizenship, Cultural understanding, Media awareness, Ethical awareness, Employability, Economic awareness and Sustainable development

The KS3 course is designed to prepare the pupils for the Entry Level Qualification in Science which is studied over two years in years 11 and 12.



Entry Level One	Entry Level Two	Entry Level Three
5	2	9

Pupils worked very hard throughout the COVID period, engaging through Google Classroom and completing coursework when school reopened. The success of the Science course and the hard work of the pupils is evidenced in the KS4 results that the pupils achieved last year.

Mr E. S. Guthrie

Occupational Studies-Design and Creativity

Year 12 have excelled themselves in completing Occupational Studies in HE during the past 2 years and I am delighted by their results from CCEA. Pupils worked hard to complete the 2 units of work-Contemporary Cuisine and Patisserie and Baking.

Level 2 Merit (equivalent to grade B)	Level 2 Pass (equivalent to grade C)
56%	44%

Over the duration of the course pupils demonstrated their food preparation and cookery skills to make a range of breads, pastries and main meals from countries around the world. They researched and developed their knowledge and understanding on health and safety in the work place, environmental issues and careers as well being able to reflect and evaluate their learning.



Mrs H Strain

Entry Level Occupational Studies

Article 29 You have the right to develop your talents & abilities

Entry Level Occupational Studies is a qualification that allows our pupils to complete up to 12 short practical projects based on their individual interests and abilities over the course of two years in KS4. Our pupils designed cards, made hanging baskets and containers for a plant sale, learnt the basics of vehicle maintenance, practised using a variety of office equipment and developed a range of technology skills such as painting and decorating and carpentry.



The pupils have enjoyed the practical aspects of the course and performed well in all assessment tasks.

Entry Level 1	Entry Level 2	Entry Level 3 Double Award
3	0	12

Mrs S Plunkett

EDUCATION MINISTER VISITS LONGSTONE



Education Minister Michelle McIlveen was presented with a Longstone School trinket box manufactured by year 8 pupils Alanna Fulton and Kai Duncan.

Minister McIlveen discussed with pupils how valuable Technology & Design is as a subject.

Technology & Design enables young learners to actively contribute to the imagination, ethos and well-being of themselves. TD teaches how to take risks, therefore become more resourceful, inventive, enterprising and capable. All linked through each pupils thinking skills and person capabilities.

Dr M. O'Connell

THE
ROYAL
SOCIETY

Carryduff
buildingsupplies.com
Small enough to care, Big enough to cope!



Project Conclusion May 2022 -



The purpose of this project was for our pupils to develop their creative thinking and problem-solving skills by evaluating design proposals to utilise sustainable materials. These materials included wood, metals (copper, tin, steel, aluminium), plastic (polythene, polystyrene, PVC), fabrics (cotton, polyester, wool, acrylic, foam) and glass.

Pupils were challenged to research and manage information effectively to investigate design issues such as suitability of the material. Students had opportunities to plan and manufacture a table using various materials where conclusions were drawn on the most effective table.

We all had much fun investigating a glass and cotton table! This was all part of our enjoyment regarding the project and in doing so pupils are now more aware and capable to investigate problem solving. All pupils successfully completed the project with each table in use!

Our STEM partner Carryduff Building Supplies (CBS) were extremely supportive- once we had our tables completed CBS joined us to celebrate with one of their trucks!

A major aspect of the investigation was looking at the properties of materials - how materials behave in their natural state and under certain conditions. This was challenging to our pupils however through comparative tests on different materials all students developed an understanding of suitability for different purposes and explored misconceptions around terminology - hardness, strength, toughness and resistance.

The project has developed future joiners/ carpenters within our school. Pupils are now looking more closely at employment within the building trade.

Pupils comments:

Pupil 1. GC *'I thoroughly enjoy the project with the Royal Society, I looked forward to DT every day and wish we had DT every day! I enjoyed using the Kreg jig to make the pocket holes.'*

Pupil 2. NR *'Making the table was a lot of fun, we were busy all the time and learnt so much more than making a table, Thanks Mr O.'*

Pupil 3. RG *'I found it difficult to measure but Mr O made it much easier explaining not everything needed to be measured. My table was brilliant, I loved it.'*

Middle Manager Teacher Mr Starrs: *'Dr O'Connell used his talents to obtain the best for each of our pupils. We welcome his use of Emotional Intelligence within the classroom environment building strong relationship with each young adult. This collaborative approach between pupils and staff during this project has had a positive effect on the whole school. Thanks too to the Royal Society and CBS.'*

KS3 Year 9 Teacher Mrs Strain *'My form class enjoyed the whole process of design, research and making their tables in technology. It was great to see them enthusiastic about every stage of the process. I reviewed the safe use of equipment involved in manufacture and it was good to assess the real understanding the pupils had.'*

Personally and professionally I have found the whole relationship with the Royal Society and CBS to be extremely worthwhile. It has developed effective teamwork through excellent working relationships.

Considering the manufacture of our tables continued throughout the pandemic this also improved morale across the school. This increased productivity, motivation and work satisfaction. Overall this was a fantastic capacity building exercise for all concerned that we will continue and build upon.

Year 9 pupils working on their tables.



Dr M O'Connell

NI WATER

Pat McCauley (NIW).

As our population grows, more and more people are using up this limited resource. Therefore, it is important that we use our water wisely and not waste it.

Pat from NIW delivered to KS2, 3 and 4 water and informed our pupils that less than 1% of the water on earth can be used by people. The rest is salt water or frozen and we can't drink it.



Mr M O'Connell



A research team from Ulster University undertook a study on the health and wellbeing research of consented KS3 pupils as very little is known about their wellbeing.

The research was conducted by a team of researchers in school from the Psychology Research Institute at Ulster University.

There are many studies exploring children and young people's wellbeing carried out in mainstream schools in Northern Ireland. However, none of these studies includes pupils from special schools. Therefore, very little is known about their wellbeing. To address this deficit in knowledge, it is important to find out whether the questionnaire items are suitable for use with pupils in special schools.

I would like to thank our pupils for their input regarding this vital research and our school staff who were involved.

Dr M O'Connell

LIGHT SAVERS

In January, Year 12 students decided to set up their own mini table lamp enterprise company called, *Lights Savers*. This provides a real-life learning opportunity that introduces young people to the realities of the world of work.

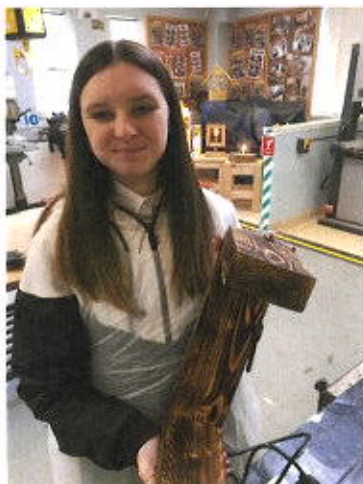
The purpose is for our Year 12 students to set up and run their own student company. With business support guidance provided by Mrs Plunkett, our students make all the decisions about their including appointing marketing, sales and business executives on how to best market, promote and advertise their products.

Students decided on what to manufacture, compared this with the competition making adjustments and the created a business plan.

Manufacturing sustainable LED table lamp have taken on a complete new inactive in Year12. Their products are unique sustainable and relevant (LED bulbs, recycled timber and bottles)

Our students have gained practical business experience adaptability, entrepreneurial mindset and employability skills necessary to secure their future career.

Dr M O'Connell



GOOD NEWS FOR EVERYONE



Alan Carson from *Good News For Everyone* (Gideons) met with Head Girl, Beth Colhoun and Deputy Head Boy Adam Moreland.

Alan donated childrens bibles for our new year 8 pupils and staff.

Dr M O'Connell

Belfast Metropolitan College Link Course

Article 28 Right to an Education



Our Year 12 pupils attended a link course in Belfast Metropolitan College on Tuesdays to study OCN certificates in Retail, Photoshop, Catering and Crafts. The link course helps our pupils transition from school to Further Education or Training as they get to experience what it is like being a student in a supportive environment. The pupils really enjoyed attending College and they were great representatives for Longstone School while on campus.

Life Skills

Article 29 Education should develop your Talents & Abilities

This year we formally introduced the CCEA Entry Level Life Skills qualification to help our pupils develop important independent living skills to prepare for adult life. Our Yr. 12 pupils completed the following units:

- Healthy Active Lifestyles
- Relationships and Sexuality
- Travelling in My Community
- Using Shopping Facilities
- Home Management
- Personal Safety
- Leisure for Pleasure
- Community Project



Pupils had to complete practical projects for each unit to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills. The pupils enjoyed this qualification and we hope they find it useful in helping them transition to adult life beyond Longstone School.

Entry Level 1	Entry Level 2	Entry Level 3
6	6	5

BARCLAYS LIFE SKILLS

Article 29 Your Education should develop your talents and abilities



Barclays Life Skills staff delivered a range of employability workshops to Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12 pupils throughout the year. The sessions are invaluable as our pupils learn about how to develop important life skills such as self-confidence, problem solving, being enterprising and communication from experts in industry who can give real world examples of the skills in action. The Barclays Life Skills workshops help prepare our pupils for the world of work, training, and further education in a fun and engaging way and we look forward to welcoming the facilitators back again next year.

BANGOR ALTERNATIVES

Article 29 Right to an education that develops talents and abilities, respect for others' rights and the environment



Sarah Reynolds from Bangor Alternatives supported our KS4 pupils throughout the school year. All of our Yr. 12 pupils completed their Level 1 OCN in Employability with Sarah's help, they learnt about how to search for jobs, complete application forms and write their C.V, all of which are useful skills for moving on from Longstone School.

Sarah also explored issues like personal safety, physical and mental health, and personal goal setting with a small group of pupils on Wednesday mornings in mentoring sessions. A memorable morning involved a question and answer session with local community police officers.

We are very grateful for the help and support that Bangor Alternatives offer our pupils and we look forward to working with them again next year.

ORCHARDVILLE STARS PROJECT

Article 29 Your education should help you develop your talents and abilities



Louise Cooper and Nichola Gammon-Thompson from Orchardville supported some of our KS4 pupils through the delivery of an online training programme and in school workshops throughout the academic year.

The STARS programme helps young people prepare for leaving school by teaching them about their options for after Longstone. Louise and Nichola explained to the pupils and their parents the practical steps they need to take to prepare for the next step in their journey. They also ran sessions for the pupils on how to become more independent, how to stay healthy and active as well as giving the pupils some ideas about ways to stay in touch with friends.

We look forward to welcoming the Orchardville team back next year to work with another group of KS4 pupils.

PRINCE'S TRUST ACHIEVE PROGRAMME

Article 28 You have the right to an education



The Prince's Trust Personal Development and Employability qualification allows KS4 pupils to develop important skills such as team work, communication, self-management, and problem solving through a variety of practical projects. Our pupils improved their knowledge and ability to look after themselves and live healthy lives.

They undertook an enterprise challenge and delivered community projects to make a difference to our school community and local area. They also learnt how to write an application form and how to prepare for and undergo an interview.

Well done to the pupils for completing their Prince's Trust Achieve Award.

Entry Level 3 Award	Level 1 Award
7	5

ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2021: One Kind Word

Article 19 Right to be Safe

In November the whole school participated in the 'One Kind Word' Anti-Bullying Week Challenge. We had socially distanced assemblies in our form rooms where pupils learnt about what bullying is, the different types of bullying you can come across, where you can get help with bullying issues, and we also reviewed our child friendly Anti-Bullying policy. In addition to this each pupil in the school designed their own piece of a paperchain which is on display in our canteen and we came to school in our odd socks to show that Longstone is a safe place for all.



EA REACH Programme – Resilience Education Assisting Change to Happen

Article 24 Every Child has the right to the best possible health

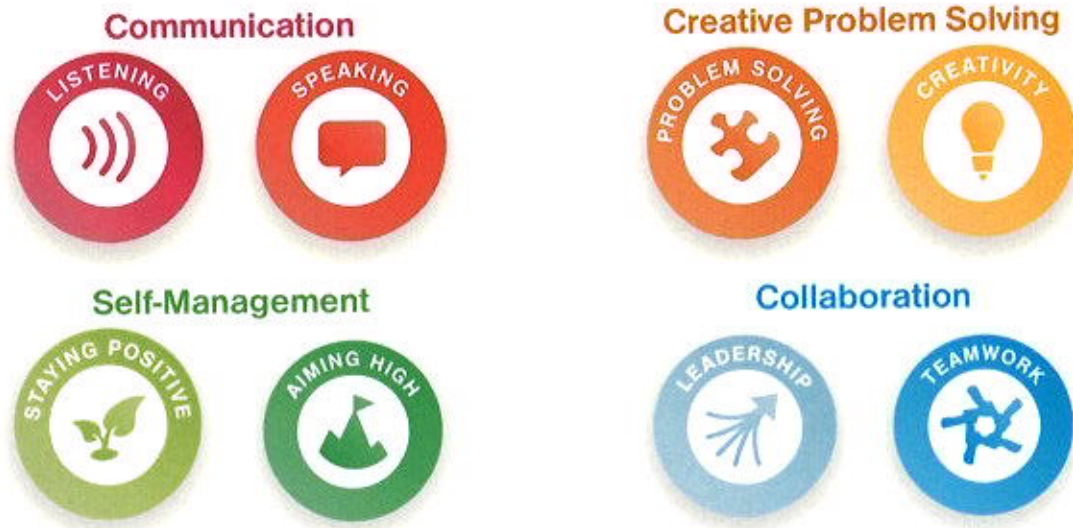
Jacqueline Maxwell from the EA Youth Service used informal learning and creative approaches when she delivered a series of workshops to our KS4 pupils. Jacqueline's sessions focused on how to develop and maintain positive mental health, she also looked at the importance of engaging with learning and taught resilience skills strategies.

The pupils really enjoyed Jacqueline's visits and we look forward to welcoming her back next year.



SKILLS BUILDER

Article 29 Develop Talents & Abilities



This year we achieved the Bronze Award in the Skills Builder programme. In KS4 we used the Skills Builder Universal Framework to learn, build on and develop our essential skills. The framework breaks down each of the 8 skills into a sequence of steps from absolute beginner to complete mastery. We used the Skills Builder tools for self-assessment and individual target setting as well as whole class teaching through curriculum areas.

NI100 ART COMPETITION



In December, 2021, Jason Johnston in 10A came second in the NI100 art competition. This was organised by the Department of Education and was open to all schools. The images had to depict a positive image of local scenery or landmarks. Jason used watercolour pencils to create his version of the lighthouse in Whitehead.



Jason and his mother were then invited to attend an award ceremony in Stormont Parliament Buildings where the Education Minister, Michelle McIlveen, presented him with his picture in a frame and a certificate. He also received prize money.

I would like to thank all the pupils who entered the competition and offer congratulations to Jason for coming second. The hard work paid off!

Mrs M Cromie

FINANCE:

Our Article 60 budget allocation for 2021/22 was £126,064. This is the funding that we receive from DENI via the Education Authority to finance the running costs of the school which includes utilities, resources for staff and pupils, transport, furniture and fittings.

Our school bank account had an opening balance of £7,088.45 and a closing balance of £4397.96. This account is used to provide resources for our pupils throughout the year.

SCHOOL SECURITY:

The school maintains a safe and secure learning environment for our pupils and staff. Fire drills are carried out once a term and the system is regularly monitored and maintained.

CCTV & Sign In System are now in place.

SCHOOL BUILDING:

A new soft surface area with new outdoor equipment has been added to our Key Stage 1 playground.

ACCESS:

All classrooms in the main body of the school, mobile classrooms, gym and dinner hall are accessible for disabled pupils.

ATTENDANCE:

The annual average attendance for 2021/22 was 79.9%.

SCHOOL LEAVERS:

This year we had 19 school leavers who were placed on a variety of Training Programmes and Further Education courses.

