



OMAGH ACADEMY

NEWSLETTER

SPRING 2025





BOARD OF GOVERNORS

We are pleased to acknowledge & thank those who voluntarily work behind the scenes to ensure that Omagh Academy is a place which

Inspires~Empowers~Achieves.

The Board of Governors meets and works alongside staff to ensure the smooth running of the school. Not all governors were available for this photograph - but we say 'Thank you to you all!'

STAFF NEWS

Just before half term, we said 'Farewell & Thank You' to two valued members of our teaching staff.

Mrs K Gibson taught Geography and helped greatly with the Girls' Rugby teams.

Miss N Stewart worked in our RE Department and was also a faithful leader in Junior SU.

We thank you both for all your hard work and commitment to Omagh Academy and wish you well for the future.

We welcome Mrs Beacom & Mrs Dalzell back after half term.



Our Language Assistants this year are:

Lea Denis (French Language Assistant)

Maria Comesana (Spanish Language Assistant)

We also welcome **Mr S Hamilton** to our Classroom Assistant Team.

AIR AMBULANCE DONATION

Every Tuesday morning during PSE, our pupils have the opportunity to contribute to our selected charity, Air Ambulance. Air Ambulance performs remarkable work in our community on a daily basis, and we are grateful to be able to support their ongoing expenses. We are delighted that we will be presenting a cheque of £1500 as a result of these weekly collections. We thank our pupils for contributing each week so that we can make a small difference.



AIR AMBULANCE
NORTHERN IRELAND
— CHARTY —



LITERACY WEEK AND WORLD BOOK DAY

Literacy week celebrations took place at the beginning of March with a wide range of competitions and challenges on offer for our pupils. The week began with a Super Speller competition with pupils in Years 8-10 taking part. Congratulations to our winners! We also held a Year 9 Public Speaking competition in which pupils had to deliver a speech on the topic of 'My Inspiration'. The speeches were engaging and dynamic, and we are so proud of the pupils for displaying such confidence in speaking in front of their peers. World Book Day took place on Thursday with Year 8s taking part in a Read On Challenge in aid of the Children's Cancer charity in Northern Ireland. Pupils raised money, and we are delighted to hand over a cheque at the end of term. Our Year 9 pupils had an exciting opportunity to take part in a drama workshop called 'Play in a Day'. A busy but enjoyable week!



SEAMUS HEANEY HOMEPLACE



In March, Year 13 English Literature students had the opportunity to visit the Seamus Heaney Homeplace. They participated in a lecture and seminar focused on the poetry of Heaney and Frost, along with engaging and inspiring exhibits. A fun day had by all!

YEAR 14 BRATTON DEBATE

Our annual Year 14 Bratton Debate took place on 31st March. The motion was **'This house believes that cancel culture is a threat to free speech'**, and our pupils did a fabulous job engaging in debate. Well done to James Luna, who emerged victorious as our winner! Thank you to Erica McCrea, Alice Beattie, Charlotte Colton, Kathy Hawkes, Caleb Miller, Sienna Milligan, Oliver Irwin, and Tim Attwood for taking part.



Our School Council members are running a school diary competition in which they invite pupils to design next year's school diary. It must be bright and colourful, incorporate subjects and extracurricular, and be associated with our school. The deadline is Friday, 2nd May, and entries must be given to Mrs. Lennox.

HISTORY CONFERENCE



The History Department recently hosted the **Annual History Conference**.

Over 100 pupils from schools across Tyrone and Fermanagh attended to hear lectures from our former Head of History **Dr Russell Rees**.

The event supported the pupils in preparation for their A2 History Module on the Partition of Ireland 1900-1925.

We would like to thank Dr Rees for his engaging lectures and the other schools for attending.

HOLOCAUST VISIT

GCSE History pupils recently had the opportunity to attend a Holocaust event held at The Silverbirch hotel. Pupils listened to the story of Sam Gardner, delivered by his daughter, Maralyn. The presentation was informative, insightful, emotive, and extremely educational.



Sam Gardner was born in 1925 as Shmuel Yankel Golberg, in Piotrkow, Poland. Following the German invasion of Poland in 1939, punitive laws were enforced against the Jews, who were constantly in fear for their lives. In 1942 Sam and his father were selected to work as slave labourers in an ammunitions factory. A year later they were moved to Buchenwald Concentration Camp where they lost their only possessions – their treasured photographs. In 1944 he was separated from his father in Schlieben Labour Camp, never to see him again. Finally, in April 1945 Sam was taken on a long 'death journey' on cramped cattle trucks with no food, water or sanitation, to Mauthausen Concentration Camp. Out of 2000 on the journey he was one of 42 that survived. The survivors of Mauthausen were liberated by the Americans, whom Sam described as 'Angels from Heaven'. When Britain agreed to take 1000 child refugees, Sam was one of the 300 'Boys' who were taken to Windermere. He finally settled in Manchester, married and had two daughters, four grandchildren and two great grandchildren. Sam's story of survival is told by his daughter Maralyn.

HOLOCAUST VISIT



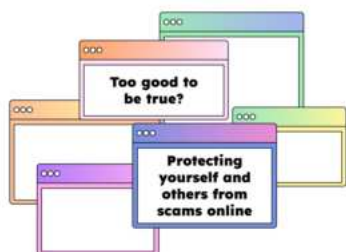
Holocaust Memorial Day was remembered on Monday 27th January. Year 11 History students visited the Market Place Theatre in Armagh to watch a screening of "One Life" - The Story of Nicholas Winton and the Kindertransport trains. This was a very poignant and thought-provoking trip.

AS POLITICS VISIT

Year 13 Politics Students visited Parliament Buildings, Stormont on Tuesday 25th February as part of their AS Politics course. Pupils had the opportunity to watch a plenary session in the chamber, question MLAs on their roles and meet a Clerk of an Assembly committee. The experience was both educational and inspiring, with a real insight into political life!



SAFER INTERNET DAY



In February, our ICT Department celebrated Safer Internet Day with pupils engaging in a range of activities. This year's theme was '**Too Good to be True**', with pupils focusing on the issue of scams online and for young people, how to protect themselves and others, as well as what support is available to them.





Thank you to the NI Assembly Education Service for a most enjoyable and inspirational visit recently.

The first part of our tour involved an interactive presentation about the NI Assembly, how it functions and current affairs. This was followed by a tour of the building; including the Great Hall, Senate Chamber and an opportunity for debate in the Assembly Chamber. Our Junior Councillors gained an insight into how our school council meetings replicate Assembly Meetings and the importance of their role in representing everyone in our school community. A fantastic insight into the NI Assembly and a reminder of the important role our school councillors hold.

NI ASSEMBLY TOUR

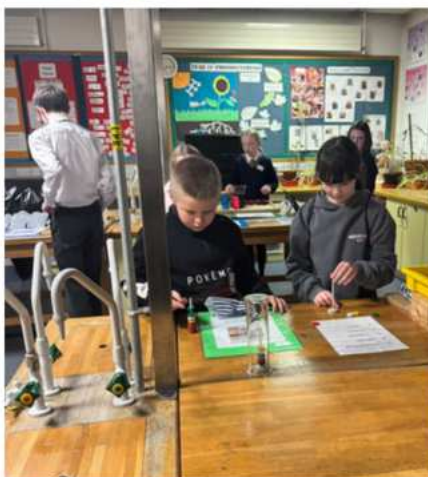


SPERRINS YOUTH VOICE EVENT



Members of the School Council took part in the Sperrins Youth Voice Event, held in March, in the Silverbirch Hotel. The pupils enjoyed talks focusing on the Agriculture, Community, Wildlife and Heritage of the Sperrins. They also gained a valuable insight into what they can do to help protect this Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

OPEN NIGHT 2025





Congratulations to Daniel Irwin who competed in the cross-campus Games Development Skills competition at South West College. Daniel was the runner-up and is now through to the next stage, competing at UK level. Well done, Daniel!



At the end of March, Edith Dunbar represented OA at the inaugural workshop of the Young Anti-Bullying Alliance 2025. During the workshop, pupils had an opportunity to contribute to planning for Anti-Bullying Week 2025, supported by facilitators from the Anti-Bullying Alliance. Well done, Edith!

DATES FOR DIARY

- **28th April** - Summer Term Begins
- **29th April** - Scripture Union Family and Friends Night
- **5th May** - Bank Holiday
- **6th May** - Sports Day
- **12th-23rd May** - Year 11 Study Leave
- **Friday 20th June** - Valedictory Service
- **Friday 27th June** - End of Term

STRULE SHARED STUDENT COUNCIL VISIT

We were delighted to host members of the Strule Shared Student Council from our partner schools recently. Pupils and staff enjoyed a tour of our school as we outlined our history and ethos. Treats, a welcome from Head Boy and Head Girl Matthew and Sarah, and Mrs Maxwell and Student Council leader, Mrs Lennox, took place before tours, which were led by Senior Prefects and Strule Council representatives. It was a really enjoyable day, and we thank everyone for coming along.



ECO SCHOOLS AND SCIENCE CLUB



Our Eco Schools and Science Club takes place every Monday. We have had a busy and informative term. Recently we had a guest speaker, Reece England, Climate Officer for Omagh and Fermanagh District Council. Reece and his colleague Emma gave the pupils a very enjoyable and educational talk on native trees and woodlands and what we can do to help our local area before going outside to plant three new trees. In Science Club, we enjoyed getting out in the sunshine this week and launching our rockets! We thank Mrs McColgan, Mrs Monaghan, and Mrs Totten for taking time each week to engage our pupils!



SHARED EDUCATION

Recently, representatives from Year 8 were delighted to join with our Shared Education partner schools for a tree planting activity. Based at Arlestone Park and facilitated by FODC & Omagh Rotary Club, the pupils worked hard to prepare the ground and then plant a variety of trees. Well done, everyone!





NSPCC CHARITY DONATION

YEAR 8S WERE DELIGHTED TO PRESENT A CHEQUE OF £910 TO REPRESENTATIVES OF NSPCC OMAGH BRANCH, AFTER ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL NUMBER DAY.



UK INTERMEDIATE MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE

UK Intermediate Mathematics Challenge 2025: Year 11 pupils were most successful in the UK Intermediate Maths Challenge. Five pupils received silver certificates, and sixteen pupils received bronze certificates. Special mention must be given to David L. who received Best in School. Well done!





PYTHON WORKSHOP

It was lovely to welcome back past pupil Jacky Shi to our school. As part of his final year of a Mathematics degree, he provided some of our Year 14 pupils with a Python workshop.



DUKE OF EDINBURGH PRACTICE EXPEDITION



The Gold Duke of Edinburgh practice expedition was recently completed with over thirty pupils navigating over 45km!

They experienced strong sunshine, chilling winds, cold nights, blisters, friendly dogs, an annoying goat and lots of stunning scenery!

Several lessons were learned regarding the importance of effective navigation!

A huge thank you to all the staff and volunteers who make this possible- Jill, Adrian, Mr Gillespie, Mrs Gibson, Mr S Hamilton, Mrs Keown and Mr Crozier!





PUPIL TRACKING SUCCESS!

The Year 8 Form Teachers were pleased to present certificates to pupils who were awarded Grade 1s for effort in at least five of their subjects in the recent tracking reports. Excellent work, everyone!



RS VISIT

CRUMLIN ROAD GAOL

Year 13 and 14 Religious Studies students visited Crumlin Road Gaol to consolidate learning on the nature and purpose of justice and punishment.

The 'C' Wing experience included visits to cells where they heard about significant people, prison escapes and execution by hanging.

Justice, law and punishment is part of the A2 Global Ethics module.



YEAR 10 WORKSHOP

We were delighted to welcome Fiona Payne from UK Parliament to speak to our Year 10s about Democracy and Active Participation. She gave a very entertaining and interesting talk about how we enjoy democracy in our country and how decisions are made. Seth and Lauren were given the task of acting at First and Deputy First Ministers!

ANNAGINNY FISHERY TRIP

Twelve year 10 pupils recently had a chance to participate in the *Fishing for Schools* scheme.

They had a trip to Annaginny Fishery, learning new skills, meeting some new fishy friends and enjoying the beautiful spring weather. Thanks to our coaches Steven, Chris, Ryan and Mark and to David from Ulster Angling Federation for setting this up.

Looking forward to learning more on our second session in mid- May.





SKI TRIP 2025



GEOGRAPHY TRIP



Our Year 13 Geographers recently visited the Umbra Sand Dunes near Magilligan, a dynamic coastal ecosystem, to prepare for their Unit 3 examination.

They studied primary succession in this psammosere, observing biotic factors such as plant diversity and species. They also analysed abiotic factors, including wind speed, air temperature, light levels, and soil characteristics, collecting samples to meet the aims of their study. The dry weather made investigations smooth and everyone had a great day. Well done, Year 13!



Three words sum up the journey of Minted Minds, Omagh Academy's Young Enterprise company: **challenging, rewarding...and fun!**

For the first three months of 2025, the nineteen Year 13 pupils have worked tirelessly to develop their business, their teamwork and product. They competed in two trade fairs, at the Foyleside shopping centre and in Omagh. On both occasions their product, "Save with Dave", a financial management book for children, sold out. Adding to their previous achievements, the pupils won the **Most Innovative Product award**. Lucy Rennie, the Managing Director of Minted Minds, won the **Best Salesperson award**. A partnership with Danske Bank enabled the company to trade in the Omagh branch.

In March, Minted Minds were named **South West Champions** by a panel of judges, following an intense morning of interviews and presentations. The company progressed to the Northern Ireland finals, which were held at the beginning of April in Belfast. All pupils are looking forward to attending the Young Enterprise Awards in Belfast City Hall in early May, where they will enjoy a meal and entertainment, before learning which team has been chosen as the Northern Ireland winner. The company's journey continues!



MINTED MINDS



MUSIC EVENTS

CHARITY DONATION

During our Carol services, we held a collection for our selected charity, 'Air Ambulance.' A-Level musicians Caleb and Imogen were thrilled to present a cheque for £1,650 to Mrs. Valerie McKinley, a representative from airambulance.ni. We take pride in supporting the essential work of this charity.



SPRING CONCERT

Congratulations to the Music Department and all the pupils who participated in our recent Spring concert. Once again, our concert was a fantastic display of the musical talent within our school, featuring a wide variety of music performed at an exceptional level. For Year 14, it was a particularly special evening, as they have been an outstanding group contributing significantly to extracurricular music during their seven years at Omagh Academy. A big thank you to the parents and pupils for their unwavering support. Thanks must also go to Jude and Stephen who captured our images and sound - we look forward to seeing it and hearing it all again!

Omagh Academy Music Department presents

Spring Sounds!



Thursday 6th March 2025 - 2pm & 7.30pm









EA WIND BAND AND STRING ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Congratulations to our junior musicians, Sarah, Catherine, Bethany-Joy, Quinn, Sophie and Anna, who performed with the EA Wind Band and String Orchestra at their end of year concert in the Strule Arts Centre on 24th March. These ensembles meet and rehearse on Wednesday afternoons in Omagh Academy and welcome pupils from Year 6 to 12 from all the schools in Omagh.



NEW MUSIC TUTOR!

We are delighted to welcome Mrs Melanie Topley to the Music Department. Mrs Topley joins the team of instrumental tutors as our new singing teacher. Vocal lessons are available on Thursdays!

EA YOUTH ORCHESTRA CONCERT

Congratulations to Year 14 students, Oliver (tuba) and Kathryn (1st Violin), who performed with the EA Youth Orchestra at the Millennium Forum on 1st April. This is their last concert with the orchestra after three years of Saturday and Thursday evening rehearsals. Members of the orchestra are from schools in Enniskillen, Omagh, Strabane, Londonderry, and Limavady. We are delighted that Kathryn and Oliver have represented Omagh Academy so well! Oliver and Kathryn are pictured with Ms A Bergen, Conductor.





The Music Dept had the opportunity to go to London for some musical culture. Have a look at what we got up to!

Thursday:

Battling through the wind and rain, we went on a walking tour which allowed us to see Tower Bridge, the City of London, Leadenhall Market, St. Paul's Cathedral, as well as stopping off at the Lookout viewing gallery. We also squeezed in a bit of shopping time with a trip to the Lego and M&M store!

Friday:

Friday began with an immersive tour of the Houses of Parliament followed by a backstage tour of the National Theatre and a backstage tour of the Royal Opera House. We then enjoyed a concert by the BBC Symphony Orchestra at the Barbican. Lots of amazing experiences and lots of food for thought!

Saturday:

We began our day in Mayfair for a Drama and Careers workshop. We then enjoyed some shopping in Covent Garden before our flight home.

A fabulous trip with lots of memories made!



LONDON

NI SCHOOLS' BUSINESS CHALLENGE



Our Year 13 Business Studies pupils enjoyed the opportunity to take part in the 2025 NI Schools' Business Challenge at Riddell Hall, Queen's University recently. Our pupils were split into four teams and presented to judges from the Henderson Group and BDO. This event provided an excellent opportunity to practise public speaking and to explore what QUB has to offer business students.



BUSINESS STUDIES VISIT

Mrs Beattie from our Business Studies Department was delighted to welcome Mrs Jill Wilson from JF Irvine Sawmills to speak to our Year 12s as part of the pupils' GCSE Controlled Assessment. The pupils had prepared questions, and we thank Mrs Wilson for her thoughtful and very informative answers!

BUSINESS AND ENTERPRISE VISIT



In the first week of January, we were thrilled to welcome back two of our former students. Tom Reid, who is currently with Ernst & Young, shared insights on online recruitment with our Year 13 students. Meanwhile, Rebecca Donnell from Young Enterprise conducted Project Business sessions with our Year 10s. A big thank you to Tom and Rebecca!

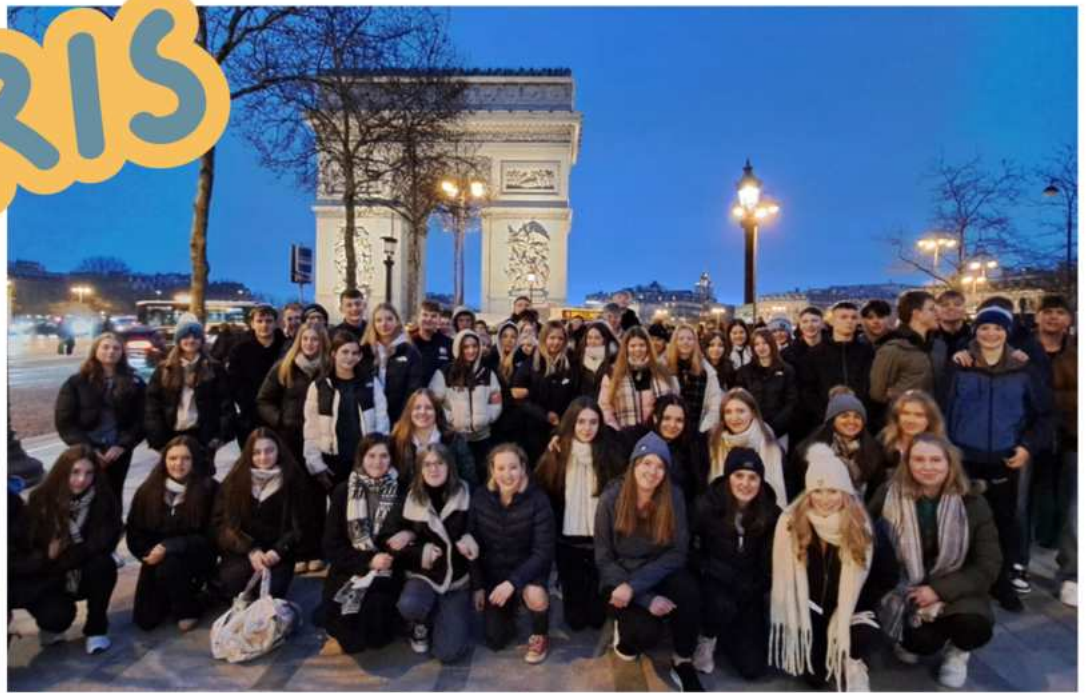


Our annual chess competition took place over several weeks in the spring term, once again drawing great crowds. Well done to Matthew who beat George in the grand final! Well done to all of the competitors. It was great to see such a wide range of pupils getting involved!

AGRICULTURE TRIP

A Level Agriculture students visited Brian Keys Tractors Ltd this term, as part of their Land Based Machinery Operations work. Thank you to Craig who is Service Manager for giving students a tour of the workshop. Students learned about New Holland aftersales care and the importance of preventive maintenance, repair schedules, and the use of diagnostic computer software.





DAY ONE!

Bonjour de Paris!
After arriving, we enjoyed an amazing cruise down the Seine, a guided tour of the city, watched the eternal flame ceremony under the Arc de Triomphe and walked down the Champs Elysées for dinner. What a great first day!



DAY TWO

Our excursions included The Eiffel Tower, Montmartre, the Sacré Coeur Basilica, The artists' quarter: Place du Tertre, The 'Je t'aime' wall, Tuileries gardens, the Pyramide du Louvre and last but not least the spectacular Notre Dame cathedral looking resplendent after its re-opening!





DAY THREE

A day we were all so excited..Disneyland! It did not disappoint! A world of magic all around us!



DAY FOUR

Our last day included a visit stunning Palais de Versailles followed by a guided tour of the Stade de France which included the changing rooms, physio couches, jacuzzi, presidential lounge and running down the tunnel to the pitch.

Last minute shopping at Aéroville and smooth check-in for our flight back. Lots of French was spoken, our accents and behaviour were complimented at every visit. A fantastic trip with pupils to be proud of!

I ♥ PARIS





SCRIPTURE UNION

Both junior and senior SU have had another busy term and we are once again delighted that we have such great numbers attending. Junior SU have been busy with treasure hunts, games, talks and table quizzes whilst Senior SU have enjoyed many visiting speakers. **We now look forward to our Family and Friends night which will take place on Tuesday 29th April at 7:30pm. We would love to see you there!**

INTER SCHOOLS SU FORMAL



On 14th March, 53 pupils from Senior SU attended the inter-schools formal at Corick House. 169 pupils from SU groups across Fermanagh & Tyrone enjoyed a great night, lovely food and entertainment from Embrace Socials.



Our Year 14 Geographers had an insightful field trip to Belfast last week. They delved into the complexities of segregation within the city, which greatly enriched their understanding of ethnic diversity. This hands-on experience brought their studies to life and provided valuable perspectives beyond the classroom. It was a day full of learning and reflection!



GCSE FOOD AND NUTRITION PRACTICALS



Our GCSE Food and Nutrition pupils had a busy week at the end of February, cooking for their GCSE practical. The pupils did a great job, with lots of great culinary skills on show.



The competitive season for the 1st XV ended on 8th February with the QF of the Schools' Bowl against RSD. It was a great game of rugby that ebbed and flowed throughout. The game saw the end of the school rugby careers of our U6th pupils. We thank them for their effort and commitment that they have demonstrated over their seven years at school. We now look forward to our rugby tour to Canada in June!

To keep up to date, please follow our Facebook page- Omagh Academy Rugby Club.

REGIONAL DEVELOPMENT TRAINING



We were so proud to see six Omagh Academy pupils involved in the South Region team that faced the Northern Region in a very even game recently, in Cookstown. The boys have been attending Regional Development training sessions on a weekly basis throughout the season, and tonight was a screening opportunity for the Ulster Coaches. Well done to Isaac, Logan, Charlie, Frankie, and Angus, who all performed well. Unfortunately, Logan missed out through injury on this occasion.

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY 'FUTURE STARS'

Congratulations to **Ryan Mitchell, Lewis McIvor and Innes Sheridan** who represented Omagh Academy at the Queen's University Belfast 'Future Stars' event at the Dub. The boys did themselves and the school proud. Many thanks to the QUB staff for hosting the event and giving the boys the opportunity to see their fantastic facilities.





Well done to eleven girls who have been selected for Ulster Age Grade summer training squads.
A fantastic achievement girls. Well done!

U18s

Emily Irwin

U17s

Zara Wright, Elsie Brown, Charlotte Boyd, Sophie Hamilton & Shannon Smyth

U16s

Ava Fegan, Olivia Kyle, Nikki Campbell, Jessica Brady & Layla McCaffrey

HOUSE RUGBY

The rugby season drew to an official close at the end of March, with our **House Rugby fixtures**.

Always an eagerly anticipated event, this years matches certainly didn't disappoint. The standard was high across all age groups and it was great to see some of our non rugby players getting involved too.

Results:

Junior House Rugby

Winners: Drumragh

Intermediate House Rugby

Winners: Strule

Senior House Rugby

Winners: Camowen



U14 OKANE TOURNAMENT



The **U14 squad** concluded their season with a trip to the **O'Kane tournament** in Ballymena.

The boys performed well and had three very competitive games.

Thanks to the coaches & supporters with the boys in Ballymena this morning.

Thanks to Ballymena Academy for hosting another super tournament.

U12 COLERAINE TOURNAMENT



Our **U12 squad** recently travelled to Coleraine for a rugby tournament.

The team started with a close 4-3 loss to ERGS. They followed this with defeats to Methody & Willow Park.

After the lunch break the boys put on their best display of the day but lost out to Ballyclare HS.

Player of the day went to William Hunter!

Thanks to the coaches & travelling support as well as Coleraine GS for hosting a great tournament.

U14 AND U16 GIRLS' SCHOOLS CUP FINALS



What a day at MUSA - Cookstown for the **U14 & U16 Girls Schools Cup Finals**.

At **U16 level** we were the only school in the province to have two teams qualify for finals day. On the day Team 1 made it to the Final, losing narrowly 2-0 to ERGS. The game was a showpiece final and a great advert for the growing girls game.

Team 2 won 1 & lost 2 games in the group stages, performing well in all 3 games against some much more physically dominant opposition.

Team of the day had to go to the U14s.

The new Ulster Schools Cup winners!!

A great achievement girls, well done.



U12s

The U12s produced some fantastic rugby recently in wonderful conditions at Foyle College.

For The Sharks, **William Hunter** was MOTM. His destructive tackling & rucking led to multiple turnovers, while his ball carrying skills helped set his team mates on the front foot.

Other stand out performers were, **Noah Clarke, Jack Smith & William Keatley**.

For the Rhinos, **David McCracken** was MOTM. His distribution at scrum half was excellent and he never shirked away from his defensive duties.

Luke McWilliams, Jethro Condy & Adam Keys also stood out.

Both games were filled with excellent, free flowing rugby with the Sharks scoring 10 tries & the Rhinos 6 tries. Well done everyone!



SPONSORS OF
OUR 1ST XV



E DISTRICT CROSS COUNTRY

It was wet and muddy cross country conditions in February, making the course tricky! All our pupils showed great tenacity and determination. Congratulations to the Minor Girls and Senior Girls for winning silver team medals and earning a spot in the Ulster Championships.



INTER SCHOOLS ATHLETICS FESTIVAL



Recently, a selection of Year 9 pupils competed in an Inter Schools athletics festival held at Youth Sport Omagh.

The weather was fabulous and the competition from all seven schools was even better! All our pupils performed superbly, and were delighted to be crowned champions with 114 points, just one point ahead of Drumragh and 3 points in front of CBS Omagh.

The plan is to run this athletics event annually, therefore we were so pleased to be the first winners of the beautiful shield and 1st place trophy!

Huge thanks to Youth Sport Omagh, Declan and coaches from Athletics NI, and Gary Wallace from CORE Kids for organising a great day!





Junior Results:

Well done to Drumragh captained by Ella Lyon's who were crowned champions after winning both their games. Strule were 2nd with 1 win and Camowen 3rd.

Senior Results:

Drumragh 4 Camowen 2
Strule 2 Drumragh 1
Camowen 0 Strule 3
Strule proved too strong on the day and were crowned champions!



WEST OF ULSTER LEAGUE CUP

After an extraordinary 25 years of dominance, Omagh Academy's hold on the prestigious West of Ulster League Cup came to an end at Campsie, as Foyle College emerged victorious in a fiercely contested final.

The match was a showcase of skill, resilience, and passion, with both teams delivering a spectacle for the fantastic crowd that turned out to support them. Captain Jazy McCaskie and Vice-Captain Daisy McCaffrey delivered heroic performances in their final game wearing Academy colours, leaving it all on the pitch and embodying the heart and spirit of the team. Every player on the squad contributed to a truly commendable effort, even if the final scoreline didn't reflect the balance of play.

While we congratulate Foyle College on their win, we can hold our heads high after an incredible display of grit and determination.

****Squad:****

Sophie Turner, Daisy McCaffrey, Bethany Todd, Zara Weir, Lucy Rennie, Jasmine Hamill, Rebecca Bradley, Sophie Hamilton, Kate Millar, Jazy McCaskie, Lily Armstrong, Jodie Elliott, Emily Irwin, Hannah Kilfedder.



NEAT PERFORMANCE TOURNAMENT

Well done to the U14s who made it to the final of the Neat Performance tournament at Campsie. We experienced all four seasons throughout the day but the enthusiasm never wavered.

Despite the conditions, the team enjoyed the final against Foyle, going into the lead from Poppy Briar's goal. Foyle equalised however, taking the game to penalty runs with the visitors winning 3-2!

Thank you to Neat Performance for organising!





OMAGH ACADEMY SHOWJUMPERS INTER SCHOOLS SHOW

The Omagh Academy Showjumpers' Inter Schools event at Necarne was a fantastic success. We were blessed with beautiful weather at the wonderful venue of Castle Irvine Necarne. All our teams and individual participants performed exceptionally well and should feel a great sense of pride!

A special shoutout to the Intermediate team consisting of Callie Cooke, Catherine Beattie, Stewart Beattie, and Jack Smith, who achieved an impressive 5th place with a total team score of zero.

The Open Team, featuring Zoe Keys, Zoe Smyth, Zara Smyth, and Ted Gibson, faced tough competition from Loreto Grammar Omagh and Assumption Grammar, who delivered clear jumps and fast times. However, thanks to their experience, outstanding riding, superb ponies and horses, and a lightning-fast anchor leg from Ted Gibson, the team secured 4 clear rounds and clinched 1st place by the narrowest margin – just 0.11 seconds faster than Assumption Grammar!

This victory qualifies them for the Bluegrass Horse Feeds Balmoral Show on May 17th, where they aim to defend the title they won last year!

Extra congratulations to Ted Gibson for winning the open individual competition with an impressive time on his pony, Flash!

Congratulations also to individual competitors Kym Milligan, Zara Smyth, and India Conlin!

Lastly, thank you to all our student volunteers whose contributions helped the show run seamlessly.

Main photo by Kyra Griffin Photography



FERMANAGH AND WESTERN SCHOOLS' CUP.



The U14s recently took part in the **Fermanagh and Western Schools' Cup**, with their first match against Sacred Heart College. The first half started very well, with our players controlling all aspects of the game and winning 1-0 until the last 5 minutes before half-time. Unfortunately, in the second half, tiredness and loss of concentration allowed Sacred Heart to get back into the game, and they scored two more goals that, despite our players' efforts, we could not overcome. Congratulations to Sacred Heart as they were the deserving winners. Later in March, the team played CBS. The team started really well, keeping possession and dominating the whole first half. The team reached half-time one goal up despite having several great chances that, unfortunately, their keeper stopped with some great saves. The second half started well again, but 5 minutes in, a lost ball reached their striker, leaving him alone in front of our keeper, who unfortunately could not stop it despite a great effort. This was undoubtedly the team's best performance to date!



NISFA SCHOOLS CUP



At the end of last term, the girls under 16 football team played in the second round of the NISFA Schools Cup. They faced Portadown College (last years winners) in Lurgan, and it was clear from the first whistle that it was going to be a huge challenge. The girls applied themselves really well, putting in a great shift hassling the opponents with a never give up attitude. In the end, Portadown were much too strong and ran out convincing winners. Well done to our girls for their commitment.

NISFA PLATE



The boys under 16 team played Castlederg High School in the 2nd round of the NISFA Plate. Omagh started really well, playing to their strengths, and went into the break 3-2 up. Castlederg were always dangerous and, in the second half, began to get a hold on the game as the Academy boys began to tire. Three quick goals after half time turned the game on its head and put Castlederg in the ascendancy, and, in the end, they ran out 10-3 winners. Well done to our boys, for a battling performance right to the end.

Congratulations to Kelly, who for the 2024 season, has been recognised both Regionally and Nationally by the Irish Pony Society for her partnership with her pony Castlemadden Eibhir (Freddy). At the National Awards at Killashea Hotel in Nass, Kelly was placed second in all Ireland for Ridden Mountain & Moorland, she also was place third in all Ireland in the Young Handlers aged 14 – 16 years. Kelly has also been recognised Regionally by the North Western Irish Pony Society at Corick House, for which she received joint first Ridden Mountain & Moorland Pony; Best Newcomer; Most Points Awarded to a Pony in the Season and also received another award for been recognised Nationally. Great achievements!



Congratulations to Year 8 student Catherine Beattie for her outstanding performance in the Triathlon held in Grantham. Representing Northern Ireland as part of the Minimus team, Catherine swam four lengths and achieved an impressive shooting score of 840. Additionally, she set a personal best in her running, completing the 1000m in just 4 minutes and 11 seconds, taking off 14 seconds from her best time during the winter series! This is a remarkable accomplishment to be selected and compete against the top athletes in the UK. Well done!

Well done to Daniel Beatty who won the Harry Cavan Youth Cup recently with Glentoran FC. They beat Linfield on penalties at the National Stadium after a 1-1 draw at full time! A wonderful achievement.



Congratulations to Year 12 pupil, James Egerton, on his 2024 motocross season.

James is the 2024 125cc Ulster Motocross Champion. With podium results every race, it gave him more than enough points to win the championship. James has been competing every weekend since March 2024 and has also been training weekly. This allowed him to perform to his best and achieve success in the Ulster Championship and also other motocross championships in Ireland. Well done! We all wish you continued success.

A QUESTION OF SPORT- HOUSE CHALLENGE!



Well done to the Sports Committee who organised the annual house challenge for the senior pupils at the end of last term.

This year we hosted 'A Question of Sport - house challenge'.

1st - Strule 2nd - Drumragh 3rd - Camowen

CONTACT



21-23 Dublin Road
Omagh
BT78 1HF



028 8224 2688



info@omaghacademy.omagh.ni.sch.uk

