

INTRODUCTION

Our Lady's is a Catholic Voluntary Grammar School under the Trusteeship of the Sisters of Mercy. Its aims are twofold:

- 1) to educate each pupil to her full potential*
- 2) to promote the Christian development of each pupil within the ethos of the catholic school*

In the implementation of these aims, the support and active co-operation of parents are strongly enlisted, thereby affirming the complementary roles of the home and the school. Efforts are also made to strengthen Church / community / school links and thus foster a sense of mutual co-operation and responsibility.

The Board of Governors

The school governors have overall responsibility for the management of the school while the principal is responsible for the day to day internal organisation, management and discipline. The Board of Governors is comprised of nominees of the Trustees and the Department of Education as well as an elected representative of parents and an elected teacher governor. The principal is correspondent to the Board. The term of office of the members is four years.

Appointed by the Trustees

Rev. Frances Boyle
Mrs. Eimear Cleland (*Deputy Chairperson*)
Sr Anna-Maria Crawford
Dr. David Gaw

Appointed by Department of Education

Mr. Tony Campbell
Mr. Patrick Larkin (*Chairperson*)
Mrs. Maire Murray

Elected Members

Teacher	Mr. Aaron Clements
Parent	Mrs. Eilish Mills

Principal and Correspondent to the Board

Ms. M. T. Geraldine Pettigrew

Since taking office in 2001 the present Board of Governors has worked closely with the principal in helping to implement the educational reforms and have kept themselves informed of current developments in educational policy. They have amended our admissions policy and applied it to prospective pupils; selected and promoted staff and overseen the school's finances; approved school policies.

In 2004 - 2005 the Board supported a significant expansion in the ICT facilities available to pupils and staff and has taken forward plans for a new state of the art Technology Building.

Personnel 2004 – 2005

Pupils

Number of pupils on roll: 860

Total days attended by all pupils expressed as a percentage of total possible days of attendance was 95%.

Teaching Staff

Mrs E Arthurs	Home Economics / Technology
Mrs F Barr	English
Mrs R Beattie	Biology / Double Award Science
Mr C Byrne	Technology
Mrs G Carty	Art / Religious Education / Geography
Mrs M Clarke	English / History / Religious Education
Mr A Clements	Classical Civilisation / History
Ms F Collins (N.K.I.F.H.E.)	Sociology
Mrs R Connor	Physical Education / Speech & Drama / Religious Educ.
Mrs L Cunningham	Business Studies / Economics
Mrs E Curley	Theatre Studies
Ms M Donaghy	Geography / Mathematics
Mrs P Eigenheer	Art / Religious Education
Mrs J Fitzsimons	Religious Education
Mrs G Gillespie	Chemistry / Double Award Science
Miss A Gilmore	Geography / Sociology
Miss J Gordon	Music / Religious Education
Mrs J Grant	Art & Design
Sr Y Hanna	Religious Education / History
Mrs A Hoey	Biology / General Science / Double Award Science
Mrs M Jennings	Biology / Double Award Science
Mrs V Kearney	History
Miss A Keenan	Religious Education
Miss M Kelly	English
Mrs A Kennedy	Spanish / French
Miss D Lappin	Mathematics
Mrs C Lavery	Music
Mr W Lavery	Physics / Double Award Science / General Science
Mrs T Leonard	Irish / Spanish
Mr T Mackin	Accounts
Miss R Malone	Irish
Mrs J Mason	Geography
Mrs F McAlinden	Mathematics
Mrs T McAllister	Irish / History / Religious Education
Miss M McArdle	Home Economics / Religious Education
Dr M McAstocker	Chemistry / Double Award Science / General Science
Miss C McAteer	Physical Education / Religious Education
Miss L McCann	English
Mr J McCaul (N.K.I.F.H.E.)	Sociology
Mrs A McClean	History / Rel. Educ. / Personal & Social Educ. / Geog
Mrs B McClory	Biology / Double Award Science / Junior Science

Mr P McElhinney	ICT
Mrs C McElroy	Mathematics
Mrs F McGowan	French / Religious Education
Ms E McIlduff	Religious Education
Mrs M McKenna	Spanish / French
Miss D Mulholland	General Science
Mrs E O'Brien	Mathematics / Careers
Mrs D O'Donnell	Mathematics / General Science / Double Award Science
Mr L O'Donnell	Geography
Mrs P O'Hare	Politics / History
Mrs M O'Kane	French / Geography
Mrs L Rowan	Mathematics
Mr S Sloan	Design & Technology
Miss R Smyth	Technology / Double Award Science / Physics
Mrs R Smyth	French / Music / ICT
Mrs H Tally	Home Economics / Technology
Mrs T Turley	English / Religious Education
Miss M Watters	ICT / Mathematics
Mrs E White	Irish / English / Careers

The teaching staff is aided and supported by the School Bursar and 24 members of the non-teaching staff who play vital roles in relation to the administration and the maintenance of the school, provide technical support to Departments and offer classroom assistance as required.

ORGANISATION AND MANAGEMENT

The Senior Management Team of the school consists of the principal, Ms. Geraldine Pettigrew, the two vice-principals, Mr. Louis O'Donnell, Mrs. Elizabeth O'Brien, and the three senior teachers, Mrs. Veronica Kearney (Head of Sixth Form), Ms Mary Donaghy (Head of Senior School) and Sr. Yvonne Hanna (Head of Junior School). It meets regularly to evaluate current practice, establish priorities, set goals and plan future action on the full range of school development issues, including

- 1) *pupil welfare and support*
- 2) *learning and teaching*
- 3) *the curriculum*
- 4) *assessment / reporting*
- 5) *school organisation*
- 6) *staff needs and development*

Heads of Year liaise closely with form teachers and class teachers regarding the general welfare of pupils and their academic progress.

Heads of Departments are responsible for the learning and teaching which takes place in their Departments and for all of the related management and administrative issues.

PARENTAL INVOLVEMENT

As parents you have the primary responsibility for the education of your children. This is a gradual and complex process which begins, but is not completed, in the home. You entrust your children to the school where teachers strive, with your support and co-operation, to assist your child to develop to her full potential. In Our Lady's School we have always tried to establish strong links between the school and the home.

Parents are involved in the life of the school in the following ways:

- *parent representation on the Board of Governors*
- *parent-teacher meetings - 6 were held last year*
- *home-school visits - the families of all first years were offered a home visit by their daughter's Form Teachers*
- *newsletters and circulars from the school to home*
- *parenting programmes are offered*
- *attendance at Masses, concerts, prize-giving etc.*
- *supporting school projects*
- *progress reports*
- *staff normally available last Wednesday of month - 3.30 - 4.30p.m. to meet parents and by appointment at other times*
- *helping with school retreats*
- *responding to questionnaires, consultation documents etc.*

The Parenting Programmes offered by the school give support to the parents and help them to improve both their communication and relationship with their children. The basic Parenting Programme is offered to parents of first and second year pupils. The Parent-Teen Programme is for parents of fourth year pupils. The Parenting & Sex and Prayer Programmes are open to all who have previously participated in the basic Parenting or Parent-Teen Programme. During the course of each programme the parents engage in discussion, listen to one another and to audio tapes of real life situations and try to work out ways of dealing with family difficulties.

Before the February half-term 2005 a Choices Conference was held in Our Lady's for our own S2 pupils and for pupils from local High Schools who were interested in applying for places in Sixth Form in Our Lady's.

Parents were invited to attend and those who did found it a most useful day.

Review of 2004 - 2005

THE CURRICULUM

The school interprets the curriculum as all those activities which are designed to promote the spiritual, moral, cultural, intellectual and physical development of the pupils and which prepare them for the opportunities, responsibilities and experiences of adult life. The pupil is the acknowledged centre of a holistic educative process.

KEY STAGE 3

During the first three years a broad and balanced curriculum was followed by all pupils. In accordance with the requirements of the Northern Ireland curriculum all pupils followed a curriculum which included Religious Education and the six areas of study. The cross-curricular themes were delivered through Religious Education and the core and contributory subjects. All Juniors now have a timetabled period of ICT in each year group. All J3 pupils have their Key Skills in ICT accredited by CCEA. All Junior 3 pupils took part in Heart Start Training at the end of the school year. The school piloted a Citizenship Programme with all J1 pupils.

KEY STAGE 4

In years 4 and 5 all students followed courses of study leading to GCSE. A minimum of 8 subjects was taken by all students; most took 10 including Religious Education and those subjects in which pupils are required to be assessed under Article 6(3) of the ERO(NI). Within the constraints of the Northern Ireland Curriculum, as much flexibility as possible was given to pupils to choose subjects for which they have an aptitude and which are necessary for their career choices. Students are offered Triple Award Science as well as Double Award Science. A tutorial period has been introduced in the Middle School. As in years 1 - 3, the cross-curricular themes were delivered through Religious Education and the core and contributory subjects.

SIXTH FORM

The new sixth form arrangements are now successfully in place and most pupils studied 4 AS level subjects, 3 or 4 A2 subjects and also studied Religious Education (exam or non-examination course). As Our Lady's is a Catholic school it is expected that children of Catholic parents will participate fully in the Religious Education programme and practice of the school. Students of other faiths can be exempted from religious study and worship at the request of parents.

A Higher Education Information Programme was arranged for the Lower Sixth; a week's work experience was also organised for the Lower Sixth. This helps to bridge the gap between school and the world of work and fosters very valuable life skills.

Throughout the two years of Sixth Form Career Guidance, on an individual and group basis, was given by the school's careers team and the Careers Service.

All Lower Sixth pupils participated in a Sixth Form Enrichment/Careers Sampling Programme organised in conjunction with Newry College of Further Education. Courses on offer in 2004 - 2005 included Art & Design; European Studies; First Aid; Health and Social Studies; Japanese Studies; Journalism; Law; Multi Media; NISTRO Project; Photography; Physical Education; Small Business Enterprise; Survival Cookery; Yoga.

Courses in Keyboard Skills, ECDL, Word Processing and Information & Communications Technology were also offered to all L6th pupils. A wide range of extra curricular activities was also experienced by Sixth Form students. These included: Life Skills, Co-operation North, Theatre and Drama events, Debates and Public Speaking, Physical Education. At all levels the curriculum was supported by field work, educational visits, talks from visiting speakers and participation in projects and competitions organised by the school and by other agencies.

Opportunities for retreats were also made available.

LIBRARY

In our spacious computerized library and audio-visual room individual study and research is facilitated in a quiet atmosphere. The library caters for regular class/group work.

Our stock is the most up-to-date available and consists of a wide variety of resource types - there are over 26,000 books, C.D. Rom disks, audio cassettes and C.D.s, videos, periodicals and newspapers. We have more than 26 books per pupil (DENI recommendation is 11 books)

The library is a first class multi-media facility.

STAFF DEVELOPMENT

Over the years staff have kept abreast of new developments in teaching. Most of this development was provided by the Southern Education and Library Board, the Regional Training Unit and CCEA and was delivered during Exceptional Closure Days and through subject related courses. Now that the curriculum changes are in place it was decided that it would be an opportunity to do some "in-house" staff training focusing on both personal and professional development.

Staff have completed their NOF (New Opportunities Fund) training in ICT and the school has been granted a certificate to mark this successful completion.

The School Behaviour Code was reviewed in the light of feedback from staff, pupils and parents.

Ongoing Key issues e.g. Child Protection continue to be addressed.

School Policies are updated on a regular basis.

PHYSICAL EDUCATION

SEPTEMBER

1st – 3rd Sept Orienteering in Killowen O.P. Centre GCSE Group

16th Sept S.E.LB. Junior Netball Trials 4 participants

23rd Sept S.E.LB. Intermediate Netball Trials 7 participants

13th Sept Start of L6th Enrichment course Trampolining

23rd Sept Dental Nurse -all 1st Years

Dance auditions for all 1st years

OCTOBER

12th October OLS play 1st game in Senior Camogie League against last Years winners St. Patricks Keady Lost by 2 goals

22nd Oct Senior Camogie v St Louis Monaghan Won by 5 goals

28th – 29th Oct Southern Sports Academy

8 pupils attended Gaelic
5 attended Netball
8 attended Camogie
3 attended Trampolining

NOVEMBER

8th November Won U16 Camogie Blitz hosted by OLS in Ballyholland
Our Lady's South Down Champions
9th November 40 Gymnasts perform in the EYES 2004 in The Waterfront
15th Nov Senior Camogie v St Catherine's Armagh
23rd November Newry & Mourne School's Cross Country Kilbroney Park with 13 schools participating.
Best Girls School Our Lady's with 51 points
Overall School Placings place
U13 Winner Fionnuala Loye
U13 3rd Place team
O15 Winner Aven O' Reilly
O15 Team Winners
1st (Aven O'Reilly, Francis Forbes Ann M Kane)
OLS Team B 4th
Team C 11th
Team D 12th
26th November Year 12 Netball Blitz 3rd place
27th Ulster Grammar Schools Swimming Championships
Our Lady's 3rd overall
Winner Shana Toner Butterfly
28th November 6 dancers participated in service in the Mercy Convent to celebrate the life of Catherine McAuley
30th November / 1st December Gymnastic Coach Mrs Judy Wootton coaching course.

DECEMBER

6th Dec U16 Camogie team beat St. Louis Kilkeel to become South Down Champions
14th December 39, mainly GCSE P.E pupils on visit to Croke Park Dublin

JANUARY

Inter Schools Championships Bangor
OLS won the U15 and U19 shield
8th Jan Secondary Schools Swimming
Shana Toner 1st Place in Butterfly. She will go forward to represent OLS in the ALL Ireland on 5th Feb
7th Place Butterfly Katie Kinkaid
7th Place Breast stroke Shannon Toner
24th Jan U15 Co Camogie Final OLS lost to St. Mary's Magherafelt
31st Jan OLS beat Ballynahinch in Co. Down Camogie Final
5. 3 to 3. 1
31st Jan Diversions Dance drama workshop in OLS

FEBRUARY

Ulster Schools Gymnastic Championships Newry
U13 Pair and Team qualified
U19 Pair and Team qualified
1st Feb Co Down Schools Gaelic football Final OLS V St. Columbans Kilkeel OLS winners

2nd Feb Districts Athletics Winners Ann M Kane and Fionnuala Loy
9th Feb Senior football OLS V Tyrone school Won
16th Feb Ann M Kane and Fionnuala Loy Cross Country in Mallusk
22nd Feb Year 11 Blitz OLS 3RD Place

MARCH

3rd March 2 senior students attend Sports Master Class organized by Young Enterprise N.I in the Europa Hotel Belfast
9th March All Star Camogie Trials in Ballyholland
8 Seniors attended 1 selected
23rd March Mary McPolin All Star Selection in Maghera

APRIL

6th April U14 Camogie Blitz Kilkeel
14th April G.C.S.E. P.E. Moderation
21st April 1st Year Swimming programme began
22nd April Newry Feis Dance/ Drama
26th April 1st Year Camogie Coaching in Ballyholland
27th April AGM Camogie
27th April Newry Feis OLS winners of 4 trophies plus the Most Memorable Performance Award

MAY

3rd May 1st Year Camogie Blitz OLS 2nd place – through to the Down Semi final against St Columbans Portaferry
3rd May Portadown Festival winners of 2 trophies
Niamh Reilly & Grace Flynn highest mark in Senior Duet
4th May Ulster Senior Camogie Semi Final OLS v Loretto Coleraine Lost by 2 points
6th May British School Gymnastics in Stoke on Trent
U13 Team Gold
U19 team Gold
U13 Pairs Gold
9th May Year 8 Netball Blitz OLS 3rd place
9th May Cross Country Mary Peters Track Ann Marie Kane qualified for the final in 3000 m and 3000m walk
11th May Cross country Aoife Sloan participated
12th May 21 4th years GCSE pupils participate in the Schools Orienteering Festival in Palace Stables Armagh
13th May Ann Marie Kane qualified for the All Ireland in 3000m and 3000m walk
13th May Ulster semi final U16 Camogie OLS V St. Catherine's Armagh Won 7- 4 to 2.2
U14 Gaelic Team v St Josephs Crossmaglen in Ulster final
16th May Ulster final U16 Camogie OLS V St. Patrick's Dungannon Lost by 2 points
Shana Toner selected to participate in the Ulster schools Training team in Tennerife in Oct – Nov
24th May Riona Morgan Year 10 winner of the Schools Orienteering Festival in Armagh
28th May Ann Marie Kane 4th place in the All Ireland 3000m walk.
25th May 1st years beat St Columba's Portaferry in the Down Semi Final

JUNE

17th June Motivation Conference for GCSE Pupils – 4 guest speakers
20 – 21st Netball Blitz J1, J2, & J3 Pupils

MUSIC

SEPTEMBER

A third choir – “CANTARE” – was established in the Music Department in September 2004. It was formed to make choral singing available to a greater number of students. The choir is responsible for the liturgical music within the school.

Vocal tuition was introduced to the Music Department.

The Chamber Orchestra – CAMERATA – provided the accompaniment and Cantare and the Junior Choir led the singing during the Mercy Day Mass.

On 15th September, one of the smaller ensembles in the department performed at a civic reception at Cloughrea Nursing Home, Newry.

OCTOBER

Final preparations were made for the introduction of music technology.

NOVEMBER

November 2004 saw the formal introduction of Music Technology in Our Lady’s. The Music Department can now boast of eight new computers, synthesizers and the most up to date music software, bringing the department up to the highest modern standards and adding a new and exciting dimension to the music curriculum. A special launch took place and involved Ms. Pettigrew, the Music Department staff, the Head of ICT and the ICT technicians, William Thompson (Dawson’s Education Manager and Equipment Supplier) and David Bevin (Dawson’s Education Advisor).

On 11th November, a number of students performed in the SELB Student Recital in Newry Music Centre.

On 21st November, Camerata provided the accompaniment and Cantare and the Junior Choir led the singing during the celebratory Mass.

The Music Department worked with the drama and dance departments to produce a special service in the Covent of Mercy Chapel on 28th November to celebrate the life and work of Catherine McAuley and the Sisters of Mercy in Newry.

DECEMBER

14th December – The senior members of Cantare gave a special performance of Christmas Carols and Christmas songs to the residents of Ardmaine Nursing Home in Newry.

16th December – The Senior Orchestra provided the accompaniment and Cantare, the Senior Choir and the Junior Choir led the singing for the annual Christmas Carol Service and Nativity Play.

JANUARY

The Senior Orchestra gave two performances during Open Night on 27th January. Within the Music Department, the Brass Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Senior String Quartet and the Traditional Group gave recitals while senior music students demonstrated the Music Technology equipment.

FEBRUARY

On 16th February, the Music Department hosted the Ulster Youth Choir workshop in the Southern Board area. Cantare and the Senior Choir attended.

On 24th February, Camerata had the great privilege of performing at an evening service in Dromantine College in the presence of Anglican Archbishops from across the world during their week-long conference.

MARCH

11th March – The Traditional Group were successful in progressing to the second round of the annual Gael Linn competition.

18th March – The organisers and adjudicators of the Gael Linn competition were so impressed by the Traditional Group that they were put forward for an interview and ten minute performance on Radio Ulster.

The Traditional Group and choirs provided music and singing during the Irish Department's St. Patrick's Day Mass. The Traditional Group also performed at the St. Patrick's Day concert during the afternoon.

APRIL

The annual music department concert took place on 19th April and included performances by the Senior Orchestra, Junior Orchestra, Camerata (Chamber Orchestra), Senior Choir, Junior Choir, Cantare (Liturgical Choir), Recorder Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble, Violin Quartet, Senior String Quartet, Intermediate String Quartet, Junior String Quartet, Brass Ensemble, Flute Quartet, Junior and Senior Harp Ensembles, the Traditional Group and a GCSE composition performance.

JUNE

A 12-member Flute Ensemble was formed with the assistance of one of our woodwind tutors – Mr. Darren Canmore.

A number of our music students were nominated for awards during the SELB Music Service Prize-Giving ceremony. Several students were subsequently awarded.

On Saturday 18th June, 120 students passed the Associated Board Theory of Music Examinations, Grades 1 – V. 69 students obtained distinction (10 of these were full marks – 100%); 32 obtained merit and 19 obtained a pass.

All music GCSE, AS and A2 students were highly successful in their examinations.

DRAMA

The after school drama clubs held on Monday and Wednesday continue to be popular with those pupils keen to improve on the skills learned in class.

One of the projects resulting from work done in the after school drama club, a one-act play "Arbeit Macht Frei" came first in the One Act Play section of the Newry Feis winning the Kevin P. Neary Memorial Cup. This group also achieved highest overall mark in the Feis and consequently were awarded the Newry Reporter Cup.

A number of pupils entered into the poetry speaking section of the Feis and were awarded medals.

A Year 11 student was awarded the May McHenry Shield for best actress.

First Year pupils rehearsed and performed the Nativity Play for the Carol Concert in December.

Strong links have been forged with outside agencies. J3 and Lower Sixth were involved in the “Happenstance” project with Tinderbox Theatre Company. The pupils showcased their devised pieces of theatre in front of other schools in Coalisland Theatre.

Replay Theatre Company presented an hour long piece of drama entitled “Fairytale Heart” to all S1 pupils. This thought-provoking piece of theatre dealt with growing up and was well received by the pupils.

Many of the drama students have become involved in public speaking. The girls participated in both the Business Professional Women’s competition and the Soroptomist Public Speaking Competition. For the second year running an Our Lady’s Lower Sixth pupil won the Newry and Mourne heat of the Soroptomist Public Speaking Competition and was one of the winning finalists in the Northern Ireland regional final securing for herself a four day visit to the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

First year pupils were involved in the One Night of Shakespeare project with the BBC. The girls performed ‘The Tempest’ at the Waterfront Hall, Belfast on the night of July 3rd. Thousands of schools across the U.K. did likewise: it was a very exciting experience for all concerned.

Theatre visits continue to be an integral part of the Drama in Our Lady’s. This year the girls visited a range of theatres from Belfast to Dublin. “Death of a Salesman”, “The Shaughran”, “A Doll’s House”, “The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui”, “John Bull’s other Island”, “The Threepenny Opera”, and “Ghosts” were just a sample of the plays seen this year.

The Drama department thanks the pupils and their parents for their continued support.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT AND EDUCATION FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

Education for Mutual Understanding, and the values and attitudes fostered through it, are at the centre of Our Lady’s school curriculum. EMU was delivered in content where appropriate, while other subject disciplines nurtured, in context, the personal and social development of the pupil.

Cross Community Contact, through for example, PE, Careers Education, Public Speaking and Drama, played a part in the experience of numerous students. Many excelled, including Our Lady’s Under 13 and Under 19 Gymnastics Team who, in their respective groups, took the coveted title of British Champions. Some Our Lady’s students, along with pupils from Banbridge Academy participated in Diversion workshops, professional dance experiences held in the Market Place Theatre, Armagh. Helen Donnelly, Lower Sixth, won the Soroptomist Public Speaking Competition and, as part of her prize, travelled to Strasbourg. Other cross community activities included attendance at the Inter School Life Conference, the Food Hygiene Conference and participation in World War Poetry Workshops. French students participated in Les Joutes Oratoires, a Northern Ireland inter-school debating competition, organised by NICILT. Again students engaged in the Dissolving Boundaries Programme, a cross border project aimed at fostering greater understanding and mutual respect. Under the guidance of Mrs Morgan, the Irish play ‘Taibhsi Loch Lein’, saw third year students perform on stage in Mullingar. Mrs Curley took both her As and A2 Drama students on many theatre visits to Belfast and Dublin and also had Replay Drama Company visit the school.

In September a History trip to the war graves of northern France probed, both historically and socially, very rewarding. Students also met current MEPs, Ms B deBrun and Ms ML McDonald, in the European Parliament in Strasbourg.

On July 11th Ms Lappin and Ms Keenan, accompanied by ten Lower Sixth pupils, went to Rosetti Special School in Iasi, Romania. Here they worked in a summer scheme helping disadvantaged young orphans. Prior to the trip each student fundraised in both her community and school. The total realised was £11,500. This project was under the auspices of Express Aid International, from whom each participant received a Keystone award. It is hoped that this link with the Romanian orphanage will be maintained.

New horizons were realised when Local and Global Citizenship officially became part of the first year curriculum. The core team were supported by the Form Teachers and this cascading, both of information and skills will, it is hoped, generate greater knowledge and interest in this new and challenging discipline.

The increased time made available for the delivery of PHSE facilitated greater use of outside agencies and speakers. Some of these were the N.I. Fire Service, PSNI, Women's Aid, SELB Drugs Education Team, Love for Life, Aware Defeat Depression and the NI Blood Transfusion Service.

The Camerata, under the direction of Mrs Lavery, played in Dromantine College for the Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams. The evening was a great success.

Students gave generously to many charities – Trocaire, Concern, the Romanian Shoebox Appeal, Macmillan Coffee Morning, St Vincent de Paul Society and the Christmas Hamper Appeal. That same spirit of generosity was reflected in the commitment of Lower Sixth students to the children of the Diagnostic Unit in St Joseph's Primary School, where they participated in Art and Water Therapy Programmes.

As part of an ongoing SELB organised exchange, Our Lady's students and Mrs Leonard visited Granada. This hospitality was reciprocated when the Spanish students visited Newry in September. Once again, students from various year groups attended many different Irish Colleges in the Donegal Gaeltacht.

As part of the Engineering Education Scheme and under the direction of Ms Smyth, four students participated in a three-day residential. The project was undertaken in association with Glen Electric. Students also took part in the Physics Challenge.

Mathematics students entered the Mathematiques Sans Frontieres Competition, a team experience demanding the initial pupil response in a foreign language. Students also participated in the Senior and Junior Mathematics Challenges while Year Eight really enjoyed Number Day, sponsored by the NSPCC.

Lower Sixth Politics and French students attended the European Youth Parliament Competition held in the Market Place Theatre, Armagh. Sixth other Politics students participated in the Model United Nations General Assembly.

Liaison with our feeder primary schools continues to promote good communication and greater understanding. The optional home visits undertaken for first year students by the Home School Liaison Team foster good home-school dialogue and co-operation. Lower Sixth involvement in the school bank, the school magazine and the Belfast Telegraph Competition encouraged co-operation and forged effective links with the local community. Our Religious Education, Pastoral Care, and Personal Social and Health Education Programmes serve to foster and encourage understanding and good relationships among pupils and between pupils and staff.

We are appreciative of the continued support and co-operation afforded by parents, especially in their attendance at Prize Giving, Open Night and, of course, the Parent Teacher Meetings.

Safety and Security

The safety and security of all who are on the Our Lady's campus continues to be a key concern of the Board of Governors.

During 2004 – 2005 the following measures were put in place to complement existing structures and procedures:

- installation of CCTV cameras at key points around the school building
- monitoring of the pictures from these cameras during the school day by Reception staff
- access to the school building only via the main Reception Desk once the school day begins.

In addition, whole staff training upon Fire Safety took place and certificated First Aid Training was undertaken by a number of the teaching and non-teaching staff. Several teachers and technicians were also trained to deliver the Heart Start Programme to students.

EXAMINATION DETAILS

SCHOOL YEAR 2004 - 2005

The Board of Governors is very conscious of the large number of changes in the curriculum in recent years, and of the burden of assessment, which have placed great pressure on teachers. They recognise the excellent work the teachers have done in implementing these changes while at the same time achieving first class academic results. The Board congratulates all pupils upon their achievements in the public examinations of 2005.

Syllabuses

The following syllabuses were followed by pupils leading to GCSE and GCE A' Level.

General Certificate of Secondary Education

CCEA

Additional Mathematics
Art
Biology
Business Studies
Chemistry
Double Award Science
English
English Literature
French
Geography
History
Home Economics
Irish
Mathematics
Music
Physics
Spanish

AQA

Religious Studies

General Certificate of Education

Advanced Level

CCEA

Art
Biology
Economics
English Literature
French
Geography
History
Home Economics
Irish
Music
Physics
Politics
Spanish

Edexcel

Classical Civilisation
Mathematics
Religious Studies
Technology

AQA

Chemistry
Physics
Sociology

OCR

Accounts

Syllabuses followed for other courses leading to awards

OCR

Computer Literacy and Information Technology

Associated Board of the Royal Schools of Music

Theory of Music

EXAMINATION RESULTS

GCSE YEAR 12

Number in Year 12 (on 31st October 2004)

122

24 girls obtained 8, 9 or 10 A*/A Grades

43% of all subjects taken were awarded A*/A Grades.

GCSE RESULTS

Subject	Number Entered	Percentage of pupils entered achieving grades							
		A*	A	B	C	D	E	F	U
Additional Maths	27	30	26	33	11	-	-	-	-
Art	39	21	26	39	10	-	2	-	2
Biology	8	50	50	-	-	-	-	-	-
Business Studies	52	6	29	36	21	2	6	-	-
Chemistry	8	13	62	25	-	-	-	-	-
Design & Tech.	11	-	27	64	9	-	-	-	-
Double Award Sc	226	4	13	39	42	-	1	-	1
English Language	122	7	43	40	8	2	-	-	-
English Literature	122	5	33	41	16	4	-	-	1
French	77	18	26	33	13	8	1	1	-
Geography	43	14	40	33	11	2	-	-	-
History	65	12	40	32	16	-	-	-	-
Home Economics	39	10	26	51	13	-	-	-	-
Irish	41	12	25	29	27	7	-	-	-
Mathematics	122	8	31	43	16	2	-	-	-
Music	7	14	43	29	14	-	-	-	-
PE	15	27	60	7	-	6	-	-	-
Physics	8	12.5	25	62.5	-	-	-	-	-
Religious Education	121	38	37	17	4	1	3	-	-
Spanish	24	25	25	13	33	4	-	-	-

Performance in Public Examinations (School figures compared to N. Ireland Grammar School average)

Performance Indicator	2002/03		2003/04		2004/05	
	School	NI Gr Av	School	NI Gr Av	School	NI Gr Av
% Achieving 5+ GCSEs at Grades A*-C (or equivalent)	97	96	98	96	98	*
% Achieving 7+ GCSEs at Grades A*-C (or equivalent)	95	91	97	91	97	*

* Information not yet available from DENI

A' LEVEL YEAR 14

Number of Pupils in Years 13 & 14 on 31st October 2004 245

Number of Pupils in Final Year of A' Level Course 126

37 girls obtained 3, 4 or 5 A Grades.

75% of all subjects taken were awarded Grade A or B.

A' LEVEL RESULTS BY SUBJECT

Subject	Number Entered	Percentage of pupils entered achieving grades					
		A	B	C	D	E	U
Accounts	27	52	26	18	4	-	-
Art	12	33	50	17	-	-	-
Biology	49	59	23	16	2	-	-
Business Studies	9	44	44	12	-	-	-
Chemistry	16	37.5	37.5	25	-	-	-
Classical Civilisation	20	40	35	10	5	10	-
Design & Technology	8	12.5	12.5	62.5	12.5	-	-
Drama	14	43	21	29	7	-	-
English	42	38	29	29	4	-	-
French	16	69	12	19	-	-	-
Geography	29	73	24	3	-	-	-
History	21	57	5	38	-	-	-
Home Economics	12	8	17	67	8	-	-
ICT	12	34	50	8	8	-	-
Irish	6	67	33	-	-	-	-
Mathematics	23	65	31	4	-	-	-
Music	5	60	-	20	20	-	-
Physics	6	50	17	17	16	-	-
Politics	11	27	46	18	9	-	-
Religious Studies	21	38	33	14	5	10	-
Sociology	33	49	18	30	3	-	-
Spanish	3	100	-	-	-	-	-

Performance in Public Examinations (School figures compared to N. Ireland Grammar School average)

Performance Indicator	2002/03		2003/04		2004/05	
	School	NI Gr Av	School	NI Gr Av	School	NI Gr Av
% Achieving 3+ A Levels at Grades A-C (or equivalent)	78	64	88	69	87	*
% Achieving 2+ A Levels at Grades A-E (or equivalent)	100	98	100	99	100	*

* Information not yet available from DENI

EXAMINATIONS TAKEN OTHER THAN GCSE AND A' LEVEL

Examinations taken	Number Entered	Percentage achieving success
RSA Computer Literacy and Information Technology (CLAIT) and Associated Board Theory of Music	122	100%

KS3 EXAMINATION RESULTS

		% Achieving Level 5 or above		% Achieving Level 6 or above	
English	Teacher Assd. Test	100%	(75.6%)	95.7%	(48.9%)
		100%	(76.5%)	96.6%	(45.7%)
Maths	Teacher Assd. Test	100%	(73.1%)	95.7%	(49.2%)
		100%	(69.9%)	94.9%	(45.4%)
Science	Teacher Assd. Test	100%	(73.1%)	94.9%	(46.8%)
		100%	(68.5%)	88.0%	(44.5%)

Figures in **bold type** are for Our Lady's Grammar School

Figures in *(brackets)* are the equivalent Northern Ireland average figures.

KS3 ICT RESULTS

117 pupils entered for examination.

100% of pupils obtained Level 6 or above.

72% of pupils obtained Level 7

28% of pupils obtained Level 6

DESTINATION OF SCHOOL LEAVERS 2004 - 2005

Total number of leavers 142

	Post GCSE	Post A Level
Number of leavers	15	125
Percentage of these who entered Higher Education	N/A	98%
Percentage of these who entered Further Education	73%	1%
Percentage of these who transferred to another School	20%	N/A
Percentage of these who took up full-time employment	7%	1%
Percentage of these on long-term sick	N/A	N/A

Financial Report 1 April 2004 to 31 March 2005

Revenue Account

<u>Income</u>	£
Budget Share	3,177,499
Other Income	60,641
Total	3,238,140
<u>Expenditure</u>	£
Teaching Staff Costs	2,349,803
Non Teaching Staff Costs	453,209
Other Operating Costs	497,436

School Capital Account

<u>Income</u>	£
Department Grants Closing Balance	5,199,660
<u>Expenditure</u>	£
New School Cost Less Depreciation	6,095,706
Deficit carried forward to 2002/2003	431,637

The Board of Governors wishes to place on record its thanks to all those who have helped to raise funds for the school and hopes for continued support in the future.