

School News



Hats off to another successful year at Abbey Community College!

Welcome to our summer magazine which gives a flavour of life during the Spring and Summer terms at the College and features our photogenic students from the youngest in Year 8 to the eldest in Year 14.

Believe

Achieve

Succeed

Open Night



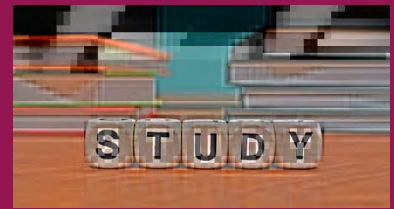
It was a delight to welcome over 1000 prospective pupils, parents and friends to our school in January to see all that we have to offer. Among the many and varied activities available, the friendly and helpful students showed themselves to be our greatest asset.





New Year Resolutions? 2019

Year 12 students (and some Year 11s) began the year early with study classes in English and Mathematics to prepare for their GCSE examinations.



Anti-Bullying Ambassadors

Representative students from all Year groups in the College successfully began their Anti-Bullying Ambassador Training in February



During January all students were involved in Action Mental Health Workshops in Resilience Training. A huge thank you to the facilitators of these sessions who continue to work closely with the College.



Another guest at the College was Deborah Colville from Belfast City Council who joined Mtech Academy students to look at the work they have done on their #smartcity project.



Thank you to Mrs Verner who organised a very successful Book Fair during February. Students were able to browse the stalls and purchase books during their English lessons and at lunchtime.

THRiVE



The THRiVE “WE CAN” campaign was launched at the college in

THRiVE is a network of parents, schools, statutory, voluntary and community organisations all working together to help children in Rathcoole and Monkstown realise their dreams.

At the launch event, THRiVE Coordinator, Barnardos' Claire Humphrey, said: “THRiVE is a fantastic example of what’s possible when people and organisations collaborate to tackle educational under-achievement.”

Abbey Community College student and Deputy Head Girl Courtney Cooper is a key ambassador.

The 17-year-old’s story was unveiled at the launch attended by boxing champ Carl Frampton. Courtney told how she overcame a troubled childhood to win a place at university with the help from Monkstown Boxing Club.

“I had a troubled childhood but I succeeded through boxing,” she explained. “My mentor Amy helped me on a personal level because she was also from Monkstown and all around you there was just support.”

Courtney said university never crossed her mind until she took part in the programme and now she plans to study Criminology in Cumbria next year.

“It really changed my mind,” she added.

“What I have learned from my journey so far is that ‘WE CAN’ do better together.

“Look at me, I came from a small estate and now I’m thriving.”

Boxer Carl Frampton would agree, he told children at the ‘WE CAN’ launch that the key to success is never giving up, after trying his hand at solving a Rubix cube in 4 seconds, smashing dance move ‘the floss’ and reading from a book in Polish

Hilary Johnston, Health and Social Wellbeing Improvement Manager at the Public Health Agency and THRiVE chair, said: “The ‘WE CAN’ campaign is part of the THRiVE plan, to create an energy and buzz in the local area that together, children, young people and parents can achieve, learn, be healthy and be connected with each other.”



Love is in the Air

The Sixth Form were busy in February organising a variety of special fundraising events in support of their chosen charity "AWARE NI"



Students were able to buy a romantic red rose which was delivered to their true love on Valentine's Day.



To add to this sum, the Sixth Form also organised a non-uniform day on Friday 15th February. Thanks to Georgina Walker, Year 8, who designed the poster promoting this event.

Valentine Bun Sale



If you had forgotten to buy your Valentine a card, you could always treat them (or treat yourself) to a wee bun. The Valentine Bake Sale raised over £200 for "Aware NI"



Shrove Tuesday



Year 8 students enjoying a "Reading Hub" during an English Department trip to Stranmillis College.



Year 8 students had so much fun making pancake that the Sixth Form insisted on joining in!



Congratulations to Year 10 boys who won the NEBSSA indoor football tournament, defeating Ballyclare Secondary in the semi-final & Coleraine Grammar in the final.

Well Done Lads!



mTech Academy



Year 10 students take part in the World Mobile Congress in Barcelona

The holistic MTech.Academy programme provides a project-based, technology-centric curriculum that addresses the specific requirements of students preparing them for new opportunities in the digital world.

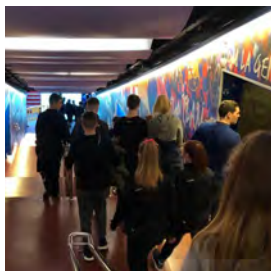
A group of Year 10 students from Abbey Community College worked with the mTech Academy to gain greater

understanding of leading-edge technology and build awareness of exciting career opportunities in STEAM. They achieved this through 10 teaching sessions, the Smart Cities Challenge and communication & media training.

This group of students were among 100 young people, drawn from 9 other Northern Ireland schools who attended the World

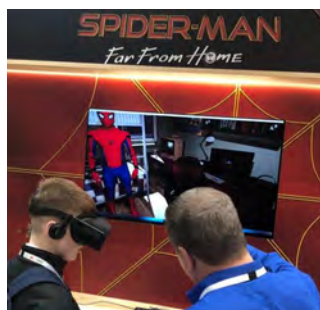
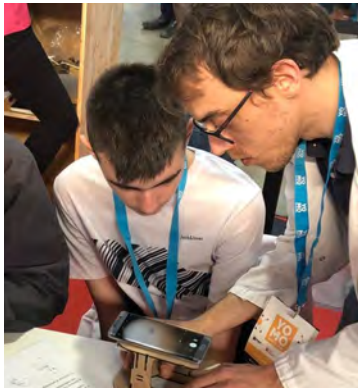
Mobile Congress in Barcelona. Opened by the King of Spain, this year, the theme of the event was 'Intelligent Connectivity'

Our students represented both the College and Northern Ireland at the event where in front of leading experts from a variety of fields, they presented their pitch for "Smart Cities"



King Felipe VI of Spain opening the conference; Students visiting Camp Nou the home stadium of FC Barcelona and Andrew Fulton from Dawson Andrews giving the students an insight into the digital world.





Students exploring the World Mobile Congress and Olympia & Stephen making their presentation to delegates.



Careers

Well done to our Year 12 students who took part in a very successful Interview Skills Day. You impressed so many of our local employers.

We would like to thank Tony Madden (Regional Manager of Career Ready) and all the employers from PwC, Citi Bank, NIE, Army, Henderson, Bombardier, Antrim and Newtownabbey Council, HMRC, PA Consultancy, Danske Bank & Brian Butler, who made it such an excellent experience for our students



Year 11 students chat to local employers and career specialists at the Antrim & Newtownabbey Borough Council Jobs Fair





Familiar Faces

Katie (Head Girl 2016/17) and Scott visit to chat to Sixth Year students about student finance and their journey since leaving.

Katie is now in her second year at Stranmillis University College studying BSc Health, Physical Activity and Sport. Scott has completed a Personal Training and Fitness instructor course and is currently at Belfast Metropolitan College studying a Foundation Degree in Property Planning and Housing.

Career Opportunities at PwC

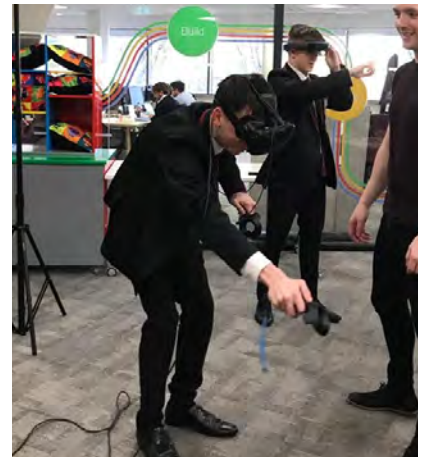


Abbey students enjoyed an afternoon at PwC where they got an insight into the career opportunities available. Thanks to Hannah for making it an informative and interesting afternoon.

Alex is Career Ready!

Congratulations to Alex who has been successful in gaining a prestigious summer internship with Citi Bank through the Career Ready Programme.

See here with Tony Madden the Regional Manager and Anne Spackman the CEO of Career Ready.



Hive Academy

Yr10 Students took part in the PwC's Hive Academy, promoting STEM subjects in schools.

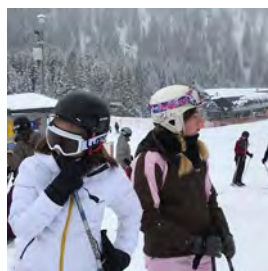
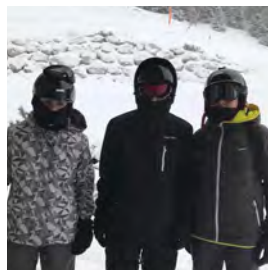
Over 4 days the group worked as a team to create, develop and finally pitch their ideas to a panel of experts.

Well done to all involved!



Ski Trip





Well done

We are always delighted to share and celebrate the achievements of our students.

It is fantastic to see young people enthusiastically taking hold of the many and varied opportunities they encounter.

On this page alone students are achieving in the fields of drama, dance, volunteering and basketball among many others.

Alisha



Congratulations to Alisha who won a gold medal in Basketball with the Carrickfergus Chargers at the Ulster Special Olympics at the Antrim Forum.

Lara

Well Done Lara who collected both medals and trophies in her first Irish Dance Competition with the Jordan Academy in Dublin.



Courtney



Congratulations to Courtney, who was shortlisted for the Community Champion Award with PSNI Antrim & Newtownabbey.



Well done to these Year 14 students as they are awarded "Heading for Healthy Relationships" Certificates, as part of the Woman's Aid programme.



Abbey's Drama Troupe perform at Mossley Mill in an Issues Based Production funded by the NI Arts Council



STUDENT EXCHANGE

Kelsie has been selected for the Antrim & Newtownabbey Student Exchange Programme in Arizona, USA. She was awarded the prestigious prize after applications and interviews against many other students from local schools in the area. Well done and good luck Kelsie.



Congratulations to Craig who won the Volunteer Award at the Policing and Community Safety Partnership for his work at the Monkstown Boxing Club with young people.

TITANIC ADVENTURE



A TRAVEL & TOURISM / HOSPITALITY TRIP TO THE TITANIC QUARTER

Year 11 students headed off on an educational adventure to the Titanic Quarter in March.

The Hospitality students began with a visit to the kitchens of the AC Marriott Hotel on the banks of the River Lagan. They then walked to the Titanic building where they enjoyed a hospitality themed seminar. After lunch they visited the facilities at the SSE Arena before returning to school.

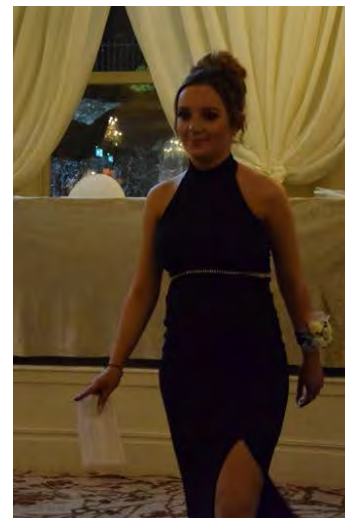
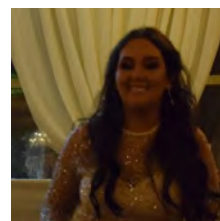
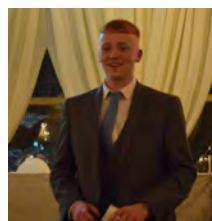
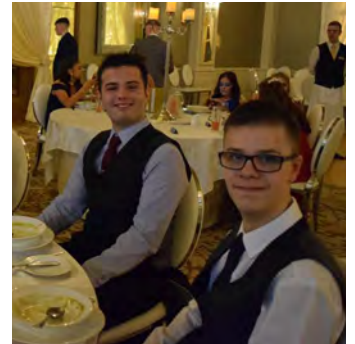
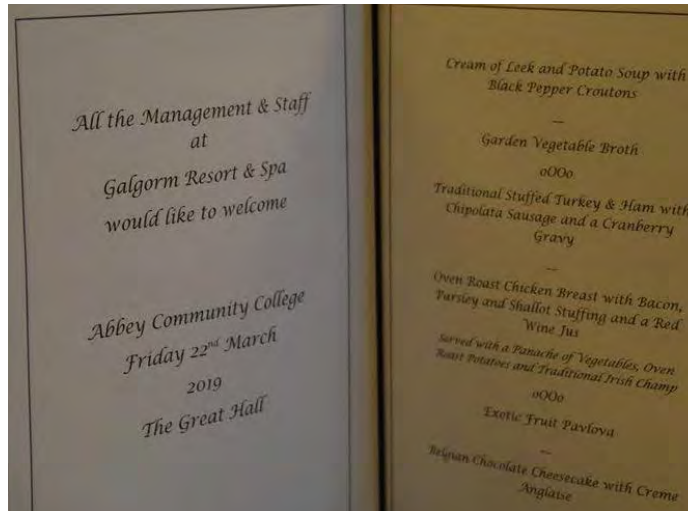
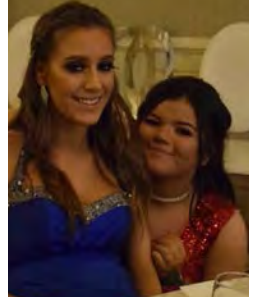
The Travel & Tourism group began with a "White Star to Five Star" seminar focussing on delivering exceptional customer service at the Titanic Experience.

Students then enjoyed the museum and the river walk as they crossed the Lagan Weir and met "The Big Fish" before enjoying a tour of the luxurious AC Marriott hotel.

They ended their afternoon with some refreshments kindly provided by the hotel in the Novelli restaurant with it's spectacular views across the river.



Year 12 Formal





Eggstra - Special Year 13 Health & Social Care Students organised the collection of 351 Easter Eggs and non-chocolate gifts for the Northern Ireland Children's Hospice.
A huge "THANK YOU" to everyone who donated

EASTER FUN AT ABBEY



Year 10 students with their gorgeous Easter Bunny cakes (above) and Morgan presenting Mr Brock (right) with his prize. Mr Brock (Head of Mathematics) won the "Guess how many mini eggs" competition - is this a coincidence or simply excellent staffing?



SMASHED

Colinwood Learning group presented Year 9 with a performance and workshops on social responsibility as part of their alcohol awareness programme.



Travel to the Past



Travel & Tourism students visit the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum

As part of the BTEC Level 2 Certificate in Travel & Tourism, students are required to plan, organise and attend a trip. Thus a small group of students headed to the Ulster Folk and Transport Museum at Cultra in early May.

Students spent the morning exploring the folk park and finding

out how people lived 100 years ago.

After lunch we moved on to the transport galleries where, in addition to seeing the changes in transportation over the centuries, they were also able to view the pod which returned British

astronaut Tim Peake from the International Space Station.

The purpose of this visit were to identify examples of excellent customer service, to work together and to have an enjoyable trip. Following a visit to the Victorian sweet shop all objectives had been met.





CONGRATULATIONS



Sixth Form students presenting Lesley from AWARE NI with a cheque for £1000. This impressive sum was from various college fund raising events from October. A massive thank-you to all the Sixth Form Students who planned or took part in any way and to Mrs Weeks and Mrs Fulton for organising and facilitating these worthy and record breaking events.



Lucie had great success at the Ballycastle Irish Dancing Feis. Well Done!



Well Done to Jourdan Shearer who was selected to play on the Dundee United Development Squad last week against Liverpool Academy in Liverpool.



History students with some of the amazing castles they created.

Year 11 Hospitality Class... on their trip to CAFRE College's Open Day



Crues - by Jordan Robinson

Red, black, white, red; the colours of my team,
Saturday three o'clock, the whistle blows.
Out of my seat, the team chasing a dream,
Drawing 2 each, the half-time whistle goes.
Half time drink and burger, nerves in my throat,
Need another goal, this is a must win.
Shivering in the stands, should have brought a coat!
Owens hits the onion-bag, makes me grin!
Three points ahead, sitting top of the heap,
Two games to go before the league is ours,
If we lose it now, fans are going to weep,
Tears of disappointment falling like showers.
Come on lads, beat the scummy blues because
We are north Belfast's mighty Crues!

Stormy - by Laura O'Neill

Crackling cinders as the wood logs burn,
The smell of burning peat fills the whole room.
Who can get the closest? We each get a turn,
Each wrapped in blankets, our own small cocoon!
The weather outside is cold and dreary,
Booms and bangs of thunder fill the night sky
We all tried our best to be so cheery,
All glad to be inside and dry!
Looking out and fearing what might be
Drawing on the glass - happy to be warm
As the water rises, wind moves the trees,
Lucky to be inside during this storm!
Calm will resume when tomorrow breaks dawn
Fear will be forgotten with a yawn!

Sixth Form Sonnets

Giants - by Lauren Verner

At seven sharp, the countdown begins.
The arena falls dark, the music blares,
The crowd falls silent as my patience thins.
Our eyes fall to the ice with burning stares.
After the shaking of hands, they make their way
To centre ice, their sticks in hand, nerves steeled.
The puck is dropped, commencing play.
Their blades flash in the light as we keep our eyes peeled.
There are pelts of laughter, cheering and songs
As the newbies behind me try to keep up.
I've been here before, and I sing along
As our team fights their way to the Challenge Cup.
We may face defeat, but we're never compliant.
For this is Belfast, and we are the Giants.

I Can't Write Sonnets - by Courtney Dawn Campbell

There is no way I can write a sonnet,
Respect to John Keats, Wordsworth and Shelley.
I'm impressed, you guys were really on it,
But to be honest I'd rather watch telly.
Been sitting for hours, a pencil in hand
With nothing but rubbery remains in my view.
The last line was not in ten syllables, I'll be damned,
Neither was that line, what a huge taboo.
To Keats I owe a big apology
For making fun of you, poetry is hard.
You write your odes and sonnets flawlessly
Like pretty verses on a Christmas card.
I've left this poem not becoming a poet,
But hey, at least I wrote a sonnet!

Where do you see yourself in the future?

By Cara Jackson - Year 12

How many of you were asked when you were little, "Where do you see yourself in the future?" Each time I was asked I always responded with the same answer... I said that I would be driving the newest jet black Range Rover with the brand new alloy wheels, that I would own the biggest house in the middle of nowhere with a bright red door and a garden the size of a football pitch. Although that's what 8-year old me wanted, 7 years later I can imagine myself heading in a whole different direction.

As a 15-year old girl I've struggled on choosing a solid career path. Recently I had taken some time to think and I have decided that in ten year's time I would like to see myself working hard to achieve all the qualifications I need to be a child psychologist. The reason I have taken quite an interest in this role is because there are so many children out there facing problems that they have to go through alone every day, but if I put in the hard work and dedication, I know I can make a difference.

Dan Wilcox once said "I don't care how poor a man is, if he has family, he's rich." Think about that for a minute...where would you be without your family? the thing is, many people aren't aware that their family are the people that make them who they are today. I've been told once before that family is your first and longest teacher in life and I hope in years to come that I still keep in touch with mine and to hopefully have started one of my own. In ten year's time I can see myself preparing a warm Sunday dinner while the little ones get excited to have a quiet movie night. To tell the truth, I never really wanted kids but I've always wondered what it would be like to be responsible for the look of joy and excitement on their faces when you walk into day care after a stressful day at work. In my opinion being a mother will give me the motivation to build a better life for my future family and I.

By the time I'm 25, I won't have the best house and maybe I won't have the best car either and I'm okay with that. You see, if I'm happy and I have the people I need, I don't really care what I have and it's simply because I don't want to be judged based on what I have, I want to be judged because of who I am.

Ten years from now, I see a better, more optimistic version of myself. I see someone who is learning to love and let go, yet I also see someone so hard working and motivated. The truth is, you're never going to gain anything in life unless you work for it. In ten years will you be able to tell me what you've worked for?

Year 8 Achievements



Year 8 students celebrated their success in an Awards Assembly. Mrs Quinn presented certificates to the ten students who had earned most achievement points.



The Junior Basketball Team come out on top of the NEBSSA Basketball Tournament. Congratulations to all!



Year 14 students and staff travelled back to the 1980s together as they celebrated the end of era at Abbey Community College. Following a 'pot luck' lunch provided by the staff, the Year 14s enjoyed a special movie, featuring staff, students and starring a most convincing Freddie Mercury impersonator. With Mrs Quinn and Mrs Fulton wishing the students the very best for their futures, it was time to R.E.L.A.X together and enjoy the afternoon.



Sixth Form Leavers Lunch



out & about

Visiting the Culloden Hotel and Mount Stewart

Year 13 Travel & Tourism students were able to explore some tourism organisations at the beginning of May.

Their first stop was to look at an accommodation provider. The luxurious Culloden hotel and all of its facilities were revealed by Cheryl and Jenny who work for the Hastings group. They were able to show the students a range of rooms in

the hotel, from delightful double rooms to palatial suites in addition to the many conference and business facilities also available. This tour provided both an insight into how a hotel functions, customer service secrets and lots of information about the kinds of careers available in this sector of the industry.

The students then moved on to explore a heritage visitor attraction at the National Trust property of Mount Stewart where they were able to tour the house and appreciate the facilities available including the second hand bookstore, gift shop and cafe.





A pizza partying

We celebrated the end of Year 12 exams with a special movie of their time at Abbey and a Pizza party.



Microsoft Workshops



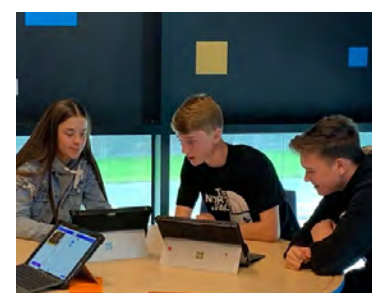
Continuing their MTech journey, Year 10 students travel to Dublin to take part in Microsoft workshops.



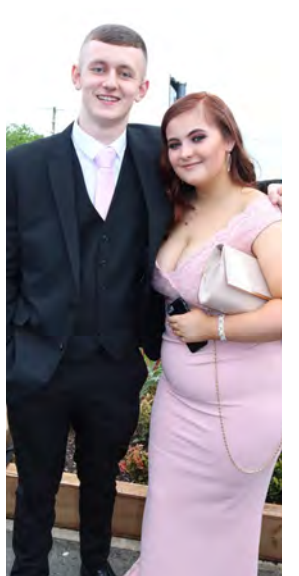
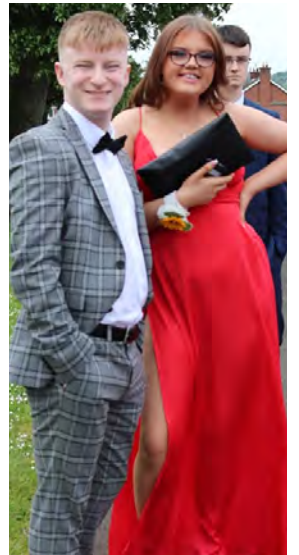
Congratulations Katie

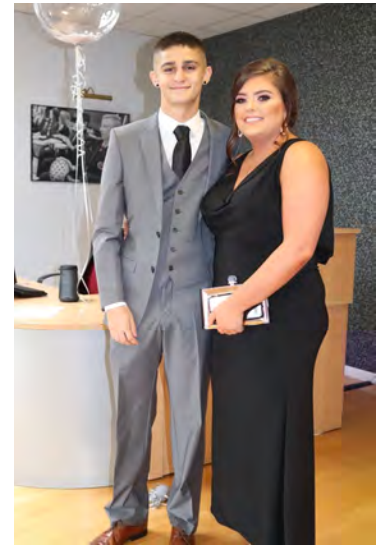


on receipt of a Rotary Club award which is "Awarded for that exemplary conduct & unselfish service in school life which expresses the ideal upon which the objects of Rotary in the wider spheres of Business, Community and International life are based."



Sixth Form Formal





Farewell Year 14

