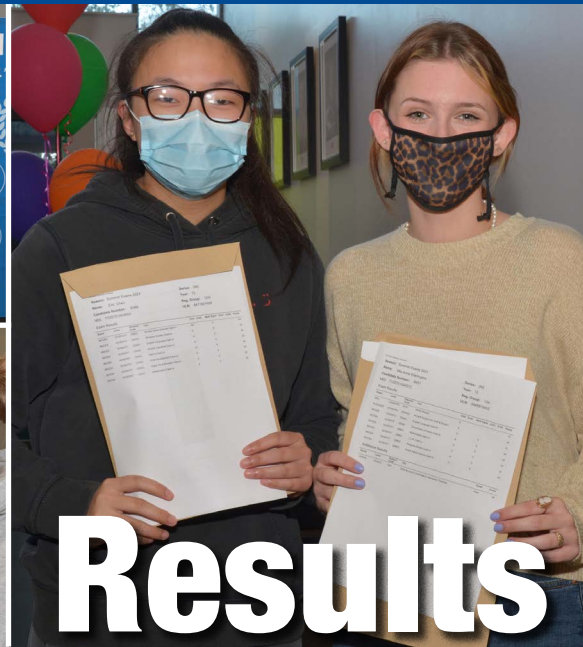




Newsletter



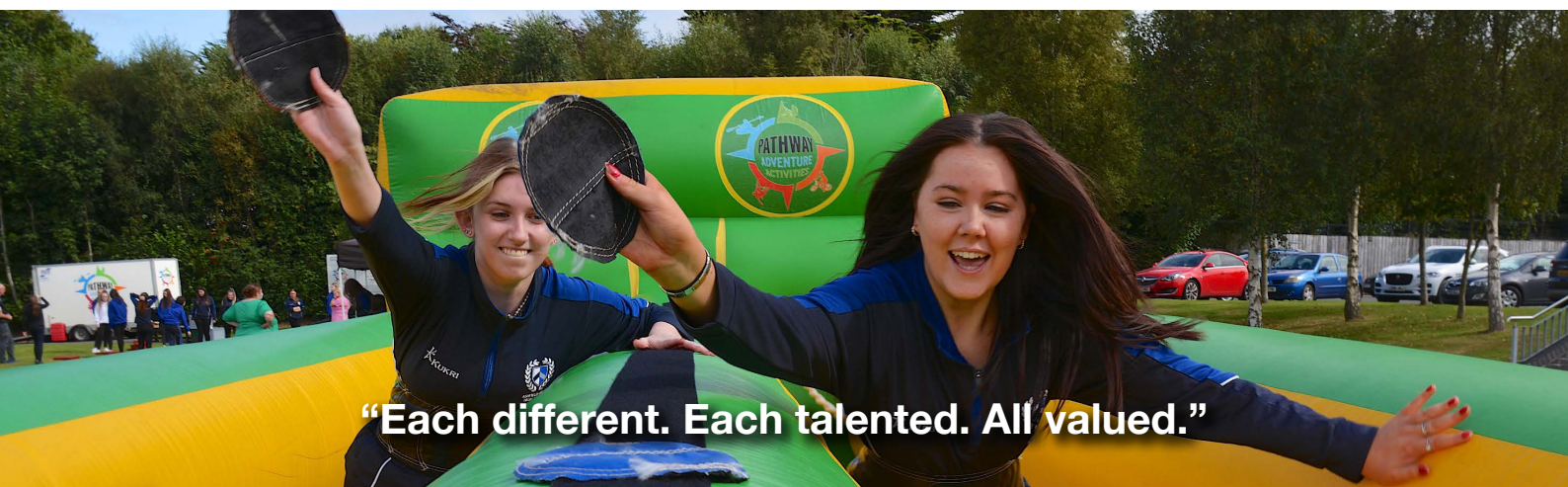
Results

Congratulations to our Year 12 and Year 14 students on their outstanding results. Our students have displayed high levels of academic resilience in how they approached their assessment, while showing determination through lockdowns and courage in returning to face-to-face teaching. It was not easy and we are incredibly proud of their engagement with online learning, their ability to become more independent learners, their agility to manage the ever-changing assessment requirements and their drive for success.

We are delighted at the outstanding results achieved by our Year 12s; with 86.7% achieving five GCSE (or equivalent) A* - C grades and 97.1% achieving five GCSE (or equivalent) A* - E grades. Year 12 students have transitioned well into our Sixth Form, other further educational providers, apprenticeships or employment. We are proud to welcome 60 Year 12 students back into our growing Sixth Form.

The fantastic results achieved by our Year 14s, with 72.3% achieving three GCE (or equivalent) A* - C grades and 95.7% achieving three GCE (or equivalent) A* - E grade, provided endless joy on results day. We have approximately 65% of our Year 14 students progressing to university and 35% moving on to further or higher education, apprenticeships or employment. There are clear and well walked pathways to success at Ashfield Girls' High School.

Below: Year 13 enjoying the re-introduction of the extensive induction programme that supports the transition from Year 12 into Year 13.



"Each different. Each talented. All valued."

New Beginings and Letters to the Principal



Daisy York 8S



Ribh Pearson 8T



Chloe Anderson 8H

When I started Ashfield, I was very nervous because it was something different. A bigger school with new people. I didn't know what to expect. I have met a lot of really nice people and the teachers are great. I have joined Cook-e Club and have made some delicious dishes. I am really enjoying Ashfield and my first term has been great.

At first I was very scared coming into the new environment, but, as the days went on I was welcomed with open arms. A lot of my friends came from my form class. I have also met new people at Hockey Club too. Ashfield Girls' is a very positive environment. I would also like to add that I enjoy the challenges of learning new subjects.

When I first started Ashfield I was very nervous but excited too. I have joined Film Club, Cook-e club and Project Lunch Club. I really enjoy these clubs as they are really good fun. I have made lots of new friends and I am really happy with all the friends that I have made. Ashfield Girls' is a very welcoming school to go to.

Dear Mrs Harvey,

When I first found out that I got into Ashfield, I was really excited, but also a little nervous. You will be pleased to know that the teachers here are very nice and kind. When I was in primary school I felt like the big fish in a little pond. Now I feel like the little fish in a big pond. I really like this school. My interests are making new friends and learning new subjects.

Yours sincerely,

L Dempster 8V

Dear Mrs Harvey,

My favourite subject is English. I really enjoy poetry because I find it fun and interesting. I also like netball and hockey and I hope to continue to play during my time at Ashfield. During my years at Ashfield, I hope to improve myself and grow my skills. My biggest ambition is to become a prosecution barrister and I really want Ashfield to help me in this journey.

Yours sincerely,

R Pearson 8S

Dear Mrs Harvey,

I am excited about joining Ashfield Girls' High School because I came for a tour around the school with my mum and dad when I was in primary 6 and loved it! Ashfield was my first choice when you had to pick schools in primary 7.

From

S Blaney 8B

New Beginning and Making Friends



The move to a post-primary school is always a big transition. Our Year 8s are settling into the new routines and managing their timetables well. Having their own dedicated canteen area, toilet block, outdoor play area and early release for lunch/ end of day, has supported the transition process.

Our focus is on building and maintaining positive friendships. Our pastoral care system is built on RESPECT. Respect yourself, respect each other and respect our school community.

It was good to have such positive engagement with parents / carers at the Meet the Form Tutor and Principal Webinar in September. It provided a digital opportunity to connect.

The first point of contact in school if you have any queries is your daughter's form tutor.

Extended School Programme

Art Club (Junior)
Art Master Classes (senior)
Athletics Club
Badminton Club
Band
Buddy Reading Scheme
Choir
Cook-e-Club
Drama Club
Dress Making Club
Drone Academy +
Duke of Edinburgh
Eco-Schools
Film Club
Fitness Suite Activities
Football Club

Hockey Club
Love Our Library
Lunch Time Craft Club
Netball Junior
Netball Senior
Photography Club
Project Lunch Club (Junior School)
Project Lunch Club (Senior School)
Reading Gang
Rebel Readers
Rugby Club
Scripture Union
String ensemble
Tennis Club
Trampolining Club



Head Girl, Deputy Head Girls and Study Area for Sixth Form

F
O
C
U
S

O
N

S
I
X
T
H

F
O
R
M



Year 14 working hard at one of our new Sixth Form study areas. The breakfast bar design for this area was the idea of our previous Sixth Form Senior Council Members. They engaged Forbes Furniture to design the new area which accommodates 15 students.



Senior Librarians trying out the new Literacy Hub. A newly refurbished classroom (just off the library) that has been designed by the Literacy Team to provide a welcoming and homely space for one-to-one or small group literacy support and our sixth form 'Reading Buddy' programme.



Mrs Craig (Librarian) and Mrs McKenna (Library Teacher Co-ordinator) with our Senior Librarians. We thank all the Senior Librarians for volunteering to take on the leadership role and completing their training, thus providing invaluable support in the daily management of the library.



Sixth Form taking a well-deserved break in our newly refurbished 'social and study space' on the top floor. This space was created after the request for a more functional space for sixth form to socialise and study. The social area accommodates 24 students and the break out study tables accommodate a further 24 students.

We are working with the current Sixth Form Senior Leadership Team to re-design the Sixth Form Common Room. We hope that this will be designed and refurbished over the summer break, enabling the team to leave a lasting legacy.

The sustained growth in Sixth Form and the students' desire for more flexible social and study spaces has resulted in a significant investment over the past two years.



Literacy and Numeracy

As part of the Recovery Curriculum we have developed a comprehensive strategy to support pupils in Year 8 in the development of their literacy and numeracy skills. The photograph above shows Mr Burns working with his class on developing their literacy skills and showing how these skills can improve extended writing in History. Our Literacy Co-ordinator and Numeracy Co-ordinator will be sending a Literacy and Numeracy booklet home with all Year 8 pupils to allow them to further develop their skills with the support of their parents / carers.

Library

Our library was refurbished over the summer break using funding from Belfast City Council (medium grant application) and school funds. The new seating and 'cosy' feel adds to the relaxing ambiance making the library a perfect place to develop our pupils' love of reading. We have



also created a 'Literacy Hub' where pupils can avail of one to one or small group literacy support through the Department of Education Engage Programme. Our 'Numeracy Room' is currently under construction (being refurbished) and we hope it will be included in our Newsletter once completed.

East Side Learning

We are grateful for our link with Eastside Partnership. They have provided funding for a programme of revision classes for pupils in Year 12 so that they can avail of specialist support and guidance with effective revision strategies. There are forty pupils availing of this funded programme in Mathematics and English. We also have a comprehensive revision programme for Science classes in Year 12. We wish all our Year 12 pupils well as they prepare for their English, Mathematics and Science modules in November 2021.



Year 12 Amazing Brains

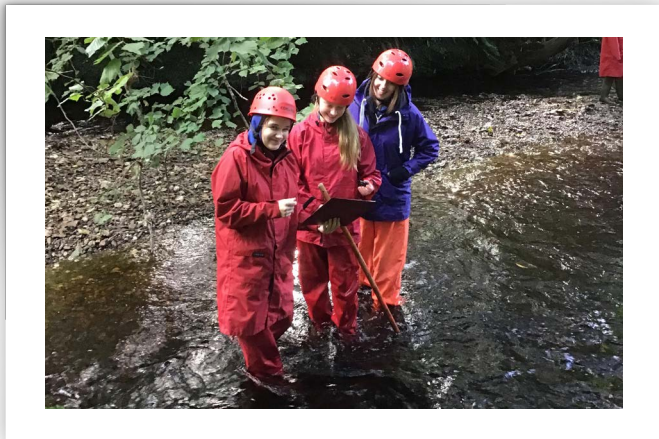
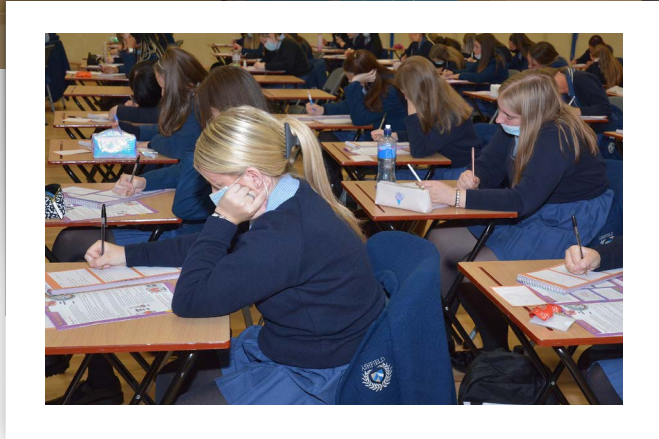
Year 12 pupils attended a study skills workshop facilitated by the very popular company, Amazing Brains (Inspire Education). The workshop focused on effective study techniques and how the brain processes information in the working memory (in class) and the necessary work that is required through homework and revision to move that information into long-term memory (learning). Pupils reported that they found the session very informative and that the 'Connections' revision card resource that was provided would be very helpful with independent study. We are developing a whole school strategy to support effective study skills – more on this in the next issue.

@YE_NI

Year 10 pupils enjoyed the 'Learn to Earn' workshop facilitated by Young Enterprise. Pupils were able to learn about employability skills, labour market information and salary ranges for many career options. The workshop will hopefully focus Year 10 pupils on the option choice process that begins in term two.

Year 12 Magilligan Trip

As part of the Year 12 GCSE Geography course, pupils complete a detailed river study at Magilligan. This fieldwork aims to develop a greater understanding of the processes involved in the work of a river and develops numeracy skills, through the use of specialist measuring and recording equipment. Best wishes to our geographers as they use the data collected to complete their controlled assessment back in the classroom.





Be Daring for Dylan

Thank you to all our staff who ran as part of the relay team in the Belfast Marathon. Thank you to all staff, parents, pupils and our local community who contributed to the fundraising efforts. The Marathon raised over £3000 for the charity, Be Daring for Dylan. Thank you to Mr Crawford (from Crawford Uniforms) for his generous offer to source and fund staff t-shirts for the marathon endeavour.

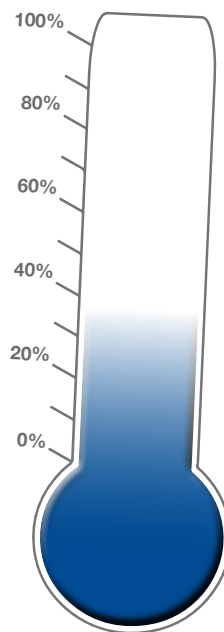


School Fund – Outdoor Learning Base

We are using our school fund contributions this year to part-fund a state of the art Outdoor Learning Base. The purchase of this base will support our whole school Well-being Strategy. School Council and pupil focus groups told us that they wanted to have outdoor learning experiences to take advantage of the beautiful grounds that our school is set within.



£5,190 achieved | **£15,000** goal | **36.8%** of our goal reached



The Governors Finance Committee previously allocated a proportion of school funds to purchase the outdoor benches and picnic tables that have been placed across the school site. The purchase of the Outdoor Learning Base will complement this and create a truly outdoor learning experience.

Ashfield Girls' High School – Parents and Friends Association

We are delighted that our Parents and Friends Association will be resuming. The first meeting was on Thursday 21 October 2021. Please catch up with all the work of the association through their Facebook page www.facebook.com/pfaghs. We thank Parents and Friends for their £400 donation to purchase new books for our school library.



Safeguarding Team

Designated Teacher for Child Protection



Mrs B Cripps



Mr G Patterson
Deputy Designated Teachers



Mrs N Christie
Deputy Designated Teachers



Mrs L Hanvey
Principal



Mrs E Bush
Designated Child
Protection Governor

Congratulations

The Board of Governors have passed their congratulations to all staff, pupils and parents/ carers in recognition of the achievement of the Schools of Sanctuary Award.

The Board of Governors have passed their congratulations to all staff, pupils and parents / carers in the recognition of the achievement of the School Mental Health Award (Gold). (more information to come in the next issue)



Policies and Procedures

To all new parents and carers, school policies can be accessed on our school website. All policies are ratified by our Board of Governors and are reviewed in line within Department of Education guidance and time frames.



Key Dates for your Diary

Monday 1 November 2021	School Development Day - school closed to all pupils
Friday 5 November 2021	Year 14 Parent Consultation 1.30pm - 3.30pm
Wednesday 1 December 2021	Year 11 Parent Consultation 3.30pm - 5.30pm
Monday 6 December 2021 - Friday 10 December 2021	KS3, KS4, KS5 Winter Examination Week
Monday 20 December 2021	School Development Day - school closed to all pupils
Tuesday 21 December 2021 - Monday 3 January 2022	Christmas Holidays - for all teaching staff and pupils
Tuesday 4 January 2022	School Development Day - school closed to all pupils
Wednesday 5 January 2022	Start of Spring Term - for all pupils
Tuesday 18 January 2022	Open Night 7.00pm – 9.00pm
Thursday 27 January 2022	Year 13 Parent Consultation 3.30pm - 5.30pm
Friday 4 February 2022	Year 10 Options and Parent Consultation - 1.15pm - 3.30pm
Monday 14 February 2022 - Friday 18 February 2022	Half Term Holidays - for all teaching staff and pupils

“Each different. Each talented. All valued.”