

# DOMINICAN COLLEGE FORTWILLIAM



## Board of Governors Annual Report to Parents Academic Year 2023/2024

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## 1. Introduction

The College's **Vision Statement** is: "Inspiring, Motivating and Empowering Learners". Our vision is to provide a child-centred, transformative and challenging educational experience, which shapes confident, aspirational, resilient and compassionate people. Through a holistic approach to education, pupils will be supported and empowered to become critical thinkers, excelling across a wide range of academic and extracurricular areas, building character and developing enduring friendships. Our pupils will be prepared to embrace the challenges and opportunities of a rapidly changing world, making a positive contribution to the wider community, while upholding the values of truth, justice, integrity and love.

Our **Mission Statement** is: "Dedicated to Truth and Respect, Committed to Realising the potential of all." In the tradition of our Dominican founders, all our work is informed by our Dominican values:

- **We see** the school as a community centred on Christ and so our values are those of the Gospel and our school motto VERITAS.
- **We acknowledge** the dignity and uniqueness of each individual, made in the image of God.
- **We seek** to base our relationships on mutual trust and respect.
- **We strive** to create a harmonious and safe environment where the gifts of each will flourish.
- **We elicit** the co-operation of our students in the pursuit of truth in all its forms so that they will learn to make informed judgements.
- **We uphold** the ideals of generosity, freedom, tolerance and responsibility in all areas of daily life.
- **We remain** open to the wider world – willing to adapt but always maintaining our Christian values.

As a Catholic school, the Christian Ethos of Dominican College permeates the life and work of the school and is reflected in its **aims**:

- We appreciate the fundamental dignity of each person and aim to promote respect for self, for others, the school, the wider community and the environment.
- We aim to create a safe, stable and harmonious atmosphere within which the values of truth, freedom, trust and responsibility are honoured.
- Within the context of a purposeful learning community, and recognising the uniqueness of each individual, we aim to offer a curriculum which enables every student to reach her full potential: spiritually, academically, morally, socially and aesthetically.
- We aim to promote the School's traditional appreciation of culture and the arts.
- We endeavour to equip all our pupils with the self-confidence and skills, which will enable them to make informed and responsible choices in life and appreciate the value of the contribution they can make to society.
- We encourage parental support in promoting the ethos and aims of the school and in building up the life of the school community.

**The Board of Governors believes that these general aims provide a framework which indicates what the school believes in, what it aims to do for our pupils and the values we hope they will espouse. The whole curriculum, taught in the classroom and beyond, is designed to achieve these ends.**

## **2. The Board of Governors**

### **Introduction from the Chair of the Board of Governors**

The aim of education in Dominican College Fortwilliam is to enable each pupil to reach her full potential spiritually, academically, morally and socially. We work in partnership with parents to ensure each pupil has the best possible opportunity to realise this aspiration.

Parents are the first educators of our children. Their co-operation and support is a vital element in this process. We therefore welcome opportunities which encourage parental involvement. These include Parent Teachers Meetings, Induction Evenings and Option Days. Careers Conventions, Prize Day, concerts, plays and lectures provide further occasions to strengthen this link. Our regular Masses during the academic year give us the opportunity to thank God for our successes and to seek continued guidance for staff and pupils. Our web page is a valuable way of keeping everyone informed about life in Dominican College Fortwilliam.

This report provides occasion for thanking you, the parents, for your ongoing support of the school. The attendance of so many parents and past pupils at our functions during the year gives us great encouragement.

In conclusion, the Governors of the school would like to thank the whole staff, pupils and parents for their unfailing commitment to the life and work of Dominican College.

Mrs Sheila Crea  
Chairperson of the Board of Governors

### **The Board of Governors**

The role of the Board of Governors is to manage the school to provide the best possible education and educational opportunities for all of our pupils. The Board sets the strategic direction for our school and takes corporate decisions in relation to the statutory functions of the Board of Governors. The responsibilities of the Board of governors include:

- Setting the school's vision and aims
- Establishing and maintaining the school's ethos
- Setting the school's plans and policies
- Monitoring and evaluating school performance
- Promoting self-evaluation to sustain school improvement
- Determination of the Curriculum and Curriculum Policy
- Admission of pupils to the college
- Appointing staff and determining responsibilities
- Financial governance
- Maintenance of the school estate

The Board of Governors consists of 9 voting members as well as co-opted members as follows:

## **BOARD OF GOVERNORS 2022-2026**

### **Chairperson**

Mrs Sheila Crea

### **Trustee Representatives**

Mrs Shiela Crea

Fr Colin Grant

Mr Peter O'Brien

Dr Tony McGleenan

### **Department of Education NI Representatives**

Mr Ciaran O'Grady

Miss Mairead O'Neill

Mrs Dympna Thornton

### **Elected Parent Governor**

Mrs Julie Huddleston

### **Elected Teacher Governor**

Mrs Aislinn O'Reilly

### **Co-opted Members**

Mr Donagh Finnegan

Mr David McGowan

### **Secretary**

Mrs Lynda Catney

### **Clerk to the Board of Governors**

Mr Declan Boyd

## **Annual Report of the Board of Governors**

The Board of Governors of Dominican College is pleased to present to you the Annual Report for the academic year 2023/2024. This report has been compiled in accordance with Chapter 22 School Publications of the Department of Education Guide for Governors and under the guidance set out in the Department of Education Circular 2003/15 (School Information and Prospectuses). It is hoped that this Report will provide valuable information on the life and work of the school over the preceding year.

Ultimate responsibility for the overall management of the school lies with the Board of Governors. The full Board of Governors met four times in the school year. Members of the four sub committees, Finance, Admissions, Salaries, Salary Appeals and Discipline Committees met as required.

The School, Financial Statements for the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024 were prepared by the Finance Committee of the Board of Governors. These statements were prepared in line with the Finance and Audit Arrangements for Voluntary Grammar Schools. The school ended the financial year with retained revenue reserves of £26,165. A summary of the annual financial accounts is provided in Appendix A

## Accommodation

The school has excellent accommodation which is maintained to the highest standard. The Board of Governors regularly review the provision of accommodation to ensure that it continues to meet the needs of the pupils. Governors also ensure that the school is compliant with relevant building and safety regulations. The school building is compliant with disability legislation.

## Security

The Board of Governors in conjunction with school staff continually monitor the effectiveness of the existing security arrangements for pupils, staff, visitors and the protection of the school building and grounds. The school building and grounds are monitored by CCTV and the school employs its own security staff who operate during evenings and weekends.

## 3. Admissions and Enrolment

### Admissions

Admission number 150 amended to 160 following a request from DE School Admissions.

2 Statemented pupils (supernumerary) = Total 162 pupils in Year 8

Total applications: 185 Total selected: 160 + 2 Statemented

### Grades admitted:

Grade	A	B1	B2	C1	C2	D	Statement	Total	Applied
2023	70	20	28	22	20	0	2	162	185

### Enrolment

The total number enrolled on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023, the official school census date, was 1078.

The school's official enrolment for the Academic Year 2023/2024 was 1050. This number included a Year 8 enrolment of 160 which was a Temporary Variation from the normal figure of 150.

	Year 8	Year 9	Year 10	Year 11	Year 12	Year 13	Year 14	Total
Totals	162	150	166	170	168	144	118	1078
Statement	2	1	4	4	2	2	0	15
SEN	12	12	9	13	14	7	12	79
LAC	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
Newcomer	7	2	1	1	2	0	3	16
FSM	20	25	29	31	32	19	12	168 (15.6%)

## 4. Staffing

In 2023-24 the Board of Governors employed the Principal, 55 full-time and 9 part-time teaching staff, 1 Student Support Teacher, Head of Support Services, 6 administrative staff, 5 technicians, 16 classroom assistants, 11 cleaners, 10 catering staff, 3 study supervisors, 3 security personnel, 3 maintenance personnel and 3 language assistants.

## Staff Training & Development Days 2023/24

Date	Content
22 <sup>nd</sup> August 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safeguarding Training</li> <li>• GDPR Training</li> <li>• SEN Training</li> </ul>
23 <sup>rd</sup> August 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABSIT (Anti-bullying) Training</li> <li>• Whole school planning</li> <li>• Pastoral and Curriculum meetings</li> </ul>
27 <sup>th</sup> September 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Update on school routines</li> <li>• Teaching &amp; Learning &amp; Monitoring Pupil Progress</li> <li>• Effective Use of Data</li> <li>• Whole school analysis of GCSE &amp; A-level results</li> </ul>
10 <sup>th</sup> November 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 12 &amp; 14 Parent Teacher Consultations</li> </ul>
8 <sup>th</sup> January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Assessment &amp; Reporting</li> <li>• Curriculum &amp; Pastoral Planning</li> </ul>
22 <sup>nd</sup> January 2024	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Review of Assessment &amp; Reporting</li> </ul>
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 11 &amp; 13 Parent Teacher Consultations</li> </ul>
19 <sup>th</sup> March 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 8 &amp; 9 Parent Teacher Consultations</li> </ul>
27 <sup>th</sup> May 2023	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• School Vision, Mission &amp; Aims</li> <li>• Whole school review, evaluation and planning for 2024/25</li> <li>• Training on new format for ETI inspections</li> </ul>

## 5. Summary of Curriculum Policy

### Curriculum Subjects

The curriculum is designed to ensure that all pupils are equipped with the understanding, knowledge, and skills to make a successful progression through each of the Key Stages. It aims to raise standards, provide stretch, challenge, and support for pupil's learning, always encouraging high aspiration. Technology is used effectively to support teaching and foster pupil engagement and collaboration.

The curriculum is delivered through a range of discrete subjects, with cross-curricular collaboration ensuring that the appropriate skills and learning capabilities are developed in pupils at each key stage. There is a particular focus on the acquisition and development of skills in speaking and listening, literacy and numeracy.

The school makes provision for delivery of the statutory elements of the curriculum in Key Stage 3 & 4 which include Learning for Life and Work, which is made up of Employability, Personal Development, local

and global Citizenship and Home Economics (at Key Stage 3), as well as Religious Education. In addition, there is a discrete provision of CEIAG for all year groups with timetabled Careers classes for all year groups. At Key Stage 4, the statutory requirements are Learning for Life and Work, Physical Education (PE), Religious Education, CEIAG and Developing Skills and Capabilities.

Religious Education is a compulsory part of the Northern Ireland curriculum, although parents have the right to withdraw their child from part or all of Religious Education or collective worship.

The curriculum on offer to pupils at all key stages is regularly reviewed by the Curriculum VP, Senior Leadership Team and Head of CEIAG to ensure suitable pupil progression pathways from school, taking account of up-to-date labour market information and the entrance criteria for a broad range of Higher and Further Education organisations, training and the employment market.

### **JUNIOR SCHOOL – KEY STAGE 3 (Year 8 – 10)**

A broad and balanced curriculum covering all areas of study of the Northern Ireland Curriculum is provided for all pupils. Pupils in Year 8, 9 and 10 study the following subjects:

Art & Design	History	Religious Education
Biology (Year 10)	Home Economics	Science (Year 8 & 9)
Chemistry (Year 10)	ICT	Spanish
Drama	Mathematics	Technology & Design
English	Music	Citizenship
French or Irish	Physical Education	Employability
Geography	Physics (Year 10)	Personal Development

### **SENIOR SCHOOL – KEY STAGE 4 (Year 11 and 12)**

The school offers 27 subjects at GCSE level. All Year 11 and 12 pupils study 9 GCSE subjects (or 10 subjects if Further Mathematics is taken). Religious Education, English Language, English Literature and Mathematics are all compulsory. (Learning for Life and Work is a statutory part of the curriculum but is not taken for GCSE). In addition, GCSE Italian and Gaelic are offered as After School classes.

Pupils are encouraged to choose a balanced range of subjects and it is strongly recommended that they chose at least one Science and one modern language option. There is a comprehensive GCSE Subject Options programme for pupils and parents to ensure that they are in possession of all the relevant information to enable them to make well-informed and appropriate choices.

Art & Design	French	Mathematics
Biology	Further Mathematics	Media Studies
Business Studies	Geography	Music
Chemistry	Government and Politics	Physical Education
Design and Technology	Health and Social Care	Physics
Digital Technology	History	Religious Education
Drama	Home Economics Food & Nutrition	Science (Double Award)
English Language	Irish	Science (Single Award)
English Literature	Learning for Life and Work	Spanish

## SIXTH FORM – KEY STAGE 5 (Year 13 and 14)

The school offers 25 subjects at A-level. Sixth Form pupils follow a two-year course of study taking AS Level examinations at the end of Year 13 and Advanced Level examinations at the end of Year 14. The school is an active member of the North Belfast Area Learning Community (comprising all the Post-Primary Schools in the North Belfast Area) which provides opportunities for collaboration with other schools in the group to enhance learning and widen choices for our A-level pupils. Subject to availability, pupils may, with the agreement of the Principal, chose subjects from the pre-agreed Collaborative block in a partner school within the North Belfast Area Learning Community.

An extensive Careers guidance curriculum alongside, Subject Options events, are designed to ensure that pupils make well-informed A-level choices, enabling them to choose appropriate and fulfilling Career pathways. All pupils must study 3 or 4 A-Level subjects taken from the following list:

Art & Design	Geography	Music
Biology	Government and Politics	Nutrition and Food Science
Business Studies	Health and Social Care	Physics
Chemistry	Health and Social Care (D.A.)	Religious Education
Design and Technology	History	Sociology
Digital Technology	Irish	Spanish
Drama Performing Arts	Mathematics	Sports Studies (B-Tec)
English Literature	Media Studies	
French	Moving Image Arts	

Pupils who do not take A-Level Religious Studies must take a modular course (one period per week) in Religious Education.

## 6. Examination Results and Leavers' Destinations 2023/24

An analysis of GCSE and A-level results for 2024 is contained in Appendix B of this report. High standards have been maintained and the Board of Governors expressed its appreciation to staff and pupils for their dedication and commitment.

### Year 14 Destinations 2023-24

Higher Education	Further Education	Employment/Training	Higher Apprenticeship
113	6	3	0

## 7. Pupil Attendance 2023/24

Year Group	% Attendance 23-24
8	93.4%
9	92.1%
10	91.6%
11	89.3%
12	91.3%
13	92.9%
14	91.9%
Overall	<b>91.7%</b>

Pupil absence by FSM band from DE for all Post-Primary schools (Sep 23 – Jun 24) = 91.3%



## **8. Additional Educational Needs**

School procedures are in place to identify students with additional educational needs. The school's approach for addressing this is embedded within existing good classroom practice and the pastoral care dimension of the school. It is the aim of the school to identify students with additional educational needs as early as possible, providing full access to a broad curriculum and ensuring that all students feel valued and have a positive self-image. There is a Learning Support Co-Ordinator, Learning Support Teacher and Classroom Assistants in the department. We are committed to Continuing Professional Development for all staff with a strong focus on Autism and Dyslexia. It is a central focus of the SEN department to develop an Autism and Dyslexic friendly school by providing quiet spaces, adjustments to the curriculum, lunchtime clubs and friendship groups. Where appropriate, access arrangements are provided in both internal and external examinations for those pupils on the register.

## **9. Careers**

We endeavour to equip all of our pupils with the self-confidence and skills, which will enable them to make informed and responsible choices in life and appreciate the value of the contribution they can make to society. A well-established Careers programme for Year 8 – 14 pupils, encourages Career awareness and the development of a Personal Career Plan from an early age. The school hosts a bi-annual Careers Convention and has established strong links with local and international employers and academic institutions. These are utilised to ensure worthwhile work experience and reflect current labour market information. Details of CEIAG event for 2023-24 are outlined in Appendix C.

## **10. Extra-Curricular Activities**

We believe that participation in extra-curricular activities is crucial to the all-round education of each pupil. It develops self-esteem and interpersonal skills as well as forging friendships and a sense of belonging. We offer a varied programme of extra-curricular activities and encourage all pupils to get involved. Details of sporting events and competitions is detailed in Appendix D.

There are many leadership opportunities provided for pupils and particularly successful initiatives in 2023/24 were "SistersIn", "Soroptimist Competition", Bar Mock Trial", "Barnardo's Leadership programme" and a the "TAMHI" Mental Health programme. The schedule of Extra-curricular Clubs and Activities in Dominican College for 2023/24 is contained in Appendix E. The calendar of trips and other events can be found in Appendix F.

## **11. Religious Education, Community & Charities**

As a Catholic school, the Christian ethos of Dominican College permeates the life and work of the school and pupils are encouraged to become active contributors to the local and global community. All pupils are actively involved in charity campaigns, including the Trocaire campaign during Lent, St Vincent de Paul Hamper and Toy appeal at Christmas, as well as the Shoebox appeal. In 2023/24 our pupils, once again, participated in the Saphara project. This is a shared education project, which empowers and equips our sixth-form pupils to work collaboratively with pupils from other schools to provide support for newcomer children. A detailed report from the Religious Education Department is contained in Appendix G.

Income and Expenditure Account for The Financial Year Ended 31<sup>st</sup> March 2024.

Income	31/03/2024	31/03/2023
	£	£
Department of Education Grants	6,475,458	6,030,438
Other Operating Income	7,177	8,048
Total Income	6,482,635	6,038,486
<b>Expenditure</b>		
Teaching Staff Costs	4,633,307	4,081,894
Non-Teaching Staff Costs	1,156,849	962,355
Other Operating Expenses	856,496	1,248,550
Total Expenditure	6,646,652	6,292,799
<b>(Deficit)/Surplus for the Financial Year</b>	<b>(164,017)</b>	<b>(254,313)</b>

## Voluntary Contributions from Parents

	31/03/2024	31/03/2023
<b>Contributions received</b>	44,594	51,373

## Year 12 GCSE Results 2023/24

% entered for:		% achieving grades A*-C in:	
7+ GCSEs	5+ GCSEs	7+ GCSEs	5+ GCSEs
100%	100%	90.3	96.4

Number of pupils in Year 12: 167

Number of pupils in Year 12 with Statement of Educational Need: 1

44 pupils attained at least 8 A\* - A      33 pupils attained at least 9 A\* - A grades

## Individual Grades

	A* - A	A* - B	A* - C
Percentage	46.7%	70.3%	96.7%

## Year 12 GCSE Results by Subject 2023/24 (Percentages)

Subject	Entries	A*	A*- A	A*- B	A*- C*	A*- C	A*- D	A*- E
Art and Design	37	0	32	54	81	97	97	100
Biology	21	33	62	71	90	95	100	100
Business Studies	32	9	28	66	91	94	97	100
Chemistry	19	26	63	79	79	89	100	100
Digital Technology	7	57	100	100	100	100	100	100
Drama	16	13	51	94	100	100	100	100
English Language	167	6	44	71	93	99	100	100
English Literature	164	9	40	66	89	98	100	100
Food and Nutrition	38	3	35	61	79	97	100	100
French	18	0	33	44	50	83	89	100
Further Mathematics	51	27	62	78	94	100	100	100
Gaeilge	7	14	57	100	100	100	100	100
Geography	53	6	48	66	79	92	100	100
Government and Politics	22	5	50	68	82	91	96	100
Health and Social Care	65	5	36	52	80	97	100	100
History	70	11	47	73	90	93	97	100
Irish	21	24	43	57	76	86	100	100
Media Studies	17	0	41	82	100	100	100	100
Mathematics	167	27	51	81	97	99	100	100
Music	21	19	52	67	91	95	100	100
Physical Education	26	15	57	73	85	96	100	100
Physics	11	27	91	91	100	100	100	100
Religious Studies	159	12	51	77	88	96	99	100
Science Double Award	102	4	33	55	86	94	98	99
Single Award Science	34	15	41	74	95	100	100	100
Spanish	52	23	79	94	100	100	100	100
Technology and Design	8	0	25	63	100	100	100	100

## Year 14 A-level Results 2023/24

	Number of pupils in Year 14	% achieving 3+ grades A* – C	% achieving 2+ grades A* – E
A-level	117	87.2	99.1

Number of pupils with Statement of Educational Need : 0

14 Pupils achieved 3 or 4 A\*A/ Grades

### Individual Grades

	A* - A	A* - B	A* - C
Percentage	32%	77%	95%

## Year 14 A-level Results by Subject 2023/24 (Percentages)

Subject	Entries	A*	A* - A	A* - B	A* - C	A* - D	A* - E
AL Art and Design	11	9.1	18.2	81.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
AL Biology	29	3.4	24.1	51.7	96.6	100.0	100.0
AL Business Studies	11	0.0	9.1	81.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
AL Chemistry	27	7.4	29.6	59.3	81.5	88.9	100.0
AL Digital Technology	10	10.0	40.0	90.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
AL Drama	9	22.2	33.3	88.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
AL English Literature	15	6.7	13.4	80.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
LIBF Financial Studies	20	23.8	80.0	95.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
AL French	1	0.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
AL Geography	16	0.0	18.8	68.8	81.3	93.8	100.0
AL Gov't & Politics	26	0.0	19.2	76.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
AL Health & Social Care SA	47	0.0	27.7	87.2	95.7	97.9	100.0
AL History	11	0.0	45.5	90.9	100.0	100.0	100.0
AL Irish	3	0.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
AL Mathematics	17	11.8	47.1	70.6	100.0	100.0	100.0
AL Media	6	16.7	33.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
AL Moving Image Arts	6	0.0	50.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
AL Music	3	0.0	33.3	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0
AL Nutrition & Food Sc	16	0.0	6.3	87.5	100.0	100.0	100.0
AL Physics	6	33.3	50.0	66.7	100.0	100.0	100.0
AL Religious Studies	8	0.0	37.5	75.0	87.5	87.5	87.5
AL Sociology	42	4.8	31.0	66.7	85.7	92.8	95.2
AL Spanish	9	22.2	44.4	77.8	100.0	100.0	100.0
B-Tec Sports Studies	4	75.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0
AL Technology & Design	3	0.0	33.3	100.0	100.0	100.0	100.0

## GCSE & A-Level Results 2018/19 to 2023/24

Performance Indicator	2018/19		Average of 2019/20 & 2020/21 Covid		2021/22		2022/23		2023/24	
	Dominican College	NI Grammar School Average	Dominican College	NI Grammar School Average	Dominican College	NI Grammar School Average	Dominican College	NI Grammar School Average	Dominican College	NI Grammar School Average
<b>GCSE</b>										
% achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C	<b>100</b>	96.1	<b>99.3</b>	n/a	<b>99.4</b>	n/a	<b>100</b>	97.6	<b>96.4</b>	n/a
% achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Mathematics	<b>99.3</b>	94.3	<b>98.2</b>	n/a	<b>98.1</b>	n/a	<b>100</b>	95.9	<b>95.2</b>	n/a
% achieving 7+ GCSEs at grades A*-C including English and Mathematics	<b>98.0</b>	89.9	<b>96.8</b>	n/a	<b>97.4</b>	n/a	<b>98.7</b>	93.6	<b>89.1</b>	n/a
<b>A-level</b>										
% achieving 3+ A-levels at grades A*-C	<b>81.6</b>	79.7	<b>97.0</b>	n/a	<b>86.0</b>	n/a	<b>88.5</b>	83.8	<b>87.2</b>	n/a
% achieving 3+ A-levels at grades A*-E	<b>99.1</b>	97.4	<b>100</b>	n/a	<b>97.8</b>	n/a	<b>96.5</b>	97.8	<b>99.1</b>	n/a
% achieving 2+ A-levels at grades A*-E	<b>100</b>	99.6	<b>100</b>	n/a	<b>100</b>	n/a	<b>99.1</b>	99.6	<b>99.1</b>	n/a

## CEIAG Events 2023-2024

### SEPTEMBER 2023

- Year 13 Work Experience Induction for all of Year 13.
- University of Ulster Open Day for all of Year 14, all day.
- St Mary's University College Belfast Open Day for Year 14 pupils.
- Year 13 Information Evening – Information session for the parents of Year 13 pupils.
- Careers Service NI Planning Meeting was attended by Fionnuala Vallely.

### OCTOBER 2023

- Personal Career Planning Interview Programme initiated by Careers Service Northern Ireland for all of Year 12, classroom based, to run until March 2024.
- PwC Apprenticeship Talk by Past Pupil Anna Goldring for Year 13 and 14 pupils.
- Queen's University Belfast Pathways Programme Talk for Year 13 pupils.
- A & L Goodbody Law Insight Day was attended by two Year 13 pupils.
- University of Cambridge Talk for Year 13 pupils.
- Year 13 Work Experience Week for all of Year 13.
- Kainos Unleash your coding hero! Women Only In-Person Event, Belfast was attended by two Year 13 pupils.

### NOVEMBER 2023

- Queen's University Belfast Talk for all of Year 13.
- St Mary's University College Belfast Talk for all of Year 13.
- Liberty IT 3-day Work Experience Placement was attended by two Year 13 pupils.
- Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Virtual Social Work Careers Information Session was attended by one Year 13 pupil.
- Pinsent Masons Law Insight Day was attended by one Year 13 pupil.
- Kainos Unleash your coding hero! Women Only In-Person Event, Belfast was attended by one Year 13 pupil.
- NISCA Autumn Conference was attended by Fionnuala Vallely and Carla Vaughan.

### DECEMBER 2023

- Ulster University Talk for all of Year 13.
- Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Radiography Placement was attended by one Year 14 pupil.
- Medicine Interview Preparation with Dr Claire Lundy for Year 13 and 14 pupils.
- Medicine & Veterinary Science Mock Interviews for Year 14 pupils.
- Nursing and Midwifery Mock Interviews for Year 14 pupils.

### JANUARY 2024

- Teacher Training Mock Interviews for Year 14 pupils.
- Modern Hire Platform Training Session for Year 14 pupils.
- CAO Talk for Year 14 pupils.
- St Mary's University College Belfast Interview Preparation Talk for Year 14 pupils.
- Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Virtual Medical Work Experience was attended by three Year 13 pupils.
- Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Virtual Dietetics Session was attended by one Year 13 pupil.

### FEBRUARY 2024

- Dominican College Careers Convention was attended by pupils and parents from Year 10 to Year 14 from Dominican College and from Year 12 to Year 14 from St Malachy's College.

- Belfast Health and Social Care Trust 2-day Midwifery placement was attended by one Year 13 pupil.
- British Hips Society Surgery Talk in the Waterfront Hall was attended by five Year 13 pupils and Fionnuala Vallely.
- Liverpool John Moore University Talk for all of Year 13.

#### **MARCH 2024**

- Generation Innovation Work Experience Programme Talk for all of Year 13.
- Southeastern Trust 'A Career in Social Work' Virtual Information Session was attended by three Year 13 pupils.
- Year 12 Options Day for all of Year 12 and their parents, attended by the Careers Service NI.
- Year 10 Careers Service Interviews for all Year 10 pupils.
- Year 10 Head of Department Talks for all of Year 10 in Aquinas Hall.
- Year 10 Options Day for all of Year 10 and their parents, attended by the Careers Service NI.
- Belfast Health and Social Care Trust three-day Midwifery placement was attended by one Year 13 pupil.
- Belfast Health and Social Care Trust three-day Hospital Medicine Work Experience programme was attended by one Year 13 pupil.
- Medicine at Queen's University Belfast Open Day for Year 13 pupils.
- Methodist College Belfast Law Conference was attended by five Year 13 pupils.

#### **APRIL 2024**

- Work+ Apprenticeship Talk for all of Year 13.
- Scottish Modern Universities Tour Talk for all of Year 13.
- Glasgow Caledonian University Talk for all of Year 13.
- Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Virtual Speech and Language Work Experience Session was attended by one Year 13 pupil.
- Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Physiotherapy Open Morning - Teaching and Shadowing Placement

#### **MAY 2024**

- NISCA Summer Conference was attended by Fionnuala Vallely.

#### **JUNE 2024**

- Ulster University Careers Teachers' Summit in Coleraine was attended by Fionnuala Vallely.
- NBALC Summer Conference hosted by Belfast Model School for Girls.
- Careers Service Annual Review of Provision was attended by Fionnuala Vallely.
- Generation Innovation Work Experience Programme was attended by fourteen Year 13 pupils.
- Additional Work Experience placements for Year 13.
- Registration of Year 13 pupils for UCAS.
- ITO Film Game Lite Storybuilder Pilot for a Year 8 class.
- Kainos Ready, Set, Code! three-day Tech Work Experience - (Women Only) In Person Event, Belfast was attended by two Year 13 pupils.
- Northern Ireland Fire and Rescue Service Paramedic Work Experience was attended by one Year 13 pupil.
- Belfast Health and Social Care Trust Radiotherapy Careers Information Session.
- Queen's University Belfast Centre of Dentistry Open Day was attended by Year 13 pupils.
- Queen's University Belfast Centre of Dentistry Career Teacher Open Day was attended by Fionnuala Vallely.

## PE &amp; SPORTS

SEPTEMBER			
17 <sup>th</sup>	Athletics	Ulster Schools Athletics executive meeting, RS Dungannon	
20 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic	Yr 9 Antrim Cup	
28 <sup>th</sup>	Camogie	U16- Blitz	Blitz
29 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic	U16 V Colaiste Feirste	Won
OCTOBER			
4 <sup>th</sup>	Camogie		
5 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic	U16 v Holy Trinity	Won 7-12 to 3-5
12 <sup>th</sup>	Soccer	Yr8-11 Futsal	
13 <sup>th</sup>	Netball	Intermediate Blitz Day at Carrickfergus GS	Placed 2nd
	Gaelic	Ulster Ladies Gaelic Trials (2 pupils involved)	
16 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic	Yr9	Blitz
18 <sup>th</sup>	Netball	Minor Blitz Day at DCF	Won blitz
19 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic	Senior	Blitz
24 <sup>th</sup>	Netball	Junior Blitz Day	Placed 4th
26 <sup>th</sup>	Athletics	South Antrim District Schools AGM, Methodist College	
NOVEMBER			
7 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic	U16	
8 <sup>th</sup>	Netball	Senior Blitz Day at Belfast High	Placed 3rd
9 <sup>th</sup>	Camogie	Senior	
10 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic	U20 Blitz Day	Blitz
16 <sup>th</sup>	Athletics	Ulster School AA AGM, RS Dungannon	
20 <sup>th</sup>	Netball	Minor v St Dominic's Cup matches Senior v St Dominic's	Won 16-12 Lost 33-25
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Soccer	Yr8	
28 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic	U20 Ulster QF v Rosses	Lost 3-10 to 5-13
	Camogie	Yr8&9	Blitz
DECEMBER			
1 <sup>st</sup>	Netball	Intermediate v Forthill	Lost 26-20
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Athletics	Park run at the Waterworks	
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Trampolining	Northern Ireland Schools Championships, Newtownards. 4 pupils have all qualified for BGA finals in February in England.	
6 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic	U16 V St Louis Monaghan	6-11 to 4-4 (Won)
14 <sup>th</sup>	Soccer	Yr9 Futsal	
21 <sup>st</sup>	Gaelic	U16 v Colaiste DunRi	Beat by 2 points
JANUARY			
11 <sup>th</sup>	Netball	Minor v Friends	Won
15 <sup>th</sup>	Netball	Year 8 Netball Blitz	Runners up
16 <sup>th</sup>	Netball	Minor v Strathearn League Quarter Final	Won 12-9
17 <sup>th</sup>	Netball	Junior v Lagan College	Won



19 <sup>th</sup>	Netball	Senior v OLSPK	Won
24 <sup>th</sup>	Athletics	District Schools Cross Country (Ormeau Park) 9 pupils have now qualified for Ulster Schools Finals.	
24 <sup>th</sup>	Netball	NI League Semi-Final -Minor V St Dominic's	Won
25 <sup>th</sup>	Soccer	Junior V Edmund Rice	Won
26 <sup>th</sup>	Soccer	Year 8	
29 <sup>th</sup>	Netball	Junior V Banbridge Academy	Won
31 <sup>st</sup>	Camogie	Antrim Cup Blitz	Won
	Netball	Senior V Friends School Lisburn	Lost
<b>FEBRUARY</b>			
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Netball	Senior Plate Semi Final match	Won
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Trampolining	2 pupils competing at the BGA Championships in England.	
5 <sup>th</sup>	Camogie	Yr 9 Antrim Cup	Won
7 <sup>th</sup>	Athletics	Ulster Schools Cross Country finals (Mallusk). 2 pupils have qualified for Irish Schools Finals in Dublin.	
8 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic	Year 9 LGFA Lidl – Athlete Mentor Workshop	
8 <sup>th</sup>	Netball	Division 3 Final Junior v Victoria College	Won 12-6
19 <sup>th</sup>	Soccer	Danske Bank Tournament	
20 <sup>th</sup>	Netball	NI Minor A League Final- Minor V St Joesphs Donaghmore	Lost 7-9
23 <sup>rd</sup>	Soccer	Senior V Abbey Community College	Won
	Gaelic	U14 Blitz	Blitz
26 <sup>th</sup>	Soccer	Junior V Nendrum College	Won 5-0
27 <sup>th</sup>		U14 Development League	
28 <sup>th</sup>	Basketball	Junior V OLSPCK	Won
<b>MARCH</b>			
4 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic	U14 blitz	Finished top
6 <sup>th</sup>	Camogie	Antrim Shield Final Yr8&9 V Rathmore	Lost
8 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic	U14 B Blitz	Finished 3rd
9 <sup>th</sup>	Athletics	Irish Schools Cross Country, Dublin 1 pupil was selected for the Irish Schools team to compete in the Schools International.	
9 <sup>th</sup> to 16 <sup>th</sup>	Ski Trip	Andalo, Italy	
11 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic	QUB Future All Star Trials	
12 <sup>th</sup>	Netball	Europe Netball U17 Challenge- 1 pupil was a member of the NI team who won the gold medal.	
14 <sup>th</sup>	Athletics	1 pupil won gold at the Deep River Rock 3K race	
20 <sup>th</sup>	Netball	NI Plate Final- Senior V Glenlola	Won
21 <sup>st</sup>	Soccer	NI quarter Final- Senior V OLSPCK	Won
	Gaelic	U14 B V Loreto Cavan	Beat
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Gaelic	QUB Future All Star Final Trial- 1 pupil	
26 <sup>th</sup>	Soccer	NI Schools Cup quarter final- Junior V Holy Cross	Lost 0-2
<b>APRIL</b>			
12 <sup>th</sup>	Camogie	U14	
15 <sup>th</sup>	Netball	NI Minor Cup Final V Aquinas	Won 17-5

	Soccer	NI Cup semi-final- Senior V RS Dungannon	Won
18 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic	U14 V Falcarragh Donegal	3.5 to 3 points (Won)
20 <sup>th</sup>	Athletics	London Mini Marathon 2 pupils were representing NI. Both athletes were first home for NI in their age groups.	
	Athletics	Waterworks Park run, with DCF Politics Society, to raise money for AWARE	
24 <sup>th</sup>	Camogie	U14 V Portaferry	Won 3.1 to 1.3
29 <sup>th</sup>	Soccer	NI Cup Senior Final V Holy Cross Strabane	Won 3-1
30 <sup>th</sup>	Athletics	District B T&F Championships, Mary Peters Track 4 pupils have qualified for Ulster Schools Finals	
<b>MAY</b>			
10 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic	U14 V St Kevins, Lisnaskea	Won 5.5-3.4
15 <sup>th</sup>	Athletics	Ulster Schools Championships - Minor and Junior, Mary Peters Track 2 pupils have qualified for Irish Schools Final in Tullamore	
15 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic/Camogie	All Star Awards- Antrim Cup	
17 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic	AGM in Kellys Inn	
18 <sup>th</sup>	Athletics	Ulster Schools Championships- Mini, Inter & Senior, Mary Peters Track 1 pupil has qualified for Irish Schools Final in Tullamore	
21 <sup>st</sup> 23 <sup>rd</sup> 28 <sup>th</sup> 29 <sup>th</sup>	Athletics	Heats for Sports Day	
24 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic	U14 Ulster Semi Final	Won
28 <sup>th</sup>	Gaelic	U14 Ulster Final	Won
<b>JUNE</b>			
1 <sup>st</sup> and 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Athletics	Irish Schools Championships- Tullamore, Co. Offaly 3 pupils were placed. 1 pupil was selected for the Ulster Schools team for the Tailteann Games	
5 <sup>th</sup>	Camogie	Lily Spence Shield Final- U14 V St Benedict's, Randalstown	
11 <sup>th</sup>	Athletics	Sports Day, Mary Peters Track 300 pupils participated in the day's events	
12 <sup>th</sup> - 21 <sup>st</sup>	Event Management	Yr 8, 9 and 10 inter class rounders tournaments, Gaelic, Camogie, Soccer	
22 <sup>nd</sup>	Athletics	Tailteann Games Inter Provincial Championships, Santry, Dublin. 1 pupil selected to represent Ulster Schools in the 3000m- 2 <sup>nd</sup> place. The pupil was selected to represent Irish Schools at the SIAB Schools International, in Johnstown, Wales	
<b>JULY</b>			
20 <sup>th</sup>	Athletics	SIAB Schools International Athletics Championships, Johnstown, Wales. 1 pupil finished in fifth place (first Irish finisher) in the 3000m, against England, Scotland and Wales	

### Extra-curricular Clubs and Activities in Dominican College

Activity/Club	Day	Time	Day/Time/Venue	Years
Adoration	Monday (Week 2)	12.00–12.40 pm	Chapel	11-14
Athletics	Monday	3.20-4.30 pm	Sports Hall/School Grounds	8-14
	Wednesday	3.20-4.30 pm	Sports Hall	8-14
Badminton	Wednesday	3.20-4.30 pm	Sports Hall	8-14
Bar Mock Trial Competition	Monday	3.20-4.30 pm	Sixth Form Study Hall	14
Basketball	Thursday	3.20-4.30 pm	Sports Hall	8-10
Camogie	Thursday	3.20-4.30 pm	School 3G Pitch	8-14
Chapel Team	Tuesday (Week 1)	12.50–1.30 pm	School Chapel	8-10
Choir	Monday	3.30-4.40 pm	S5	8–14
Junior Choir	Tuesday	12.50-1.30 pm	S5	8-10
Chess Club	Monday (Week 1)	12.00-12.40 pm	B10	11-14
	Monday (Week 2)	12.50-1.20 pm	T4	8 -10
Concert Band	Thursday	3.30-4.30 pm	Aquinas Hall	11-14
Debating Club	Tuesday (Week 1)	12.50-1.30 pm	B10	8-10
<i>Dominican Roses</i> Rosary Recital Club	Tuesday (Week 2)	12.50-1.30 pm	Chapel (Oct)	8-10
Eco Club	Thursday (Week 2)	3.20-4.30 pm	Venue TBC	8-10
Film Club	Monday	3.30-4.30 pm	C1A	11 -14
Gaelic	Tuesday	8.00-8.40am	School 3G Pitch	8-10
	Tuesday	3.20-4.30 pm	School 3G Pitch	11-14
Geography Club	Monday (Week 1)	12.50-1.30 pm	C9	8-10
Guitar Club Senior	Wednesday	12.00–12.40 pm	P4	11–14
		12.50-1.30 pm	P4	8-10
House of History (Debating Society)	Monday Thursday	12.00–12.40 pm	C11/Lecture Theatre	11-14
Irish Traditional Group	Tuesday	12.00-12.40 pm	S1 Senior	11–14
	Wednesday	12.50-1.30 pm	S1 Junior	8-10

Jig Saw Club	Thursday	3.20-4.00 pm	A12	8-12
Junior Library Club	Friday Tuesday	8.30-8.55 am Junior Lunch	B14 Week 2 B14	8-10
Lego Robotics (T&D Dept)	Tuesday	3.25-4.10 pm	(October)	9-10
Magazine Editorial Team	TBC		Senior Library	13-14
Netball	Monday Tuesday Wednesday	3.20-4.30 pm 3.20-4.30 pm 3.20-4.30 pm	Sports Hall Sports Hall Sports Hall	11-14 9-10 8
Scribbles Creative Writing Club	Tuesday	12.50-1. 20 pm	L2	8-10
Soccer	Monday Wednesday	3.20-4.30 pm 3.20-4.30 pm	School 3G Pitch School 3G Pitch	8-10 11-14
Sociology Club	Monday (Week 2)	Senior Lunch		13-14
String Group	Monday	3.30-4.30 pm	Aquinas Hall	8-14
St. Vincent de Paul (Mini Vinnies)	Wednesday (Week 2)	Junior Lunch	C16	8-10
St. Dominic Community Service Award	Monday (Week 1)	Senior Lunch	C16	13-14

### Calendar of Educational Visits and other School Events 2023/24

<b>Date</b>	<b>Trip/Event</b>
14 <sup>th</sup> September	Year 13 Mentoring by YMCA Lisburn
15 <sup>th</sup> September	TAMHI Introduction to Year 13
18 <sup>th</sup> and 20 <sup>th</sup> September	Geography Field Trip to Magilligan
22 <sup>nd</sup> September	Junior Prize Giving Ceremony
22 <sup>nd</sup> September	SAPHARA event
29 <sup>th</sup> September	TAMHI Training
29 <sup>th</sup> September	QUB Inspiring Girls Roadshow (St Genevieve's High School)
29 <sup>th</sup> September	Politics Visit to Dublin
6 <sup>th</sup> October	School Mass
10 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 8 Thanksgiving Mass
17 <sup>th</sup> October	Cyber Safety Workshop Session 1
17 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 13 mentors with Year 8 pupils
17 <sup>th</sup> October	REACH Programme
19 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 13 Irish Film in Odeon Cinema
19 <sup>th</sup> October	TAMHI Training
20 <sup>th</sup> October	Translink Safety Bus
25 <sup>th</sup> October	Drama Workshop - Rhino
24 <sup>th</sup> to 27 <sup>th</sup> October	Trip to Krakow, Poland
27 <sup>th</sup> October	Year 8 Halloween Fancy Dress event
7 <sup>th</sup> November	TAMHI Ambassador Workshop
7 <sup>th</sup> November	Cyber Safety Workshop Session 2
9 <sup>th</sup> and 10 <sup>th</sup> November	AS Geography Field Trip to Magilligan
15 <sup>th</sup> November	Drama Workshop - Lysistrata
17 <sup>th</sup> November	SistersIN Coffee Morning
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Visit to Royal Courts Of Justice
24 <sup>th</sup> November	Soroptimist Competition
24 <sup>th</sup> November	SHAHRP training
1 <sup>st</sup> December	New Driver Event
2 <sup>nd</sup> December	Bar Mock Trial
5 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Jumper Day
5 <sup>th</sup> December	TAMHI Ambassador Workshop
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Creative Writing Workshop
6 <sup>th</sup> December	Advent Carol Service in aid of NI Hospice in School Chapel
14 <sup>th</sup> December	Lights to Remember Service NI Hospice hosted in Dominican College
19 <sup>th</sup> December	Christmas Carols at Parkdean Nursing Home
20 <sup>th</sup> December	Senior Prizegiving
21 <sup>st</sup> December	School Carol Service for staff and pupils
17 <sup>th</sup> January	Politics visit to Stormont and City Hall

<b>Date</b>	<b>Trip/Event</b>
17 <sup>th</sup> January	PSNI Road Safety
19 <sup>th</sup> January	QUB Female Leadership Event
24 <sup>th</sup> January	Inspire Education Year 11 Study Skills Session
25 <sup>th</sup> January	Inspire Education Year 13 Study Skills Session
2 <sup>nd</sup> February	Saphara Workshop 2
19 <sup>th</sup> February	Trip to Seamus Heaney's Homeplace
5 <sup>th</sup> March	Menstruation Matters Talk
7 <sup>th</sup> March	Saphara Workshop 3
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Artificial Intelligence Conference
11 <sup>th</sup> March to 15 <sup>th</sup> March	Ski-Trip to Italy
11 <sup>th</sup> March	Generation Innovation Year 13 Talk
12 <sup>th</sup> March	SistersIN Celebration Event
25 <sup>th</sup> March to 28 <sup>th</sup> March	Spanish Trip to Salamanca
9 <sup>th</sup> April	Internet Safety Talk
11 <sup>th</sup> April	Earth Day Assemblies
13 <sup>th</sup> May	Internet Safety Talk
3 <sup>rd</sup> June to 7 <sup>th</sup> June	Annual Book Fair
10 <sup>th</sup> June	INTO Film Lite Story Builder pilot – session 1
11 <sup>th</sup> June	Sports Day at Mary Peter's Track
12 <sup>th</sup> June	Saphara - Newcomer welcome event
12 <sup>th</sup> June	AMH Mental Health Workshop
14 <sup>th</sup> June	Scéim na bhFáinni (Fáinne Scheme)
17 <sup>th</sup> June	INTO Film Lite Story Builder pilot – session 2
18 <sup>th</sup> June	Minni Vinnie Summer Trip
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Year 10 Celebration Ceremony
24 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 10 Geography trip to Marble Arch Caves
25 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 11 Visit to Derry (History and Politics)
25 <sup>th</sup> June	Year 9 End of Year Assembly Awards
26 <sup>th</sup> June	INTO Film Lite Story Builder pilot – session 3
26 <sup>th</sup> June	International Women in Engineering Day

## RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DEPARTMENT

### Our Departmental Vision

*Religious Education is more than just one subject in the curriculum. In Catholic schools it is the core of the 'core curriculum'". (Pope St. John Paul II)*

- To provide a high-quality, holistic, pupil-centred education based on the gospel values of love, respect for life, truth, and justice.
- To encourage and develop personal faith and to build and deepen their relationship with God.
- To raise awareness of the faith and traditions of other religious communities to foster respect and understanding of other cultures and traditions.

*The outcome of excellent Religious Education is religiously literate and engaged young people who have the knowledge, understanding, and skills to reflect spiritually, and think ethically and theologically, and who are aware of the demands of religious commitment in everyday life.*

**Religious Education Directory.**

The themes of Christian outreach and social justice were highlighted early on in our school year with a number of key events. This played a significant role in our non-exam 6<sup>th</sup> Form Enriched RE programme. On 4<sup>th</sup> September, Ciaran Hughes from the **Welcome Organisation** spoke to our Year 14 pupils about the issue of homelessness in Belfast. On 5<sup>th</sup> September, Shauna O'Neill visited the school to discuss the work of **Children in Crossfire** in Tanzania with our Year 13 pupils. Both these talks were followed up by events during the school year which encouraged our pupils to contribute positively to both their local community and to projects in the developing world.

As a result, a warm clothing collection took place in January and these items were gladly received by the Welcome Organisation to support local men and women facing homelessness. Several fundraising activities took place in Term 1 for Children in Crossfire, and we were delighted to present its director, **Richard Moore** with a cheque for £800 on his visit to the school in February. Richard is a regular visitor to our school and our Year 12 GCSE RE pupils had the privilege to meet him and hear his story. He spoke to the girls about his early childhood and the incident which caused him to lose his sight at the age of ten. Our pupils were extremely moved to hear his words of forgiveness and reconciliation and were inspired by his current work in Tanzania.

### Liturgical

Our Opening School Mass took place on Friday 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Year 8-10 pupils, along with their tutors, gathered in St Therese's Church to celebrate Mass led by Fr. MacGiollacathain. Year 10 – 14 pupils gathered for Mass in Holy Family Church, which was led by Fr. Spence. Our Welcome Mass for Year 8 pupils and their parents took place on 6<sup>th</sup> October 2023. This Mass was celebrated by Fr. Brendan Mulhall. In the Dominican tradition, these were fitting celebrations to commence the school year.

The liturgical celebrations continued with morning Mass at the beginning of each month. These Masses were celebrated by Fr. Luddy and Fr. O'Keefe, to whom we are extremely grateful for their continual support and assistance.

We celebrated the Month of the Rosary in October by bringing RE classes to the chapel to pray a decade of the Rosary. Copies of the mysteries and Rosary beads were provided to support the girls in following the structure of the prayer.

Pupils and staff were invited to participate in Eucharistic Adoration in the school chapel throughout Advent. An evening Carol Service was held on 6<sup>th</sup> December for pupils and their families, and whole-school carol services were held on 21<sup>st</sup> December.

The Season of Advent was also marked by prayerful assemblies which highlighted the annual Christmas SVP Family Appeal. As always, our pupils, parents, and staff were extremely generous, and we were delighted to present Holy Family SVP Conference with a cheque for £1600. We were also able to provide gifts for 12 young people who are currently supported by the Barnardo's Leaving Care Project.

During Lent, Penitential Prayer Services were held for pupils and staff on 20<sup>th</sup> March and the Stations of the Cross took place on Holy Thursday.

Our End of Year 12 and Year 14 Leavers' Masses took place on the 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> May and were celebrated by Fr Mulhall.

Holocaust Memorial Day was highlighted within the school with a number of events led by the RE Department throughout January. This included the delivery of Holocaust focused RE lessons, assemblies, and cross curricular cooperation with the History Department. On Tuesday 23<sup>rd</sup> January, we held a Joint RE and History trip to Belfast Synagogue where our pupils had the privilege of hearing the testimony of **Holocaust survivor Dr Alfred Garwood**.

Interfaith Dialogue and links were developed through the organisation of visits by Year 9 pupils to the Jewish **Synagogue** and Year 10 pupils to the **Indian Community Centre and Mandir**.

2024 marked the **800<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the arrival of the Dominican Order in Ireland** and this was celebrated through prayerful assemblies in January. These were led by our Year 13 and 14 pupils who participate in our St. Dominic Community Service Award. These pupils have been active throughout the year in the preparation and leading of assemblies and liturgy including those in Advent and Lent. They also play a pivotal role in our charitable work.

The first set of **St. Dominic Community Service Awards** were presented to nine pupils at our December 2023 Senior Prize Day. We currently have 13 pupils participating in the Award, including three Year 14 pupils who will receive their medals at Senior Prize Day in December 2024.

With the generous support of the Dominican Sisters, Cabra, we have been able to continue to provide a series of **retreat days for our pupils**. In November, all Year 10 pupils had the opportunity to attend an in-school retreat day led by Brian McKee. Our AS RE pupils along with pupils participating in the St. Dominic Award also had the opportunity to attend a retreat day in Drumalis House, Larne.

The generosity of our school community was further exemplified with the impressive total of £5000 raised during the annual **Trócaire Lenten Campaign**. Assemblies were organised to launch this and we were delighted to welcome Salome Mumba and Mark McMahon to speak to our Year 13 Enriched RE pupils about the work of Trócaire in Malawi. Salome had travelled to Ireland from Malawi and was able to give first-hand testimony of the positive impact Trócaire is making in the region. Mark returned in April to receive our donation and spoke at both assemblies to thank pupils and staff and to give an update on their work.

The **SVP society** continues to flourish in our school with a range of events taking place including the Year 8 Spellathon (which raised £1265.17), the Christmas Appeal, and Halloween, Mother's Day, and Father's Day raffles. The total raised for SVP, Trócaire and Children in Crossfire amounted to an amazing £8665.17.

As an acknowledgement of their hard work and commitment throughout the year, our Mini-Vinnie pupils were invited to attend our annual summer SVP trip to the Ulster Folk Park, Cultra. This took place on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June and was a thoroughly enjoyable day.



## RE Department, Charitable and Liturgical Events 2023-2024

Mon 4 <sup>th</sup> September:	Guest Speaker from the Welcome Organisation (Year 14)
Tues 5 <sup>th</sup> September:	Guest speaker from Children in Crossfire (Year 13)
Monday 25 <sup>th</sup> September:	Eucharistic Adoration in the Chapel
Mon 6 <sup>th</sup> November:	Guest Speaker from Northern Ireland Hospice ( <b>Kindness Counts Campaign</b> ) Year 14
Friday 6 <sup>th</sup> October:	Opening School Mass
Tuesday 10 <sup>th</sup> October:	Year 8 Mass
SVP Spellathon raised <b>£1265.17</b> .	
Term 1:	Fundraising for Children in Crossfire raised <b>£661.35</b> .
Wed 8 <sup>th</sup> November:	Morning Mass of Remembrance
9 <sup>th</sup> – 17 <sup>th</sup> November:	<b>Year 10 Retreats</b> in-house facilitated by Brian McKee
6 <sup>th</sup> December:	Advent Prayer and Carol Service for pupils and their families(7pm)
Thursday 21 <sup>st</sup> December:	Advent Prayer and Carol Service
Christmas SVP and Barnardo's Appeal. <b>£1600</b> raised for Holy Family SVP and <b>gifts</b> purchased for <b>12 young people</b> supported by the Leaving Care Project (for young people who have left foster care).	
Tuesday 23 <sup>rd</sup> January:	Joint RE and History trip to Belfast Synagogue – Pupils had the privilege of hearing the testimony of Holocaust survivor Dr Alfred Garwood.
January:	<b>Homeless Clothing and Essentials Collection</b> . Collected by Welcome Organisation on 2 <sup>nd</sup> Feb.
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> January:	Jubilee 2024 Assembly (Junior School). This marked the 800 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dominican Order in Ireland.
Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> February:	Richard Moore – Year 12 – Chapel (periods 5 and 6). Presentation of cheque for <b>£800</b> .
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> February:	Senior Assembly – Theme: Trocaire
Tuesday 27 <sup>th</sup> February:	Salome Mumba (Trocaire speaker) – Lecture Theatre (12.40pm-1.30pm)
Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> February:	Junior Assembly – Theme: Trocaire
Lenten period:	Trocaire Fundraising.
Friday 1 <sup>st</sup> March:	9B visit to the Synagogue.
Thursday 7 <sup>th</sup> March:	Jubilee 2024 Assembly (Senior School). This marked the 800 <sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dominican Order in Ireland.
Wednesday 20 <sup>th</sup> March:	Penitential Prayer Service
Tuesday 26 <sup>th</sup> March:	Retreat Day for St. Dominic and AS RE pupils held in Drumalis House, Larne led by Brian McKee.
Holy Thursday:	Stations of the Cross Prayer Service
Thursday 25 <sup>th</sup> April:	Presentation of cheque for <b>£5000</b> to Trocaire. Mark McMahon spoke to our Junior Assembly about their work in Malawi.
Thursday 2 <sup>nd</sup> May:	Mark McMahon returned for a repeat assembly to thank the senior pupils for their fundraising efforts.
Tuesday 7 <sup>th</sup> May:	Year 14 Leavers' Mass celebrated by Fr. B. Mulhall.
Wednesday 8 <sup>th</sup> May:	Year 12 Mass celebrated by Fr. B. Mulhall.
Tuesday 4 <sup>th</sup> June:	9B visit of the Belfast Hindu Temple (Mandir).

Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> June: Mini Vinnie's (Junior SVP) Summer Trip – Cultra Folk Park.  
Thursday 27<sup>th</sup> June: End of Year Staff Mass.

**Fundraising Total for Children in Crossfire, Trócaire, and St. Vincent de Paul: £8665.17**

Other Fundraising Amounts raised by Dominican College, Fortwilliam in 2023/2024

Aware NI Fun Run £1063

Saphara £3900

NI Hospice £865 + £400 donation made by school for Year 14 angels.

**This gives us a total raised in 2023-24 of £14,893.17.**

In addition to this, we organised a warm clothing collection for the Welcome Organisation (Homelessness), donated twelve gifts to Barnardo's Leaving Care Project, and Christmas shoeboxes to Blythswood Care.

## Daily Timetable 2024 Overview

### Daily Timetable - Years 8, 9 & 10

Time	Period
09:00 - 09:15	Morning Registration
09:15 - 10:05	Period 1
10:05 - 10:55	Period 2
10:55 - 11:15	Break
11:15 - 12:10	Period 3
12:10 - 13:00	Period 4
13:00 - 13:40	Junior Lunch
13:40 - 14:30	Period 5
14:30 - 15:20	Period 6

### Daily Timetable - Years 11, 12, 13 & 14

Time	Period
09:00 - 09:15	Morning Registration
09:15 - 10:05	Period 1
10:05 - 10:55	Period 2
10:55 - 11:15	Break
11:15 - 12:10	Period 3
12:10 - 12:50	Senior Lunch
12:50 - 13:40	Period 4
13:40 - 14:30	Period 5
14:30 - 15:20	Period 6

August 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
		1	2	3	4	5	6
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
1	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
2	28	29	30	31			

September 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
2					1	2	3
1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
1	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
2	25	26	27	28	29	30	

October 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
							1
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
2	9	10	11	12	13	14	15
1	16	17	18	19	20	21	22
2	23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	30	31					

November 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
			1	2	3	4	5
1	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
2	27	28	29	30			

December 2023							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
2					1	2	3
1	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
2	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
2	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

January 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
2	29	30	31				

February 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
2				1	2	3	4
1	5	6	7	8	9	10	11
	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
2	19	20	21	22	23	24	25
1	26	27	28	29			

March 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
1					1	2	3
2	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	11	12	13	14	15	16	17
2	18	19	20	21	22	23	24
1	25	26	27	28	29	30	31

April 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6	7
1	8	9	10	11	12	13	14
2	15	16	17	18	19	20	21
1	22	23	24	25	26	27	28
2	29	30					

May 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
2			1	2	3	4	5
1	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
2	13	14	15	16	17	18	19
1	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
2	27	28	29	30	31		

June 2024							
Wk	Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
						1	2
1	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
2	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
1	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
2	24	25	26	27	28	29	30

Yr 8 Summer Camp	
Pupil Induction Days	
Year 11 - 14 Exams	
Year 10 Exams	
Year 8 – 9 Exams	
Open Day	
Staff Day	
School Holiday	