

BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPORT TO PARENTS 2024/2025

ASPIRE - ENDEAVOUR - ACHIEVE



ST. CECILIA'S

COLLEGE

"It takes courage to be kind"



ST. CECILIA'S COLLEGE
House of Courage

"Embrace Grace"



ST. CECILIA'S COLLEGE
House of Grace

"Peace begins with a smile"



ST. CECILIA'S COLLEGE
House of Peace

"Let your hopes shape your future"



ST. CECILIA'S COLLEGE
House of Hope

"Have faith in what will be"



ST. CECILIA'S COLLEGE
House of Faith



Dear Parent/Carer

I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as Chairperson of the Board of Governors. I have been a school governor with St Cecilia's College for more than 20 years and strongly support the school ethos of 'Aspire, Endeavour, Achieve'. I am focussed on the responsibility of being Chairman of the Governors and to support the staff and pupils of St Cecilia's College to achieve the best outcomes for our pupils.

As a parent, I have been fortunate in that my eldest daughter attended St Cecilia's College and benefited from an excellent education that led to her attending university and progressing on to qualify as a teacher. She has such happy memories of this school, and is still proud to call herself a "St Cecilia's girl".

Our Principal, together with the Senior Leadership Team, continues to drive the school forward, ensuring that while GCSE and A Level results are excellent, every pupil is supported in an environment that enables them to achieve in their own unique way and aspire to be the best they can be.

As Chairman of the Board of Governors, I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in our school life. To our parents in particular, for continuing the partnership with the school in ensuring that each child reaches their full potential, as we endeavour to manage the difficult financial challenges that our education system currently faces.

Our Senior and Junior Student Leadership Teams continue to work well in achieving their overall goals and this is reflected in the many external activities that our pupils participated in throughout the year.

They are an inspiration to us all.

We thank you for your support in the past year and look forward to your continued support of St Cecilia's College.

Yours faithfully

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Patrick Armstrong'. The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'P'.

Chairman of The Board of Governors



Dear Parent/Carer

I am writing to thank you all so much for the support you have given the school. This has been another very successful year in terms of results with the pupils achieving well above the NI average. We are very proud of all of our pupils' achievements and wish them all well in their future career paths!

Year on year, we challenge our pupils to fulfil their potential in all aspects of their school and community life. We are delighted, in this report, to recognise the many achievements of our pupils in the form of academic, extra-curricular and personal achievements. More detailed information about our examination results and pupil successes can be found in this report. So, at this time of year, we reflect on the year that has passed and look forward to a new year. Personally, I am thankful for the hard work, determination, and resilience that the pupils and staff have shown this year. The children have been a true credit to all parents, carers, and the community. I am so proud of the St Cecilia's Family and how we continue to work together to get through the ups and downs whilst continually striving for success. It is a privilege for me to lead this great school.

Parents/carers who wish to discuss any issue or seek further information are welcome to contact the school to arrange an appointment with me.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mary Jo O'Carolan', is written over a horizontal line.

Mary Jo O'Carolan
Principal



'Aspire, Endeavour, Achieve'

Number of Pupils on roll

1st September 2024: 861

Ownership The site and buildings are vested in the trustees of the Catholic Church in the Diocese of Derry.

Management Board of Governors

Members of the Board of Governors	Mr P Armstrong	- EA Representative (Chairperson)
	Mrs T McPhillips	- Trustee Representative (Vice-Chairperson)
	Fr J Gormley	- Trustee Representative
	Mrs B Stevenson	- Trustee Representative
	Mrs C Dunn	- Trustee Representative
	Mrs M McCarron	- EA Representative
	Ms A M McLaughlin	- DENI Representative
	Mrs L Nash	- Parent Representative
	Ms C Coyle	- Teacher Representative

Secretary to the Board of Governors Mrs Mary Jo O'Carolan (Principal)

Learning Support Provision

St. Cecilia's College has an inclusive SEN Policy and is committed to maximising its pupils' academic achievements within a broad and balanced curriculum which addresses the social, spiritual, pastoral, and emotional needs of its pupils. 18.9% of our school population are on the Learning Support Register and 7.2% have Statements of Special Educational Needs.

The Learning Support Coordinator liaise with class teachers and the pastoral team on a regular basis. The class teachers implement strategies to aid learning which are listed in the pupil PLPs. Pastoral teams help with the review of the PLPs bi-annually. The Learning Support Coordinator, in conjunction with the KS3 Pastoral team, leads the transition of pupils from Primary school to Secondary school. We place great importance on this which allows us to hit the ground running with our SEN pupils. We have had great success with both Primary school and parental meetings, as well as liaising with various external agencies e.g. Educational Psychology.

<p>CPD is prioritised as an area of massive importance to our Teaching Assistants. A culture of KAIZEN is promoted to ensure the best possible outcomes for pupils.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time is given to SEN in Staff Development days. This usually takes the form of staff training. Teaching Assistants may get additional time during INSET days to upskill further. • Training courses (online and in-person) are offered to staff. • PPBSP are brought in to conduct training with specific staff around the individual needs of certain pupils. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certificates available to provide evidence of CPD. • Recommendations provided by PPBSP disseminated to all staff. • Departmental meeting minutes
<p>Early identification of pupils who may have been overlooked in Primary school for intervention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Learning Support Coordinator is given access to all necessary data, especially that of Year 8 pupils. It allows for more informed decisions to be made moving forward. • Pupils of note are tested via the Woodcock Johnson Test to allow for a deeper understanding of their difficulties. • The Learning Support Coordinator is given additional time off timetable to implement interventions, manage staff and test pupils. • Funding is given to provide batteries of tests, and programs to promote independent learning. • Time is given for the review of pupil PLPs and to conduct Annual Reviews. • A MDTM is conducted approximately every 6 weeks. This is staff lead as to which pupils should be discussed. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of statemented pupils has risen considerably. There is evidence of St. Cecilia's being seen as a leader in SEN provision, but also there are efforts made to get more current pupils a statutory assessment of Special Educational Needs. • More testing is being purchased as more pupils are availing of the service. • The IDL program is bought in to provide interventions for Literacy and Numeracy. • There are MDTM minutes from every meeting recorded.
<p>Creating closer links with Primary schools to be able to highlight what our school has to offer, and be the number 1 choice for pupils and parents of SEN children in the Northwest</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Contact is made with all our feeder Primary schools and correspondence is passed on to the parents of SEN pupils. • SEN pupils are given private tours of the school to reduce their anxiety and allow for a more relaxed atmosphere. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More contact with Primary schools. Primary school staff are more familiar with our school than ever before. • Primary Schools often visit our school to discuss transitioning pupils, and vice versa. • Tours are provided with SEN children weekly, especially from November – March.

Pupil Successes/Events in 2024-2025

September Highlights

- Senior Prizegiving Ceremony
- PE Department participated in Ulster Schools Multi-Events and Donegal Schools Cross Country
- Year 13 attended Government & Politics debate at Stormont (accompanied by Miss Boyle)
- School Formal held at the City Hotel
- Staff Development Day including Clevertouch Training
- School Nurse administered vaccinations
- Mayoress presented the BDA Quality Mark for dyslexia-friendly practice
- Junior Leadership Team Interviews were conducted
- Mrs Beatty attended Macmillan Coffee Morning at Creggan Library
- Dr Conaghan accompanied pupils to the opening of HURT's new facilities

October Highlights

- KS5 RSE Workshops were delivered by the GUM Clinic and Catechetical Centre; parent/carer session was also held.
- Year 8 and Year 9 pupils attended weekly Thursday Mass at St Mary's Creggan
- Children's Rights in Practice event at Foyle College
- RE Department and pupil representatives attended Saint Bernadette Relic event
- World Mental Health Day marked with classroom talks and resources
- 8 Peace attended Mass of Saint Bernadette
- Bake Sale held for 'Think Pink' month
- Whole School Fire Drill conducted
- EY STEM App Launch piloted by Science Department
- Miss Boyle attended 'Let's Talk' event with pupils at Waterfoot Hotel
- Year 9 attended Planetarium Dome Show in the Library
- Halloween Howl hosted for Primary schools
- Year 8 Halloween Party
- Year 13 Drama pupils visited Lyric Theatre, Belfast
- Year 13 Parent-Teacher Meeting
- Well-being Hub formally launched in partnership with MD Educational
- Primary 7 Pumpkin Competition
- Year 11 Brilliant Club pupils graduated at Queen's University; accompanied by Mr Rodgers and Mrs Kearney
- The Languages Department hosted 5 Spanish Exchange pupils from "Vigo en Inglés"
- Breast Cancer Awareness Month activities raised over £1,000 for Foyle Hospice

November Highlights

- Year 14 pupils attended St Mary's University talk
- The Music Department hosted a Music Masterclass with concert pianist Richard Meyrick
- Year 11 Parent-Teacher Meeting
- U16 Gaelic team defeated St Patrick's and St Brigid's, Claudy
- The GUM Clinic delivered 'Looking After Yourself' talks to Years 11-14 pupils. Sessions were also offered to parents
- Year 13 Business Studies pupils completed the 'Being Entrepreneurial' module with Ulster University Outreach Academy
- Year 11 Language pupils received their OLA certificates
- Science Department and pupils attended Water Warriors Roadshow at Millennium Forum
- Catechetical Centre hosted the Annual Primary Schools Conference at St Cecilia's

- World Kindness Day was celebrated
- Churches Trust Columba Project spoke to Year 13 pupils
- Year 14 pupils attended ATU Donegal Open Day
- Years 9 and Year 10 pupils attended the ‘Smashed’ Live event
- Ms Rainey and Year 14 pupils attended the COP29 Climate Simulation at Belfast City Hall
- International Men’s Day was marked with staff appreciation event
- Year 8 pupils attended a Study Skills Workshop organised by Young Enterprise
- Four Year 10 ICT pupils participated in Envisage 2064 competition at Ulster University Magee
- The Music Department and Year 10 pupils attended ‘Elf the Musical’
- Feast of St Cecilia was celebrated with a school Mass at St Mary’s Church
- Year 14 pupils graduated from Queen’s University Pathway Programme
- Ms McGlinchey attended Credit Union Art Awards
- Women Against Violence Workshops were held with Foyle Women’s Aid
- Rickety Wheel and Craft Fayre event was held at the school
- Over 600 Primary school pupils attended Christmas Workshops

December Highlights

- Participation in St Columb’s Cathedral Christmas Tree Festival
- Exam Week commenced
- Choir performed at Londonderry Musical Society Concert and Cathedral Festival
- 8 Courage and 8 Faith2 attended Year 8 SEP Event
- Year 11 Workshop with Nerve Centre
- Environmental Workshop with Gareth Lamrock including the “Wheellie Big Challenge”
- Health & Social Care Talk by Deirdre Doherty
- Employability Visit led by Mrs O’Donnell
- Primary school ICT Visit by Holy Child
- “Green Lounge” Event raised £180.51 for Sr Clare Crockett Fund
- Comic Life Workshop with Nerve Centre
- Christmas Door Decorating Competition held school-wide
- Year 9 pupils attended a Resilience Programme with Danielle Kelly (EA)
- Annual Carol Service at St Mary’s Church and Foyle Food Bank appeal
- Christmas Bake Sale for St Vincent de Paul
- Christmas Trips held for various year groups to different locations:
 - Year 8 and Year 13 pupils – Cinema & Bowling
 - Year 9 and Year 10 pupils – Bowling
 - Year 11 and Year 12 pupils – Pizza Party
- Stage Beyond Performance given of *Room at the Inn*

February Highlights

- Children’s Mental Health Week launched with events and sessions for pupils and staff
- Shared Education Visit to Lisneal College
- Holy Child Primary school Digital Skills Workshops
- Year 10 pupils attended Bring IT On Workshops and Netball Blitz
- Lunchtime Clothing Swap Shop organised by Ms Rainey
- SistersIN Bun Sale raised funds for Sr Clare Crockett Fund
- Key Stage 5 Business Studies pupils participated in the Young Enterprise Trade Fair at Foyleside
- Choir attended Music Workshop led by Deke Sharon
- Mid-Term Break
- Fire Safety Croner Audit conducted
- U16 Gaelic teams participated in Ulster Schools Final and pupils participated in the Ulster Schools Cross-Country Championships
- Health & Social Care Moderation Visit
- Year 10 Parent-Teacher Meeting
- Year 11/12 School Leaver Vaccinations

- Key Stage 3 Spanish pupils attended a performance of the Spanish play *Primera Cita*
- Year 10 and Year 12 pupils attended Subject Choice Talks
- Netball teams competed in NI Schools Bowl quarterfinals in Omagh
- Dance Moderation held
- SistersIN hosted Addiction Awareness Event
- Subject Choice Trawl Sheets were returned from Year 10 and Year 12 pupils
- Special Assembly on Walking & Wellbeing by Michael Doherty
- Classes 10 Faith and 8 Peace attended an RE 'Verbal Peace of Mind' Programme
- Weekly Masses held :
 - Morning Mass for pupils and staff in the Oratory
 - Thursday 10 am Mass for Years 9 and Year 10 pupils at St Mary's Church
 - Class 10 Courage attended 10 am Mass at St Mary's Church with their subject teacher
- Weekly lunchtime activities:
 - Orchestra
 - Irish Dance
 - Well-being Club
- Year 13 Drama Devised Performance
- Year 12 Drama Practical assessment
- Careers Talk provided for Travel & Tourism and Hospitality pupils by Catriona Lennox (Springboard) and guest speaker from UU Magee

March Highlights

- CiCi Chatbot Launch: Attended by the Mayoress, Board of Governors, Careers Service, Ulster University, and ATU representatives
- Pancake Tuesday: Celebrated by Years 8 & 13
- National Careers Week: Officially launched
- Ash Wednesday: Distribution of ashes
- SistersIN Job Shadow Day: Year 13 pupils
- International Women's Day included the following events:
 - Whole School Assembly led by SistersIN
 - Guest speaker Aoife Dowds addressed Year 13 pupils
 - Pupils and staff wore purple accessories
 - Events hosted by the Mayoress and "Women of Creggan" with a Rising Star Award presented to a pupil
 - Year 10 ICT pupils attended a Fujitsu Workshop
 - Guest speakers delivered talks throughout the week
 - Collaboration with Women's Aid continued for Year 10 pupils
- Options Night held for Year 10 and Year 12 pupils making their GCSE and A Level Subject Choices
- World Book Day Celebrations were held across multiple year groups
- Year 10 Project Business Event
- Year 8 and Year 9 Parent-Teacher Meeting
- A Level Drama pupils visited The Playhouse for a Performing Arts Industry Visit
- Minister Paul Givan and Mayoress Visit: Tour and presentations were held in the Well-being Hub
- Year 10 and Year 12 Dance pupils Workshops attended an Echo Dance Company and 'Hairspray' Workshop
- Gaelic Blitz Participation
- Year 13 pupils attended University Talks provided by Ulster University and Edge Hill University
- Key Stage 4 and 5 Politics Class Visit from Mark H Durkan MLA
- AS English pupils Visit to Seamus Heaney's Homeplace
- New York Trip Draw
- U13 Football team and U16 Football team participated in the NISFA Plate Matches
- World Poetry Day was celebrated
- Year 13 Geography pupils attended a Residential at the Magilligan Field Centre
- Foyle Poetry Schools Competition Winners announced
- Gasyard Feile Production: *In The Way of It* rehearsals and performance

- School Nurse administered HPV Mop-Up to Year 9 and Year 10 pupils
- Irish News Editor-in-Chief Visit to Year 8 English class

April Highlights

- Year 12 Geography pupils attended a Residential at the Magilligan Field Centre
- U16 Football team participated in the NISFA Plate Match against Thornhill College
- Year 8 Health Presentation given on BMI and Dental Health
- Minister Fleur Anderson Visit: Engaged with Year 10 and toured the Wellbeing Hub
- SistersIN Celebration Event at the ICC Belfast
- U14 Gaelic team won their match against SPB Claudy at Celtic Park
- Year 14 pupils attended NWRC Visit: Music and Performing Arts Session
- Derry Credit Union Young People's Awards was attended at Waterfoot Hotel
- Head Girl and Student Leadership Team Interviews were held and appointed
- Year 8 pupils participated in Easter Bonnet Competition
- TES Awards: Shortlisted for *Pupil Initiative of the Year*
- Excellence in Pupil Development Assessment: Comprehensive evaluation involving pupils, parents, governors, staff, and external verifiers
- Achieved an "Outstanding" rating, equivalent to Ofsted standards

May Highlights

- University Engagements included the following events:
 - Year 13 and Year 14 pupils attended Galway University Talk
 - Year 13 pupils attended Queen's University Belfast Talk
 - Year 13 and Year 14 pupils attended Edge Hill University Talk
- Gaelic Sports included the following competitions:
 - U14 Gaelic team participated in the Final against St. Louis Monaghan
 - Final vs St. Paul's High School, Bessbrook
 - U13 Gaelic team and U16 Gaelic team participated in the NISFA Plate Matches
- Performances & Events:
 - *School of Rock* band performed at Jazz Festival (Gay McIntyre Stage, Guildhall)
 - A2 Music pupils 'Rock' themed Music performance
 - Year 14 Leavers' Breakfast followed by the Leavers Mass
 - Year 12 pupils had a Celebration Event before given their Study Leave
 - Gasyard Feile production: *In The Way of It* was performed
- Achievements:
 - Eco-Schools Green Flag awarded to Ms Cheryl Rainey and Eco Team
 - Ulster Schools Athletics winners were:
 - Millie: - Double Gold (Long Jump & Shot Put)
 - Cora: - Double Bronze (High Jump & 75m Hurdles)
 - Mary Kate: - Gold (Para 100m)
 - All-Ireland Athletics achievements for:
 - Millie - 6th (Shot Put & Long Jump)
 - Cora - 7th (High Jump)
 - Amelia Earhart STEM Challenge - 3rd Place (Mrs McLarnon & Science Team)
 - Local Women Awards:
 - Mrs Cheryl Rainey - Excellence in Sustainability
 - Mr David Flood - Unsung Hero
 - Brilliant Club Graduation:
 - 14 Year 10 pupils graduated - 7 awarded First Class, 6 received 2:1, 1 received 2:2
 - TES Awards with shortlisting for school for *Pupil Initiative of the Year* (Winner announced June 20)
 - Excellence in Pupil Development Assessment: Rated "Outstanding" (Ofsted equivalent)

- Workshops & Visits:
 - Class 9 Grace attended W5 Dream Space Workshop
 - Soil Sisters Advice Session
 - The Environmental Club and Year 10 pupils attended Climate Fresk Workshop at Fujitsu
 - Water Warriors Marine Machine Visit
 - Bogside Brandywell Health Forum facilitated Health Checks to pupils and staff
 - Dance Workshop by Echo Dance Company
 - Politics Class Visit by Mark H Durkan MLA
 - AS English pupils visit to Seamus Heaney's Homeplace
- Community & Transition:
 - Year 8 Easter Bonnet Competition
 - Induction 1:1 meetings with incoming Year 8 pupils and parents
 - Exam Week commenced

June Highlights

- Transition Activities included:
 - Primary school transition meetings
 - Primary 7 CAT Testing
 - Year 13 pupils attended UCAS Launch
 - Year 13 prefects participated in a Teambuilding Day at Creggan Country Park
- Academic Support:
 - Maths GCSE Revision Sessions held throughout June
- School Trips included:
 - KS3 End Of Year Trip to Portrush
 - History Trip to Berlin
 - Language Trip to Madrid
 - Year 11 pupils participated in a Well-being day

Year 9 Achievements

February

- Isla H-McG, Clara M, Cora P (9 Faith 2) – Participated in the Derry Credit Union Quiz.

April

- Year 9 Pupils – Completed the Peace of Mind Pilot Programme at the Verbal Arts Centre.
- Derry Credit Union Awards
 - Seanain McC (9 Faith 1) - Winner of the All or Nothing Award for Fundraising Achievements
 - Shannon O’H (9 Faith 2) - Second runner-up in the Braveheart Category
 - Millie S (9 Grace) - Nominated for the Titan Award for Sporting Achievements

May

- Alannah D (9 Faith 1) – Winner at Derry Feis:
 - 1st place - English Set Song (Age 12–14)
 - 3rd place - Irish Language Song (Age 12–14)
- Athletics:
 - District Schools Athletics Championships
 - Cora P (9 Faith 2) – Won 2 medals.
 - Faye C (9 Hope) – 2nd place in Minor Girls 100m
 - Ulster Schools Athletics Championships
 - Cora P (9 Faith 2) – Double bronze in High Jump and 75m Hurdles
 - Irish Schools Track & Field Competition
 - Cora P (9 Faith 2) – 7th place in High Jump
- Isla H-McG, Cora P, Amy Q (9 Faith 2, 9 Grace) – participated in Darkness into Light for Pieta House.
- Amy Q, Daira K, Cora P, Freya, Eabhla-Rose F, Freya G-M (9 Courage, 9 Peace, 9 Faith 2, 9 Hope) – achieved 3rd place in the Amelia Earhart STEM Challenge at Ulster University.

June

- Isla H-McG (9 Faith 2) - participated in "When I Grow Up" at the Millennium Forum.
- Seanain McC (9 Faith 1) - Winner of the Inspirational Young Person Award at the Derry Journal Awards.
- Dara Sheina B (9 Faith 1) - member of the Eco Team involved in securing the Green Flag School Award with Ms Rainey.
- Emily R (9 Peace) - received the Endeavour Award from the Community of Lifesavers Education Programme.
- Daira K (9 Peace) - recognised for achievement in the Community of Lifesavers Education Programme
- Isabella G & Saoirse N (9 Faith 2) - performed in "Annie" at the Millennium Forum

August

- Fallon Mck (9 Hope) - played the harp at the opening of a museum

September

- Milly S (9 Grace) - finished 2nd in the NI Multi-Event Athletics Championship

October

- Shaniece R (9 Courage) - Gold Winner at the Belfast Halloween Box Club; member of Oakleaf Boxing Club

November

- Mia C (9 Faith 1) - won a rosette and medal in horse showjumping
- Ava S (9 Faith 1) - 4th prize in horse showjumping
- Faye C (9 Hope) - selected for the Derry Under-14 Gaelic Panel
- Alannah D (9 Faith 1) - Regional Winner in the Derry Credit Union Art Competition

December

- 9 Hope pupils - raised £227.45 for St. Vincent de Paul by selling raffle tickets for their Christmas hamper.

Year 10 Achievements

Leadership & Volunteering

- Pupils actively participated in the Junior Leadership Team and local youth clubs, developing leadership and community service skills.

Sports & Arts

- Eva D - Gaelic football success with Sean Dolans.
- Sophie Campbell - Football tournament win with Tristar.
- Charley Barr - competed in athletics.
- Eirinn McG - competed at National Level in gymnastics and dance.
- Orlaigh W - progressed in piano grades.

Workshops & Talks

- Participated in Self-Esteem And Social Media Workshops during PD.
- Year 11 pupils attended a PHA talk.

Individual Achievements

- Orlaigh W - Piano grade and Swimming medal
- Hannah Mc - Grade 7 in Speech and Drama
- Tillie McF - 3 gold medals in Swimming
- Anne McN - Swimming medal
- Miley N - Grade 4 in singing
- Aya S - became a TBUC Ambassador

Key Stage 5 Achievements

Awards & Recognition

- Ffion P (Year 14) - Winner of NI Student of the Year (Baker McKenzie)
- Tara H (Year 14) - Runner-up in NI Student of the Year (Baker McKenzie)
- Ffion P - Winner in Credit Union Art Competition (14–17 yrs)

Academic & Leadership Programmes

- 19 Year 13 pupils completed in the Queen's Pathway Programme with:
 - 6 pupils in Nursing/Midwifery/Pharmacy
 - 13 in Engineering/Law/Science
- 9 Year 13 pupils earned Peer Mentoring Certificates
- Year 13 pupils tutored KS3 pupils weekly for 10 weeks

Faith and Service Awards

- 17 Year 14 pupils received the Pope John Paul II Award
- 2 former Year 14 pupils received the Papal Cross Award

Attendance Incentives

- 49 pupils received £5 vouchers for maintaining Full Attendance over 3 months

SistersIN Programme

- 10 Year 13 pupils partnered with female leaders in NI workplaces to complete and present projects

Subject Achievements and Highlights

Art Department

Throughout the academic year, the Art Department celebrated several key achievements:

Credit Union Art Competition

- Our school was awarded **Overall Winner** for best school, with **seven top winners** across Key Stages 3, 4, and 5.

After-School Sewing Club

- The club welcomed over 20 enthusiastic members from KS3, KS4, and KS5. Pupils learned to sew from scratch and created impressive final pieces including tote bags, cushion covers, and makeup purses.

Past Pupil Art Exhibition – International Women’s Day

- Held at Pilots Row, this inspiring exhibition featured work by Amber & Leona McLaughlin and Colleen McSheffrey. It was a proud moment to open the exhibition for our exam pupils.

Frida Kahlo Inspired Project – International Women’s Day

- Year 9 pupils explored Frida Kahlo’s life and work, producing research pages and self-portraits inspired by her unique style.

Annual Easter Bonnet Parade – Year 8

- A fantastic event with over 100 parents in attendance. Pupils designed bonnets using recyclable materials and showcased them on a catwalk. Every participant received an Easter egg, kindly donated by staff.

End-of-Year Fine Art & Textile Show – A Level

- A successful showcase of our talented A Level pupils. We wish them every success in their future endeavours.

Business Studies Department

Throughout the academic year, the Business Department celebrated several key achievements:

Young Enterprise Programmes

- Implemented across year groups:
 - Year 10: Project Business
 - Year 8: Blast Off Programme

Young Enterprise Company Programme – Year 13

- Students launched **'Sip & Save'**, a company addressing the environmental impact of single-use plastics.

Rickety Wheel Event – Year 14

- Pupils created and sold Hot Chocolate Bombs as part of their entrepreneurial project.

Enterprising School Award

- The school was honoured with the Enterprising School award by Young Enterprise.

University Outreach Success

- Year 13 students successfully completed University of Ulster Outreach Modules.

Industry Links and Guest Speakers

- Strong connections were established with local businesses, including Allstate and Ebrington Hotel, enriching the curriculum with real-world insights.

Careers CEIAG Department (Careers Education, Information, Advice & Guidance)

Throughout the academic year, the Careers Department celebrated several key achievements:

University Success

- Our Year 14 students performed exceptionally well, with 70% securing places at university—a 4% increase from last year. The remaining 30% progressed to Further Education, training organisations, full-time employment, or opted for a gap year.

Launch of Careers AI Chatbot – “CiCi”

- In February 2025, we proudly launched CiCi, our Careers AI Chatbot, making St Cecilia’s College the first school in Ireland (including Northern Ireland) to introduce AI-driven careers guidance through the chatbot “Charlie.”

CiCi offers:

- 24/7 personalised career exploration
- Conversation flows and videos simulating real-life careers guidance
- Multilingual support (100+ languages)
- Text-to-speech technology
- Downloadable career journey reports
- Direct engagement with our Careers Guidance Team

This innovation is set to transform how careers advice is delivered at St Cecilia’s College.

Baker McKenzie Student of the Year Awards

- Year 14 students Ffion and Tara were honoured at the 2025 Baker McKenzie Belfast Student of the Year Awards.
- Ffion was named Overall Winner, Tara received a Highly Commended award. Both students attended the award ceremony at Baker McKenzie’s Belfast office, receiving:
 - New laptops
 - Gift vouchers
 - Career mentorship opportunities

An outstanding achievement for both girls!

Derry Credit Union Young People’s Award – SistersIN Leadership Programme

- St Cecilia’s College was shortlisted in the Leadership Award category, recognising the impact of our SistersIN programme.

Fujitsu School Engagement Partnership

- We were shortlisted for the Northwest Business Awards 2025 thanks to our successful partnership with Fujitsu. This initiative equips students with:
 - Practical skills
 - Industry insights
 - Mentorship from professionals

Key activities rolled out:

1. Apprenticeship information and employability sessions
2. Women in Business presentations
3. International Women’s Day celebrations
4. Interview skills and CV workshops, including Dress for Success

SistersIN Leadership Programme

- This programme continues to empower our young women by developing their leadership skills.
 - 10 pupils were matched with mentors
 - Monthly meetings focused on leadership challenges, career pathways, and advice for young female leaders
 - Pupils chose to support two charities: Sister Clare Fund and AddictionNI

Work-Related Learning & Career Events

- We hosted numerous career events throughout the year including:
 - Year 13 Careers Development Week
 - 68 pupils participated in work experience placements
 - Career Awareness Weeks
 - Global Entrepreneur's Week
 - National Careers Week
 - Year 13 Careers Development Week

These events helped pupils develop employability skills, gain career insights, and understand Labour Market Information (LMI).

Dance Department

Throughout the academic year, the Dance Department celebrated several key achievements:

- The 2024–2025 academic year has been a highly successful and enriching period for the Dance Department. We've seen significant growth in performance opportunities, and community outreach.
- Our curriculum was enhanced through a wide range of extracurricular activities, workshops, and public performances, all contributing to the development of our students' technical skills, creativity, and confidence.



Growth of Extracurricular Dance Clubs

- This year marked the successful launch and expansion of three new dance clubs:
 - Cheerleading Club
Attracted a diverse group of students and promoted teamwork, stamina, and performance skills.
 - Street Dance Club
Offered a creative outlet for students interested in urban dance styles and improvisation.
 - Irish Dance Club
Celebrated cultural heritage and traditional dance, with strong participation across year groups.



These clubs have significantly enhanced student engagement and foster a strong sense of community and school spirit.



Dance Workshops & Community Engagement

- We hosted themed dance workshops for local Primary schools during Halloween and Christmas, providing younger students with a fun and educational introduction to dance.
- These events were well-received and helped strengthen our ties with the wider community.



Drama and Theatre Studies Department

Throughout the academic year, the Drama and Theatre Studies Department celebrated several key achievements:

Academic Success

- GCSE Drama: 100% of pupils achieved A* – C grades.
- GCE A Level Drama & Theatre Studies: Year 14 pupils are on track for 90% A–C grades.

Key Events & Enrichment Activities

- Shakespeare Workshop (Oct 2024): Professional actors led workshops linking Shakespeare's work to modern interpretations and A Level curriculum.
- Ulster Museum Trip (Nov 2024): Year 13 enjoyed cultural insights, especially the *Derry Girls* exhibit.
- Lyric Theatre Visit: Attended *The Tragedy of Richard III*
A modern adaptation used for A Level exam prep.

KS3 Curriculum & Social Impact

- Year 10 Drama: Focused on social issues like underage drinking and peer pressure using a published workshop by the Head of Department.
- Anti-Bullying Week: Explored bullying and restorative practices through drama.

Community & Inclusion

- Stage Beyond Christmas Production: Hosted *Room at the Inn*, highlighting the talents of actors with special needs.
- After School Drama Club: KS3 club led by Victoria Messenger, funded by Extended Schools—high engagement with 26 regular attendees.

Professional Development

- Bruiser in a Box Workshop: Year 11 explored physical theatre styles in a full-day workshop at the Playhouse.

Personal Milestone

- April 2025: Ms McTague, Head of Department, married her former fiancé in The Red Door, Fahan—a joyful highlight for the department.

English Department

Throughout the academic year, the English Department celebrated several key achievements:

- The English Department at St. Cecilia's has enjoyed another highly successful year, marked by excellent exam results and a wide range of rewarding and memorable learning experiences that connect the classroom with the wider community. Our students have participated in numerous events, workshops, and competitions that have enriched their education, built confidence, and celebrated their talents.

Student Achievements

- Foyle Poetry Competition
 - Caitlin C – 3rd place (Key Stage 3)
 - Mary-Kate O'N and Lilly-Ann B – Highly Commended
 - Sophie F – 2nd place (Key Stage 5)

All winners will be published in the next edition of "Rhyme and Reason"

Academic Enrichment

- Ulster University Outreach
Year 14 students attended a lecture by Dr. Willa Murphy on Emily Dickinson's poetry.
- Heaney's Homeplace Visit
Year 13 Literature students explored an immersive exhibition and attended a QUB lecture on Heaney and Frost.

Celebrations & Events

- World Book Day – Celebrated with themed activities and competitions.
- International Women's Day – Marked through poetry and prose.
- Year 10 – Hosted a Q&A and workshop with local author Sue Divin, based on her novel *Truth Be Told*.

Creative Projects by Year Group

- Year 8 – Designed collaborative Wonder-inspired board games.
- Year 9 – Participated in the Creative Schools Project with Echo Echo and MorePies, producing a short film on mental health: What Makes You HAPPY.
- Year 10 – Created podcasts based on Non-Fiction Travel Writing.
- Year 12 – Formed the Feminista group to discuss gender-based stereotyping; represented the school at the Girls in Action! IWD event in Belfast.

Publications & Competitions

- St. Cecilia's News – Produced by Mrs. Brady and her editorial team: Rebecca Dunn, Kaidence Shields-Feeney, Aya Seymour, Evie Crawley, Faye Doolin, Ruby Brown, Meghain Harris, and Chloe McCay.
- Libraries NI Class Visits
- BBC Short Stories Competition
- Verbal Arts Storytelling Project

Author Visit

- Past pupil and published author Bronagh Kearney launched her book *Mighty Mia* with Year 8. Pupils raised £150 for the Northern Ireland Children's Heartbeat Trust.

Geography Department

Throughout the academic year, the Geography Department celebrated several key achievements:



The Geography Department has had another outstanding year, filled with fieldwork, environmental action, and academic enrichment.

Leadership Update

- Ms. Rainey was officially appointed Head of Department in April 2025.

Environmental Club Initiatives

- Continued success of the “Swap with Style” swap shops.
- Weekly recycling efforts to reduce landfill waste.
- Biodiversity project at Creggan Country Park and greenhouse transformation with the Soil Sisters.
- Participation in Climate Fresk Workshop at Fujitsu, promoting STEM careers and Net Zero pledges.

Fieldwork & Trips

- November 2024
 - Energy Saving Week
 - COP29 Simulation at Belfast City Hall (A-Level)
 - Wheelie Big Challenge with Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful
- January 2025
 - Biodiversity workshop at Creggan Country Park
- March 2025
 - Year 12 field trip to Curly Burn River (Magilligan Field Centre)
 - AS Geography residential trip to study sand dune ecosystems

Professional Development

- Ms. Rainey and Mrs. Fleming attended Queen’s University courses on new geography content.

Recognition & Awards

- Eco-Schools Green Flag Award – Prestigious international recognition for environmental efforts.
(Award ceremony: June 12th)



- Excellence in Sustainability and the Environment Award – Accepted by Ms. Rainey at the Local Women Education Awards in Belfast.

Looking Ahead

- We look forward to celebrating our students' achievements at the upcoming Junior Prizegiving and on GCSE and A-Level results days in August.

Staff Acknowledgements

- A heartfelt thank you to Mrs. Claire Fleming for her dedication and friendship since joining in August 2024. We wish her every success in her next venture.
- A warm welcome to Michaela Doherty, and continued thanks to Christopher McMenammin and Charlene McNulty for their commitment to the department.



Health and Social Care Department

Throughout the academic year, the Health and Social Care Department celebrated several key achievements:

- The Health & Social Care Department has had a productive and engaging year, offering students a variety of real-world learning experiences, guest speaker sessions, and curriculum developments that have enriched their understanding of the sector.

Educational Visits

- Year 11 – Visited Bligh's Lane Nursery, gaining insight into early years care and development.
- Year 12 – Took part in a visit to Longfield Care Home, where they observed the care of older adults and the importance of dignity and compassion in practice.

Guest Speakers

- We were delighted to welcome several professionals who shared their expertise with our students:
 - Deirdre Doherty - Delivered a session on reminiscence therapy and its role in elderly care.
 - Melanie Kelly – Spoke about the role of a counsellor, offering valuable insights into mental health support.
 - Mr. O'Kane – Provided an overview of the SEN department and the role of an educational psychologist, helping students understand inclusive education practices.

Curriculum Developments

- Year 13 – Successfully launched the new CCEA GCE Health & Social Care course, offering students a fresh and engaging curriculum aligned with industry needs.
- Year 14 – Achieved successful moderation of OCR coursework, reflecting the high standards and dedication of both students and staff.

History & Politics Department

Throughout the academic year, the History and Politics Department celebrated several key achievements:

- The History and Politics Department has experienced a year of exceptional achievement, innovation, and growth, continuing to thrive as a leading force within our school community.

Student Uptake & Curriculum Strength

- GCSE History: Over 100 pupils are currently studying the subject, with two full Year 11 classes and 60 Year 10 pupils opting to continue into GCSE next year.
- A Level History: Sustained high numbers with 52 students across three Year 12 and two Year 13 classes.
- A Level Government & Politics: A growing cohort of 25 pupils.
- A key strength of the department is the expertise of our teaching staff—all History and Politics teachers are experienced examiners. This ensures:
 - High standards of teaching
 - Rigorous assessment preparation
 - Continuous improvement in student attainment

Curriculum Innovation & Enrichment

Key Stage 3 Initiatives:

- Year 8:
 - Introduction of debating skills
 - Participation in the Castle Design Competition
- Year 9:
 - Embedded ICT-based enquiry
 - Site study of the Derry Walls and visit to the Siege Museum, promoting place-based learning and local history engagement

Key Stage 5 Highlights:

- Parallel Histories Programme (Year 13):
A cross-community initiative fostering dialogue and understanding through critical engagement with contested narratives.
- Politics Engagement:
Students participated in interactive Q&A sessions and welcomed visits from MLAs, connecting classroom learning with current political affairs.

Beyond the Classroom

- Student Council Leadership:
One of our team continues to lead the Student Council, empowering pupils to have a meaningful voice in school life.
- Berlin Trip:
We are eagerly anticipating our upcoming educational trip to Berlin with 53 pupils, which will deepen understanding of Cold War history and the impact of dictatorship in Europe.

Home Economics and Hospitality Department

Throughout the academic year, the Home Economics and Hospitality Department celebrated several key achievements:

- Ms Margaret Rodgers, former Head of Home Economics, left the school in December to take up a new post in Maghera. Following her departure, Miss Niamh O'Sullivan led the Occupational Studies classes for Year 11 and Year 12, team teaching alongside Mrs Nicola Porteous, with valuable support from our technician, Mrs Susan Deery.
- Key Stage 3 classes were delivered by Mrs Nicola Porteous, Miss Niamh O'Sullivan, and Miss Nash. Across KS3, KS4, and KS5, course content was revised and refreshed, with ongoing updates continuing this academic year.
- Year 12 Occupational Studies students achieved excellent results, with all students successfully completing the course. Year 11 students have also completed their initial module and achieved their first cash-in, and are now progressing with their second module. We are pleased to report that the current Year 11 cohort has begun their studies in Hospitality, with an encouraging increase in student numbers selecting the subject.

ICT Department

Throughout the academic year, the ICT Department celebrated several key achievements:

- The ICT Department has had a dynamic and impactful year, marked by strong industry engagement, innovative teaching, and meaningful student experiences across all key stages.

September – March: Building Foundations & Industry Links

- Primary School Collaboration
Established links with Holy Child Primary school, welcoming Primary 6 and 7 pupils for a 3-week IT programme covering multimedia, programming, and design activities
- Industry Mentoring
Participated in an ICT mentoring programme with Software NI, connecting pupils with industry specialists.
- Halloween Activities
 - KS3 Halloween IT Competition
 - Bee Bot workshops for primary pupils, promoting early coding skills.
- Coursework Success
Successful moderation of Year 14 coursework.

November – December: Creative Learning & Competitions

- University of Ulster Competition
Year 10 pupils represented the school in the Year 2025 competition.
- Stop Animation Workshop
Class 10H2, in collaboration with the Nerve Centre, created animations exploring the Good Friday Agreement, blending history and digital creativity.

January – February: Safety & Career Awareness

- Internet Safety Day
Teachers attended a webinar, and delivered assemblies to KS3 and KS4 on online safety.
- Bring IT On Workshops
Delivered by Sentinus to all Year 10 pupils, covering:
 - Emerging careers in IT
 - Skills and technologies in demand
 - Career pathways and salary expectations

March: Celebrating Women in STEM & Cybersecurity

- International Women's Day Event
Hosted by Fujitsu and female IT role models for Year 10 girls, focusing on:
 - Gender equality and bias
 - Teamwork and leadership
 - Women in STEMPupils concluded by writing pledges for the future of all women.
- Cyber Super Event
Year 10 attended an online session with Cybersecurity Expert Steve Benton, exploring careers in cybersecurity.
- National Careers Week
Past pupil Marriah Hamill spoke to Year 10 about her journey as a Junior Software Developer at Aveva, inspiring future tech professionals.

April – June: Industry Engagement & Professional Development

- Fujitsu Visit
Year 13 pupils attended Fujitsu for Unit 17: Internet of Everything presentations.
- Digital Hub Launch
Teachers attended the launch at the Catalyst Building.
- Professional Development
 - Mrs Black attended the FLC HOD cluster group
 - Mrs Black attended AI Conference in Belfast (June 20)
 - Miss Coyle attended Design Thinking AI Workshop at University of Ulster with 20 Year 9 & 10 pupils
 - Mrs Black attended EY STEM App Info Session (June 18)
- Coursework Moderation
Successful moderation of Year 13 and 14 coursework:
 - Unit 17: Internet of Everything
 - Unit 6: Multimedia
 - Unit 21: Web Development
- Exam Marking
Both teachers serve as CCEA GCSE Digital Technology examiners, contributing to national standards.

Maths Department

Throughout the academic year, the Maths Department celebrated several key achievements:

Maths Week Ireland – October 2024

- All Key Stage 3 classes took part in a series of exciting activities during Maths Week Ireland, including:
 - Quizzes
 - Maths challenges
 - Numeracy games

Prizes were awarded to winners, and pupil feedback was overwhelmingly positive, highlighting the fun and engaging nature of the events.

Maths Fest – January 2025

- Ms. McCarron accompanied a group of Year 8 pupils to the Inaugural Maths Fest held at the Guildhall. The girls enjoyed a range of interactive displays and experiences, making the event a great success and a memorable learning opportunity.

Numerasee Work Experience

- Also at Maths Fest, a group of Year 13 A-Level students gained valuable work experience with Numerasee, a new numeracy-focused company founded by past pupil Katrina Bradley. Students showcased this innovative product to groups of P7 and Year 8 pupils, gaining hands-on experience in:
 - Presentation skills
 - Numeracy education
 - Peer mentoring
- It was a brilliant and enjoyable experience for all involved, and a proud moment to see our pupils engaging with cutting-edge educational tools.

Modern Languages Department

Throughout the academic year, the Modern Languages Department celebrated several key achievements:

- The Modern Languages Department has had a vibrant and culturally enriching year, filled with international exchanges, celebrations, and student achievements across French, Spanish, and Irish.

International Exchange

- We were delighted to welcome Spanish pupils as part of an exchange programme. Their visit was a great success, and they thoroughly enjoyed their time at St. Cecilia's.

European Day of Languages

- Celebrated with a French breakfast for Year 8 pupils and a European Quiz for Year 10.
- Pupils from Ukraine, Russia, and Brazil gave engaging talks about their cultures and taught their peers words in their native languages.

Cultural Events & Performances

- Onatti Theatre Productions performed the Spanish play *La Primera Cita* in February for all Spanish language students.
- Seachtain na Gaeilge in March featured:
 - Irish quiz
 - Poster and card competitions
 - Concluded with the Céilí Mór

Examinations & Accreditations

- All Year 10 pupils completed the OLA Exam (CCEA accreditation) in their chosen language.
- One Year 11 pupil completed the GCSE Irish exam.
- One Year 9 pupil and **four** Year 8 pupils completed their GCSE Irish Speaking examination.

Gaeltacht Experience

- Three Year 8 pupils attended an Irish summer course in the Gaeltacht, deepening their language immersion.

Madrid Trip

- 47 pupils and 5 teachers enjoyed a successful trip to Madrid, despite the heat reaching 42°C!

Celebrating Success

- Pupils' achievements were regularly shared on social media.
- We continued to celebrate our Pupils of the Month in all three languages.

Music Department

Throughout the academic year, the Music Department celebrated several key achievements:

- The Music Department has had another vibrant and enriching year, filled with performances, workshops, and musical achievements that showcased the talent and dedication of our students.

Performances & School Events

- Music played a central role in school prizegivings and open days, featuring:
 - Choir
 - Irish Traditional Group
 - Ukulele Circle
 - School Band
 - Soloists
- The Irish Traditional Group made its debut, performing at:
 - Catholic Schools Conference
 - Year 8 Céilí
 - Liturgical Masses

Workshops & Masterclasses

- Maurice Kelly from the Loughs Agency led a music and sustainability workshop with Year 8.
- Our fourth virtual piano masterclass with Richard Meyrick offered expert tuition and inspiration.
- Deke Sharon, musical arranger of *Pitch Perfect*, led a vocal workshop for GCSE and A Level students, refining their technique and performance skills.

Festive & Community Engagement

- Green Lounge Live in December featured festive performances by A Level Performing Arts students.
- The school choir performed at:
 - LMS Concert “A Night at the Musicals” (Millennium Forum)
 - Carol Service at St Mary’s, Creggan
 - Rathmor Shopping Centre
 - Festival of Trees at St Columb’s Cathedral and Central Library
- The choir also supported:
 - Sister Clare Mass at Longtower Church
 - Sister Clare Retreat at Lumen Christi College
 - Cathedral Club performance by Year 13 student Cora Harkin

Instrumental & Soloist Achievements

- Soloists and instrumentalists provided elegant music for:
 - Wellbeing Hub opening
 - Visits by Minister of Education Paul Givan and Fleur Anderson MP
- Many students achieved grade exam success and won medals and cups at the Feis.

Industry & Careers Engagement

- NWRC representatives visited A Level Music students to discuss higher education opportunities.
- Performing Arts students explored the business side of the arts through:
 - A tour of the Millennium Forum
 - A virtual session with The Playhouse



Jazz Festival

- Our School of Rock Jazz Band performed on the prestigious Gay McIntyre Stage at the Guildhall, showcasing their talent to a live audience.

Charity Busking Event

- Preparations are underway for our annual Charity Busking Event, with all proceeds going to Alzheimer's NI. This event allows students to perform publicly while supporting a meaningful cause.



Physical Education Department

Throughout the academic year, the Physical Education Department celebrated several key achievements:

- The PE Department has had an outstanding year, filled with athletic achievements, team successes, and inclusive initiatives that reflect the dedication and talent of our pupils and staff.

Athletics & Cross-Country

- Donegal Schools Cross-Country Championships
Pupils from Years 8, 9, and 10 competed with great enthusiasm.
- District Schools Cross-Country
St. Cecilia's entered teams in Mini, Minor, and Junior categories.
 - Faye Callaghan qualified for the Ulster Schools Championships at Mallusk.
- District Schools Track & Field Championships
20 students competed across various events with standout performances:
 - Nicole O'K - 3rd in Junior Girls 100m
 - Faye C - 2nd in Minor Girls 100m
 - Millie S - 1st in Minor Girls Long Jump & Shot Put
 - Cora P - 1st in Minor Girls 75m Hurdles & High Jump
 - Year 10 4x100m Relay Team - 5th in final
 - Year 8 4x100m Relay Team - 6th in final

Ulster Schools Track & Field Championships

Year 9 Makes History!

- For the first time ever, St Cecilia's College won the Minor Cup, awarded to the school with the highest overall points in the category - a monumental achievement!
 - Millie S - Double gold in Long Jump and Shot Put
 - Cora P - Bronze in High Jump and 75m Hurdles

Both qualified for the Irish Schools Championships in Tullamore, Co. Offaly

- Mary-Kate O'N (Year 10) - Gold in the 100m Para Race

Irish Schools Track & Field Championships

- Millie S - 6th in Long Jump and Shot Putt
- Cora P - 7th in High Jump

Swimming Success – Northwest Gala (June)

Teams:

- Junior: Lucy M, Sophia McC, Grace L-C, Lily McC
- Intermediate: Daira K, Olivia K, Katie L, Emily G
- Senior: Anne McN, Orlaigh W, Tillie McF, Eden F

Medals & Awards:

- 2 Golds:
 - Year 11/Year 12 Medley Relay
 - Tillie McF – Individual Butterfly
- 6 Silvers:
 - Year 8 Medley & Freestyle Relays
 - Year 9 Medley Relay
 - Year 11 Backstroke, Breaststroke & Freestyle
- 4 Bronzes:
 - Year 8 Backstroke & Breaststroke
 - Year 9 Breaststroke
 - Year 9/Year 10 Freestyle Relay

- U16 Girls Perpetual Cup

Gaelic Football

- U16 Cup Final: St. Cecilia's vs St. Paul's High School
- U14 Plate Final: St. Cecilia's vs St. Louis Monaghan (May 19)
Despite strong performances, the girls narrowly missed out on victory. Their commitment, teamwork, and sportsmanship were commendable throughout the season.

Football

- Year 8/Year 9 Team competed in the Electric Ireland Regional Finals, narrowly missing a semi-final spot.
- Participated in the IFA NI Year 8 9-Aside Cup Fixture

Badminton Club

- A new Badminton Club was introduced for SEN pupils, offering a fun and inclusive space to socialise and stay active.

Fitness Suite & Staff Wellness

- The gym was made available after school for KS3/KS4 pupils.
- Ms. Thompson launched a Gym Fit class for staff, with over 20 staff members participating.

Sports Day

- The PE Department hosted a fantastic Sports Day in June.
- At the request of Model Primary school, the Year 11 GCSE PE class organised and ran their Sports Day—an excellent leadership opportunity.

Awards & Recognition

- Millie S was shortlisted for the Derry Credit Union Young People's Sport Award, recognising her outstanding achievements.

Religious Education Department

Throughout the academic year, the Religious Education Department celebrated several key achievements:

- Religious Education at St. Cecilia's is far more than an examination subject—it is a core part of our school's ethos, helping pupils explore and deepen their faith in an intelligent, informed, and meaningful way.

Faith in Action

- Pupils participated in morning prayer, annual retreats, Confessions, and Fan the Flame volunteering.
- Girls contributed to the liturgical life of the school through:
 - Reading
 - Singing in the choir
 - Playing in the school orchestra
- A new initiative saw Key Stage 3 classes attend Mass at St. Mary's Church every Thursday, encouraging parish involvement.
- Pupils also represented the school at the Eucharistic Procession at the Long Tower.

Faith-Based Awards

- 20 pupils completed the Pope John Paul II Award
- 2 pupils completed the Papal Cross Award, including a leadership programme

Diocesan and Community Engagement

- Active participation in:
 - Catholic Schools Week
 - Visitation of the St. Bernadette Relics
 - Sr Clare Crockett Retreat
 - Singing for Sr Clare Day at Lumen Christi College

Charity and Outreach

- Pupils supported both local and global causes through:
 - St Vincent de Paul Christmas Appeal
 - Foyle Food Bank
 - Trócaire Lenten Campaign
 - Relay for Life
 - Darkness to Light Walk

Fundraising activities included sponsored walks, silences, bun sales, and a sweet shop.

Spiritual Spaces

- The school Oratory remained open daily for quiet prayer and meditation.
- Morning Adoration and the Rosary were held regularly.
- Monday liturgical assemblies were led by staff, with form classes leading throughout the week.

Science Department

Throughout the academic year, the Science Department celebrated several key achievements:

- The Science Department has had a dynamic and engaging year, offering pupils firsthand experiences, competitions, and STEM career insights.

STEM and Innovation

- EY STEM App Pilot: One of only three NI schools selected to pilot a new app with Year 10, aimed at closing the gender gap in STEM.
- Dreamspace Workshop: Year 9 pupils created their own platform games in partnership with W5 and EY.

Events and Experiences

- Armagh Planetarium Space Dome: Year 9 explored the night sky in an immersive experience.
- Loughs Agency Water Warrior Event: Year 8 pupils learned about water conservation and watched a science show.
- Halloween & Christmas Primary School Workshops: Hosted by the department and enjoyed by all.

Competitions and Recognition

- BT Young Scientist Exhibition: Pupils presented a project on blocking mobile phone signals.
- Amelia Earhart STEM Challenge: Year 9 team placed 3rd—our best result to date.
- Sentinus STEM Careers Roadshow: Delivered to all Year 9 and 10 pupils.

Marine Biology and Sustainability

- Loughs Agency Marine Machine: Pupils interacted with marine life and learned about coastal ecosystems.

Staff Recognition

- Mr. David Flood received the “Unsung Hero” Award from *Local Women Magazine* for his outstanding contributions as a technician and community volunteer.

Technology and Design Department

Throughout the academic year, the Technology and Design Department celebrated several key achievements:

- The Technology & Design Department continues to grow in strength, innovation, and student achievement.

Sustainability and Community

- Collaborated with the Environmental Club to recycle old birdhouse projects, promoting biodiversity and reducing waste.

Industry Partnerships

- GEMX Academy: Year 11 Product Design students joined the programme, gaining access to industry experts in:
 - Technology
 - Design
 - CAD/CAM
 - Engineering

Cutting-Edge Equipment

- Installed a WorkBee 4ft x 4ft CNC Router—the only one of its kind in Northern Ireland—offering students university-level CNC manufacturing experience.

Department Growth

- GCSE oversubscribed
- A Level numbers increased from 12 in Year 14 to 18 in Year 13

Exam Success

- GCSE Results:
 - 28 out of 29 pupils achieved Grade A–C*
 - Performance was 27.65% above the NI average
 - Without a significant grade boundary increase, all pupils would have achieved A*–C
- A Level:
No results this year due to the linear structure, but the department maintains a 100% Grade A*–C record.

Public Examination Results 2024/2025

GCSE and Vocational Subject Results

GCSE Achieving 5+ A - C*: **99.19%**

GCSE Achieving 5+ A – C* including English and Maths: **67.74%**

Subject	Pupils	% A - C
GCSE Art and Design: Fine Art	20	100.00%
GCSE Art and Design: Textiles	14	100.00%
GCSE Business and Communications	25	72.00%
OCN Business	10	100.00%
City & Guilds Customer Service	21	100.00%
GCSE Design and Technology	29	96.55%
GCSE Digital Technology	12	58.33%
GCSE Drama and Theatre Studies	5	100.00%
GCSE English Language	124	84.68%
GCSE English Literature	64	95.31%
GCSE French	6	66.67%
GCSE Further Mathematics	17	100.00%
GCSE Geography	34	79.41%
GCSE Health and Social Care	33	78.79%
GCSE History	43	93.02%
GCSE Irish	9	100.00%
GCSE Mathematics	124	68.55%
GCSE Music	8	100.00%
Occupational Studies Business and Services - Child Care	30	100.00%
Occupational Studies Design and Creativity - Hospitality	11	100.00%
Occupational Studies Environment and Society - Health & Social Care	30	100.00%
Occupational Studies Technology and Innovation – ICT	13	100.00%
BTEC Performing Arts – Dance	9	100.00%
CCEA Performing Skills - Drama and Music	4	100.00%
Princes Trust	58	100.00%
GCSE Religious Studies	61	93.44%
OCN Religious Studies	60	100.00%
GCSE (Double Award) Science	38	73.68%
GCSE (Single Award) Science	46	60.87%
OCN Science	20	100.00%
GCSE Spanish	11	100.00%

Public Examination Results 2024/2025

GCE and Vocational Subject Results

Overall A-Level Achievement Summary

Achievement Category	Percentage
Achieving 2+ A* - E	98.57%
Achieving 2+ A* - C	87.14%
Achieving 3+ A* - E	94.29%
Achieving 3+ A* - C	64.29%

Subject Performance (% A*-C)

Subject	Pupils	% A*- C
GCE Art and Design - Fine Art	15	100.00%
GCE Art and Design - Textiles	6	100.00%
BTEC Business	6	100.00%
Childcare Skills (KS5EQ_PT21)	9	100.00%
GCE Digital Technology	1	100.00%
GCE English Literature	9	88.89%
GCE Geography	14	85.71%
GCE Government and Politics	9	100.00%
OCR Health & Social Care	31	74.19%
GCE History	22	86.36%
BTEC Hospitality	6	100.00%
OCR (Cambridge Technicals) ICT	8	87.50%
GCE Irish	1	100.00%
GCE (Double Award) Life & Health Sciences	11	54.55%
GCE Mathematics	1	100.00%
GCE Moving Image Arts	1	100.00%
GCE PE	1	0.00%
CCEA Level 3 Performing Arts	3	100.00%
GCE Professional Business Services	10	90.00%
GCE Religious Studies	9	77.78%
GCE Spanish	1	0.00%
BTEC (Triple Award) Sports Coaching – LLS	5	100.00%

Policy Documents

School Policy documents are available on request from the college.

Acceptable Use Of ICT	Homework
Admissions Criteria	Hospitality Guidelines (EA)
Adverse Weather	Induction (Staff & Pupils)
Anti-Bullying	Letting Of Facilities
Assessment	Library
Attendance (Students)	Literacy
Attendance (Support Staff)	Managing Infectious Diseases
Attendance (Teaching Staff)	Medicine
Charging & Remissions	Missing Child Policy
Charities	Mobile Phone
Child Protection	Numeracy
Code Of Conduct (Parent)	P.R.S.D.
Confidentiality	Parental Complaints
Conflict Of Interest	Pastoral Care
Critical Incident	Planned Absence
Curriculum	Positive Behaviour
Data Protection	Relationships And Sex Education
Disability And Accessibility	Risk Assessment
Disaster Recovery Plan	Salary
Disposal Of Records	Self-Harm
Drugs Education	Smoking And Vaping
E-Safety	Social Media
Eating Disorder	Special Educational Needs
Educational Maintenance	Staff Development
Educational Visits	Teaching And Learning
Emergency Management	Teacher Well-Being (CCMS)
Equality Diversity And Inclusion	UCAS
Examinations	Uniform
Food In Schools Policy	Use Of ICT
Guardian Angels	Use Of Reasonable Force And Safe Handling
Head Lice	
Health And Safety	

Charities 2024– 2025

Organisation	Amount (£)
Foyle Hospice	£500.00
HIVE Cancer Support	£500.00
Foyle Hospice	£56.00
Foyle Hospice	£234.25
Sr Clare Crockett	£420.00
Foyle Hospice	£52.00
HURT	£436.50
Alzheimer's	£700.00

Budget Report 2024–2025

CFF Budget Allocation

Initial Allocation:	£5,382,566.00
Balance Carried Forward from 2023–2024:	£71,383.00

Staff Costs

Category	Amount (£)
Teaching Staff Costs	£3,785,122.26
Non-Teaching Staff Costs	£572,432.51
Non-Salary Staff Costs	£8,995.00
Sub Total	£4,366,549.77

Operating & Premises Costs

Category	Amount (£)
Operating Costs	£429,277.00
Premises, Fixed Plant & Grounds	£131,757.00
Unitary Charges	£85,939.00
Reallocations (Cleaning, Catering)	£237,194.00
Income (Deducted)	£-64,209.00
Non-Capital Expenditure	£12,207.00
Total Expenditure	
Grand Total:	£5,198,714.77

Balance Carried Forward to 2025–2026

Remaining Balance: **£183,851.23**

Staff Training 2024/2025

Date		In-service
22.08.24	Baker Day	<u>Staff Training Sessions included for all staff:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Middle Leader Training • Dyslexia Training • Addressing Bullying in Schools • Child Protection • SEN Training
23.08.24	Baker Day	
24.09.25	Staff Development Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sharing Good Practice • Google Classroom Workshop • Being Well Doing Well (all Staff) 	
27.11.25	Baker Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the new AI Careers software, • SIMS Training • CCEA Analytics Training 	<u>Staff Training Sessions included for all teaching staff:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Role of a Year Head/Form Tutor/ HoY/ HoD/ Senior teachers • A Catholic School RE Conference • Clevertouch Training • Middle Management Training
10.01.25	Baker Day	
18.03.25	Baker Day <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Being Well Doing Well - Solihull Training 	<u>Designated Staff</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Aid Training
30.06.25	Staff Development Day	

SCHOOL PRAYER

Almighty God, we ask your blessing on the pupils, teachers and all who work in this school. May it be a centre where knowledge and goodness will flourish and where peace will reign. We ask this through your divine Son, his Blessed Mother Mary and our patron saints, St Patrick, St Columba, and St Cecilia.



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ST. CECILIA'S COLLEGE
House of Grace

"It takes courage to be kind"



ST. CECILIA'S COLLEGE
House of Courage

"Peace begins with a smile"



ST. CECILIA'S COLLEGE
House of Peace

"Let your hopes shape your future"



ST. CECILIA'S COLLEGE
House of Hope

"Have faith in what will be"



ST. CECILIA'S COLLEGE
House of Faith