

# HIGHLIGHTS

News from Belfast High School



Issue 1  
June 2009

## Language Village

On Tuesday 16 and Wednesday 17 June the Assembly Hall at the UUJ was transformed into Belfast High School's Breton village: the event which marked the end of our second successful year as a Specialist School for Languages. Just over 450 pupils from our primary and post-primary partners, members of our community group and special guests made their way through 'passport control' into the village. Everyone had a range of opportunities to practise the French they had been learning over the previous 6 weeks at the Tourist Office, the Bank, the café, the village square, the Roman Theatre, the medical centre and pharmacy and at the museum. All of our Year 8 pupils, as well as some pupils from Years 9, 10 and 11, were involved in looking after our visitors throughout the 2 days with the passport officials ensuring it was a 'French only' zone. As the photos show the village is a truly cross-phase, cross-curricular event demonstrating just one way in which Specialist School funding supports creative learning. For more information on this event and other Specialist School based activities check out the school website and the modern languages blog on [www.belfasthigh.co.uk](http://www.belfasthigh.co.uk).



## Success at Young Enterprise Northern Ireland Finals

Our Young Enterprise Company competed in the Northern Ireland Finals at the Culloden Hotel on 12 May. Chloe O'Neill was presented with the Institute of Chartered Secretaries and Administrators Award.



## Kielder Challenge

Congratulations to our Year 10 pupils who competed with pupils from Jordanstown Special School in the Kielder Challenge. The team has reached the Plate Final which will be held in September. Adam White, Tom McConkey, Megan Sexton and Bethany Sloan.



## Diary Dates

**Form 1 French Trip**  
Saturday 20 June

**Form 3 Awards Ceremony**  
Thursday 25 June, 2.00 pm

**Induction Evening for Sept 2009 Intake**  
Thursday 25 June, 7.00 pm

**U6 Formal**  
Monday 29 June—Culloden Hotel

**Last Day of Summer Term**  
Tuesday 30 June (12.00 noon finish)

**First Day of Christmas Term**  
Monday 31 August  
Form 1, 4, L6 and U6  
12.00 noon finish

## Head Boy and Head Girl



*Head Boy  
Sehyeon Kim*

It was an honour being appointed Head Boy of Belfast High School in September 2008. I have taken great pride in fulfilling my duties as an ambassador of this prestigious school which is widely known in the community for its all-round excellence. For the past 7 years I have broadened my academic horizons and I owe this to the outstanding teaching staff whose tireless enthusiasm and support have been integral to my academic life. I know that their positive influence will benefit me greatly as I embark upon tertiary education next year. My time at Belfast High School has been great and I hope that future pupils too will be able to say with confidence that they are proud to have been part of this School.



*Head Girl  
Lynsey Fryers*

With my 7 years at Belfast High School coming to an end, it has been a great honour being Head Girl for a school that has done so much for me. In the past year BHS has, once again, advanced further in the fields of academia, sport, music and art, where every one of us has had a chance to contribute and share successes of the academic year 2008-09. The relaxed, friendly atmosphere within the school and the dedication of the staff has encouraged all of us to reach our full potential. For me personally, my last year has been filled with many new challenges and a lot of hard work, but the friends I have made and the experiences I have shared leave me with some wonderful memories and I will always look back at these past 7 years as some of the best times in my life!

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## RADA Success

This year, we began an exciting new extra-curricular venture with Sixth Form, when 20 pupils prepared for the RADA (Royal Academy of Dramatic Arts) Shakespeare Certificate at Bronze Level. This involved memorising and performing scenes from a variety of Shakespeare plays and sonnets, from Hamlet to As You Like It. Pupils were able to work on solo pieces, in pairs (for duologues) or in groups, and we met weekly after school for rehearsals. In February, we also joined Ballyclare High School drama students for a joint drama workshop led by Mrs Colette Thompson. In addition, Mr Philip Crawford and Mrs Laura Hughes of Happenstance Theatre Company gave freely of their time and expertise to help us. On 23 April this year (traditionally celebrated as the Bard's birthday) the examination was held, with a RADA examiner coming from London to assess all the pupils. Thankfully, the hard work paid off, with every pupil passing with merit or distinction. Next year, more pupils are intending to take the Bronze Certificate, while most of those brave enough to trial the scheme this year will be aiming for the Silver Award.



## Oxbridge News

Our Deputy Head Girl Rachel Chivers has received an offer from Trinity College Oxford to read English Literature.

## Biology Debating Success

The DSI is an interactive debating competition funded by the Wellcome Trust and co-ordinated by 7 research, medical and science centres. The competition for the Ulster Regional trophy was carried out Monday 9 March 2009 at W5. This was a selective competition with 6 schools invited to compete for the opportunity to represent Ulster in the Regional finals in Dublin.

The team, consisting of Laura Stewart, Connor Allen, Rachel Brown, Andrew Evans, Gary Stevens, Laura Dalton, Egehan Tezcan, Bebhinn Browne, Ashleen McCann and Andrew Cass, proudly won both the Stem Cell Research and the HN51 Vaccination debates. They travelled to Dublin on 2 April and defeated a team from Leinster in the semi-final but narrowly lost in the final to Connacht.



## German Scholarship

Lauren Carroll and Patrick Scullion (Year 11) have won an all-expenses paid scholarship from the German Embassy London to visit Germany in the summer. They will form part of a 15 strong team of UK pupils flying to Frankfurt in July. They are tasked with filming a video on German life and culture.



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## French and German Debating Success

Congratulations to the Sixth Form French and German debating teams who took part in the Northern Ireland post-16 debating competitions this year. The French team made the Northern Ireland semi-final and the German team made the final itself. These are tremendous achievements considering that the School has only taken part in these competitions for the first time this year.

In the German Competition, the four members of the team had to debate for four minutes each on topics including the environment, school and Jamie Oliver! Congratulations to Sophie Blaney who won the Best Speaker Award twice, and to Colin Taplin who won the same award in the Final. Annie Blair, Rebecca McLean and Rachel Snoddy made up the rest of the team and did a superb job. On the way top the Final the team defeated Wallace High School and Methodist College.

In the French competition, the team defeated strong competition from Hunter House and St. Colman's College, Newry, to reach the semi-finals. The French debating was tough as the opposing team were allowed to heckle! The team debated on issues such as technology and health. Congratulations to Nichola Coghlan who won best speaker in the first round. Well done also to Orla Sheehan-Pundyke, Colin Taplin, Chris Ives and Sarah McCafferty who made up the rest of the team.

## Tennis Success

Congratulations to the junior boys' team who reached the quarter-finals of the Junior Plate Competition - Jason Richardson, Cesar Navarro, Jack Steenson and Grant Heron.



Our Year 8 tennis team reached the final of the minor boys' Plate Competition - James Creighton, Matthew Gregg, Dominic McGrath and Joel McBride.

## Cricket News

Paul Stirling scored 17 for Ireland in their World Cup T20 Super 8's match against Pakistan at Lords.



The 1st XI defeated Ballymena Academy by 2 runs to reach the Ulster Bank Schools' Plate Quarter-Finals.



## Ulster and Irish Athletics Success

Congratulations to our medallists at the Ulster Athletics' Championships Kathy Hetherington (gold – discus and bronze – shot), Bradley Bates (gold – shot), Jason Kennedy (gold – high jump) and Kendall Russell (bronze – 100m).



Kathy added to her Ulster gold and bronze medals by winning silver in the discus at the Irish Championships in May.



Matthew Huntley, Nathan Dougan, Ryan Elliott and Ryan McGonigle have been selected for Ulster Schools' U17 Rugby Development Squad 2009/2010.



Ross Megarry has been selected for the Ulster Schools' U19 training squad 2009/2010.



Mark Bishop has been selected for the Ireland archery team to compete in the European Outdoor Championships in July.



Emma Law came 1st in the Irish Trampolining Championships in Dublin in April.