



# LAURELHILL LINK

Laurelhill Community College  
DECEMBER 2020

*Learning and  
Achieving Together*





# Principal's Welcome



## Welcome to this special edition of the Laurelhill Link

It is my pleasure as Principal of Laurelhill Community College to present to you this special edition of the Laurelhill Link which will give you an insight into extra-curricular life at our school. Our purpose statement: 'Learning and Achieving Together' not only applies to the supportive classroom learning that takes place every day but also to the wide variety of weekly extra-curricular activities on offer to ALL students. It is through these activities that you have an opportunity to learn and achieve in different ways.

Life at Laurelhill has been a little different over the past year and our magazine this year reflects that. For this year, the Laurelhill Link is looking back at the school year from January 2019 to December 2020 in order to capture the normal extra-curricular life in our college. Please read and discover everything exciting about extra-curricular life at Laurelhill and join us virtually from Monday 25th January 2021 for our online Open Evening. Although you cannot join us in the building you can still view the fantastic facilities on offer and get a taste of some of the exciting new subjects you could be studying at Laurelhill. You will also get the opportunity to meet some of our dedicated teaching staff, pastoral care team and students who will be answering questions you may have about making the transition to secondary education at Laurelhill. I look forward to joining with you virtually and showing you all that Laurelhill has to offer you.

Thank you for your interest in the college. If you require any further information, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Yours in education,

*J.G Martin PQH*



## College Celebrates Positive Inspection Feedback

The Board of Governors, Staff, Parents and Pupils are delighted with the recent Etl Inspection and look forward to continued academic and pastoral success in the future. Thanks to all for your continued support.



- \* Standard of Teaching and Learning... highly effective
- \* Standards in public examinations... above NI average
- \* Provision for English and Mathematics... Good
- \* Leadership and Management... Good



# SuperValu

## SUPERVALU LISBURN

### Proudly Supports



## Art Workshops

Our A level Art students were lucky enough to take advantage of workshops organised by the Island Art Centre, where they worked along with the artist Daniela Balmaverda. Daniela introduced them to new creative and experimental ways of working using a range of media. This was of great benefit to their A Level Art exam work.

Also Local print maker Fionnuala O'Neil lead a workshop in Salt Etching for our A Level Art students. They produced a series of beautiful prints that they used a part of their A Level Art coursework. This was a valuable and productive day with everyone involved.



## Geography Fieldtrip to Delamont

Year 11 GCSE students have completed a two-day visit to Delamont Outdoor Centre! On day one there was no time to relax as they were there to get down to business and study the River Shimna as part of their GCSE course. With waterproofs at the ready, students were given the opportunity to not only identify how to collect the necessary data needed to complete their coursework but also see how river features change as it moves downstream!



On day two they were given time to undertake team building activities such as mountain biking and archery. It was a fantastic trip and students had a great time seeing Geography in action, outside of the classroom.



## Made for More – Mental Health Awareness

Sixth Form pupils took part in a workshop by 'Made for More'. 'Made for More' is a Christian organisation created in 2018, to help tackle the identity crisis that is impacting the young people of Northern Ireland.

Jamie Meaklim and his team explained the different types of mental health issues and how we can identify them and receive help. It was highlighted that mental health should be taken as seriously as our physical health. The workshop was very interactive with games and audience participation which was thoroughly enjoyed by all the pupils.



# Head Boy and Head Girl share their experience of life at Laurelhill

From joining Laurelhill in September 2014, I have formed friendships and created memories that will stay with me for years to come. The College has helped shape me to be the person I am today, and I am so grateful for that. I am currently studying towards my A2 exams and with the support of the staff in Laurelhill, I was able to excel in my GCSE and AS Levels.

My favourite subjects that I have studied in Laurelhill are Music and Drama. I have had a strong interest in Music since I was 8 years old. I chose to study Music and Drama for GCSE and continued to study Level 3 Performing Arts in Sixth Form. I am heavily involved with the Music and Drama departments in College and without the support and guidance I receive from these teachers, I don't think that I would be the productive, talkative and outgoing person that I am today. I am currently working towards my Diploma in Clarinet and Musical Theatre.



Bobby Seawright

I have won and achieved many awards within College. At the Annual Celebration of Success, I have been awarded Music and Drama Honours for my commitment and dedication to these departments. At GCSE, I was awarded Top Overall GCSE Male Student, as well as gaining the highest grades in individual subjects such as English Language and Music. I was awarded the Community Award for contribution to the local community. This reflects my time in Sea Cadets as I was one of the highest-ranking cadets in the country, as well as being the Lord Lieutenant Cadet for the County Borough of Belfast in 2019/20. The award also reflects my volunteering work at a local group for adults who have varying disabilities. In Years 8-10, I was awarded the Academic Achievement award, as well as being awarded the REACH award in Year 8 for displaying the core values of the College. At our most recent Celebration of Success event, I was awarded the Anne Geddes Drama Cup for my hard work and dedication to this department. Finally, I have also provided the musical entertainment during the ceremonies. In 2019, I played a piece on the clarinet called 'The River Flows in You' and at our most recent ceremony, I sang a piece that I will be performing for my Diploma in Musical Theatre called 'This is the Moment'.

Within College, I am a Form Class and Maths mentor. I help tutor the pupils to improve their mathematical skills and provide engaging experiences during form time at the start of the day, whilst helping to provide a supportive environment for the pupils. I find this experience very enjoyable and satisfying knowing that I am helping others and having a positive impact on younger students within the College. We learn and achieve together.

I enjoy the extra-curricular life that the College has to offer. I am a proud member of the Senior and Chamber Choirs and the College Band. I have also participated in the annual College Production from Year 8. Getting involved in these has helped my confidence to grow and has enabled me to make valuable friends who I share common interests with. Participating in the College Production is an amazing experience as we all work together as a team, making it fun and enjoyable to achieve award-winning productions. I have played roles such as Seymour in 'The Little Shop of Horrors' and most recently, Captain von Trapp in 'The Sound of Music'. Our production of 'The Little Shop of Horrors' won first place in the Lisburn & Castlereagh City Council Annual School's Art Competition and I was honoured to perform a short extract at the Lagan Valley Island Hall and collect the prize on behalf of the College.

Throughout my time in College I have went on numerous educational visits with the Music and Drama Departments and the Business Studies Department. I went to London with the Music and Drama Department when I was in Year 8 and Year 12. I also went to New York in Year 11. I helped with fundraising events for these trips such as helping to organise a Table Quiz and taking part in the Fun Run in Lisburn. With the Business Studies Department in Year 11, I went to Alton Towers as well as the Cadbury Factory. I made many memories on these trips and I am glad that I was able to spend it with some of my closest friends.

I am a volunteer at Lisburn Senior Gateway Club. This is a club for adults who are mentally and physically disabled. Volunteering helps me to develop and enhance skills such as building a relationship with our members. Volunteering here inspired me to start studying A Level Health and Social Care and I am hopeful to become a qualified Social Worker. I have applied to Study BSc (Hons) Social Work at either Queens University Belfast, Ulster University, or Liverpool Hope University. Through the knowledge and experience of completing placements in a Day Centre and studying Health and Social Care, it influenced me to start working in this sector. I previously worked at an Indoor Adventure Centre as a Sensory Assistant. Working in a Sensory Room was a great experience for me as it allowed me to provide the best experience for the families and I could apply my knowledge that I had gained from my studies and volunteering to my work. I am now a Support Worker in a Supported Living service, working with adults who have additional needs. I thoroughly enjoy this job and find it extremely rewarding. I am able to use my skills that I have developed in College and it also helps me with my studies in return.

I do not believe that I would be as successful as I am today if I did not attend Laurelhill Community College; and I would encourage anybody who is considering starting their secondary studies here to do it! The College has enabled me to improve and develop skills and qualities that I did not know I had. Laurelhill is a very supportive environment and there is something here that everyone will enjoy. Whether it be Sport, Music, Maths and even our Combined Cadet Force. The staff are very encouraging and caring and will always help you strive to be the best person you can possibly be. I have made memories that I will never forget through attending this College, and I hope that your experience here will be as enjoyable and rewarding as what mine has been.

During my time at Laurelhill I have had the most amazing experiences and have been given some incredible opportunities I will never forget. I have made some lifelong friendships with other pupils and have been able to work alongside and create bonds with staff members. The college has helped me grow as a person and I couldn't be more grateful. I have been pushed to become the best person I can be. I have achieved 9 GCSEs through the college with support from staff.



Ellie Nicol

Laurelhill has provided me with a wide range of subjects to choose from; my favourites have been art and music. I was able to take both of these subjects at GCSE and am currently studying art at A level. I have been pushed creatively and been able to express myself in art in many different ways. We are able to receive guidance from staff as well as getting the opportunity to work independently with the wide range of art supplies available.

I have been heavily involved in the Music department since Year 8 when I joined junior choir. I was awarded Music Honours for my dedication in 2019. I am a member of senior and chamber choir, I help lead a ukulele group, I was part of the college band and the girls' barbershop. I have also sung solos and duets representing the college at special events both in and outside of school. Within school I attend musical theatre lessons and am currently preparing for my Musical Theatre Diploma in March. I have grown in confidence through my performances and was given the incredible opportunity of performing the role of Mother Superior in last year's school show 'The Sound of Music'.

I have taken part in many extracurricular activities and was delighted to receive the Contribution to Extra-Curricular Life of the College award at Prize Night. In Junior school I was a member of the college netball team, we played in a number of tournaments outside of school, and I also went to art club. I have also been attending Scripture Union for several years now. My main extracurricular has been the school's technical team. I started on the tech team in Year 9 and have worked my way up to being in charge of the sound system for college events. I have been able to work alongside pupils and members of staff for college events such as the annual school production, open night, spring concert to make sure the technical side of things runs smoothly. This has provided me with the opportunity to make friendships with pupils from different year groups and backgrounds.

Laurelhill has given me some incredible experiences from school trips to local charity events. I have been lucky enough to go on the last three Music and Drama trips to London and New York. I was able to see different musicals and tourist attractions as well as make some amazing memories with friends that I will never forget. Last year I was given the opportunity to be part of the chamber choir and perform at different Christmas events for charities such as 'Chest, Heart and Stroke'.

In 2018 I decided to cut 12 inches off my hair to donate to the 'Little Princess Trust' who make wigs for children who have lost their hair due to illnesses such as cancer. Through the support of school, I was able to hold different events including a raffle in school. As a result, we raised an amazing £2,200 for the charity.

Last year I was given the opportunity of becoming a mentor. I have mentored a Year 8 class during registration, a Year 9 maths class over my lunchtime and was also given the role of being a one to one Year 9 maths mentor. I love getting to give pupils extra help, I have enjoyed getting to know the younger pupils and building relationships with them while helping to teach them at the same time.

After completing my A levels and time at Laurelhill I aspire to go to university to study children's nursing. Mentoring younger pupils in school as well as work I do with young children outside of school has really influenced my decision. I have always been a caring person and wanted to help. I have worked hard through my time here achieving top girl in Years 8,9 and 10 as well as top GCSE pupil in 2019. My goal is to study at Queen's University Belfast next year.

I couldn't recommend Laurelhill enough, I have had the most incredible years here and have enjoyed every minute of it. As well as getting support from staff to help to achieve my goals and reach success I have also been pushed to be a better person, learnt new skills and most importantly had fun. Whether you are interested in sport, science, drama or music like me there is a place for you here.



**Laurelhill Community College**  
**VIRTUAL OPEN NIGHT**  
 Available on our  
**YouTube channel now**

*Learning and  
 Achieving Together*





# Laurelhill's Musical Theatre Memories

In a 'normal' school year we would be excitedly preparing for our annual school production with three evening performances to look forward to. I know how much our pupils miss the fun, excitement and buzz of the school show. After weeks of rehearsal this is the highlight of the year as we take to the stage to show off the talents of our pupils to parents, teachers and the wider community. I thought it would be fun this year to share some of our best 'musical theatre memories' from recent years with a photo gallery! Our award winning musical theatre productions are a wonderful showcase for our talented actors and singers but also foster some of the best friendships and memories for a lifetime! Enjoy the pictures for this year and let's hope we are back on stage for December 2021! Have a happy and healthy Christmas and look forward to a brighter 2021! *Mrs Heaney*

# Virtual Prize Day October 2020

Our annual prize day "Celebrating Success" is one of the most highly anticipated events on our school calendar. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic, we were unable to hold our usual afternoon to recognise and celebrate with pupils, parents and staff the achievements of the previous academic year. So instead we shared together virtually and recognised the hard work and dedication of all our students.

You can view our virtual Celebration of Success on our YouTube channel by clicking: [https://youtu.be/Az6a88Ua\\_eQ](https://youtu.be/Az6a88Ua_eQ)



**Melissa Brady GCSE English Literature The Dr. Crone Award**



**Zoe Fleming The McKibbin Award for GCSE Mathematics**



**Contribution to the Caring Ethos of the College - Grace McCormick**



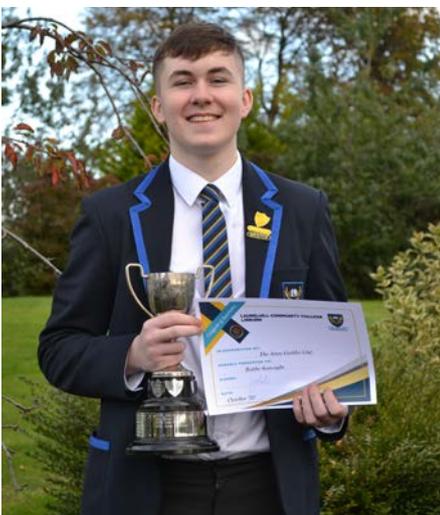
**Contribution to the Caring Ethos of the College - Leah Gamble**



**The Elizabeth Campbell Cup for Music - Bethany Brown**



**Laura Jane Smith - The Patterson Award for Art**



**The Ann Geddes Drama Cup - Bobby Seawright**



**Rebekah Kelso - CACHE Award**



**Jemma Morrison - CACHE Award**



**Kaitlyn McKinstry The Environmental & Social Science Award for GCSE Business & Communication Systems**



**Hollie Partick GCSE Catering**



**Denisa Paduraru The Mullan Cup for GCSE RE**



**Jake Ross - The BTEC Award**



**Katelyn Matthews - The Holland Cup for Top A-Level Student**



**Katie Cole Kennedy Creative Arts Award for GCSE Drama**



**Melissa Brady Top GCSE Student**



**Rhys Ferguson Top GCSE Student**

*well done to all!*



**Year 8 Mentors**



**Year 9 Mentors**

Congratulations to a number of Sixth Form students who have been selected to undertake the role of pastoral mentors. The mentors will be attached to a Year 8 form class during one registration period per week and act to guide and support junior pupils as they continue their transition into Laurelhill.



### **Sixth Form Prefect Team 2020-2021**

Once again we have seen yet another year of fierce competition amongst our Year 14 students as the senior prefect positions were appointed. Congratulations to the new senior prefect team for 2020-2021. This year our Head Boy and Head Girl are Bobby Seawright and Ellie Nicol. Deputies are Aaron Doran, Isaac O'Brien, Reah Lee and Rebecca Reid.

Several students were also appointed as Senior prefects - Drew Carruthers, Leah Gamble, Grace McCormick and Gemma-Lee Mercer. All students were praised by the interview panel for their outstanding contributions and commitment to the core values of the college throughout their time in Laurelhill. Well done to everyone!

### **Thank You NHS**

Laurelhill staff and pupils took a moment to look to the skies and watch as a World War Two Spitfire flew over the college having flew over the Lagan Valley Hospital as part of the NHS charity project. Staff and students enjoyed the opportunity to see such an iconic WWII aircraft and to once again thank the NHS for all their hard work throughout the pandemic.





## #hellowyellow

Once again Laurelhill embraced the colour yellow to raise awareness of World Mental Health Day. Our new mental health ambassadors in college, 'Brighter Minds', returned once again to reinforce the message that it is ok to talk and ask for support with your mental health.

Unfortunately, not all activities could go ahead this year as normal but that didn't stop the team from putting together a virtual assembly and continuing to raise money for this charity. Their next project is to begin working on a new mindfulness garden in school. We look forward to seeing this next project develop in the new year. Well done to all the students who contributed to this very worthy cause and help to remind one another that we are not alone with our mental health. #hellowyellow



## Christmas Jumper Day

Our annual Christmas jumper day took place on Friday 11th December 2020 in aid of Home Start. Students were asked to make a donation of £1 to wear a festive outfit to school for the day. It was great to see so many students embracing this special non-uniform day and also managing to raise £617. Well done to everyone and thank you for all your kind donations.



## Carols at Christmas

A group of senior Music students from Laurelhill visited Community Dementia Care NI for their Christmas dinner in Christchurch Lisburn. Students provided a varied programme of traditional carols and Christmas favourites.



## Charity Lisburn Food Bank

We have been overwhelmed with the donations to our Christmas appeal this year. Students donated food items to support the work of the Lisburn Food Bank to ensure local families do not go hungry at Christmas. It has been an incredibly difficult year for so many families and our college has once again supported the local community and made a fantastic contribution to this cause.

In addition to food donations, Year 8 students and staff also donated new pyjamas for young people this Christmas. A huge thank you to everyone who donated to this appeal.





## Chest, Heart & Stroke Charity Events

At Laurehill we support many different charities throughout the year as a college and many students contribute individually - several of our students have cut substantial lengths of hair for various cancer charities such as 'The Little Princess Trust'. Our chosen charity for the current academic year is the Northern Ireland Chest, Heart and Stroke foundation. It is a cause close to many of our hearts in college so our main charity events throughout the year will be in aid of this very worthy cause. The first event of the year was in September when we invited staff, friends and the local community to our first ever 'Cars and Coffee' event at the college. Many car enthusiasts from the Lisburn area came along to support the event and some beautiful cars and motorcycles were on display.

A huge thank you to all who supported this event and contributed in any way. We raised over £650 for the NI Chest, Heart and Stroke Foundation - a great start to the fundraising for the year ahead.



## Science Trip

Year 9 and 10 pupils had an enjoyable and challenging day representing the College at the 4th Annual STEMQUEST Challenge in the Titanic Suite, Belfast. 32 teams from schools across Northern Ireland competed against each other answering questions on Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Maths, ICT and Geography. Our pupils can be very proud of their achievement and all made valuable contributions to their teams. Well done to all.



# The Sound of Music

December 2020 lacked the usual musical buzz and excitement around the school. There was no singing or dancing but we looked back to our treasured memories of shows gone by and we are looking forward to brighter days ahead! In December 2019 Laurelhill's 42nd musical theatre production was "The Sound of Music." The last time we performed this classical musical was in December 2002 and we won an award with the opportunity to perform our show in the Waterfront Hall! This show saw some of our younger pupils take on a role for the first time and they had a rewarding experience and developed their confidence on stage. Our experienced senior pupils carried the adult roles with their usual professionalism and talent! Another year of wonderful musical memories!



## Drama and Music Honours



**Drama Honours - Rhys Ferguson**



**Music Honours - Autumn Murdough**



## 1st Prize for Little Shop of Horrors

In June 2019 we received the exciting news that we had won 1st prize in the 39th Annual Schools' Art Competition for our production of 'Little Shop of Horrors.' We were invited to the Island Hall to perform an extract from the show at the Gala Awards Ceremony. The cast and crew of 'Little Shop of Horrors' were fabulous and were so deserving of their 1st place award!

**Congratulations!**

## Laurelhill Celebrates European Day of Languages



EDL is one of our highly anticipated annual events in college for students and staff and this year it did not disappoint. Our Modern Languages department put on a fantastic week of activities for students in junior school with the focus of emphasising the importance of learning a foreign language and celebrating the cultures of some European countries. Year 8 students participated in the 'French Factor' in junior assemblies (thankfully Simon Cowell wasn't available for judging this year). Students and staff also had the opportunity to sample some fine French cuisine during 'Le Big Break'. In language classes throughout this week students created bookmarks and factsheets for various Year group competitions. It was a fantastic week where students learnt the value of the benefits of languages for life.



## Remembrance Assembly

Our annual Assembly of Remembrance was held on Monday 11th November. Staff and students took time to reflect on those who have made the ultimate sacrifice in both World Wars and conflicts since. Mrs Duddy led the service with the choir under the direction of Miss Collins performing a beautiful rendition of 'We'll Meet Again'. Bobby Seawright read the Exhortation and former student Dylan Hall attended to play the last post. The service drew to a close with the poignant solo of 'White Cliffs of Dover' performed by Ellie Nicol.



## Design a Breakfast Cereal

This is part of the marketing element of their GCSE Business Studies. Their brief was to design a new healthy range of breakfast cereal aimed at children aged 2-12. They conducted market research before designing the cereal box and presenting their PowerPoint to their peers.



# Year 12 Prom

Year 12 pupils had their own taste of the red carpet at the Year 12 Prom in Edenmore Golf Club. When it comes to glitz and glam our Year 12 students did not disappoint, with all pupils putting on the style. Prom King and Queen were also crowned and a fantastic night was had by all!

A huge thank you to Head of Senior College Mrs Gillis for organising a wonderful and memorable evening.



Discover more about life at Laurelhill on our YouTube channel



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Laurelhill Community College, Lisburn  
179 subscribers

CUSTOMIZE CHANNEL MANAGE VIDEOS

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Video Title	Views	Time Ago
Digital Technology	216 views	1 month ago
Celebrating Success October 2020	1.6K views	1 month ago
Laurelhill Virtual Tour	1.1K views	3 months ago
The Can Can music practical	161 views	3 months ago
End of term message	1.1K views	5 months ago
Goodbye Sixth Form Class of 2020	1K views	5 months ago
Year 8 Lockdown Art Exhibition	183 views	5 months ago
Year 10 Lockdown Art Gallery	187 views	5 months ago
Year 8 Percussion Instruments	183 views	5 months ago
Sunday Night Support - Katie Davis	190 views	6 months ago
Staff Sports Day 2020	702 views	6 months ago
Laurelhill Living History	280 views	6 months ago

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-G25zjRI-06QoA10BAG1tg>

# Ski Trip 2020

Students spent a fabulous week in the beautiful Italian village of Folgaria in the Alps. The snow conditions were perfect, with fresh snow for pupils to increase their skill level. The students enjoyed evening activities which ranged from sampling authentic hot chocolate, swimming and an evening of shopping. At the end of the week students had a presentation with their ski instructors and all pupils received certificates and rewards.



# Coasteering

What an experience for our Year 11 GCSE and Sports Studies students in June 2019. They had the opportunity to go Coasteering on the North Coast. Hosted by Causeway Coasteering students had the opportunity to explore the beautiful coastline on offer and get a little wet in the process. A fantastic team building exercise!



# Year 8 Transitions Programme at Laurelhill

In this section of our magazine we would like to give you an insight into some of the activities we run at Laurelhill to help you in your transition from P7 to Year 8.

At our Freshers' BBQ you will get to meet your Head of Year, Form Tutor and new class. You will take part in the following fun activities:-

- Photo booth
- Kite making
- Art and craft
- Science experiment
- Tour of school with Form Tutor
- Games
- BBQ

This is an opportunity for you to get to know other Year 8 pupils and start to form new friendships.

Mrs Beckett and Mrs Rea, Head of Transition and Head of Year 8 at Laurelhill

We also run an Integration Day at Halloween where you will take part in a range of fun activities including:-

- Spaghetti challenge
- Wheelchair basketball
- Glow sports
- Pictionary
- Team building activities

There will also be an information evening for parents to find out about the following:-

- Absence
- Exams
- Pastoral concerns
- Extra-curricular activities



## Transitions Events at Laurelhill:

We run these events in college for our Year 8 students every year to ensure a smooth transition from primary to secondary school. Please note for some events parents are welcome to attend.

- Open Night – students and parents welcome
- Freshers' Fair – students and parents welcome
- Transitions – (Hosted by EA Youth Service at Laurelhill Community College)
- Year 8 Induction Day
- Year 8 Information Evening –students and parents welcome
- Year 8 form class mentors
- Year 8 Integration Day
- Year 8 House competition
- Young Enterprise Study Skills Sessions

## Year 8 Freshers' BBQ

Lots of photos from our Year 8 BBQ. It was an extremely busy evening during which students had the chance to complete a variety of activities in various departments around the school before the delicious BBQ, provided by our PTFA. It was great to see so many of our new Year 8s and their parents come along to this event as it is a great opportunity to visit the school before your 'First Day' in September. The aim of this event is to, hopefully, ease some of those nerves about starting a new school. This is just one of several events in college to help ensure a smooth transition from primary to secondary education for our Year 8 students.



# Life At Laurelhill

## YEAR 8 INTERVIEWS...

### EVIE BOLTON, 80 BALLYMACASH PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### Q What are you enjoying most about life at Laurelhill so far?

I'm enjoying all the different subjects and enjoying spending time with my new friends. I've made lots of new friends so far in my form class and I've also made friends with students from other form classes too.

#### Q What are your favourite subjects? What have you enjoyed most in these subjects so far.

My favourite subjects would have to be Art, Music and Drama. Art has given me the opportunity to express myself and develop my artistic skills. I already play piano however since I've started Laurelhill I have started learning to play the Tuba. I'm really enjoying my lessons so far. I'm also looking forward to starting Drama in the new year.

#### Q Have you joined any extra-curricular activities?

I attend netball, basketball and dance. I didn't know how to play netball at all before starting Laurelhill, so we've been learning all the different positions and I now play goalkeeper. Dance is also really good because we learn different routines to modern music.

#### Q What is your favourite/funniest/most surprising moment so far?

Our first cooking classes in HE have been a lot of fun, although we didn't really do the washing up right. We emptied the basins before we'd actually finished the task which was funny.

#### Q Any advice you would give to primary students about transitioning to Laurelhill school?

Don't be nervous you will make friends straight away. I know you might think that you won't but you will because all of the teachers and students are so friendly.



### CHARLIE WALSH, 8R POND PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### Q What are you enjoying most about life at Laurelhill so far?

I have really enjoyed meeting new people and making some new friends. I'm also enjoying all of the after school activities – there's lots to choose from.

#### Q What are your favourite subjects? What have you enjoyed most in these subjects so far.

My favourite subjects are History and English. Since I was little I've always enjoyed studying History so I knew it would be one of my favourite subjects before I arrived. We have been learning about chronology and the Normans so far. In English I really enjoy talking, we got to deliver a presentation about our special things. I really enjoyed doing that.

#### Q Have you joined any extra-curricular activities?

I have joined hockey on a Monday and cross country on a Thursday. I've played hockey since I was in P2, so I'm enjoying improving my skills and in cross country I really enjoy running and improving my fitness levels.

#### Q What is your favourite/funniest/most surprising moment so far?

My favourite moment so far would have to be spending lunchtime in the sports zone. One day I slipped five times, it was really funny.

#### Q Any advice you would give to primary students about transitioning to Laurelhill school?

Stay on top of your homework. Try to work on it the day you get it even though it's due later in the week, that way you can stay on top of things.

### CARTER ADDIS, 8R DUNMURRY PRIMARY SCHOOL

#### Q What are you enjoying most about life at Laurelhill so far?

I have enjoyed playing with my friends at break and lunch time. I also enjoy lots of my classes.

#### Q What are your favourite subjects? What have you enjoyed most in these subjects so far.

My favourite subjects are PE and English. In PE we have been playing lots of different sports so far – cross country, handball and football. My English teachers are lovely too – Mrs Dougan and Mr Reuss. We did a Christmas play in English which was a lot of fun.

#### Q Have you joined any extra-curricular activities?

I have joined after school football on Wednesday. We spend part of our time training and building our skills and then at the end of each session we play matches. I'm looking forward to being able to play for the school team once competitive matches start up.

#### Q What is your favourite/funniest/most surprising moment so far?

What surprised me most about secondary school is that we move about the school much more than I thought we would, so it can be quite tiring at first.

#### Q Any advice you would give to primary students about transitioning to Laurelhill school?

I chose Laurelhill because it's a great school. I know so many people who are attending this school who have really enjoyed it so that helped me make my decision to go here too. I'm glad I did because I'm having lots of fun.





## SOPHIE BROWN, 8V2 BALLYMACASH PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Q What are you enjoying most about life at Laurelhill so far?

I have really enjoyed the PE classes so far, we get to play football and lots of other sports.

### Q What are your favourite subjects? What have you enjoyed most in these subjects so far.

My favourite subjects are Science and Art. In Science we had to do an experiment with the Bunsen burners which was very exciting. In Art we been exploring different patterns and I really enjoy this subject.

### Q Have you joined any extra-curricular activities?

I have joined netball and football after school. I had played netball at primary school so I've some experience. This year I'm playing the positions of centre and goal attack. Our coach for football is Abigail and she is really nice. She's been helping us to build our fitness levels.

### Q What is your favourite/funniest/most surprising moment so far?

Every day in my class is fun. My friends make me laugh and they make school a really enjoyable place.

### Q Any advice you would give to primary students about transitioning to Laurelhill school?

Be confident and be yourself and you will have no trouble making new friends!

## ROSIE HUGHES, 8I POND PARK PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Q What are you enjoying most about life at Laurelhill so far?

I have enjoyed making lots of new friends. There are a few friends in my form class from primary school so I didn't feel alone on my first few days however I've still made lots of new friends now too.

### Q What are your favourite subjects? What have you enjoyed most in these subjects so far.

My favourite subjects are Technology and Design and Art. In Technology I really enjoy the practical lessons and making things in the workshop. So far we have made a puzzle tray, we had to design a jigsaw puzzle based on the core values of the school – REACH. Then we made the puzzle. In Art we have been exploring line work and all the different types of lines you can use to create different effects in a drawing.

### Q Have you joined any extra-curricular activities?

So far I have joined after school hockey, football and netball. I have played these sports before in primary school - my favourite would have to be netball. I play the position of goal defence. I also play defence in football and hockey – attending after school sport really enhances your school experience.

### Q What is your favourite/funniest/most surprising moment so far?

My favourite moment so far would have to be using the Bunsen burners in Science for an experiment. We had to boil water and track the temperature until it hits boiling.

### Q Any advice you would give to primary students about transitioning to Laurelhill school?

Don't be worrying about starting secondary school – it's a very warm environment. Everyone is very kind and friendly which helps you settle into school.



## ETHAN FLEMING, 8Y KILLOWEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

### Q What are you enjoying most about life at Laurelhill so far?

I'm enjoying all the different subjects and I've made lots of new friends. Initially I was worried about starting secondary school, but once I started I realised it would be OK.

### Q What are your favourite subjects? What have you enjoyed most in these subjects so far.

My favourite subjects are Science and Spanish. I really enjoy Science and my teacher Mrs McIlwrath is a specialist in Chemistry. I really enjoy Chemistry and completing different experiments. I also enjoy Spanish and learning a new language. My aunt speaks Spanish so I'm now able to speak to her in Spanish which is fun.

### Q Have you joined any extra-curricular activities?

I attend basketball on a Monday. At the moment we are learning how to dribble and we've also learnt how to shoot the ball.

### Q What is your favourite/funniest/most surprising moment so far?

I really enjoyed the House Sport event. We all came together as a year group to compete in different sports. I'm in 'Best' so hopefully if we get the most points then our house will win the tournament.

### Q Any advice you would give to primary students about transitioning to Laurelhill school?

I know it's hard but try and not worry too much about starting secondary school. You will settle in and you will make new friends.



## Year 8 House Competition

Throughout the academic year all of Year 8 will compete in the House Sport competition. Each Year 8 pupil is split into a House named after famous NI sports stars:

**BEST (George)**

**PETERS (Dame Mary)**

**FRAMPTON (Carl)**

**McIlroy (Rory)**

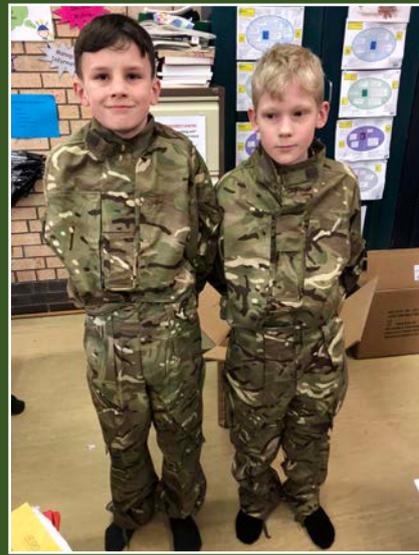
**REA (Jonny)**

**GRAY (Janet)**

The House programme is a great way for students to form new friendships. They compete in numerous sporting events throughout the year and also other competitions from Art, Music, Drama, Poetry, Maths etc.

At the end of the year the Year 8 House shield is awarded to the overall best House.





## Laurelhill Combined Cadet Force

The Cadet Force at Laurelhill paraded for the first time in October 2019 with a small pool of dedicated staff under the control of the SSI, Sergeant-Major Davidson. With additional support from instructors from 38 Brigade Cadet Training Team, the contingent has rapidly got to grips with their military training.

The response from the pupils has been excellent, within the first few months approximately 70 pupils had expressed an interest in joining the contingent. Over the next months we had strong turnout with in excess of 50 cadets parading every Tuesday after school. New uniforms were issued in early February 2020 and training started with basic drill, Military structure and Rank along with cooking in the field.

Our first training weekend away was planned for April 2020, but this had to be cancelled due to Covid-19, like the rest of the world, everything in cadets had to stop.

We are looking forward to welcoming a new intake of Year 8's in January 2021 – and anyone else who would like to join us on a Tuesday afternoon from 3:30 – 5:30. We will be resuming our training programme which will include shooting, navigation, command and leadership tasks along with a great deal of other activities.

We have forged links with our parent Regiment the Scottish & North Irish Yeomanry and we are looking forward to learning about their equipment such as the advanced recce vehicle – The Jackal.

We are planning for a 4-day residential Easter Camp at Palace Barracks in Belfast where we will conduct adventurous training, shooting, fieldcraft and leadership skills, sports and cultural visits in the evenings, along with quiz night with pizza and karaoke!

We conducted our final parade for the year on the 15th December 2020 where all the cadets earned their much coveted grey beret and we are delighted to announce promotion to Lance Corporal of Aaron Kirk, Cameron Douglas and Sienna May. With many thanks to the Squadron Commander of the B Sqn SNIY handing out the awards and with the Principal, Mr Martin, in attendance showing his encouragement.

# Frequently Asked Questions

## What facilities are on offer?

We have a wide range of facilities such as the sports hall, football/rugby pitches, Motor vehicle track, outdoor gym, hockey pitches/Sports zone, Drama studio and numerous computer suites.

## What extra-curricular activities can I do?

There are many clubs including a large range of sports clubs, Drama production, Scripture Union, College Band, Junior and Senior Choir, Tech Club Science Club and Art Club. We also offer individual music tuition in a variety of instruments including brass, woodwind and percussion instruments and Musical Theatre/Singing.

## Are there any school trips?

The calendar of events at Laurelhill is packed with a variety of trips for students throughout each year group. You might go on the Ski Trip, a football and netball tour or a Music and Drama trip to see a West End show. There are also many other subject-based day trips, which are featured in this special edition of the Laurelhill Link.

## Is it hard to get used to the daily routine?

It may take a few weeks to get used to the new daily routine as you may have up to seven classes per day. It becomes easier as you learn your timetable. Sixth Form

mentors, your Form Tutor and Head of Year will be here to help with this transition.

## At what time does school begin and end?

Registration is at 8.55am when you will spend time with your form class and form tutor. One morning a week you will attend assembly with the rest of your year group. First period is at 9.15am and schools ends at 3.10pm.

## How will I find my way around the school in the first few weeks?

There are a range of opportunities to come to Laurelhill before you are faced with your first day of timetabled classes. You can attend the Fresher's Fair which is an informal event run by our PTA to introduce you to the building, your form class and form tutor. Over the summer months you might choose to get involved in our Transitions Programme run by the Youth Service. This takes place in the newly refurbished Laurelhill Youth Centre and is another opportunity to find your way around and get to know your form class. On your first day you will be taken on a tour of the school by your form tutor. Your Sixth Form mentors will also help you settle into life at Laurelhill.

**We would like to take a moment to send our best wishes to all the Year 7 pupils in the Lisburn area and beyond in the transfer process.**

Many of you will have decided to sit the transfer test in the Autumn. As you await the much anticipated letter this year, please remember that the number shown does not define who you are. Every young person has an individual sparkle and whether the result is what you hoped for or not do not let it dull YOUR sparkle. You are an individual and have your own unique journey to make. You cannot enjoy it following someone else's path!

There will also be many of you who will have chosen to not enter for the transfer tests. Well done for choosing another route! Don't let the excitement your friends are having leave your feeling left out. This is your path and we know the work you have put into your education. You are awesome!

We would like to thank your Primary school teachers for the work they have put into preparing you for moving into Secondary school. We would also like to say a huge thank you for taking the time to visit us on our Open Night. Whatever school you choose to move into in September, please remember that you are an individual and if you are willing to give it your all you will succeed in whatever you put your hands to.

*Best wishes for the future.*

"Anything is possible.  
Anything can be."  
(Shel Silverstein)



# Culinary Delights in Home Economics

Our Year 11 and Year 12 Occupational Studies enjoyed a great demonstration from the Livestock Meat Commission. Wendy provided them with a wealth of nutritional information and gave them lots of helpful tips for their practical work. The pupils had the opportunity to sample a gorgeous beef and ginger stir fry and a Japanese beef, greens and rice bowl.

*A super start to the week!*



## Year 8 Robotics Workshop

The Technology Department organised a challenging but fun workshop for our Year 8 students with Pat from Sentinus. In the session Year 8 had to quickly master how to programme their robots before participating in a competition to see who could complete the race track. Students had to programme every move their robot would make. Overall it was a very arduous task but immensely rewarding for the students. The final races left everyone on the edge of their seats. A huge thank you to Pat for this fantastic and exciting workshop.



## World Book Day

Year 8 pupils were using all of their ingenuity during the week of World Book Day at the English Department and Library's David Walliam's workshop. The inventive pupils were given the task of creating one of Walliam's most iconic characters. Head of English, Ms Dyson, and Mrs McKinley praised the pupils on their cooperative group work and creative thinking.

## Public Speaking

As part of our House competition in the college this year some Year 8 pupils undertook a Public Speaking competition. Representing their houses to gain valuable points, Mrs Dougan and Mrs Heaney were delighted with the performances of the students however it left them with the difficult task of picking the winners. Overall points were added to each house however the winners of this are not announced until the end of summer term. It is a fantastic initiative that encourages students to work together with other pupils from their year group outside of their tutor group in a variety of tasks/competitions.



## Book Buzz

There was quite a "buzz" in Laurelhill Community College's English Department and Library this week when every pupil in Year 8 was gifted a book as part of the "Book Buzz" initiative run by the Book Trust. It was almost as if Christmas had come early!

In October, Year 8 were given the opportunity to choose their own book to take home and keep from a list of 17 exciting titles. These titles were all carefully selected by a panel of experts to ensure quality, suitability and to encourage reading for pleasure.

We in Laurelhill, encourage all pupils and parents to recognise the multitude of benefits that reading for pleasure can bring. Research shows that reading for pleasure will improve a young person's social mobility, emotional development and academic success. Researchers have also found that readers who responded emotionally to stories were more likely to change their attitude about people similar to those in the story. In addition, reading has been found to be a more effective way to overcome stress than listening to music or taking a walk.

Spending time reading for fun is an excellent way to help children relieve stress and improve their mental wellbeing, their levels of self-esteem and ultimately, their happiness. Exploring complex stories and characters also helps children increase their levels of empathy and social mobility, as well as their communication skills. So, why not add a book or two to Santa's list this year?





## Spring Concert

One of the highlights of the school calendar is the annual Spring Concert. It is an opportunity for the Music Department to showcase the talents of so many of our students and this year did not disappoint. This year our comperes were Year 14 students Dylan Leathem and Matthew Lowry as they presented what would be their final Spring Concert. Unpredictable and hilarious - the boys were as entertaining as always and left a lasting impression on everyone in the audience.



It was a packed programme as the evening began with performances from the College Band who dazzled us with their performance of the famous 'ET Theme' and Adelle's classic love song 'Make you feel my love'. New to the programme this year were the Boomwhackers and Handbell groups along with the Staff Band. Memorable performances of the evening came from the Boys Barbershop group who performed 'The Longest Time'. The evening finished with the combined choirs - junior college, senior college and staff choir - who performed a Mamma Mia Medley.

It was a fantastic evening that showcased the hard work of Miss Collins, Mrs Rea and all our Music tutors in college. Well done to all our talented musicians.



### Extra-curricular activities in Music at Laurehill

- Senior Choir
- Junior Choir
- College Band
- Theory Group
- African Drumming
- Ukulele Group

### Music Tutition available at Laurehill:

- Brass
- Drum-Kit
- Guitar
- Piano
- Voice
- Woodwind

## Creative Writing

Year 10 have been working hard to express their emotions regarding lockdown through creative writing. The English Department is so proud of the poetry that they have produced! Well done!

Covid 19 By: Cameron C.  
 Whats going on with this Covid 19  
 Its silent killer all around us but unseen  
 NHS under pressure caring for the sick  
 Stay at home protect lives dont be thick !!  
 Streets closed, Schools closed but replace to go  
 Hang on out it aint happen, time back by so slow

2020 has turned out mean  
 spreading, suffocating savage covid19  
 A virus all over the world  
 Closed are the schools and town  
 Bang the door closes we are in lockdown  
 Watched the news deaths are soaring  
 Helplessly hanging out in the house this is boring  
 Splash goes the water as I wash my hands  
 This virus makes me frown  
 I miss my friends but we are in lockdown  
 Covid19 Can we blame the bat?  
 Or did a horrible human help with that?  
 Nurses and doctors getting sick too  
 Not enough face masks to go around  
 We need to help them by staying in lockdown  
 -Mason J.

## Thank you students and parents -From the English Department!



School days  
 Yeah, let me take you back to school days  
 Yeah, to teen school days  
 Skipping down the hallway  
 Thinking about who will call?  
 But look, the principal is coming!  
 I haven't even opened my book to busy humming  
 It's time to change class  
 What I'd give to pass  
 I said I wish I was back again  
 Yeah I wish I was back again  
 Some of my friends might not make it  
 Although they try to fake it  
 They won't make it oh yeah  
 To go back to those school days  
 Oh how I miss those school days!!  
 -Thomas A. |

Quarantine is my 2020  
 I've been in the house plenty, plenty  
 Boris, Boris let me out  
 Before I start to scream and shout  
 Ring a ding goes my phone  
 Its Mr Ruess, leave me alone  
 No new netflix  
 Watched all the shows  
 Seriously? Who knows  
 Pitter patter across my floor  
 I stand and clap at my door  
 I stand and clap wishing I could do more  
 NHS thank you for tirelessly treating  
 the thousands of unwell  
 Thank you we will all yell.  
 -Tianna M.

# Maths Week

Our Maths Department, as always, had planned a jam-packed week of exciting activities for all of our Year 8 students during Maths week this year. The students took part in a fun, but challenging Maths puzzle session. In the session students had to work together to solve as many puzzles as they could within the time set. The Year 8 winners on the day were: Zenitta Lee, Lily Hollinger, Cameron Hines, Kevin Everts, Louka Tsoutsas, James Cherry, Zoe Gorman, Sarah Mullan and Eve McGlade

Also during registration through the week all form classes and staff were encouraged to complete the Maths competition. The class winners form activity are: 8B, 9L2 and 13LH1



## NSPCC Numbers Day

Year 8 took part in a 'Beetle Drive' as a fundraiser for the NSPCC Numbers Day. There was great excitement among the Year 8s and fun was had by all. Thank you to all who donated to the NSPCC on the day.



## Maths Lesson

8L3 have been learning about mass and measurement. In one of their Maths lessons this year they weighed some of their favourite foods. It was such a lovely day in Laurelhill that they even had some ice cream as a reward for all of their hard work. Well done 8L3.

## Maths Challenge

Huge congratulations the Maths Challenge winners in college this year Grace Thompson and Rhianna Shaw. Both girls were awarded with the Bronze award for participating in this annual competition and Grace was awarded with Best in School and Best in Year. A fantastic achievement - **well done!**



# Graduates –

**Congratulations** to all past pupils who have graduated from university. We are delighted to share the success of some of our students from the class of 2016 with you. If you are a past pupil who has recently graduated we would love to hear from you, please contact Mrs Scott.



**Amy McClements**

Amy graduated from Stranmillis University in Early Childhood Studies with a 2:1 in July 2019. She is currently working as a SEN Classroom Assistant for a boy with Autism and a home support carer for a child with Downs Syndrome but hopes in the future to complete her PGCE. Well done Amy.

**Dean Craig**

Dean graduated in the summer of 2019 from Stranmillis with a 2:1 in Health, Physical Activity and Sport. He recently got a post as a Classroom Assistant in Knockmore Primary School and is aiming to go on and do his Primary PGCE in the coming years. Congratulations Dean.



**Zoe Smyth**

Head Girl Zoe graduated from Stranmillis with a 2:1 in Health, Physical Activity and Sport. Zoe is now currently working as a SEN Classroom Assistant in Forthill Integrated College before completing her PGCE next year. Congratulations Zoe.

**Fiona Joyce**

We are delighted to congratulate past pupil Fiona Joyce.

Fiona graduated from Stranmillis University College with a 1st Class degree in Early Childhood Studies and has started her Primary PGCE at Liverpool Hope University. A huge congratulations to Fiona and we wish her every success as she completes her PGCE year.



## Cooking in Lockdown

Mrs Crawford is delighted that her pupils have been maintaining their excellent practical skills during lockdown. Holly from Year 9 created an amazing 'come dine with me' feast for her family!!

You can watch the full video and more on our YouTube channel...

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-G25zjRI-06QoA10BAg1tg>



## All Videos



Mrs Crawford is delighted that her pupils have been maintaining their...

25 weeks ago · 2.7K views



# 'THE BACK PAGES' EXTRA-CURRICULAR SPORT AT LAURELHILL



Welcome to 'The Back Pages' – an overview of the extra-curricular sport on offer at Laurelhill. There is a wide and varied

as we are the only school in Lisburn to currently hold this award for sport.

If you follow us online you will have noticed another popular new feature this year - our match reports. Follow us on Facebook and you really will get a sense of just how busy extra-curricular life is in the college as our sports staff have been dazzling our followers with some fantastic reports of recent fixtures.



programme of extra-curricular sport at Laurelhill from term to term, leaving students with many opportunities throughout the year to get involved and get active. This year in college we have seen the launch of 'Girls Active' programme – a new initiative aimed at getting girls involved in sport with fantastic results so far.

The college has also maintained the IFA Gold Mark accreditation for the excellent extra-curricular provision on offer in the college. As a result, Laurelhill, along with seven other schools in the province, will compete in the IFA Schools Gold Cup. This is an amazing achievement



Please read through the next few pages to see just how busy the PE Department have been over the past year. For more information and updates on extra-curricular life at Laurelhill, follow us on Facebook. Sport plays a very important part in the curriculum of Laurelhill as we ensure the health and fitness of every pupil is as high as it can be. By encouraging participation in physical fitness we hope to help and support every child's physical and mental health.

## SPORT SUCCESS 2019

- ◆ U13 District Football winners (boys)
- ◆ U17 Northern Ireland Futsal winners (boys)
- ◆ U15 District Football winners (girls)
- ◆ U12 Lisburn League runners up (boys)
- ◆ U13 Lisburn League runners up (boys)
- ◆ Overall winners Lisburn & Castlereagh Athletics Championships
- ◆ U13 Best Boys team
- ◆ Overall winners Lisburn & Castlereagh Cross Country Championships.

## PORTUGAL FOOTBALL TOUR 2019

As part of the Coaching Academy on offer at Laurelhill Community College our students undertook a two-week football and education tour to Portugal in May 2019. This tour is part of their coaching course which is delivered through the college.



It was an intensive two weeks as students spent the morning time training in blistering 30°C sunshine before proceeding to BTEC Level 3 theory sessions in sport in the afternoon. The students also participated in Pilates and strength

and conditioning sessions at the gym. With many of our students wishing to pursue careers in the industry it was an important trip to ensure they are in excellent physical condition for any upcoming trials or important matches.

The students also played a series of competitive matches v. local opposition and won. Lewis Parker (Ballymacash Rangers) and Leighton Jameson (Glenavon) formed a strong defensive partnership whilst Ben



Cushnie (Glentoran, out on loan to Ards) scored an impressive hat trick. The students and staff were also lucky enough to meet Liverpool legend and Rangers manager Steven Gerrard.



It was an exciting trip which will leave lasting memories with all.



## FOOTBALL TOUR 2019

After a very dodgy start to the day thanks to some rough seas the students kicked off day 1 of the football tour with a match to see Manchester City take on Cardiff. It had been a long day of travelling so everyone was glad to finally get to bed to rest after the match in preparation for the rest of the trip.

Day 2 began with a 7.30am wake up call for breakfast before heading to the Theatre of Dreams – Old Trafford. After a very enjoyable tour of the grounds the students then went to the Trafford Centre where there was a chance to get some lunch and spend some of their hard earned pocket money. The students also had the opportunity to play matches against some local teams throughout the trip and on day 2 the Year 8 team came face to face with Hindley Juniors. In spite of the horrendous weather they played on to win their match 6-2 with 5 of the winning goals coming from Ashley Moore.

By day 3 the travelling was starting to take its toll with 44 very sleepy boys having to be woken once again at 7.30am. Today there were two matches played against Rosebridge Academy with Laurelhill teams emerging victorious once again – Year 8 won 6-2 and Year 9/10 won 6-3 thanks to a hat trick from Lennon McIlroy. If that wasn't enough the group had a quick stop at McDonald's to refuel before the tour of Man City's impressive Etihad Stadium. There was just enough time on the final day of the tour to watch the Huddersfield v Leicester match before meeting Jonny Evans (a huge thank you to Matthew McKibben's mum for organising). The match ended 4-1 to Leicester which was a great result and a glorious end to the football tour for Laurelhill.



## ANOTHER YEAR OF OUTSTANDING CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS FOR LAURELHILL!

Over 40 students participated in the Lisburn and Castlereagh Cross Country Championships where Laurelhill emerged once again as the most successful school participating. The students' attitude, effort and behaviour were fantastic. The results were as follows:

Year 8 Girls – 2nd place

Year 9 Girls – 2nd place

Year 9 Boys – 1st place

Year 10 Girls – 3rd place

Reece McKeown – 2nd place overall

Ethan Watson – 3rd place overall

Mia Rowan – 3rd place overall

Hannah McKibben – 3rd place overall

Ellie Tennyson – 2nd place overall

Zoe Fleming – 1st place overall

Dylan Sinnerton – 2nd place overall



## SPORTS CAPTAINS 2019-2020



It is with great pleasure that we introduce our newly appointed Sports Captains for our various teams at Laurelhill Community College for 2019-2020.

In Laurelhill we pride ourselves on being a Centre of Excellence for



Sport and currently we are an IFA accredited Gold Award School, 1 of only 8 in Northern Ireland and the only IFA accredited school in Lisburn. We offer a variety of sports e.g. Football, Netball, Rugby, Hockey, Swimming, Badminton, Cross Country, Table Tennis and Athletics running from Monday - Thursday.

We have teams from these sports playing in a variety of leagues and cups:

■ Football - U12 - U18 (Lisburn Leagues, Belfast

Cups and Northern Ireland Cups)

■ Netball - U12 - U16 (Lisburn Leagues)

■ Rugby - U12/13 (Lisburn Cups)

■ Girls Football - U12 - U18 (IFA leagues and Cups, Lisburn Leagues)

■ Hockey - U12/13 (Lisburn Cups)

**Our Various captains are:**

■ Ellie Tennyson (U18 Football)

■ Mia Rowan (U15 Football)

■ Jennifer Guthrie (U13 Football)

■ Keleigh Brady (Intermediate Netball)

■ Abbie McKinstry (Minor Netball)

■ Nina Robinson (Yr8 Netball)

■ Olivia Anderson and Eden

■ Watson (U12 Hockey)

■ Adam Wright (U18 Football)

■ Dylan Sinnerton (U16 Football)

■ Jacob Walker (U15 Football)

■ Billy Morrison (U14 Football)

■ Kristian McCabe (U13 Football)

■ Leon Barr (U12 Football)



Many thanks to the various companies for sponsoring our teams namely Nettlehill Service Station, Ballymacash Sports Academy, Danske Bank, Conveyortek, Jim's DIY, Q-Service and Supervalu Lisburn.



## ROYAL MARINES

The Recruitment Team from the Royal Marines visited Laurelhill PE department on Thursday 6th February. They presented, through videos and PowerPoint, what life is like as a Royal Marine. They also explained the Fitness Requirements needed to pass selection. Students were then taken into the sport hall where the Marines conducted a 45minute session of Military-style physical training.

It was an exhausting but insightful experience and in keeping with the tradition that Laurelhill has in supporting careers in the Military. We currently have 2 past pupils serving as Royal Marine Commandos.



## BOYS FOOTBALL AT LAURELHILL

Laurelhill boys have had yet another fantastic season this year The U13 district team won the Lisburn League and the U17 were the champions of the Northern Ireland Futsal Cup. Congratulations also to sixth form student Ben Cushnie who was selected for the Northern Ireland U18 football team. The U13 team also made the semi-final of the Belfast Cup. Teams in other year groups played well in Lisburn & Castlereagh Leagues and over 100 boys from Year 8-10 have been out training at football after school on Wednesdays. Here are some photos of our teams who competed this year...



## INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIVE 2019:

**Ben Cushnie**  
NI U18 Football Team





## DUKE OF EDINBURGH SILVER AWARD

Another success to celebrate for our Duke of Edinburgh students. Year 12 students Zoe Fleming, Kaitlyn McKinstry and Louise Patterson have completed their Silver Duke of Edinburgh, after a gruelling challenge in the Mournes but they are still standing. Well done!

### Extra Curricular Laurelhill Sport

- Football
- Rugby
- Netball
- Swimming
- Cross Country
- Badminton
- Gymnastics
- Circuits
- Hockey
- Dance
- Basketball
- Athletics
- Handball
- Squash
- Cricket



## GIRLS FOOTBALL AT LAURELHILL

Girls' football has continued to grow this year and more students are attending after school training on Thursdays than ever before. The U15 team placed first at the Football Blitz competition and for the first time in our history we made it to the NI girls' football finals after winning the Lisburn and Castlereagh regional competition. Our Year 14 Coaching Academy student Abigail Lyle Hall was also awarded third place for Lisburn & Castlereagh Council Coach of the Year 2019. Here are some of the images from their matches throughout the year below...



# DANCE

Over the past year we have had the pleasure of welcoming back our former pupil Lauren Dick to the College. Lauren has returned home from Spain having completed her degree in dance. She has been running extra-curricular dance lessons on Wednesday afternoons from 3.15 - 4.15. So many students are really enjoying this new addition to our extra-curricular sport programme!



# SPORTS DAY 2019

All the action from Sports Day 2019. We were blessed with some fantastic sunshine for this year's event. It was a great whole school event and the perfect end to the summer term as you can see from the images above...

# NETBALL

Our teams have continued to compete in the Lisburn Development League and various mini tournaments throughout the year with all the girls showing fantastic effort and attitude at all of their matches. Netball training takes place every Tuesday afternoon and it has been encouraging to see so many girls attending and keen to represent the college. Here's a sneak peek at some of their training...



# RUGBY TRIPS

Trips to Kingspan have continued this year with Mr Hillis taking some keen rugby fans to see some fantastic matches such as:

- John Cooney inspired Ulster side defeat Clermont in the Champion's Cup
- Ulster vs. Dragons Pro14 Rugby match

For more trips and upcoming events, follow our Facebook page - Laurelhill Community College



# SPORT HONOURS STUDENTS 2020

This year we had six students receiving their sport honours for outstanding commitment, achievement and contribution to sport in the college. These students have also represented at district level. Congratulations to our sport students who have earned their honours this year.





## LCC ATHLETICS COMPETITION

CHAMPIONS! For the second year running Laurelhill won the inter-Lisburn Athletics competition. Pupils in Year 8&9 competed for points on a beautiful sunny day in track and field events. Pupils were fantastic all day and were a credit to themselves and the school. Pictured are the entire team along with the Year 9 Athletics Captains Brynja Brynjarsdottir and Cameron Douglas.



## GIRLS ACTIVE

The Girls Active programme launched in college and Junior College girls enjoyed Glow sports with Lisburn and Castlereagh Council, Hockey with Irish Under 21 Pippa Best and a dance workshop with former pupil Rea Campbell choreographer.

Each year a group of girls from Year 11 girls are selected as part of Girls Active Programme to become ambassadors for physical activity in school this year.

They are involved in helping to motivate and encourage all girls in the College to become more active in their lifestyles, to try out new activities as part of the extra-curricular programme from November as well as arranging an event for Year 8 girls later in the year. The girls this year are Mia Rowan, Amy-Jo Mitchell, Natalya Connery, Keleigh Brady and Lucy Thompson.

Last year Ellie Tennyson, Kara Robinson, Nicole Dumigan, Katie-Cole Kennedy, Kaitlyn McKinstry and Hannah McKibben were our first Girls Active ambassadors for 2018-2019. They completed a 3 day residential at the Ulster University learning about the promotion of sport and gaining their netball and multi sports awards. Last year the girls launched the successful mother and daughter exercise programme in the summer term series of one day events were held throughout the summer term to promote sport for girls.

This year the girls will be continuing to attend assemblies to introduce the activities on offer for all pupils and specifically girls. The emphasis of these activities is participation and not competition.



*Learning and  
Achieving Together*



**Laurelhill Community College**

**VIRTUAL OPEN NIGHT**

**Available on our  
YouTube channel now**



*All primary pupils  
and parents/carers  
welcome*



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