

OUR LADY AND ST PATRICK'S COLLEGE, KNOCK



ANNUAL REPORT **OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS** **2023 - 2024**

*A copy of this report may be obtained free of charge by contacting the College or
it may be downloaded from www.knock.co.uk*

Dear Parents

I am pleased to forward the Annual Report of the Board of Governors for the academic year 2023-2024. It contains information about the Board's statutory responsibilities, accountability for ensuring its decisions support the best interests of the College and its students, involvement in the life of the College and the operation of the College over the past academic year.

This report chronicles the work of our school and reflects the leadership and management of the Board of Governors, the Principal and the teaching and support staff who are entrusted with the care and education of our students. As Principal of the College, I have always been impressed by the committed, professional approach of our staff and the ambition of our student body. This is reflected in the broad and balanced curriculum, the range of after-school activities and the ample opportunities that are offered to students through the voluntary commitment of our teachers and support staff.

The Annual Report summarises the GCSE, AS and A-Level outcomes and the academic progress of our students. Other sections of the document give you an insight into some of the main events and opportunities afforded to our student body over the past school year. So much happens in the daily life of the College that this report cannot fully reflect the wide range of activities and student successes. We keep our parents, past pupils and friends of the College informed of our activities and successes through our school magazine, Communiqué, our eBulletin, text messages, regular updates on our website and use of Twitter.

At the start of the academic year, we welcomed a number of new permanent staff to Knock (see P5). At the end of the school year, the College said 'Goodbye' to Mrs Cooley. We thank Mrs Cooley for her loyal contribution to the College and wish her a long, happy and healthy retirement.

As a College committed to continuous improvement, it is always helpful to reflect on what was a very successful year and to use our experience and knowledge to enhance the future educational, pastoral, spiritual and extra-curricular provision for the young people we serve.

I trust you will find the content of this Annual Report both interesting and informative.

Yours sincerely



Deborah McLaughlin
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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS FOR THE COLLEGE YEAR 2023 - 2024

1. INTRODUCTION

The College's Mission Statement indicates that, *"Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock cares for young people in a way that encourages them to develop to their full potential within a supportive Christian community. We seek to prepare our students to play an active and responsible role in society and to use their talents for the service of others"*.

This Mission Statement guides us in the task of enabling each of our students to realise his/her full potential. It stresses the importance of relationships. Students are to be cared for and their talents developed in a harmonious manner. They are to be encouraged to use their talents for the benefit of others.

Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock aims to:

- *develop the "whole person" as a follower of Christ;*
- *promote the philosophy and values of Catholic Education;*
- *develop positive attitudes in an atmosphere of co-operation, justice and mutual respect;*
- *prepare young people to be confident and creative contributors to society;*
- *enable students to realise their full academic potential and to develop all their gifts and talents;*
- *prepare students for adulthood by enabling them to acquire the relevant knowledge and skills;*
- *engage positively with the local and wider community.*

Our aim, therefore, is to provide a school where each member of the school community enters fully into the life of the College, where all students are happily and enthusiastically involved in a wide variety of work within a well-structured but flexible framework.

2. THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The role of the Board of Governors is to manage the College so as to provide the best possible education and opportunities for all our students. The Board consists of eighteen voting members and the Principal. The 1989 Education Reform Order and the Scheme of Management of the College highlight the responsibilities of the Board of Governors. These responsibilities include:

1. Taking corporate decisions in relation to the statutory functions of the Board of Governors;
2. Setting the school's vision and aims,
3. Establishing and maintaining the school's ethos;
4. Setting the strategic direction for the school with School Development Plans;
5. Monitoring and evaluating school performance;
6. Promoting self-evaluation to sustain school improvement;
7. Determining school policies;
8. The admission of pupils to the College;
9. Determining the Curriculum Policy and the curriculum;
10. Appointing staff and associated personnel responsibilities;
11. Financial management;
12. Maintaining College buildings and property;
13. Fostering links with the local community; and
14. Fostering the objectives of Mutual Understanding.

The Board of Governors met on five occasions during the year. In addition, the sub-committees of the Board met to deal with issues such as the strategic direction of the College, curriculum, appointment of teachers, finance, auditing of accounts, safeguarding, staffing, premises, discipline and the admission of students.

Membership of the Board of Governors 2023-2024

Trustee Governor	Mr Leo O'Reilly (Chairperson)
Trustee Governor	Mrs Sinead Burns (Chair of the Curriculum Committee)
Trustee Governor	Mr John Conaghan
Trustee Governor	Mr John Deery (Chair of the Finance, Staffing and Premises Committee)
Trustee Governor	Ms Jackie Devine (Chair of the Admissions Committee)
Trustee Governor	Mrs Catherine Guerin
Trustee Governor	Ms Joanne Hannigan (Chair of the Audit and Risk Committee)
Trustee Governor	Mrs Elaine Monan
DE Governor	Mr Kevin Coyle
DE Governor	Ms Ciara Greenwood
DE Governor	Mr Niall Hunt (Vice Chairperson)
DE Governor	Mr James Knox
DE Governor	Mrs Nicola McCarthy
DE Governor	Mr James Woods
Parent Governor	Professor Patrick McCole
Parent Governor	Mrs Mary O'Brien
Teacher Governor	Mrs Fiona Murray
Teacher Governor	Ms Fiona Sullivan
Correspondent	Miss Deborah McLaughlin (Principal)

3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The following areas of responsibility were dealt with by Governors:

The School Revenue Account for the year ending 31st March 2024 was prepared by the Finance Committee of the Board of Governors. The Board is responsible for securing the efficient and effective management of all of the school's resources and expenditure, including funds provided by the Department of Education for capital assets, equipment and personnel. Muldoon and Co., Chartered Accountants, remained as Internal Auditors and Sean Kavanagh and Co., Chartered Accountants, remained as External Auditors in full accordance with the Audit Code for Voluntary Grammar Schools.

The Principal and College Business Manager had responsibility for monitoring and dealing with the allocated Department of Education's grants of £7,563,835 and were directed and advised, when necessary, by the Finance, Staffing and Premises Committee and the Audit and Risk Committee of the Board of Governors. The delegated budgets to subject departments were monitored by the Committees and proposals were discussed regarding the most appropriate use of finance and staffing in the delivery of the curriculum. These Committees met on various occasions to decide how the overall budget should be used efficiently and effectively, and to monitor expenditure. It should be noted that 89% of the overall expenditure was spent on the salaries of teachers and support staff and that the College ended the financial year with reserves of £88,284. A summary of the annual accounts is provided in Appendix A (Page 13).

Accommodation

The College has superb facilities which are maintained to a high standard. The PPP/PFI operator (Belfast Educational Services) provides maintenance personnel, caretaking and cleaning staff to look after the College buildings, pitches and grounds, while catering services were managed by the College. Working with the PPP Operator and the Facilities Management provider, Mitie Group PLC, the College premises and outdoor facilities provide a safe and secure environment for students and staff by meeting all Building Control Regulations and Health and Safety Guidelines. The College buildings are compliant with disability legislation.

Transfer Procedure for Year 8 Admissions for September 2023

A total of 323 students from our contributory primary schools applied for admission to Year 8 for September 2023. In total, 201 students were admitted; 193 under the Admissions Criteria, alongside 3 students with a Statement of Special Educational Needs. 1 student was admitted by the Exceptional Circumstances Body and 4 students were admitted by the School Admissions Appeal Tribunals.

College Staffing and Appointments

In order to deliver the curriculum effectively, the Board of Governors employed 74 full-time teachers, 21 part-time teachers, 6 administrative staff, 6 technicians, 26 classroom assistants, 13 dining hall and kitchen staff, a Librarian, a Sixth Form Study Supervisor, 2 foreign language assistants and a First-Aider. The Principal led a Senior Leadership Team of two Vice Principals and seven Senior Teachers. The teaching and support staff catered for the needs of 1,408 students and the following permanent members of staff were appointed:

Staff	Role
Mr Adam Cunningham	Biology Technician
Dr Lynsey Finlay	Chemistry Technician
Mr Peter Healy	TD/Art Technician
Mr Euan McKibbin	Study Supervisor
Mrs Anya Hanna	Classroom Assistant
Miss Sharon Keery	Catering Manager
Miss Carly McClay	Classroom Assistant
Dr Krysta McCormick	Head of History
Miss Chloe Race	Teacher of Physics
Miss Brooke Watt	Classroom Assistant

4. WHOLE STAFF TRAINING and INSET ARRANGEMENTS

Day / Date	Objectives
INSET Day 1: 24/08/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide a whole school analysis of the GCSE/AS/A-level results, Summer 2023. To familiarise staff with the Acceptable Use of Digital Technology. To provide staff with guidance on Department targets for 2023-24 (including GCSE and A-Level targets). To provide time for Heads of School and Heads of Year to meet to discuss pastoral issues. To provide time for Heads of Faculty to meet with Heads of Department and Co-ordinators. To provide time for departments to begin their exam results analysis. To provide time for staff to meet with department colleagues to discuss specific department issues.
INSET Day 2: 25/08/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide Child Protection and Safeguarding training for staff. To facilitate an update and training of the use of CPOMs. To share with staff information about the new Year 8 intake. To provide information on supervision, evacuation and First Aid procedures. To provide training on the Personal Development Programme for Year 8-14 Tutors. To provide training for all Standby Tutors. Access IEPs/IMPs/Medical/Confidential Information on subject classes on Private Folders 2. To train Year 10 and Year 11 Tutors to deliver the SHAHRP programme.
INSET Day 3: 26/08/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide Digital Skills training for staff in response to their needs. To provide time for staff to meet in departments to complete a Digital Skills Audit. To provide time for the Vice Principal (Curriculum) to meet with Heads of Department. To provide time for staff to meet with department colleagues to discuss specific department issues. To provide time for Heads of Department to meet with the College's LitCo, NumCo and ICTCo. To induct new teachers on the College's key policies and procedures.
INSET Day 4: 27/10/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate Year 12 teachers meeting with parents to discuss pupil progress. To facilitate Year 14 teachers meeting with parents to discuss pupil progress.
INSET Day 5: 06/11/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To facilitate Year 8 teachers meeting with parents to discuss pupil progress. To facilitate SEAG Staff Training.
INSET Day 6: 08/12/23	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staff Well-Being.

INSET Day 7: 15/01/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide training for staff on AI in Education: JCQ Regulations and potential use. • To provide guidance on planning for Year 10 Options Day. • To provide time for staff to carry out department business. • To provide time for Heads of Year/School and Tutors to discuss pastoral issues. • To provide Child Protection and Safeguarding training for staff who missed the August 2023 session.
INSET Day 8: 19/03/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate Year 8 teachers meeting with parents to discuss pupil progress.
INSET Day 9: 28/03/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To facilitate subject teachers to internally standardise controlled assessments or coursework. • To facilitate teachers not involved with controlled assessments or coursework to continue with curriculum development or other subject based activities under the direction of Heads of Department e.g. completion of SIMS Tracking. • To facilitate departments to hold meetings to discuss department business. • To facilitate Curriculum 'Booster Sessions' for targeted GCSE and A-Level students.
INSET Day 10: 27/05/24	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To explore the College vision of Excellence through Care. • To promote an inclusive ethos, which promotes equity and fairness. • To promote the emotional health and well-being of staff. • To build #teamknock.

5. SUMMARY OF CURRICULUM POLICY 2023-2024

The Curriculum reflected the aims and objectives of the College and conformed to all statutory requirements. A copy of the daily timetable is included as Appendix B (Page 14).

Junior School - Key Stage 3 (Years 8-10)

Junior School students were introduced to academic discipline in the prescribed Learning Areas. Year 8 and Year 9 students studied the following subjects:

Art and Design, Drama, English, Employability, Geography, History, Home Economics, ICT, Local and Global Citizenship, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Religious Education, Science, Technology and Design. In addition to these subjects, students chose two Modern Languages from: French, German, Irish and Spanish.

There were Personal Development classes for all Key Stage 3 students and Year 8 students also followed the Student Mentor Programme. All Junior School students engaged in our Education for Love programmes. In Year 10, there were some additions to the Year 8-9 curriculum. Careers Education classes were introduced to replace Employability and Science changed to the separate subjects of Biology, Chemistry and Physics. The Merit System in Junior School continued to recognise and reward students for high standards of attendance, work and behaviour.

Senior School - Key Stage 4 (Years 11 and 12)

The curriculum met the requirements of the Entitlement Framework, catering for a wide range of interests. The vast majority of students studied at least 10 GCSE subjects, which included the compulsory core element of five subjects and an optional element of a further five. In addition, a number of students were selected on the basis of performance in Year 10 Mathematics to study GCSE Mathematics in Year 11, followed by GCSE Further Mathematics in Year 12. A Year 11 'fast-track' Music course was offered as an extra GCSE subject during lunch periods. The Senior School Award Ceremony took place with students in November 2023.

Core GCSE Curriculum - Studied by all Students:

Careers*	Mathematics	Learning for Life and Work
English Language	Religious Education	Personal Development Programme*
English Literature	Physical Education*	* <i>non-GCSE courses</i>

Optional Curriculum

Students chose 5 subjects from the following list: Art and Design, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Computer Science, Drama, Food and Nutrition, French, Geography, German, History, Digital Technology, Irish, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Science (Double Award), Spanish, Technology and Design.

Upper School (Years 13 and 14)

All students in Year 13 studied for Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS-Level) examinations. AS module examinations were taken at the end of Year 13. Year 14 students pursued Advanced Level (A2) courses and were entered for A2 module examinations in June. Some Year 14 students studied a combination of AS and A-Level subjects. Students who did not take A-Level Religious Studies were required to take a modular course in Religious Education. Careers Education and the Personal Development Programme were compulsory for all Year 13 and Year 14 students. The Education for Love Programme (Life Issues) continued for all Year 13 students. The curriculum on offer met the requirements of the Entitlement Framework.

Any combination of AS/A-Level subjects could be taken from the following:

Art and Design	English Literature	Moving Image Arts
Biology	French	Music
Business Studies	Further Mathematics	Nutrition and Food Science
Chemistry	Geography	Physical Education
Computer Science	German	Physics
Design and Technology	Government and Politics	Religious Studies
Digital Technology	History	Sociology
Drama	Irish	Spanish
Economics	Mathematics	

A number of Year 13 students also completed the Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme, Community Service and the Student Mentor Programmes.

As part of the Confucius Project, led by Grosvenor Grammar School, 20 of our students from across all year groups enjoyed weekly sessions aiming to promote the Chinese language and culture.

The Upper School Award Ceremony took place on Friday, 22nd December 2023.

6. ENROLMENT: The College enrolment for 2023-2024 was 1,408 at 01/10/23. This was made up as follows:

Year Group	Males	Females	Total
Year 8	114	87	201
Year 9	120	97	217
Year 10	117	107	224
Year 11	102	94	196

Year 12	93	98	191
Year 13	101	85	186
Year 14	104	89	193
Totals	751	657	1,408

7. EXAMINATION RESULTS AND LEAVERS' DESTINATIONS 2023-2024

The GCSE and A-Level results for the academic year were excellent. An analysis of results at GCSE and A-Level are detailed in Appendix C (Pages 15-17) of this report. High standards have been maintained and the Board of Governors expresses its appreciation to both staff and students for their dedication and commitment.

Year 14 Destinations 2023/24

Higher Education	FE College	Employment/ Training	Higher Apprenticeship	Gap Year
169	7	2	0	12

8. EDUCATION FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

The College hopes to continue its involvement in the Ulster Project, Pramerica Community Service Award and The Old Rotarian's Programme. Other Key EMU initiatives include the following:

Habitat for Humanity

The link between Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock, Grosvenor Grammar School and Habitat for Humanity is ongoing. This joint project usually involves students working on site to help build affordable housing.

Community Service

Modified EMU/Cross Community links continued with partner schools/residential homes including:

- Grosvenor Grammar School
- Kirk House
- Lagan College
- Towell House

9. COLLABORATION WITH OTHER SCHOOLS

The College continued its curricular, In-Service Training (INSET) and social links with Aquinas Diocesan Grammar School, Grosvenor Grammar School and Lagan College. We worked closely with the East Belfast Area Learning Community (EBALC) on a shared curriculum, Careers Education, Literacy, Numeracy, ICT, Pastoral Care and Special Educational Needs provision and training. Other collaborative work continued with Grosvenor Grammar School and Lagan College in Shared Education under the direction of Mrs Caroline Morgan (Shared Education Coordinator).

10. SPECIAL EDUCATIONAL NEEDS

The College's policy and procedures on Special Educational Needs (SEN) follow the Department of Education's Code of Practice on the Identification and Assessment of Special Educational Needs. The SEN Policy is also consistent with the supplement to the Code of Practice. Our Learning Support Coordinator, Mrs Antoinette Fox, assisted by Mrs Emma McGLone (Asst. LSC), was responsible for the identification, assessment and

coordination of the arrangements and facilities for students with short and long-term special educational needs. The Literacy and Numeracy Coordinators, Mrs Maria Magee and Mrs Claire O'Callaghan, also supported individual learning needs.

In the academic year 2023-2024, there were 86 students on the SEN Register, including 43 students with a Statement of Special Educational Needs. 79 students had Personal Learning Plans, 55 students had an Individual Learner Profile and 101 students had Individual Medical Plans. Students have been identified and are currently in receipt of support which is tailored to each individual's specific needs within the classroom, after school or with outside agencies. Mostly, these are students who have been assessed by Educational Psychologists as having Specific Learning Difficulties, but some were suffering from chronic or temporary illnesses or disabilities or emotional circumstances which impaired their achievement at school. Provision is made for students with dyslexia, physical impairment or disability, emotional or behavioural difficulties and short or long-term illness. Learning support was offered within class by subject teachers, by our Learning Support Team and, where necessary, by referral to the Educational Psychology Service and/or the Education Authority's Outreach Service. A Peer Mentor Scheme, to assist students with Literacy and/or Numeracy issues, was a valuable aspect of the provision for those with learning support needs. Annual reviews for Stage 3 SEN students and CEIAG support at transition in Key Stages 3, 4 and 5 were provided. Bespoke Personal Learning Plans for SEN students are maintained by the Learning Support Coordinators and tailored by classroom teachers to meet the needs of individual students.

The school building is fully compliant with disability legislation and College staff work in consultation with parents and outside agencies to make appropriate arrangements for students and visitors with disabilities.

11. SECURITY

The College continues to monitor and measure the effectiveness of all existing security arrangements for students, staff, visitors and the protection of school premises. The Mitie PLC Facilities Management Team is responsible for the 24-hour security of the campus and monitors entrances by its CCTV system. Emergency call-out services from G4S are available. Mitie PLC staff are trained in security procedures and make daily and weekly security checks of the site. Timed emergency evacuation drills are carried out each term and reported to the Senior Leadership Team. An Acceptable Use of the Internet Policy is distributed to staff and students at the beginning of the academic year.

12. EXTRA-CURRICULAR HIGHLIGHTS

A number of extra-curricular activities and societies operated throughout the school year. Fuller details can be found on the College website and in Appendices D-E (Pages 18-23). Highlights included:

- 19/03/24: U18 boys won the Northern Ireland Cup (soccer) in Windsor Park.
- 20/03/24: Senior and Intermediate netballers won the Northern Ireland Cup.
- 26/06/24: 19 students were invited by Kate Nicholl (MLA) to present their 'Female Voices' project in the Long Gallery, Stormont.
- 06-08/10/23: Year 9-10 students on a Geography trip to Delphi Valley Adventure Centre, Galway.
- 27/10/23 - 01/11/23: The Art, Drama and Music departments organised a trip to New York for 50 students.
- 12-16/02/24: Geography department visited Tenerife.

The generosity of students to charitable causes was outstanding and the commitment of staff in supporting worthy causes continues annually, as illustrated by the main fund-raising activities shown below:

Charities

- £7,638 was raised through the annual sponsored walk, October 2023, for Fr Tony Coney (past pupil) to support his work in St Bernadette's Children's Centre, Peru.
- £2,000 was raised from the Christmas Appeal 2023 and other events to support the work of the St Vincent de Paul Conference.
- £12,075 was raised through the Lenten campaign for Trócaire, March 2024.

13. RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND FORMATION

As well as preparing students for GCSE and A-Level RE examinations, every effort was made to ensure that, in keeping with the College ethos, Catholic values were promoted among the school community. Through the programmes of study and extra-curricular activities, students were given an in-depth awareness of the Catholic faith and their Christian commitment.

There were special retreat programmes for Key Stage 3 students within the College. In October, all Year 14 students attended a one-day Retreat with Sr Marie (Chaplain). The RE Department continued to be one of the most vibrant departments within the College and helped to inculcate the positive values and attitudes which are so much part of our Catholic ethos. The Education for Love programme and the Mentor Programme continued to complement much of what was being done in RE classes and the Pastoral Care programme.

The Junior and Senior Chaplaincy Teams, under the direction of Mrs McCarthy and Sr Marie, prepared liturgies, acted as Eucharistic Ministers, held weekly prayer sessions, and organised Christmas, Lenten and Ash Wednesday reflections.

Whole-school Mass was celebrated on two occasions to honour our College patrons: 07/09/23 in honour of Our Lady to mark the start of the academic year; 15/03/24 to honour St Patrick. The Year 14 Leavers' Mass was celebrated by Fr Conor McGrath on 02/05/24. A Mass for Year 12 students was also celebrated by Fr Conor on 03/05/24.

14. LINKS WITH PARENTS AND THE COMMUNITY

During 2023-2024, there were six Parent-Teacher Meetings which provided parents with an update on the academic progress of their child(ren). There were Year 10 and Year 12 Options Days for parents and students to discuss their choice of subjects with teachers for GCSE and AS-Level study. Parents were also invited to the Senior and Upper School Leavers' Masses. A Curriculum Evening for the parents of Year 11 students with particular reference to Controlled Assessment was held on 10/10/23. Attendance at all events was excellent.

Many parents kept in touch with Tutors and teachers through the pastoral care structure and the counselling services for students. The College website, the Communiqué magazine, eBulletins, text messaging and student reports also helped keep lines of communication open between home and school. The College Twitter account and regular use of our text messaging service helped keep parents, students and friends of the College informed. Parents were very much aware of the 'open door' policy at Knock and many availed of opportunities to come to the College to talk about relevant issues, such as transfer, transport, progress reports, positive behaviour, curriculum and pastoral care.

The PTA organised a number of very successful events including a 5K Fun Run/Walk on Saturday 24/02/24 in Let's Go Hydro with approximately 100 entries.

15. CAREERS EDUCATION, ADVICE, INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE

A large team of experienced teachers and a Department of Employment and Learning (DEL) Careers Adviser were involved in the provision of Careers and Employability. Facilities were divided between the Careers Counselling Room, used for individual and small group guidance, the Careers Classroom, and the Library, used by individual students and classes to access Careers information.

From Years 8 to 14, all students had one compulsory lesson per week of timetabled Employability/Careers where they were given booklets of information and worksheets related to their lessons. At Key Stage 3, the CCEA Education for Employability programme was followed, with its emphasis on pupil-centred learning and preparing young people for life after school. In addition to the weekly Careers lesson, Key Stage 4 students also studied CCEA GCSE Learning for Life and Work, of which Employability is a major component. In the Sixth Form, the emphasis was on preparing students for university, higher apprenticeships and working life.

Careers staff advised on all aspects of subject and career choice, and guidance was offered to both class groups and individuals. GCSE and A/AS-Level Options Booklets were produced to help students make their subject choices. All students in Years 10, 12 and 13 were individually interviewed before they chose their GCSEs, A-Levels and Higher/Further Education options. Individual guidance on subject choice was offered to students and parents via Options Days in the second term. Careers teachers were also available to students and parents after the publication of examination results and at Parent-Teacher Meetings. The College's DEL Careers Adviser played an important guidance role, particularly with Year 12 students. Parents were also encouraged to become constructively involved in the career planning of their children.

From Year 10 onwards, students were required to produce realistic Personal Career Plans. ICT is considered to be vitally important to address the objectives of the Careers and Employability programmes successfully. The Internet was extensively utilised and students were encouraged to answer psychometric questionnaires to ascertain or confirm their career choices.

16. CONCLUSION

Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock continues to flourish as a leading Catholic Grammar School, catering for the curricular, pastoral and spiritual needs of our young people who join the College community from a wide catchment area. We hope that this Annual Report of the Board of Governors gives you an overview and insight into all that has been accomplished in the academic year 2023-2024 and we thank the staff of the College for their dedication and commitment. Should you wish to know more about our school, please visit the College website at www.knock.co.uk.

Gratias Agamus

Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock**INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 MARCH 2024**

	2024	2023
GROSS INCOME	£	£
Department of Education Grants	7,563,835	7,326,848
Other Income (DE, letting of facilities, etc.)	898,473	362,047
Bank Interest Receivable	7,696	328
	8,470,004	7,689,223

EXPENDITURE

Teaching Staff Costs	6,275,703	5,519,496
Non-Teaching Staff Costs	1,286,544	1,139,427
Other Operating Costs	819,473	817,310
Total Expenditure	8,381,720	7,476,233

SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)

Surplus (Deficit)	88,284	212,990
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Total recognised gains and losses

The College has no recognised gains or losses other than the surplus or deficit for the above financial year.

VOLUNTARY DONATIONS FROM PARENTS

Contributions Received	64,764	73,880
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Gratitude is expressed to parents for the support given to the College by means of voluntary contributions. Certain items cannot be funded by grants from the Department of Education and this income from voluntary donations from parents is used to improve the educational opportunities for all students of the College.

The College Day 2023-2024

Tutor Group Registration and Assemblies: 9.20am - 9.30am	
Period 1	9.30 - 10.05am
Period 2	10.05 -10.35am
Period 3	10.35 - 11.05am
Break	11.05 - 11.20am
Period 4	11.20 -11.50am
Period 5	11.50 - 12.20pm
Period 6	12.20 -12.50pm
Period 7 (Junior Lunch)	12.50 - 1.25pm
Period 8 (Senior Lunch)	1.25 - 2.00pm
Period 9	2.00 - 2.30pm
Period 10	2.30 - 3.00pm
Period 11	3.00 - 3.34pm

School attendance 2023-24

No. of possible attendance sessions	No. of sessions attended	% Attendance
430552	430552	96%

GCSE and A-Level Examination Results 2018/19 to 2023/24

Performance Indicator	2018/19		2019/20 2020/21 Covid		2021/22		2022/23		2023/24	
	Our Lady and St Patrick's College	NI Grammar School Average	Our Lady and St Patrick's College	NI Grammar School Average	Our Lady and St Patrick's College	NI Grammar School Average	Our Lady and St Patrick's College	NI Grammar School Average	Our Lady and St Patrick's College	NI Grammar School Average
% achieving 7+ GCSEs at grades A*-C	98.9	90.5	100	Not available	100	Not available	98.4	94.4	99.5	91.4
% achieving 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C	100	96.1	100	Not available	100	Not available	99.5	97.6	100	96.6
% achieving 3+ A-levels at grades A*-C	91.6	79.7	99.4	Not available	92.4	Not available	96.3	83.8	89.0	79.9
% achieving 2+ A-levels at grades A*-E	99.4	99.6	100	Not available	100	Not available	100	99.6	100	99.6

Year 12 GCSE Results Summary 2023/24

% entered for:		% achieving grades A*-C in:		
7+ GCSEs	5+ GCSEs	7+ GCSEs	5+ GCSEs	0 GCSEs
100	100	99.5	100	0

Number of students in Year 12: 190

Number of students with a Statement of Special Educational Needs: 4

Year 12 GCSE Results by Subject 2023/24

Subject	Entries	Cumulative Percentage						
		A*	A* - A	A* - B	A* - C*	A* - C	A* - D	A* - E
Art & Design	36	33.3	61.1	72.2	88.9	100	100	100
Biology	96	27.1	67.7	88.5	97.9	99.0	100	100
Business Studies	44	22.7	65.9	88.6	100	100	100	100
Chemistry	81	29.6	60.5	79.0	95.1	95.1	100	100
Design and Technology	31	41.9	80.6	83.9	96.8	100	100	100
Digital Technology	11	45.5	90.9	90.9	90.9	100	100	100
Drama	25	0	60.0	84.0	100	100	100	100
English Language	190	21.1	72.2	91.1	97.9	100	100	100
English Literature	190	25.3	64.2	86.3	93.7	99.5	100	100
Food and Nutrition	32	18.8	50.0	65.6	90.6	96.9	100	100
French	21	23.8	71.4	81.0	95.2	100	100	100
Geography	75	24.0	58.7	84.0	88.0	94.7	98.7	100
German	7	28.6	57.1	71.4	85.7	100	100	100
History	83	34.9	67.5	88.0	95.2	98.8	100	100
Irish	17	29.4	52.9	58.8	82.4	100	100	100
LLW	189	36.0	80.4	95.8	98.4	100	100	100
Mathematics	190	30.7	78.4	93.7	98.9	100	100	100
Mathematics Further	102	45.1	81.4	92.2	99.0	99.0	99.0	100
Music	22	31.8	77.2	95.5	100	100	100	100
Physics	75	29.3	73.3	89.3	98.7	100	100	100
Religious Studies	185	36.2	73.5	87.0	94.1	97.8	99.5	100
Spanish	91	28.6	59.3	83.5	92.3	97.8	100	100

Subject	Entries	Percentage									
		A*A*	A*A	AA	AB	BB	BC*	C*C*	C*C	CC	CD
Science: Double Award	69	21.7	39.1	55.1	62.3	76.8	82.6	87	94.2	98.6	100

Subject	Entries	GCSE 9 to 1 Courses							
		9/A*	8/A	7/A	6/B	5/C*	4/C	3/D	2/E
Computer Science	31	32.3	54.9	54.9	74.2	87.2	90.3	96.8	100
Polish	1	100	100	100	100	100	100	100	100
Physical Education	36	38.9	52.8	80.6	94.4	97.3	100	100	100

Year 14 A-Level Results Summary 2023/24

	Number of students in final year of course	% Achieving 3+ grades A* - C	% Achieving 2+ grades A* - E
A-Level	190	89%	100%

Number of students with a statement of Special Educational Needs: 4

73 Year 14 Students (38%) achieved A or A* grades in 3 or more A-Level subjects.

Year 14 A-Level Results by Subject 2023/24

Subject	Cumulative Percentage						
	Entries	A*	A* - A	A* - B	A* - C	A* - D	A* - E
Art and Design	11	27.3	54.5	90.9	100	100	100
Biology	74	23.0	59.5	86.5	93.2	100	100
Business Studies	55	14.5	52.7	81.8	96.4	100	100
Chemistry	41	19.5	58.5	90.2	97.6	100	100
Computer Science	10	10.0	70.0	80.0	100	100	100
Design and Technology	17	0	11.8	41.2	88.2	100	100
Digital Technology	4	0	0	75.0	75.0	100	100
Drama	14	0	21.4	85.7	92.9	100	100
Economics	12	16.7	41.7	75.0	83.3	100	100
English Literature	25	24.0	40.0	80.0	92.0	100	100
French	4	50.0	100	100	100	100	100
Geography	38	18.4	60.5	78.9	97.4	100	100
German	2	0	100	100	100	100	100
History	20	15.0	55.0	85.0	95.0	100	100
Mathematics Further	2	50.0	100	100	100	100	100
Mathematics	58	32.8	77.6	93.1	98.3	100	100
Moving Image Arts	8	0	25.0	62.5	87.5	87.5	100
Music	5	0	0	20.0	100	100	100
Nutrition & Food Science	16	25.0	81.3	93.8	100	100	100
Physical Education	34	5.9	70.6	88.2	94.1	100	100
Physics	31	19.4	54.8	77.4	93.5	96.8	96.8
Politics	37	21.6	73.0	97.3	97.3	97.3	100
Religious Studies	21	19.0	47.6	85.7	90.5	100	100
Sociology	39	33.3	61.5	82.1	92.3	97.4	97.4
Spanish	11	27.3	63.6	100	100	100	100

Year 14 Destinations 2023/24

Higher Education	FE College	Employment/Training	Higher Apprenticeship	Gap Year
169	7	2	0	12

September 2023	October 2023	November 2023
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sept. 2023: Retreats for all Year 14 tutor groups • 07/09/23: Mass to honour Our Lady at start of the academic year. • 07/09/23: A speaker from Trócaire received a cheque for £13, 621. • 15/09/23: Habitat for Humanity workshop for 12 Year 14 students. • 18/09/23: Fr Tony Coney delivered Assembly for Year 8 students. • 18/09/23: Fr Tony Coney delivered Assembly for Year 9 students. • 21/09/23: Young Enterprise event for all Year 8 students. • 26/09/23: Year 9 European Scavenger Hunt to celebrate European Day of Languages. • 28/09/23: Year 8 Mass of Welcome. • 30/09/23: Eimear Crozier, Genevieve McCollum and Tomas Murphy (Year 13) were elected to the NI Youth Forum Executive Committee. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 02/10/23: All Year 14 students attended the University Roadshow in the College. • 02+04/10/23: Year 12 Art students attended a printmaking workshop. • 03/10/23: 20 Year 13-14 students did the UKMT Senior Maths Challenge. • 04/10/23: Year 10 Junior School Awards Ceremony for 2022-2023. • 05/10/23: Year 10 European-themed Quiz to celebrate European Day of Languages. • 06/10/23: Junior School Sponsored Walk for St Bernadette's Children Centre in Peru. • 06-08/10/23: Year 9-10 students on a Geography trip to Delphi Valley Adventure Centre, Galway. • 09/10/23: Focus of the Week is Black History Month. • 12/10/23: Year 13 Computer Science and Digital Technology students went on a one-day visit to BT. • 16/10/23: Maths Week Ireland with the 'Daily Maths Puzzle' and 'The Great Big Maths Quiz' for Year 9 on 19/10/23. • 16-17/10/23: Year 13 Biology fieldwork. • 16-22/10/23: As part of Book Week NI, Junior School students participated in the D.E.A.R. (Drop Everything and Read) challenge. • 17/10/23: Year 13 Anti-Bullying Mentor training. • 17/10/23: Cúán Ó Meachair and Rosie Woulahan (Year 12) won the One World Festival Competition. • 20/10/23: Year 9 Young Enterprise event. • 20/10/23: Year 14 Art students attended a print workshop in Bangor. • 23/10/23: Training for Literacy and Numeracy Mentors. • 24/10/23: The College won the Best Overall School Award in the Northern Ireland Sentinus Young Innovators 2023 competition. • 24/10/23: Year 10 students attended a talk by the PSNI on sexploitation and the risks associated with vaping. • 24-25/10/23: Translink Year 8 Bus Safety. • 25/10/23: Annual 'Love for Life' presentations for Year 11 and Year 14 students. • 27/10/23 - 01/11/23: The Art, Drama and Music departments organised a trip to New York for 50 students. • Oct-Nov 2023: Year 10 'Talking about Consent' NEXUS workshops. • Oct-Nov 2023: Retreats for all Year 14 tutor groups. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10/11/23: Year 13 students attended a SHAHRP presentation on 'Staying Safe on a Night Out'. • 13/11/23: Anti-Bullying Week. • 13/11/23: Geography week photography on the theme 'The Power of Place'. • 14/11/23: Senior School Awards Ceremony for 2022-2023. • 15/11/23: November We Remember Prayer Service. • 15/11/23: Year 11 'Mood Matters' talks from AWARE NI. • 16/11/23: Anti-Bullying Workshops for all Year 10 students. • 20/11/23: Culture Week. • 21/11/23: Year 13 Careers event. • 27/11/23: Year 13 Chemistry students attended a presentation by the Royal Society of Chemistry.

December 2023	January 2024	February 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 01/12/23: As members of the NI Youth Forum, Upper School students, Luc Berthelot, Eimear Crozier and Genevieve McCollum, addressed local politicians and representatives from EA, DE, CCEA, Lifeline, Aware and Mencap about mental health and young people. • 02/12/23: Students participated in the Bar Mock Trial. • 05/12/23: 20 Year 13 and 14 Art students attended a workshop, talk and tour of the RUA exhibition in the Ulster Museum. • 06/12/23: 33 Year 13 Business Studies students attended the Young Enterprise Company Programme showcase at St George's Market. • 07/12/23: 4 A-Level Maths students participated in a Maths competition in Queen's University Belfast. • 07/12/23: Christmas Bake-Off for Year 10 students. • 07/12/23: The College hosted the Marie Curie 'Lights to Remember' event. • 12/12/23: AS/A2 Moving Image Arts students took part in a film workshop hosted by The Nerve Centre. • 12-13/12/23: 1,000 Christmas dinners were provided by staff in the Dining Hall. • 12-14/12/23: Year 8 Health Appraisals conducted by the Schools' Health Service. • 18/12/23: 16 Year 13/14 Technology and Design students visited Land Rover, Solihull. • 20/12/23: Senior and Upper School Prayer/Carol Service and Concert. • 20/12/23: Upper School Christmas Jumper Competition. • 21/12/23: Junior School Prayer/Carol Service and Concert. • 22/12/23: Upper School Award Ceremony to acknowledge the achievements of the Class of 2023. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17/01/24: Several students made short speeches about the need for young people to use their right to vote at the Equality and Justice Society event to launch the Youth Voter Registration Campaign - 21st Century Suffragettes in the Long Gallery, Stormont. • 19/01/24: Year 14 students participated in a workshop delivered by Ben Best (Tree of Knowledge) entitled 'Reach for the Power Inside'. • 22/01/24: Christian Unity Week was marked with assemblies by visitors from local churches. • 22/01/24: 4 students represented Northern Ireland in two soccer matches against Australia. Jack Faloon and Darragh McCann for NI U16 and Owen O'Neill and James Douglas for NI U18. • 22/01/24: Some Year 13 students attended an online presentation on Medicine. • 23/01/24: Some Year 13 students attended an online presentation on Dietetics. • 23/01/24: To launch the Trócaire Lenten Campaign 2024, the College welcomed Mr Mark McMahon who spoke to all year groups on this year's focus on Malawi. • 26/01/24: Martha Macaulay (Year 8) won the U13 Shine A Light poster competition which aims to raise awareness of neglected tropical diseases. • 29/01/24: Catholic Schools' Week was celebrated in the College with the theme 'Communities of Service'. • 31/01/24: 27 Year 12 students completed the UKMT Intermediate Maths Challenge. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 02/02/24: Year 13 and 14 Moving Image Arts students participated in a film workshop (Part 1) hosted by The Nerve Centre. • 05/02/24: Focus of the Week to mark Safer Internet Day. • 05/02/24: Some Year 14 students attended an Apprenticeships talk by Kainos. • 06/02/24: Year 13 students attended a presentation by Queen's University Belfast. • 08/02/24: 80 Year 13 students attended a talk by the Scottish universities. • 07-09/02/24: College production, 'Back to the 80's'. • 09-16/02/24: Basketball trip to the USA. • 10-17/02/24: Ski trip to Andalo, Italy. • 12-16/02/24: Geography department visited Tenerife. • 20-21/02/24: All Year 10 students attended workshops on 'Dealing with Feelings' delivered by the EA Emotional Well-being Support Team. • 22/02/24: Year 12 students attended a workshop by Ben Best entitled 'Laugh in the Face of Exams'. An evening workshop was also provided for Year 12 and 14 parents. • 23/02/24: New Driver presentation for all Year 13 students. • 28/02/24: 4 Year 13 students attended a medical event run by the British HIP Society. • 28/02/24: Year 13 students attended a presentation by Ulster University. • 28/02/24: Year 13/14 Chaplaincy students attended a Trócaire talk with a visitor from Malawi. • 29/02/24: Year 12 GCSE Geography students participated in an Engineering in Geography masterclass. • 29/02/24: AS and A2 Moving Image Arts students took part in a film workshop (Part 2) hosted by The Nerve Centre.

March 2024	April 2024	May 2024
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 01/03/24: Jacob Fegan (Year 13) was chosen as one of the winners of the Oireachtas Essay Competition 2023/24. 05/03/24: 19 x Year 9-14 students attended a strategy day with the Ending Violence Against Women and Girls Directorate at QUB. 05/03/24: 8 x Year 13 students in the European Youth Parliament team attended the EYPUK Regional Forum in City Hall and qualified for the national round in Liverpool in September 2024. 06/03/24: 14 x Year 12 students participated in the British Physics Olympiad Intermediate Challenge. 06/03/24: World Book Day was celebrated with a Year 8 Quiz. 07/03/24: Presentation to Year 11-14 students by law firm Carson McDowell. 11/03/24: Year 13 English Literature students visited the Heaney HomePlace in Bellaghy. 11/03/24: 5 x Year 13 students participated in the British Physics Olympiad Senior Challenge. 12/03/24: As part of the celebrations of Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Language Week), the College hosted Feis Bhéal Feirste. 12/03/24: A ceramic figure by past pupil, Peter McCollum, was photographed for publication in the CCEA True Colours Virtual Art Exhibition 2024. 14/03/24: 4 x Year 10-12 students won the Royal Society of Chemistry 'Top of the Bench' competition at QUB. 15/03/24: All students attended Mass in the College in honour of St Patrick. 15/03/24: 12 x Year 13 students attended the Methody Law Conference. 19/03/24: U18 boys won the Northern Ireland Cup (soccer) in Windsor Park. 21/03/24: College Annual Spring Concert. 22/03/24: To celebrate World Maths Day, all Year 10 students took part in a 'Big Maths Workshop'. 22-24/03/24: 28 Year 12 students participated in the Duke of Edinburgh practice weekend expedition on the Mourne Mountains. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 02/04/24: Shea O'Neill (Year 12) was selected for the 63rd National Mathematics Summer School following an excellent performance in the UKMT Intermediate Challenge. 04/04/24: Amanda Vincent (Year 13) won a Gold Medal in the Irish Chemistry Olympiad and received her medal at an awards ceremony in Dublin. 10/04/24: LearnSpark Study Skills Course for all Year 8 students. 11/04/24: Year 12-14 students attended a presentation on a career in media delivered by Ms Fiona Campbell, BBC. 24/04/24: Tom McClean, Jamie McCorry and Kane McGuigan in Year 10 achieved 3rd place in the Trócaire Game Changer Challenge Competition in Dublin. 25/04/24: UCAS Exhibition for all Year 13 students. 25/04/24: 60 x Year 8/9 students competed in the Junior UKMT Challenge. 26/04/2024: Year 10 students attend the 'Smashed Ambassadors Programme' on alcohol education. 26/04/24: Liam Blaney (Year 13 - Gaelic) and Shea Pucci (Year 14 - Hurling) awarded an Ulster Schools' All-Star 2024. 27/04/25: The College was nominated for 'Sporting School of the Year' at the Local Women's annual awards in the Europa Hotel. 30/04/24-02/05/24: All Year 9 students attended Nexus NI workshops on 'Tech World and Me'. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> 02/05/24: Leaver events for the Class of 2024. 17/05/24: Year 8-9 students from the Culture Club attended a workshop in preparation for their participation in the cultural event 'Amal in Narnia' on Saturday, 18/05/24. 23-24/05/24: 'Flight School' for the P5 pupils from St Joseph's PS, Carryduff and St Patrick's PS, Ballygalget. 30/05/24-07/06/24: Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the College Oratory. 30/05/24: Art exhibition in the College showcasing the work of our Year 13 and Year 14 Art students.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 26/03/24: Year 8 Mentor Concert for students and parents. • 27/03/24: £4,638 was raised by Year 10 tutor groups as part of the Big League Trócaire Competition. 		
June 2024		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Years 8-11 Sports Days and Tournaments were organised by the PE department. • Year 8 visits to the Belfast Synagogue. • 04/06/24: Inter-class Golf Tournament for all aspiring golfers in Year 8-11. • 06/06/24: Period Dignity workshops for Year 8 girls. • 07/06/24: Year 10 students participated in the Young Enterprise 'Learn to Earn' workshop. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 07/06/24: Rithvik Deekonda (Year 9) came 3rd in the Secondary Puzzle Solving Chess Championship with Ulster Chess. • Year 13 Work Shadowing. • 11/06/24: Geography Club volunteers took part in a clean-up on Tyrella Beach to mark World Ocean Day. • 11-14/06/24: Year 8-10 German trip to Cologne, Germany and the Rhine Region. • 17/06/24: OLSPELL, the annual spelling contest, took place for Year 8. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 17-21/06/24: Year 8-9 French trip to Paris. • 23/06/24: Year 8-9 students departed for a one-week stay in the Irish College. • 25/06/24: Year 8 Drama Festival. • 25-27/06/24: Year 12 Duke of Edinburgh Qualifying Expedition in the Mourne Mountains. • 26/06/24: The College choir sang at the Clonard Novena. • 26/06/24: 19 students were invited by Kate Nicholl (MLA) to present their 'Female Voices' project in the Long Gallery, Stormont.

College Sporting Achievements Competitions 2023 – 2024

Association Football

Junior Girls	Northern Ireland Cup	Quarter-Finalists
Senior Girls	Northern Ireland Cup	Semi-Finalists
Year 8 Boys	Belfast Cup	Winners
Year 8 Boys	Northern Ireland Cup	Semi-Finalists
Year 9 Boys	NI Invitational	Winners
Year 9 Boys	Belfast Cup	Winners
Year 10 Boys	Belfast Cup	Winners
Year 11 Boys	Belfast Cup	Semi-Finalists
Year 12 Boys	Northern Ireland Cup	Semi-Finalists
Year 14 Boys	Northern Ireland Cup	Winners

Athletics

Boys	Minor Boys	Third place in Ulster
Girls	Inter Girls	Ulster Champions

Basketball

Under 19 Boys	North East Regional	Winners
Under 16 Girls	All Ireland A League	Finalists
Under 16 Girls	North East Region	Winners
Under 19 Girls	North East Region	Semi-Finalists

Camogie

Year 8	Ulster Shield	Finalists
Under 14	Ulster	Semi-Finalists
Junior	Ulster	Finalists

Gaelic Football

Under 13 Boys	Corn Cholmchille	Semi-Finalists
Under 16 Girls	Ulster A	Semi-Finalists
Under 19 Boys	MacLarnon Cup	Finalists

Hurling

Year 10	Gallagher Cup	Semi-Finalists
Year 14	Mageean Cup	Quarter-Finalists

Netball		
Inters	Northern Ireland Cup	Winners
Senior	Northern Ireland Cup	Winners
Rugby		
Senior Boys	Schools Cup	Group Stages
Golf		
Junior and Senior Boys	Ulster and All Ireland	Competed but no placing