



# Coleraine High School

## OLD GIRLS' NEWSLETTER

Winter 2013/14

### Foreword by O.G. A. President

2012-2013 has been another very busy year in CHS and as I reflect over on the year, the focus that comes to mind is one of a very strong sense of community. Area Planning has taken up the most of my time this year. As pupils, staff, parents and Governors became increasingly aware that what we have treasured over the past 134 years of the school's history has come under threat, we have bonded as a community to save our school. That school encompasses not simply the buildings but also the traditions that our predecessors have laid down and the ethos that is continued today and is shown by the people who interact on a daily basis. As I write we are no closer to a solution but are nevertheless determined that this school will not be sacrificed on the altar of pragmatism in an attempt to 'fix' the problem of duplication of post primary non-selective school places. At the outset I must express my sincere appreciation to the Old Girls' Association for the research and work you carried out on our behalf, lobbying political representatives and informing the general public of our concerns not only for CHS but for Grammar school education in the Coleraine Area.

It is testament to the sense of community we have here that we have had very few staff changes again this year. Mr Donaldson, our Vice-Principal left to take up Headship of Cullybackey High School and due to Mrs McCreery's return, Mrs King completed her cover time with us and immediately obtained a teaching post in Dunclug College Ballymena.

Our girls continue to achieve success in external examinations. At A Level A\*/B grades were obtained in 65% of all subjects taken and 74% of the year group achieved A\* - C grades in their 3 subjects. 91% of all subjects entered were rewarded with A\* - C grades an achievement which is well above the N.I. average of 85.9%. German entries all achieved A\*/A grades and Spanish A\*/B grades. Brook Edgar obtained a rowing scholarship to read Physics and Astrophysics at Michigan State University and Deborah Gilliland obtained 4 A\* and is studying Medicine at QUB. The GCSE results were of an equally high standard with a very pleasing 97% of the girls achieving 5 or more GCSEs at A\*-C grade with 100% pass rate in English. Katie Steele and Ashley Kane achieved an outstanding 11 A\*s in all subjects entered and a further 12 girls achieved 11 A\*/A grades.

The number of clubs and societies continue to flourish and we were delighted to be nominated

School of the year by the Coleraine Sports Council in acknowledgement of the talent and skills we have in CHS. The Young Sportswoman of the year was won by Nicola Cochrane who has been a member of the N.I. Volleyball U16 & 18 panels for the past 4 years and is currently training with the N.I. Ladies Squad.

We decided to enter the Bar Mock Trials this year and won the Northern Ireland competition which enabled the girls to travel to the Royal Courts of Justice in London to take part in the UK finals. We were indebted to Diane Nixon for her expertise and guidance during the preparations for the competition.

During the year we embraced the many cultures in our school and celebrated our inclusivity with a Multi-Cultural Day in June to which we invited our local primary schools. Activities included Dance Workshops in Irish, Polish, Sri Lankan and contemporary dance routines. Pupils enjoyed participating in Chinese paper cutting, Mandarin character writing, henna applications and demonstrations of Sari.

This is a very short snapshot of the school year and I would encourage you to read our excellent school magazine for more detail on the life and work of the school.

May I thank you once again for your support of the school and most importantly to me personally in what has proven to be a very busy year in a vibrant and successful school community.

A Bell

## CONTENTS

Foreword	Page 1
Association News	Page 2
Dates for your Diary	Page 2
Old Girls' Committee	Page 2



# Association News



On Monday 4th March 2013, about 30 Old Girls met on a cold wintry evening in the Bushmills Inn for a drinks reception followed by a private screening of “The Best Exotic Marigold Hotel”. Those of us who had the pleasure of being there were also able to avail of freshly prepared popcorn to complete this unique cinema experience. All present had a lovely evening in a cosy atmosphere where the cares of the world were left outside as we were transported on screen to a vibrant India. This winter/spring we hope to organise another social event— watch the website or Facebook for further information.



Our annual reunion dinner was held on Saturday 11th May in the Lodge Hotel. Here are a few snapshots taken on the night

The Annual General Meeting of the Old Girls’ Association was held on Monday 7<sup>th</sup> October. We would encourage you to come along and support this event next year.



This year’s annual dinner will take place in the Lodge Hotel on Saturday 10th May, with a focus on reunions for those who left school 10 and 20 (and possibly 30 and 40) years ago. Please see the website for further information.

## Dates for Your Diary



School Spring Concert	19th & 20th March 2014
Old Girls’ Annual Dinner	Saturday 10th May 2014
OGA AGM	Monday 6th October 2014

## The Old Girls’ Association Committee

President: Mrs. A Bell, B.Sc., M.Ed., D.A.S.E., P.Q.H., A.T.C.L.

Honorary Vice-Presidents: Mrs. D. Hutchieson  
Miss E. Duffin  
Miss M. Gilmer  
Miss V. Glass  
Mrs. A Kirkpatrick

Chairperson: Amanda Wilson  
Vice Chairperson: Laura Douglas  
Secretary: Carolyn Pauley  
Treasurer: Jennifer McQuillan  
Recorder: Anne Curry

Committee: Heather Burns, Heather Hamilton, Christine Oliver  
Alison Martin, Hazel Kennedy, Dorothy Mills, Adrienne Sherrard, Rae Morrison, Noreen Taggart, Alison Steen

How to contact us: email: [chs.oldgirls@gmail.com](mailto:chs.oldgirls@gmail.com)  
website: [www.colerainehigh.co.uk/OGAWelcome](http://www.colerainehigh.co.uk/OGAWelcome)  
Facebook: Coleraine High Old Girls

