

## CGS NEWS

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2024 Families First School of the Year for the Northern Region



## Ski Trip 2026

Now that we're back from the Austria 2026 ski trip, we can reflect on what was an absolutely fantastic week, filled with skiing, improvement, excursions, unforgettable experiences and new friendships. Our students grew in confidence, tackling new and more challenging runs. At over 3,000 metres high, the views were truly spectacular and something they will remember for a lifetime. Beyond the slopes in the evening, the group had the opportunity to immerse themselves in local Austrian culture, enjoying a fantastic evening filled with traditional music, live bands and a chance to experience something completely new — a real highlight for many. There was plenty of fun away from skiing too, with tobogganing (Austrian-style sleighs!) through breathtaking scenery. The laughter and smiles said it all as students made the most of this unforgettable experience together. We are so proud of every single pupil. *The behaviour was exceptional and the ski instructors could not speak highly enough of the manners and respect from CGS pupils.*



CARRICKFERGUS  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## Competition winners

Huge congratulations to everyone who entered our recent Year 9 Technology and Design OSOM Tray competition! The Out of Sight, Out of Mind Tray is designed to get CGS pupils off their smartphones, during important study times. Each design showcased both hard work and creativity, proving that even the most practical objects can be transformed into works of art. Well done to Lily Chambers and Ollie Neill, who shared the prizes!



2026 PROSPECTUS

CGS is pleased to report that the School Prospectus for 2026 has been published, and is available at the link below. We invite anyone interested in our school and our school community to have a browse. #Knowledge #Opportunity #Respect <https://www.carrickfergusgrammar.com/prospectus>

# CGS ALUMNI ROLE MODELS

## LAURA MCKNIGHT

CGS 2011 - 2016



### WHERE IS SHE NOW?

Sales and Customer Service Executive at Peter Thomas Photography

### TIME AT CGS:

### FAVOURITE SUBJECT

I really enjoyed Sciences and Technology at School

### MEMORIES

Making friends and learning new things

### CAREER PATHWAY:

#### POST GCSE CHOICES

I studied Health & Social Care at NRC. I worked as a bridal sales consultant for 2 years and then moved on to my current role in Peter Thomas Photography.

### DAY IN THE LIFE OF A SALES & CUSTOMER SERVICE EXECUTIVE

I have many roles in my job, these include customer service, serving customers, admin tasks, sales, writing social media posts and creating bookings for customers.

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

I am always happy when I hit my targets! I really enjoy making customers happy - it is such a blessing to get to show off the memories that are being captured.

### WORDS OF WISDOM

Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do something! You can do anything you put your mind to. I am a mum of three and love my job. My passion is sales. The only person standing in your way is yourself.

**Think a career in sales or photography could be for you? Find out more about them here:**

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/photographer>

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/sales-executive>



## Mossley PS Fair

Carrickfergus Grammar School recently attended the annual Mossley Primary School Fair, alongside a number of post primary schools from the local area. There was also an appearance made by school guinea pigs, Oreo and Snowball, who turned out to be the big draw of the afternoon. The school was represented by Mossley past pupil Jonathan Scott and by senior pupils Anna Higgins and Julia McMillan. *Well done, everyone!*



## History Workshop

In anticipation of Holocaust Memorial Day, Year 11 Historians took part in an educational workshop facilitated by the International School for Peace Studies. Moving beyond the pages of history books, students explored the escalation of persecution and how societal shifts led to a systematic genocide. The session highlighted the diverse range of minorities targeted by the Nazi regime and brought the human element to the forefront through the individual stories of victims, resisters, and bystanders. By examining these lived experiences pupils were encouraged to reflect on the importance of tolerance and the role each individual plays in standing against prejudice. *Many thanks to Mid and East Antrim Good Relations team for helping to organise this event.*

**Congratulations to CGS pupils Mark Todd and Elliot McKeegan, who were selected by the Mary Peters Trust for a bursary to support their respective sports of Wrestling and Cycling.** It has made a huge difference to both boys and Elliott has used the funding to help cover many important costs, such as racing in Europe, attending training camps for the European and World Championships, buying bike equipment and components and supporting nutrition and coaching. Alongside the bursary, the Trust also provided a number of educational sessions to help them improve as athletes. This support has helped them massively throughout the year and will continue to play a big part in future development. *Congratulations, boys!*

## CGS boys sporting success





**CGS Hockey latest**



**Another successful and action-packed recent weekend for CGS Hockey!**

With limited pitch availability, only 2 senior and 3 junior teams were able to play, but the girls made every minute count with determination, teamwork and fantastic performances across the board. *So proud of all our players, who wore the CGS colours that weekend.*

**1XI | 4–0 win vs Hunterhouse.** After a slow start, the girls grew into the game and began to dominate possession and territory. Relentless pressure paid off with quick goals in the first and second quarters. A confident and controlled performance as they build momentum ahead of their cup quarter-final and exciting senior tour to Valencia.

**Year 8 First ever 11-a-side game vs Hunterhouse.** A huge step up for our girls against an experienced mixed junior squad, and they rose to the challenge brilliantly. Full of effort, bravery and enthusiasm throughout. Outstanding defensive work from Zoe and Georgia, including a goal-line clearance from Zoe on a penalty corner. Great attacking play from Aoife and Annabelle, with Annabelle unlucky to have a goal disallowed. A brilliant learning experience despite a 2–0 scoreline.

**3XI | 1–1 draw vs Grosvenor.** The 3XI continue to show excellent improvement week by week. A resilient defensive performance with superb saves from Kadie and strong clearances under pressure.

**U14 A | 2–1 win vs Grosvenor Grammar.** A tightly contested and physical game where the girls showed real grit and composure. A deserved win that continues their strong run of results.

**U13 A | 2–1 loss.** A frustrating result where chances weren't taken, but effort and commitment never dropped.

## KS3 Academic Awards

This week in Assembly, we celebrated the fantastic achievements of pupils in Years 8, 9 and 10. We acknowledged pupils receiving Academic Achievement or Academic Endeavour certificates based on performance and progress in winter examinations. *Congratulations to them all!*



## CGS community grows



School is extremely grateful to Seth's Little Zoo, Woodburn Road, Carrickfergus, for kindly donating another (already much-loved) guinea pig for our school's Animal House, along with food and bedding. Today some of our pupils and staff got to see inside the shop with a wide variety of birds, fish, reptiles and 'small furrys'. Kieran from Year 9 and Sophie from Year 8 chose our new guinea pig and named her 'Sundae'. Here they are with 'Seth's Little Zoo' owner Mr Ethan Crozier.



## Dates for your diary

**Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> January 2026** – SEAG results published.

**Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> January 2026** – Year 10 Parental Consultations 3.50 – 6.20pm. On School cloud.

**Friday 6<sup>th</sup> February 2026** – School finishes for mid-term at 2.20pm.