



# CGS NEWS

THE OFFICIAL NEWS SHEET OF CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR SCHOOL

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## CGS Carol Service 2023



The school's Annual Festival on Nine Lessons with Carols took place in Saint Nicholas' Church on Thursday evening with over 100 students involved. The Junior Girls' Choir, Men's Voices, Voces and Senior Choir all took part throughout the evening with readers drawn from throughout the school community. It was wonderful to sing in a packed church with many past pupils coming back to join with us into the choir stalls for the final two carols. *Everyone thoroughly enjoyed being part of this rich Christmas tradition with an ancient depth of spiritual meaning, bringing everyone together at this time of year.*



## Christmas Sing-a-long 2023

It was great to see all the festive cheer at our annual sing-a-long today. There was a great turn out and some fine voices on display! Well done to all those students who joined in and a huge thanks to Mr Currie, Mr Irwin, Mr Craig and Mr Baxter. *We wish you all a Merry Christmas, from everyone at CGS!*

## Belfast Feis



A fabulous way to end the year for Jessica Carlisle in Year 13 who competed in the Belfast Christmas Feis and won First Place. This made her the Age 16 Open Champion! *Jessica was also the winner of all solos reel, slip, treble jig and horn pipe!*


Huge congratulations to CGS Year 9 pupil Mark Todd who won a bronze medal for NI, in the recent Helsinki International Wrestling Championship! He won 5 matches and lost one, coming 3rd out of 15 competitors. *Well done, Mark!*



## Bronze Medal success

# GCSE Subject Choices

Our subject choice information for Year 10 pupils is now online at <https://www.carrickfergusgrammar.com/subject-choice>. #be prepared



## CARRICKFERGUS GRAMMAR

**INTRODUCTION**

This booklet outlines the GCSE courses on offer at Carrickfergus Grammar School in September 2024 and describes the knowledge and skills you will acquire in each of the subjects. If you are to succeed at GCSE, you must take responsibility for your learning. It begins with careful selection of subjects which complement each other and reflect your aspirations, ambitions, interests and abilities. In addition to this booklet, advice will be given by subject teachers and members of the Careers Team, to help you choose the best possible combination of subjects.

To meet individual pupils' needs we have a broad and balanced range of courses: Art and Design, Biology, Business Studies, Chemistry, Child Development, Digital Technology, Drama, English Language, English Literature, Food and Nutrition, French, Further Mathematics, Geography, History, Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Religious Studies, Spanish, Technology.

**What are GCSE?**

- General Certificate of Secondary Education (GCSE) qualifications are important for ensuring movement into further and higher education, for careers and employment.
- **Others who MUST have an 'A'-'B' pass in a subject at GCSE before you can study it at 'A' level.** In most cases at Carrickfergus Grammar School, at least a 'B' grade must be achieved. In Chemistry and Physics an 'A' grade is necessary, and an 'A' grade in Mathematics or 'B' grade in Further Mathematics is required to study Mathematics at 'A' Level.
- Subjects such as English and Mathematics require at least a 'C' grade at GCSE, and in some cases higher, to ensure entry into University.
- Pupils would be expected to achieve at least 'B' points to guarantee entry into the Sixth Form at Carrickfergus Grammar School, including at least three 'B' grades.

GCSE Grade (CEA)	GCSE Grade (non-CEA)	Return Points
A	B/7	7
B	C/6	6
C	D/5	5
D	E/4	4



## Bring IT on

Many thanks to Peter from Bring IT On for his informative and engaging presentation for Year 9 pupils focusing on career opportunities in the field of IT within Northern Ireland. On December 11<sup>th</sup>, pupils took part in problem solving activities and explored the wide variety of career pathways which involve IT related skills. *A great insight to all!*

CGS marked the end of Mens' Health Awareness Month recently. Year 13 & 14 boys enjoyed some tea and buns and a chat about the importance of speaking up when times get tough and about looking out for each other. *Thank you to everyone who took part.*



## Mens' Health Awareness

In December, four of our further mathematics class, Laura Dunlop, Lochlan McIntyre, Corey Stronge and Jamie Millar returned to QUB for the annual Mathematics competition. It gives pupils an excellent insight into where their Mathematics can take them and well as giving a brief glimpse into university life. This year over 20 other schools took part and questions ranged from mathematics in the movie 'A Brilliant Young Mind' to differential equations and complex numbers. *Unfortunately, we didn't win this year, however our brain cells certainly got quite a testing throughout a thoroughly enjoyable day.*

## QUB Maths competition



## Year 10 football news

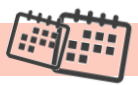


Commissurations to the Year 10 boys, who on a day of extreme weather, lost out 2-0 to Bangor Academy recently. The lads gave a fantastic effort on an incredibly soggy pitch. It was a close game between two good teams, but a sad way to end the NI cup run. This is a highly promising team and with a bit of luck they could go even further next year. *Well done boys!*



## CGS Netball

CGS Year 9 girls enjoyed the NEBSSA netball tournament which was held in Ballymoney recently. Seven teams took part and we finished third in the tournament. All the girls played well together as a team, everyone knowing their position and the area that they needed to cover throughout the game. Our shooters converted most of their attempts at goal and the defense worked hard intercepting a number of balls in the defending third. *Player of the Tournament to our GD Rose Derwin.*



## Dates for your diary

#proud

**Wednesday, 20<sup>th</sup> December** –Christmas Jumper non-uniform day. School finishes at 12 midday for Christmas holidays.  
**Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2024** – Term 2 begins. Week 1 timetable.