

Wishing the wider CGS community a Happy New Year!

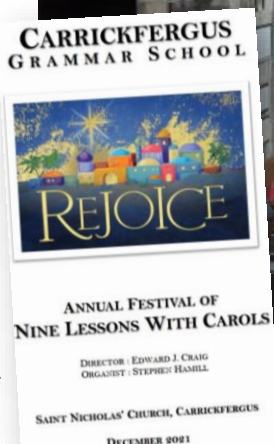
2022

Carol Service 2021 - Music Society Update

The school's Annual Festival of Nine Lessons with Carols was held on Thursday 9th December in Saint Nicholas' Church, Carrickfergus. Taking part were the Senior Choir, Junior Girls' Choir, Mens' Voices, our new vocal ensemble Voces Aspirantes, as well as various students and staff who read lessons or led prayers.

The service was restricted to students only this year but was available for everyone to join to watch together on Thursday 16th at 7.30pm. We are keen that our parents, staff and friends would support the charity "Mary's Meals" as a way of showing their appreciation of those who took part. You can do this by following the link - <https://gofund.me/aa262f14>

The stream can be still watched at the following link: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ROmzTd3cWw8>



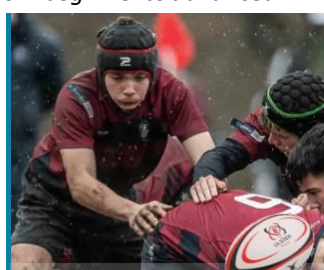
CGS Pupil on the West End stage

Well done to our very own Robbie McMinn who competed recently in the West End, as a grand finalist of West End Calling! An incredible achievement Robbie!



It has been wonderful to welcome back performances from our young musicians, after almost 2 years since instrumental ensembles have met and rehearsed. We were grateful to Carrickfergus Manor for the invitation to play outside their premises on Friday 17th and bring some much-needed Christmas cheer and to wish them a happy and healthy 2022.

Any pupil who plays a wind or percussion instrument is warmly invited to come along to Thursdays after school rehearsals. String Group also meet at this time. Our ensembles cater to a wide range of abilities, from beginner to advanced.



The Ethics Cup

Year 13 had a fantastic day competing in the NI Regional Ethics Cup Competition at QUB, towards the end of 2021. Congratulations to our pupils on reaching 3rd place after a brilliant team effort! Thanks to @HAPPatQUB for hosting us.



CGS Rugby

www.thefrontrowunion.com

Commiserations to our 1st XV who lost 24-3 vs Regent House, in the Danske Bank Schools Cup 2nd round, just before Christmas. Playing with 14 players in the 2nd half & conceding two late tries, everyone played superbly with notable performances from Shane Gilmore & Tom Kennedy. The Schools Trophy awaits in 2022...



Digital Technology Club

Clubs & Societies

Meeting on Wednesday afternoons from 3:30-4:30pm in Room 10, Digital Technology Club allows pupils from Years 8-10 to develop their understanding of technology and a variety of software applications. Pupils have started with an introduction to basic programming



using visual code blocks in Scratch. The Scratch environment allows pupils to gain an understanding of basic programming concepts such as sequence and iteration whilst allowing the creation of digital stories, games, and animations. Activities for next school term will include Game Design using GameMaker and introduction to programming in Python. The club also offers pupils the opportunity to catch up on work missed due to absence with support available if required. New members are always welcome.



Please note the change to our calendar.

As our Open Evening is no longer happening, the 20th January 2022 will now be a normal full day for students and staff.

www.carrickfergusgrammar.com/calendar

National Youth Choir

Recently a number of our pupils were successful in auditions for the **National Youth Choir**: Colbie Ferris, Lilly Houston, Niamh McKinney, Evie Dorrian, Brooke Savage, Alexandra Hogg, Anna Wright, Emily Duff, Charlotte Fairfowl, Joshua Schmidt, Poppy Walker, Emma Smyth, Lili Adams, Yasin Difallah and Joshua Hazley. *Well done everyone!*



Parent Reminder – Carrickfergus Grammar School has moved to an online payment system for school lunches. School meals can be ordered in advance via the ParentMail App. Please go to accounts and select 'choice of hot meal'.

Parents of children entitled to free school meals must also order school meals on the app, without the need for payment.

Let battle commence...

Clubs & Societies

With some high level painted finishes now on display, battles broke out at Warhammer Club this week...



Sentinus Research Academy 2022

The Sentinus Research Academy offers students the opportunity to undertake a four week placement within a research and development environment.



Applications are welcome from all students studying appropriate subjects at AS level, or equivalent.

- opportunity to contribute to live research projects;
- supports development of skills and subject knowledge;
- significantly enhances UCAS application and personal statement;
- helps develop communication skills and increased confidence;
- high quality experience of research in a wide range of subject areas.

Places are still available in the following subject areas:

- Environmental Biology
- Psychology
- Engineering
- Geography
- Social Science



For further information or to register for a place on the Academy please visit:

www.sentinus.co.uk/programmes/Sentinus-Research-Academy

T: 028 9262 7755



Debating Society

Members of the CGS Debating Society have never been afraid to tackle contentious issues.



After a successful Climate change debate, this week's topic is 'This House believes that feminism has gone too far' and all pupils are very welcome to come along to room 9 and argue their cases.



Charity Work Latest

December was a busy month for Charity work at CGS. A big thank you to everyone in Year 12 for buying advent calendar doors and raising money for three great charities. A total of £310 was raised for Macmillan Cancer support, Northern Ireland Hospice, and Angel Wishes. Our Year 13 began the final week of term with a coffee morning. It was a great way to start the day, raising spirits in the lead up to mock examinations and at the same time, funds for Macmillan Cancer Support. Donations totalled a pleasing £160 for an amazing charity that is close to many of our hearts. *Well done Year 13!*