



Principal's Report October 2011

The highlight of October has undoubtedly been the school's annual Prize Distribution Ceremony. The Grosvenor Grammar School community of pupils, staff, parents, Governors and invited guests congregated in Queen's University's Sir William Whitla Hall, on Wednesday 12th October, to celebrate another year of all-round achievement.

Following speeches from Chair of the Board of Governors Mr Reg Magowan and myself, the school Choir impressed with three memorable performances – 'Lord of All Creation', 'Love Divine' and Take That's 'Shine'. The distribution of prizes itself was an opportunity to reward the outstanding academic and extra-curricular successes of last year, and to welcome back many former pupils who were accepting prizes.

The ceremony concluded with an entertaining and engaging speech from Guest of Honour Gavin Boyd (Interim Chief Executive of examination board CCEA and Chief Executive Designate of the Education and Skills Authority), which provided the perfect conclusion to an enjoyable afternoon of recognition and celebration.

Well done to everybody at Grosvenor! There has been incredible academic, extra and co-curricular success over the past twelve months and all within the school look forward to celebrating more success during the current academic year at our next 'Prize Day' in October 2012.

October has been as busy as ever for staff and pupils alike. As always the extra and co-curricular programme continues to flourish, especially with the Saturday morning programme attracting large numbers of pupils. We are delighted to be able to fully utilise our wonderful rugby and hockey facilities which are the envy of all our visitors. The school and all the staff continue to be firmly committed to providing these opportunities for our pupils to aid them in the development of essential lifelong skills. We are especially pleased that our new initiative developing links with external clubs is proving to be very successful, for example seventy boys from Grosvenor now play hockey with Annadale Hockey Club on a weekly basis.

The Music Department also continues to provide exciting opportunities for the pupils of the school. On Tuesday 18th October, Grosvenor Grammar School recorded the Senior Choir's entry for the BBC's 2012 'Songs of Praise' Choir of the Year Competition.

Grosvenor's 50 pupil strong Senior Choir performed two songs – 'Love Divine' by Harold Goodhall and the more contemporary 'Lord of All Creation', arranged by Jonathan Rea. We are proud of the commitment shown by both pupils and staff to the School Choir, and wish all choralists the best of luck in this exciting venture, as well as in their many other musical commitments over the festive period throughout the year.

The Technology Department has also enjoyed great success during the past month. Ten pupils from Forms 3 and 4 have just received the silver CREST (Creativity in Engineering, Science and Technology) award. The awards are all the more special given that they are normally reserved for pupils at the end of their GCSE studies.



Form 2 pupils Ross Coey, Alex Cullen, Sam Long and Jason Crozier, along with Form 3 pupil Eve McLelland, achieved first place in the regional final of the 'Create Sport Go4Set' competition. They then took their project, an innovative design of a sports stadium, to London where they beat twelve other regional winners, in June, to triumph in the UK final of the competition and earned high praise for their project from the organisers of the event. At the Sentinus Young Innovators Awards, they were winners once again, achieving first place in the Best Post-Primary STEM Club NI category, and Eve was selected to represent Northern Ireland at the UK Big Bang Fair 2012 in Birmingham. Well done to all the pupils and staff within Technology and Design – these are truly fantastic achievements.

Many congratulations also to Grosvenor's linguists who helped the school achieve an incredible 5th place in the world in its category in the 'Language Perfect World Championships 2011'. 111 Grosvenor pupils competed against pupils from an astounding 916 other schools across the globe. A special mention must be given to silver medallists Sam Long and Katelin Fiddis for their individual successes. The volume of students participating in the event reflects the enthusiasm for languages which exists within Grosvenor and serves as recognition for the hard work and dedication invested by all members of the Modern Languages Department to instil a passion for languages amongst its pupils.

To look forward to in the month ahead we have Grosvenor's actors and actresses, who will entertain in the Senior Drama Production of 'Fame'. Tickets, for the evenings of Thursday 10 and Friday 11 November, are currently on sale from the School Office. I would encourage everyone to come along to support the talent and acknowledge the dedication of all involved.

As we embark on the half-term break, I would like to say "well done" to all pupils who have received pleasing report cards and if their report card shows areas for concern, now is the time to adopt a more determined approach as you work to fulfil your dreams. The outstanding curricular and extra-curricular successes of the term provide ample motivation to all and show what is possible through a committed and diligent approach. The Halloween break will give everyone an opportunity to relax and rewind, but also enable all to return in November rejuvenated and ready to give of their best.