



Principal's Report November 2011

The highlight of November was undoubtedly the eagerly anticipated staging of Grosvenor Grammar School's annual Senior Production, and this year a total audience of more than 1500 were lucky to witness 4 charismatic and energy-filled performances of the hit musical 'Fame'.

Under the leadership of Director Miss Jenny McDowell and Musical Director Mr Jonathan Arnold this year's cast and crew, comprising over 70 pupils in Forms 5 – Upper 6th, produced, yet again, outstanding acting, singing and dancing. The production saw a number of acclaimed performances delivered by lead actors Hannah Cash (Serena Katz), Amy Chambers (Iris Kelly.), Adam Darcy (Nick), Aaron Godfrey (Tyrone Jackson), Caitlin Jamison (Carmen) and Ross White (Joe Vegas). In addition, the show was brought to life by an enthusiastic supporting cast, many of whom infused the stage with electrifying dance and music routines, facilitated by a talented band of musicians who delivered the Musical's popular score with enthusiasm and verve throughout. Following four accomplished, professional and entertaining performances, all in attendance were left inspired by the level of application and effort which enabled the Grosvenor cast to produce such an impressive series of shows. In recent years the school has deservedly earned a name for delivering Musical Drama productions of the highest quality, and 'Fame – The Musical' served to only enhance this reputation. Congratulations to everybody involved in 'Fame – the Musical' who helped to make the show such an overwhelming success. We look forward to seeing many of its talented actors, dancers and musicians in performance again soon.

The school has been holding a series of information evenings to help parents support their children. In November information evenings were held for the parents of pupils in Form 4 and Lower 6th, following the previously held Form 5 Parent Information Evening in October. Further information and support materials can be found on the 'Help Your Child' section of the school website. The next event will be an Internet Safety Information Evening on Monday 13th February.

On Wednesday 16th November the PSNI and its associated partners visited the school to stage the internationally award winning 'Road Safe Road Show'. The event, attended by every member of the school's Sixth Form, centred around the fictional character of Craig, a typical 17 year old who had just passed his driving test and bought his first car. The Road Show focused on the consequences when Craig's over-confidence led to him crashing his new car, also containing his girlfriend. Featured as part of the event were the accounts of a Police Officer, Paramedic, Fire Fighter, Hospital Consultant, and a member of an organisation that provides support for families of road crash victims, each of whom spoke specifically about a car crash involving a fictional newly-qualified 17 year-old driver and his girlfriend, as well as their experiences of real road traffic accidents. Also included in the show were relevant crash footage, road safety television adverts, startling statistics and hard-hitting images. The event concluded with a shockingly realistic reconstruction of a road accident, staged at the entrance to the school. Intended to make young drivers more aware of the potential impact that a crash would have on their lives and the lives of their loved ones, the event proved an effective means by which to educate the Grosvenor pupils in attendance on the issue of road safety. The Sixth Form unanimously agreed that the event was moving, thought-provoking and extremely worthwhile.

On a brighter note, on the 23rd of the month, Lower Sixth pupil, Anna Cullen, achieved first place in the Belfast regional heat of the 'Soroptimist International' Public Speaking Competition, in The Pavilion, Stormont. Anna fended off stiff competition from 17 other girls, fellow Grosvenor pupil, Hannah Kee, to win this year's prestigious event with her speech entitled "Equality for Women is not just a Human Right, it is a Social and Economic Imperative". Anna aims to repeat her success at the regional final on Saturday 25th February in Parliament Buildings, Stormont.



Congratulations this month must also go Form 3 pupil, Tom Purdon, who was selected for the Irish Sailing Association (ISA) training squad in the “Topper” class. Tom’s selection came after he impressively finished in the Gold category in his age group at a U.K. wide event held in North Berwick, Scotland, in August. Tom’s other sailing achievements in recent months include finishing in the silver category at the Junior World Championships in Dublin in July. Well done to Tom on his commitment to this pursuit, and on his recent successes.

Well done also to Form 5 pupil, Samantha Cooke and Upper Sixth pupil, Melissa Cherry, who recently participated in the acclaimed ‘MERGE’ Dance project. The project, held at Titanic Quarter’s ‘T13’ venue and organised by Dance United Northern Ireland, saw Samantha and Melissa participate in the world premiere of ‘eMERGEency’, an exciting new performance which formed the centrepiece of a three year dance development programme aimed at inspiring and igniting youthful imaginations. Samantha and Melissa’s dancing was highly praised throughout the performances and we hope to see their talent on display at other events in the near future.

Finally, congratulations to our Head Boy, Richard Anderson who was recently selected as the winner of the Club Final Stage of the Rotary Club of East Belfast’s ‘Youth Leadership Development Competition’. The competition saw Richard answer a series of questions on subjects such as European Politics and Education as part of an interview at the Stormont Hotel. Richard now progresses to the Regional Final at La Mon Hotel where he hopes to earn a trip to Strasbourg as overall winner of the competition. Well done to Richard on this achievement and we obviously wish him the best of luck in the Regional Final at the end of November.

Two highlights to look forward to December are our Christmas Talent Show and our annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols. The Talent Show will be held on Tuesday 6th December, and starts at 7pm. It promises to be an entertaining evening as students battle it out to become 2011 Champions! Tickets are currently on sale from reception. The following week, on Tuesday 13th December, the highly popular annual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held in St Anne’s Cathedral, Belfast, beginning at 7:30pm. I would encourage all associate with Grosvenor to join us in worship, and enjoy the music and festive ambiance that the evening never fails to deliver.