



## Principal's Report January 2012

Within days of the start of a new year, Grosvenor Grammar School staff and pupils returned to a new term. On the evenings of Wednesday 4 and Thursday 5 January Grosvenor welcomed local Primary 6 and Primary 7 pupils, and their families, to its annual Open Nights. Visitors toured the school to witness all that Grosvenor has to offer: from experiments in the Science Department and culinary treats in Home Economics, to sports action in the Sports Hall and musical items to entertain and impress around every corner. Staff, pupils and associates of the school all contributed to the overwhelming success of these evenings and helped to showcase the outstanding opportunities on offer at the Grosvenor. Anyone who would like the opportunity to see the external facilities or see an area of the school they missed during these evenings may do so **10.00-11.30am Saturday 11 February**, when the School will open its doors to pupils and parents who wish to see some of Grosvenor's sporting talent in action.

For pupils in Forms 5 and 6 the new year brought examinations, in the form of Mock exams for Form 5 and AS and A2 modules for many Sixth Formers. With GCSE examinations and further modules only a few months away pupils should continue to work hard and avail of all the help, encouragement and opportunities provided by the school.

Sixth Form pupils also approach an important time of year in relation to Careers decisions. In January the Business Studies Department organised a visit to a 'Taster Event' at Queen's University to hear information on various business-related courses available to them. Furthermore, Upper Sixth students of all subject backgrounds were given an invaluable opportunity to experience a mock interview on the evenings of Monday 23 and Tuesday 24 January. A host of experienced and highly skilled professionals kindly gave of their time to form the interview panels which would put these young students to the test. Pupils unanimously agreed that whilst nerve-wracking, it was also a challenging and thought-provoking experience, and one which will no doubt prove highly beneficial in the future.

January was also a month of great success for some of our pupils. In particular, fourth former Eve McLelland competed in the 2012 'BT Young Scientist and Engineering Exhibition'. She was selected to compete at this event after her fire safety design achieved recognition at the 'Sentinus Young Innovators Competition' held in the Odyssey arena last June. Eve will also have the opportunity to display her project when she represents Northern Ireland at the 'Big Bang UK Youth Scientists and Engineers Fair' in Birmingham in March. Eve has therefore been selected to participate in some of the UK's most prestigious competitions – huge success in itself. Congratulations to Eve on all she has achieved so far, and we wish her every success again in March.

Enjoying success in a very different field this month was fellow fourth former, Daniel Mayhew. Competing in Cardiff's 'Millennium Centre' Daniel finished 5<sup>th</sup> at Under 16 level at the Commonwealth Judo Championships. Congratulations to Daniel on his impressive achievement and we wish him continued success in the future.

Last, but by no means least, a massive '**Congratulations**' must be said to Grosvenor's 1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby team which secured an impressive victory over Sullivan Upper in the third round of the Northern Bank Schools' Cup on Saturday 28 January. The boys displayed tremendous pride, passion and determination as they came from 8-5 behind to win the game 12-8 with **only** 14 men, and will now face an **away** tie against cup holders Campbell College **on Saturday 11 February**. It is without doubt one of the best performances ever by a Grosvenor side and reflects the obvious potential of the team. Everybody within the school wishes the team the best of luck for this encounter and hopefully many pupils, staff and friends of the school will turn out on the day to show their support in person.



There will be a number of events for parents in February. Parent Consultations will be held for parents of Form 3 pupils on Monday 6 February and Form 5 pupils on 21 February. Both will be followed by 'Options Talks' aimed at informing parents who are currently supporting children in making GCSE and A level subject choices. The school will host another evening, on Monday 13 February from 6.00 – 7.30pm about 'Internet and Mobile Technology Safety'. Parents of all pupils are most welcome to attend.