



**LONGSTONE
SCHOOL**



**Board of Governors
Report to Parents
2022 / 2023**

Understand, Respect, Nurture, Educate

WELCOME FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

Please accept my warm welcome on behalf of my fellow Governors, Senior Management and Staff in Longstone School. I trust that as you read through this carefully prepared, comprehensive report you may do so with a sense of pride and gratitude. Year on year, our excellent and resolute staff, deliver the achievements that you will read about. Achievements that have been wrought by your children through the consistent hard work and effort that they have applied. A special well done, from myself as Chairman of the Board, to them all. While school life has continued for the most part largely disruption free, we as a Board have had to accept the difficult decision imposed by the EA to move the long established and successful Behaviour Unit from the school campus to a different location. May I offer my thanks to the associated staff who accepted the EA's and Governors' decision with much admiration and wish them every success, thank you. Also, this year we saw the end of an era, the Mr Mac era, following the planned retirement of Mr John McIlmoyle MBE, who as a highly esteemed member to the Longstone teaching staff for over 40 years achieved high office as our respected Vice Principal. A post which he expertly fulfilled with much passion and diligence. Indeed, it is due in much part to Mr McIlmoyle's interest in assisting pupils leaving Longstone that we have many success stories to enjoy and personally this year I have managed to meet a few of those in the course of their current employment. May I assure you, the parents, of our continuing support on behalf of all at Longstone, and trust that your involvement through the coming year will be both happy and productive. On behalf of my fellow Governors, I thank those who have contributed towards and prepared this report.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Newell." The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Alan Newell

Chairman Board of Governors



Welcome from The Principal

Rights of the Child Article 28

“You have the right to a good quality education”



Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome to our 2022/23 Board of Governors Report. The purpose of this report is to give you an insight into all the curricular and extra-curricular activities that took place in Longstone last year, as well as to inform you of any changes in relation to issues such as staffing, enrolment and building.

The 22/23 Academic year was a very successful one for all our pupils and we were delighted with the numerous activities and achievements. It was also a year of big changes which include the retirement of our longstanding Vice Principal, Mr McIlmoyle, and the retirement of our Executive Officer Ms Milling. Another big change was the move of our Longstone Behaviour Service to a new site and under the direct management of the Education Authority. You can find more detailed information in relation to all these changes in this report.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all our staff for their hard work during the 22/23 school year, as they continued to deliver great academic and social experiences for our children.

Yours sincerely,

Ioannis Skarmoutsos

[Principal & Secretary to the Board of Governors]

BOARD OF GOVERNORS REPORT TO PARENTS 2021/22

The main purpose of this report is to keep our parents informed of the continued work and development of our school. This involves commenting on the many varied and diverse areas of school life that contribute to Longstone School. The Board of Governors hope that you will find this report both informative and interesting.

2021/22 PUPIL NUMBERS

Nursery	10
Primary Department	80
Secondary Department	113
Behaviour Resource	80 pupils given Outreach Support.
Learning Support Unit	12

BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The members of the Board of Governors are as follows:

EA South Eastern Region Representatives:

Mr A Newell (Chairman)
Mr G Cooper (Vice Chairman)
Mr T Allen

Parent Representatives:

Mrs J Jordan
Mr S McCauley

Teacher Representative:

Mrs A McArthur

DENI Representative:

Dr J Betts

STAFFING:

This year saw the retirement of Mr J McIlmoyle MBE, Ms Milling and Mrs McArthur all after many years service. Mrs S Hughes also moved to another school.

Congratulations go to Mr Bell who got engaged and Ms Blyberg who also got married this school year.

We had the closure of our Behaviour unit having Ms E McConnell, Mrs H Osbourne, Mrs A Cairns, Miss P Hamilton and Miss R Crilly move to another site to continue in the same provision directly under EA management.

Mrs N Atcheson and Miss K Ard who also taught in our Behaviour Unit will continue here with us at Longstone School both teaching Year 1. Mrs C Bogle and Mrs J McConway will also continue as classroom assistants in school.

Ms Milling' Retirement

Following a wonderful long career in Longstone and serving under 3 different Principals, our Executive Officer Ms Milling decided to retire at Christmas 2022. Ms Milling served the school for over 26 years with great dedication, hard work and exemplary professionalism. We will all really miss her and would like to, on behalf of the whole school community, wish her a very happy retirement and thank her for the dedication shown to the children, their families, and our staff. Congratulations on a wonderful career Ms Milling!

I Skarmoutsos (Principal, Longstone School)



Mr McIlmoyle's Retirement

Following a highly successful and fulfilling career over the last 42 years, our Vice Principal Mr McIlmoyle retired at the end of the 22/23 Academic Year.

Mr McIlmoyle started his career in 1981 and in Longstone as a teacher in 1983. In 1998, Mr McIlmoyle became a Vice Principal in our school.

Over the years, "Mr Mac", as the children know him, has been a catalyst to the development of our Child Protection policies, strategy and practice and has made a huge change to the lives of so many children. This was recognised by the Education and Training Inspectorate and in the Queen's Honours list as he was awarded an MBE in June 2022. He always acted in the best interest of our children ensuring that they are safe and feel valued.

Mr McIlmoyle also had a great charisma in leading our staff and planning strategically a variety of school projects and he had an exceptional ability and patience to deal effectively with any demanding situations that might have risen from time to time. His support and advice to all our staff has been invaluable.

On behalf of all the pupils, staff, and parents, past and present, I would like to express our gratitude for his service to the school and wish him a happy retirement.

Thank you Mr Mac and congratulations on a wonderful career!

Ioannis Skarmoutsos (Principal, Longstone School)

PASTORAL CARE:

Article 19: Governments must protect children from violence, abuse and being neglected by anyone who looks after them.

There is an inclusive ethos and nurturing environment that permeates all aspects of the school. The pupils respond positively to the high expectations of staff and, through the School Council, have taken key roles in developing the new positive Behaviour for Learning policy. The school celebrates the achievements of pupils through assemblies and the many displays in the school. The pupils are taught to care for others and have participated in a number of events to raise funds for a range of charities.



Mr J. McIlmoyle

EARLY YEARS FOUNDATION STAGE STAGE ONE

Our pupils in EYFS and KS1 have had a wonderful year. At the beginning of term one we were able to explore lots of new outdoor play resources and enjoyed plenty of outdoor play while the weather was good.



In November we were delighted when Kidz Farm came to visit. We were able to hold and pet lots of animals. Some of us were braver than others when it came to holding them!



In December years 1 and 2 were lucky enough to go on a trip to The Ark Farm, we explored the farm, met many animals, followed the elf trail and found Santa in the ark! It was a magical experience. Santa also came to visit us in school with his very helpful elf.



Another highlight in December was the Christmas Show, the whole school were able to showcase their talents. Years 1 and 2 performed two songs, Hello Reindeer and S.A.N.T.A. Years 3 and 4 performed Angel Express.

In the new year our trips to local parks were a highlight, we never let the weather put us off.



We also absolutely loved it when Fitness Freddy came to school and we were able to demonstrate how hard we all work during P.E. sessions. It was great fun for the staff and the pupils.



In March the Dental Team and the community dentist came to visit, we had our teeth checked and learned about how to take good care of them.



The summer term was the perfect time for lots of outdoor play, in the many outdoor spaces around school. We made crowns and played party games to celebrate the King's Coronation.



Sports Day took place in June the sun shone on the day, each and every child participated and we were all touched by the support from the Longstone Families at the event. It was by far the highlight of the school year.



Outdoor Learning:

Outdoor play continues to develop and thrive at Longstone school supported by the energy and enthusiasm of the staff. Nursery and primary Key stages have this year benefited hugely from the purchase of new storage sheds and resources including wheeled vehicles including hand bikes, trikes, and scooters. We are also excited to explore the use of our new den building equipment with many pupils in Key stage one enjoying building homes reading and play dens.

We were fortunate to receive donations of crates and tyres as we build up our loose part resources. The pupils enjoy using these to build creatively, make balance trails or support imaginative play.



Pupils in Year 3 have enjoyed developing links with Dundonald Primary School to develop out learning, enjoying visits to Dundonald Primary and hosting a playdate at Longstone. This is something to develop further as pupils build peer relationships and staff continue to share good practice between the 2 settings.

Thanks to funding from the Peace IV project each playground and play area has a communication board to support pupil interactions with each other, communicate feelings, emotions, choice of preferred activity and share ideas.



KEY STAGE 2

The Year 2022/23 saw a lot of our activities and outings resume. This is significant change for our children who have missed many opportunities due to covid restrictions in the last few years. Year 6 and 7 were introduced to the water with regular swimming lessons and an excellent sailing experience at Ballyholme.

Trips out included a tour of Belfast, a chocolate factory, and a football stadium! We had many events in school too. Year 7 enjoyed a monthly mix in with other schools in our Cluster Group experiencing Team Building, dog handling and a water colour class to name a few.

Year 6 were part of an inter school Peace IV group who met regularly and got to know each other well. In school we had a Viking Battle, a World War water battle, our fabulous football themed Christmas play and fabulous end of term Year 7 Leavers Events.

Our Children continued to shine and develop in their own individual ways. They surprised and delighted us by their efforts and impressed us with their skills in sport, football and singing for example.

We honour their effort and I congratulate and celebrate the tremendous efforts of the teachers, classrooms assistants and support staff who pour endless effort into the successes of our Key Stage 2 Team.

Thank you,

Gillian Cummings
Head of KS2



KEY STAGE 3

Home Economics/Occupational Studies

Senior school pupils have secured fantastic exam results this year in their CCEA Occupational Studies Level 1/ Level 2 qualification. Their continued hard work and effort is to be commended. 71% of year 12 achieved the level 2 qualification. I am delighted for all my senior pupils. The 2 units of work were Contemporary Cuisine and Patisserie and Baking.

Level 2 Merit GCSE grade B equivalent	Level 2 Pass GCSE grade C equivalent	Level 1 Distinction
7 pupils	8 pupils	6 pupils

Home Economics in middle school enjoyed having the NI Livestock and Meat Commission visit to demonstrate how to use local meat in preparing healthy meals and snacks. The Belfast Giants discussed the benefits of healthy food and exercise with pupils.

Big Ted worked with pupils when delivering workshops on new product development, marketing and ways of including vegetables in the diet.

Throughout the year pupils have enjoyed demonstrating newly acquired skills by using equipment safely and accurately. Numeracy was promoted through accurate weighing and measuring, and all pupils have made a range of snacks, sweet treats, and meals to either enjoy in school or to take home.

Mrs Strain

Science

Last year the pupils in KS3 & KS4 studied Science in accordance with the Northern Ireland curriculum covering all aspects of Science within the three major disciplines of Chemistry, Physics and Biology. The focus of Science at Longstone is to promote the skills required to be a valuable member of a team and to become an economic contributor in society.

The topics studied encourage the pupils to think scientifically, covering the five skills areas: Self-management, Being creative, Managing information, Working with others, Thinking skills, Problem solving and Decision making.

The course is designed to cater for the three learning styles of auditory, visual and kinaesthetic. There are also opportunities to use the Cross curricular skills of Communication, Using Maths and Using ICT.

Within the course the following Key Elements are covered: Personal understanding, Mutual understanding, Personal health, Moral character, Spiritual awareness, Citizenship, Cultural understanding, Media awareness, Ethical awareness, Employability, Economic awareness and Sustainable development

The KS3 course is designed to prepare the pupils for the Entry Level Qualification in Science which is studied over two years in years 11 and 12.

Entry Level One	Entry Level Two
3	18

Pupils have continued to engage through Google Classroom completing weekly quizzes for homework. The success of the Science course and the hard work of the pupils is evidenced in the KS4 results that the pupils achieved last year.

E. S. Guthrie

English:

Entry Level Qualification (ELQ) in English was awarded to our pupils in August 2023. Through studying Entry Level English our pupils had the opportunity to;

- engage with techniques and features in still image media;
- engage with poetry and respond creatively or personally;
- engage with drama and respond appropriately;
- explore moving image media genres and respond creatively;
- engage with a range of prose texts, be able to offer opinions and respond in writing to them; and
- communicate personal information and gather information on a topic of interest.

Navigating our pupils through blended learning, all pupils completed six units. Our results were fantastic;

- 16% awarded at level 3
- 42% awarded at level 2
- 42% awarded at level 1.

Well done to all our pupils, wishing them the very best as they move to their next stage.

M O'Connell and C Mitchell

Numeracy:

This has been an exciting year in developing outdoor play for numeracy. New resources and storage have been purchased, in order to provide a range of activities which will help engage pupils in developing numeracy skills within a sensory rich and stimulating environment. A huge thank you to Mr Caughey for doing all the hard work in preparing this area for the pupils to use.

Doddlemaths continues to be an effective resource, engaging pupils and developing valuable numeracy skills through the use of ICT. This has been introduced within KS2 and it is hoped it will be developed further to accommodate progression and learning support within Key Stage 3.



Mr P Johnston

Music:

This year, pupils were able to continue to experience the joy of practical music making in class, and also in school performances. Primary and Secondary pupils continued to develop a variety of musical and social skills in learning to play a selection of instruments, such as keyboard, xylophones, ukuleles and drum kit in class.

Regarding live music, this year was a first for Longstone School. Formed by some of our senior pupils, the 'Kool Beats' band performed twice this year, firstly at the harvest Assembly and also at the Christmas Show where the performance of 'Santa Baby' especially was outstanding.



Technology & Design

Understanding the potential impact of technology is critical to the world around us. Technology is not naturally good or bad. Instead, its effects are complex, hard to estimate accurately, and likely to have different values for different people at different times.

Technology and Design is concerned primarily with the design and manufacture of high quality technological products. Every design is influenced by outside factors such as consumer demand, the state of the market, customer expectations and consumer laws.

Studying Technology and Design provides opportunities to tackle and resolve design and technological problems to meet human needs within a range of contexts, such as home, school, leisure, community, business and industry. Essentially, we are searching for better ways to do things, inventing solutions and taking risks. (CCEA, 2019).

These qualifications obtained in Year 12 aim to prepare our pupils for further study, work and adult life. They are competency based, emphasising learning by doing. This helps learners develop the transferable skills needed in a changing and dynamic working environment. Pupils also gain subject knowledge and independent living skills.

Cross-curricular links were forged with Mrs Strain, HE and TD (year 9, Mother's Day trays), planters (Mr Harrison and Mr Fenn, Year 10 employability lessons) and Mr Gurthrie (science, year 8) through material differences.

The technology department acknowledges and appreciates the kind donations from local suppliers;

1. Bassetts Group
2. Carryduff Building Supplies
3. Carryduff Sawmills
4. Carryduff Tyres
5. Carryduff Autos
6. Gilnahirk Tyres
7. Ecoparts (Nutts Corner)
8. Thales Group

August 2023 results delivered qualifications in Entry Level Occupational Studies technology, where six technology units were selected that,

- Facilitates learning in a practical situation;
- Motivates learners;
- Develops employability skills;
- Prepares learners for work and adult life; and
- Provides progression to higher learning.

These units included painting and decorating, car mechanics, plumbing and joinery skills.

100% of pupils entered passed at level 3 – a terrific result for our pupils.

M O'Connell

Klassability: Urban Nature Project

The Urban Nature Project is a UK wide project, aimed at teenagers at a KS2/3 level. It is free to participate in.

Each school that takes part will have a small garden plot within the Folk Museum where they will be assisted to plant some native species and decorate their garden. Other schools that have taken part in the project have made insect decorations by painting stones, painting plant pots and made markers to decorate the pots.



The museum uses the nature collections to learn about biodiversity, sustainability and nature itself. It also is a great opportunity for the children to socialise with each other and visit the museum in an accessible manner.

The project consists of three visits to the classes by the project staff throughout this term to introduce the project and the museum site. There is an easy craft activity that was offered and then there will be a further project on planting and decorating the plot allocated to the school. The transport has been covered by the projects funding and suit the visits around the timetable and classroom needs.



Recently, the project came to the classroom here at Longstone for the Year 8 pupils. The Urban Nature Project was led by Linda and Nigel who showed the children some photographs of the museum site, including the garden plot that the children will be working on as part of the project.

The class then went on to have a chat about biodiversity and the importance that it has to our climate. As shown in the pictures the children then had the opportunity to handle all different types of animal specimens, and to discuss them with the Urban Nature Project team. This included the animals that they would get at the museum such as rabbits, butterflies and birds.



After talking about the animals, the children got the option to draw their favourite on paper. In the coming weeks, the plan is that there will be a second visit that is aimed to talk about the plot that they will have and the types of animals that they can expect to be attracted to it. This would include all different kinds of birds, spiders and pollinators that would be supported with examples in resin for the pupils to handle themselves.

Last year as part of the project the pupils involved were able to decorate stones into spiders, ladybirds and used acrylic paint markers to decorate their plots with.

The third visit of the project to the school would have a focus on the types of plants that the children would like to have in their plot at the museum.



The activity will be for the children to have a go at painting the plant pots, labelling the names of the plants that will be going into them.

When the pupils get to the point of visiting the plot at the museum the hope will be that they will have a go at turning the soil and deciding as a group how they will decorate it. A further visit will include the planting of the plants and to finish any decorating that they have not yet completed.

Finally, the children will have a chance to visit the plot when it is finished as part of a celebratory event as a thank you from the Urban Nature Project led by Linda and Nigel to the school for participating.

M O'Connell and J Bell

Toilet Twinning:

LONGSTONE ARE FLUSHING AWAY POVERTY, ONE TOILET AT A TIME.



Year 12 linked to our partner schools DEB Kangundo Primary and Secondary school, Kenya.

By donating £60 to twin your toilet, Longstone fund a project in a community that will enable families to build a basic toilet, have access to clean water and learn about hygiene – Mr Toland visits Longstone school reminding pupils that such a vital combination that saves lives.

Year 12 have organised a collection and once the toilet is 'full' of coins are then counted to see how much we have raised to support this fabulous partnership. Many thanks To Bassett's Plumbing supplies who provided the WC.

S Plunkett & M O'Connell

bassetts

Technology & Design: Community Of Practice

Longstone School held their first Community of Practice in Term 3 2023.



The participating schools were sent a brief, 'Design and manufacture any item from a minimum of three materials.'

This gave the opportunity for all pupils to be included in their project and involve all thinking skills. Community of Practice brought together mainstream and Special school making this event inclusive for all.

This drives strategy, generates new lines of thought, solves problems, promotes the spread of best practices, develops people's professional skills, and promotes school links whilst developing each other.



Thales Group, Bassetts Group and Carryduff Building Supplies sponsored the event and each company representative was a member of the judging panel.

The event was attended and judged by Ms Shearer (DOE) who thoroughly enjoyed the event.



Movilla High School



Nendrum College



Dundonald High School



Ardmore School



Longstone School, Team A



Longstone School, Team B



Judges pictured with the winners.



Gideons:



Longstone was delighted to welcome Mr Alan Carson and Mr Gerald Thompson from 'Good News For Everyone, (Gideons).

Alan and Gerald welcomed our Year 8 pupils, year 7 and year 9 pupils who joined our assembly.



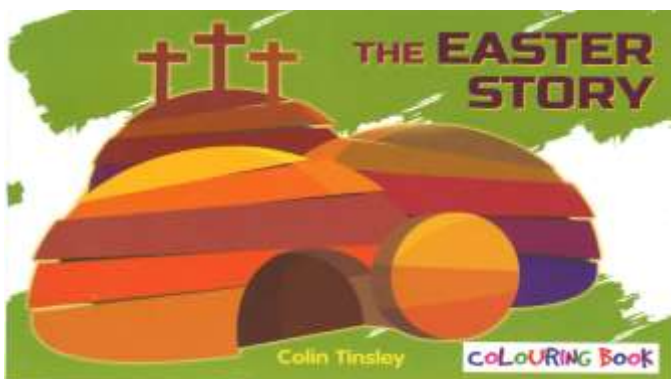
GIDEONS
INTERNATIONAL

Mr Johnston concluded our assembly with a prayer encouraging all pupils and staff to reflect on the stories within the Bible.

M O'Connell.

Hope for Youth Ministries:

KS3 and 4 received 'The Easter Story' booklets from 'Hope for youth Ministries.' We would like to thank Colin Tinsley for his continued support by providing these Bible story booklet to our students.



Child Evangelism Fellowship

Roberta from Child Evangelism Fellowship of Ireland for providing all of our KS2 and KS3 pupils with a 2023 Calendar. The calendars give a different verse from the Bible for each month – *July – God is light, and in him is no darkness at all...*



It also covers a lot of fun facts about water and also the importance of it in so many different ways – *Did you Know? The world's longest river, the River Nile, flows through 11 different countries!*

Many thanks to Roberta and CEF for the calendars.

Pets as Therapy:

Therapy Bloodhound dogs Maggie and Charlie with their handler Paul were delighted to visit Longstone pupils and staff in February 2023.



Therapy dogs for Children act as constant companions to children that help them improve social interactions and relationships, expand verbal and nonverbal communication, teach life skills, increase interest in activities and decrease stress within the family. Charlie and Maggie don't pass judgment, working by encouraging children to bond with each other, therefore making children emotionally and socially secure.

M O'Connell

Carryduff Building Supplies:

Longstone School would like to thank Carryduff Building Supplies (CBS) for their continuous partnership development with our school.



The company ethos, ‘small enough to care, big enough to cope’, rings true when CBS are always available to delivery our technology supplies at no charge. Financial Director Mr Andrew Gilliland and his team are always available to advise on technical, product and supply queries.

Longstone pupils accepting CBS timber supplies and presenting Glen Crawford from CBS with an LED timber lamp manufactured by our pupils as a token of our appreciation.



Titanic Exhibition Centre, Belfast Visit:

Year 12B were invited by Bassetts to attend the Selfbuild Live Belfast in October 2022. The Selfbuild conference is the ultimate showcase for people who are building, extending, improving or simply decorating their home. Our pupils had the benefit from the advice of hundreds of local exhibitors, including the opportunity to discuss their project and queries with experts in a 1-2-1 setting.



Having the opportunity to link their Occupational course studies to real-world situation all our year 12 had an enjoyable, although busy day at the Titanic Exhibition Centre!

M O'Connell

Young Enterprise NI:

Recently, Ruth Harper from Young Enterprise, met with members of the Longstone staff to talk about future opportunities for the pupils throughout the school to take part in. Given the recent success at Longstone of the Community in Practice competition, there has been a keen interest to take forward the participation of the pupils in more activities with other schools, and outside of the school grounds.



Ruth had spoke with the staff and had

offered the school to take part in the 'Surestart' programme which involves setting up a business and the steps that need to be taken. This would open doors for the Longstone pupils to attend the Young Enterprise event at St. Georges Market on the 6th December 2023, along with market stall events offered at Bloomfields Shopping Centre and Ards Shopping Centre. Ruth had also mentioned that Somervilles were looking to move excess materials that could be used in the school for the pupils in a range of different projects. The positive collaboration that was seen between Longstone and Young Enterprise will certainly be of benefit of the development to the technological and holistic ability of the students at the school.

Claire McClelland Visits Longstone:

Claire McClelland (Director) Raising Aspirations, Supporting Learning and Empowering Improvement Department of Education met Year 12 pupil Finlay Wright.

Finlay explained to Claire how our Bottle lamp project began in Longstone School. Finlay also explained how the lamps were manufactured within Technology & Design explaining the wood type, size of base and how their plumbing skills help with the copper pipe design.



Farm House Treats:



Based outside Carryduff, Mossbrook Farm is home to Farm House Treats. Ms Jennifer Busby (MD) was delighted to present each of our year 8 pupils with a special Christmas book.

Many Thanks Jennifer.



M O'Connell

ENTHUSE Partnership:

Longstone School recently visited Dundonald High School as part of an ENTHUSE Partnership. The event included STEM activities across a number of different subjects in the school. It was a thoroughly enjoyable and beneficial trip for our pupils.

Along with Longstone and Dundonald High, there were Victoria PS, Dundonald PS and West Winds PS.



Thales:

As part of Year 11 Community of Practice, Y11B were invited to Thales Belfast in May 2023. This manufacturing company also has similarities with our competition winners through design and manufacture. Thales has been helping to bring the world of science, technology, engineering and maths (STEM) to Northern Ireland, with the aim of inspiring children to think like engineers, whilst also equipping teachers with essential STEM skills that they can use in our classrooms. Thales Belfast's specialism in Space is also having an impact on Northern Ireland's education sector, on our site visit this was one of the highlights, to see the satellite propulsion system.

With a 60 year heritage in world class engineering, Thales in Northern Ireland is the leading high technology company in the country, employing more than 500 people in the defence and space sectors.

Longstone Staff would like to thank the fantastic and informative site visit to all departments and personnel within THALES during our visit. As one of our 11B pupils said, 'This is an amazing place, I would love to work here for free!'

M O'Connell



Bassett's Plumbing visit Longstone:

Bassett's Plumbing representative Sean receives his bottle lamp from Head girl Amber Crockard (2022-2023) that was designed and manufactured by Year 12 pupils.

Bassett's plumbing provided copper piping and joins for KS4 ELQ plumbing. The lamp manufacturing process brings to life learning criteria required for ELQ plumbing and joinery. Sean said, 'This is a fantastic opportunity for pupils to learn about real life skills suitable for use in the home that can also relate to future employment in the plumbing and construction industry. This lamp will take pride of place within our showroom. Thanks Longstone.'



bassetts

Bassetts are Northern Ireland's leading, multi award-winning, bathroom, heating & tile specialist, with 16 branches across the province.

Backed by the UK's largest plumbing, heating and cooling trade specialist merchant Wolseley UK, Bassetts have built their business on continually striving to offer their customer the best product range at the best price and with the highest standard of customer service.

Bassetts was established back in 1982 in a small market yard in the Shambles in Armagh. The company now boasts a network of sixteen branches across the country making Bassetts one of the leading plumbing, heating and bathroom merchants.

You will find everything you need from copper pipe to gas boilers and underfloor heating to the latest in bathroom suite design.

As our KS4 pupils develop their plumbing skills through their CCEA course work Bassetts and Longstone School have initiated a partnership where Bassetts provide plumbing materials to Longstone School.



MD of Bassetts, Ciaran O'Reilly informed our Year 12B pupils that having a school partnership is a fantastic opportunity where we can create plumbers of the future especially with the development of the Bassetts innovative facility. This innovative facility aimed at customers interested in exploring the latest in plumbing and heating technology, including renewables. From boilers, radiators, valves, underfloor heating to bathrooms, showers, tiles and everything in between, Bassetts cater to every plumbing and heating need.

Niamh Smyth (Bassetts Digital Marketing Executive) was delighted to accept a copper framed LED lamp manufactured by our pupils as a token of appreciation for materials provided from Bassetts towards their coursework.

M O'Connell

Instructables Year 12:

Instructables is committed to helping teachers inspire, engage, and prepare students through hands-on projects to make in the classroom. Always free, and always fun!

Year 12 pupils Amber, Ryan A, Matthew, Finley, Waldo and Ryan M all participated in the design brief to manufacture an item from MDF material.

This design brief was perfect for our team. The lamp was manufactured from ply board, copper and sustainable materials.

Our year 12 team thoroughly enjoyed taking part in this competition. Well done on a fantastic outcome and result.



M O'Connell

Smile and Shine:

Year 12 are delighted with the introduction of their new Occupational Studies unit- Vehicle Valeting.

This unit is designed to provide vocational skills in valeting at Entry Level 1, Entry Level 2 and Entry Level 3. It gives learners the opportunity to experience and become familiar with the skills they need to valet a vehicle. They should also plan the valeting operations. Learners will follow appropriate health and safety procedures throughout the planning, preparation and valeting process. They will also consider environmental issues and job opportunities. Learners will develop their practical skills by completing the given task and will review their work.



This unit includes:

- health and safety issues in valeting activities;
- job opportunities relating to valeting ;
- environmental issues relating to valeting ;
- using vehicle valeting equipment and appropriate hand tools;

- planning for and valeting the inside and/or outside of a vehicle;
- a review of performance.

Looking forward to developing new skill- hope their smiles stay as shiny as the cars!

M O'Connell

Delamont Outdoor Learning Centre:

Year 8 took part in outdoor learning opportunities at Delamont Outdoor Learning Centre as part of their school curriculum in September 2023.

Pupils and staff thoroughly enjoyed the activities provided by Delamont OLC. Archery was an exciting opportunity for our pupils to participate in, requiring focus, strength and determination.

Wall climbing and abseiling; designed to challenge our pupils and test their climbing skills whilst having fun! Beginning with an easy climbing route, pupils built their confidence and climbing skills then moved up to the more challenging routes.

A fun filled day with thanks to Delamont instructors (Kieran & Joanne) who made sure everyone went home exhausted!



M

O'Connell & J Bell

Cinema Reward Trip:

Thanks again to Dundonald Cinema for hosting KS3 and Year 11 pupils and staff in June 2023. Since there are high expectations for Miles Morales from both the people in his world who need his help and from us as viewers who just want to enjoy the thrills of that heroics, Spider-Man: Across the Spider-Verse's unrelenting intensity constantly puts those expectations to the test. After the release of Into the Spider-Verse in 2018, which many people believe to be the best Spider-Man film to date, the young Spider-Man must decide what to do with the mask while the world is watching and how to maintain his sense of agency in his own story when the past, present, and future are all yelling at him to act in a certain way. Like its predecessor, Across the Spider-Verse is a respectful tribute to web-slinging and the storytelling potential of animation.

Spider-Man -Across the Spider-Verse was a great film choice selected by our pupils.



KEY STAGE 4

Rights Respecting School Award

Article 42 All adults and children should know about their rights



We continued to work hard on our Rights Respecting journey as a Sustaining Gold Award School in 2022 – 2023.

The Sustaining Gold Award means we are recognised as being a school which continues to fully embed children’s rights throughout our policies, practice and ethos. The pupils have also taken part in practical action projects which have helped protect and stand up for childrens rights around the world both locally and globally.

Our amazing School Council organised a variety of events throughout the year including reviewing our class charters, running a food collection for Flourish, fundraising for Turkey and Syria and organising activities for Mental Health Week.

We were also selected by UNICEF to create a showcase video that promotes the Rights Respecting School Programme to professionals that are involved in education work across the UK. Our pupils took a leading role in the filming project which explains what makes Longstone a Rights Respecting School and the difference it has made to our school community.

Anti-Bullying Week 2022: Reach Out



Article 19 Right to be Safe

In November the whole school participated in the 'Reach Out' Anti-Bullying Week Challenge. We had socially distanced assemblies in our form rooms where pupils learnt about what bullying is, the different types of bullying you can come across, where you can get help with bullying issues, and we also reviewed our child friendly Anti-Bullying policy. In addition to this each pupil in the school designed their own piece of artwork which is on display in our canteen and we came to school in our odd socks to show that Longstone is a safe place for all.

RSE: (Relationship and Sexuality Education)

During 2022-23 an audit was carried out to assess the RSE provision throughout the school. As a result a training session was arranged for staff through Belfast trust HSCNI. Feedback from this training was very positive.

Pupils, staff and parents took part in RSE research with Queens University Belfast. The outcomes and feedback from this will be supplied once research is completed around October 2023. This will then be used to guide future developments.

All pupils now study RSE in accordance with the Northern Ireland curriculum covering all aspects of RSE

At KS4 RSE is delivered through Learning for Life and Work - Personal Development with a focus on health and well-being, and the development of positive and healthy relationships.

As part of the Entry level Life Skills course pupils study: Different types of relationships, Physical aspects of puberty and sexual relationships, and How to seek advice on sex and relationships.

New resources including booklets, activities and PowerPoints were developed taking into account pupils needs and the three target levels. This enables pupils to access the course at the level appropriate to their abilities.

Pupils also revisit many of the areas covered by this course as part of activities, assemblies, and other subjects throughout the school such as Science and Home Economics.

Year 12 pupils achieved the following levels:

Entry Level One	Entry Level Two	Entry Level Three
7	8	6

At KS3 pupils study RSE as part of the Learning for Life and Work - Personal Development, with Science and Home Economics also contributing. A series of resources for years 8, 9 and 10 were developed and piloted in 2023 and modified where necessary for the 2023-24 academic year.

At KS1 and 2 pupils study Personal Development and Mutual Understanding which covers elements of RSE at an appropriate level.

E. S. Guthrie

Barclays Life Skills:

Article 29 Your Education should develop your talents and abilities



Barclays Life Skills staff delivered a range of employability workshops to Year 10, Year 11 and Year 12 pupils throughout the year. The sessions are invaluable as our pupils learn about how to develop important life skills such as self-confidence, problem solving, being enterprising and communication from experts in industry who can give real world examples of the skills in action. The Barclays Life Skills workshops help prepare our pupils for the world of work, training, and further education in a fun and engaging way and we look forward to welcoming the facilitators back again next year.

Entry Level Occupational Studies:

Article 29 You have the right to develop your talents & abilities

Across KS4 our pupils complete 12 short practical projects that are based around their individual interests that they may have that make up their Entry Level Occupational Studies qualification. Our pupils designed cards, made hanging baskets and containers for a plant sale, learnt the basics of vehicle maintenance, practised using a variety of office equipment and developed a range of technology skills such as painting and decorating and carpentry.



The pupils enjoyed the more practical element of the course and performed well across all of their assessment tasks.

Entry Level 1	Entry Level 2	Entry Level 3
1	0	10

Entry Level 1 Double Award	Entry Level 2 Double Award	Entry Level 3 Double Award
2	1	1

Occupational Studies – Sports Leadership:

Article 29 Your education should develop your talents and abilities



Our KS4 pupils completed the unit Sports Leadership this year, as part of their Occupational Studies qualification.

The KS4 classes chose different sports that they could teach a skill from the sport to their peers in Year 12 and in Year 11. The sports ranged from football, basketball, boccia and badminton.

The pupils also gathered feedback from their clients and evaluated their performances to see how they could improve them in the future.

Well done to everyone involved! .

Occupational Studies Level 1 / Level 2 Results 2021 – 2022

Level 1 Pass	Level 1 Merit	Level 1 Distinction	Level 2 Pass	Level 2 Merit
1	10	3	0	1

S Ferguson

Life Skills:

Article 29 Education should develop your Talents & Abilities

In Year 12 this year, we worked on developing our pupils independent life skills. Through the completion of the CCEA Entry Level Life Skills qualification we helped to adequately prepare them for future life.

The units that we worked through were:

- Healthy Active Lifestyles
- Relationships and Sexuality
- Travelling in My Community
- Using Shopping Facilities
- Home Management
- Personal Safety
- Leisure for Pleasure
- Community Project

Pupils completed practical projects across each subject which helped in their transition to adult life. Pupils were able to demonstrate their knowledge, understanding and skills.

Entry Level 1	Entry Level 2	Entry Level 3
6	14	1



Prince's Trust Achieve Programme:

Article 28 You have the right to an education



The Prince's Trust Personal Development and Employability qualification focusing on improving their skills of teamwork, communication and self-management which are developed through a range of practical projects. Our pupils improve their understanding of how to look after themselves through a healthy lifestyle. The pupils undertook an enterprise challenge and delivered community projects to make a difference to our school community and local area. They also learnt how to write an application form and how to prepare for and undergo an interview.

Congratulations to the pupils for completing their Prince's Trust Achieve Award.

Entry Level 3
19

Duke of Edinburgh Award:

With help from Nicola and the Belfast Activity Centre we enjoyed day walks to the Belfast Hills, Delamont, Castlewellan and Tollymore.

There was also training in school and finally expeditions in the Mourne.

Congratulations to all the pupils, Waldo, Natalia, Matthew, Luke, Ryan A, Finlay, Ryan M, Amber Isaac and Courtney.



J Starrs

Sports Day:

Our Senior School Sports Day returned to the Mary Peter's Track in June. We were lucky to have a sunny day with everyone enjoying the track and field events.



Extended Schools: Dundonald Cluster Events

Longstone School was involved last year in a number of collaborative events organised by the Dundonald Extended Schools Cluster. This initiative brought together pupils from all five local schools in Dundonald - Brooklands Primary School, Dundonald High School, Tor Bank School, Dundonald Primary School and, of course, Longstone.



Our Year 7 pupils took part in a number of exciting activities between September 2022 and June 2023 including 'Bridge Building with Big Ted', a visit from the 'World of Owls', an internet safety morning with the 'Gaming Buses' and the P.S.N.I., an interactive science morning with the 'Science Boffins', a fun sports day, a display by the P.S.N.I. Dog Team as well as an introduction to water-colour painting delivered by our very own Art teacher Mandy Cromie.



These events gave opportunities for pupils in Dundonald to mix and socialise with other children from very different educational settings promoting mutual understanding and teamwork.

Our Dundonald Cluster funding also allowed most of the Dundonald schools to resource in-school counselling for a number of pupils. These interventions made a significant impact on all of the children involved.

The Extended Schools initiatives and events have proved very successful over the last number of years, and we look forward to more fun and interactive events for our pupils to enjoy in the months to come.

Ian Harrison (Dundonald Extended Schools Cluster Coordinator)

FARM FUN AT LONGSTONE:

Pupils enjoyed a sensory visit from Kidz Farm, as part of their sponsored walk fundraiser. The theme for this year's sponsored walk week was Charlotte's Web. Pupils met a range of animals including a pony, tortoise, rabbit, goat, hedgehog, rats, guinea pigs, bearded dragon, snakes and a tarantula called Charlotte!

Together pupils raised a fantastic amount for school funds! A very enjoyable week was had by all!



CORONATION COMPETITIONS:

Pupils in Key Stage 2, 3 and 4 designed cupcakes and confectionery for the Kings Coronation. Jakob in Year 5, Miss Hagan's class, won the cupcake competition. His class enjoyed his winning design, which were kindly made by Knead bakery in Newtownards. Mrs Greggan and the pupils of 10B won the confectionery design. Aunt Sandra's kindly made the winning design of yummy chocolate coins.

Create a Crown competition was held for the whole school, with some very creative designs reflecting royalty, pupil interests and the curriculum. It was difficult to choose, however, four fantastic designs, one for each key stage, were selected and each winner received a £15 Amazon voucher. Create a crown winners included:



FINANCE:

Our Article 60 budget allocation for 2022/23 was £175,208. This is the funding that we receive from DENI via the Education Authority to finance the running costs of the school which includes utilities, resources for staff and pupils, transport, furniture and fittings.

Our school bank account had an opening balance of £4397.96 and a closing balance of £403.69. This account is used to provide resources for our pupils throughout the year.

SCHOOL SECURITY:

The school maintains a safe and secure learning environment for our pupils and staff. Fire drills are carried out once a term and the system is regularly monitored and maintained.

CCTV & Sign in System continue to be in place.

ACCESS:

All classrooms in the main body of the school, mobile classrooms, gym and dinner hall are accessible for disabled pupils.

ATTENDANCE:

The annual average attendance for 2022/23 was 83.1%.

SCHOOL LEAVERS:

This year we had 23 school leavers who were placed on a variety of Training Programmes and Further Education courses.

