

Lurgan Junior High School



*The Principal's
Annual Report*

2017 / 2018

Principal's Report

Mission Statement

Empowering our children to reach their potential, to feel respected, cared for and equal.

School Motto

The 3 "R" s

Respect – for self and others

Responsibility – for their learning, their belongings and their environment

Resilience – the ability to accept who you are and take positive action to move forward

Background

Lurgan Junior High is an all-inclusive, all ability 11-14 school with Christian values situated in the heart of Lurgan. It serves the children in the community who come from a variety of backgrounds.

Currently it has an enrolment figure of 750 pupils and over the last 2 academic years, it has been oversubscribed. This has meant that in both 2017-18 and 2018-19, the school has had to request from DE a temporary variation for Year 8 enrolment. As we enter the next school year, we will have 754 pupils.

The school offers a wide range of subjects at Key Stage 3 and over the last 2 years, there has been significant investment in technology. This has been supported by donations from business leaders within the community and we are very grateful to Mr Brian McKnight for his support in this area.

Community Partnerships

Within the last 2 years, Lurgan Junior High has formed a close partnership with Glenavon Football Club and this has been further supported by Glenavon Academy which organised sports coaching for the community throughout the week on LJHS' pitches. Many young people from the community are actively involved in this initiative. Earlier in the year, this partnership was celebrated by many of the Sports Clubs in Lurgan. The evening was a huge success and included speakers from the Education Authority, Lurgan Ladies' Hockey Club, Lurgan Town Football Club and Lurgan Rugby and Cricket Club as well as the Chairman of Glenavon Football Club. Local councillors from ABC Council and also representatives from Community groups throughout the town attended the evening. It was an excellent example of school and community working together in the interests of all our young people.

We continue to work with the REACH Team in supporting our pupils with their levels of confidence, self-esteem and personal growth. REACH provide a consistent and quality service to our young people. They draw alongside pupils, encouraging and motivating

them to fully engage in pastoral, social and academic development. Their contribution to school life is immeasurable.

Likewise, this year, ASPIRE has supported the pupils with an after school homework club. The positive impact of this provision has been significant with those involved meeting work deadlines and also developing improved attitudes to learning.

Shared Education

Further links with the wider community are demonstrated through the very active Shared Education Programme and both Lurgan Junior High School and St Ronan's College have benefitted from the Signature Project led by Mr Michael Addley LJHS and Mrs Mairead Green SRC. Our children have shared many lessons in both schools developing their thinking skills and personal capabilities as they engage in History, Art, RE, Music, Maths and ICT. It is hoped that this can be further extended as we go into the next school year. With support from Shared Education funding, there have been numerous opportunities for Teacher Professional Development when staff from specific departments are provided with the opportunity to meet and share good practice as well as discuss innovative approaches for teaching and learning which can be implemented in the classroom to ensure greater pupil engagement.

Craigavon Area Learning Community

As part of the CALC Action Plan, LJHS has taken the lead in the area of Curriculum. Under the leadership of Mr M Thompson and in his role of Entitlement Framework Coordinator, the Curriculum Team, made up of coordinators from a number of schools, has devised a 5-year plan to maximise pupil progress in the areas of the 3 core skills. Following regular meetings, it is now in a strong position to ensure that planning and preparation can be followed through.

CALC Principals have passed the plan and coordinators have met with ETI and School Development Advisor in order to ensure training is in place that will benefit both teaching staff and all students within our community.

Staffing 2017-2018

After 21 years, Mrs Mann, teacher of French and Spanish has retired from Lurgan JHS as has Mr Ervine, teacher of TD, Science and Mathematics for almost 17 years. Throughout their time they have provided sterling service to our pupils and been supportive colleagues in school. Mrs J Black, after 10 years of service has retired from her position as Classroom Assistant. She too has been a very valued member of staff.

We were also very sad to see Mrs FitzGerald (HOD Modern Languages) leave LJHS after 10 years and we wish her every success as she continues her career with CCEA. She gave a lot to the school both academically and pastorally. Her support for the Equestrian Team was consistent and motivational for the pupils involved.

All four staff members had a common goal – to give their best to our young people and I know that it is the children they will miss most. On behalf of all connected to our school, I wish them every happiness.

This year, we have a number of new staff members – Miss Gamble and Mrs Ferry have joined the Science Department. Miss Reilly has joined the school to teach English,

Geography and RE in a temporary capacity as has Mr J Black who has joined the Mathematics and ICT Departments.

Mrs J. Graham has been appointed as Head of Home Economics after teaching in the school for a number of years and Mrs R. Miskelly has recently joined us as Head of the Modern Languages Department. As middle leaders they provide direction and stability. We are indebted to regular substitute teachers who have joined our school family and I offer sincere thanks to Miss A. Thompson and Mrs A Gordon in Art, Geography and RE and Mrs M. McCorry in Modern Languages.

Teaching and Learning

As a learner centred school, emphasis is on developing pupils' thinking skills. The majority of lessons begin with a starter activity to engage the pupils immediately. As the instructional teaching moves on, pupils are encouraged to ask questions, to work in a variety of groupings, to problem solve and to develop their responses with the use of appropriate connectives. Pupil evaluations and feedback is part and parcel of all lessons. The focus is not only on what children learn but on how children learn.

Many of the strategies for learning have been disseminated to staff through TPL Mondays when teachers gather to share professional development. As a school, we learn from each other and Heads of Departments regularly meet with a member of the School Improvement and Leadership Team to voice their views regarding Action Planning, Book Looks, Peer Evaluations, Trusted Teacher Network et cetera and learn of progress made.

A subcommittee of the Board of Governors has met with Heads of Departments and Coordinators this year to learn of their action planning and the impact of this on pupils. The Board of Governors has met regularly and is fully aware of the School Improvement Plans 2017-18, subsequent evaluations and the most recent plan accepted by DE. A number of governor members met with ETI in November 2017 to discuss progress of the Leadership & Management Action Plan and also that of Teaching & Learning.

Recognition was given to the research based actions informing improvement work carried out by the school, the clearly defined line management structure, the development of tracking and reporting systems to monitor individual pupil progression and the use of appropriate data to support individual target setting across the curriculum.

New Developments

GDPR - General Data Protection Regulations

New regulations for Data Protection came into operation in May 2018. School is ensuring Privacy documentation is in place alongside a current assets register.

OCN

Open College Network Northern Ireland (OCN NI) is a Nationally Recognised Awarding organisation which offers high quality flexible, credit based **qualifications**. **At the end of Term 2 representatives from YMCA offered to take a number of our pupils during Term 3 for this vocational course.**

Every Tuesday and Friday, 18 of our young people work with the YMCA to question, discuss and respond to issues surrounding personal and social development. They

travel to the YMCA in Carnegie Street for an evening class after school. Our thanks to the leadership in Craigavon Senior High School for their support in carrying on with this qualification.

During the summer, these same students will continue to study for 18 hours each week. They will also be involved in a Residential to support team building. When they transfer to Craigavon Senior High School in Year 11, the YMCA leaders will continue to work with our students until October. By that stage they should be in receipt of an OCN qualification. We wish everyone success in this course. I also want to thank parents for supporting them and for their visit to LJHS in Term 3 to hear what was on offer.

Modern Languages

Following consultation with Lurgan College, Head of Modern Languages, Governors and pupils, the decision was taken that on alternate years we would no longer provide German as a second language. From 2018, LJHS will offer 2 Modern Languages – French and Spanish.

Induction Days at CSHS – Lurgan Campus and at Lurgan College

Lurgan Junior High School pupils have always enjoyed the annual Subject Fayre at CSHS – Lurgan Campus. The afternoon event gave our pupils and their parents an opportunity to hear about all the new subjects that were available to choose prior to making subject choices for GCSE. Pupils could then make an informed decision.

The Induction process was extended for another 2 days when pupils visited the CSHS Lurgan Campus and Lurgan Park for team building work.

Lurgan College continues to provide an evening for all interested pupils and parents in October and a further Induction Afternoon in June. This afternoon follows a detailed meeting with individual parents and pupils to confirm options chosen earlier in the year.

Staff are encouraged to meet their counterparts from both Senior High Schools in September to discuss GCSE progress for our past pupils.

Building Works

In order to improve the Health and Safety aspect of the extensive campus at LJHS, the Education Authority has supported us by constructing a perimeter fence and putting in secure access points to the school. In addition, the bus layby was extended as was staff car parking. For the purposes of evening sporting activities, an entrance was created onto Millennium Way. ABC Council are examining options prior to using these gates in September 2018. Talks are still underway. Governors and all staff appreciate the extensive work carried out by EA.

Unfortunately, a minor works application for new toilet facilities in 2 specific indoor areas was rejected.

Painting of ground floor corridors, the Assembly Hall and a number of classrooms took place early in Term 3.

Finance 2017-2018

At the end of the school's financial year in April 2018, the budget remained in a healthy position. The 3 Year Budget Plan for 2018-2021 has been accepted by the Finance subcommittee of the Board of Governors and ratified by the full Board of Governors.

Extra-Curricular Activities

This has always been a huge strength of Lurgan Junior High School and the commitment of P.E. Heads of Department to the development of Rugby, Football, Cricket, Hockey, Netball, Volleyball, Tennis, Cross Country and Athletics continues with many of our pupils remaining in school until 4.45 most week days for practices and matches.

STEM Club, Art Club, Scripture Union, Drama Club, ICT Club and the most recent addition of Naval Cadets offer our young people a very wide range of interests throughout the school year.

Our pupils, in particular the U12s Boys' Rugby and Football Teams have excelled this year. The PE Departments will provide greater detail of their success.

The Arts

The Music Department held a variety concert in Term 1 to highlight the talent and skills of our children. This was followed by the school performance "High School Musical". Both had full audiences and successfully showcased our very talented pupils.

The Art Department and Home Economics Department excelled in their exhibits for Lurgan Show walking away with the Cup for overall success.

Once again, encouragement by teaching staff and parents underlines the level of participation and involvement for our young people. We very much appreciate the support of Mrs Savage and Mrs Megarrell in recognition of their efforts.

Academic Achievement over the last 2 years

Key Stage 3 Results

	Level 5 and above
Using Communication 2017-18	80%
Using Mathematics 2017-18	75%
Using Communication 2016-17	80%
Using Mathematics 2016-17	80%