



GLENLOLA NEWSLETTER

Sep 2023
Issue #08

Your gateway to the latest news, events, and accomplishments within our vibrant school community.

Upcoming events

22.09.23

School Musical
Auditions

20.09.23 - 28.09.23

Tallwood Trip, USA



House Competitions

The House Officials welcomed our new Year 8 on Thursday with some fun, food, and chants! We're looking forward to another great year of House competitions. Each House has an Instagram page which we welcome you follow: [@gcshamilton](#), [@hartehousegcs](#), [@gcsdufferin](#), [@gcswardhouse](#), [@clanmorrishgcs](#), and [@glenlolaweir](#).

A great way to keep up to date with all the House activities across all the year groups!

School Gateway

As you are aware, there have been some changes to the way we share information with parents this year and process payments. This has had to be done because SIMS Pay360 is no longer offering its service. We are replacing both with School Gateway which will allow you to access your emails from the school, school report, your child's timetable, add money onto their canteen account and pay for any other trips, all in one place. Not all of these features have been available up to now but when you next sign into the School Gateway app or website, you will find that they are now present. The school will use the Gateway app to notify you should your daughter/child be absent from school with the function to send a reply stating the reason for this absence thus replacing the need for you to send in an explanatory note to the Form Teacher.

We are hoping that by moving to School Gateway that this will make it easier for you to keep on top of your child's progress in school. We encourage you to download the School Gateway app if you haven't already done so, as it will help us to more easily share information about your child. SIMSparent and Pay360 should then be deleted.

Updates

Sailing Update

GCS sailors have had great success on the water in the last few months. Polly Robinson and Emily Macafee participated in the Topper World Championships in July at Royal Cork Yacht Club. Polly achieved a fantastic 16 place in the 4.2 Fleet and Emily successfully qualified for Gold Series and finished 2nd Junior Female out of 98 competitors! Emily also competed at the British National Championships in Wales, finishing as 2nd Junior Female again and also holds the prestigious title of Irish Topper Female Champion 2023. Emily is also supported by the Mary Peters Award.

Annika Hunter sails a laser and was awarded 1st Female 4.7 Laser & 1st Youth Female overall at the RYA Youth Championships at Ballyholme yacht club last weekend in testing light wind conditions. Polly Robinson had a fantastic event and won overall Junior Female. Huge efforts by Emily Macafee, Romy Maguire and Hannah Archer who also represented school in this event.



GCSE Geography Trip

The second group of GCSE Geographers embarked on their fieldtrip up to the north coast to experience the delights of the Curly Burn River. The sun shone and pupils enjoyed applying all the skills they learnt in class, along the various river sites. Great teamwork was evident throughout the day, as pupils fully engaged with the data collection methods. We ate well, and the weather was glorious, allowing us to enjoy a trip to Magilligan Point beach, where we were lucky enough to spot multiple pods of dolphins, before making our way back down to Bangor for a well-earned rest over the weekend. Well done to all GCSE Geographers!



Tennis

Well done to Lily Hall (9F) who was selected to play in the U14 tennis interpros in Castlebar, Co. Mayo.



Updates

Seamus Heaney Remembered

Year 12 pupil Leonie Hanan was recently interviewed by BBC News NI about the enduring legacy of local literary giant Seamus Heaney on the 10th anniversary of his death. Leonie is a member of the local creative writing charity *Fighting Words NI*, which seeks to provide creative writing opportunities for young writers aged 6 to 18, and whose patrons include the acclaimed writers Glenn Patterson, Roddy Doyle, Nick Hornby, Lucy Caldwell and Paul Muldoon. In the feature, Leonie discussed her introduction to Heaney's poetry at school and the impact it has had on her own desire to "set the darkness echoing" as she digs with the "squat pen". You can read the article here on the BBC News NI.

You can read the Article here: [Seamus Heaney Remembered](#)

Year 8 Ganaway Trip

Last week the new Year 8 pupils enjoyed a teambuilding day at Ganaway activity centre. The aim was for them to get to know their new classmates in a more relaxed, informal way. We also wanted them to communicate with each other and learn to work together. Activities included archery, climbing, crate stacking, team games and the ever popular zipwire. Thanks to all the staff at Ganaway for their enthusiasm and encouragement which meant everyone had a fantastic time.



Year 11 Orienteering

Well done to the Year 11 GCSE PE class who travelled to Armagh on Thursday, taking part in an Orienteering course to help with their practical options.



Water Polo

Congratulations to Matilda Urry and Keira Creaney who represented Ireland in the U15 European Water Polo championships in the summer. What a fantastic achievement.

Also, congratulations to Scarlett Urry who was part of the U17 Irish Water polo team who competed in the LEN European championships in Turkey during the summer.