



Thornhill Girls Travelling to the World Hip Hop Championships this Summer

We are very proud to be Thornhill girls and extremely proud to be travelling to Arizona USA this July to represent Ireland at The World Hip Hop Championships 2023.

This is a major achievement for us and our dance school, 'City Dance'. We are the first group from Derry to hopefully travel to America dancing Hip Hop on the world stage representing our wonderful city, country and of course our school. An experience we will, no doubt, remember forever.

We travelled to Dublin in April this year to take part in the Irish qualifiers at first and qualified one of the top 5 dance crews to represent Ireland in Arizona this summer. We couldn't believe what was happening, we had done it. It was honestly the best weekend ever, we stayed overnight in Dublin as we got through to the finals the following day, we danced our hearts out at that and qualified.

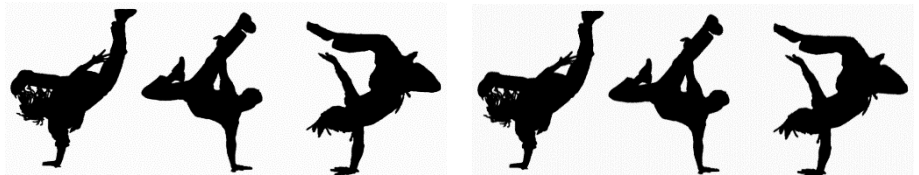
We were so emotional and excited to take this journey with our dance teacher Irena Noonan and most of all our friends. There are 8 of us in the crew, 6 of us from Thornhill and 2 from St Cecilia's College. We can't wait to experience and learn from other dance crews from across the world and bring it all back to young dancers in Derry.

Irena said, *"I am so very proud of these girls, they work so hard and deserve every success coming their way"*.

We thank our school firstly for their support and special to thanks every single person who has contributed to our fundraising on our GoFundMe page. It is not cheap to self-fund this trip and we would be most grateful for any support businesses and sponsors could provide us with.

Our GoFundMe page can be found at:

gofund.me/fcc5af1e



Ellen Tyre (11J), Lucy O Donnell (11J), Cadhla Foster (11J), Clara O Donnell (12E), Ella Mc Cafferty (12B) & Fineen Doherty (12G)

AS & A2 Art Exhibition 2023

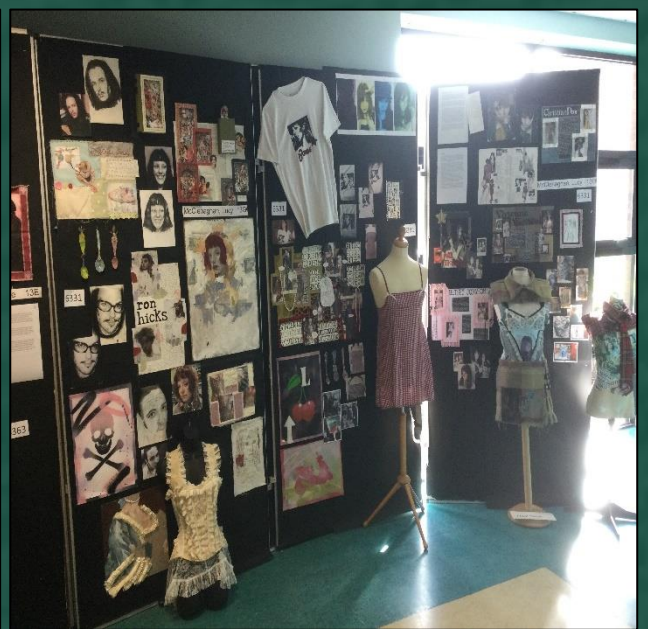
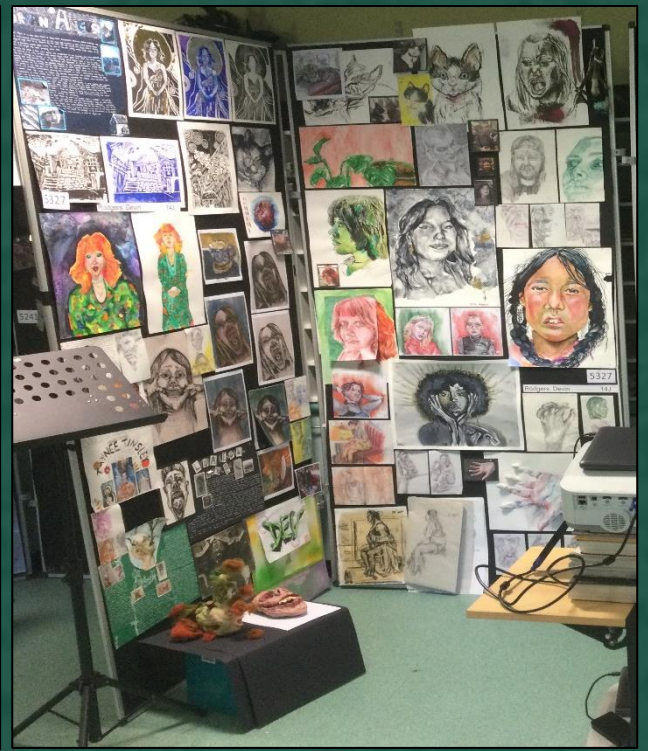
Our congratulations go to our Year 13 and 14 Art & Design students and the staff of the Art Department for the fantastic exhibition of AS and A2 work. It was wonderful for fellow students, staff, friends and family to enjoy the creativity and talents of your work. Well done to everyone involved!













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Blessing of the New Carlo Acutis Statue in St Eugene's Cathedral

Our school was invited to attend a special Mass and Blessing of the new Carlo Acutis Statue in Saint Eugene's Cathedral on Wednesday 3rd May (which would have been Carlo's birthday.) A total of 16 Year 9 pupils travelled to the special Mass as part of the St Eugene's Cathedral 150 anniversary celebrations. During the Mass, the congregation heard how Carlo was born on the 3rd of May 1991 and died on the 12th of October 2006, aged just 15 after suffering from leukaemia. Carlo was a computer genius and fan of Super Mario and Pokémon! He was an amateur website designer who had a deep faith, and a special love and devotion for the Eucharist and the Rosary. Carlo offered his sufferings for Pope Benedict XVI and for the Church, saying: "I offer all the suffering I will have to suffer for the Lord, for the Pope, and the Church." At his request, Carlo was buried in Assisi, because of his love for St. Francis of Assisi. He was beatified as a Saint in Rome on the 10th of October 2020. He is a powerful example of faith for young people and having Carlo's statue in the Cathedral is a wonderful encouragement to welcome young people to pray at the Cathedral.

Carlo's mother Antonia gifted the Cathedral a lock of his hair as a relic, which is displayed beside the statue. During the Mass, both the statue and relic were blessed by Bishop McKeown.

A special well done to Zara McCool who read the prayers of the faithful beautifully at the Mass. All pupils were so dignified and respectful- a super example of Thornhill girls.

Mrs Fionnuala Moran
Catholic Ethos Co-ordinator



Well done to our Year 8 Gaelic Ladies Football team who recently competed in the Year 8 LGFA blitz in Omagh. The College entered two teams with all girls getting the opportunity to play three games for their development.



Congratulations

Well Done Sophie!

Congratulations

Our congratulations go to Year 14 student Sophie Parlour who after successfully retaining her title as Senior Girls 100m Champion at the Ulster Schools Athletics Meeting, recently took part in the IFAM (International Flanders Athletics Meeting) in Oordegem Belgium as part of the Irish U20 100m relay squad. Sophie ran her individual 100M finishing third in her heat against senior internationals. She then ran the final leg of the relay with the Irish U20 relay team. Sophie had such an amazing experience participating in a competition at this level and it has obviously inspired to continue with her success as since this she has achieved the title of All Ireland Senior Girls 100m Champion. Well done Sophie!!!!

@ATHLETICSIRELANDOFFICIAL



U20 4x100m Teams 🙌





Congratulations

Well Done Veronica!

Congratulations

Our congratulations go to Year 13 student Veronica O'Neill who recently achieved the title of Senior Girls 400m Hurdles Champion at the All Ireland Championships in Tullamore. Well done on your fantastic success Veronica!

District and Ulster School's Athletics Championships

Thirty-one students represented Thornhill in the District Athletics Championships on Wednesday 3rd May at the Antrim Forum. It was a very successful day with a number of athletes placing in the top 3 to qualify for the Ulster Championships, which took place on Saturday 20th May. We had another successful day at the Ulster Championships where Veronica O'Neill, Sophie Parlour and the Year 10 relay team all qualifying for the All-Ireland Schools' Championships which take place in Tullamore on Saturday 3rd June.

District Results

Ana Kirby - 2nd in long jump
 Grace Callaghan - 1st in 300m
 Veronica O'Neill - 1st in 100m hurdles and 400m hurdles
 Hannah Wade - 3rd in 800m
 Sophie Parlour - 1st in 100m
 Clodagh Quigley - 4th in shot putt
 Quinn Doherty-Buchanan, Laura McGeady, Ava Curran , Molly McCullagh – finalists in 100m
 Year 9 and Year 10 relay teams came 2nd to qualify for Ulsters

Ulster Schools' Results

All Ireland qualifiers

Sophie Parlour Gold in 100m
 Veronica O'Neill: Gold in 100m hurdles and gold in 400m hurdles
 Year 10 team: Silver in 4 x 100m relay (Ava Curran, Cara Phillips, Molly McCullagh and Leonelle Atoge)

Other results

Year 9 team: 3rd in 4 x 100m relay (Laura McGeady, Eireann Dunne, Niamh Mzimba and Lauren Mackey)
 Grace Callaghan: 4th in 300m







Congratulations

Congratulations Aine!

Congratulations

Congratulations to Year 10 student Aine Bryce who recently achieved 20 reward points in our Junior School Rewards Programme. Well done on this great achievement Aine!



EXAMS

Well done to all of our fantastic Year 8, 9 and 10 students who completed their summer exams last week. We know it was no easy task to revise for and sit your exams during a week of such warm weather. We are sure that all your hard work and effort will have paid off and you will see the benefits of it when you receive your results in the days ahead!

We wish our Year 11, 12, 13 and 14 students the very best of luck as they continue to prepare for and complete their external exams in the days and weeks ahead.



good luck



Thornhill College
Past Pupils

She became
Chief Pharmaceutical
Officer for N Ireland

Cathy Harrison

#YouCanToo



Thornhill College
Past Pupils

She became a
Pianist

Ruth Mc Ginley

#YouCanToo

What Parents & Carers Need to Know about INFLUENCERS

In today's digital age, social media influencers play an increasingly significant role in shaping the opinions, interests and behaviours of our children. While many of these individuals can have a positive effect, influencer culture can also present certain risks – such as encouraging consumerism, affecting self-esteem and blurring trustworthiness. To help ensure a safe online environment for young people, it's vital to maintain open communication, set sensible boundaries, promote a healthy self-image and teach digital media literacy. Our guide delves deeper into all of these.

WHAT ARE THE RISKS?

HEIGHTENED CONSUMERISM

A major way that influencers make money is through brand partnerships and sponsored content. As a result, children who follow them may be exposed to a steady stream of advertising: this can lead to materialistic attitudes, unrealistic expectations and an increased desire to have the latest products. Many influencers have built huge brand empires around their large, impressionable following.

THE SOFT SELL

Some influencers aren't always transparent about the motivations behind their posts, blurring the lines between genuine recommendations and paid-for promotions – and young people sometimes find it difficult to distinguish authentic content from advertising. Many major social platforms have taken steps to make sponsored content and ads easier to identify, but it remains an area of concern.

PRIVACY CONCERNS

Inspired by their favourite influencers, children may start sharing more of their own lives online – which could reveal personal information or details about their daily routine. This openness can put them at risk of cyberbullying or even predatory behaviour. This is exacerbated by live streaming, which gives young people no time to consider the potential consequences of saying too much.

UNDERMINING SELF-ESTEEM

Many influencers share images and videos of themselves and their activities, which are often painstakingly curated and edited to present an idealised version of their life. Children who follow these influencers may develop distorted expectations about body image and the concept of beauty, which can potentially lead to negative self-esteem and even mental health issues.

Advice for Parents & Carers

KEEP TALKING

Chat to your child about the content they consume on social media and the influencers that they like. Encourage them to think critically about what they see and hear online, and listen to any concerns they might have. Maintaining this line of open, honest communication can help your child to make informed decisions about which individuals they follow and what content they engage with.

SET SOME BOUNDARIES

Agree age-appropriate boundaries for your child's social media use, including time limits and privacy settings (the two major operating systems on mobile devices, Android and iOS, have these controls baked in). Try to keep an eye on your child's online activity and discuss it regularly with them – including reminding them of the potential risks that can arise from following influencers.

Meet Our Expert

A former director of digital learning and currently a deputy headmaster and DSL, Brendan O'Keefe's experience and expertise gives him a clear insight into how modern digital systems impact the experience of children, staff and parents – and which strategies help to ensure that the online world remains a useful educational tool rather than a minefield of risks.



SUPPORT A HEALTHY SELF-IMAGE

Reinforce your child's awareness that real life isn't usually as picture perfect as it may appear on social media – and how some content (particularly that of influencers) is often curated, staged or edited to look more glamorous. If possible, highlight examples of other influencers who share authentic, relatable material which acknowledges their imperfections and struggles as well.

PROMOTE MEDIA LITERACY

Talk to your child about the concepts of sponsored content, advertising and potential influencer bias. Teach them to critically evaluate the information they're presented with online and to consider the possible reasons behind content creation. This can help young people develop the skills to make healthier decisions about the influencers they choose to follow and the content they consume.