

January 2023

Dominican College Portstewart



NEWSLETTER

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Upcoming Holidays

16-17th February: Midterm break
17th March: St. Patrick's Day
31st March-17th April: Easter break

Year 10 Choices

Year 10 make their GCSE subject choices to determine what subjects they will take next year. Deadline - Friday 3rd March.

High School The Musical

1st - 3rd February
Yr 11 - Yr 14 are creating a drama production. Rehearsals are happening as we speak!



THE DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION



For the Duke of Edinburgh Bronze Expedition, we will be split into two groups. The first group will be embarking on the expedition from the 12th of June to the 13th and the second group will set out on the 22nd of June to the 23rd of June (provisional dates).

We will have to use a map and compass to navigate our way, then put our tent making skills to use and make our shelter for the night. We will be cooking on a Trangia.

Over the next few weeks, we will be learning these skills and completing first aid to ensure we are prepared for the real expedition in June. We will also spend a night in a tent to prepare for camping in the wild during our real expedition.

GALLERY



Charlotte, Kerry and Caitlin and Miss Hassard cooking bacon on the Trangia



Derrien, Aoibhe, PJ, Caitlin, Charlotte, Kerry, Lucy and Joe practising putting up a tent



MEET THE DEPUTY HEAD BOY



Deputy Head Boy

Jake



What subjects do you study and what is your plan for after DCP?

Currently for my A-Levels I am studying English Literature, RE and Sport and I'm enjoying studying them all a lot. I've been awarded a Golf Scholarship to Millersville University, Pennsylvania. This is my opportunity to further my dream of becoming a professional golfer.

Any perks with being Deputy Head Boy?

A few Dominoes pizzas from Mr Lynch went down a treat but apart from that not really much. It is a big honour to get the role and not many perks come with it, rather responsibilities around school and helping the staff and pupils which I am really doing.

Looking back over your time in DCP, what advice would you give to the Year 8 pupils?

My advice would be to enjoy it as much as you can but to work hard. When I was year 8 and someone said you have 7 more years of school, I thought that was such a long time, but those 7 years have gone so quickly. So my advice would be to work hard, enjoy it as much as you can and remember to laugh, because it goes so quickly.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

We live in such a beautiful place, so I really enjoy taking my dog for a walk on the local beaches, particularly White Rocks in Portrush. I really enjoy surfing the local beaches as well. I love playing the guitar in my spare time and playing a good song. I love heading out for dinner with my dad and spending as much time as I can with my family. I was the Junior Captain of Portstewart Golf Club in 2022 and really enjoy playing and practicing my golf game.

What does your role involve as Deputy Head Boy?

My role comes with many responsibilities such as feeding back to the staff how we can improve the school and sixth form, and issues we see and how they can be improved but also most importantly, being a good role model for our younger peers of the school and showing them how they will develop into a sixth form student at Dominican.

Who is your favourite teacher and why?

I found this such a tough question to answer because I really like all my teachers. They are always willing to help if I am ever struggling, very approachable but most importantly, always up for a good laugh, so all of them!

MEET THE DEPUTY HEAD GIRL



Deputy Head Girl

Mila



What subjects do you study?

I study Biology, Spanish and Health and Social Care for A level.

What do you enjoy doing in your spare time?

I have been Irish dancing since the age of 4 and it is definitely my favourite pass time, going to classes and seeing my friends, going to competitions, and practising in my spare time.

Any perks with being Deputy Head Girl?

With being Deputy Head Girl, I have the privilege of being able to express my concerns or creative ideas to the teachers directly and working together with them to create solutions to problems, making the school a better place

What does your role involve as Deputy Head Girl?

My role involves many things but mainly it is my job to be a role model for the younger students and demonstrate the values of a good Dominican for them. I must be someone they can look up to and reach out to if they need support or advice

Looking back over your time in DCP, what advice would you give to the Year 8 pupils?

Enjoy your time at DCP because it may not seem like it yet, but the time flies by and you will be in my position thinking about your future career. Be kind to others and your friends and overall, I would tell the year 8 pupils to take in every moment and make as many memories as possible.

Who is your favourite teacher and why?

My favourite teacher here at DCP is Ms Rainey. When I studied RE I looked forward to each and every one of her classes (even if I didn't enjoy the topic). Ms Rainey is always there for her students and will always listen to your worries and concerns, she supported me through a tough time in my life and I know I can always rely on her to lift my spirits.

DOMINICAN COLLEGE OPEN NIGHT 2023



Open Night: Thursday the 19th
Open Morning: Friday the 20th

Open Night is when P6 and P7 pupils and their parents come to see our school. Pupils and staff try to show off what DCP is really like and give an insight into all the fun ways we learn!

This year we had a live performance from the junior choir and a sneak peak performance of High School Musical.



We also had a DofE stall where some DofE members answered questions about DofE



For more photos of Open Night and Morning click on the link below:

<https://dcpni.net/news/dominican-college-open-night-and-open-morning-are-a-huge-success/>

Created By Lucy, Cara, Luba

MEET THE TEACHER



Ms McClelland

What subjects do you teach?

History, English, Geography and transition group.

What other schools have you taught in?

I have taught in Edinburgh, Cheltenham, Magherafelt and now in Dominican College.

Why did you decide to be a teacher?

I loved school myself and had a very positive time there. I wanted to share and instil this love of learning in young people today.

What do you do in your spare time?

I spend my spare time with family and friends. At the moment my spare time is very much taken up with planning and preparing for my wedding in August.

How are you settling into DCP?

I have settled in well to DCP. It was daunting at the start due to the size, new people and names to learn. 5 months on and life is very settled at DCP. Staff and pupils are lovely.

A HISTORY OF DOMINICAN COLLEGE



Before it was a College

Rock Castle, also known as O'Hara's Castle was originally built by Henry O'Hara in 1834. The castle was then extended in 1844.

It then passed to the Crombie family before being sold to the Dominican Sisters in 1917



Early Years

In 1917 Portstewart had a growing population of over 1600 people, yet there existed no provision for the secondary education of children in the town.

This was to forever change in the Summer of that year with the arrival of the Dominican sisters. In September, St Mary's Dominican Convent, Portstewart opened to sixteen boarders and five day pupils.

A HISTORY OF DOMINICAN COLLEGE



Expanding With Excellence

In the beginning the teachers were all nuns, so salaries and a minimal grant, were reinvested into the school to extend the original school to add rooms for Science and Home Economics. In 1928 A drill hall, study hall, new dormitory and new classrooms were added.

The 1930's saw more pupils arrive, more staff, more facilities and a more varied curriculum. Also, throughout the 1930's a system of scholarships to poorer children were introduced and fees were kept to a minimum.

Dominican celebrated its Silver Jubilee in 1942 with its strong links with the local community as a school with a strong reputation as a centre of learning and as a school that could look forward to an even brighter future.

A HISTORY OF DOMINICAN COLLEGE




Welcoming Boys

The 1960s saw a big decision - as there was no Catholic grammar school for boys in the area, it was decided to make the school co-educational. And so the first boys arrived, including Mr Canning, a Spanish teacher at our school.

Within ten years the school population had risen to 255 pupils with equal numbers of boarders and day pupils.

The boarding department closed in 1995, followed by the departure of the last Dominican sisters from the teaching staff.

Principals of Dominican College-Portstewart



Sr. Brigid O'Doherty	1917-1920	Sr. Isidore Collins	1955-1957
Sr. Reginald Maguire	1920-1924	Sr. Domenico Miley	1957-1960
Sr. Bertrand Bains	1924-1927	Sr. Laurentia Corr	1960-1966
Sr. Columba Nolan	1927-1928	Sr. Isabel Duggan	1966-1967
Sr. Reginald Maguire	1928-1936	Sr. Honoria Murphy	1967-1970
Sr. Peter Dominic O'Hagan	1936-1942	Sr. Ailbe McCormack	Jan. 1970 - June 1970
Sr. Augustine Murray	1942-1945	Sr. Berenice O'Keeffe	1970-1974
Sr. Philomena O'Neill	1945-1948	Sr. Lucina Montague	1974-1986
Sr. Isidore Collins	1948-1954	Sr. Marie Joseph Catney	1986-1989
Sr. Maeliosa Hayes	1954-1955	Mr. J.F. Murphy	1989 -

History of DCP Principals

Some past pupils who returned to DCP

- Mr Canning
- Ms Rainey
- Miss McNicholl
- Mrs Manson
- Ms McGowan
- Ms Campbell
- Ms Morelli

HIGH SCHOOL MUSICAL



It's finally show week! The cast have been busy preparing for the three evening performances that will take place on Wednesday the 1st, Thursday the 2nd and Friday the 3rd. Several members of the Duke of Ed team are vital cast members of the school show, Joe, Derrien, Jessica, Caitlin, Aoibhe, Christian, Nick and Bea. We have just had a primary school matinee for 250 local primary school children, which was a great success. Here are a few pictures from the performances so far.

