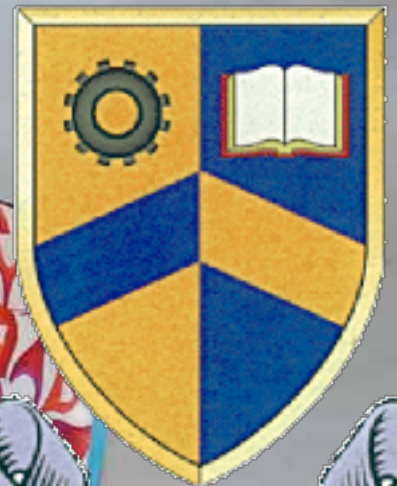


ASHFIELD INFORM



In Sight



My name is Jonathan McColgan but I get called Jo; I am 44 years of age and married to Michelle. I am a father of three with a fourth baby due at the end of February. I grew up in North Belfast, attended Cavehill Primary School, failed my transfer test and am proud to say that I am an old boy of the Boys' Model.

I cannot quite articulate how proud I am at being appointed as the new principal of Ashfield Boys' High School.

I am very aware of the excellent school Ashfield is. I am delighted by the outstanding boys and staff that attend and work in our school.

Every day it is a privilege for me to walk through the doors knowing that I am part of something very special.

You have all made me feel most welcome and for that I am extremely grateful. I look forward to us working together over the coming years building upon the excellence.

Outside of work my passions are for football, rugby, reading, movies and drama. I am a big Man United fan and lifelong member of the GAWA.



More than 60 sixth form students from schools in East and West Belfast got together recently to quiz their local MLAs on the issues affecting them, their schools and their communities. The panel was hosted by seasoned BBC Political Correspondent Martina Purdy and the event itself was held in conjunction with the Northern Ireland Assembly's Education Service and the Peace and Reconciliation Group.

As well as debating directly with their MLAs, the pupils also got the opportunity to take part in round table discussions where they were able to talk in more depth about education, health and employment.

The event ended with a mock election where the students also got a chance to discuss and challenge traditional voting patterns.

Ashfield Boys' was strongly represented by eleven pupils from Years 13 and 14. They were given the opportunity to be involved with the democratic process and to engage directly with their elected representatives.



Here at Ashfield we are always looking for ways to improve our school. Who better to ask than the students themselves on how we as a school can improve and move forward

The students are the ones who travel to and from our school. The students travel around this school period after period. The students use the equipment and apparatus of the school. The student's views and opinions about their environment and their learning most definitely matter. That is why here in Ashfield, we feel it is important to provide students with an opportunity to formally voice their opinions at a school council. A school council is group of students who are elected by their peers to represent the views of all pupils and to improve their school.

The student council provides the students at Ashfield with a voice.

A voice, to discuss the real issues that matter to the students, school matters. Ashfield's school council is a whole school initiative and is a completely 'student led' organisation. The Head boy, along with his deputies, organise monthly meetings to talk about matters that the students of Ashfield propose. Thoughts and ideas born at these meetings are heard by the Principal and the Board of Governors.



In Class

The Year 10 have been giving great reviews on collaborative tasks in their Maths classes.

Into now the 3rd year of their programme of developing thinking Skills, they have encountered new challenges and puzzles such as a Mathematical Murder Mystery, Aha 3D Puzzles, the Soma Cube Problem and the very popular Bridge Building challenge.

Building the bridge with straws and sellotape, using real life designs as a guide, brought out the best in teamwork from our classes.

Top marks to 10S, under the guidance of Mrs Beattie and Mrs McKeown, for their designs which got 'Best in year'



The 'Reel Frontiers' project is part of the Fund's Sharing in Education Programme and is a film making project, which began in Sept 2011, bringing together pupils from Catholic and Protestant backgrounds to work together, learn about film making and production, share experiences and make new friends. Currently there are 42 post primary schools involved in the programme and this year we are linked with Little Flower Girls' School.

Last year, Tavonga Mamwa and Carter Savage were selected to represent Ashfield Boys' at a week long residential film camp.

Both pupils enjoyed the experience immensely and learnt a lot of new skills, whilst meeting lots of new people. The boys' films were showcased at a 'gala evening event' in the Odyssey Cinema on Thursday 22nd November 2012 and at the City Hall on Thursday 29th November 2012 when

Tavonga was interviewed on stage by UTV's Mark Mallett and even met Jedward.

9c are thoroughly enjoying this years' programme and so far, have had the opportunity to watch the films, Freedom Writers and Rabbit Proof Fence. They are looking forward to the forthcoming screenings scheduled for January and April 2013.



In Class

Year 8 pupils are now well on their way to finishing making the schools famous Key Fobs. Pupils have really enjoyed the practical activities, especially using some of the workshop machinery such as the Bandfacer and Polisher.

Brandon McNirlan said “I have enjoyed using the Bandfacer and getting smooth sides”.

Jamie Glover said “I enjoy getting into the workshop and making things”.

When William Craig was asked what he enjoys about this project he answered using one word – “Everything”.

Well done to all Year 8 pupils for making fantastic quality Key Fobs.





On Friday 30th December our Year 13 and 14 students accompanied by Mrs McMahon and Miss Reid attended Sea Court Print workshop in Bangor. Sea Court not only runs courses for schools and individuals but also provides specialist printing facilities at a very low cost to artists. The day was funded by the Extended Schools Programme.

Our tutor for the day was called Robert and our focus for the day was on a process called 'Intaglio printing'. Prior to the day of the workshop the students chose and developed an image from their photography or drawing work. They scored the image with intricate detail onto the surface of the plastic, called a 'plate' which they then printed from.

The morning was used to experiment with dark and light tones and varied backgrounds in the image. In the afternoon we created some colour prints and produced some tissue backgrounds to print upon. The process involved the use of a printing press, which they really enjoyed using. The students worked well throughout the day and produced a great amount of exciting work which will be highly beneficial to them within their coursework.

It was an incredibly beneficial day.

We were also very fortunate to have been there during their annual exhibition and it was very inspiring to work for the day in a professional artists' studio.

In Assembly



Prize day at Ashfield Boys' High School is a day of celebration. Prizes are distributed among pupils who have achieved excellence in a variety of ways throughout the previous academic year. It is observed every year by proud parents/guardians, new Year 8 pupils and a few select onlookers. This one in particular was a first for our new school Principal – Mr J McColgan.

This year the annual prize distribution was held on 16th October. Senior pupils made an attractive gate to greet the visitors and the guest of honour.

Alderman Gavin Robinson, Lord Mayor of Belfast, was invited as our Chief Guest.

He arrived “fashionably late” and was welcomed by the Principal, Chairman of the Board of Governors, staff and pupils. The day started with a welcome and opening remark from Mr Duffield. The band, under the direction of Mr Howe, entertained throughout the day and was fantastic.

Soloists, Michael Cinnamon and Sam Leeson, were exceptional.

Mr McKnight reported on Key Stage 3 and Mr McCann on Key Stage 4. Deputy Principal, Mrs J Ashenhurst introduced prize winners. The Principal, Mr J McColgan, summarised the all-round performance of the pupils.

Our Chief Guest distributed the prizes which were awarded for examination performance, excellence in subject areas and regular attendance. A number of special awards were also presented. The winners, one by one, received prizes from the Chief Guest followed by rapturous applause. Special mention goes to:
Dale Legge - English and Maths Awards at Key Stage 3
David Hatton - Science and Art at Key Stage 3

Scott Leckey (Year 9) - The Doreen Minnis Cup for outstanding improvement in reading

Amos and Fiyin Awoyelu - The Karl Bennett Award

Kurtis and Jordan Wray - The Lindsay Conway Award for their joint efforts in raising money to help people in the local community

Nathan Clarke gained outstanding GCSE results in English, Double Award Science, ICT, Media Studies and Life and Work

The distribution of prizes was followed by an impressive speech by the Lord Mayor.

Alderman Gavin Robinson praised the school for its all-round progress and talked to the pupils about their duties and responsibilities. He praised the winners and encouraged us one and all to strive for excellence.

The day ended with a vote of thanks to the Chief Guest and others by the Principal.

Prize Day was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by all!

Assemblies have gone interactive this year with you tube videos, power points and audience participation. Each month there are a variety of themes. These include moral and behavioural messages, health education ideas and life challenges, all reflecting our school vision.

During each assembly our very talented musicians entertain us with a great variety of music which provides an opportunity for them to perform for their peers and to practice the performances needed for their next exam. We finish off with awards for all the achievements pupils have attained during that month.

It is great to see who is going to be the next chef of the month, who is the top mathematician or winners of our in house fantasy league, not forgetting the accelerated reader awards.

We also take the opportunity to congratulate our many sporting teams and wish them well in the next round of their cup matches. All in all it's a great start to the school day.

In School

As part of their induction programme all Year 8 pupils were invited to attend a 3 day residential at Delamont Outdoor Educational Centre. The Centre offers a variety of outdoor pursuit activities. The six classes who went to Delamont came back with great reports having had a fantastic time.

The boys were very keen to share their thoughts:

Brooklyn said,

“I enjoyed bouldering, it was the first time I did it and it was great jumping off the biggest boulder into the water. It was totally freezing but very exciting.”



Harry said, “I loved the adventure walk. It was fun crawling through the tunnels and walking through the marsh. Everyone laughed when Jordan lost one of his wellies in the marsh.”

Max said,

“My favourite activity was the archery. I didn’t win but I was the only one in my group to burst the balloon.”

Jordan said, “I was the fastest one to climb the hardest part of the wall. I was really proud of myself”

Daniel said,

“This was only my third time away from home and I was a bit nervous, but when I got there I made new friends and had so much fun.”



Fieldwork is an essential component of the AS and A2 geography specification. If the study is well planned, focusing on a precise aim and conducted in an organised manner, with thorough follow up, then geography fieldwork can become an exciting learning experience.

It can enhance knowledge and understanding of the environment and help develop a more confident and competent approach to geographical studies.

Pupils are involved in a one night residential completing a study of the Curly Burn River, looking at velocity, cross sectional area, wetted perimeter, bedload and gradient characteristics at ten individual sites. Data is then analysed and interpreted in the evening session using the ICT suite provided. The following morning pupils investigate sand dune succession, sampling vegetation and soil type.

A very enjoyable and beneficial fieldtrip which is vital for A level success!



2013 - What a year to be back again in New York? Barack Obama re-elected and Ashfield Boys' back in the Big Apple! The Business Enterprise Visit is this year going from 4th to 9 February 2013. Fundraising has been under way for many months and the year 14 boys are involved in so many activities this year; discos, Trash hits, Ballots, bag packs, and the renovated tuck shop, to name a few.

The boys leave Belfast for Newark in New Jersey on Monday 4th February, travelling into Manhattan which will be our base for the 5 days.

We are staying in the Times Square North, a perfect location to be able to see all the sights that New York has to offer.

The students will visit Central Park on the first afternoon before going to the Empire State to watch the sun going down and the lights coming on in New York city – what a sight!

Day 2 in the Big Apple will be a fabulous opportunity to meet students from Manhattan High School of Business and sit in on some classes.

The school overlooks Ground Zero and this will be our next stop visiting the 9/11 Memorial and the rejuvenation of this area.

In the evening we will be at the Steve Wilko show to be members of the audience while the show is recorded.

The next morning we leave Times

Square for Upper West side to visit Columbia University, Museum of Natural History and then downtown to NBC studios. The day ends with a visit to Credit Suisse to meet the Vice President of their Foundation and Northern Irish people who work for the company.

KPMG, world leader in accountancy, is our first stop on Thursday before taking a relaxing afternoon on the Cruise around Manhattan learning about all the famous buildings and people. The day ends with a visit to Jersey Gardens Mall.

The last day takes in a quick stop into the biggest entertainment complex in NY, the famous Madison Square Garden before shopping and leaving for Belfast at the end of a whirlwind trip!





On January 12th Ashfield Boys' return to Loon Mountain in New Hampshire USA for their school ski trip. As well as great food (ask Adam Magill Year12), and first class skiing conditions, we will get to experience the excellent hospitality of the Americans.

Nine of our party of 26 boys have never skied before and for many it is their first trip to the USA.

It's not just skiing that we will enjoy, but an American High School Basketball Match, Sledging and Shopping.

Our trip finishes with a day of sight seeing in Boston. If previous US Ski Trips are any thing to go by the lads are in for a fantastic time!





Ashfield

rugby continues to strengthen from year to year. This season has begun strongly for junior rugby with a keen new crop of Year 8s. The rugby club after school on Thursday has been very well attended this term showing an increase in the level of interest in the junior school.

Also with the weekly coaching sessions in PE for the first and second years from 'Big Sam' McBurney the boys are getting more regular

rugby sessions and this is a great boost for their skills development.

With some early friendly matches for the Yr 9s and 10s against the Boys Model we have been able to put these skills to the test and the most success has been seen from the

Yr 8 team who defeated the Boys Model and Belfast Royal Academy

in a blitz day away on Friday 30th November. Well done to all, Onwards and Upwards!



Wednesday

19th December will see three Ashfield teams contest for East Antrim Cup honours. The Year 8's got a bye in the first round and dominated Carrick College in the quarters with an impressive 12-0 score line with Jake Kennedy and Jamie Craig both scoring hat tricks. It was Monkstown who suffered in the semi final with a strong Ashfield team putting seven goals in the net in front of home support with Jake Kennedy getting another hat trick.

The Year 9's have also had a great start to the season and will also represent Ashfield in the finals day at Seaview. This is Mr Reid's first year in charge and has given the boys that extra bit of motivation that they needed to succeed. Their semi final was a close encounter only winning it in extra time

Harry Greerson again pulled the strings in midfield and Keanu Griffin scoring a top corner curler to win it.

Mr McConnell has labelled the Year 10 start to the season as exceptional with his squad currently unbeaten in all three cup compe-

titions. The midfield has been the real engine and heart of the team with outstanding performances from Luke Fisher and Salou.

Every player deserves recognition and Mr McConnell asks for this hard work to continue into the final.

Year 11 have continued last years success and remain in the Belfast Cup and Belfast League while Mr Irvine's Year 12 team only just missed out in a nail biting penalty shootout at Parkhall when Ryan Bickerstaff was asked to retake his penalty by referee John Spence and then missed.

In Sport



This year we are in the process of developing rugby in the school. Building on the success of the past three seasons we have embarked on a programme which will eventually lead to regular participation in the schools cup competitions.

We have played a number of controlled games as part of this developmental process and now have a squad that will compete in the 3rd XV Danske Schools Cup in January against RBAI.

I have no doubt that the team will give a great display this year led by captain Josh Ferguson.