

# CGS NEWS

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2024 Families First School of the Year for the Northern Region



## Senior Choir Spain Tour 2025



The Senior Choir have just returned from their Saint Patrick's Weekend Tour of beautiful Zamora and Salamanca in Spain. Here the choir gave several short recitals in the ancient Romanesque cathedrals and churches of these historic cities culminating in a full concert for the people of Zamora in San Vicente Martir. The singers were enthusiastic ambassadors for the school and Carrickfergus community even going viral on their local social media and the church was filled to hear them perform. After three days of rather intensive rehearsing and performing, everyone was able to let their hair at the Warner Theme Park in Madrid. Thank you to Mr Ross, Miss Lemon, Mr & Mrs Craig and of course our 'Little Spanish Friend' Aurora Cacharro, for all they did to make it an incredible tour.



## Dance Team Success

Our Senior and Junior Dance Teams were both successful in the recent Northern Ireland Creative Movement and Aerobics Championships. Our Senior Team secured an outstanding first-place victory, which is an incredible achievement and a testament to their dedication.

Meanwhile, our Junior Team made their debut at the championships, stepping onto the stage with confidence despite facing tough competition. Their hard work and determination earned them an amazing second-place finish—a remarkable achievement in such a competition. *Congratulations on your achievements, girls!*

# STEM Success



A fantastic day was had at W5, as our CGS team picked up the Judge's Award at their first ever Lego League Challenge. Well done to the team who made us all very proud, ensuring all their hard work, dedication and teamwork paid off! *It was a great experience and it will set us up to come back next year even stronger!* #STEM



## NYCNI visit to CGS

Thank you to Andrew Nunn and National Youth Choir of Northern Ireland for the time, energy and wisdom shared with many of our singers at a recent fun workshop. *Lots of excellent top tips for all ages and repertoire!*



## Year 9 Rugby

Our U13 Squad attended the recent NEBSSA U13 Rugby Tournament recently. We were drawn in a very tough group and the boys played some great rugby against eventual winners Coleraine Grammar and finalists Ballymena Academy. The 25 man squad can be proud of their efforts, with two wins vs Dalriada and Cambridge House. *Thank you to everyone who made the trip to cheer on the team.*

# CGS ALUMNI ROLE MODELS



**SUSAN SHEPHERD  
(NEE GRAHAM)**  
CGS 2002 - 2009



### WHERE IS SHE NOW?

Self employed professional singer and singing teacher.

### TIME AT CGS:

**FAVOURITE SUBJECT:** Music

**MEMORIES:** The opportunities for so many trips. The great pastoral care.

### CAREER PATHWAY: SIXTH FORM CHOICES

I had lessons in singing, violin and piano at CGS, and did my A-levels in Music, Spanish and Biology.

### HIGHER EDUCATION

I went on to do music at QUB, doing a BMus(Hons), followed by a MA Music. I also studied a PGCert Professional Practice in Vocal Pedagogy at Cardiff Met University, and completed a Teaching Diploma through ABRSM. I have a Licentiate diploma in Classical Singing. Most importantly, the above qualifications are all supported by a wealth of performance experience. Taking exams, doing auditions and competitions, and being part of choirs and orchestras all helped to mould me into the musician that I am. There can be knock-backs in a performing career, but I have learned to be resilient and take every disappointment as a learning opportunity. Now I'm so busy I'm turning down jobs!

### DAY IN THE LIFE OF A PROFESSIONAL SINGER AND SINGING TEACHER

2/3 of my job is teaching singing. I have been fortunate enough to have built a good reputation and so I have been able to build my teaching portfolio through word of mouth. It also means I have the responsibility to keep my standards high. I go to a different school each day and also have a private studio. It is a job that is often very rewarding. My ethos is to Develop Skills, Gain Confidence & Find Fulfillment. The people I teach may fit into one or all of these categories, but many of my students would report that it is the confidence building that is the most useful transferable skill. It's my responsibility to keep up to date with exam syllabi, plan bespoke lessons, keep records of lessons, and all administrative tasks in relation to exam entries, invoices and lesson timetables. 1/3 of my job is performing as a soprano soloist and in small ensembles. The main skills involved in this are music sight-reading, foreign languages and the art of stage presentation. It also requires a lot of self discipline to learn music independently and memorise it. I perform in English, Latin, French, German, Italian, Spanish, Russian, Czech and Norwegian.

### CAREER HIGHLIGHTS

Performing operas in GOH Belfast, being a soloist at The Waterfront Hall, The Ulster Hall and Westminster Abbey, and recording albums on the Resonus label, which are often played on national radio and are 5-Star reviewed by BBC Music Magazine.

A number of my past students have gone on to colleges, including The Royal Academy of Music and Bird College. That is testament to their hard work but also a reminder to me that I'm good at my job!

### WORDS OF WISDOM

Work hard! Don't settle for 'a pass' if you know you're capable of more!

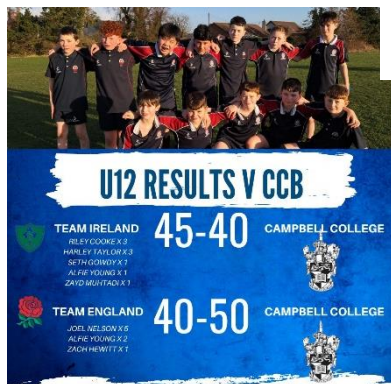
Think a career in Music could be for you? Find out more about it here:

<https://www.prospects.ac.uk/job-profiles/musician>



## Music Workshops

Well done to the six senior music students, who took part in a workshop to learn and perform A Level Music set works. The event, which brought together several grammar schools from across Northern Ireland, was led by Mr Craig and facilitated by his adult choir, Grosvenor Chorale.



## Year 8 Rugby

Well done to our Year 8 Boys who played Campbell College in recent competitive fixtures. All 28 lads got plenty of game time, with some standout performances from Joel Nelson, Riley Cooke, Harley Taylor and Alfie Young.

U12 RESULTS V CCB		
<b>TEAM IRELAND</b> RILEY COOKE X 3 HARLEY TAYLOR X 3 SETH GOWDY X 1 ALFIE YOUNG X 1 ZACH HERWITT X 1	<b>45-40</b>	<b>CAMPBELL COLLEGE</b>
<b>TEAM ENGLAND</b> JOEL NELSON X 6 ALFIE YOUNG X 2 ZACH HERWITT X 1	<b>40-50</b>	<b>CAMPBELL COLLEGE</b>



## Dates for your diary

**Tuesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2025** - Year 11 Parent-Pupil-Teacher Consultations, via video call 12:50pm to 3:20pm. All pupils finish at 12:20pm.

**Tuesday 6<sup>th</sup> April 2025** – Spring Concert.

**Friday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2025** – Last day of term. School closes for all pupils at 12 midday (No canteen facilities available, buses running at normal times).

