

# “FOR ALL... FOR LIFE... TOGETHER”

BALLYMONEY HIGH SCHOOL  
50TH ANNIVERSARY







# EARLY DAYS



WHEN THE PUPILS OF BALLYMONEY INTERMEDIATE SECONDARY SCHOOL ARRIVED FOR THEIR FIRST DAY IN SEPTEMBER 1961 THEY WALKED INTO A NEW BUILDING CONSTRUCTED BY HUGH TAGGART & SONS FOR £250,000.



ABOVE  
Girls' class photograph  
from the 1970s

LEFT  
The High School in  
1987 with its elaborate  
new extension

However, the school was not complete and for months the 653 pupils and 25 staff had to cope without kitchens or science laboratories and an assembly hall that had yet to be decorated. Nevertheless, the Headmaster, Robert Lindsay, was very protective of his exceptional new school and insisted that no outdoor shoes were to be worn in the building!

After a year, the school was officially opened by Sir Arthur Algeo CBE JP, a member of the County Antrim Education Committee and a leading figure in North Antrim's civic life for many years. He was followed shortly afterwards by Brian Faulkner, Minister of Commerce and future Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, who attended the first School Prize Day.

### THE HIGH SCHOOL

Since those early days, the Intermediate has now become a High School and has grown beyond recognition. In 1988, the Duchess of Kent opened what became the Kent Wing, complete with a craft design technology (woodwork, metal work etc) area, art rooms, lecture theatre, library and staff accommodation.

The 665 pupils are now taught by 53 staff and have access to resources which would have been unheard of back in 1961. There is much for the school to be proud of and this exhibition highlights some of the most important aspects of school life through the years.

### PRINCIPALS

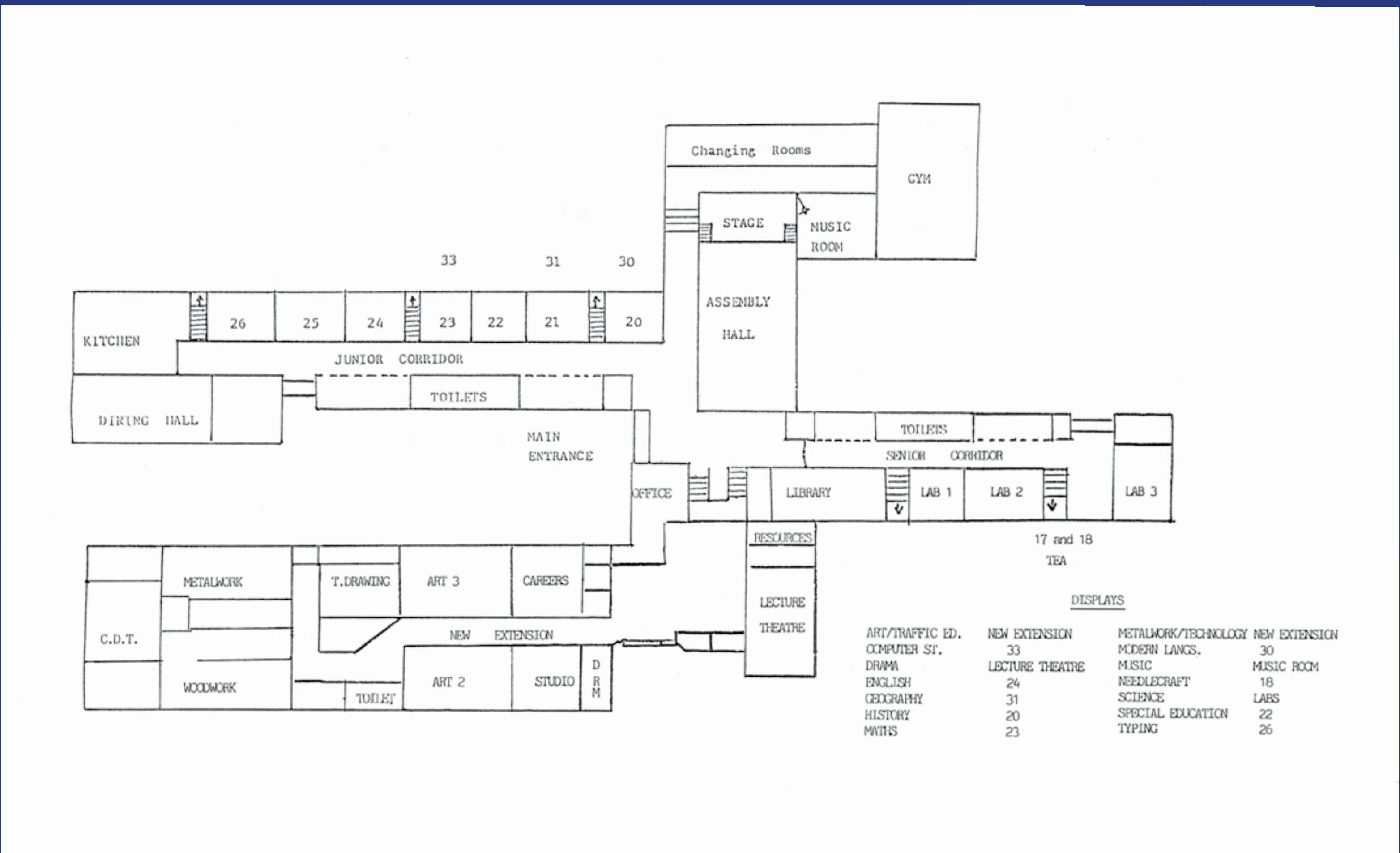
1961 – 1970  
1970 – 1988  
1988 – 2003  
2003 – Present

R. Lindsay  
A. Patterson  
W. Ridge  
R. Scott



ABOVE A recent photograph of  
Ballymoney High School

BELOW An early 1960s class wearing plimsoles



1987 plan of the school building







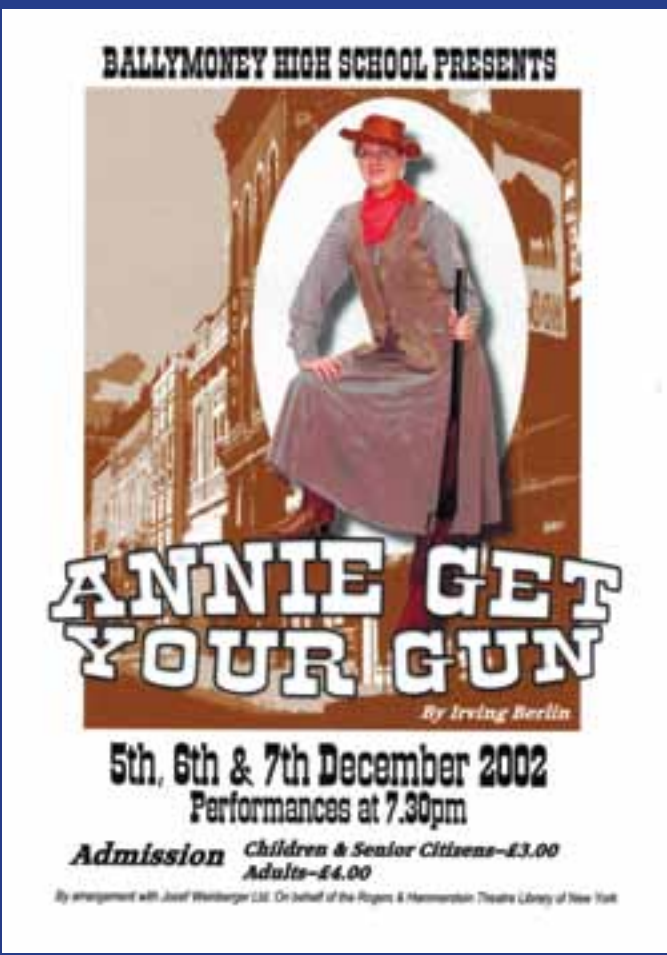
# ON THE STAGE



SINCE 1981, DRAMA HAS BEEN AN IMPORTANT PART OF LIFE AT THE SCHOOL. OVER THE YEARS THE SCHOOL HAS PRODUCED MANY HIGHLY ACCLAIMED SHOWS, FROM TRADITIONAL PANTOMIMES SUCH AS *JACK AND THE BEANSTALK* TO EXCITING WEST END FAVORITES SUCH AS *ANNIE*.

The success of the many and varied productions has been the result of the dedicated work of staff and pupils, in particular Heather Borland and Hazel Ramage.

In 2003, the school won an amazing five categories at the ‘Set the Scene’ musical theatre awards with their performance of *Annie Get Your Gun*. The competition was entered by 50 schools across Northern Ireland and the cast and crew were nominated for nine of the 15 categories. At the awards night in the Waterfront Hall they came top in Best Choral Work, Best Choreography, Best Costumes, Best Direction and Melissa Laverty won the Best Female Performance accolade for her lead as Annie.



Cast members from the school production of *Annie*

The following year, Ballymoney High School won the Best Musical for *My Fair Lady* and brought home an incredible four top awards. The school was also the regional winner with Hazel Ramage recognised as Best Director and Melissa Laverty winning a second time as Best Actress playing Eliza Doolittle. In addition, Charlene Hunter was given a special adjudicator award for Most Promising Performer for her role as Henry Higgins.

- |      |                        |
|------|------------------------|
| 1981 | Jack and the Beanstalk |
| 1983 | Puss in Boots          |
| 1986 | Rockafella             |
| 1987 | Sweeney Todd           |
| 1988 | Bugsy Malone           |
| 1989 | Gregory's Girl         |
| 1990 | Blood Brothers         |
| 1991 | Oliver                 |
| 1992 | Annie                  |
| 1997 | Little Shop of Horrors |
| 1998 | Calamity Jane          |
| 1999 | Grease                 |
| 2000 | Oliver                 |
| 2001 | Annie                  |
| 2002 | Annie Get Your Gun     |
| 2003 | My Fair Lady           |
| 2005 | Oklahoma               |
| 2006 | Anything Goes          |
| 2007 | Blood Brothers         |
| 2008 | Bugsy Malone           |
| 2009 | Tom Sawyer             |
| 2010 | Scrooge                |
| 2011 | Grease                 |



A scene from the school's 1983 drama production *Puss in Boots*. From left: Rollo (Julie-Ann Graham), Puss (Noel Halliday) and Princess Pam (Norma Costello).



Jack and Jill (Shirley Mills and Shirley Baird) and "Widow Twankey" (Sharon Atchinson) in rehearsal for the pantomime *Jack and the Beanstalk*



ABOVE Hazel Ramage who staged the first musicals at the school, a tradition that has been successful since 1981  
BELOW The cast of *Grease*, 2011







# SPORTING SCENE



BALLYMONEY HIGH SCHOOL HAS BECOME INCREASINGLY SUCCESSFUL IN THE SPORTING WORLD THROUGH THE DECADES. TO PROMOTE EXCELLENCE IN OUTDOOR SPORTS, THE SCHOOL HAS TWO HARD SURFACE HOCKEY PITCHES, TWO FULL SIZE SOCCER PITCHES, TWO SMALL SOCCER PITCHES, FOUR TENNIS COURTS AND AN OUTDOOR NETBALL COURT.

### SOCCER

During the 1960s and 1970s, soccer was the most popular game and the school competed in inter-school competitions at Under-13 and Under-15 level. In 1972, the first success came in the Coleraine & District Schools' Football League when the school won the magnificent Irish Society Shield.

One of the most successful soccer teams in the history of the school was formed from boys who attended between 1972 and 1976. This team started its run of success at Under-13 level by winning the Ballymena Guardian Cup and the County Antrim Shield.

In consecutive years, they won the Coleraine & District APCK Cup in 1974, reached the semi finals of the Irish Society Shield in 1975 and then lifted the Huey & Henderson Shield in 1976. The team was captained by Edwin Connor and produced a number of players who later signed for Coleraine FC including William McConaghie, Joseph Paton and former Coleraine team captain Ronald McDowell. More success in soccer and other sports was to follow in 2005.

### GLORY DAYS OF 2005!

In 2005, the school excelled in the team sports of rugby, volleyball, soccer (boys and girls) and hockey.

Three members of the Year 12 rugby team (Gareth McCrea, Neal Mulholland and Steven Jardine) gained representative honours for their selection onto the Antrim County Team. The volleyball players from Year 11 won the NEBSSA volleyball tournament while the Year 8 hockey team won the Coleraine & District Hockey Tournament. On the soccer pitch, the girls outshone the boys. While the Year 12 boys narrowly missed out on the Coleraine & District Football Title, losing 1-0 in the closing minutes, the Under-14 girls lifted the IFA Schools' cup, Antrim area heat.



Soccer team which won the 1972 Irish Society Shield



Combined netball teams of Ballymoney Secondary School with the trophies and cups won during a very successful season in 1976



Under-16 rugby team, winners of the High Schools' Cup at Ravenhill, Belfast, 2003



Year 12 rugby players, 2005



Girls' Under-14 soccer team, 2005

BELOW Pupils who qualified for the finals of the North Eastern Board School Athletics held in Antrim Forum. Included are coaches Derek Browne and Kenny Dunlop







# DAYS TO REMEMBER



### THE PRIME MINISTER’S VISIT

The Prime Minister of Northern Ireland, Captain the Rt Hon Terence O’Neill D L, visited Ballymoney High School when he came to the town on Friday, 24th April 1964.

The Prime Minister was given a tour of the classrooms and received two special gifts (a cake and a letter rack) made for him by pupils. He then led a ceremony to “turn the first sod” of the new playing fields. After this, he was taken to Ballymoney Town Hall where he attended a formal lunch and was served by pupils from the school.

### THE SILVER JUBILEE

The Silver Jubilee of Queen Elizabeth II in June 1977 was a memorable occasion for Ballymoney High School. A choir from the school was invited to perform at a special broadcast staged at Dunluce Castle and they excelled themselves in front of the 22 million television viewers. The choir was later asked to contribute to another programme and had the opportunity to meet the Queen. More success followed when the choir recorded a programme named ‘Children and Their Music’ which was broadcast on BBC Northern Ireland.

THERE HAVE BEEN MANY MEMORABLE OCCASIONS IN BALLYMONEY HIGH SCHOOL HISTORY, INCLUDING FAMOUS VISITORS AND TELEVISION APPEARANCES.

### OPENING OF THE KENT WING

Ballymoney High School came to a standstill on 21st April 1988 when the Duchess of Kent descended from the skies to open a £1 million extension. Once off the helicopter she was greeted by a song of welcome, specially written for the occasion and entitled ‘Composition for a Duchess.’ School children lined her route to the building where she cut the ribbon to officially open the new extension with assistance from 12-year old Robert Hanna. The Duchess was escorted on a tour of the extension by the school’s headmaster Mr Rex Patterson. Before leaving, she had tea with members of the school committee and the teachers, and was presented with a linen luncheon set by Mrs Mollie Holmes, chairman of the school’s Board of Governors.

**‘COMPOSITION FOR A DUCHESS’. SPECIALLY WRITTEN BY BALLYMONEY HIGH SCHOOL TEACHERS MARGARET KEERY AND RUTH WILSON.**

*Our School’s near the River Bann  
which flows wide and deep,  
Hills in the distance rising rugged  
and steep,  
Sunshine and the light fresh flowers,  
Peace and good will we offer to all men.*

*Breath-taking coastline cliffs  
reach down to the sea,  
White Rocks and Giant’s Causeway  
sights to see,  
Green fields are everywhere,  
farms nestle here and there,  
We have our song created,  
you we have long awaited,  
Cloudless the sky hangs overhead,  
Welcome to school this special day.*



A group of pupils preparing to give the Prime Minister a rousing send-off after his tour of the then new Intermediate School



The choir practicing for their appearance on the television programme ‘Children and Their Music’



Two pupils of the Intermediate School sit down to an appetizing lunch of their own cooking, watched by the Prime Minister, and (from left) Mr Taggart, Mr Price and Mr Lindsay, the school principal



ABOVE The plaque to commemorate the opening of the Kent Wing extension.

BELOW Duchess of Kent cutting the ribbon to the new extension

