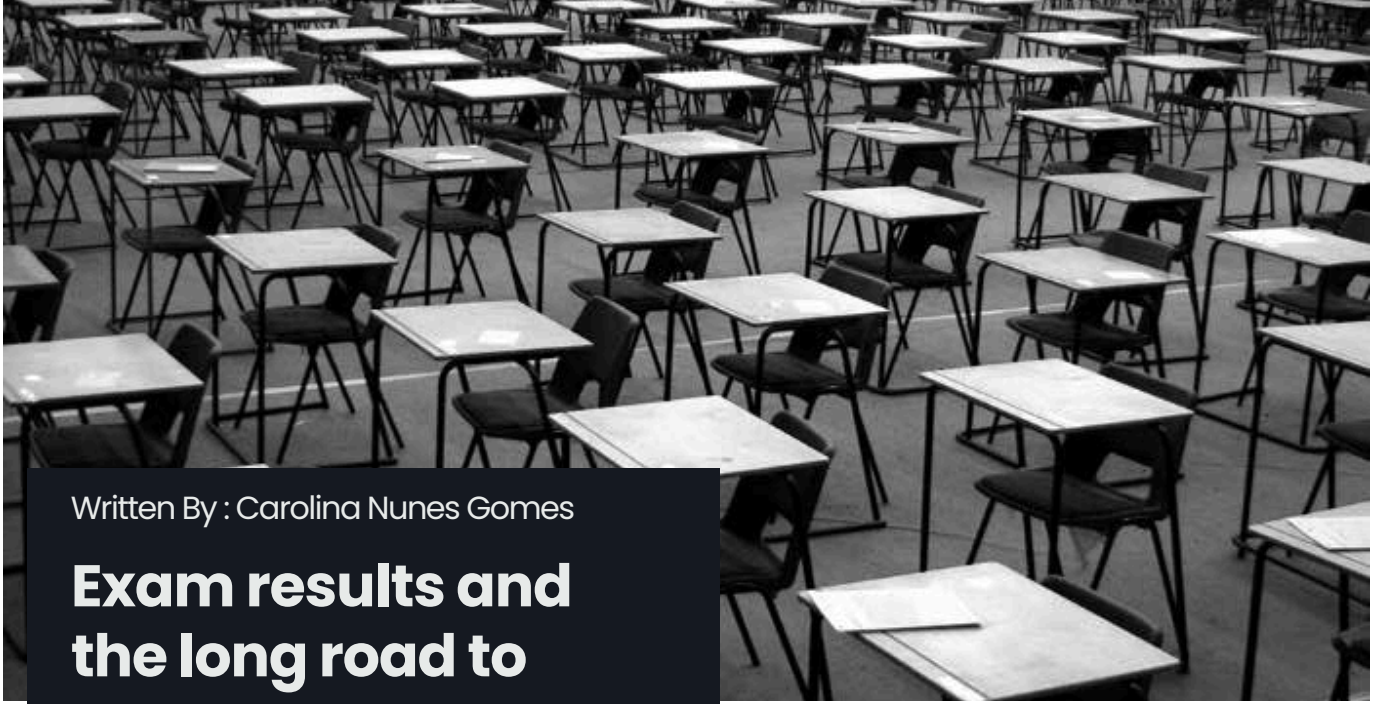




The voice of Craigmount students



Written By : Carolina Nunes Gomes

Exam results and the long road to success

August was an undoubtedly busy and eventful month for Craigmount High School. It's the start of a fresh school year in which pupils must adapt to new subjects, teachers, classmates and an increased demand for maturity and responsibility. In addition to this, exam results are still heavy on everyone's minds. Whether you're a straight A student or someone glad to have passed, there's no doubt that exam results cause a lot of stress and anxiety.

It's vital to celebrate good exam results because they reflect a pupil's hard work and determination. That's why Craigmount High School is proud to host an awards ceremony for students who achieved all As in their exams as well as those who went above and beyond in certain subjects.

On the other hand, it's important to keep in mind that a bad exam result is not the end of the world.

It's actually a great opportunity to re-evaluate your goals and to learn from your mistakes. If you're worried that your results may hinder you from getting into a certain university, college or job, you can set up a meeting with Craigmount's career advisor, Cat Burns.

'...exam results do not reflect who you are as a person.'

The SQA website also has a SAMH report on how to care for your wellbeing during exam season. It recommends that you access Childline at their website or call them at: 0800 1111 if you need further support.

What's important to remember going forward is that exam results do not reflect who you are as a person, nor do they accurately measure your skills and talents. Find something to be proud of and to celebrate, even if you didn't get the grades you hoped for.



Written By : Sathvik Chacravathy
Sriramadesikan

Exam results: What's the bigger picture?

This year, the pandemic era adjustments to courses were finally dropped. This may be the reason why attainment levels dropped so drastically compared to the last 5 years. However, statistics also show a national drop compared to 2019, the year before the disruption of the COVID Pandemic.

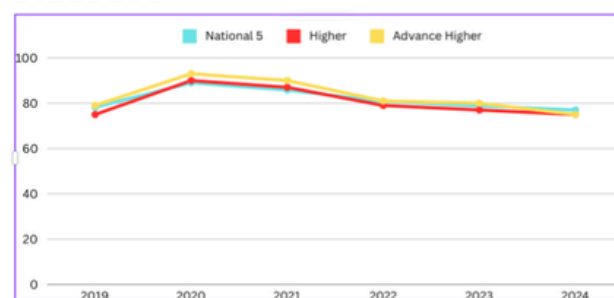
It's important to note that these are National statistics and don't reflect Craigmount High School's attainment. We reached out to Depute Headteacher Scott Pye for some insight:

"Reflecting on the results of pupils at Craigmount in the exam diet of 2024 fills me with great pride. So many pupils have achieved fantastic sets of qualifications that have given them opportunities to go into employment, college, university and apprenticeships. We now have a wider range of qualifications on offer at Craigmount, and through that we are creating more appropriate pathways than ever, for pupils who stay on at school and continue to develop their skills and qualifications in the senior phase. Our careers events and links with industry have increased in recent years and continue to do so, allowing pupils to gain insight into the range of career options that exist locally, nationally and internationally. It is an exciting time in schools and it is clear to see that pupils are really enjoy their studies and gaining lots from them."

There was a particularly affected subject this year; Higher History. The 2024 pass rate for Higher History was 65.7%, a 13% drop from last year. The SQA has blamed a "drop in exam performance" for these results, however, we reached out to Craigmount History teacher Mr Galloway for his opinion, "We have seen the national discussions around the Higher History results this year and at this moment, teachers know as much as the pupils. However, we are super proud of how Craigmount performed, and the hard work students put in which was reflected in a solid set of results"

'..the hard work students put in was reflected in a solid set of results.'

Statistics



The national picture shows attainment levels have returned to pre-pandemic levels

Charity and Equity PAG

The Charity and Equity Pupil Action Group is made up of keen students who are passionate about helping the wider community. Two of its members, Maya and Marimar, agreed to an exclusive interview for *The Squawk's* first edition.

What do you think are the benefits of being a part of your PAG?

Maya: "It gives you a purpose in the school."

Marimar: "Being a part of the PAG with friends makes it fun and you are using your tutor time for something beneficial."

Why do you think people should join?

Maya: "It gives you a sense of belonging in the school and it gives you a voice to speak up in support of what you believe in and to fight against problems in the community."

Marimar: "It helps you to think better of yourself as you are helping the wider community and the school community in so many ways such as donating food to less fortunate people during Christmas."

What have you achieved over the last year?

Maya: "We have achieved a lot, we created the (Craigmount) marketplace and the help-yourself trolleys."

We've held a few fundraisers, and we have also worked with Deloitte to help achieve more goals in the upcoming year."

Marimar: "We also donated lots of food collected from students and teachers around the school to the Trussell Trust food bank during Christmas time."

What do you have planned for this coming year?

Marimar: "For this coming year we have planned a lot of things. For example, we are going to do some dress-down days and fundraising events. Together, as a PAG, we are to decide which charities to fundraise for. We also plan to create a food bank again for people to donate to during Christmas time."

Maya: "We are also in discussion of having a Charity Night in which we pick a charity we are passionate about and raise awareness about it and fundraise for it."



Are there any ways people around the school can help other than being a part of the team?

Marimar: "Donations are very helpful for things like the foodbank."

Maya: "Student's and teacher's thoughts and opinions are also helpful. For example, what charities you think are important to raise money for?"

What characteristics/type of people are you looking for to join the PAG?

Maya: "People who are enthusiastic, people who want to help the community and who will not just muck around, people who will listen but also partake in discussions."

Marimar: "People who are kind and compassionate"



written by: Eili Kandasamy

Interested in joining?

It is run by PE teacher Ms Cowan. Currently the PAG has several senior students as members. The PAG meets every tutor time in the library.



Craigmount celebrates art and culture at Edinburgh Fringe



Words and image: Robyn Neilson

The Fringe is one of the world's greatest celebrations of art and culture, with thousands of tourists flocking to Edinburgh's historic streets to indulge in a wide variety of unforgettable shows.

This year, the Fringe's website boasts over four thousand performances! Amidst renowned comedians and inspiring performers are two of our very own: Craigmount students.

Hannah Kelly (S3) and Tara Boyton (S5), who some readers may remember from High School Musical, both featured in Captivate Theatre's All Shook Up, a jukebox musical featuring Elvis Presley's iconic songs.

Hannah played Lorraine, a young girl in the fifties caught in the grip of forbidden love, and has been with Captivate for around a year.

Having been in School of Rock last year, Hannah values the way the Fringe strengthens the bond between her and her friends, "It's an experience I can share with them, and we get to create new memories together."

Last year, 10% of the Fringe's attendees came from overseas.

"You get a lot of foreigners," agreed the young star, "I've been walking out (of a show) before and been complimented by someone with an American accent, it's a really strange experience."

"With fringe crowds, you tend to get a lot more people who don't know the people in the shows," Tara, who plays Sylvia, says, "and it was a smaller venue compared to some other shows I've done so it feels more intimate."

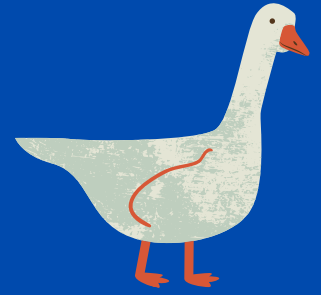
Tara auditioned back in January, "you have to wait another four months because they tell you in March, and then rehearsals start in late July where you come together for a week, two weeks before the show. It's really intense; six-hour days, basically school-length days, of just going through the show and learning everything."

Despite the busy schedule, Tara would have done it all again in a heartbeat, "I think my favourite bit about the show was the tunes in it, they were just great because it was all Elvis' music, these amazing songs."

Both Hannah and Tara went to see some of the other Captivate shows their friends were in but felt that they didn't have much time to explore: "I think the problem with the fringe is that we go back to school and then half of the fringe is still on. You miss so much."

The Fringe is a great starting point for young people looking to become stars. Icons like Robin Williams and Alan Rickman gained recognition by taking part in Fringe shows. Who knows, maybe Hannah and Tara will follow suit!

Meet Team SQUAWK



Carolina Nunes Gomes
Chief Editor

"As an aspiring journalist, The Squawk is the perfect opportunity for me to get experience in the field. A school newspaper brings pupils together, and I wanted to be a part of that."

Favourite film: Spirited Away



Aoife Donald
Deputy Editor

"I have joined The Squawk as I have a passion for journalism and I am interested in being part of this valuable experience."

Favourite film: Ladybird



Robyn Neilson
Journalist

"I'm really interested in keeping up with news, especially in terms of pop culture and seeing different people's views and experiences, and I wanted to be able to do that myself."

Favourite film: Kiki's Delivery Service



Eilli Kandasamy
Journalist

"I want to share important stories with the school community and develop my writing skills. I am hoping to learn about things that maybe I wouldn't if I wasn't a part of it."

Favourite film: Hunger Games: Catching Fire



Sathvik Sriramadesikan
Journalist

"Because I really like researching into things and writing about them, especially when they interest me."

Favourite film: Mission Impossible: Fallout



Torin Gilmour
Journalist/Photographer

"To give valuable information to those who are curious."

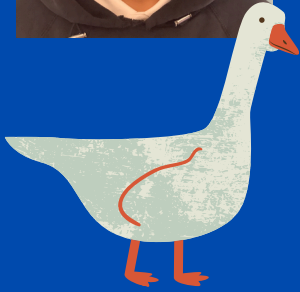
Favourite film: Scooby-Doo



Jakey Yang
Journalist/ Photographer

“As the Squawk’s photographer, I’m hoping to improve my skills in photography and develop my team working skills.”

Favourite film:
Cars



Katie Morrell
Journalist

“Because I wanted to have an entertaining, versatile Wider Achievement that allows me to feel a lot of positivity and belonging amongst a friendly, constructive team.”

Favourite film:
Spider-Man: Across the Spideverse



Rights Respecting Schools PAG

The Rights Respecting Schools PAG play an important role in The Squawk. They originally decided on the concept of a newspaper to be the voice of Craigmount students. The newspaper is an important way of sharing your thoughts, opinions, good news and celebration.

Favourite films:

- James Stone - The Imitation Game
- Sam Mackenzie - Hamilton
- Kara Adams - Anything sci-fi, fantasy or comedy.
- Kirsten Mcgill - Harry Potter
- Harry Grant - Team America
- Harshith Reddy Konda - Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
- Isla Kinnear - Newsies

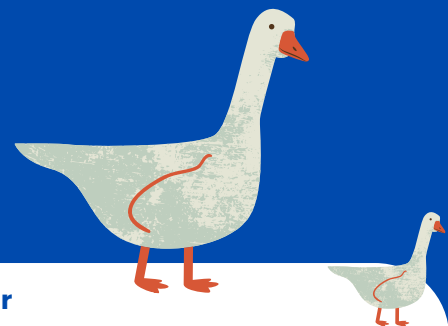
Not pictured but still as important...

- Rowan Kelly - Journalist
- Carly McLear - Design Editor

Rowan Kelly
Journalist

“I’ve got a long standing interest in talking and writing about people and the world in general so a project like this was a very natural fit for me.”

Favourite film: Hush - Mike Flanagan



Carly McLear
Design Editor

“I picked this for Wider Achievement to learn new skills and to contribute to something in the wider school.”

Favourite film: Spirited Away



Rights Respecting Schools: What Is It?

written by: **Sam Mackenzie**

Right Of The Month:

At RRS (Rights Respecting Schools), we join up with other PAG groups to work on things, like events, projects - such as this newspaper-, and the right of the month, a thing we, with a hand from other groups, have created. This month, our right is:

“The right to be as healthy as possible”

This is important because being healthy is important to work at the best of your ability, be physically stronger and benefit yourself mentally.

If you want to sign up to RRS, or any other PAG group, either speak to the leader of the group (Miss Hope in World Languages) or your Pupil Support Leader.

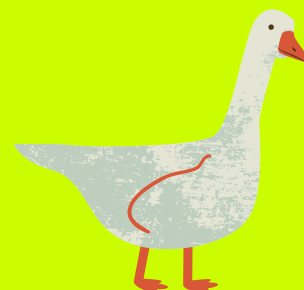
At Rights Respecting Schools, we do multiple things- we raise awareness of rights children have, as well as the respect they need, on top of making the school a better, safer, and more fun environment for everyone in it, especially students. We do this by going on trips to learn more about rights, raise money for our ideas -including this newspaper! -, and overall finding ways to make the school a nice place for everyone, no matter their background.

With thanks for sponsorship and funding from:

Deloitte.

Want to get involved with The Squawk? Have an idea for a story? Want to share some good news?

We need you!
Use the QR code to get in touch.



Our name represents the geese on our school logo. A Squawk is the voice of a goose, and we are the voice of the school.

