

## Press Release

Lumen Christi College Minor Netball Team have completed an historic treble when they won the All Ireland Minor Netball Cup for the first time in the schools history when they beat St Michael's Holy Faith Finglas in UCD. In a one sided final, the girls proved too strong for their Dublin opponents, with the team captain, Katie Cunningham at Goal Shoot and Vice captain, Holly Meehan at Goal Defence ensuring victory in a superb all round team performance.

The team have gone through the entire season unbeaten as in the Northern Ireland Cup they beat Assumption Grammar School Ballynahinch in the quarter final, Our Lady and St Patrick's College Knock in the semi final and Cookstown High School 30 – 13 in the final. In the Northern Ireland League they beat Loreto Omagh in the district finals, Assumption Grammar School Ballynahinch in the quarter final, Rathmore Grammar School Belfast in the semi finals and Monkstown Community School 34 – 5 in the final.

Team coach and Head of PE at Lumen Christi College, Mrs Suzanne Deery, herself a former Netball International is understandably delighted with her team's success. "This is a fantastic achievement for the team and the school. They are a very talented bunch of players who I knew were a bit special when they started Netball in Year 8"

She also praised the effort and dedication the students have shown to Netball. "These girls have been totally committed to training and all their hard work has certainly paid off. They come from Strabane, Eglinton, Craigbane and Derry City and not one of them has ever missed a training session – even Sunday mornings"

There was further good news for the Bishop Street School after six of the squad were "talent identified" to train with the Northern Ireland Squad. Their progress will now be closely monitored by the Northern Ireland coaches. Joining Cunningham and Meehan on the watch list are Brid Kerlin, Blathnaid Bates and twin sisters, Caoimhe and Tara Doherty. These six players will join older players from the school – Claire Dougherty, Claire Bradley, Terri Moore and Lauren Cunningham who are also on the Talent ID Programme.