Journalism Club Interview with Jason Millar

We were fortunate enough to meet and interview the famous local artist Jason Millar who paints in his studios at his house and garden. His artworks have been bought by the rich and famous such as Rory McIlroy, Darren Clarke, Jim Corr from 'The Corrs' and the chef Jamie Oliver.

Jason started drawing at a very early age and his dad was one of his first teachers. The past pupil of Ashgrove Primary School (who attended Ashgrove on its opening day in 1978) then went to Glengormley High School. There his old art teacher was rude to him. He left and went to Rupert Stanley College then completed a degree at art college.

Art was the only thing he was good at. He wanted to be a footballer but he was not good enough at it. He had even wanted to be a teacher. But being an artist is his only job now.

He is full of self-criticism about his work and says he always finds mistakes in them. He doesn't have a piece he is most proud of but his favourite is Parisian Nights. He does have his artwork tattooed on his arms, which he says he did because he was silly and young!

His artwork is inspired by Picasso and Andy Warhol and his paintings are bright and colourful like theirs. He gets his ideas from his surroundings. His wife, who always encourages his work, features in many of his paintings. Sometimes his children Hollie and Ayden also appear in his pictures.

Where does he see his career going in the future? He said after hesitating for several moments; hopefully selling more paintings and designing clothes. He still accepts commissions and paints custom pieces and has taken his art to a whole new level as someone commissioned his paintings on a Vespa scooter and cowboy boots.

One of the first things we asked was what was Jason's most important piece of equipment. After thinking for a moment he stated that he had a favourite paintbrush. We hope he keeps using it and paints more fabulous paintings for us to enjoy!

By: Eirynn, Owen, Zara, Jack, Amber-Rea and Dallan.