



December 2017

A Message from the Principal

Welcome to the December Edition of the St Mary's Newsletter. This online edition can be accessed through our Website and our School App. This newsletter, which is packed with reports and supporting photographs should give you an overview of what has been happening in St Mary's since September 2017, culminating in the Christmas Festivities which began with our *Carols by Candlelight* in the beautiful Convent Chapel on 7th December and continued through to our wonderful production of *A Christmas Carol* on 21st December.

It has indeed been an action packed term incorporating a senior trip to Northern Ireland, a joint venture between the History and Politics and Society Departments, and a memorable five day trip to Iceland organised by the Geography Department - alongside of course the myriad of TY outings that happen on a weekly basis. In fact our TY students have been busier than ever with NIFTE Entrepreneurship leading some to showcase and sell their products at the RDS Craft Fair on 8th December, while others experienced a meaningful and de-stressing overnight retreat in Knock Co Mayo. Class Raphael is representing us in the first Lego League in conjunction with Learnit and DCU Lego Education Innovation Studio. They will be involved in cutting edge interactive STEM based research - designing, building and programming an autonomous lego robot to solve a series of missions. Our TYs have ably represented us at the Soroptimist International Public Speaking Competition in the Mansion House from which one of our students has qualified for the Leinster final on 13th January – more to follow on the App and website! All TY students are getting the opportunity to develop their multi-media and Smart skills as part of the DCU UniTY Programme and they have been editing their movies and developing their Apps which will be showcased at the annual DCU UniTY Awards in the Helix in May 2018. We are delighted also that all TY students are participating in the President's Award (Gaisce), a self development programme encouraging young people to find passion, get active and make a difference in their communities.

After a great start to the season our senior and junior basketball teams are all poised to progress to the quarter and semi-finals of their respective leagues and hopefully beyond! Our senior and junior camogie teams are also through to the semi-finals promising a very exciting start to the New Year in sporting terms. Gaelic football, soccer and volleyball continue to go from strength to strength as team sports and tennis is also available and very popular as a lunchtime activity for those who wish to engage in sport for fun. The hockey season is just about getting underway and senior and junior teams have been enthusiastically training in preparation for the Northside League which commences in January. Debating (in both English and French) has received a new lease of life in St Mary's and our senior debaters have done extremely well in the Leinster Schools Debating Competition and the Concern Debates, which will both re-commence in the New Year. With extra-curricular activities in abundance due to the selfless commitment of teachers in their own time, it is always inspiring to witness the high standards of teaching and learning that continue to be the hallmark of the academic life of St Mary's. Science Week and Maths week were both marked during the first term as we celebrated all things Science and Maths related.

Our first years have settled in well supported by the genuine warmth

St Mary's Secondary School



Mission Statement

St Mary's follows the Holy Faith philosophy of creating an inclusive school community whose central purpose is the religious, moral, intellectual, human, social and physical-recreational education of the student. The education programme of the school is directed to the growth of the whole person. It aims to form integrated and self-reliant Christian people who are eager to build a better world.

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of the St Mary's welcome. They are embracing the new Junior Cycle specifications in English, Science, Business, Gaeilge, Modern European Languages and Visual Art, and our newly designed modular Wellbeing Programme. The goal for wellbeing is human flourishing which rests on five pillars that we have incorporated into our programme which teaches knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that will hopefully sustain them throughout their lives. It is my earnest wish that each member of the school community feels equally cherished, sustained and included as we move forward together.

With sincere thanks to you all for your continued support and wishing you health and happiness in 2018.

Bernadette Bourke
Principal, December 2017

Transition Year

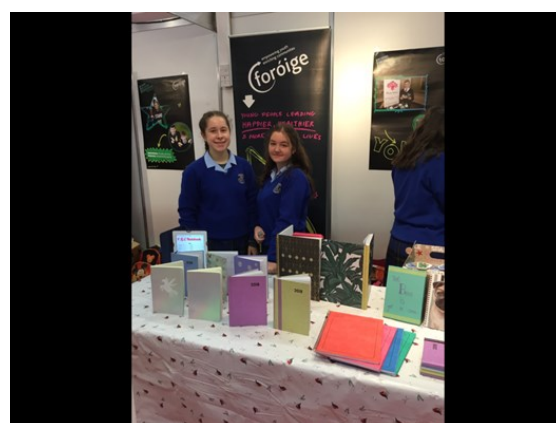
NIFTE—Network For Teaching Entrepreneurship



NFTE (Network For Teaching Entrepreneurship) is an optional module for our Transition Year students. The students are required to form teams, brainstorm, design a potentially successful product, create the product, market the product, sell the product and hopefully make a profit at the end of the process! This provides them with the opportunity to develop numerous skills including communication skills, organisational skills, team work skills as well as enhancing their ability to use their own initiative.



On Friday 1st of December the NFTE students took part in a Christmas Fair in the choir hall. The NFTE students put in a lot of work and effort and were well supported by their fellow students, teachers and school management. There were numerous products for sale including jars of cookie mixture, hot chocolate sticks, Christmas glasses filled with sweets, personalised notebooks, phone accessories, framed quotes, and Christmas cards and baubles. We also had a bakery! It was a fantastic event and plenty of profit was made!



Eight NFTE students also had the opportunity to attend a Craft Fair in the RDS with their teacher on Friday 8th of December. These students were a credit to the school and thoroughly enjoyed the day out! Two groups sold out on the day!
Ms Walton.



Transition Year

Gaisce – The President’s Award



All TYs are taking part in Gaisce this year. This is a self-development programme that encourages young people to find their passion, get active and make a difference in their community! Gaisce is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland to young people aged 15-25 to dream big and realise their potential.

All students are striving to achieve their Bronze medal as they complete their personal, physical and community challenges.

We wish them all the best in the remaining weeks of all their challenges.

Mr. Farrell



Charity Work—Young SVP

“Inspiring young people to understand and take action on social justice issues in their local area”



The Young SVP project is a school based program happening in school this year, which aims to inspire young people to understand and take action on social justice in their local area. It's about providing students with the opportunity to help other people in their community in practical ways, ways that make a difference to the lives of the many people who experience isolation, loneliness or poverty in Ireland today. Young SVP has been incorporated into our Transition Year Programme.

Five TY students in October represented TY at the regional Young SVP event in Blackrock. Clare Mander talked to 1st and 4th years about the SVP food appeal which the TYs helped to organise.

After Christmas TY religion classes will be taking part in the classroom based Young SVP projects. Students will be developing their own projects that focus on a wide range of issues including; working with the elderly, with people with disabilities, and homelessness. Students will be working on issues including bullying, addiction, a youth forum, fundraising, and many more.

Young people have a lot to offer SVP in developing new solutions to the problems in an ever-changing society. Young SVP is an extremely valuable tool in helping to identify those solutions and also in helping to develop a social conscience within our student population. We wish the TYs all the best in their projects.

Mr. Farrell

Transition Year

Public Speaking Success for St Marys!

Soroptomist International Public Speaking Competition

Transition year students Ceri Doyle and Maja Grondzewska recently competed in Soroptomist International's annual public speaking competition. The aims of the competition are to encourage girls to play a more prominent part in public life, to improve the art of communication, to encourage girls to develop skills to speak effectively and to articulate with clarity and of course, to develop self-confidence and personality.

The local heat of the competition took place in the Mansion House on the 18th November. Students from a number of schools participated including; Loreto Balbriggan, Notre Dame and Colaiste Pobalscoil Setanta. Both Ceri and Maja delivered inspiring speeches and spoke passionately on the topics of female empowerment and how education can be used in the fight against terrorism. Ceri is now through to the Leinster Final which will take place in Bloomfield House Hotel, Mullingar on the 13th of January. Well done girls!

**Ms. Doyle &
Ms. Murray**



T.Y's take on Gonzaga College!

On Monday the 13th of November, ten of our Transition Year students attended a history quiz in Gonzaga College. Tara Macken and Alex Fitzgerald reflect on their involvement and experience below.

Before we left to make our way to Gonzaga College, we had an opportunity to cram for the quiz. The school supplied pizzas for us which we were glad of as we knew we had a long evening ahead of us.

There were twenty teams from a variety of schools such as Blackrock College and Loreto College, St Stephen's Green. These teams were comprised of students from 4th, 5th and 6th year. We felt very proud when we realised we were the only school from the North side in the competition.

Each round of the quiz had a different theme such as Irish History and the Roman Empire. We had some good rounds and some bad rounds. We all agreed that we need to brush up on our Russian history – including Mr. Farrell and Ms. Doyle!

Although none of our teams placed first, second or third, we thoroughly enjoyed taking part. The quiz presented a great opportunity for us to brush up on our knowledge of history and to see how the quiz was run. Thanks to Mr. Farrell and Ms. Doyle for bringing us. Thanks to Ms. Bourke, Ms. O'Donnell and Ms. Devaney for the pizza and allowing us to attend the quiz

Alex & Tara



Transition Year



TY Languages

TY Treasure Hunt

TY students of French, German and Spanish took part in a local treasure hunt starting at the school and ending in the beautiful Botanic Gardens.



Transition Year

TY Knock Retreat



A group of transition year students went on a trip to Knock in County Mayo on the 9th November 2017.

We all got a bus from the school at seven o'clock in the morning to Knock. We arrived in Knock and got straight into the activities. We first did a retreat where we meditated, wrote a letter to God and played games. We then went to the Basilica which is a large church given special privileges by the Pope. In there we prayed, lit candles and viewed a large beautiful mosaic which shows the apparition. Later, we went to the Knock museum and learnt about the interesting history of the apparition and the people who witnessed it. To end the day we celebrated mass. We then went to the hostel which was so nice and comfortable. We all had pizza and watched a movie.



Gwen Prizeman TY Student

Transition Year

TY Knock Retreat



The next day we arrived in Longford and did a tour of restored St. Mel's Cathedral.

Overall the whole trip was an amazing experience. It was so interesting, fascinating, meaningful as well as being very peaceful and de-stressing. The trip strengthened our faith and helped us reflect and connect with Mother Mary.

We are extremely grateful to have been chosen to go on the trip. We owe a massive thank you to Mr. Coll, Ms. Cryan and Mr. Farrell for organising and taking us on the trip.

Gwen Prizeman TY Student



Transition Year

TY classes edit movies in DCU

Classes 4 Picasso and 4 Lumiere have been up to DCU during November and December to edit their videos for their Multimedia classes.

This year's videos seem to be as promising as last year's ones. Some of the themes include "inspire me" and "It's your right".

Mr Montague.



The History of Film Making

Transition year pupils have been studying the History of filmmaking, through the use of stop-motion animation. The class have experimented with Storyboarding, claymation, LEGO figures and will hopefully continue to make more short movies in the New Year.

Mr Murphy



German Department

Penpals from Reutlingen, Germany

The German Department has once again partnered up with the Theodor-Heuss Schule in Reutlingen, Germany, with a view to raising language and cultural awareness between our students and students in Germany. TY, 5th and 6th year students are participating in this exciting initiative!

This e-twinning partnership gives our students a fantastic opportunity to share their interests, home life and current events with similar aged German students, while also improving their knowledge and appreciation of the German language.

With emails flying back and forth at great speed, who knows where these new friendships will take us!



Reutlingen – Baden Württemberg



German Breakfast – 3rd Years



On 24th November, all 3rd year students of German enjoyed a traditional German breakfast in class. The girls sampled typical German salami, ham and cheese. Alongside there was a selection of pretzels and bread rolls, served with Nutella.

The girls also enjoyed a chat “auf Deutsch” over a glass of fresh orange juice!

Ms McManus.

French Department



Joutes Oratoires

Well done to the Sixth year French debating team of Hannah Ryan Murphy, Rachel O'Neill, Lauryn McCausland and Naoise Finnegan, who took part in the first round of the annual '*Joutes Oratoires*', the national debating competition for Irish secondary schools, hosted by the Alliance Francaise in Dublin.

After a lot of research and preparation, the girls travelled to the Alliance Francaise in Kildare St on Friday 20th November evening to oppose the motion that '*Il faudrait interdire les zoos*' (Zoos should be banned). The girls' speeches were excellently presented and very well received by the jury and audience. The debate was won by St Michael's College.

Well done to the girls for their huge effort. We look forward to entering this competition again in 2018.

Ms O'Callaghan.

Roinn na Gaeilge

First Gaelbhreach- Irish Language Flag for Local school

After all of St Mary's great efforts last year, the first Gaelbhreach – Irish language flag was awarded to the school for their consistent promotion of the Irish language. Staff and students from second year as well as members of the school's Coiste Gaelbhreach- Irish language student committee were on hand to welcome the Ardmhéara Bhaile Átha Cliath Mícheál MacDonncha. Irish song, music, poetry and dance was provided by students and was greatly enjoyed by all on the day.

The Gaelbhreach- Irish language flag was earned for the school through assessments of Irish language events which its students and teachers organised throughout the year. Representatives from each year group formed a committee and were involved in organising events such as céilís, participation in Gaeilge 24 (Speak Irish for 24 hours), Seachtain na Gaeilge, weekly conversation groups, song competitions and breakfast mornings all through the medium of the Irish language.

Appreciation was expressed on the day to the school's Irish teachers, Coiste Gaelbhreach- Irish language student committee, parents and staff for their hard work in bringing this initiative to fruition. Special thanks were also expressed to the Principal, Ms. Bourke, Deputy Principals, Ms O'Donnell, Ms Devaney and to the Chair of the School's Board of Management Ms Audrey Doyle for their constant support of this innovative initiative.

St Mary's continues to promote and foster a positive attitude towards the Irish language. The school is now currently working towards attaining a second Gaelbhreach- Irish language flag. Mar a deir an seanfhocal, 'Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam!'

Ms C.Salmon & Ms C. Morgan
Roinn na Gaeilge



Roinn na Gaeilge

First Gaelbhrtach- Irish Language Flag for Local School

St Mary's Holy Faith Convent Secondary School had the honour of welcoming the Ardmhéara Bhaile Átha Cliath Mícheál Mac Donncha to the school Tuesday 14th November to attend the raising of their first Gaelbhrtach – Irish language flag.

The school was also partaking in the Gaelge 24 (Speak Irish for a Day Challenge) on that day so it was indeed a double celebration of the Irish language. Staff and students from second year as well as members of the school's Coiste Gaelbhrtach- Irish language student committee were on hand to welcome the Ardmhéara Bhaile Átha Cliath Mícheál MacDonncha. Irish song, music, poetry and dance was provided by students and was greatly enjoyed by all on the day.



Drama

A Christmas Carol comes to St Mary's Stage

The students of Saint Mary's present A Christmas Carol

The students of St Mary's were proud to present, "A Christmas Carol", on Thursday 21 December at 7:30pm for one night only.

The play starred the students of Saint Mary's.

Chloe Halpin, 17, was proud to play the lead role of Ebenezer Scrooge. The production team were delighted with their discovery. This was Chloe's first role in a school play. Chloe's only previous acting experience was in a play in Saint Brigid's primary school called "Natasha's Nightmare" where she played the role of a zombie. She has really grown into the role even though she has found it challenging at times: Scrooge hates Christmas - Chloe loves Christmas; speaking in an English accent and trying to use a deep male voice has proven to be challenging too. Chloe says that she will have to use L'oreal face cream to get rid of all of the wrinkles from all of the frowning she's had to do for this role.



Chloe Halpin



Interview with Dick Wilkins, played by Emma Murphy, 2 Gifford

Tell us about your acting experience.

I started in Junior Infants (Our Lady of Victories). I played the lead of the grumpy sheep. I've played in every single play in my primary school. So I've been the inn keeper, narrator, shepherd and wise man in our school's nativity play.

What made you audition?

I love *A Christmas Carol*, the movie, and I always wanted to be in a big school production. I couldn't take part in last year's school production because I can't sing.

Tell us about your role?

My role is one of Scrooge's old colleagues in Fezziwig and Co. We used to be really good friends and share great laughter.

What do you like about acting? I like trying out different personalities and personas. This is good if you are shy.

Interview with James (first business man), played by Lana McCaffrey, 1 Sepia.

Tell us about your acting experience?

It started in the Nativity play, playing Mary, in kindergarten. I didn't do another play then until 5th class. The play in 5th class was Alice in Wonderland. I played the Cheshire Cat..

What made you audition?

I really like acting. But my primary school didn't do many plays. So when I heard about the school production of *A Christmas Carol* I thought "Oh yeah! This is right up my street!".

Tell us about your role?

I only have one scene. But its the scene where we talk about the future when Scrooge has died. I was joking about how he is dead and how I was probably his best friend as we used to say good morning to each other.

What do you like about acting?

When you're saying the lines and you feel them? That's what I like. I've made some new friends too.

CSPE Department

1st Year CSPE

This year sees the beginning of the new CSPE short course, which is an important part of the Wellbeing programme in St. Mary's. It is built around three strands:

Rights and Responsibilities

Global Citizenship

Exploring Democracy

The CSPE course enables students to feel connected to and take responsibility for the wellbeing of others. In CSPE class, a wide variety of methodologies are used to inform, inspire, empower and enable young people to participate as active citizens in contemporary society at local, national and global levels.

In class this term, the students studied the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, investigated the persecution of the Rohingya people in Myanmar, researched inspirational Irish personalities with disabilities such as Joanne O'Riordan and had a walking debate about the problem of the homeless in Ireland.

Joanne O'Riordan (below)



CSPE Human Dignity Module



Over the past few classes' first year students from class 1 Sepia, have been focusing on the topic of homelessness as part of their 'Human Dignity' module in C.S.P.E. This topic is particularly relevant during this time of year as families all come together to share the Christmas spirit.

Unfortunately during the winter months we find the temperatures often drop below zero which is very dangerous for those who call no place home and are forced to sleep in make shift materials to try and keep warm.

Class sepia have been investigating the conditions that some people are forced to live in and would ask our school community to please donate any unwanted clothes or blankets to their nearest credited charity such as St. Vincent de Paul, who are helping those who have nothing and trying to make Christmas a little less difficult for them.

As a class we have learned that it is important to not judge the reasons for someone being homeless as their reasons and circumstances are all different. From class Sepia we hope that you and your families have a wonderful Christmas and a happy new year!

B Mulvey.

History, Politics & Society Trip

On November 30th Leaving Cert History and Politics & Society students took a trip to Northern Ireland along with Ms Hayes, Ms Griffin, Ms O Doherty, Mr Montague and Mr Farrell. The girls started their tour arriving in Derry, firstly heading to the Museum of Free Derry, located in the Bogside where they were welcomed by the Educational Officer, John Kelly. He gave an educational talk and demonstrations about the events of The Troubles, and his own personal accounts of Bloody Sunday. Afterwards the girls got to look around the museum and look at documents, photographs and artefacts of The Civil Rights Movement, Bloody Sunday and The Troubles, finishing with a walking tour of the famous murals of Derry and to the sites of the main events of The Troubles.

Finally the girls had the chance to take a class photo at the infamous Free Derry Wall. A short time later, they arrived at the Apprentice Boys of Derry Hall. The girls received a tour of the club, and an educational walkthrough on the historical background to the Apprentice Boys of Derry. Finishing the evening at the EverGlades Hotel, having a lovely dinner and settling in their pyjamas watching the movie *Elf* together. Up bright and early the next day the girls met with their tour guide, Peter Monaghan for a walking tour of infamous Walls Of Derry. The girls learned a lot about the history behind the walled city.



Afterwards it was back on the road again, heading to Northern Ireland's capital city of Belfast. First arriving at Stormont Northern Ireland's parliament building, they got to take a group photo on the building's grand staircase and sit in the assembly room. They got an interesting view of Stormont's history, and symbolic meaning behind the parliament.

The girls then got to see interesting pictures of Stormont during its involvement in World War II and finished with a question and answer session with their Educational Officer. At the end of the day they were out for a fun evening of bowling. On the final day the girls headed out to the Titanic Museum and got the opportunity to look at the history of the ship being built in Belfast and look at replicates of rooms onboard the Titanic. Afterwards everyone got the chance to go shopping for a few hours in Belfast's Victoria Square before getting a bus tour of Belfast, its historical buildings and a drive down The Falls and The Shankill roads. Finally the girls got to stop at The Peace Wall, where they wrote peaceful and inspirational messages on the wall. We finished our trip to Northern Ireland with an evening drive home. Everyone had a great time and loved creating school memories we will defiantly take with us into the future.

Erika Byrne, Leah Riordan, History Politics & Society and Mentors.



History, Politics & Society Trip

Photos of the History, Politics & Society trip to Northern Ireland



Politics & Society Department

5th Year Politics and Society

Well done to the Fifth year Politics and Society class who completed their first presentation before the midterm. Politics and Society class is based on a democratic and student led environment and students have been engaging in debates and covering theorists such as Hobbes and Locke since September. As we began to look at different views on the political spectrum - left versus right, students decided to divide into pairs and pick a different political party in the Irish context and explore where their policies are on the political spectrum. Students then presented their findings to the class and as a group determined where each party would fall on the spectrum.

Students then developed their own political parties and created their own policies they would like to see the government adopt. Some of them were extremely interesting such as changes to the education policies in Ireland and reducing taxation on sanitary products.

As part of their Christmas assessment students further applied this learning to an action project in which they conducted research and composed a proposal or suggested amendments to current school policy. Interesting proposals included the implementation of a compulsory 5th year bonding trip, examining the suggested changes to the current school day and the introduction of an after-school meals programme for supervised study and students engaging in extra-curricular activities. Well done girls for all your hard



History Society

This year in St. Mary's a history society has been created. The group meet every Wednesday at lunch time in Room 26. There is a large range in the society with students from 2nd, 5th and 6th Year and all new members are more than welcome to come along and participate. The society allows students to come together to discuss their favourite areas of history. Topics such as Ancient Rome and the Crusades have been discussed and debated in great detail with all students sharing their views and opinions. More recently students have chosen a topic individually which they then researched and presented to the society. I would like to congratulate Sophie Lieghio and Sabrina Lacatose on their excellent presentations on the history of witches and vampires respectively. Next up is Susie Russell, Lauren Lawlor and Sophia Balog and the society are looking forward to these presentations in the New Year. The St. Mary's History Society would like to wish all students, teachers and families a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Enjoy the break!

Mr. O'Connell.



History Department

1 Azure History Assessment

Well done to class 1 Azure who, as part of covering Ancient Ireland and the Stone Age completed a model house from either the Mesolithic or Neolithic period. Students created their models at home using various materials and very creative ideas. They then presented their models to the class outlining their creative process and the features of their houses that make them associated with the Mesolithic or Neolithic period - for example Mesolithic houses would have been round, where Neolithic houses were square and more permanent settlements. The assessment will count towards the History Christmas exam. Well done girls you all did really well and should be very proud.

Ms Griffin.



History Department



2 Sheehy History Model Assessment

Well done to class 2 Sheehy for completing their Age of Exploration model assessment. Each student had to design and present their model, which will count towards their Christmas written exam. Students made various items such as Caravel ships, logbooks and different tools of navigation like a compass, quadrant and astrolabe. The class all did really well and should be very proud of their efforts. Ms Griffin.



1 Azure – Bronze Age Jewellery Fashion show

Well done to Class Azure who as part of studying the Bronze Age, created and presented in a fashion show their own Bronze Age Jewellery creations! During the Bronze Age our ancient ancestors began using gold to create beautiful and fashionable necklaces, bracelets, armlets and earrings called Torcs and Lunulae. A piece of gold would have been hammered flat until it became a thin sheet – like gold foil. Then the circular disc shape was cut out using a sharp tool.



First Year Houses: Every year as part of their Christmas exams, first year students studying History engage in the construction of a Mesolithic or Neolithic house. This project accounts for 10% of their overall mark in History for the November exams. Students make full use of the knowledge and information they have studied in the previous weeks to build their house. As part of their assessment students have to clearly label the features of the house and also present their building to their class. These presentations were absolutely fantastic and a brilliant experience for the class that showcased the creative and intuitive minds of our first year students which clearly shone through. The History Department would like to express our heartfelt congratulations to the students on a truly magnificent job. Well done girls.

Mr. O'Connell.

Religion Department



THE SCHOOL MASS 2017

Our open year mass took place this year on Tuesday 19th September in the beautiful Our Lady of Victories Church on the Ballymun Road. The mass was concelebrated by Fr Richard Sheehy and Fr Frank Reburn and the theme for the mass was the family. We were privileged to have the specially commissioned WMOF2018 Icon of the Holy Family that was unveiled and anointed on the 21st August 2017, during the launch of the one-year programme of preparation which will culminate with *The World Meeting of Families* in August 2018.

We thank everyone who helped with the mass.

Religion Department.



Religion Department

Christingle Service

Class 1 Indigo held a Christingle Service to mark the beginning of the Christmas season. Christingle celebrations are named after the Christingles that are lit during the service. Christingles are made from an orange decorated with a red ribbon, sweets and a candle.

Each piece of the Christingle holds special symbolism to help us understand the importance of Jesus and the Gospel.

- 1) The orange represents the world
 - 2) The red ribbon symbolises the love and blood of Christ
 - 3) The sweets and dried fruits represent all of God's creation
 - 4) The lit candle represents Jesus light in the world, bringing hope to people in darkness.
- There was great fun making the Christingles.
Mr. Farrell



November Remembrance Service.



“Perhaps they are not stars but rather openings in heaven where the love of our lost ones shines down”

Our November Remembrance service happened on Tuesday the 14th. Staff and students gathered in the prayer room for the service remembering loved ones who have past away. The theme of this years service was “Perhaps they are not stars but rather openings in heaven where the love of our lost ones shines down”

Mazzy in 3rd year painted our November Remembrance theme poster.

Mr. Farrell



Learning about Interfaith Dialogue

Some of the wars and conflicts of the past and present were fought over land and resources, but many have been over religious differences. Students in religion class have been learning about the global interfaith movement which is growing and helping to raise consciousness about the need for tolerance and understanding between different cultures and religions.



This movement has helped highlight the common goals that most religions share, such as the Golden Rule, which is at the heart of nearly all religious traditions.

Mr. Farrell

Religion Department



St Mary's Celebrates our Founder's Day

On Wednesday 11th October our school community celebrated our Founder's Day. Margaret Alyward founded the Holy Faith Order in 1867 and this year we are celebrating the 150th anniversary of this momentous event. The 11th October is Margaret Alyward Day and our Ember Team started the day appropriately by addressing the whole school community over the intercom, informing us of the life and work of our founder and inviting us to reflect on the words of her beautiful prayer which was read aloud by Hannah Ryan Murphy.

Later in the morning Sr Marie Dunne visited the school to speak to some of our 1st year classes during RE. She talked about the Holy Faith Order, Margaret Alyward's story, her own life story, how she joined the order, her love of music and her current ministry of bringing music to the lives of children who are very ill. She played some clips of her own compositions that have been inspired by Margaret Alyward and by her own life in ministry.

Mr Farrell and Mr Coll

Pastoral Care – 6th Year Mentoring Programme.

Sixth year students who signed up to the Mentoring Programme have been meeting with their mentors over the last few weeks.

The programmes objectives are:

- 1) To encourage academic success for 6th year students
- 2) To ensure that students are receiving one-to-one support
- 3) To ensure that students are working towards their goals
- 4) To facilitate students to make good decisions about their leaving cert year.

This programme will help encourage academic success for the students, as a teacher will meet with each student throughout the year helping them to set their goals and ensuring that they are being realistic in achieving them. It will also help the students to learn valuable study skills. Thanks to staff and students who have signed up to this programme.

Mr. Farrell.



Religion Department

Christmas Carol Service 2017



Science Department

Science Week 2017

Students at St Mary's celebrated their love of all things science related from the 13th to the 17th November. The week started with a bang with lunchtime experiments. These included the science of fireworks (flame tests), heart and liver dissections and fun physics experiments. On Tuesday, our first year students attended Dublin City University for a 'Bubbles' workshop with Ms McCormack and Ms Farrell.



Later in the week, fifth year Biology students visited the Botanic Gardens with Ms McCormack, Ms O'Keeffe and Ms O'Donnell and received a guided tour. The content of the tour was relevant to the Biology curriculum and it was a wonderful opportunity considering the renowned gardens are in such close proximity to the school. Students were impressed that the Botanic Gardens had an active DNA research lab! Even though it was a cold morning, there was great interest shown by the students as they walked around the gardens looking at some of the amazing adaptive features of plants to enable them to cope with everything from predators, habitat loss and climate change. The tour also focused on flora and fauna present in the gardens as well as the wealth of products we gain from plants from lipstick and chewing gum to cotton and vanilla! Also, during Science week, the students got creative with a Science Joke competition and they got their thinking caps on for the daily Science Quiz.



The results of the Science Joke competition were as follows: First prize went to Molly Rooney (class 1 Sienna), second prize went to Elisha Skye Dela Cruz (class 1 Azure) and Anne Fabian (class 4 Schumann) and Sama Khalil (Class 3 Pearse) were joint winners for third prize.

A novel event in the Science Department was the Science Week Question Competition and congratulations to Brooke Fagan (class 1 Sepia), Rachel Cozma (Class 3 Mac Donagh) and Georgia Lyons Daly (Class 5 Pearl) who were winners of the competition.



Science Department

New TY Environmental Studies Module



This year a new module in Environmental Studies was launched as part of the TY programme. Through this module, St Mary's will be involved in GLOBE - Global Learning & Observations to Benefit the Environment. This is an international science and education programme that provides students worldwide with the opportunity to participate in data collection and the scientific process, and contribute meaningfully to our understanding of the Earth system and global environment. An Taisce, in partnership with the Environmental Protection Agency, is launching an internationally recognised and NASA supported Environmental Science education programme in Ireland. In the Spring-time TY students will be busy using different equipment to collect data.

Inquiry Based Science Education Video

St Mary's students were privileged to be part of an inquiry-based science education video which was shot in several locations around the school. We were kindly invited to take part in this project by Mr Carr working on behalf of the PDST. Thank you to Ms McCormack and her students that starred in the video. The video is available to be viewed via the following link: <https://vimeo.com/220053855>



Getting Creative in the Classroom

Ms O'Keeffe's fifth year Biology class tackled the complex topic of respiration by creating colourful flow-charts. Working in groups they used colour and shape to help explain the numerous substances, steps and stages in respiration.



Science Club

On Tuesday lunchtimes, the students participated in science club which involved fun experiments including a day of making slime! Science club also gave the students the opportunity to come up with some project ideas for the BT Young Scientist exhibi-



Science Department

BT Young Scientist



St Mary's had a record number of Young Scientist entries into the Young Scientist Exhibition. Well done to the students that entered the following project ideas for the competition:

People's Attitudes to Men Wearing Make-Up
by Ciara McKenna and Fiona Conway

An Investigation into the Correlation between Sleeping Patterns, Study Habits and Sixth Year Leaving Certificate Results
by Patricia Lusan, Mazzy Hollerich and Rebecca Richins

Hitting the Right Key – Making IT More Accessible
by Amy Dorgan Hughes

An Investigation into the Drop Out Levels of Young Teens in Sport
by Tara Macken, Katie Kennedy and Sophie McGrane

An Investigation into Televised Road Safety Campaigns to see if they are having a lasting Impact on Young Teenagers' Attitudes Towards Drink and Drug Driving
by Lauren McGuinness and Sarah Brady

Countdown to the Young Scientist Exhibition in the RDS in January for Lauren and Sarah!

The Young Scientist Exhibition will take place from Wednesday 10th January to Friday 13th January in the RDS and St Mary's will be represented in the Social and Behavioural Science category by Transition Year students Lauren McGuinness and Sarah Brady.

Well done to these students as they have been one of the 550 projects selected out of a total of the 2,033 projects submitted for consideration into the competition this year. Their project is entitled 'An Investigation into Televised Road Safety Campaigns, to see if they are having a lasting impact on Young Teenagers' Attitudes Towards Drink and Drug Driving.' The aim of their project is to analyse and test several factors and stimuli present in both national and international campaigns to compare their effectiveness with target audiences of young offenders.

Their main student sampling cohort will be with senior cycle students and teachers will also be involved. The data will be obtained by using several different social science methods including quantitative questionnaires, qualitative interviews and visual sampling tests to obtain their data. The visual sampling tests will be carried out by organising focus groups to get more in depth responses and results. By carrying out this research, Lauren and Sarah hope to make recommendations after they have identified the key factors that make an advert effective which will ultimately resonate with young viewers and make them think twice before driving under the influence of drink or drugs.

SPHE Department

Stand Up Week



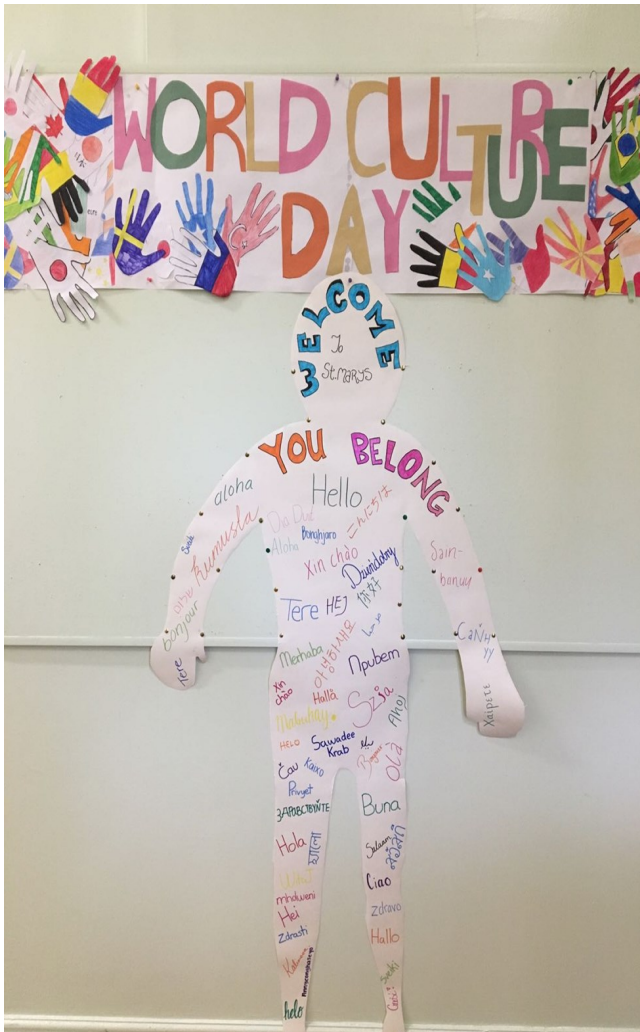
In November, students and staff took part in different activities to mark Stand Up week and show our solidarity with the LGBTI+ community. Class McDonagh, third year, got the week started with rainbow flag face painting. They then put a proposal together to seek permission to fundraise for 'BeLonG To', the organisation that coordinates Stand Up week each year and assists teenagers and their families around the country that are having difficulty or need external support in relation to any LGBTI+ issues. The students action raised €95 with a 'Show your Pride accessory day'. We are very proud of them for the care that they showed and for taking the initiative to put this together: well done!

The staff in St Mary's Secondary School also got involved through their own subject lessons and they completed the week by each wearing a colour of the rainbow and taking time at lunch to show their love for all!

A huge thanks to the school community for their super participation.

Ms. N. Cunningham

SPHE Department



SPHE World Culture Day 13th October

This year we once again celebrated World Culture Day in St Marys'. On this day our students celebrate the diverse, unique and special range of different cultures in our school. The TY students created a noticeboard to promote this event. They created handprints of different flags from around the world and a body was drawn to represent students in St Marys' and how everyone belongs. Hello was also written in different languages from around the world. On Friday the 13th of October the first year students all attended a cultural celebration in the choir hall. Students carried out a short show in which we had talents such as traditional Irish, Indian and Egyptian dance, songs from the Philippines and brief presentations about cultural traditions in France, Italy and Afghanistan. Following the show all student and staff tasted the range of different foods from around the world prepared at the world food fair. Well done to all who participated, we look forward to marking the occasion again next year!

Ms O.A.Griffin

Maths Department

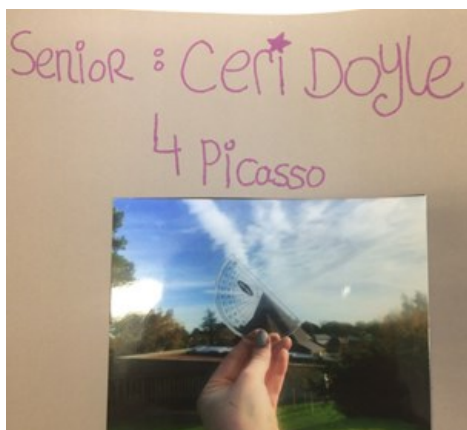
The Maths Department and students in the school had an exciting first term. The following events took place in the Maths Department during the first term:

Maths Week: Although Storm Ophelia delayed Maths week, it didn't stop all the exciting events that happened! Maths week was celebrated in St. Mary's from Wednesday 18th of October until Monday 23rd October.

The week started with an announcement regarding the 'Snapmaths Challenge'. This was an exciting competition where students were encouraged to photograph anything they saw in their daily life that involved maths. Once the photo was taken, they would send it to the St Mary's Snapchat username. We had floods of entries, with many students using their maths eyes aptly!

The senior winner was Ceri Doyle from 4 Picasso and the junior winner was Aoife White from 1 Azure. Well done girls!

The winning photographs from the Snapmaths Challenge.



Poster Competition: There was a huge number of entries for the unique infinite poster competition. The standard was so high again this year that we awarded 8 places instead of 3. 1st Place was awarded to Anastasia Berzoi. Well done Anastasia! Congratulations to all the girls in their fabulous posters.



First Years – All first year took part in a maths trail around the Botanic garden during Maths week. The aim of the Maths trail was to give students the opportunity to work as part of a team and to develop their problem solving skills. The beautiful sunny day was a bonus! The winning team members were the team 'Circle' : Anastasia Berzoi, Chloe Quijano, Leian Vista and Aine Foye.



Well done girls!

Maths Department

Maths Support Centre

Ms Farrell and Ms Dowling have set up the Mary's Maths Support Centre which has been of great help to students who need any type of extra help with certain maths topics.



First Lego League @DCU

A group of our TY's (class Raphael) are taking part in an initiative in conjunction with Learnit and DCU Lego Education Innovation Studio which is based in St Patrick's Campus in Drumcondra. The league involves a global science and technology challenge for students to encourage them to have interest in real world issues of pivotal importance to a knowledge based society. The challenge includes students working in teams, exploring a given topic which this year is hydraulics and then designing, building and programming an autonomous lego robot to solve a series of missions. The students have been engaging wholeheartedly with this cutting edge interactive STEM based research.



Class 4 Raphael working on their Lego robots in DCU

Second Years – Unfortunately the second year table quiz was cancelled. But all second years had an in-class quiz where their problem solving skills were tested! The students worked in teams and there were many differentiated Maths questions in the various rounds. The teams were very competitive.

Third and Sixth years – Students from these years took part in a Bingo Bonanza, Students got the opportunity to have fun playing bingo while also revising key skills from topics such as probability and geometry.

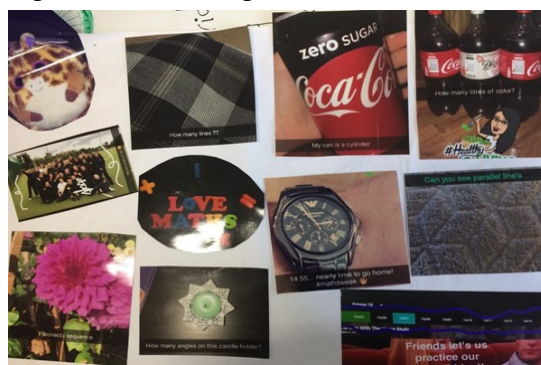
Fifth years: Fifth years watched the award winning film 'hidden figures' in the choir hall and thoroughly enjoyed it!

Maths Olympiad

All TY's attempted the first round of the Maths Olympiad during the week of 13th- 17th of November, The three top scorers in it, Maria Zubascu, Caitriona Comerford and Sophie Morrissey, have been given the opportunity to attend enrichment classes in a list of Ireland's Universities to prepare them for the next round. Well done girls and best of luck in the next round!

Spatial Awareness Test

During maths week the whole school had an extended tutor time to fill in a Spatial Awareness test as part of research being conducted by Professor Brian Bowe from DIT. Professor Bowe and his two PhD students, Darren Carthy and Rachel Harding, provided copies of this test for each student to complete On Friday 20th October. Two teachers from St Mary's have been attending workshops and receiving training in this exciting area.



Other student's entries for the 'Snapmaths Challenge'

Maths Department



Transition Years

All TY students took part in the Marshmallow Challenge. The Marshmallow Challenge is a remarkably fun and instructive design exercise that encourages teams to experience simple but profound lessons in collaboration, Geometry and creativity.

The task is simple: in eighteen minutes, teams must build the tallest free-standing structure out of 20 sticks of spaghetti, one yard of tape, one yard of string, and one marshmallow.

The marshmallow needs to be on top. The girls all worked so well and had a lot of fun! (NO MARSHMALLOWS WERE HARMED!!!)



TY teams working hard to build the tallest free-standing structures.

Music Department



Choir - Opening Academic Year Mass

Our opening of year Mass took place this year on Tuesday 19th September in the beautiful Our Lady of Victories Church on the Ballymun Road. The Mass was concelebrated by Fr Richard Sheehy and Fr Frank Reburn and the theme for the mass was *Family*. We were privileged to have the specially commissioned WMOF2018 Icon of the Holy Family that was unveiled and anointed on the 21st August 2017, during the launch of the one-year programme of preparation which will culminate with *The World Meeting of Families* in August 2018.

The School Choir focused on pieces of music that celebrated the theme of Family, a number of songs were from the Emmanuel programme which included the official Hymn of the World Meeting of Families called "A Joy for all the Earth". For our new members this was their first time to sing with the school choir so this was a great experience for them. Many of the 1st years also did solos which was great to see. Well done to all our members, for all their dedication and commitment .

Mr Coll, Ms O'Rourke.

Music Department

DCU Access Achievement Awards Night.

The annual DCU Access Achievement Awards took place in the Mahony Hall in the Helix DCU at 6.45pm on Tuesday 28th November. Congratulations also to our two sixth year students Casey Harris and Gemma Reilly who provided some of the night's entertainment. Casey treated the audience to a hauntingly beautiful version of Don McLean's *Vincent* and Gemma delighted them with her gorgeous take on Ella Henderson's *Missed*. Two positively virtuoso performances!

Mr Coll, Ms O'Rourke.



Gemma and Casey pose for a photo on the stage of the Helix after last night's show.

5th & 6th Year Music Students Trip to "Miss Saigon" Board Gais Energy Theatre

Music Students from 5th and 6th year went to see *Miss Saigon* the musical in Board Gais Energy Theatre on November 6th. They really enjoyed it and for many students it was their first time to go to see a musical in the Board Gais and they will now go back in the future. Seeing the production, the live orchestra and the amazing singers was a great experience for these music students.



Music Department

Televised Mass on RTE



The Holy Faith Past Pupils Choir With Choir Director Sr Marie Dunne, Holy Faith Congregational Leader Sr Rosaleen Cunniffe, Celebrant Fr Joe Jones and Ciaran Coll (piano).

Memorable Televised Mass on RTE to Celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Foundation of the Holy Faith Congregation

The 11am RTÉ 1 televised Sunday Mass on 8th October celebrated the foundation of the Holy Faith Sisters in 1867. A hundred and fifty years ago, Margaret Aylward, with the support and guidance of Vincentian priest Fr John McGowan established the congregation of the Holy Faith Sisters. The Celebrant was Fr Joe Jones and the music was provided by the Holy Faith past pupils' choir directed by Sr Maria Dunne. This choir included staff member Mrs Mary Mulcahy, two past pupils – Emma Humber and Mary McCarthy and a present pupil Casey Harris from 6th year. Musical accompaniment was provided by Denice Doyle (past pupil) on violin, David Doyle on cello and Mr Ciaran Coll on piano. This beautiful and memorable Mass concluded with the hymn about Margaret Alyward composed by Sr Marie Dunne and entitled *Woman of Faith*.



Music Department

Carols by Candlelight 2017



Carols by Candlelight 2017 & Annual School Carol Service in Convent Chapel

On December 7th the Convent Chapel was the beautiful setting for 'Carols by Candlelight'. The School Choir & the Schola Choir performed a night of Christmas Carols and festive music for parents, staff, Holy Faith Sisters and members of the local community. This was the third year of "Carols by Candlelight" and it has quickly become an evening not to miss in the lead up to Christmas. The Ember team were collecting donations for the Peter McVerry Trust on the night and the money raised came to €600. The Parents Association served mince pies, tea and coffee afterwards in the Choir Hall.

The Annual School Carol Service for all staff and students which is always the highlight of the Christmas season in St. Mary's was held on the 21st of December in the Convent Chapel.

Mr Coll, Ms O.Rourke.



Art Department

First Year Art

First year students enjoyed subject sampling for the first two months of secondary school. Having made their subject decisions, the first years that chose Art launched straight in to the new specification, Junior Cycle Visual Art and headed out of school for a primary source research trip to the National Botanic Gardens.

They engaged in a tour of our native Irish trees and plants facilitated by Antonia, one of the National Botanic Gardens experts. The students asked lots of questions and were busy documenting information and sketching and photographing their favourite trees. They then used this information back in the studio classroom to inspire their designs for their strand 2 craft, block printing.

Ms Cunningham's group used their individual block prints to create a picture and a handmade Christmas card to give to someone special. Mr Murphy's group focused on ecology and made block print postcards which will be used for a Green Schools action later in the year.

The first year class have created a series of colourful, linocut postcards, to raise awareness of the importance of Ecology.



Second Year Fair Trade Ceramic Vessels



Art Department

Future Proof Exhibition



Future Proof exhibition in The Lab, Foley Street and below Lauren Mc Causland delivering her opening speech at the launch of the exhibition.

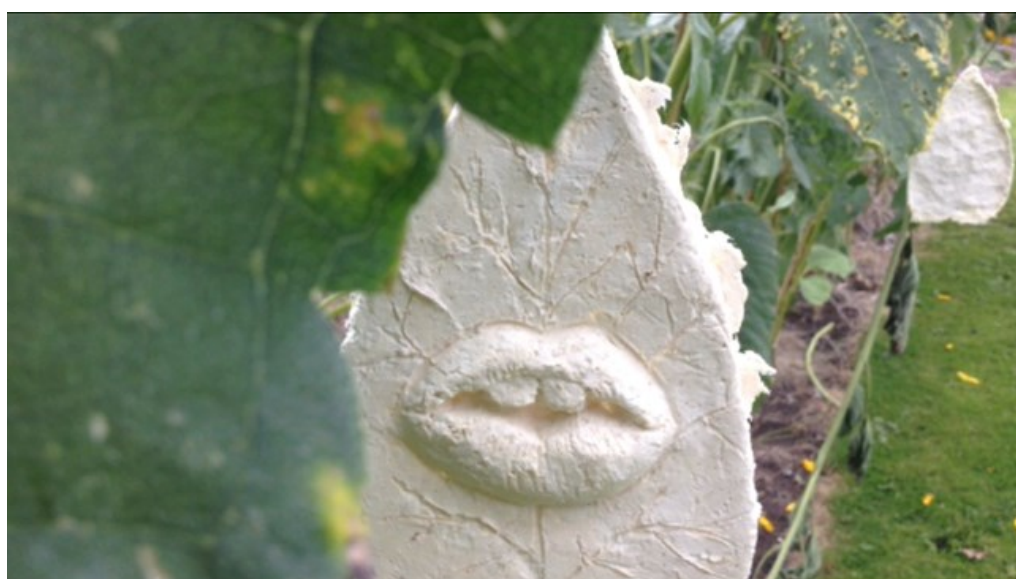
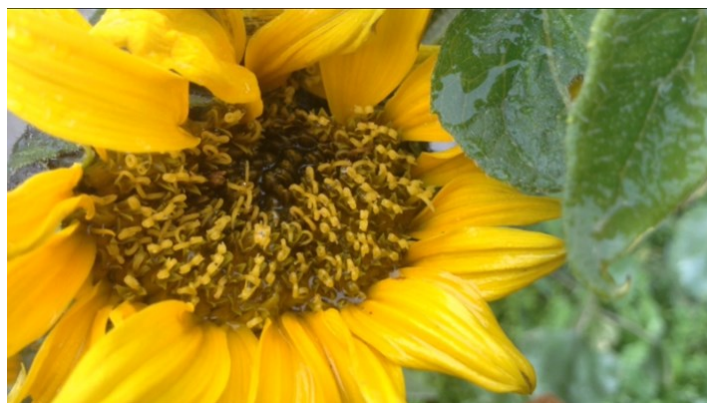
6th year art students exhibited a film piece that explored their Creative Engagement Project, 'Models of Conceptual Change'. An artistic collaboration with chemistry led by artist Eleanor Phillips and scientist Dr.Enda Carr. 6th year students were invited back to interview exhibiting artists and Lauren Mc Causland was the student voice for the NCCA on a STEM discussion with Mary Carty.



**Ms Cunningham,
Ms Kavanagh**



Art Department



Art Department



Library News

The Mary Carroll Library



Many thanks to our caretaker Colin for donating this wonderful Christmas tree to the library and also helping with the decorations.

We have had a busy term in the library, uploading our new 1st years on the electronic system and introducing them to the library.

The library is open every day at lunchtime.

Poster Competition

We are currently running a 'Design a Book Cover' competition. First prize is a hamper that is currently on display in the library. Closing date is in January.

New Books

Sr. Maria and Ms. Sullivan went book shopping in October. Many new titles were purchased as well as titles requested by students.

Thank you to all our wonderful student helpers who work in the library each lunchtime and do a fantastic job!

Sr. Maria & Ms. Sullivan.

School App

App News

Prize for Lucky Number 1000!

Congratulations to Orla O'Flaherty (2 Gifford) who hit the jackpot by being the 1000th person to download our School App. We are delighted with the number of downloads among the school community, students, teachers and parents/guardians, and we would strongly encourage those who have not yet downloaded to do so as soon as possible before the New Year. The App is the best way of keeping up with everything that is happening in the school on a daily basis.



English Department

Debate It!

Senior Debating Team Off to a Flying Start

This term was a busy one for our Senior Debaters with both the Leinster Schools Competition and the Concern Worldwide competition kicking off in September.

The Leinster Competition took place on various Tuesday evenings in the illustrious surroundings of the History building in Trinity College. The issues debated included the 'gig economy' and 'the democratic election of senior police officers and trade unions within the armed forces'.

Each school could enter teams and individual speakers and our school was ably represented by Sophie Lieghio, Alannah Purvis, Al Master-son, Riodhna Mackin and Kerry McManus.

The standard was extremely high and the debates were often fiery events with our students handling points of information from their opponents! We were delighted with the performance of all of our representatives and are very much looking forward to seeing Al Masterson, Sophie Lieghio and Riodhna Mackin in action in the next round which begins in February.



Concern Debate

The Concern Debate competition offered a wonderful opportunity for a team of students to consider some of the most pressing issues in the world at the moment. The team consisted of 4 speakers and various other researchers and writers. We met at lunchtimes to discuss ideas, share research and practice our delivery. Team members this term were: Sophie Lieghio, Amy Dorgan-Hughes, Caoimhe Mackin, Georgia Walsh, Kerry McManus, Hannah Ryan-Murphy, Anne Fabian, Maya Gronzewska, Ceri Doyle and Alexandra Rosus.

We began the league phase of the competition in October when we travelled to Fingal Community College in Swords to debate the use of genetically modified food in combatting world hunger. Although we weren't successful, it is safe to say that we all learned a great deal about this topical issue and about the art of debating. In early November we welcomed Ringsend Community College to our school. This time the debate centred on young people's indifference to the problems of the developing world. Despite stiff competition we were delighted to emerge victorious on that evening. We now await our final debate in January and are hopeful of progressing to the next round. Well done to all of the team on their hard work this term!



Ms. Warren, Ms. O'Flaherty and Ms. Molloy

Business Department

LCVP– Excursion to The Chocolate Warehouse

On November 22nd 5th and 6th year LCVP students went on a trip to the Chocolate Warehouse in Walkinstown.

Our venture began as the heavens opened in Dublin! The rain did not dampen our mood as



we arrived at the Warehouse to begin our delicious journey! Upon arrival our guide Natasha gave us a brief introduction to what we would be taking part in which included learning about the history of chocolate, an aroma test, and an introduction to the machinery that helps give us our delightful yummy and festive treats such as Easter Bunny's and Santa Clause's as well as simple treats such as snowballs and mallow cakes.

We also learned just how important it is to keep a steady cash flow in a business which was really useful to us LCVP students to learn. We explored all aspects to running a SME (Small and Medium Enterprises). Routines such as packaging, storing, taking orders and getting deliveries to branches on time are key to success. We also learned a lot about the impact of being apart of Europe and the dreaded "Brexit" for SME's.

Afterwards we were brought to take part in an aroma test which we all enjoyed as our teachers got to join in as well. We were given many scents to try such as apple, blueberry and banana. We also took part in a separate quiz which involved questions on everything we had learned so far and then we got to the good part, the chocolate.

We learned skills such as how to operate a piping bag successfully onto our bars of chocolate and our mallow cake, which we then decorated with jellies, coconut flakes and rice krispies. Once we were done we placed our decorated treats into a plastic bag and tied them securely with colourful ribbons and stickers such as information of the manufacturer, the expiry date and the ingredients which is vital on food items due to an EU directive.

Ms. Shelly, Mr. Stringer and Ms. Walton



Business Department

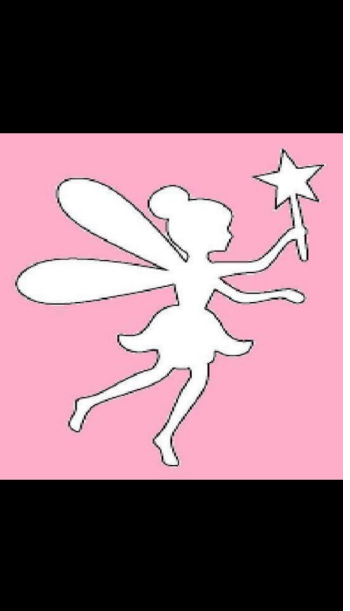
Build a Bank

Six transition year students were chosen to take part in Build a Bank; Fiona Conway, Kate Brady, Ciara McKenna, Denisa Mihalute, Ciara Rooney and Liva Gutmane. Build a Bank is an initiative run by AIB to encourage students to begin saving money.

The girls had to undertake an official interview with the Student Officer, Alli, from the Drumcondra branch before being given a position. Once the roles were assigned the students had to make numerous decisions including choosing a name for their bank, deciding where and when they would operate and which charities they were going to support. The Irish Breast Cancer Society was the chosen charity! The girls were given the opportunity to visit the Drumcondra AIB bank and they were also given a tour of the Grafton Street branch!

The next step was to organise an official opening day to inform their fellow students that “Banker Bell” was open. The official opening was very successful with plenty of students popping in to hear what Banker Bell entails. We were also very lucky to be joined by Dublin footballer Conor McHugh on the day!

Banker Bell operates every Monday at lunch time in St Mary’s kitchen and all students are encouraged and welcome to join.



Basketball



Division 2

It's been a terrific start to the season for the basketball teams in St Mary's. Our U-16 Division 2 team have won all matches in their group, beating Our Lady's College, Drogheda, St. Mary's, Baldoyle and Maryfield. The Quarter Finals now await.

Our **U-16 Premier Team** have recorded wins against Dominican College Griffith Avenue and Santa Sabina. They lost to Mount Sackville and Manor House.

The girls are depending on results in other games in the group for a place in the semi-final.



Under 16 Division 1 Basketball:

Our U-16 Division 1 team have recorded wins against Maryfield and St. Dominic's, Cabra. They lost narrowly to Our Lady's College Drogheda and to St. Raphaela's. They are up against Presentation Terenure in their last match. A win will secure a place in the Semi-Final .



Our **U-19 Premier Team** have recorded wins against Dominican College, Mount Sackville A, Maynooth PP and Manor House. Their only loss was to Santa Sabina. They are now through to the semi-finals. Also, the U-19 Division 2 had wins against St. Mary's, Killester A, Our Lady's Drogheda and Dominican College. They lost to Maryfield by a single point in their last match of the league. They now progress to the Quarter finals.

With huge interest being shown from our junior players we have entered two second year teams in both Division 1 and Division 2. We have also entered a first-year Division 2 team. The league commences after Christmas.

With such a high level of dedication and enthusiasm being shown by the students let's hope this will be a successful year for St Mary's.

Ms Murphy, Mr Orr and Ms Mulvey

Camogie



Senior Camogie

Senior camogie: The senior camogie team has had a successful year so far. An emphatic win over Loreto Swords coupled with a single point loss to Santa Sabina Sutton have allowed the girls to qualify for the semi finals which will take place after Christmas. They will be taking on Goatstown. The team is made up of some excellent players ranging from 3rd to 6th year. They bring great energy and admirable skill to every match they play. As a team they are extremely easy to coach and eager to do well while representing the school. We wish the girls well in their semi final (and hopefully final!) and hope that they reap the rewards of their hard work.

Junior Camogie

Junior camogie: The junior camogie team were also successful this term. Wins over St Louis' Rathmines and Trinity Comprehensive in Ballymun have left the girls in an excellent position coming into their semi final against Loreto Beaufort. Some very talented 2nd years, along with our veteran 3rd and 4th years make up the junior camogie team. Full steam ahead for the semi final!

Ms Walsh, Ms O'Mahoney.

1st Year Sports

First year sports have taken place on Thursday afternoons since September. All first years have been assigned a county and have competed in a different sport every week including benchball, football, hockey, basketball and soccer. The girls have been very enthusiastic and the leader-board is very close! The competition finished at Christmas with a surprise for the winning team!

Tennis Club

This year in St. Mary's the tennis club has been meeting every Monday at lunchtime in the Gym. The club is open to all school members regardless of whether they have played tennis before or not so why not come along and see if tennis could be the sport for you! It is a fun environment where students learn the basics of tennis by rallying and playing games with their school mates. We have had a great turnout in recent weeks and hope to see this continue when we return from the holidays. The St. Mary's Tennis Club would like to wish all students, teachers and families a merry Christmas and a happy New Year. Enjoy the break.

Mr. O'Connell.

St. Mary's Hockey

Hockey News

In September, the new first year students took part in a sports induction programme. This was a fantastic success and introduced the new first year students to the many sports and activities that St. Mary's has to offer.

The preparation for league matches commenced in September. Great excitement mounted as all teams prepared for their first hockey matches. The girls were highly excited at the prospect of getting back into playing matches and as always took great pride in representing St. Mary's in hockey. The teams had a great start in their practice matches against Mount Temple.

The fifth and sixth year students combine to form the **Senior Team**. The Senior Team had a successful first match against Santa Sabina, securing a 1-1 draw. There was great team work and play from the whole team. This was the first league match of the season. The team look forward to the league games and more promising results next year in the Northside League.



Second Year Hockey

The Second year team played a friendly match against our 3rd Year Team. It was a closely contested challenge and this did not phase them. It certainly built on their skills and determination. They also played a friendly against Mount Temple. The team was under a lot of pressure from the more experienced Mount Temple players. Unfortunately, the game ended with victory for Mount Temple. It is still early days for this second year team and as beginners they are still learning and there is great potential going forward. They missed out on qualification last year and this had made them more determined and very eager to compete in the Northside League this year.

Thanks to our Guest Coach Tadgh Cunningham who impressed the girls with his hockey skills and put them through their paces. The girls really enjoyed the session. We look forward to Tadgh doing another coaching session and some more Guest coaches during the year.



Senior Hockey Team – 5th & 6th Year

St Mary's Hockey



There are two Junior Teams this year. A 3rd Year Team and a Transition Year Team.

Junior Team—3rd Year.

The third year team returned after the summer break eager to get back on the pitch and continue developing from last year. The girls have enjoyed the training provided by guest coach Tadhg Cunningham and are gaining confidence and experience.

They played a friendly match against Mount Temple. The team were under a lot of pressure from the more experienced Mount Temple players. However, they kept going and in the second half were more comfortable and eager to fight back. Unfortunately, the game ended with victory for Mount Temple. The weather this year has taken its toll on some training sessions and it is also a challenging year due to Junior Certificate Exams, however, the girls continue to avail of training every Wednesday combined with their studies.

They look forward to commencing the matches in the Northside league after Christmas

The **Junior 2 Team** comprising of Transitions Years (TYs) commenced the year with a friendly match against Mount Temple. This was a closely contested match. The play was end to end with good attacks and near misses from both teams. Our goalkeeper Chanice Dolan was definitely tested and had to make some fantastic saves to keep St Mary's in the game. St Mary's scored first against the run of play. However, Mount Temple got the equalising goal and went on to win the game 2-1.

St Mary's showed great skill and determination throughout. The team will continue with training in the lead up to the Northside League commencing in January. It was an enjoyable afternoon for the team, regardless of the result and a good start to preparation for the season.

We are looking forward to the new hockey season this year and new players are always welcome. With such enthusiastic and talented players, we will enjoy playing and representing St. Mary's with great spirit and enthusiasm. We highly recommend playing hockey and invite everyone to come along and join us.

Our Motto: First To The Ball, Last To Give Up!

Thanks to Ms Cunningham and Ms Walsh for their assistance.

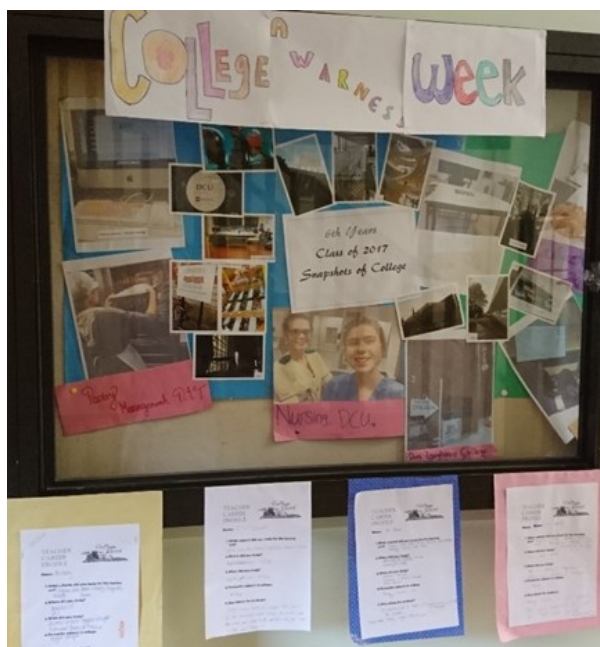
Ms Boran.

Department of Guidance & Counselling

College awareness week

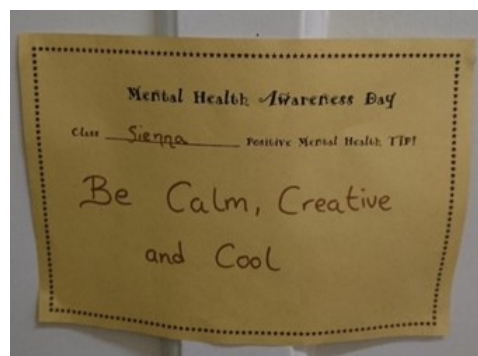
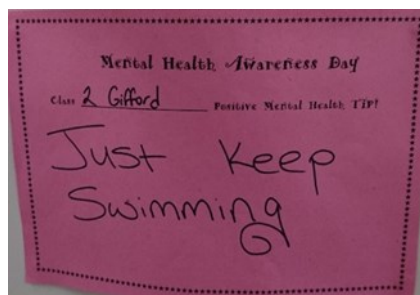
To celebrate college awareness week all teachers completed a questionnaire outlining their college degrees and leaving cert subjects. Students were able to find out what colleges their teachers attended as well as the vast array of different educational experiences their teachers have.

As part of college awareness week the 6th year students of last year sent us selfies and snapshots of college life which were on display in the main noticeboard!



International Mental Health Day

St. Mary's celebrated international mental health day in October. At tutor time all classes wrote tips for looking after mental health and posted these on the outside of classroom doors.



Higher options

On Friday 15th September all 6th year students attended the higher options fair at the RDS. This was a great opportunity for students to speak with representatives from all third level institutes and colleges.

College speakers

This term, 6th year students have had a weekly college talk. Visiting colleges have included DCU, Maynooth University, Trinity, UCD, DIT, ITT, NCI, Rathmines College, Colaiste Ide, Killester College, Whitehall College and Colaiste Dhulaigh.

6th Year Parent Information evening

On Wednesday 6th December there was a 6th year parent information evening. Fiona Casey (Maynooth University), Ciaran McNulty (Colaiste Dhulaigh) and Ben Clarke (DCU) spoke on the night regarding CAO, application to university/college, PLC post leaving cert courses and HEAR/ DARE schemes that promote access to 3rd level. It was a very informative and worthwhile event. Many thanks to the speakers and parents who attended.

Ms. L. Sullivan, Ms. J. Gavin & Mr. D. Delamere

Department of Guidance & Counselling

DCU Achievement Awards

Several of our 3rd year students were nominated by their teachers to receive a DCU achievement award. The award categories included academic achievement, community spirit, sport, arts and culture and exceptional nomination. The ceremony took place in the Helix, DCU on Tuesday 28th November. Many parents and guardians attended on the night in support of the students. Two of our 6th year students Gemma Reilly and Casey Harris performed on the night and sang beautifully. It was a very enjoyable night and well done to all the award winners.

Ms Sullivan, Ms Gavin.



1st Year

This year, the 1st year students have a weekly Wellbeing class. As part of this the guidance and counselling department created a 'transition to secondary school' module. Students learned about the support structures in place at St. Mary's, the layout of the building and becoming familiar with their timetable.

2nd Year

Several 2nd year students participated in a DCU Coding event over midterm. The aim of this was to expose students to coding. This was a great opportunity to learn how to code, develop websites, apps, programs and games.

3rd Year - Cat exams

All 3rd year students sat cognitive aptitude tests (CAT) on Friday 8th December. These exams tested four areas; verbal reasoning, numerical ability, non-verbal and spatial awareness. The CAT exams measure a student's abilities in each area. These test results will help students in choosing subjects for senior cycle.



Department of Guidance & Counselling

Transition Year

College Open Days

All transition year students attended two college open days this term, to Institute of Technology Blanchardstown and National College of Ireland. These days were a great opportunity for students to see a third level college and discover how an open day works. They spoke to lecturers, 3rd level students and had the opportunity to go to talks about the course on offer. These experiences will help the students get the most out of open days they will attend in 6th year. We also met past pupils in both colleges who were happy to speak with the 4th years about college life. It was great to see our past pupils doing so well!



DCU- LEIS

Class Raphael visited DCU St. Pat's campus for two workshops in robotics. Students learned how to build and then programme robots using Lego. The workshop facilitator was very impressed with how quickly the students completed the tasks. Under the guidance of Ms. Murphy, class Raphael have gone on to join the Lego leagues!

Zeminar

On 12th October all transition year students attended Zeminar in the RDS. This was an education and wellbeing event for young people. The conference featured keynote speakers as well as learning and empowerment workshops. Speakers included Professor Donal O' Shea, an obesity expert, Dr. Harry Barry, an anxiety expert and Doreann Garrihy, social media/ DJ. It was a very uplifting event and the 4th years thoroughly enjoyed it



Department of Guidance & Counselling

5th Year

Ufirst

Five 5th year students have been accepted onto the DCU UFirst programme. Bayan Basmage, Kerry Tynan, Eisha Munir, Hadeel Abbas and Amy Bernardo are all participating in this two year programme. The aim of U First is to encourage students to begin preparing for third level. It covers study skills, career investigations as well as providing an opportunity to shadow DCU students.



Office of the Ombudsman for Children

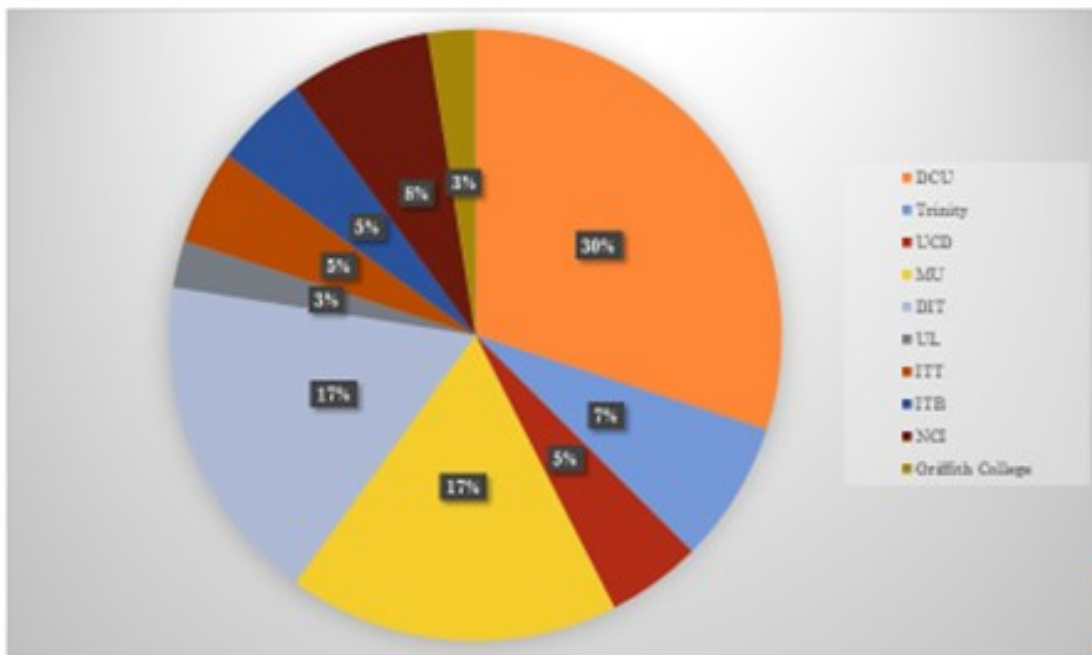
5th year student Bayan Basmage was involved in a student advisory panel led by the Ombudsman for children to celebrate the 25th anniversary of Ireland signing up to the declaration of children's rights. This culminated in a celebration launch day at Croke Park in September. Ms. Devaney and Ms. Sullivan were there on the day to support Bayan.

6th Year

Class of 2017 College Places

We are very proud of the 6th year class of 2017. Below is a breakdown of the college courses students have begun.

COLEGE HETAC PLACEMENTS 2016-17



Department of Guidance & Counselling

College Placements Class of 2017

18 Students

- Economics, Politics & Law
- Law & Media studies
- Politics & Media studies
- Communications
- Business studies
- Primary Education (2 students)
- Humanities
- Engineering
- Computer applications
- Children's & general nursing
- Analytical Science



TCD

3 Students

- General Science
- Social work
- Law



7 Students

- Humanities (5 Students)
- Multimedia, mobile & web development
- Media studies



7 Students



- International Business & languages (2 students)
- Culinary Arts
- Medicinal chemistry & Pharmaceutical Science (2 students)
- Retail & service management
- Science



3 Student

- Accounting & Finance
- Business (2 students)



1 Student

- Equine Science



2 Students

- Computer Engineering
- Early Childhood care & Education

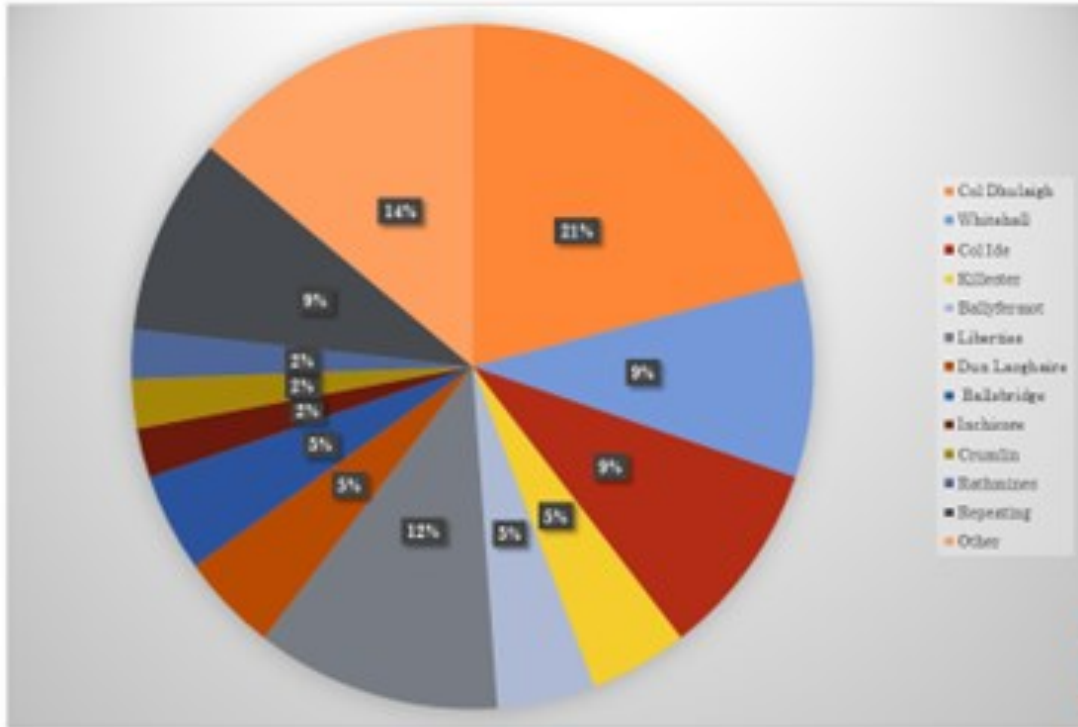


1 Student

- Law

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FETAC COLLEGES AND OTHER 2016-2017



4 students

- Business
- Travel & Tourism
- Beauty Therapy
- Sports & Leisure



9 students

- Assistant Physiotherapy
- Business, Marketing & Tourism
- Graphic Design
- Childcare (3 students)
- Media production (2 students)
- Art portfolio preparation



5 students

- Liberal Arts (2 students)
- Social Care (2 students)
- Media studies



1 student

- Dance studies



Department of Guidance & Counselling



- Make up for fashion & media



Your dress, shoes, hair, fashion, styling, beauty and make-up courses



1 student

- Journalism



2 students

- Pre-Nursing
- Pre -University Science



2 students

- Criminology
- Applied Psychology



2 students

- Art Portfolio preparation
- Art, Design & Mixed Media



6 students

WORKING

3 students



Thanks!

***Special thanks to all the staff and students
who contributed to this online edition of
our December Newsletter.***



*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from
all at St Mary's!*