



St. Mary's NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 11 – NO. 2

December 2013

ART DEPARTMENT

In the art department our first term was marked by the wonderful exhibition of 'Unique', a porcelain installation, created by our present second year students with Artist-In-Residence, Isobel Egan. The porcelain buttons were displayed in the National Museum of Decorative Arts, Collins's Barracks, on October 5th. This artistic collaboration was a Creative Engagement Project supported by the Department of Science and Education and the Department of Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht. The exhibition was opened by Minister Jimmy Deenihan

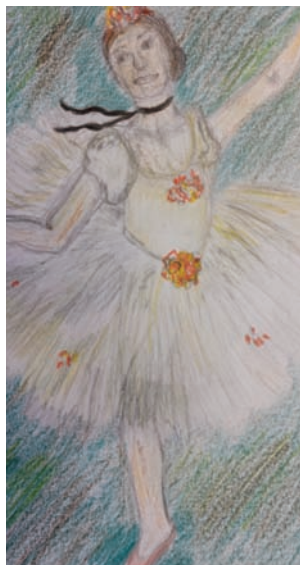
who commended the students on their talent and artistic confidence.

First year students have been absorbed in developing their drawing and painting skills. They were fortunate enough with the fine weather to be able to explore natural and sculptural forms in St. Mary's school grounds and at the "Sculpture In Context" Exhibition in the Botanic Gardens.

Second Year art students responded to the passing of the Irish poet Seamus Heaney by creating typographical graphics to his poem, 'Blackberry Picking'. Literacy skills were nurtured as



The Little Sock of Horror



Preliminary drawings for Junior Cert.



The original trowel used while laying the foundation of the corner stone of St. Mary's school building



Artist-in-Residence Isobel Egan, Principal Margaret Lennon with the Head of NAPD and St. Mary's Second Year Students at the Creative Engagement Exhibition, Collins's Barracks.



Artist-in-Residence Isobel Egan with Minister for Arts, Heritage and the Gaeltacht, Jimmy Deenihan at the Creative Engagement Exhibition, Collins's Barracks.

St. Mary's Secondary School



MISSION STATEMENT

St. Mary's follows the Holy Faith Philosophy of creating a 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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ART DEPARTMENT CONTD.



A study for My architectural design journal



Transition year students visit the Holy Faith archives



Fifth Year Still Life composition

each student illustrated individual words and explored Heaney's beautiful visual language. 'The Little Sock of Horror' followed. This puppetry project became part of the school Winter production of 'The Little Shop of Horror'.

Third year students have sampled a third craft option of their choice and revised their drawing and painting techniques. They have been working hard to complete their 2D section of the Junior Certificate art project and are preparing to begin their 3D section of the exam.

'My Architecture Design Journal', was the module undertaken by transition year students. It is a project by the Irish Architecture Foundation which aims to give students an appreciation of architecture and the environment, architectural language, the interpretation of plans and enables each student to create her own design and model for a specific space. As part of the research for this project, Sr. Alice kindly invited the class group to view archival material relating to the fine architectural heritage of St. Mary's school building and its splendid gardens.

Our fifth year art students made a creative response to their visit to the "Sculpture In Context" Exhibition in the Botanic Gardens. Each student completed a proposal and made a maquette which she presented to her art class. This peer evaluation promoted confidence and encouraged students to consider the role of the artist in society. In the Autumn term we also visited the National Gallery of Ireland, Merrion

Square, and received a tour of paintings focusing on the work of the Irish and European Impressionists. The portfolio brief for the National College of Art and Design became a starting point for our still life project. Junctions, identity, structure, vessel and protection were explored as themes using a variety of art media.

Sixth years have also sampled a third craft option for their Leaving Certificate,

revised their drawing techniques and explored still life composition with some truly fantastic results. The students have continued their art history and appreciation studies looking at the work of Manet, Monet and the Impressionist movement. They also revisited the work of 20th century Irish artists.

**Ms. C. Kavanagh and
Ms. N. Cunningham**



Fifth year art

The Sixth Year Gold Class

The sixth year Gold class had a fundraiser on Thursday 24th of October. We were raising money to buy hoodies for our group walks and outings. We decided a good way of making money was by having an ice cream sale. We called it a Halloween Ice Scream sale! Thanks to Ms. Gilhooley we were able to sell it to all year groups during the Irish film. There was a big turn out from students and staff. Everyone in the Gold module participated in the day and we had a fantastic time.

We raised three hundred and fifty euro.

Lauren Moore – 6th Year Gold



Art Club

The Art club ran from October with the kind assistance of Angela O'Hara in fifth year and Orla Carney in third year. Students had the opportunity to drop in and take part in a variety of art and craft making activities, such as animal silhouettes, origami bats, paper flowers for Remembrance Day, animation skills, window painting, Christmas decoration and card designs. We look forward to continuing in the New Year with more craft and animation fun.

P.E. AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Tag Rugby

All first year classes had tag rugby as their first PE module this year. This was done in conjunction with DCU and the IRFU and it was a great success. We spent six weeks learning about the game in class and finished the module with a tournament on St. Clare's pitches in DCU against schools like St. Michaels, St. Kevins and St. Dominics. The girls played very well on the day and really improved their game. One team in particular was hugely successful beating three teams and drawing with another in its group. The whole day was great fun and we look forward to taking part again next year.



Hockey

It's Hockey Time.....It's Astro Time...Hurrah!

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

The preparation for the leagues' matches commenced in September. Great excitement mounted as 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 Holy Faith, Clontarf.

The Senior 3 team started its Leinster league games with a 1-0 win against St Joseph's, Killiney, and a 1-1 draw against The King's Hospital. The players' enthusiasm for training and playing matches is fantastic. It will be a big challenge for the team this year as it moves into the senior league! Some of our senior team students also demonstrated their leadership skills with the first years by helping and preparing them for matches. Well done to the senior 3 team so far and keep up the winning spirit. We wish them luck in this year's Senior Leinster League.

The Minor D team (2nd Year) played Holy Faith Clontarf in its first league game and was narrowly beaten in the last few minutes. The girls take on High School, Rathgar in their next league game and are looking forward to the match challenges ahead!

The First year beginners took part in a Super Eights challenge against Holy Faith Clontarf and Mt. Temple. The girls thoroughly enjoyed playing their first hockey matches and showed great potential for the future. The team looks forward to the Northside League and in preparation will take part in some more friendly matches.

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 everyone to come along and join hockey.

Go Astro....Be Active.....Play Hockey!!

Ms. Boran, Ms. Maher and Ms. O'Keeffe.

First year hockey

First Year After School Competition

As a new initiative to promote sport in the school a period has been dedicated to first year sporting activities every Thursday after school. These activities include Basketball, Soccer, Hockey and Gaelic football. Each class was divided in two and named after a county team. Every team gets the opportunity to play against each other team in the various sports. Currently Cork and Tipperary are in the lead with the prospect of winning the mystery trip prize. However, other teams are still in close contention. This has proven to be a very successful initiative with excellent attendance and participation by all.



Badminton

The Badminton club is up and running again this year with excellent participation by all players. It takes place every Tuesday after school until 4.45 and all those taking part are enjoying the games. For beginners, Ms. McCormack takes the club every Monday and there are still places available for all first and second year students who wish to take up Badminton.



P.E. AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT CONTD.

Basketball

It's been a promising start for basketball in St Mary's. Our first year (division 2) team has already recorded its first win against St Mary's Baldoyle. Due to the huge interest shown by the first years, we have entered both a first year premier and Division 2 team this year. The premier team will play Maynooth in its opening game. Our second years have been training hard and will play Drogheda in their opening game. The u-16 team is advancing well in its competition. The girls were successful in their first game against Maryfield. They were narrowly defeated by St. Mary's Baldoyle in the final minutes of their second game. 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. E. Murphy



Right top and bottom – TY Team Building
Far Right Top: Minor D Hockey Team – 2nd Years
Far Right Bottom: Senior 3 Team

SPHE DEPARTMENT

Transition Year

Well done to the Transition year students taking part in the Relationships and Sexuality module who, after learning how to do a breast check in class, wished to raise money to support the fight against Breast Cancer. In October, the month of Breast Cancer awareness, students agreed to organise a bake sale. All buns and cakes had a pink theme and 300 was raised. Students really



engaged in this module and completed excellent health leaflets on a form of contraception and a sexually transmitted infection as their assessment. Other topics covered included looking at issues affecting Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender young people, mental health and body image.

Third Year

As students face the Junior Certificate at the end of Third year, the first module covered in SPHE this term was looking at study skills. Students made individual study timetables, filled out questionnaires to establish their preferred learning style, studied the tips to follow for that learning style and came up with different ways to approach studying. The areas of coping with stress and relaxation were also covered. Students enjoyed looking at different breathing techniques to ease stress and learned how to meditate.



Second Year

Students have reflected on the continuing changes they are experiencing. They have reconsidered their levels of organisation and how their friendships have developed. They have reflected on the way they communicate and explored effective ways to communicate with family, friends and teachers in the future. For their November assessment they chose figures from society and their personal lives whom they admire and who have acted as role models for them.

First year

The first year students began their secondary school SPHE course by exploring the changes that they were experiencing by moving to secondary school. They did a variety of class activities to help them get to know each other and to build bonds between the students themselves and their SPHE teacher. They looked at how they could become more organised and make new friends. They discussed ways to get the most out of first year by getting involved in a variety of different clubs. For their November assessment the students made beautiful leaflets to help incoming first years settle in. The students reflected on what they had learned in class and their personal experiences so that they could help others in the future.

The SPHE Department

Service of Remembrance and Support 15th November 2013

On 9th November Typhoon Huiyan struck the Philippines causing widespread devastation and huge loss of life. The impact of this was felt most acutely here in St. Mary's, where approximately one tenth of our school community is made up of girls from the Philippines.

In solidarity with them, and as a show of our support and care, A Prayer Service of Remembrance and Support was held in the Prayer Room on Friday the 15th of November to pray for those who had experienced loss or were worried about family and friends.

The Prayer Service was organised jointly by the Religion Department and by the Filipino girls themselves. It was a combination of prayer, silence, songs, including Filipino songs and readings. It began with music from the choir, under the direction of Mr. Coll and an introduction from Ms Byrne. Ella Mae Cruz read the Opening Prayer, with a reading by Marie Nollora. Central to the service was a ritual involving the different regions of the Philippines made up of tiles in the shape of the Cross. Three students placed lighted candles, representing the three main provinces, beside the Cross while Alyssa Corpuz read out the names of the regions. This was followed by Prayers of the Faithful, written by the girls while Janelle Abad said the Our Father in her native language, Tagalog. Eadaoin Butler, representing the rest of the school community, read the reflection. Ms. Murtagh read the Closing Prayer and prayed for continuing support and care for all members of the community.

The Prayer Service was followed by lunch afterwards for all those who attended. Mrs Lennon thanked the girls for their contribution and the impact it had on the service. She assured the girls of the school's desire to continue its support of them and their families during this most difficult time.

Knock Youth Gathering in the Year of Faith

On Friday, the 4th of October 2013, thirty seven transition year students, Mr.Coll, Ms.Sullivan and I went to Knock in Co. Mayo for a youth gathering. We met at 6:45am outside our school, and made our way by bus to Knock. The bus journey down and back was very enjoyable and great fun. We sang and danced, slept, bonded, ate, watched a documentary on Knock and slept some more! On arrival we joined five thousand other TY students for the gathering. The atmosphere was electric. First we went into the apparition chapel where we saw an example of what the apparition looked like when it happened on August 21st 1879 when Our Lady, St. Joseph and St. John the Evangelist appeared.

Then we went into the Basilica where three people, one of Mother Teresa's sisters, a former soccer player called Ger and another man who is a former alcoholic all spoke to us about their lives and how God had helped them.

We broke for lunch at 1pm and we walked around the grounds together and filled our holy water bottles with Holy Water for our friends and family. Mr Coll then brought us to the reconciliation chapel, where we lit candles, prayed and some of us went to confession. The final part of our day in Knock was the Mass. It was celebrated by the Papal Nuncio, His Excellency, Archbishop Charles Brown. A choir sang and some of our students were asked to participate in the mass by holding a flag or saying a prayer. At the end of the day we were given rosary beads and a copy of "YOUCAT" which we were encouraged to use.

At 6.30pm we packed up and left for home. The day overall gave me a feeling of happiness and fulfilment. It left me feeling touched by the Holy Spirit, and feeling a closer connection to God and to all those with whom I shared this day.

TY Student

School Mass 2013



The school mass took place on Tuesday 10th September in Our Mother of Divine Grace Church, Ballygall. This year, the theme of our school mass was, "A Future of Hope". There was a particular emphasis on hope for the future borne out of serving one another. This idea was inspired by Pope Francis, as Mr Coll explained in his introduction to the Mass, as he recounted his experience of attending World Youth Day in Brazil.

The Mass began with the symbolic passing of light from a sixth year student, head girl Megan Stamp, to a first year student, Erica Hale.

The readings chosen for our Mass included the Acts of the Apostles where we heard of a community growing in strength and in the love of God. The Gospel (John 13) was very apt in that it spoke of Jesus washing the apostles' feet, an example of serving one another, leading to a future of hope.

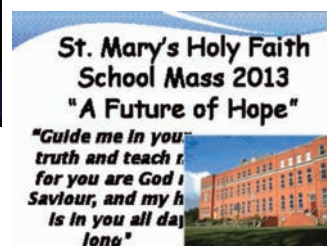
The offertory procession encompassed students from our four first year classes; Robin, Lark, Wren and Kestrel, bringing to the altar framed pictures of birds bearing students' names and photographs.

The Mass was enhanced, as always, by the beautiful singing of our school choir, under the direction of Ms O'Rourke and Mr Coll. The mass was particularly special this year given that Mr Coll composed several of the songs that were sung.

The mass responses were displayed on a large projector screen. This allowed all staff and students to respond and pray together as a community.

The religion department would like to thank Fr. Harry Gaynor and Sr. Irene for their participation in the mass this year. Also thank you to Mrs. Lennon, Ms. Murphy and all staff and students.

Mrs. L Bohan & Ms. L Sullivan



RELIGION DEPARTMENT CONTD.



PRAYER

Solidarity means together we stand,
Always being ready to lend a hand,
If you're in distress, we're there for you,
It is life's own law, it's not something new.

Solidarity means not just grieving with you,
It's doing what we can to give help to you,
It could be me tomorrow, if it's you today,
For troubles can come anybody's way.
Blessed are those who remember this fact,
And live their lives according to that.

We pray for the Filipino community in our school
and all their family and friends affected by this
disaster. We hope that we can draw strength
from the compassion and care we have for each
other in our school community. Let us pray for
continued strength in the coming weeks and
months.

We make these and all our prayers through
Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Religion Department

CSPE DEPARTMENT

3 Oriel CSPE Action Project



Sinead O'Rourke, Kelly Mangan, Tara Nelson, Chloe Donegan, Laura Boyle, Adrianna Sabalova, Chloe Garland

For our action project we decided to make a visit to the D.S.P.C.A. in Rathfarnham. On the 10th May we went with our CSPE teacher, Ms. Griffin, to see the work involved in caring for animals. We heard heartbreaking stories of neglect and abuse but also inspiring stories of stewardship and empathy. We were all touched by the care taken of the animals and decided to hold a cake and bake sale in the school kitchen to raise funds. Our total donation was €185 and we could not be more pleased with the combined effort of everyone in the school.



Allanah Beatty and Alison Kennedy, 3 Oriel

Computer Club

The Computer Club is open three lunchtimes a week from 1.05 to 1.35pm and is supervised by teachers. The club is organised by a number of dedicated, enthusiastic fifth year prefects led by Katie Franzoni. The prefects intend to organise competitions throughout the school year, particularly for the junior students. They also showed the first years how to log into the computer system and to use their specified school email account. Students are asked at all times to be mindful of the rules of the Computer Club which are posted on the door of the Computer Room.

Ms. O' Donnell



ROINN NA GAEILGE

Díospóireachtaí

Chuir an fhoireann shóisearach isteach arís i mbliana ar chomórtas an Phiarsaigh, atá á reachtáil ag Gael Linn. Faoi l thair t imid ag fanacht ar bhar an rúin ó Ghael Linn. Beidh an chéad babhta díospóireachta ar siúl roimh dheireadh na míosa seo chugainn dé réir dealraimh. Beidh Amy Boylan, Chloe Dalton agus Lisa Fitzpatrick ag díospóireacht ar son na scoile. Go n-éirí libh a chailíní!

An Triail

Beidh an drama 'An Triail' atá mar chuid den chúrsa Ardleibhéil ar siúl i gColáiste Belvedere ar an gCéadaoin, an 13ú Samhain. Beidh rang Mrs. Devine agus rang Ms. Gilhooley

Oíche Shamhna

D'eagraigh Ms Gilhooley lá spóirt sa scoil chun Oíche Shamhna a cheiliúradh. Bhain na daltaí uilig an-taitneamh as na himeachtaí a bhí ar siúl sa halla. Bhuaigh daltaí ó gach bliain duaiseanna don fheistis bréige ab fhearr. Is léir go ndearna go leor cailíní an – iarracht gléasadh suas don lá spóirt agus go raibh samhlaíocht iontach acu. Gabhaimid buíochas le Ms. Gilhooley us ucht an ullmhúcháin go léir a rinne sí don lá seo.

Ms. Ní Chonluain



Ceardlann drámaíochta agus na Béaltrialacha

Beidh an ceardlann drámaíochta 'Caith Amach' ag teacht chun na scoile arís i mbliana ar an Luan, an 9ú Nollaig. Beidh maidin iontach ag scoláirí na séú bliana ag an gceardlann seo. Díríonn na ceardlanna se oar na sraithphictiúir atá leagtha síos do scrúdú béil na hArdteiste, agus léirítear iad trí mheán na drámaíochta. Úsáidtear modhanna éagsúla drámaíochta chun deis a thabhairt do na cailíní comhrá a chleachtadh ar bhealaí spraoiúla. Molann Roinn na Gaeilge an tábhacht a bhaineann le labhairt na Gaeilge agus le daltaí a ullmhú go beacht do na béaltrialacha. Mar is eol do chách, is ionann an scrúdú béil agus 40% den mharc iomlán don Ghaeilge.

Gaeilge 24

Chaith rang Ms. O' Donnellan sa 3ú bliain lá iomlán ag labhairt as Gaeilge. D'éirigh go h-an mhaith leo agus rinne siad ar fad an-iarracht. Maith sibh a chailíní!

Ms O' Donnellan



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

The Mary Carroll Library

Ross Nugent Foundation

Students from first to fifth year took part in the "What Would Ross Do?" short story competition

This competition was in aid of the Ross Nugent Foundation.

Well done to all the participating students.

The winning students will have their short story published so good luck to all involved!



MS Readathon



Many students are currently participating in the MS Readathon. The challenge is to read at least three books and raise sponsorship for this worthy cause. Well done to all involved.

Book Club

The Book Club is continuing to meet every Wednesday at 3.00pm in the library. A big welcome to all our new first year members!

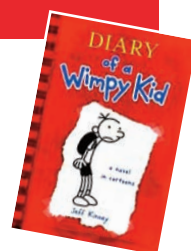
Book to Film Club

The Book to Film Club got off to a great start with "The Diary of a Wimpy Kid 1" being shown to all the first years. This was followed up a few weeks later with "The Diary of a Wimpy Kid 2" shown after school in the library. There was a great turnout and "Diary of a Wimpy Kid 3" is coming soon!

First Years

All first year classes have had a library induction class which included a tour of the library, the chance to take out a book and some reading time. It has been great to see so many first years use the library this year!

Sr. Maria and Ms. L. Sullivan



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT CONTD.

First Year English: Life Stories

All First Year students are currently involved in "My Life Story" as part of their English studies. This activity, which met with great success last year, enables students to create their own autobiographies and develop their descriptive and personal writing skills. The students have also enjoyed a visit to the school library and are reading a huge range of books in their spare time to complete their Reading Project. It is hoped that a number of students from each class will participate in the First Year Spelling Bee at Christmas, designed to find St. Mary's Top Speller!

"Pride and Prejudice" – 200th Year Anniversary

Many senior English students are studying Jane Austen's classic, "Pride and Prejudice" which was published two hundred years ago in 1813. To mark this anniversary the English department organized the following activities.

Trinity Lectures

A large number of sixth year students attended an evening lecture on Jane Austen's "Pride and Prejudice" on Tuesday 5th November. Held in Trinity College Dublin, the talk was given by Dr. Daryl Jones and celebrated 200 years of Austen's classic novel. He explored the characters and locations used in the novel and also examined why "Pride and Prejudice" remains an enduring classic. The lecture was entertaining and informative and provided students with a fresh insight into her work.

"Pride and Prejudice" in the Gate Theatre

On 16th December, fifty, fifth and sixth year students, will attend a dramatic adaptation of this novel in the Gate Theatre. Directed by Alan Stanford and starring an impressive cast, it promises to be an excellent night which students will enjoy!

The English Department

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Teen Spirit – RTE Mass on Sunday

The students who were involved in the Teen Spirit project over the past two years were invited to sing on the live TV broadcast of the Sunday Mass on RTE 1, on Sunday September 1st. The main focus of the mass was the beginning of the new school year, and therefore the young people were at the heart of this celebration. Two of our past students, Ranzanallie Caranay and Eve Kavanagh, were asked to be part of the mass and both sang solo pieces. April Lamai from fifth year also sang a solo in the mass. The sung mass chosen for the mass was "Mass of Our Lady of Victories" which is newly composed by Mr. Coll. The girls who took part were Ciara Lennon, Megan Reilly, Juila Holbanel, Sarah Moran, Lisa Fitzsimons Leah Deegan, April Lamai, Holly Bell and our two past students, Eve Kavanagh, and Ranzanallie Caranay. It was a great honour to be invited and everyone enjoyed it immensely.



Choir – Opening Academic Year Mass

In early September the school community celebrated the opening of our Academic year, in Ballygall parish Church. The theme of this year's mass was "A Future of Hope". The choir focused on pieces of music that celebrated this theme. A number of songs were from the Emmanuel programme. Many new first years have joined the choir this year and it was great to see them taking solo parts too. Well done to all our members.

"Little Shop of Horrors" Production

The music department was introduced to the horror of the man eating plant that is "Audrey II" when it got involved in the production of 'Little Shop of Horrors'. This fun musical went down a treat with all who came to see this year's production. It was great to have so many students involved in the show and both the matinee and evening shows were a great success. There were many music students using their talents in the show both vocally and instrumentally.

Choir Workshop with Composer Tom Kendzia (USA)

On Friday 11th of October, Tom Kendzia gave a full day workshop with the choir. This was Tom's second visit to St. Mary's and he told the choir that he had great memories of his time with us before and that he had been looking forward to doing a workshop in St. Mary's again. Tom has over thirty years experience as a composer, teacher, performer, parish music minister, and record producer/arranger. During the workshop he taught the choir a lot of his new music and other popular liturgical music that is really suitable and enjoyable for young people. The Choir really enjoyed the day with Tom and learned a lot from his experience.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT CONTD.

TY Music Appreciation trip to the Opera



On Friday 20th September sixteen TY students went to the opera "Rusalka" by Dvorák in the Gaiety Theatre, Dublin. It was a first for many of our students to go to an opera, and for some they were surprised by how much they enjoyed it. As part of the music appreciation module in transition year, students study the various forms of music and genres. Therefore to be able to attend an opera was a very good exercise on opening the students' musical minds to forms of music that they would not always be familiar with. Coupled with what the students learned in the module about operas, arias, oratorios and composers, the students were able to appreciate more the music experience. More music appreciation trips will be organised throughout the year for the other module groups in TY.

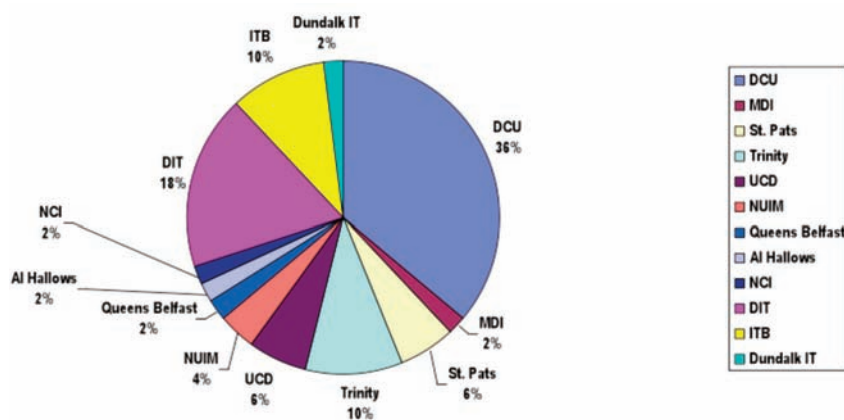
Senior Music Students go to 'Wicked' the Musical

On Wednesday 18th of December, twenty senior music students went to the Bord Gais Energy Theatre to see 'Wicked' the musical. The production of the show was excellent and was so professional. The students really enjoyed the night and the experience of seeing this high quality musical. Having studied the orchestra in great detail in senior cycle music the students were fascinated to see the orchestra pit under the stage and to hear and see how a live performance works with a live orchestra. Many of our students have performed in musicals both in St. Mary's and elsewhere, so it was equally exciting experience for them. In the next term sixth year students will be going to the National Concert Hall to hear their set works for the leaving certificate played by the RTE Symphony Orchestra, another live musical experience to look forward to.

The Music Department

DEPARTMENT OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

Class of 2013 COLLEGE HETAC PLACEMENTS



18 Students

Applied Languages and Intercultural Studies
Marketing, Innovation & Technology
Engineering
Irish & Spanish (Arts)
Environmental Science & Health
French & Media Studies (Arts) (2)
Accountancy & Finance (2)
Education & Training (2)
Law & Society (2)
Business
International Relations, Politics & Spanish
Computer Applications
Contemporary Culture & Society
Chemical Sciences with Medicinal Chemistry



1 Student

Music & Theology



3 Students

Humanities (2)
Primary School Teaching



5 Students

Clinical Speech & Language Therapy
History & Geography (Arts)
Music & Drama (Arts)
Dental Technology
Dental Nursing



1 Student

English & French



3 Students

Veterinary Nursing
Arts (2)



2 Students

Arts
Music



1 Student

Theology & English Literature



1 Student

Human Resource Management



9 Students

Commercial Modern Music
Business & Italian
Science
Human Resource Management (3)
International Tourism & Spanish
Food Science & Management
Baking & Pastry Arts Management



5 Students

Creative Digital Media (2)
Business & Management
Social & Community Development (2)



1 Student

Video & Broadcasting



FETAC COLLEGES



15 students

Leisure and Beauty (4)
Art Portfolio Preparation (3)
Fashion & Textile Portfolio
Sports & Leisure Management (2)
Secretarial & Computer Studies (4)
Pre-University Science

6 students

Business & Computers
Pre-Nursing (4)
Childcare



4 students

Childcare with Special Needs
Community Care (2)
Childcare



DEPARTMENT OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

11 students

Pre-University Science (2)
 Medical Laboratory Science
 Pre-Nursing
 Business
 Media Production
 Social Studies
 Hairdressing (2)
 Art Portfolio Preparation
 Applied Social Studies



3 students

Special Needs Assistant
 Childcare
 Childcare & Montessori



1 student

Dance



2 students

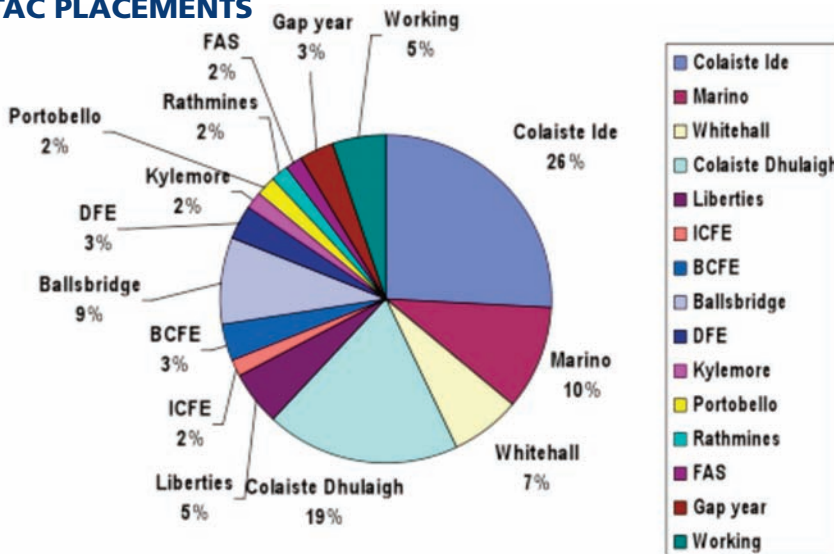
Music Production
 Art, Design & Mixed Media



5 students

Criminology & Social Studies (4)
 Applied Psychology

FETAC PLACEMENTS



Higher Options

The 27th Higher Options Conference took place at the RDS, Ballsbridge, on the 20th of September. One hundred and twenty Sixth Year students from the school attended on the Friday and found the event very informative.

Over one hundred and eighty universities, higher education colleges, further education colleges, organisations and professional bodies were in attendance giving students an unrivalled opportunity to discuss college choices and entry procedures. It was an excellent opportunity for students to avail of information on choice and entry procedures to Irish and UK higher and further level institutions.

2 students

Pre-Nursing



1 student

Music Technology



1 Student

Make-Up Artistry



Repeat Leaving

1 Student



1 student

Beauty Therapy



2 students



Discover DCU

Discover DCU is an initiative of DCU's Access Programme targeting Fifth Year students. It takes the form of a workshop for students intending to take at least two honours subjects for their Leaving Certificate examination. The aim of the workshop is to give information, to allow students to explore their fears, anxieties and expectations about third level and to offer guidance and support about studying at DCU.



The programme works with a cluster of three schools. The first workshop took place on 9th October and our school was asked to participate. The following fifth year students represented the school on the day: Ghdir Abbas, Miliscent Reyes, April Lamai, Shannon Farrell, Clare Purvis, Sabat Ahmed, Ciara Burke, Sarah Kelly, Raluca Ghinescu, Bronagh Leen, Shannon O'Brien and Aine Ford.

Third Year Aptitude Tests

The Third Year students sat their Differential Aptitude tests (DATS) in December. These tests help the students to build up personal profiles of themselves which will enable those going on into Fifth Year to make their subject choice. They also are of value to those students who are considering Transition Year and wanting to explore subjects linked to their aptitudes. Each student will have an individual meeting with the guidance counsellors to receive the results of the DATS.

Better Options 2013/2014



Sixth Year students with a disability or specific learning difficulty should check out the following website for information about DARE – Disability Access Route to Education; how to apply for DARE through the CAO and examine what colleges and institutions of technology have to offer. The website for information is www.ahead.ie or for any queries please contact Lorraine Gallagher at ahead@ahead.ie

DCU Access Achievement Awards



The Access Achievement Award Scheme was set up to reward and recognise the achievements and efforts of students attending schools linked to DCU. The awards ceremony was held on Tuesday 3rd December at the Mahony Hall in the Helix, DCU. Twenty students from fifth year were in attendance to receive awards for their achievements in sports, community spirit, arts and culture, academic areas and exceptional nominations. The school was also represented by our amazing choir who was a central part of the event.

Sixth Year Talks

The Sixth Year students have participated in Third Level talks every Monday from early September. Speakers from DCU, NCI, TCD, DIT, UCD, NUI Maynooth, HearScheme, Killester College, Colaiste Ide and Colaiste Dhulaigh have been in attendance. Notice of up-coming career talks will be highlighted on the careers notice board on the Sixth Year corridor and on the notice boards in all Sixth Year classrooms.



HEAR Scheme

Susan Hawkins from DCU spoke with Sixth year students on Monday 25th November about the HEAR Scheme. This is a college and admissions scheme that offers places on reduced points and extra college support to school leavers from socio-economically disadvantaged backgrounds. The colleges participating in HEAR include DCU, DIT, Trinity College, Mater Dei, NUI Maynooth, St. Patrick's, Drumcondra and UCD.

The Hear Application Advice Clinics will take place nationwide on Saturday January 11th 2014 10-2pm for parents and students.

See www.accesscollege.ie for locations and time.

CAO/FETAC/UCAS

In the weeks to follow, students will be deciding their college choices for filling out their CAO forms. A reminder to all Sixth Years, that if they apply by January 20th they will be able to avail of the ten euro reduction in the application fee.

Students are also encouraged to start researching and applying for their FETAC courses in anticipation of interviews early in the New Year.

Ms. F. Devaney and Ms. L. Sullivan

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT



Iceland



Day 1:

Our first day in Iceland was a long, eventful day. We all met in the airport, said goodbye to our parents and got on the plane to Iceland.

When we arrived there we were greeted by our tour guide, Gugga. Gugga told us lots of facts about Iceland and brought us by bus to our hotel. We all got our rooms, and soon after we headed for the Blue Lagoon, on the bus. Everyone was so excited about this part of the trip.

When we arrived at the Blue Lagoon we saw lots of steam. When we were outside the lagoon it was so cold, but it was very warm when we got into it. The water was very blue and salty. There were a few stations around the lagoon that had buckets of white mud, to put on your face, to make your skin soft.

This was a long but very exciting day!

Day 2:

On our second day we got up very early and had a very long drive to the glacier that we would be hiking on. We had to use special tools to help us on this hike. It was hard at first but then we got used to it. We got to drink fresh water from the glacier and we got to go into a small cave made from ice. On our way home we stopped at a very big waterfall. The waterfall was so strong that you got splashed even if you were far away. This was another amazing, eventful day.

In the evening we all went to the shop across the road from the hotel, bought some Skyr yoghurts and went back to watch a movie.

Day 3:

On our third day we went to the geo thermal plant. We learned how the hot water is transported to homes and businesses. We learned lots of interesting facts. We then went to an earthquake simulator. It was very small and could only fit four people at a time. We got in and it started off with

little trembles and then started to shake a lot. We saw the damage that would happen in a kitchen in the event of an earthquake. When that was over we went to a hot spring and boiled eggs there. They didn't take too long to cook as the hot spring is very hot. We sat down in a little cafe on site and ate eggs and rye bread which was cooked in the ground over twenty four hours. Some of us were a bit nervous about trying it but it was actually very tasty! After all this great fun we went back to the hotel.

In the evening, we all went ice-skating. This was a great experience, flying around the ice rink. Some were falling around with a Zimmer frame!

Day 4:

Our last full day was jam-packed visiting the huge Gullfoss Waterfall, and from there onto Strokkur Geyser which blasts out hot steam at least every ten minutes. Finally we went to Thingvellir National Park where the North American Plate meets the Eurasian Plate. It is here that Iceland is being pulled apart at a rate of 2.5 cm per year. This is one of the few places in the world where a plate boundary can be observed.

Day 5:

We started our last day in Iceland of with a nice walk to a volcano house where we were intrigued with a video clip from the 2010 eruptions of Eyjafjallajokull. We discovered how much damage was done from the volcano and how the Icelanders coped. We later got picked up by the coach and collected our suitcases from the hotel, loaded them onto the coach and headed off to the Kringlan Shopping Centre. There we picked up some souvenirs for our families and friends. After our time was up for shopping we sadly made our back to Keflavik airport where we boarded our plane and returned to Ireland.

Aisling Byrne and Brooke Christie, 2 Orchid

Iceland

On the 24th of October we travelled to the incredible Iceland, the land of fire and ice. A group of forty students ranging from second to sixth year joined Ms. Maher, Ms. Byrne, Ms. Mahon, Mr. Beirne and Mrs. Moggan. Upon our arrival we met our tour guide Gugga, a native to Iceland. She joined us on all our adventures, filling our minds with both geographical terms and mythical folklore about giants and trolls. We all enjoyed her amusing stories.

Our first night we went for a dip in the Blue Lagoon, a geothermal pool. It was beautiful and unlike anything we had seen before. Afterwards we went on a hunt for the Northern lights but we were unfortunate in our quest. However we did get to see them on a postcard in our hotel. On the second day we were all up bright and early for a tour of the South shore. We saw some beautiful waterfalls, went to an earthquake simulator and visited the fishing village of Vik. Then we began our once in a lifetime opportunity of hiking a glacier. We were given crampons for our shoes and pick axes. I think we all felt a little like Bear Grylls.

On the third day we visited the Hellisheidi power plant, one of many geothermal plants. This was very interesting and useful especially for the seniors as it's an important topic on the leaving certificate course. We then went boiling eggs and baking bread in some hot springs and a few of us also brought boil in the bag rice, which was a nice touch. "Uncle Bens" of course! We went out for lunch and then went ice-skating. We were happy to see everyone give it a go including Ms. Maher and Mr. Beirne. Our last full day was packed full of adventures. We went on the golden circle tour, visiting the Strokkur geysers, the wonderful Gullfoss waterfall and the amazing meeting place of the Eurasian and North American tectonic plates. It was a long day and we were all "Reykjaviked" after it! Each night was filled with fun activities which really added to the experience. We had a movie night in the dining room. We watched "Pitch Perfect" which we all enjoyed. We had a quiz night, and went bowling for our last night. We didn't even watch the X Factor!

Our last day began with a walking tour of Reykjavik and a tour of the volcano house where we all failed to pronounce the ash cloud volcano Eyjafjallajokull. We stopped at the Kringlan mall for some shopping because you never know, "Top shop" there could have been different to the one in Ireland! We arrived at the airport only to be greeted by more shopping in "Victoria's Secret".



Anyone who was on the trip will tell you it was an unbelievable experience like nothing any of us had ever experienced before. One thing that really made it special was everyone who went. There was no complaining, or no one saying, "I'm bored". Everyone just dived head first into every activity and how could you be bored in Iceland! It really was a once in a lifetime opportunity that we were lucky to have experienced and it wouldn't have been a success if it wasn't for Ms. Wilson's idea and all Ms. Maher's hard work! Iceland rocked!

Aine Ford, Fifth Year



Fifth Year Mystery Trip

There was great excitement on Monday the 23rd September as all the fifth year students eagerly waited to board the bus to take them to their mystery destination! After been on the bus a little over two hours it became clear to the students that our destination was Lough Key Forest Park in Roscommon, where students were challenged by the 'Boda Borg' experience. Boda Borg is a Swedish concept which involves students working in teams, using ingenuity, trial and error, as well as problem solving skills, to solve imaginative puzzles in a total of forty seven rooms. The students (and teachers!) found many of the tasks enjoyable as they had to use their imagination and aforementioned skills to solve the puzzles as there were no instructions given in any of the rooms! Winners of the challenge were presented with prizes at assembly. The fifth year students were commended for their willingness to partake and their enthusiasm in the challenges.

Ms. O'Donnell and Ms. Griffin



PREFECT NEWS



Megan Stamp, Head Girl, Eilis Phelan and Leah O'Donnell Deputy Head Girls

The prefects have been very busy so far this year. We have been in early, before school has even begun, getting to know the First and Second year students and helping out with the First Years sports induction day. Since then the prefects have been regularly visiting their prefect classes helping the girls to settle in, helping them with any problems and just generally chatting and having a bit of craic. Another big venture that we helped to organise was the very successful Halloween Dress Up Day. Everyone brought in two euro and had the option of wearing either a Halloween costume or her tracksuit with a pink accessory. The money raised went towards Breast Cancer Awareness and St. Francis Hospice in Blanchardstown. These are two very worthwhile causes so we were thrilled to have raised seven hundred and fifty euro. Apart from all that, we have been busy running the homework club and the computer club. The Peer mediators have also had some training and are looking forward to getting started. It has been a very successful start to the year for the prefects. It can be hard work but we are all enjoying it.

Megan Stamp, Eilis Phelan and Leah O'Donnell



Prefects 2013–2014

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Senior History Tour to Derry



Following on the great success of the 2012 trip to Belfast, the History Department is delighted that its second subject tour was another fantastic experience. Girls from both fifth and sixth year history took a two-day tour of the city of Derry. On the first day they took a guided visit of the Museum of Free Derry which outlines the people's story of government oppression, the struggle for civil rights, the Battle of the Bogside, internment, Free Derry and Bloody Sunday. The second day included a guided tour of the Apprentice Boys Memorial Hall and a guided tour of the city walls, followed by some well-deserved shopping time! As well as being a fantastic cultural visit and bonding experience for the students, the tour will be of great relevance to their study of the topic of Northern Irish history which the sixth years are currently engaged in, with fifth years due to study it in the next academic year.

Vincent Lavery – Modern American History Experience

On Wednesday the 2nd of October, as part of the Dublin Festival of History, 6th year history students attended the lecture "Living History: Politics of the USA from the 1950s to the 1970s" which was given by Vincent Lavery in Dublin City Library and Archives. Lavery emigrated from Ireland to America as a young man. His experiences of racial segregation and a strong hope for change made him get involved in



Vincent Lavery speaking at the Dublin City Library & Archives

politics. Students listened as he remembered a turbulent era in American history. Lavery talked about marching to protest against the Vietnam War, the Civil Rights movement and Martin Luther King, John F. Kennedy's presidency and assassination, his involvement and role in Robert F. Kennedy's campaign for president up to his assassination. He described how the music of the sixties reflected the politics of the time and gave voice to the fight for change. Students were particularly surprised to learn "The Doors" had once asked him to become their manager – but Lavery declined!! You can listen to Lavery's lecture and the welcome he gave to St. Mary's by visiting the link below:

<http://dublincitypubliclibraries.com/story/living-history-politics-usa-1950s-1970s>

The 1939 Official Opening of St. Mary's School

– Researched by Eimear Callery and Jane Lynch

For their TY Local History project, Eimear and Jane researched the history of St. Mary's school and convent. As part of their research they interviewed the convent archivist Sr. Alice Aylward who was a huge help to them. One document in particular stood out – the list of attendees at the official opening of the school in 1939. These included:

- President of Eire Dr. Douglas Hyde
- President of the Executive Council Eamon De Valera
- Vice-President Sean T. O'Kelly
- Minister of Supplies Seán Lemass
- Minister of Defence Oscar Traynor
- Minister for Co-ordination of Defence Frank Aiken

Other high profile attendees included members of the judiciary, the chief commissioner of police and the chairman of Dublin City Council. The girls were delighted to discover that so many high-profile names from Irish history had been to the opening of their school so many years ago!

"From all the research we have done on our project on St. Mary's Holy Faith school and convent, we have learned so much about the school. We knew so little about it even though we have been pupils here for several years. We really enjoyed doing the whole project but our favourite part was going over to the convent and talking with Sister Alice Aylward. It was

extremely interesting to talk to her about all her memories and to get the information first hand and see the artefacts too".

Eimear Callery and Jane Lynch, 4 Newton



Sr. Alice shares with students the rich architectural heritage of St. Mary's

Transition Year

The first Transition Year history trip of 2013-2014 went to Croke Park. Here the girls had a tour of the GAA museum with displays on the origins of the game and the earliest finals along with the original Sam Maguire and Liam McCarthy cups and a display on Bloody Sunday 1920. The girls took part in an interactive display which tested how high they could jump to catch the ball, how far and fast they could throw and how quick their reflexes were! They had the opportunity to view the dressing rooms under the Hogan Stand before running up the tunnel to the pitch-side for a view of the largest stadium in the world built for a non-professional sport.

Transition Year history students presented their research projects on "Local History and Heritage". Local sites of historical interest were researched by the students in pairs. The project allowed the girls explore the work of the historian as they had to interview staff on their chosen sites, take original photography, research in the school library and investigate sources online in an effort to dig deeper into the past of our locality. They demonstrated their computer and presentation skills with five minute Prezzi and PowerPoint slideshows given to their class and teachers.



Second Year Explorers!

Classes 2 Jasmine, 2 Heather and 2 Primrose all took part in a project to complete 3D models of tools and ships from the time of Christopher Columbus and the Age of Exploration. This project made up 10% of their Christmas grade and was aimed at helping the students understand how these items contributed to the voyages which took Europeans to the New World. The students put a huge amount of effort into these and made a wide variety of caravels, portolan charts, hourglasses and logbooks. There were also working versions of the line and lead, log and line and a compass in water with magnetised needle which accurately pointed north. Well done to all the girls for their hard work, imagination and ingenuity!

"I found this project fun and it was a different way of learning about the Age of Explorations. I made a captain's logbook. It was a lot of fun learning about how the captain of the ship recorded his voyage. I really enjoyed this project!"

Megan Smith, 2 Heather

"For my history project, I did Diaz's logbook. I learned a lot about Diaz. I used paper and a tea-bag to make it look old and dirty. I enjoyed doing this project because I learned a lot and had fun being creative with art for history."

Jade Butler, 2 Heather



Megan Smith and Jade Butler from 2 Heather



Students from 2 Primrose

Remembrance Day 2013

A Remembrance Service was held over the intercom, on the 11th November 2013, to honour the dead of the two World Wars, and all conflicts past and present. This Ceremony of Remembrance was observed in order to recall the official end of World War 1. The major hostilities of the Great War ended "at the eleventh hour of the eleventh day of the eleventh month" of 1918.

Mr. E. Carr and Mrs. C. Bogan spoke at the Service and they asked each member of the school community to pause for prayer and reflection. Mr. Carr explained that many Irishmen had fought and died in places such as Verdun, Ypres and the Somme on the Western Front; in Tannenburg on the Eastern Front; in Gallipoli in Turkey and even at sea, including in the biggest naval battle of all at Jutland. He explained that there are indeed many Irishmen who have no known graves. They lie buried in unknown places. As Mr. Carr said –

"For many of us here in St. Mary's, these Irishmen are nameless and faceless but for some of us in our school community, not only do these men have faces but they were members of our families. Today, we remember them, as indeed, we remember all soldiers from all countries who died in all wars, past and present".

Mrs. Bogan thanked Mrs. Lennon and Ms. Murphy for their support; the Members of the History Department, past and present, including Miss A. Mullins (a History Teacher in St. Mary's for many years and now retired) who instigated the Remembrance Day Service and Ms. N. Cunningham (Art Department) and members of her Art Classes and Art Club who made the poppies on display in the corridor. Mrs. Bogan also asked that, in communion with countries all around the world, St. Mary's would observe one minute's silence, during which the dead of two World Wars and conflicts past and present would be remembered.

Mrs. Bogan concluded by asking the school community to remember the sacrifice of those who died in World War One by reflecting on the words of the poet, Laurence Binyon

*"They shall not grow old as we that are left grow old
Age shall not weary them nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning
We will remember them".*

Ar dheis Lámh Dé go raibh a n-Anamacha Uaisle Óga Cróga go léir.

Mrs. C. Bogan

First Year Hunter-Gatherers!

All first year students took a more active approach to their history studies this year by designing and building models of Mesolithic hunter-gatherer houses. The girls worked in pairs to complete their projects, worth 20% of their overall Christmas assessment. They had to label at least four parts of the house, displaying their understanding of the materials used and how these houses sheltered the nomads for only a short while before they moved on. The students were able to use their imaginations with some very creative and artistic results. Well done girls!

11th November 2013



The History Department, in collaboration with the Art Department, continued their tradition of commemorating the armistice of World War 1 with a beautiful presentation on the history notice board which contained information, photographs and poppy artwork which all served as a reminder of this important day in history. Thanks to Ms Cunningham, the art students and the Transition Year students who helped supply the handmade poppies.

Open Evening 2013

Room 16 was once again showcased as a typical history teacher's room for Open Evening in September. Well done to all students and members of the History Department for their help and co-operation. Our visitors were able to sample the variety of work completed by students in history class e.g. time capsules, eye-catching posters and artwork, photographs of historic sites and project work on various topics being studied in history by students in different year groups. Of particular interest to the visitors were the 3D medieval castles which had been designed and built by our current second years as part of a competition run last year.



1 Wren Time Capsule – to be opened in their last history class of Junior Cycle, 2016

Ms. G. Hayes and Ms O. Griffin

TRANSITION YEAR

Transition Year students have had a busy first term that started with a very muddy trip to Causey Farm. There have been trips to Dublin Zoo, Knock, DIT and European Union House to mention just a few. The students have studied new topics like Philosophy, Italian, Food Science and Japanese. The TYs have been kept busy with project work, preparing presentations, hosting a senior-citizen quiz and a few in-house exams. Leisure Studies on Mondays have seen the students learning and practising reflexology, working with porcelain and exercising through Zumba dance. The new sets of Leisure Studies include: aromatherapy, makeup/skin care and keeping fit with Karate. This year has seen the addition of a new initiative for the Transition Year students called 'Community Action'. Every Tuesday afternoon the students help in the community, for example, visiting nursing homes and day-care centres or by working in charity shops. The feedback has been excellent and the students are rewarded by the feel-good factor of helping others. Transition Year pupils will continue to be busy next term with more trips, new Leisure studies, work experience and the students will be working with a film production company.

Trick or Treat for Temple Street



On Wednesday, 2nd of October, my year group went into town to raise money for Temple Street. We were given lollipops to try and sell to the public at €2 for a pack of four. Most of us got into the spirit and wore animal ears and Halloween make-up. It was tiring but it was a great experience and it felt good knowing that the money raised was going to a good cause.
Orla King, 4 Darwin

'Get to know your City'

Our second trip in TY, 'Get to know your City', was a good hint of how different this year would be. We were allowed to do something we had never dreamed of doing in school before. We were let find our own way around town. We were given a list of questions and tasks that would bring us all around the city so we would learn all the street names and different areas. Although it was tiring, it was a great day and gave a good impression of the year to come.
Avril Reddy, 4 Darwin

Causey Farm

On the 24th of August the whole of Transition year met in the choir hall in our old clothes. The teachers then announced that we were going to Causey Farm in Navan. We did Irish dancing, made brown bread and played with three week old puppies that were so cute. We also went to the bog where I jumped into the bog on my back so as I wouldn't get stuck. Lots of the others jumped in feet first and got stuck. I jumped in so many times I was filthy. It was

amazing! When we got back there were no showers, all we had were two buckets of water to clean ourselves with. It took us half an hour to get dressed because our clothes were stuck to us. The mud got everywhere. When we got changed it was time to go to the kitchen and collect our brown bread. It was gorgeous and really warm and tasted lovely with butter and jam. The day was the most enjoyable experience ever and I would love to do it again.
Shauna Halpin



TRANSITION YEAR CONTD.

Trip to Knock

On October 4th of October, a group of students from TY went to Knock in Co. Mayo. We met at the school at 6:45am and didn't arrive home until 8:00pm. Everyone at the event was from TY in different schools all over Ireland. At the event we listened to speakers while they told us their own stories about their first-time experiences at Knock.

The day was full of events and everybody enjoyed themselves. A special thank you to Mr. Coll for organising the day.

Orla McLoughlin, 4 Darwin

Senior Citizen Quiz



On the 11th of November Transition Year Class Franklin took part in a quiz to make it aware of the Ballygall Credit Union. We had great fun chatting with the elderly people during the quiz. There were two elderly people and two TY students on each team. The tables were decorated with different coloured balloons to represent different countries. There were nine rounds in the quiz and there had to be a tie-breaker round at the end. Team Nigeria won and received a cup. Canada came in second and received a plaque. Team Sweden was third and each member received a medal. To end the event we were all served tea and biscuits. It was a great day.
Shannon Eustace, Keileigh Coulahan and Emma Cloak

Transition Year Students at the Zoo



MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

French Department

Le Club Français



Bonjour tout le monde !
The French Club provides an ideal venue and a great opportunity to practise spoken French and learn more about French culture in a fun and relaxed environment.

So far the French Club has been a huge success. We have enjoyed French food, crêpe making (and eating!), French games, music and plenty of conversations en français!

The French Club meets every Thursday at lunchtime in the art room beside the choir hall and everyone is welcome.

Ms Shanahan and Ms Blaney would like to thank Mr Grant and all of the girls who have made the French Club such a great success so far and we look forward to seeing more of you in the future.



The French Department

MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT CONTD.

Spanish Department

Spanish Trip 2014

Planning is underway for our next trip to Spain. We are pleased to announce that this time we will be going to the wonderful city of Valencia on the east coast of Spain and we plan to travel in September 2014. This exciting trip, open to all students studying Spanish, will include a visit to the theme park, Terra Mítica, a trip to the City of Arts and Sciences, a flamenco show and a guided tour of the city. This is a fantastic opportunity for the students to immerse themselves in Spanish language, culture and history.

Conversation Classes

All sixth year students are welcome to join Mrs Hughes in the library every Monday to practise for their oral examination. Bring your lunch and sit down in a relaxed environment and let your Spanish flow!



City of Arts and Sciences, Valencia

Twining with Colegio Torrevelo-Peñalabra

We have embarked on a letter writing exchange programme with a girls' school in the north of Spain. Colegio Torrevelo-Peñalabra is situated in Mogro, Cantabria, very near the beautiful city of Santander. Many of our students are actively engaged in writing to their new Spanish friends practising both their Spanish and their letter writing skills.

Mrs. A. Hughes and Ms. E. Higgins

MATHS DEPARTMENT

The Maths Department and students in the school had an action-packed first term. The current sixth years will be the first cohort of students in St. Mary's to sit the new Project Maths in both paper 1 and 2 in 2014. The website: <http://www.projectmaths.ie> contains numerous problem solving questions, learning resources and examination papers for students as well as information for parents. In addition to the new syllabus, the following events took place in the Maths Department during the first term:

John Hooper Medal Competition

Well done to the senior students who received certificates of achievement in September for their entry into the John Hooper Medal competition for designing a statistics poster.

Maths Week

Maths week was celebrated in St. Mary's in Mid-October. This coincided with the sixth annual Maths Week Ireland. Our first day of Maths Week got off to a great start as the whole school community was involved (even teachers!) in 'Mental Monday' from 8.55am-9.10am. During this time, all students enhanced their numeracy skills by attempting maths puzzles. There were numerous activities for junior and senior students throughout the week.

First Years – Unfortunately due to weather conditions on the day, the trail had to be postponed this year. We hope to run the event in March to coincide with world maths day. 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 which is a main objective of the Project Maths course. Along with the help and guidance of their art teachers Ms Kavanagh and Ms Cunningham, first year students created some wonderful art work for Maths week. The works included unique infinity symbols and an amazing, 'Keep Calm, Enjoy Maths Week', poster. The poster was over four metres long and each letter was constructed from maths equipment.

Second Years – A table quiz was organised for all second year students with the help of some senior students in the Choir Hall. The students worked in teams and there were many differentiated Maths questions in the various rounds. The teams were very competitive and the prize winning team members were Jade McDonnell, Hannah Ryan Murphy, Eve M Reid and Windy Quijano.

Third Years – Many third year students participated in either a Maths class quiz or some group work activity with their Maths teacher.

Transition Years – TY students took part in the National Maths PRISM (Problem Solving for Irish Second Level Mathematicians) competition. Students also participated in either a Maths class quiz or some group work activity with their Maths teacher.

Fifth Years – On the Thursday of Maths Week, all fifth year students watched the film "21" starring Jim Sturgess and Kevin Spacey. The film is based upon the true story of a group of American students who "counted cards" to improve their probability of winning the card game Blackjack at casinos. The movie had a lot of Maths in it such as the counting of cards, reference to the Fibonacci Series, Probability and the Newton-Raphson method for finding the roots of $f(x)$.



Sixth Years – Ms. Griffin's class participated in a 'Maths 'n Music' lesson with Mr. Coll. The music lesson related to Maths as Mr. Coll allowed the students to discover how note values can be transferred into a rhythm. Each specific note had an individual value of 0.5, 1, 2, or 4 beats. The students involved had to make up their own rhythm with a particular time signature. This allows student to realise the significance of note values.

Maths Olympiad

Round 1 of the 27th Irish Maths Olympiad took place on 15th November in St Mary's. The problems are designed for students in their Senior Cycle, particularly for those in transition year. Most problems require a good understanding of basic mathematical facts and the ability to think logically.

DCU Access Maths Video Competition

Our TY Classes are taking part in the DCU access Maths video competition. The theme of the competition is "Statistics and Probability". Students work in teams of 3/4 to develop a three minute video clip to show off what they know and how they can help other students to learn some of the ins and outs of Statistics and Probability. The videos are a fun and engaging way for students to break down difficult material and to make it accessible to other students. Possible styles include but are not limited to music videos, a look at the theme in the real world or animated videos; or any mix of these and other styles.

Ms. E. Murphy

HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

Transition Year Creative Sewing

Well done to all the Transition Year students who completed their creative sewing module. They worked like busy bees to complete their projects. They learned new skills of machine sewing, webbing attachment, hand sewing, bead and button attachment and personalising their bags by creating front cover designs in felt.



Cloughjordan Cookery School

Transition Year students and I wait in anticipation for the 4th of March, when we will attend a hands on, day long cookery course in Cloughjordan, Co. Tipperary. The day will start with hot chocolate and chocolate biscuit cake before the work begins with a visit to the eco-farm where students will learn about the importance of buying Irish and traceability from farm to fork. They will learn all about the vegetables and fruit grown and will harvest them for use in the kitchen. The students will be hands on in the kitchen making items like home-made soup and brown bread, homemade butter, chicken and vegetable bake, lasagna, chicken curry, fresh pasta, sticky toffee pudding and homemade sauces to name but a few!!! We intend to raise money for this venture to Cloughjordan by organising bake sales, so please support us!!! The course will also give budding culinary enthusiasts an opportunity to see a professional kitchen setting.



Little Chef

"Little Chef" is up and running again this year. This after school activity allows students to learn new skills and meet new friends. This year so far we have created dishes such as chicken goujons, home-made wedges, pasta arrabiata, muffins and spooky Halloween treats. We also did some festive treats in the lead up to Christmas. Well done to all the girls participating, keep up the hard work.

Ms. E. Doheny

Breakfast Club



This year we are delighted to be running the Breakfast Club again, with an added introduction of freshly made toast each morning. The numbers this year have increased greatly and we are happy to welcome any new students. At the Breakfast Club students of all ages have an opportunity to meet friends, have a chat as well as get a nutritious breakfast. Their options include toast, cereal, cereal bars and juice, with some special treats, including pancakes and hot chocolate, all for just 30c!

Ms. Walsh and Ms. O. A. Griffin

3rd and 6th Years

We would like to take this time to wish this year's Junior and Leaving Certificate students all the best with their upcoming mock exams and practicals. Keep up the hard work!!!

The Home Economics Department

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

The New York Science Trip

On the 28th of August 2013, students ranging from third to sixth year in St. Mary's were lucky enough to get to travel to New York City. Arriving at Terminal 2 in Dublin Airport at 7:10am there was an air of excitement for the first trip to New York by St. Mary's school and for some students, it was their first time to travel to America also. What followed was an unforgettable experience for all those involved. So after saying goodbyes to parents and going through security, we were on our way. Fast forward six hours and we were getting off the plane, greeted by humidity and disbelief. We had made it to New York. Everything seemed so spectacular, from their cars to their high rising buildings, simply because it was New York. We had no clue of the more wonderful events to follow. On the day of our arrival we were able to experience a New York pizza, probably the largest pizzas any of us has ever eaten. We also got to experience the chance of getting to see a spectacular view of New York at night time from the Empire State Building. New York is a beautiful city to walk around during daytime but having the opportunity to look down on the city at night, lit up by the buildings and traffic, was incredible.

Our second day in New York allowed us to experience a visit to the Museum of Natural History, where we got to see dinosaur skeletons, many life-like figures of creatures and the journey stars make. Once we had absorbed as much as we could, we headed to our next stop: the Rockefeller Centre, where once again we were able to go to the top of one of the highest buildings in New York and see the sights. This time we could see views of New York in daytime and it's hard to say which I preferred more, the city lit up by lights or the city lit up by the sunlight. They were both fantastic views. We moved on to a diner beside the Winter Garden Theatre on Broadway as we were going to see "Mamma Mia!" that evening as our final event of the day. It was no ordinary restaurant, the staff sang classic Broadway hits while they served you food. They were all talented young staff who are trying to make it to Broadway. The night really couldn't seem to get any better until we went in to the Winter Garden Theatre and saw "Mamma Mia!", a captivating show that left us humming and dancing all the way back to the hotel.

Our third day saw us travel on a ferry out to Liberty Island to visit the famous statue, Lady Liberty. Walking around her in awe, we took a moment to copy her elegant style and have the perfect photo opportunity by posing like her, heads high and arms outstretched. We got a group photo before we left,



Natural History Museum, New York

and then we embarked on the ferry to New York to go to Ground Zero. A serious time on the trip, Ground Zero allowed us to pay our respect to those who died on 9/11. While sad to think about, it is a beautiful memorial with two large waterfalls where the Twin Towers once stood. That evening, after a long day, we went to the classic New York store and a favourite among the group: Macy's Department Store. Elegant and extremely large, one could probably spend a day exploring the store. Roaming around it gave us the chance to say we've visited Macy's.

"A Miracle on 34th Street" magical moment.

On our fourth day, we had a walk around Central Park before heading to Times Square to do some shopping. After that wander around Times Square we headed to the bus station to get a bus to bring us out to Jersey Gardens. It was an outlet so large, one could easily get lost. We spent most of our afternoon there. What else can I say, except girls will be girls!

That night once we returned to the hotel we had the sad job of packing away our belongings as our trip was coming to an end. Suitcases closed, we still had one more adventure to look forward to.

Our fabulous fifth and final day saw us leave the hotel bright and early to get the subway out to the Hall of Science. Interactive, educational and fun the Hall of Science taught us new facts while giving us an enjoyable time with its exhibitions. Chemistry, Biology and Physics were all part of the Hall of Science with all their displays using at least one of the Science subjects. Science displays included making bubbles, music, manipulating light and changing your ethnic identity. There were so many interactions that we could enjoy, our time flew by and before we knew it we were back on the subway to the hotel to gather our bags and head to the airport.

Enthusiastic to see our families and a little sad to leave New York behind, we arrived into Dublin at 8:55am ready to find the nearest bed and catch up on some sleep from jet-lag.

I can easily say that the New York Science trip was a once in a lifetime opportunity that will never be forgotten by those who travelled on it. We made new friends and had a brilliant time. Thank you to all those involved, including our parents and guardians for letting us go and Mrs. Lennon and Ms. Murphy for allowing the trip to go ahead. Most particularly a special thank you to Ms. Nolan, Ms. McCormack, Ms. O'Keefe, Ms. O'Donnell and Ms. Devaney who took time to organise the trip, travel with us, look after us so well and who really gave us a memorable and wonderful experience.

Eilis Phelan (Deputy head girl)



New York – Hall of Science

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT CONTD.



Members of the group at Times Square

At the New York Hall of Science



Science Week

Science week took place from the 11th of November to the 15th of November.

First year science students took part in a robotics workshop during science class. Two students from DCU came to the school to facilitate this exciting venture which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Fifth year physics students took in the nano quest challenge in the computer room during physics class on Wednesday morning.

All transition year students attended two presentations in DIT Kevin Street. One talk was titled, "The Air We Breathe" where students learned how the smoking ban has affected our health. The "Physics in Action" talk was an action

packed, interactive presentation on everyday aspects of physics.

Six students represented the school in the ISTA senior science quiz. The two teams were Princess Chavez, Mary Tipones, Ella Mae Cruz and Isobelle Reid, Maclara Agassid and Janelle Abad. The quiz took place in Trinity College on Thursday 14th November from 7.30pm to 10 pm. The quiz was of a very high standard and the girls did extremely well to finish in the top 20.

Students were invited to the lab on Friday 15th November at lunchtime to engage in different science based activities.

The Science Department
Ms. B. Nolan

ST. MARY'S STUDENT COUNCIL



Our Student Council has been busy this term. To start our year we had a very worthwhile training afternoon on 7th October led by Mr. John Murphy. During the training session we all got to know each other and learned how to become active student council members.

We are delighted to see the introduction of the new school scarf this year following all our hard work to have it changed and we are looking forward to snuggling up in it this winter!

We enjoyed bringing our Christmas cheer to the sisters in the convent as we sang for them once again in Marian House. We also look forward in 2014, to co-operating again with the student councils in other local schools.

Finally we would like to say that we love hearing all students' suggestions so please let us know if you have any positive ideas for improving our school and the student facilities.

The Student Council

Year/class	Name	Year/class	Name
6 Errigal	Cristina Pulber (Chairperson)	3 Ulster	Isabel Maher (rep)
6 Brandon	Kate Lawler (Secretary)	3 Munster	Jessica Mc Sweeney (sub)
6 Kippure	Aoife Mc Kenna	3 Leinster	Nidhi Shiji (rep)
6 Errigal	Lori Fitzgerald	3 Oriel	Sona Shiji (sub)
6 Nephin	Eilis Phelan	2 Heather	Amy Boylan
6 Brandon	Antonia Blankenberg	2 Jasmine	Roja Roy (rep)
	Katie Redmond	2 Daisy	Kelsey Mooney (sub)
	Emily Penco	1 Lark	Leanne Castro
5 Solstice	Eimear Martin	1 Robin	Alice Mirth
5 Spring	Jairrah Gongora	1 Wren	Allannah Masterson
5 Summer	April Lamai (vice-chairperson)	1 Kestrel	Marie Mirbel
5 Autumn	Briza Dechavez.		Emily Mc Elroy.
5 Winter	Lara Eguia (vice-secretary)		Nicole Ledden.
T.Y	Shannen O'Brien		Erica Byrne.
Franklin	Denise Sevilla		Karen Lamai.
Newton	Megan Rothballer		Brianna Nutley
3 Connaught	Seth Banaga.		Ella Maie Mc Farland
	Kelly Fowler.		Caoimhe Mackin

OPEN EVENING 2013



On Tuesday, 24th September, St Mary's hosted its annual "Open Evening". Primary school students, with their parents/ guardians were invited to visit our school. Our own students acted as guides, and visitors enjoyed a tour of the many facilities on offer in St. Mary's, e.g. the gym, library, computer room, laboratories, Home Economics rooms, Art room and the prayer room. They also got to view a selection of subject-based classrooms. Every classroom now has a data projector, and some rooms are equipped with mimios. These allow the whiteboards to become interactive.

Well done to all the staff and students for their enthusiasm and hard work. A special thank you goes to our guides for the evening. They were, as ever, polite, cheerful and helpful to all. We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the parents, guardians and members of the wider school community for their support on "Open Evening" and throughout the school year.

Continuing the positive trend in recent years, an increase in numbers is projected for 2014-2015, so much so that demand for entry exceeds the supply of places in St. Mary's.

Ms C. Nolan



Student Council Stand on Open Night (Left to right) Kate Lawler (Secretary) Christina Pulber (Chairperson) and Ciara Spencer



OPEN EVENING 2013 CONTD.

