



St. Mary's NEWSLETTER

January 2015

St. Mary's Seventy-Fifth Jubilee

ON DECEMBER 8TH 1939 the President, Douglas Hyde, an Taoiseach, Eamon De Valera and other dignitaries of the day attended the laying of the foundation stone of our impressive red brick school that currently caters for over 700 students. A celebration on December 7th and 8th marked the anniversary and acclaimed the provision of excellence in education to thousands of students through the decades.

The school opened its doors on Sunday December 7th to past pupils, former teachers and friends of St Mary's. The Gym was the Welcome area where visitors were given a map of the school and invited to have refreshments in the Choir Hall after their trip

St Mary's Secondary School
Holy Faith Convent
Glasnevin

75th Anniversary

PAST PUPILS & FORMER TEACHERS OF
*St Mary's Secondary School
Holy Faith Convent
Glasnevin*

Are invited to celebrate our 75th Anniversary.
Visit us in the school on:

SUNDAY 7TH DECEMBER
Between 12pm - 4pm, for a trip down memory lane.

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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down memory lane. The school was festooned with photographs, memorabilia and interesting facts about St Mary's over the years. Many of the artefacts were supplied by Sr. Alice, archivist in the Holy Faith Convent adjoining the school. Sr. Jacinta Prunty gave a talk on the long history of St Mary's Glasnevin, informing the captivated audience that the boarding school was founded in 1873 to provide an education for "respectable girls." The corridors rang with laughter as people of all ages remembered and related incidents from their schooldays. The current students who acted as hostesses for the day were delighted with the stories from the past. Past pupils who were among the first boarders spoke about their experience of the then brand new building, evacuations to air raid bunkers during WW2 and hearing the

Luftwaffe bombs exploding in North Strand. More recent past pupils delighted their teachers with their achievements since leaving St. Mary's.

The day concluded with Mass in the Convent chapel celebrated by Fr Richard Sheehy. The school choir sang beautifully directed by Ms O'Rourke and Mr. Coll. The Board of Management paid tribute to the dedicated, talented staff in St Mary's and presented the school with four beautiful porcelain pieces by Isobel Egan, each piece has a quote from the foundress of the Holy Faith order, Margaret Alyward. The pieces have been hung in the entrance hallway to the school for all to enjoy. The Board also presented Mrs. Margaret Lennon, the Principal, with a personal gift to acknowledge her visionary leadership.

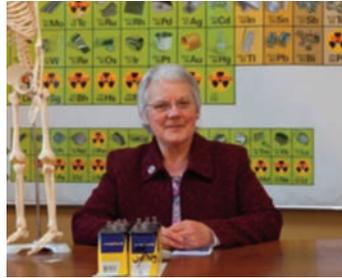
On Monday 8th December, the School

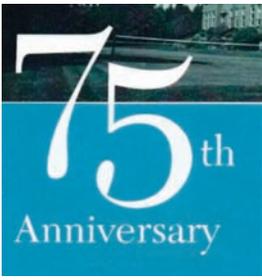
Community celebrated the 75th Jubilee. The Archbishop of Armagh, Eamon Martin, addressed the 6th Years and the staff of St Mary's. All other year groups attended a Prayer Service organised by the Religion Department. The day ended with a quiz: "How well do you know St Mary's?"

Many thanks to all who helped organise this momentous event in the history of the school. The spirit of hard work, collaboration and dedication to education lives on in St Mary's and will continue to do so for many, many more years, enabling the provision of an excellent all round education for "respectable girls."

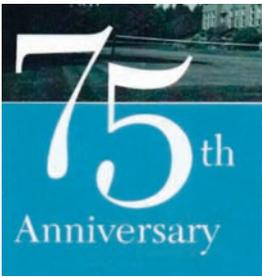
Ms. Anne Murphy
Former Deputy Principal (2007–2014)











ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Love Your Library Week

First year students got their year off to a fantastic start with "Love Your Library" week, which was held at the beginning of September. We started the week by launching our readathon whereby students were challenged to read for one thousand, five hundred minutes between September and mid-term break. Fierce competition ensued between classes! The students bowled us over with their love of reading, with some students managing to read for over six thousand minutes. The girls who won in each class were:

- **Eisha Munir** from class Sapphire
 - **Amy Dorgan Hughes** from class Topaz
 - **Tara Sterne** from class Emerald
 - **Chloe Gomma** from class Amber
 - **Anne Fabian** from class Opal
- Well done girls!*

During "Love Your Library" week all first year students were brought to the school library where they were welcomed by Sr. Maria and Ms. Sullivan. There was also an exciting 'Books and Breakfast' event which saw over fifty first year students gather for a delicious breakfast which they enjoyed while reading their favourite books. Students were also asked to nominate their favourite film based on a book. 'The Hunger Games' emerged as the clear winner! Both students and teachers enjoyed the screening of this film (and the accompanying popcorn of course!).



Trinity Lecture Series

Over seventy of our sixth year students, along with their teachers, attended the Trinity Lecture series this November. These lectures are held in the evening time and are designed to assist Leaving Certificate students with their understanding and analysis of their prescribed texts. Our students attended a wonderfully informative and thought provoking lecture on 'Pride and Prejudice' delivered by Dr. Aileen Douglas. Another particularly popular lecture was delivered by the poet Eiléan Ní Chuilleanáin who discussed her own work which appears on the Leaving Certificate course. The lectures proved to be a very worthwhile experience for our Leaving Certificate students as they were given the opportunity to ask questions and to revise key course material in a different way. We wish the girls every success in their studies this year and we know that they will make us proud.

Ms. C. Warren
English Department



Drama

Celebrate! St Mary's Musical Medley

This year saw the seventy fifth anniversary of the opening of our beautiful school building. In keeping with the celebratory mood of this term, the drama department decided to stage a retrospective of all of the wonderful shows that have been staged in St. Mary's Choir Hall over the years. Auditions were held and a few familiar faces returned to reprise their roles. The show took its audience on a varied and exciting journey through musical numbers such as 'Follow the Yellow Brick Road', 'Food, Glorious Food' and 'You've got to Pick a Pocket'. Students also performed famous scenes from shows such as 'My Fair Lady', 'The

Importance of Being Earnest' and 'A Christmas Carol'. The cast of 'The Little Shop of Horrors' also made a return to the stage and dazzled the audience with its performance of 'Downtown' and 'Suddenly Seymour'. It performed for local primary schools as well as putting on an energetic performance two nights in a row. A big thank you to all the cast and those who supported the show. We enjoyed celebrating St Mary's long and rich tradition of musical theatre and long may it continue.

Ms. C. Warren
Ms. N. O'Donnellan
Ms. M. O'Rourke
Mr. C. Coll

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT (contd.)

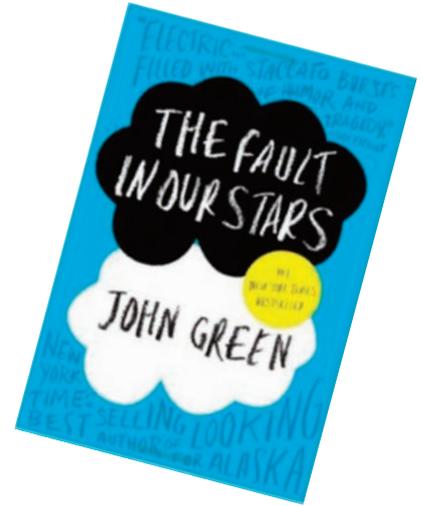
Library News

- The new Scooter library system is up and running and is proving very successful. All fiction books have been uploaded online. After Christmas we will be launching the second phase of the initiative which is to enable students to search the online catalogue from home.
- The Book Club meets every Tuesday at lunch time from 1-1.30. We have many new first year members this year which is fantastic. All are very welcome to this relaxed reading time.

- Book Club watched “The Fault in Our Stars” this term, a film based on the extremely popular John Green novel. It was a very emotional but enjoyable viewing!
- Sr. Maria and Ms. Sullivan went book shopping in November and purchased many titles that students had requested.

Remember the library is open daily at lunchtime.

Sr. Maria and Ms. Sullivan



ROINN NA GAELIGE

Bhí ócáid Oíche Shamhna ag Roinn na Gaeilge i mbliana le muintir an dara agus an tríú bliain. Chuaigh na daltaí agus na múinteoirí go léir go dtí an halla agus d’fhéachamar ar scannán uafáis faoi fhear grinn...cé go raibh eagla ar ghach duine ach thaitin sé linn! Chomh maith leis sin bhí seó faisean againn; bhí deis againn féachaint ar na bréagéide iontacha a chaith na daltaí. Bhí an-chuid spraoi againn agus bhain gach duine taitneamh as an lá.

Roinn na Gaeilge held a Halloween occasion this year with second and third year students. All the students and teachers went to St. Mary’s Hall and watched a horror film about a clown ... although we were scared we enjoyed it! We also had a fashion show where we got the chance to see the fabulous costumes that students wore. We had great fun and everyone enjoyed the day.

Tá ceardlann eagraithe do mhuintir an séú bliain don Luan an 19ú Eanáir. Ceardlann drámaíochta atá ann atá bunaithe ar na sraithpictiúir atá á ndéanamh ag daltaí sa scrúdú cainte don ardeistiméireacht. Seo é an cheathrú bliain a bhéas an ghrúpa “Caith Amach É” ag teacht isteach sa scoil agus ag cabhrú le daltaí leis na sraithpictiúir. Baineann daltaí an-taitneamh agus tairbhe as gach bliain agus táimid ag tnúth go mór leis an gceardlann arís i mbliana.

There is a workshop organised for sixth year students for Monday the 19th of January. It’s a drama workshop that is based on the “sraithpictiúir” that students are working on for their Leaving Certificate Irish oral exam. This is the fourth year that the group “Caith Amach É” will be coming to St Mary’s and helping students with the “sraithpictiúir”. Students always get great enjoyment and benefit from the workshop and we’re looking forward to hosting it again this year.

Ms. N. O’Donnellan



ROINN NA GAELIGE (contd.)

Fáinne Examination

In January 2015, Transition Year students will have the opportunity to take a *Fáinne* examination. The students will be examined on their conversational Irish by an experienced Oral Irish examiner. If successful, students will receive a silver or gold award (*Fáinne Airgid* nó *Fáinne Óir*) upon their TY graduation. The examination is intended to give the students experience of oral Irish exams and to allow them to familiarise themselves with the content and conversational skills to be covered in senior cycle given the importance of the leaving certificate oral examination which accounts for 40% of their Irish exam.



An Ciorcal Comhrá

Bíonn an Ciorcal Comhrá ar siúl gach Aoine ag am lóin. Tá an-rath air gan dabht! Tugann an Ciorcal Comhrá deis do dhaltaí a gcuid Gaeilge labhartha a chleachtadh!

Bhí plé beomhar againn ar shainspéisanna na hóige- ceol, spórt agus scannán! D'imir muid cluichí agus rinne muid drámaíocht freisin! Tá níos mó múiníne ag na daltaí astú féin mar thoradh! Maith sibh a chailíní!

Mar a deir an seanfhocal, "*Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam!*"

Ms. C. Salmon

Cake Sale

Well done to our TY Gaeilge students who successfully organised a cake sale to fundraise for Irish events and activities. We raised €300.00 on the day and spoke "as Gaeilge" from beginning to end.

Thanks to the first years and TY students for all their baking and to the teachers who helped out on the day.

Roinn na Gaeilge



MATHS DEPARTMENT

The Maths department and students had an action-packed first term. 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 entries in the John Hooper Medal competition for the best Statistics poster.

Maths Week

Maths week was celebrated in St. Mary's in Mid-October. 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.

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 Karen Loma, Emily McElroy, Lauren Wilson and Sarah Dooley.



Poster Competition

There was a huge entry for the "Unique Infinite" poster competition. The standard was so high this year that we awarded six places instead of three.



First Years

All first year students took part in a Maths trail around the Botanic gardens. 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 winning team members were Nicole Byrne, Leah Harris, Katie Kennedy and Jules Dixon.



walk to Broombridge to see the quaternion maths formula which was carved into the bridge by the famous mathematician Hamilton. During Maths week the students also learned about the life of Hamilton in class. They then had the task of writing creative writing pieces pretending they were Hamilton. The entries were creative, interesting and in many cases very funny. At the end of the week, the students completed the problem solving questions in the national PRISM competition.

Fifth Years

On the Tuesday 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 in 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 $f(x)$.



On the 16th of October, Ms. Nolan's Maths class went to DCU for "A Trio of Mathematicians" at the Concert Hall. Matt Parker, Steve Humble and Andrew Jeffrey were the speakers on the day. One student wrote about her experience: "When we arrived at DCU there was a great atmosphere in the room as everyone was eager to begin this great day. The three speakers all showed us how maths can be cool but all in different ways. They showed us how maths can be used on a daily basis, for example using food and probability. After each speaker we got to go out and socialise with students from other schools and we also got something to eat. After the last speaker finished everyone stood up and gave a round of applause. I think the speakers changed almost every person's view on maths in the room".

Third Years

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

Transition Years

The TY students had the opportunity to partake in two Maths events during Maths week. At the beginning of the week, the TY pupils participated in the Hamilton walk. The girls enjoyed the



MATHS DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Sixth Years

Ms. Rochford'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 rhythms with a particular time signature. This allowed students to realise the significance of note values.

Maths Olympiad

Round one of the twenty seventh Irish Maths Olympiad took place on 15th November in St. Mary's School. 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.

Ms. E. Murphy

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

The School Mass 2014

This year's School Mass took place on Tuesday, 30th of September, in Mother of Divine Grace Church. It was celebrated by Fr Richard Sheehy from Our Lady of Dolours Parish.

The theme this year was: "Forward in Faith". In his introduction, Mr. Coll explained how this theme linked two important issues: the upcoming seventy fifth Anniversary of our school on 8th of December and Pope Francis's wish for the Church to continue to grow in faith. This theme was further reflected in the readings: the first from the Prophet Isaiah about how faith in God can strengthen us and the second from The Letter to the Hebrews which described the faith of Abraham, Moses and the Israelites. The Gospel Reading detailed the faith of the Samaritan Woman at the well and how she encouraged others to follow Jesus.

A representative of each year group read out the Prayers of the Faithful. A special prayer "as Gaeilge", was read by Ms O'Donnellan, to remember all of our loved ones who had passed away this year and in particular Mrs Bogan who is sadly missed, RIP.



1 Opal



precious stone and how each First Year student could bring those qualities to her own class and make it a great place to be.

Mrs Lennon and Ms O'Donnell brought up the Bread and Wine to the altar.

Just before Holy Communion, a Ceremony of Commissioning of Ministers of the Eucharist took place on the altar. This followed a course given by Fr. Richard to members of staff and students. Ms. McCormack, Ms. Sullivan, Michaela Mullen, Chloe Dobbyn, Eimear Tunstead and Eimear Martin from Sixth Year as well as Amy Ray and Lisa Fitzsimons from Fifth Year were all commissioned. They then proceeded to give out Holy Communion to their fellow staff and students.

We would like to thank everyone who helped to make this year's Mass such a memorable, spiritual occasion. In particular we thank: Fr. Richard whose contribution to the Mass made it such a unique event; Mrs. Lennon and Ms.



1 Topaz



O'Donnell for their constant support, both practical and spiritual; the Choir for its beautiful singing, under the direction of Mr Coll and Ms O'Rourke; all of the students and staff who took part as readers or ministers and made it such a whole school event and lastly, all of the students and staff who joined us to celebrate the beginning of a new school year.



1 Emerald



The First Year classes are called after precious stones and this was incorporated into the Offertory Procession where a representative from Classes Emerald, Opal, Sapphire, Topaz and Amber brought pictures of the classes to the altar. While this was happening a member of each class spoke about the qualities of each



1 Sapphire



For the Communion Reflection, The Litany of Margaret Aylward, was read by our Head Girl, Eimear Martin. This was followed by the Commissioning of the Prefects read by Eimear and her Deputies Eimear Tunstead and Katie Franzoni. They guided their fellow Prefects through the ceremony and they all received a round of applause from the congregation.



1 Amber



Mrs. L. Bohan

RELIGION DEPARTMENT (contd.)

TY Retreat

The theme of the TY retreat was "Make Your Mark" and the focus both individually and collectively was for students to reflect on how they will make their mark this year. Students got to know one another better during some fun activities and had a chance to share and reflect on their expectations of the year ahead. Students were invited to write letters to themselves detailing their hopes and achievements for the year ahead. These letters were placed in sealed envelopes and will be returned to students at the TY graduation. Each group then participated in a clay meditation. The students were led in a guided meditation, whilst moulding a piece of clay into something that represents them. The day concluded with a service in the convent chapel which was both spiritual and uplifting. The day was a great success. Many thanks to all teachers involved. The TY students were surveyed after the retreat and the response was very positive.

Mrs. M. Byrne and Ms. L. Sullivan



P.E. AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT

Senior Cycle Physical Education

Our fifth and sixth year students are working hard on their fitness in P. E. this year. All senior students were given the opportunity to help devise their own P. E. programme and we were delighted to see that fitness is a priority for most students. To date we have completed fitness tests, mile challenges and circuits to increase fitness levels and these are now being tested through Zumba classes.



5th years enjoying Zumba class

Tag Rugby

Some lucky senior students have been given the opportunity to develop their tag rugby skills with the help of Mr. Mick Murray, a former Leinster development officer, and a rugby coach in Australia. He shared his knowledge and expertise of the game with the girls and offered fun filled classes focusing on the game of tag rugby. The girls were delighted with this opportunity and many showed interest in taking up rugby outside of school as a result.

great enthusiasm starting with a Hockey module. Despite never playing before we were bowled over by the speed at which they picked up their hockey sticks and demonstrated great success in developing knowledge of the game. As a result, we are delighted to see so many first years take up the sport here with thirty eight students training every Monday and Thursday after school. We hope to see similar success with our next Basketball module. Our second years began the year with a Tag Rugby and Gaelic Football combination focusing on the development of hand-eye coordination skills and team tactics. Our Third year students have completed a



module of Athletics where we had students try out all aspects e. g. running relays and sprints, attempting long jumps, high jumps and hurdles and throwing javelins and shot puts as far as they could go. The third years showed great interest in this module and it's an extracurricular activity we hope will grow here in St Mary's. The running club is up and running again every Tuesday.

done to Niamh and her clubs for this great achievement.

Junior Cycle Physical Education

Our first years have launched into P. E. here in St Mary's with

Kickboxing

A huge congratulations to one of our first year students, Niamh Ryan of class Topaz. Niamh recently competed in the U12 World Kickboxing Championship and won gold, silver and bronze medals. Well



Niamh Ryan U12 World Kickboxing Champion

P.E. AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Transition Year Physical Education Team Building

In the first term of Transition year P. E. the students participated in a team building module. The team building module is based on the philosophy of students challenging themselves physically and mentally. The activities involve trust, choice, cooperation, self-confidence, respect, discovery, problem solving, challenge and taking risks. It is an opportunity for the students to learn how to work cooperatively as a group to solve problems and overcome risk, to gain respect for and confidence in themselves and their peers.

The students also completed a full value contract agreement in the form of a poster. It was an agreement developed and agreed among their groups in an

effort to create an effective learning environment for all who participated. They had great fun being creative and designing their own individual class posters!

The class content involved activities based on getting acquainted and cooperating, building trust, communicating and collaborating and finally team challenges and problem solving. During the activities the students had an opportunity to become leaders and present the challenge to their groups. We had a fantastic number of students volunteering to take on the role of being a leader. The students also gave feedback and reflected on what strategies worked well or areas for improvement.

The team building module was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

IT'S THRILLERTIME!

To get into the spirit of Halloween, students took part in our annual Halloween games during P. E. class. These included the very frightening "Murder in the Dark", "Haunted Trails", "Goblin and Witches War" and "Killer Wink". As always we were delighted to see all students from first to sixth year enter into the spirit of the games.

An exciting new initiative by the P. E. department this year was to introduce a whole school approach to fitness through dance. On our annual Halloween dress up day, each year group was invited to the gym to learn and perform the moves of Michael Jackson's famous "THRILLER". From first to sixth year we were amazed at how easily the girls learned the moves and performed them with such joy and enthusiasm. It was such a fun way for all the girls to get active and even the teachers got into the Zombie Spirit.



TY Team Building



P.E. AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT (contd.)

First Year Sports' Competition

Due to the massive success of the First Year Sports' competition last year we were delighted to run with the fun filled, action packed forty minutes on a Thursday again this year. We went with the counties theme again and six weeks in, Cork is in the lead with Limerick at a close second. However with four weeks left the prize is still there for the taking. We are delighted that this initiative has gone so well and is having such a positive effect on the health and wellbeing of all our first years. We would like to thank all teachers involved in the success of the competition and we look forward to bringing the winning team on their prize mystery trip in 2015.

Ms. D. Maher



After school sports

Hockey

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

In September the new first year students took part in a Sports induction day. 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 league 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 and Manor House.

The first and second year hockey teams attended their first International Ladies

Hockey Match. We had a unique opportunity in November to attend the Ireland National Ladies' hockey team playing against Scotland. The girls were very excited to see hockey played at the top international level. It was a fantastic afternoon and they all thoroughly enjoyed the trip and getting to meet the Irish team. St. Mary's students are featured on the Irish Hockey website as the Irish team posed for photos and signed autographs for our girls. It was a great day and an inspiration for the future!

The Senior 4 and Junior 3 teams started their warm-up matches against Dominican Griffith Avenue. We wish both teams luck in this year's Northside League commencing in January.

The Minor D team (2nd Year) played Dominican Cabra in their first Leinster league game and was delighted with a 2-0 victory. The girls take on East Glendalough in their second league game and are

looking forward to the last two match challenges ahead!

The First year beginners will take part in a Super Eights challenge against Holy Faith Clontarf. The girls thoroughly enjoy playing hockey and show great potential for the future. The team look 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 play hockey.

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

Ms. Boran, Ms. Maher and Ms. Considine



Senior Team



Junior Team



2nd Year Teams



First Year Teams



1st and 2nd Years Attending Ireland v Scotland Hockey Match



P.E. AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Gaelic Football: St. Mary's

The Junior football kicked off in September with St. Mary's up against Santa Sabina in Sutton. The girls fought very hard in this match and played extremely well. They were however very unlucky to lose out by a goal after playing against a gale force wind in the second half.

Their next outing was a home game against St. Michael's in Inglas where they, having gained valuable experience against Santa Sabina, were a much better team and this reflected in their performance resulting in a very comprehensive win. The Junior team includes players from second year to fifth year and the girls have been making a great effort in training.

The Senior team will have its first outing in the coming weeks and will face Loreto Swords and Scoil Caitríona. Best of luck to the girls.

Ms. Considine and Mr. Beirne

First Year Basketball

The First year basketballers, 'The Miami Heat' and 'The Chicago Bulls' had their first outing against St. Mary's Baldoyle. It was many of the girls' first time playing a basketball match and they did themselves proud. Although the results didn't go our way on the day, their overall commitment and team effort were admirable. It was the first of many games that the girls will face and I'm sure there will be great things ahead for these promising teams.

Ms. Considine and Ms. Mulvey



First year basketball Miami Heat team who beat St. Dominic's Cabra by 10-7 in a very exciting encounter!

Basketball

It has been a promising start for basketball in St. Mary's. Our u-16 b team has already recorded its first win against Mount Sackville. The students play St. Dominic's Cabra in their next game.

Due to the huge interest shown, we have entered both a first year division 1 and division 2 team this year. We have also entered three under 16 teams, consisting of two division 2 teams and a premier team. We also have a division 2 senior team. The Premier team will play Maynooth in its opening game. The senior team met Presentation Terenure in its opening game. The girls were narrowly defeated by three points.

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.

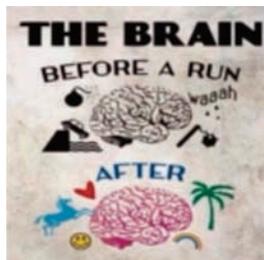
Ms. Murphy and Ms. Considine

Running Club

The Running club is taking place again this year with excellent participation by all members. It takes place every Tuesday during lunchtime. This is a great opportunity for beginners to try out running for the first time!

Running is a great way to relieve stress, build strength and burn calories! New members are always welcome!

Ms. C. Salmon



Active Flag

This year St. Mary's embark on a journey to achieve an 'Active Schools Flag' accredited by The Department of Education and Skills.

This is a non-competitive initiative which seeks to recognise schools that strive to achieve a physically active and physically educated school community.

As part of the Active Flag initiative we want everybody to be as active as possible!

There will be lots happening in the coming months.

Watch this space!

Halloween

In an attempt to get the whole school community active, on the 23rd of October the PE teachers were "zombified" and led each year group through the dance of Michael Jackson's Thriller.

The day was a great success and everybody got into the Halloween spirit.

It was a real scream.



P.E. AND SPORTS DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Camogie

Following the success of last year, St. Mary's was able to enter teams in both the Dublin Junior and Senior Championships. Great interest has been shown by our new first years and also by girls from every year group. We have representatives from Erin's Isle, Na Fianna and Setanta.

Our senior team is now competing in the B championship having won C last year. Thus far it has played Scoil Dara in Kilcock and Knocklyon. The juniors have played Manor House. First year camogie players can look forward to a blitz in the coming months. We look forward to the rest of our year.

Ms. A. Walsh and Ms. Shelly

Badminton

Badminton takes place in our school every Tuesday evening and girls from every year group play. Friendly games with other local schools are due to take place in the New Year. Due to the interest and enthusiasm shown by the girls to date this year, a trip was organised for the girls to attend the Irish Open. This was in Baldoyle on the 6th of December and the girls are looking forward to seeing badminton played at such a high level.

Ms. Walsh

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

As part of our fifth year geography course we got to make clay structures of some of the things we have learned so far this year. We have learned about the structure of the earth and plate tectonics.

Through plate tectonics we learned that the earth is split into different plates that move due to convection currents in the mantle. Some plates pull away from each other while others push together. At each plate there are destructive and constructive boundaries.

When two plates push together the land can buckle up to form fold mountains like The Himalayas. When two plates separate magma pushes up from the mantle to the crust. Over time this builds up to form a chain of volcanoes like The Mid Atlantic Ridge.

We really enjoyed creating these models and learned a lot through hands on experience.

Olwyn Galbraith

Northern Delights

On September 6th 2014, many of the fifth and sixth year Geography students set off on an exciting and educational tour of some of Northern Ireland's geographical treasures. They were accompanied by Ms. Maher, Ms. Mahon, Ms. Byrne and of course the class's beloved pet sloth!

Our two day excursion began with a visit to the beautiful Marble Arch Caves in Fermanagh. This is a large Geo-park spreading across two counties. We began our descent into the caves and took a small boat trip through them. It felt like we were in a scene in "Harry Potter" heading to Hogwarts! We were told the story of the caves and the local surroundings. We were then taken on a walk around the Geo-park and we saw various karst features.

Then we were back on the bus travelling to Belfast for a spot of late night shopping and dinner in the Victoria



Square shopping centre. Next we watched a movie in the cinema. It was 'Before I go to Sleep', and it had us all on the edge of our seats. We returned to the hotel and hit the hay.

The following morning, after our full Irish breakfast we travelled to Antrim to see the Giant's Causeway. Our tour guide was fantastic and got everyone involved. The Giant's Causeway was unlike anything we had seen before. Huge basalt columns were formed sixty five million years ago. They contracted into hexagonal shapes that dominate the Antrim coastline. It was a sight to behold.

Next we had the challenge of walking across the Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge. It is a creaky rope bridge that hangs over a thirty metre drop. Some very brave girls

Having a rest on the hexagons



thought it would be funny to make the bridge wobble and swing, needless to say it was not funny!

The trip was fantastic, we had to so much fun, and learned a lot in the process. Our instagram accounts went into overdrive with the amount of posts. They will make great study aids for the leaving certificate examination.

Special thanks to Ms Byrne for organising the trip and to all teachers who travelled with us.

Aine Ford



GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Geology Module

This is the first year that geology has been included in the Transition Year programme. At first we weren't expecting much from this class, thinking it'd be dull and boring. After all, it is just about rocks. But our opinions quickly changed when we started doing hands on activities and learning about how much geology impacts on our everyday life. We'd never thought about that before.

We learned about the importance of geology in building materials, minerals, conflict minerals, fossils,

meteorites, careers in geology and a lot more. We even got to see and feel minerals, fossils, stalactites and coprolite in class as we learned about them. This was far more immersive and interesting than reading about rocks in a chapter in a geography book.

Now that the module is over we have more of an understanding about the world around us and a respect for the work and intelligence involved in geology.

Alison Kennedy (4 Botanic)
Lucy Forde (4 Mobhi)



HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Sixth Year Projects

This year's sixth year students have impressed us all with how committed they've been to completing their Research Study Reports. On 17th November the girls wrote up their projects into the official SEC booklets. Some of the titles this year focussed on the trial of the Rosenbergs, the building of the Titanic, famous figures such as Christie Browne and Grace Gifford and Plan W, the secret plan to combat a German invasion of Ireland. That's 20% of their exam completed – well done girls, we're very proud of you all.

Transition Year

TY trips so far this year have included outings to Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublinia and Dublin Castle. The girls have enjoyed seeing some of the many amazing historical sites Dublin has to offer!



HISTORY DEPARTMENT (contd.)



Remembrance Day, 11th November 2014

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 reminders of this important day in history.

First Year Hunter-Gatherers!

Our 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 10% of their overall Christmas assessment. They had to label at least four parts of the house and display 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!



Open Evening

Room 20 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, age of exploration projects and Mesolithic houses which had been designed and built by our current second and third year pupils as part of their assessments this time last year.

Ms. G. Hayes

Second Year Explorers!

Our second year students made some really interesting projects about the Age Of Exploration. Here are some of the examples from 2 Lark: Nicole Ledden and Claire Mulcahy made a model of a quadrant and made a real book to accompany the model. Lauren Wilson, Emily McElroy and Megan Bergin made a captain's log. They used an old teabag to make the paper look aged. Divia Kripakaran, Sherlyn Sam and Thaara Rose Wilson made a caravel which must have taken them ages to make. It was really accurate, containing lateen sails for navigation around shallow waters and square sails for speed on the high seas. Sophie O'Brien made a log and line which measures how deep the water is and Alaina Duffy and Caitlin Mangan made an astrolabe. This device helped sailors measure how far north or south they were. The girls from Wren and Kestrel also made amazing projects, providing a wide range of tools and caravels – one of which was presented in its own deep blue water, proving it can actually float! Well done to all the girls.



ART DEPARTMENT

Our Creative Engagement Project, 'Flight', continued on its journey following the official opening in May by Mr. Dermot Carney, N. A. P. D. The beautiful porcelain installation which was created by our present second year students with artist-in-residence, Ms. Isobel Egan, is dedicated to our retired Deputy Principal, Ms. Anne Murphy. 'Flight' was exhibited in: the Teak House in the "Sculpture In Context Exhibition" held in the Botanic Gardens; the Atrium at the National Gallery of Ireland and the "Creative Engagement Exhibition" at The National Museum of Ireland, Decorative Arts and History, at Collins Barracks.

The Head Girl, art student Eimear Martin, together with Amy Ray, Roisin Byrne and Emily Carey presented Minister Heather Humphries with a gift of a porcelain butterfly from 'Flight' at the National Gallery.

This year our first year art students have begun another series of large scale porcelain work. Following their introduction to the elements of drawing and painting they have embarked on a cross-curricular project with the Maths and Physics departments promoting 'Numerical Wonder'. Students will create artworks based on The Fibonacci Sequence, The Solar System, and explore mathematical patterns found in time, weight and distance. Each student will support her own numerical learning through the experience of three-dimensional tactile building in porcelain.

Second and transition year students have created artworks as part of the seventy fifth school celebrations for St. Mary's. The Art and History departments have focused on a poster project with second years. The graphic work examines the history of typography throughout the past eight decades. Transition year students have explored the architectural heritage of the school building and made unique decorative porcelain tiles. Both wonderful projects

are on display in the school building.

Third year students are working arduously on their Junior Certificate Art Projects. They have completed the two dimensional component of the project and have visited galleries to gather visual research and further develop their chosen themes.

The poetry of Elizabeth Bishop acted as inspiration for the fifth years students' Still Life Compositions. Students made personal creative responses to her poetry through the use of various art media including photography.

Sixth year art students have concentrated on Irish Georgian Architecture. They visited The Casino at Marino designed by Sir William Chambers. This field trip provided the students with visual and historical references necessary to complete their craft options in clay, embroidery, lino-print and graphic design.

Finally, we are delighted to acknowledge that the new Sensory Garden beside the gym has been enjoyed by our art students. It has enhanced the aesthetic of the school environment and enabled students to make direct observational and investigative drawings from nature.

**Ms. C. Kavanagh,
Ms. N. Cunningham,
Ms. I. Egan and
Ms. N. Synnott**



HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

Fifth Year Journals

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our current fifth year students the best of luck as they embark on their Leaving Certificate journal work which is worth 20% of their overall result. The assignments are based on the following topics:

- Active young people
- Muscle strength
- Food processors
- Afternoon Tea
- Culinary uses of sugar
- Sensory Analysis

These assignments require fifth year pupils to investigate, prepare and serve a dish relevant to each of the above topics.

Good Luck girls!

Ms. Walsh and Ms. Doheny

Third Year – Clothes Peg Holders

Well done to all the third year students who completed their household items and Junior Certificate Craftwork Projects. Many skills and originality were displayed in the making of both projects. Support folders were presented alongside the projects to explain the design process. Well done Girls!

Ms. Doheny



Jade Butler and Rebecca Carney



3rd Year Class Group Clothes Peg Holders

An Bord Bia

We are eagerly anticipating a visit from a representative of An Bord Bia. St. Mary's has been very fortunate to have had numerous visits from the group and this year we look forward to its arrival. An Bord Bia will demonstrate to the students the use of home-grown nutritious produce and the importance of buying Irish. It will be a great day full of information, discussions and plenty of tasty treats.

Ms. Walsh



Breakfast Club

A big welcome to all our new members of Breakfast Club and a huge thank you to all the fifth year students and teachers helping out each morning.

Breakfast Club runs from Tuesday to Friday @ 8.15 in St. Mary's Kitchen. We serve a wide variety of breakfast choices for a minimal cost of 30c.

All volunteers, new members or donations are welcome. Many thanks.

Ms. Walsh and Ms. O. A. Griffin

CSPE DEPARTMENT

As part of its CSPE action project class 3 Jasmine visited the DSPCA in October. The class chose this charity as it is based on the concept of stewardship. The students collected old newspapers, empty ink cartridges and blankets to donate. The DSPCA was delighted with the donations. Students were able to feed the horses and donkeys, visit the cats and dogs as well as take part in an excellent question and answer session with Olive, the Education Officer, at the DSPCA. It was a very worthwhile and enjoyable trip.



Ms. L. Sullivan

PREFECT NEWS

From the beginning of the school year we have embraced and enjoyed our role as prefects. We began the year with a first year sports induction day where we got to meet the incoming first year students. We had great fun throughout the day and it gave us the opportunity to get to know each other. Over the past few months we have visited our classes during lunchtime and as a result have bonded with them and we look forward to continuing the year with them. The prefects have used the Homework Club as a way to help the First Year students get into a routine every Tuesday and Wednesday after school and so far this has been a huge success. In the run up to Halloween, the prefects organized a movie afternoon for all second year students which was held on our annual dress up day. Both prefects and Second Year pupils really enjoyed "Hocus Pocus" and the popcorn was an added bonus! As well as this, two euro was collected from each student in the school and was donated to our two chosen charities: The Simon Community and The Lauralynn Foundation.

Eimear Martin, Head Girl,
Ciara Tunstead and Katie Franzoni, Deputy Head Girls

SPHE DEPARTMENT

The SPHE department is focusing specifically on emotional health this year and has introduced meditation at the start of class as one method to aid the wellbeing of our students. Students are enjoying these five minutes at the start of class as an opportunity to relax, reflect and re-energise. They also take time to write down a positive reflection and it is hoped that this will help them to focus on the good in their lives. They have also learned about their twenty four character strengths and how to apply their top strengths, as well as understanding that their characters are not fixed and that they can make a decision to improve other character strengths that will help them both socially and academically.

First year students began the year by looking at the changes they have



experienced in the daunting transition from primary school to secondary school. They considered how to manage their own feelings about becoming part of our community in St. Mary's and the changes that can occur in their friendships. They have also explored ideas on a practical level about how to manage their timetable, lockers, homework and extracurricular activities.

Our second years have focused on the changes they have experienced since the start of first year. They have learned about their character strengths and considered the

strengths of the important people in their lives. They prepared for their exams by looking at study skills and are now focusing on communication skills.

In third year, students have applied what they have learned so far about relaxation, their character strengths and their own personal learning styles to their study preparations. They brainstormed ways to study more effectively based on their learning styles. They looked at their physical health in the run up to Christmas and how best to take care of themselves.

In Transition year, the first module group have completed their "Relationships and Sexuality" module. Students examined and considered the language used around sexuality, covered areas such as contraception, sexually



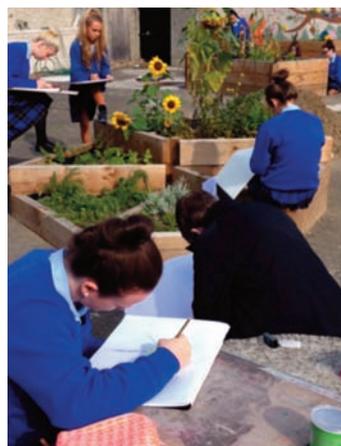
transmitted infections, breast check for October awareness month and the area of being LGBT, coming out to self, others and promoting equality and belonging in St. Mary's. As part of their assessment, students completed information leaflets on both a form of contraception and a specific sexually transmitted infection. In completing this module it is hoped students have changed their attitudes and are more informed and aware in the area of Relationships and Sexuality.

Ms. N. Cunningham

Gold Module

Sixth year Gold module students have been working on the sensory garden, which was set up in the last term of 2014. They began the year by tending and then harvesting the crops: runner beans; chillies; sweetcorn; yellow beans; tomatoes; onions; carrots; sunflowers and sweet pea. They have learned about leaf mould compost and gathered leaves from the school grounds to make their own rich compost. They are drying the seeds from the sunflowers, sweet peas and runner beans from their harvest to sow next spring. They have sown broad beans and planted garlic bulbs as their winter crops.

The students also had a go at flower arranging and created beautiful arrangements for the school's



6th Year art students drawing in sensory garden

open night. Their creativity was admired by all. We aim to grow our own flowers for cutting and flower-arranging and hope that we might be able to use these for the sixth year graduation.

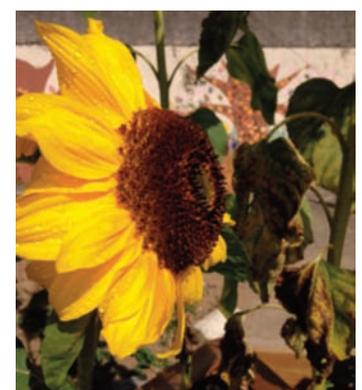
In the New Year, they will make a scarecrow for the garden and work on the theme

of bio diversity, creating habitats for insects and sowing seeds for plants that attract bees and other pollinating insects for the Summer and Autumn harvests. We hope that our pumpkins and gourds will be successful and aim to have a display for next autumn.

Ms. N. Cunningham



Sensory Garden with green flags



Sunflower



Chillies

SPHE DEPARTMENT (contd.)



Gold Module flower arrangement



Gold Module flower arranging



MODERN LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

French Club (Le Club français)



 Le Club Français takes place every Monday at lunchtime. So far, the French Club has been a great success.

 The French Club members have been busy this term taking part in French games, quizzes, music, dancing, film watching and even French themed fancy dress!

 Learning French requires us to immerse ourselves in the language; it is all about practice. Le Club Français enables us to do just that.

"C'est en forgeant qu'on devient forgeron."

Thanks to all who commit each week and a special thanks to our French Club Captains.

Un grand merci à tous!

*French food -
French Culture -
French Games -
French Music -
French language*

Ms. G. Shanahan and Ms. M. Lenehan



French Costume Day



Spanish Trip to Valencia

On Wednesday 24th September, thirty nine students and four teachers set off from Dublin Airport on a Spanish adventure to Valencia, Spain. We all agree that the trip was a fantastic success. Among the highlights were: our guided tour of the city with Javier; the fascinating City of Art and Science; our hands-on Tapas cooking experience and our fun-filled day at the Theme Park, Tierra Mitica. We were very proud of our students, who never missed an opportunity to learn new words and record them in their notebooks. During a very lively Flamenco show, the girls (along with Mrs. Hughes and Mrs. O'Keeffe) showed off their talent for this style of dancing. Looking forward to our next trip! Tenemos muchas ganas de volver a España.



Ms. E. Higgins

German and History Trip

This year's German and History trip brought us to the fascinating and vibrant German capital city, Berlin, in December 2014. Some sixty three students and their six teachers embarked on a four day adventure of this historical and cultural city. Excursions included a visit to Sachsenhausen Concentration camp, the Berlin Wall, Checkpoint Charlie, a nuclear bomb shelter and the Sanssouci Palace (Potsdam). Other exciting activities involved bowling, ice-skating and a shopping trip to the world renowned Christmas markets. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to immerse themselves in German culture, history and language. Several of our guides commented on how interested and knowledgeable the girls were. Well done to all our students who were so well-behaved and did the school proud!

Ms. G. Hayes and Ms. S. McManus

"Berlin was a great experience and one of my biggest highlights of secondary school. I made many new friends and learned a lot of new information. My favourite part of the trip was visiting the concentration camp. We learned about German history and the concentration camps in class but it did not feel real sitting in a class room in Ireland. Seeing the camp for myself was a shocking and emotional experience. We were guided around the camp and shown where the prisoners slept, worked and even where some were killed. We were shown their light clothing and wooden shoes. This was very overwhelming but definitely something I will never forget."

Megan Dunne

"I enjoyed every activity and historical guided tour that we had throughout the trip, but my favourite experience was going to the Christmas markets which were filled with the most amazing and beautiful ornaments and decorations for the holidays and also mouth-watering food and sweets. The Berlin Documentation Centre was my next favourite experience because it taught me more about the division of east and west Berlin and how the people in the east fought to get over to the west. Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp was an important experience because it taught me how it grew from a small camp to a huge camp in a few years and how cruel the SS were to the prisoners. And last, but not least, were the bowling, ice-skating and the shopping which were brilliant because I got to make new friends on the trip. This trip has been one of the most wonderful trips that I have ever been on and will be one of the greatest experiences of all time!"

Samantha Vodo

"The Christmas Markets were some of my favourite places because the atmosphere was amazing and the lights everywhere were really pretty. Ice skating was also really good because we were all having fun together and we fell a lot of times which was really funny! The Berlin Wall was very interesting because some of the stories about people trying to get over the wall were very upsetting."

Lynn McDermott

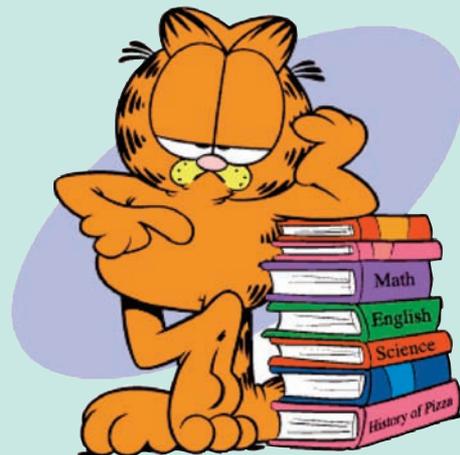
"I found the Berlin Wall the most interesting experience in the whole trip because I didn't know how serious or how much of a big deal the wall was. It was very upsetting when the guide was telling us all the stories of people who had tried to get back over the wall to their families and friends."

Kate Birney



Homework Club

A reminder to all first year students that the Homework Club takes place after school every Tuesday and Wednesday. It is the perfect way to get your homework started and make your schoolbag lighter for the journey home! The senior students are there to give a hand if students are having any difficulties with their work.



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

All of us here in the Science Department have been busy as bees over the last few weeks. The sixth year Biology classes made full use of our extensive grounds in September when they all carried out their ecology practicals. Our fifth year students made lots of alcohol during the month of October during their practical experiment on anaerobic respiration. In the photograph you can see the inflated balloons containing the carbon dioxide that is also made with the ethanol. Over in the Chemistry class, fifth year pupils made both Clove oil and Ethene gas while sixth year students made Ethyne gas and Benzoic acid. Physics students investigated the principles governing the operation of an endoscope and the wave nature of light.

Science Week 2014

Science Week happened all over the country from the 10th to 15th of November and here in St. Mary's, we were no different. It all began with our Sci-fi Movie Nights. The Choir hall was the perfect venue, with its big screen allowing our students to enjoy some weird, wonderful and wacky science related movies. For those students who had a strong stomach and a strong sense of curiosity, our lunchtime dissections of organs including heart, lungs and liver proved successful as the photos show.

Delve Deeper Botanic Gardens

Selected groups of our first and second year students participated in a workshop facilitated by the Botanic Gardens entitled, 'A Visual Odyssey into Invisible Worlds'. This exhibition by Karl Gaff takes you on a visual odyssey to explore the richness, complexity and the sheer beauty of places far beyond the limits of human vision. A sophisticated machine called a scanning electron microscope was employed to visualize different parts of plants. This allows us to enter the micro and nanoscopic realms of nature. It delves down six orders of magnitude to conduct a type of photography called 'micrography'. Here are some firsthand accounts from some of our students:

"During our expedition to the Botanic Gardens, we saw many interesting and exquisite examples of plant life. Our guide, Veronica, was wonderful and showed us around the exhibition and the gardens themselves. Firstly, we made our way upstairs to an exhibition by Karl Gaff, full of scientific photographs involving use of an S. E. M. microscope, which is a high powered microscope. We then used smaller microscopes attached to a computer to explore plant life up close. Afterwards, we ventured



Second year students in the Botanic Gardens during Science Week

outside to see the wonders of the Botanic Gardens. Veronica showed us many beautiful plants and trees such as Banana trees and the giant Red Wood. It was raining hard at this stage but nothing could stop our curiosity."

Lauren Wilson and Karrel Uy

We first explored the Orchid house where we saw many different kinds of orchids. One of them is called a Vanilla orchid. There were also epiphytes, which is a type of plant that grows on a tree. It can harm trees like the mistletoe. Next, we went to the Jungle-like greenhouse, where we saw cycads, pineapple trees, coconut trees and many more. We also saw the Japanese maple trees that grow very slowly and are

approximately two hundred years old. Lastly, we went inside to look under a microscope at some lavender, pine cones and one very surprised caterpillar!!

Gwen, Darlene, Sherine, Thaara, Divya, Dona

Our guide's name was Veronica. Firstly, we looked at natural objects through a microscope. It was very interesting as we could zoom in and focus and change the colour. After that we went out into the rain and walked around the glasshouses. Veronica told us interesting facts about the glasshouses e.g. the main glasshouse was designed by a Dublin man and took twenty five years to build. Finally, we visited a Viking house to represent the one



Lunchtime dissections in the laboratory



Students dissecting a sheep's heart in the laboratory

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT (contd.)

thousand year anniversary of the Battle of Clontarf. We really enjoyed our trip and shared our knowledge with our classmates.

Karen Loma

Today our science class went to the Botanic Gardens with Ms. McCormack and Ms. Coleman for a science workshop because this is Science Week. Firstly, we were split up into two groups. We saw oak trees, strawberry trees, mistletoe trees and much more. Our guides were Mark and Angelica. We visited a Viking house which was a replica of an actual one. It took six months for two men to build it. Then we went inside and did microscope work. We focused on plants and found a little creature that would turn into a moth or a butterfly. It was a great day and we learned a lot.

Sarah, Mikaallah, Nerice

We went to the Botanic Gardens on the 12th November for a science workshop during Science Week. Veronica, our guide

showed us how to look through a microscope to see images of pollen grains and insects. We then went out to the gardens to look at different flowers, plants and trees. As it started to rain, we went inside a replica Viking house, we all had a great time.

Katie Guyatt, Emma O'Reilly, Aoife Lawless, Leah Wheatley

During our trip to the Botanic gardens we looked at plants under a microscope, like pinecones, lavender and different leaves. We went on a tour outside where we saw flytraps, different types of trees including Ash, a baby Giant Red Wood and Palm trees. Also we saw a Viking house. The walls were thatched and two beds were made of straw, sticks and animal fur. There was no hole in the roof to let the smoke out so it would go out through a gap in the top of the door. It was really interesting to see what it was like to live in that type of house. We had a really good time and learned a lot.

Rebecca and Amy



Anaerobic respiration experiment that fifth year Biology students carried out

Science in TY

The TY students went to the Irish Film Institute during Science Week to attend a screening of "Sputnik" in German. The following account is by Emma Bolger and Quennie Joy.

"We went to the IFI to watch the movie "Sputnik". We met at the globe at the Central Bank. The film was in German so it had English subtitles. It was about a young girl living in East Berlin at the time when the Berlin Wall was coming down. The movie was very good. It was a lot better than we had expected".

A huge thanks to all those who participated in Science Week and to management for all their support.

Ms. R. McCormack
Science Department

Transition Year Chemistry

Following on from their 'Molecular Modelling' module, students marked Science week by creating animations relating to 'Isomeric forms of Hydrocarbons' as part of their project task. An audit of the various projects revealed some informative and elaborate animations including those produced by Jessica Byas's group. Touch-screen tablets were provided by The School of Chemistry, in DCU, to facilitate the completion of the tasks. Here is what student Jodie Hanney had to write about the experience.

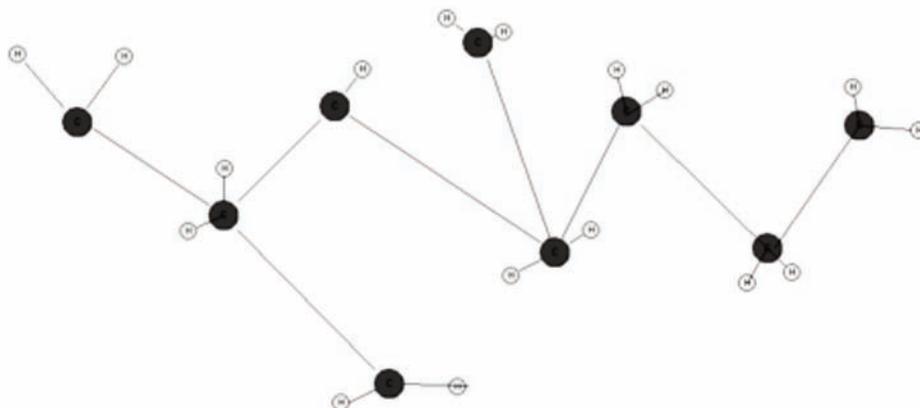
Learning about how to make animated molecules in Chemistry was way better than drawing them on a piece of paper. I learned before today that ball-and-stick models (in 3D form) were fun to make and they are helpful for completing molecular drawings. However, it was more fun to make an animated molecule on an iPad because when it moved around on the screen it looked really cool.

Mr. E. Carr

JC Science



The school is one of a small number of Irish schools to be accepted to join the 'Chemistry is all Around us Network', which is part of a European-wide Comenius project hosted by the University of Genoa, Italy. This means that Chemistry teaching and learning resources are available for all via the link on the Science department section of the school website.



TRANSITION YEAR

Transition year students have been very busy this year. They started Induction Week by visiting Causey Farm, learning about Dublin with 'Get to know your city' and team building in Howth. They have learned the importance of giving to others by fundraising for Down Syndrome Ireland and Temple Street *Trick or Treat* and by working for others every Tuesday afternoon in their Community Action Placements. They have attended talks from many speakers including Ballymun Youth Bank, Temple Street Hospital, Gaisce and EU4 Schools. The students have had workshops in and out of school including those on Interview Techniques and Irish Aid. They had an amazing experience in Knock for the *Knock Youth Gathering* and had lots of fun on the *Dublinia* tour. They visited the Irish History Museum, Dublin Castle, and had a *Haunted Walk*. During Maths Week they

went on the *Hamilton Walk*. The girls have been preparing for their Fainne Ring in January in the New Year and have fundraised for this by organising a cake sale. They have gone to the movies to see 'Sputnik' and 'Noble'. These are just some of the extra activities the TY students have been involved in as they are kept very busy in school too with their many modules and classes including Japanese, Italian, Philosophy, Craft Making, Biology, Physics, Chemistry, R & S and Fitness for Life, among many others.

The TY students are a great group of girls and we really enjoy working with them. Keep up with TY by visiting our TY Blog on the school website or visiting

<http://stmarystyxperience.tumblr.com/>

Ms. O'Keeffe and Ms. Griffin



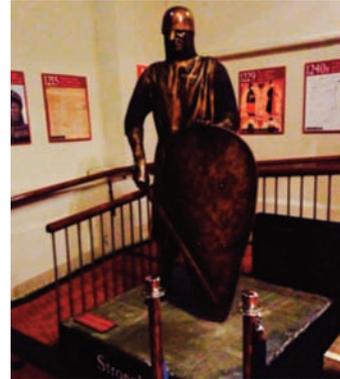
Howth Hike



Howth Hike



Hamilton Walk



Dublinia Tour



Dublinia Tour

Causey Farm



Bread making in Causey Farm

On my first day in fourth year my class 4 Botanic and I went to Causey Farm in Co. Meath. It was really good. We saw lots of different animals like horses, chickens, sheep and dogs. We also got to see the corn fields. We went to a barn to do Irish Dancing, it was a great laugh. We also got to make bread and I made the bread with my friend Jessica. We halved the loaf of bread and shared it. Last but not least we went on the tractor and trailer to the bog. It was amazing to see all my class and my teacher jump into the bog and get mucky and dirty. It was so funny. When I jumped in my leg got stuck in the muck for about five minutes, it was so scary. I honestly thought I wasn't getting back out. But I finally did.

Andrea Corbally



Mucking around in Causey Farm

TRANSITION YEAR (contd.)

'Get to know your city'

On the 4th of September, all Transition Year students went into town and met at the Spire. We were put into groups and the teachers gave each group a booklet. In the booklet were different questions about different parts of town. We ended up walking around town, trying to answer the questions. We asked bus drivers and tour guides for help. We went into McDonalds to count the amount of chips. We went into the police station to find out one of their rank numbers. We walked over the Ha'penny Bridge while counting the steps. We also counted the number of pictures taken of Molly Malone per minute.

We had our lunch in town, finished off our questions and then went home. We had a great day and we learned more about different places in the city.

Ciara Kelly

Visit to Knock

On the day of our trip, at 6:30 am, we met with Mr. Coll, Ms. Callan and Ms. Murtagh at school. We lined up and got on the bus. Everyone was so tired so most people went asleep. Ten minutes later, Mr. Coll showed us an introductory

video all about Knock. When we got to Knock we first went to a small church called the Virgin Mary, St. Joseph and John the Evangelist. There were three statues in the right corner and a small altar where there was a small lamb and five angels. It was very peaceful. We then went to the Basilica for a welcoming mass where there were guests such as Micky Harte, and Sr. Monica from Boston. They told us how important the Rosary is, and we should carry Rosary beads with us. After the mass we went to the picnic area and had our lunch. After lunch we went to the underground church for twenty minutes of quiet prayer. It was a very calming place where people could say quiet prayers for their loved ones or family members who were sick. After that the members of the Knock parish led us in the Stations of the Cross. Towards the end of the day Mr. Coll took us to an old fashioned Church where we all wrote down the names of those we wanted to pray for. After that we headed to the bus for the three hour journey home. Everybody really enjoyed the day and people said they wanted to go back again next year. Thank you to all the teachers for taking us.



Knock



Knock

Honey Pots for Down Syndrome Ireland

On the 17th of October, we all went into town and met outside Arnotts. We made our way to the Down Syndrome Ireland charity shop in the GPO arcade. We were all given T-shirts or high-vis jackets to wear. We were put into groups and given a tray of honey pots per group.

We walked along Henry Street, O'Connell Street and some girls walked along O'Connell Bridge. Lots of girls managed to sell two trays of honey pots. We managed to raise one thousand euro for Down Syndrome Ireland which is a huge success for Transition Year!

We had our lunch and then walked to the park beside the Jervis Centre after meeting the teachers. We had a Ghost Walk around some of the most haunted areas in town. The guides told us scary stories about each place we visited. After the ghost walk we went home. It was a very successful fundraiser and an interesting day.

Hannah Lawler



Leisure Studies

Our Leisure Studies this term included Modern Dance, Self-Defence and Aromatherapy.

I really enjoyed the Modern Dance module because it was fun and we were always up and about learning new dances every week. I found myself looking forward to this class more than any of the others I had. Oisín taught us Self-Defence. This class was interesting and fun. I was very embarrassed when I had to flip Oisín.

The Aromatherapy class was good although it wasn't about being up and about. In fact it was the opposite. I learned how to do a lot of different massages but I can safely say I enjoyed it more when it was being done to me. I learned a good bit about different essential oils, their effects and how they are made.

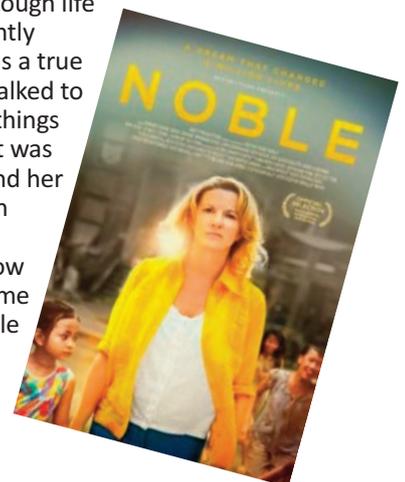
Shannon Joyce

Trip to the Lighthouse Cinema to see Noble

I really enjoyed this film. It was brilliant! We saw "Noble" in the Lighthouse cinema and it was very posh and classy. The film was about Christina Noble and the tough life she had. It was so good yet slightly depressing due to the fact it was a true story! It was odd how she still talked to God even after all the horrible things that had happened to her, yet it was through her belief that she found her calling. It was to help children in Vietnam.

I really admire the woman now and I can honestly say she is some person and she is a heck of a role model for sticking with the bad and yet still looking forward to the glimmer of light.

Shannon Joyce





The Parents' Association

St. Mary's Parents' Association works in partnership with the school, on behalf of all parents, on many different projects. We are involved in supporting many events in the school and providing feedback to the management team on parents' views. At our recent AGM we were very fortunate to have a talk on "Wellbeing and Suicide Awareness" from The Finglas Suicide Network. This was a very informative talk about mental wellbeing and coincided with Mental Health Week. This year we are happy to welcome new members to the association. We have a great team of helpers involving parents of students spanning first to sixth years. Join our team as we partner with the school in activities such as celebrating St. Mary's seventy fifth Anniversary, sixth Year Graduation, reviewing school policies, organising raffles for much needed funds for our school and playing our part in the School Funday. Contact us at parents.stmarys@gmail.com

Fundraising

On 3rd and 4th October we organised Bag Packing Fundraising at Dunnes Stores, Charlestown. This was a successful event and we were

overwhelmed by the support we received from the students in St Mary's. They gave up their week-end to cover shifts on Friday evening and all day Saturday. They were cheerful, friendly and courteous and a great advertisement for St. Mary's. Together we raised nine hundred and forty two euro for our school. We look forward to working with the students again.

Information Technology Information Night

In our quest to advance e-learning we were very fortunate to have had Ger Lynch speak to us on all matters I. T. Ger showed us "model" IT schools from around the globe and it truly was both amazing and terrifying to see the level of advancement in IT that is taking place for children in education. Education in countries such as Australia and Singapore is device (tablet/laptop/notebook) based and in addition to their e-book learning they are taking virtual life into their classrooms i. e. they "tour" art galleries and post their comments and share experiences. It has to be seen to be appreciated. But students also work in a collaborative environment with their classmates. As well as using their devices they work together in groups, post responses to each other and pose questions to the teacher all in an instant and the teacher can see all the

questions on her device in a flash. The interaction is brilliant. Rather than each student being immersed in her own work it is like a bee hive – all connected. I know that these examples are the cream of the crop but it was truly breath taking to see. The discussion also opened up the whole topic of "digital learning": the concept of using technology as an aid to learning; using websites to enhance the learning experience and expand the "text book" beyond its cover; seeing biology experiments "live"; using websites that are specifically designed to allow students and teachers to communicate both inside and outside school (e. g. Edmodo/Moodle), sending homework, projects and posing questions to teachers and fellow students. Teachers are even using podcasts to show how to do maths questions, answer exam questions, do business accounts etc. It is like an extra class on line. Students are sharing websites and tutorials they find on line. They are using the medium they love to aid their own learning. WOW! These sites also allow parents to monitor students' work. These are truly exciting IT times, but as always, cost is the stumbling block to our advancement. However, it seems that rather than cost being a blockade, maybe can we skirt round the full cost issue and perhaps try other avenues. Maybe we have to be more inventive also to find a route to where we eventually

want to be in e-learning. Perhaps we could have a batch of tablets for trial use in classes. Perhaps targeted fundraising is needed to help this happen. We are not sure how we should proceed but rather than the debate being that we cannot go forward perhaps we all should be saying that there is no way back. E-learning is the future... that is not debatable. We would love to hear any views on this topic or any suggestions and ideas you may have. IS FEIDIR LINN! Contact us at parents.stmarys@gmail.com

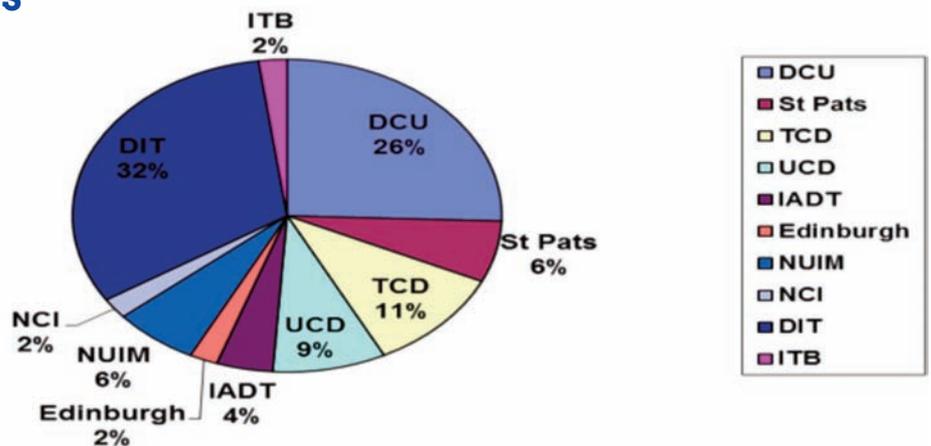
Safe Talk

After our AGM, some of us attended a SAFE TALK regarding suicide awareness. This was a really good experience in helping ordinary parents, teachers and indeed the general public to identify any person at risk of suicide. It gave the attendees the courage and the know how to really listen to someone in distress and to realise if the person is in real danger of suicide. More importantly it gave details of how you can get support for someone in this situation once you know he/she is suicidal. These support networks often operate when other government supports are closed. The talk was arranged as part of Mental Health Week. We hope, in the near future, to have details on the school website regarding these supports. www.stmaryshfclglasnevin.com

DEPARTMENT OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

Class of 2014

COLLEGE HETAC PLACEMENTS



12 Students

Media & Languages
Law & International Languages
Business Studies (2)
Economics, Politics & Law
Applied Languages & Translation Studies (3)
Analytical Science
International Relations
Health & Society



1 Student

Biological Sciences



1 Student

Business



5 Students

Arts (Economics/French)
General Nursing
Sociology
General Nursing



15 Students

Logistics & Supply Chain Management
Mathematical Sciences (2)
Music
Physics, Energy & Environment
Computer Science
Photography
Law
Business Management
HR Management
Biological Sciences
DNA Forensics Analysis
Culinary Arts
Business Studies (2)



3 Students

Primary School Teaching
Humanities (2)



3 Students

Arts (Irish/Geography)
Arts (Law/History/Spanish)
Multimedia, Mobile & Web Development



TCD

4 Students

Dental Nursing
BESS
Arts (German/Geography)
Psychiatric Nursing
Social Science & Social Policy



2 Students

Model Making
Film & TV Production

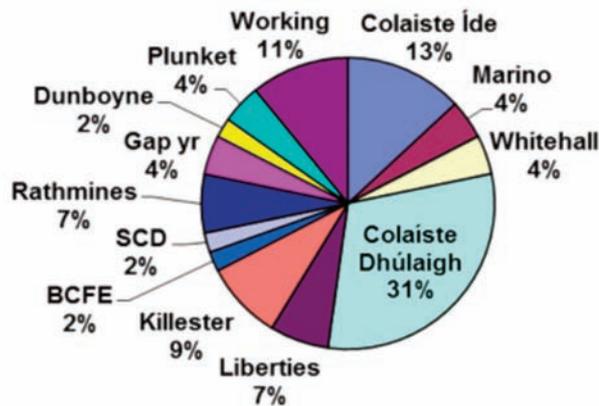


1 Student

Early Childhood Education

DEPARTMENT OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING (contd.)

FETAC COLLEGES AND OTHER 2013-2014



6 students
 Fashion & Textiles
 Electronics & Game Technology
 Professional Cookery
 Beauty & Leisure
 Football Association
 Sports & Leisure Management



4 Students
 Animal Science (3)
 Pre-University Science



2 students



2 students
 Business & Computer Marketing
 Digital Marketing & Computing



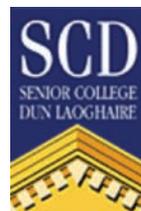
1 Student
 Music, Management & Production

WORKING

4 students



2 students
 Early Childhood Education
 Childcare



1 Student
 Beauty Therapy

Higher Options

The twenty eighth Higher Options Conference took place at the RDS, Ballsbridge, on the 19th of September. All of the 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. It was an excellent opportunity for students to avail of information on college choice and entry procedures to Irish and UK higher and further level institutions.



13 Students
 Hairdressing (3)
 Pre-Nursing (3)
 Pre-Science (3)
 Social Studies (4)
 Business



1 Student
 Childcare



3 Students
 Liberal Arts
 Repeat Leaving Cert (2)



3 students
 Airline Studies
 TAP Programme
 Media Production



Repeat Leaving Cert (2)



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, allow students to explore their fears, anxieties and expectations about third level, and to

DEPARTMENT OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING (contd.)

offer guidance and support about studying at DCU.

The programme works with a cluster of three schools. The first workshop took place on 26th November and our school was asked to participate. The following fifth year students represented the school on the day: Leah Deegan; Ciara Murphy; Kodie Dowdall; Sarah Loughlin; Katie Donlon; Erica Keogh; Zoe McGuinness; Michaela Cambe; Orla McLoughlin and Eimear Callery.

Third Year

The Third Year students sat their Differential Aptitude tests (DATS) on 3rd December. These tests help the students to build up personal profiles of themselves which will enable those going into Fifth Year to make their subject choice. They also are of value to those students who are considering Transition Year by allowing them to explore subjects linked to their aptitudes. Each student will have an individual meeting with the guidance counsellors for feedback on the results of the DATS.

Careers Evening



A highly successful careers evening took place in our school on Wednesday 10th December from 2:30-4:30pm. This exhibition has been run successfully for over twenty years. Fourth, fifth and sixth year students from Beneavin De La Salle, St. Michael's, Colaiste Eoin, St. Kevin's, New Cross College and St. Mary's participated in the event. Over fifty colleges and organisations were in attendance on the night and it gave the students the chance to meet up with the college representatives to discuss their career options. There was a great turn out of students from St. Mary's at the event.

Better Options 2014/2015

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 to 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

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, Maynooth University, St. Patrick's College Maynooth, St. Pat's Drumcondra, Hear Scheme 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.



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 4th December at the Mahony Hall in the Helix, DCU. Naoise O'Brien, sixth year, represented the school in the musical element of the night by singing a song she wrote herself. Twenty students from fifth year were in attendance to receive awards for their achievements in sports, community spirit, arts and culture, academic and the exceptional nominations category.

Award	Student
Academic	Avril Reddy
Academic	Isabel Maher
Academic	Aoibheann Brady
Academic	Aoibheann Farrell
Academic	Angela Molina
Community Spirit	Olywn Galbraith
Community Spirit	Patricia Dowling
Community Spirit	Niamh Cole
Community Spirit	Holly Bell
Community Spirit	Adela Buliman
Arts & Culture	Brona Saunders
Arts & Culture	Seth Banaga
Arts & Culture	Orla King
Arts & Culture	Shauna Sheridan
Arts & Culture	Amy Ray
Sport	Mairead McDonagh
Sport	Shauna Halphin
Sport	Kate Keogh
Sport	Eimear Nolan
Exceptional Nomination	Sally Ahern

HEAR Scheme

Susan Hawkins from DCU spoke with Sixth year students on Monday 1st December 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, Maynooth University, St. Patrick's, Drumcondra, RCSI and UCD.

The HEAR/DARE Application Advice Clinics will take place nationwide on Saturday **January 10th 2015 10-2pm** at DIT, Courtyard Café, Aungier Street 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 were also encouraged to start researching and applying for their FETAC courses by mid-December in anticipation of interviews early in the New Year.

Ms. F. Devaney and Ms. J. Gavin

Galileo Girls

Galileo Girls was a day (set up by Intel) when girls were introduced to coding and how to programme software/hardware. The “Galileo” is a piece of hardware that Intel created. It is said that in Intel there is one girl to every nine boys and they really wanted to change that so that’s why these days when they have girls only are very important.

This is the “Galileo” we programmed to do different things.

We made all different kinds of things. At the robotics we made Halloween decorations that lit up with different coloured LEDs. At the social they made a programme that made the house light up anytime someone used a certain hashtag on social media. The last one was wearables, where you could sew patterns on to felt then make them light up with LEDs.

I think everyone really enjoyed the day and I hope there will be similar events like this in the future.

Maebh O’Loughlin and Ciara McKenna

(1 Opal)



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

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, “Going Forward in Faith”. The choir focused on pieces of music that celebrated this theme, some songs were from the Emmanuel programme. For our new members this was their first time to sing with the school choir so this was a great experience for them. It was a taste of things to come for them. Many of the first years also did solos which was great to see. Well done to all our members for all their dedication and commitment.

Seventy Fifth Celebrations – St. Mary’s Musical Celebration

This year’s show took a different format. To coincide with the celebrations of the seventy fifth anniversary of the school, the show showcased the big hits and scenes from shows that had been done in St. Mary’s down through the years. Highlights included: “*Oliver*”; “*The Importance of Being Earnest*”; “*My Fair Lady*”; “*Little Shop of Horrors*” and “*The Wizard of Oz*” among others. Some past students were invited to take to the stage again to perform their roles in some of these shows. The sense of variety was great and everyone loved hearing and seeing the best pieces from all of these well-known shows.

School Choir Help Celebrate the Seventy Fifth Anniversary of the School.

In the convent chapel on Sunday the 7th of December, the Holy Faith sisters along with current and past staff, celebrated a Mass of Thanksgiving for the seventy fifth anniversary of the laying of the school’s foundations. The school choir played a major role in this celebration. Many thanks to all who made this a really unforgettable mass of thanks.

Junior Certificate Music Students go to National Concert Hall

The Junior Certificate music students attended the National Concert Hall in October to hear the RTE symphony orchestra perform pieces from their J. C. set works. This was a great opportunity for the girls to hear live performances of the pieces they are studying. Among the pieces played were: “The Overture to the Opera William Tell” and “Carmina Burana – O Fortuna”. For many of our students this was the first time they had been to the concert hall and for others it was the first time to hear an orchestra give a live performance. So on many levels this was a great experience for all our students.



Students at the National Concert Hall

Other Events that the School Choir was involved in:

- DCU, Medex Annual Carol Singing, for Dr. Noel McCaffrey, 18th Dec.
- Marian House Carol Singing for the elderly Holy Faith Sisters.
- Anam Cara Nursing Home, Ballygall – Carol Singing for day centre visitors.
- Our Lady of Dolours – Christmas Parish Concert 17th Dec.
- Annual School Carol Service for students and staff – 17th Dec.

Mr. C. Coll