



St. Mary's NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 8 – NO. 1

May 2010

AWARDS

The month of May in St. Mary's heralds the annual school awards ceremonies. This year 2010 was no exception. Each year group celebrated the achievements of those pupils who had strived to do their best.

The categories of awards at Junior level included Academic Progress, Reliability / Cooperation, Leadership, Extra Curricular activities and Sport. Those meritorious students were presented with certificates.

An average of fifteen pupils in each year group received medals for their "Dedication to Excellence" in the academic field.

At Senior level each subject area (nineteen in total) acknowledges pupils for their excellence and / or dedication.

Well done to all.

Ms. N. Walker (Awards Coordinator)

TRANSITION YEAR

Transition Year Geography

This semester the TY students embarked on a new and exciting Geography module, "The Geography of Crime". Their geographical skills were called upon to solve mysterious crimes! The tasks ranged from fingerprinting to handwriting analysis and the classrooms were transformed into forensic analysis labs! The girls also learned how to use their knowledge of distance, speed and time to solve crimes. Overall the module proved to be both informative and enjoyable.

Ms. A Cummins & Ms J.Byrne

TY Crafts

Transition year students enjoyed a break from their academic subjects by taking a class in crafts.

They showed great imagination and creativity in producing a wide variety of jewellery. These included beaded necklaces, charm and link bracelets, drop and stud earrings. Making colourful braids proved to be very relaxing. Some students even had a go at reviving their knitting skills.

The students were proud to display samples of their work at their graduation.

Ms S. Crowley

TY Production of "Romeo and Juliet"

Doubt filled our minds as soon as we heard that our production would be "Romeo and Juliet", but quickly it was replaced with thoughts of who would play the "star-crossed lovers", how would we make the Shakespearean costumes and when would we get started? Each TY student was given different responsibilities

like costume or set design, so all of us got to use our individual talents.

Six weeks of rehearsals later, any one of our seventy five TY students could recite the script or belt out the theme tune of our production, although not with as much talent as our cast and choir! After two dress rehearsals, a matinee performance and countless pep talks from our directors Charlotte and Oonagh and our fabulous TY co-ordinators Ms. McCormack and Ms. Hayes, the nervous excitement back stage before our first big evening show was replaced with a healthy dose of adrenaline.

It's safe to say that our production went without a hitch on both the first and second evening, and was enjoyed by parents, students and teachers alike. Nothing, however, compares to the fun we had, and the memories that were formed, during the creation of our Transition Year Production; "Romeo and Juliet".

Ariane Rondthaler 4.27



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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TRANSITION YEAR (contd.)

Ski Trip to Austria



On Monday 15th February the majority of the St. Mary's Transition Year students arrived at Dublin airport at 6.30am. Tired, but excited, we made our way through the airport, everybody busily catching up on the news of the previous two weeks of work experience. We made sure every moment of the trip was recorded. Aisling brought a video recorder so we caught everything from people falling asleep as we travelled to people skiing down the Austrian slopes!

The trip lasted for six days in total, two of which we spent travelling and four days were devoted to skiing. We stayed in a youth hostel in Bregenz, Austria. The slopes were about a twenty minute drive away and a coach picked us up from the hotel each morning. The trip fell into a routine – breakfast, drive to slopes, ski for two hours in the morning and two hours after lunch. We also went out every night after dinner doing different things like bowling, swimming, a walk around town and on the last night we all went to the lobby in our pjs to swoon over Zac Efron in "17 Again", while we stuffed our faces with junk food!

Even though we had lots of fun on the various outings, skiing was definitely the highlight of the trip! We divided up into different groups, roughly ten girls to each instructor. Some groups were luckier with the instructor they got – everyone wanted to be in Luca's group, he is a sixteen year Austrian Taylor Lautner look-alike! They were all really patient, which was what we needed. Some people took to skiing naturally and were practically professional by the end of the week. It took me a while to get used to it and to avoid being nervous, but by the end of the week I didn't want to stop. Skiing is unreal; it isn't like anything I've ever done before. It's scary at times but absolutely worth it! On the last day we had a competition. Within each group, each person had to go down the slope individually while going in and out of specific flags. I came fifth out of eight people so I was pleased. We were all really sad leaving on the last day; we couldn't believe how fast it had gone. We would have done anything to stay an extra day!

Skiing was an absolutely amazing idea as a trip as everyone loved it and it brought the year group closer together. I would definitely go skiing again and this trip was the most fun I've had in Transition Year so far. It was the highlight of the year!

Irene Falvey 4.28



Transition Year DIY Fashion Competition 2010

Congratulations to Elizabeth Ford from class 4.28 who fought off some tough competition in order to secure 3rd prize in this year's DIY Transition Year Fashion Competition held in St. Michael's Holy Faith school on 23rd February. Elizabeth Ford, Katie Drea, Ellie Gaughran and Nicole Montaine created a costume entitled "Pixie" using recycled materials. Their costume looked fantastic with its bright bold colours, lots of movement and "Wild Child" style.



Ciana Sperin

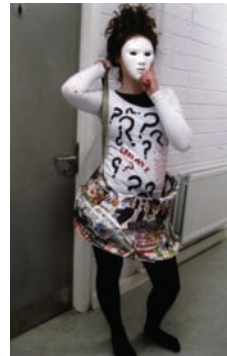


Olga Mulhall

Well done to all 4.28 who participated in the competition but especially to the following students: Ciana Sperin, who modelled "Monster from the Bird's Nest", based on the theme "Not fitting in and being different from the rest of the crowd"; Olga Mulhall who wore "Fur is not Fashion", protesting against fur and other animal skins being used in fashion. She wore a bear head as a contradiction to demonstrate extreme exploitation of animals for fashion. Shannen O'Brien modelled "The Individuality of Teenagers Portrayed Through Fashion". Her costume



Elizabeth Ford



Irene Falvey



Shannen O'Brien

represented different aspects of teenage life. The jacket showed teenagers' musical differences, the top worn showed creativity and the skirt represented teenagers' need to express themselves through originality. Finally, Irene Falvey so kindly wore the costume "Unknown". This piece represented the confusion of a person's identity caused by media manipulation. Marks were awarded for assembly / technique, colour, handling of materials, concept, overall effect and performance.

Elizabeth and her group took 3rd prize in this category. The Art Department is delighted to see such creative work evolve from everyday recycled materials.

Ms. Kavanagh & Ms. Cunningham

Work Experience

Work experience was great! I was really happy and excited about my placements. The first day of each week was the worst as I didn't know what to expect but after that it was amazing! It was so strange going out into the world of work. The people were really friendly, but it was a big change from our school environment. In school you know what you are going to do. In both placements I didn't know exactly what work they would ask me to do. I found work experience very enjoyable and I learned a lot. It was great to be able to get a taster of what having a job is like. I learned a lot of new skills and discovered some new interests.

My first placement was in my old primary school. I am interested in becoming a primary school teacher so I really had fun working with the children. It was great to catch up with some of my old teachers, the secretary, principal and some of the students that I know. My second placement was at Dail Eireann and in the TD Mr. Noel Ahern's office. I wanted to work with him as I find politics very interesting. For the week, I filed, had the opportunity to listen to Dail meetings and I also got to go with Noel to his clinics. It was a fantastic week, I learned a lot.

Melissa Kitchoing 4.38

TRANSITION YEAR (contd.)

Review of Peer Teaching Module

Introduction

The aim of this new initiative was to develop and deliver a Transition Year Leadership, Peer Teaching programme.



Objective – How It Worked

The module was aimed at developing leadership skills by introducing health related and sports activities to primary schools in the local community. The module helped to develop partnerships between St. Mary's and Primary schools in the local community. St Mary's joined partnership with three local

schools during this project; Glasnevin National School, Educate Together School and Iona School. Boys and girls aged 8 – 12 years visited St. Mary's to take part in the project.

The module consisted of practical and theory sessions. This gave the TY students the opportunity to develop their leadership skills in a structured environment. The module included information on coaching, leadership, organisational skills and life skills.

Students helped organise hockey, sports and health related activities for the groups of young children.

The TY students were assessed on their personal technique, presentation and teaching skills during the teaching practice. They completed an evaluation on their Teaching and Personal skills.



Content – What They Learned

To plan a series of skills, activities and games to teach the children. Tips and guidelines for teaching and coaching. The skills and activities required to demonstrate and teach various activities to the children.

The qualities of a Leader and Coach

On completion the ability to: plan, organise and manage a session safely, introduce oneself, develop an understanding of skills, use coaching/leadership styles to help children learn and create a fun, safe and structured session.

Many thanks to all the primary schools for volunteering. The Module was a great success and thoroughly enjoyed by both the TY students and the primary school children involved.

Ms. A. Boran



TY Students relaxing during their Crafts Class



RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Friendship Week: "RAK" – Random Acts of Kindness

From Monday 8th to Friday 12th March we had friendship week in St. Mary's. The focus for this year's friendship week was "Random Acts of Kindness". For this everyone in the school was encouraged to do at least one random act of kindness a day. This could vary from saying thank you to sharing one's lunch. During tutor time each student filled out a "RAK" that they did, or experienced, or witnessed. These "RAK" were then recorded on our RAK wall on the main corridor and on the senior corridor. As the week passed we definitely experienced a really positive and kind atmosphere in St. Mary's.



Also during the week we had the school bear make a special appearance and hand out free sweets at break time to add to the positive atmosphere.

All first and second years also took part in a workshop during the week called "In her shoes". Here the students, through group work, were encouraged to reflect on how they might help people who are having problems in their class.



Trocaire

Once again this year many students took part in the Trocaire Twenty Four Hour Fast. Class 5.33 had a talk from Emer Kellett, a Trocaire education officer. As a result of the talk they coordinated the distribution of fast cards in the school. In total 500 was raised. Well done to all those girls who took part.

Fifth Year Retreats

All fifth year students took part in retreats in Marino Institute of Education on Thursday 22nd and Friday 23rd April. The theme for the retreats was "Life Paths". The girls got the opportunity to reflect on past experiences while taking the time out to look ahead to what paths they are taking towards their future. Of course this was all done with a good bit of fun!

Ms. M Byrne

Second Year Retreats

All second year classes were given a day retreat in the Ruah Retreat Centre on St. Alphonsis Road, Drumcondra. This retreat was a great opportunity for the group to reflect and to take time out from their busy lives to think about the great things in life. They learned a lot about themselves and about others in their class. The retreat facilitators praised the group saying that the girls were very insightful for their age. All the students had an enjoyable day in Ruah.

Mr. C. Coll

RELIGION DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Amnesty International

The St. Mary's Amnesty International group have been involved in a number of activities this term.

Greeting Card Campaign

Each year Amnesty International invites its members to send messages of support and solidarity to victims of human rights violations across the world. These cards help to boost the morale of those wrongly imprisoned. Just one card can show people that they are not alone, that they haven't been forgotten by the world outside, and above all, that someone knows what is happening to them and cares about it.

Our Amnesty group was delighted to be given the opportunity to send a card with a greeting or message of solidarity to someone who is unjustly imprisoned.

Haiti Timeline

The St. Mary's Amnesty group wanted to do something to highlight the devastation and destruction caused by the earthquake in Haiti. The group felt that it was important for the school community to be given regular updates regarding the situation in Haiti. The aim was to ensure that the victims of the earthquake were not forgotten about.

It was decided that an effective way of keeping the school community updated was to create a Haiti timeline, which would be displayed in a prominent place on the first corridor. The timeline consisted of newspaper articles, photographs, reports, statistics and other information on Haiti.

The Amnesty group ensured that all the information on the timeline was updated regularly.

Friendship Bracelets

To celebrate Friendship Week in St. Mary's, our Amnesty group decided to take part in *Friendship Day* which is run by Amnesty International Ireland. This is an annual event in aid of street children in Casa Alianza Guatemala.

The St Mary's Amnesty group sold colourful handmade friendship bracelets in aid of the street children and managed to raise 500 for this wonderful cause.

Friendship day also provided us with an opportunity to promote friendship and tolerance in our school.

Many thanks to all who supported this venture!

C. Murtagh & M. Byrne

Graduation

The sixth year graduation on Monday 24th May was a great event. The theme chosen this year was "Carpe Diem" – Seize the Day – to represent the girls' hopes of fulfilling all of their dreams in life.

They brought up their "Gratitude Journals" at the beginning of the Mass. These contained all of the aspects of their lives which they are thankful for; family, friends, school...The banner on the back wall symbolised the "Bucket List" with posters of their hopes and dreams for the future radiating out from it.

The Mass was celebrated by Fr. Bob Whiteside who made it a very spiritual and memorable experience. The Head Girl, Rebecca Nugent, and Deputy Head Girls, Emma Gibbons and Sophie Gaughran, read out the readings. Each class was represented in the Prayers of the Faithful and, for the Offertory Procession, symbols representing the hopes and dreams of each

class were brought to the altar and spoken about.

The school choir, under the direction of Ms. O'Rourke and Mr. Coll, enhanced the occasion with its music and singing. Mrs. Lennon, Ms. Murphy, Ms. O'Donnell and Ms. Griffin presented the girls with their emblems, to represent their time in St. Mary's, and all addressed the girls with heartfelt words to mark their time with us.

We in the Religion Department would like to thank all the staff, students and parents who worked so hard to make Graduation such a special night. A special thanks to Noel and Gerry who worked so hard to transform the gym into such a great venue.

Ms. L Bohan and the Religion Department

Faith Friends

This year, classes 5.29 and 5.30 took part in the Faith Friends programme with Ms. Phelan's and Ms. Ryan's sixth classes in St. Brigid's National School.

It began on the 12th January and concluded on 2nd February with a prayer service on the Convent Chapel during which the girls for Confirmation were presented with certificates by their Faith Friends. This was followed by a party in the Choir Hall given by Mrs. Lennon.

This was not only an enjoyable experience for the girls but one where they gained both personally and spiritually. We would like to thank them for their dedication and enthusiasm.

Ms. L Bohan, Ms. M Byrne

PE / SPORTS

The new astro turf pitch has been a great asset to the PE Department this year with both students and staff enjoying the fantastic surface, space and sporting opportunities it provides.

As a department we would like to thank both Mrs. Lennon and Ms. Murphy for purchasing the new nets, posts and racquets for the two tennis courts to the front of the school. We hope to have both courts fully functional and to be able to call out "who's for tennis?" very soon!

The students have been dancing to the beat of Michael Jackson's "Thriller" over a number of weeks in PE classes and we have to say the moves are looking pretty good! This is in preparation for a "Thrill the School" fund raising event we hope to run in October 2010. We are eager to see how professional the "Zombies" look on the day!

Mrs. A Moggan

Sports Day

The P.E. and Sports department ended the year with a first and second year sports day. The day was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all those involved. Some of the events included hockey, basketball, athletics, novelty races and Olympic handball. We tried out a new format for this year's sports day and it worked very well, so we hope to continue this event every year, extending it to include the whole school.

Ms. D Maher

Basketball

Congratulations to all the Senior Basketball team who reached the SSA Premier League Final this year. Getting to the final was a huge achievement for the girls as this is the top division in the league and each game was extremely challenging. The girls played with great skill and determination but were unfortunately pipped at the post by strong rivals, Mount Sackville. Thank you to all the supporters who really got behind the team on the day and thank you to coach Kieran Dunne who has done a great job coaching the girls this year. We know they can do it next year.



Under 19 team and supporters

Our first, second and cadette teams also competed very well in their leagues this year, playing teams from Drogheda, Baldoyle and

Dominicans. The girls showed great dedication and we have had an increase in the number of new players. We hope to see it continue next year. A huge thank you to Ms. Murphy who has been a great addition to basketball in the school.

We finished the season with a school tournament which was a fulfilling afternoon for first to sixth year players and was a great end to the year. Best of luck to all teams next year.



Under 19's Team: L to R: Back: Michelle Lynch, Claire O'Brien, Jenny Moriarty, Khloe Dillon-Coote, Kieran Dunne (coach). Front: Niamh O'Doherty, Denise Callaghan, Ciara Delaney, Niamh Gibney

Ms. D Maher, Ms. E Murphy

Hockey

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

We now have finished our first school year on our very own new Astro-turf pitch. The excitement started on day one with the first years sports day induction. This was a fantastic success, introducing the students to the many sports and activities that the Astro has to offer.

First & Second Year Hockey



1st Year Hockey Team

With the excitement of playing hockey on our new pitch the First years were eager to join the school hockey teams. We immediately got started with a First year introduction to hockey on Saturday mornings in September. We are now delighted to have two First year teams. We also have one Second year team in Minor B.

Great excitement was evident as the First and Second year teams prepared for their first hockey matches. The girls were highly excited by the prospect of playing another school and took great pride in representing St Mary's in hockey. The enthusiasm was fantastic. They started their league matches in an upbeat and positive mood. Along the way we braved the elements, a few pulled muscles, or slips, but all in all a great first year! The teams thoroughly enjoyed training showing great dedication and enthusiasm throughout the year.

Senior Hockey

The Senior team with students from 4th, 5th and 6th year played some very closely contested matches. Some Senior team students also demonstrated their leadership skills with the First years by helping and preparing them for matches. Well done girls!

With our new Astro pitch and such enthusiastic and talented players, the future of hockey is bright. We highly recommend everyone to come along and join hockey.

Roll on next season....Go Astro, onwards and upwards!!

Ms Boran, Ms Nolan, Ms Maher, Ms Gavin

Junior Hockey Team – Double Champions 2010

Leinster League Title & Northside League Title

Congratulations and well done to all the Junior Team who reached the Junior C Leinster League Final on the 9th March 2010. The team won eight out of eight matches to reach the final. It was a tense build up to the final with an exciting quarter-final match against Old Alexandra College, winning 1-0 and an even closer semi-final match against Muckross College, winning 3-2 on the final whistle!

The final was played in sunny conditions in the Leinster Hockey Grounds, Grange Road, Rathfarnham against Mount Anville. It was another tense and exciting match to the last whistle but the better team won on the day. The final score was 2-1, with two brilliant goals scored by Aoife Nolan and Hannah Kelly. Despite a few injuries along the way the whole team was simply superb. It was a wonderful team performance with each team member making a great contribution.

The Leinster title is a great achievement for St. Mary's, Glasnevin. This is the first time to win a Leinster Hockey title and we are delighted to finally see our name on a Leinster Hockey trophy.

Two weeks later on 25th March the team reached the final of the Northside League. It was another close contest and another great victory, beating The King's Hospital team 2-1. The goals were scored by Aoife Nolan and it was a great performance again from all the team.

We are looking forward to continued success on our new Astro pitch and winning lots more trophies in the years to come. St Mary's hockey team is here to stay!

What a season. What a team! Well done and thanks to all the wonderful supporters cheering us on!

With our new Astro pitch and such talented players, the future of hockey is bright. We highly recommend that everyone takes part and joins next year.

Junior Team Players: Aoife Nolan – C, Isabelle Kelly – VC, Rachel Dwyer, Claire Concannon, Caoimhe McGrath, Ria Beloso, Mollie Walker, Sarah McGuinness, Jessica McGuinness, Vanessa Boland, Megan Stamp, Sinead McArdle

Subs: Hannah Kelly, Aoife Reilly, Jaime Molloy, Robyn Molloy

Ms Boran



Soccer

St. Mary's soccer team was very unlucky to go out of the Leinster Cup when they lost 3-2 in extra time to the team from Manor House. An excellent game saw St. Mary's coming from 2-0 down to push the game into extra time. St. Mary's team dominated possession and played the better

football. Lauren Dolan of 5.29 scored both goals, twice leaving the Manor House defence flatfooted, as she threaded the ball into the back of the net. St. Mary's captain, Ciara Callery, was a rock in defence as she drove her team on for a third goal that they deserved. In the last moments of the game a wonderfully selfless performance



by Nicole Joyce looked to be rewarded when she seemed to have scored a third goal for St. Mary's. However, the goal did not stand and St. Mary's went out of the competition.

St. Mary's Team: Lorna Dunne, Shauna Owens, Ciara Callery (Captain), Ciara Mangan, Rachel Harding, Jessica Jones, Lauren Dolan, Nicole Joyce, Georgina King, Lisa Cullen, Michelle Lynch. Subs: Chloe O'Rourke, Rachel Nugent, Dionne Draper, Lydia Kelly and Karen Sinnott.

Mr. P Kelly

Soccer lunchtime tournament

We held our lunchtime soccer tournament again this year as it was such a success last year. Up to sixty students got involved, ranging from first to sixth year and each team was picked at random spreading the different



age groups evenly. Each team was named after a Premiership team and we knew before we started there would be great rivalry between the likes of Man United, Liverpool and Chelsea to name but a few. There was a great buzz around the school coming up to the semi-finals and final as each game was played during lunch hour and always gathered a crowd. The tournament was a great success and we hope to continue with it again next year.

Ms. D Maher
Ms. A Boran

Health Week



Health Week was held again this year from April 26th to April 30th. The aim of the week was to promote healthy living by encouraging pupils to take part in different activities and to try different foods. Our TY health squad worked very hard decorating the school and promoting all the different events for all students to enjoy, including crazy relays, skipathons, trampolining, mini-gym, early bird energizers, not to mention our staff versus students relay. Healthy eating also played a huge role in the week with our 3D food pyramid out in the corridor again.

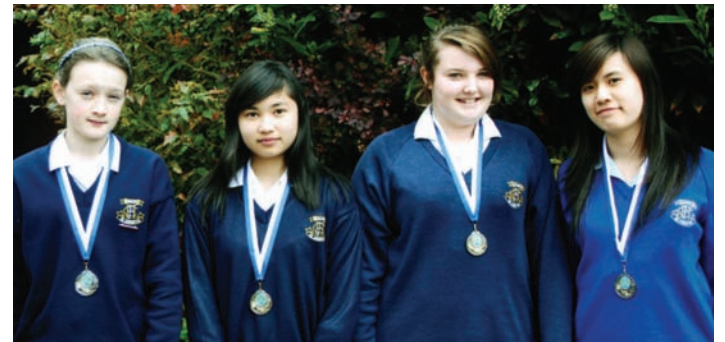
Pupils were offered free healthy snacks throughout the week in order to encourage them to try healthy alternatives. Our first and second year pupils took part in the Healthy Heart challenge in which they received stamps for participation in the week's events. The whole week was a great success and was thoroughly enjoyed by all. We look forward to the week again next year.

Ms. D Maher, Ms. A Boran, Ms. E Doheny



Health Week – Skipathon

Badminton



Karina Barry Doherty and Doreen Loma (Runners-Up) with Holly Cooke and Windy Chai winners Senior Badminton Tournament.



Knsha Arboleda and Jane Fabian, winners Junior Badminton Tournament with Avlin Contredas and Ranzellie Caranay (runners-up).



Kimi Umpad, Briza Dechavez, Maclara Aggasid, Eillis Phelan, Club Badminton Finalists. Kimi and Eillis were the winners and Maclara and Briza finished Runners-up.

Some more PE/Sports Pictures



Above: Gymnastics; Centre: Team building; Right: Thriller



EUROPEAN STUDIES

Model Council of the European Union Debate, Dublin Castle 2nd March

A team of transition year students: Aisling Ahern, Katie Drea, Aoife Harbison and Melissa Kitching (as sub) took part in a mock European Council debate on 2nd March. The debate was on the topic of the use of electric cars as an alternative fuel source. The debate, took place in the conference centre in Dublin Castle where EU Council debates are regularly held. It was a simulation of meetings held by

the Council of Ministers of the EU and was chaired by Mr. Ruairi Quinn T.D.

Our students spoke eloquently and knowledgeably on the topic. Our school was asked to represent Slovakia for the purpose of the debate and we were very privileged to meet the Slovakian Ambassador to Ireland before the debate began. Our team had to interact with twenty eight other schools from all over Ireland, north and south and the debate was webcast live. It can be watched on www.euireland.tv

I would finally like to say how proud I was of our team who participated and represented St. Mary's so well. I feel we may well have some future EU politicians in the making!

Some TY students also participated in a Poster Competition organised by the EU entitled, "Draw me a right", to celebrate twenty years of the rights of the child.

Visit from the Slovakian Ambassador

We were very honoured to receive a visit from the Slovakian Ambassador Mr. Roman Buzek, on Friday 7th May. He spoke to us about European citizenship and the importance of EU membership for our country. What a special way to bring out year's study of the European Union to a close.

Mrs. A Hughes
(European Studies)

Mrs. A Hughes

European Model Council Debate

On 2nd March Aisling Ahern, Katie Drea, Melissa Kitching and Aoife Harbison were representing Slovakia in the European Model Council Debate. Ms. Hughes helped us to write a speech on the motion: "By



Back row (left to right): Mr. Ruairi Quinn, TD, Mr. Roman Buzek, Slovakian Ambassador to Ireland, Mrs. Anne Hughes, European Studies Co-ordinator, Mr. Martin Territt, Director of the European Commission Representation in Ireland

2020 the number of electric cars in the national fleet should be equal to or great than the 2% stipulated". Basically we had to decide whether or not Slovakia could match our green car targets. We decided that we were in favour of this motion as Slovakia is a small country with a great car industry.

Mrs. Lennon, Ms. Hughes and our supporters accompanied us to Dublin Castle. We were given a Slovakian flag and served tea and scones for breakfast. We also met the ambassador for Slovakia.

The debate itself was more serious than we realised. Each country read out a three minute speech and were filmed on a live webcam. Aisling read ours out. We then moved onto the rebuttal, which Aoife read out. This was really nerve-wracking! Unfortunately Katie never got a chance to read hers. We're sure she would have won if she had!

The UK team was declared the winner, with Germany as the runner up. We were given a delicious lunch afterwards.

The day was very successful and we all went home more interested in European politics than we had been before.

Aisling Ahern, Katie Drea, Aoife Harbison

ST. MARY'S STUDENT COUNCIL

This term the Student Council circulated a questionnaire asking students for their opinions on different matters within the school: hair, shoes, jewellery, canteen and discipline. On the whole, there was a great response. We are now working with Mrs. Lennon trying to work through all the suggestions, ideas and problems arising from the questionnaire.

We are also liaising with Mrs. Lennon, the staff and the Board of Management about the new Code of Discipline which is being drawn up.

We are already looking forward to September 2010 and really hope that many students will think about joining the Student Council and having an active voice in the school.

All members of the Student Council and Mrs. Hughes would like to take this opportunity to wish all of our 6th and 3rd year members well in their exams. Sadly, we must say goodbye to our 6th years and thank them, for their hard work and dedication to the council.

Catherine Cormican & Lisa Barry (5th Year)
Mrs. A. Hughes (student council co-ordinator)

SPANISH DEPARTMENT

The Spanish department and students of Spanish from all year groups are very much looking forward to our forthcoming trip to Seville from 25 – 28 September 2010. We hope the sun will shine on us as we visit the historic cities of Seville and Cadiz as well as enjoying the theme park La Isla Magica!

Mrs. A Hughes & Ms. Higgins

HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

"The Kitchen in the Castle" – Cookery School – Howth Castle



Ashling Darby and Sarah Ronan



In November, the 5th year Home Economics students travelled to "The Kitchen in the Castle Cookery School" in Howth. It was a thoroughly enjoyable two days for all who attended. The 5th years undertake five assignments each year for their Leaving Certificate, which allows them gain up to 20% of their total mark. This year we decided to be a little adventurous and actually do one of the assignments at a cookery school – a fabulous opportunity for our school. This is the first time St. Mary's has taken Home Economics students to a cookery school and we hope it will continue in the future. It was also the first time that the cookery school had a school cookery course, and they congratulated the students on a very successful day. The students really learned a lot relating to baking – the day consisted of making hazelnut cupcakes, vanilla cupcakes, carrot, apple and pecan muffins and apricot muffins alongside learning a variety of butter icings and chocolate butter cream frostings. The students were also given a talk on the history of the cookery school and the various methods of baking, which was of great help for the write up in their journals. We would like to thank Sr. Mary for accompanying the girls to the castle and also Ms. Lennon who subsidised our trip.

Well done girls !!!

Ms. Doheny and Ms. Aird



Christina Kenna and Claire Elliott



Gemma Moore and Ciara Callery



Rebecca White and Viktoria Kutsenko



Lauren Dolan

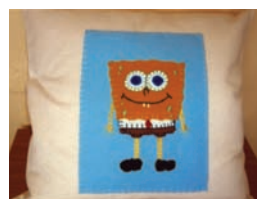


Eadaoin Reilly and Helen Kelly

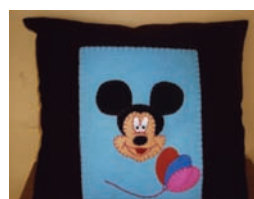
Some Examples of the Junior Cert Craftwork Projects – Completed by 2nd Years

Well done girls on your Craftwork projects. I am very impressed with the high standard shown this year and the beautiful ideas and colour schemes which can be seen below. The 2nd year students began their projects just before the February mid term and completed them just after Easter with the support folder. The project is a combination of applique and embroidery and then this picture is applied onto a cushion cover. This is worth a total of 15 % of their final mark in the Junior Certificate. The students were enthusiastic and worked extremely hard overall.

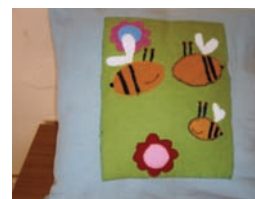
Ms. Doheny



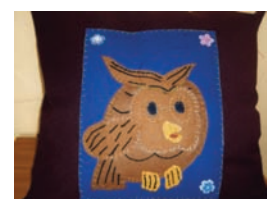
Sarah Lloyd



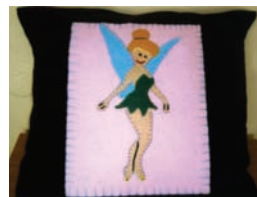
Nicole O'Flaherty



Grainne Nash



Meagen Ledden



Denise McDonald



Lori Fitzgerald



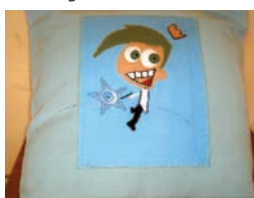
Leah Connolly



Jessica Duggan



Niamh Gibbons



Laura Byrne

LITTLE CHEFS' COOKERY CLUB

The Little Chefs' Cookery Club intends to restart in September 2010 and run until Christmas and will be open to all 2nd and 3rd year students... More details in September ...

Ms. Doheny

HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT (contd.)



"Ready...Steady...Cook"...

St. Kevin's Transition Year Module is reviewed by some of the students...

This year's programme "Ready Steady Cook" was a great success, with the students from St. Kevin's. It took place each Wednesday in St. Ann's Kitchen. The boys learned to cook a variety of dishes including coconut buns, chilli con carne, chicken curry and pizza, many of which I hope they will continue doing at home. They were excellent students and a pleasure to teach and were enthusiastic and motivated in class. I really do hope you all enjoyed it, and, you never know, there may be some potential "Jamie Olivers" leaving St. Kevin's in two years' time...congratulations and well done !!!

Ms. Doheny



"This year in St. Kevin's our fourth years started to do Home Economics. I really enjoyed the cooking and learning lots of different recipes. Ms. Doheny was a great teacher and easy to understand. When we first got there we went over all the hygiene issues. I learned a lot and I'm a better cook or so I've been told".

By Stephan Mooney

"This year, St. Kevin's TY had the opportunity to experience the Home Economics module in St. Mary's. It was a fun subject to experience because it was so different from the others in our school, which the St. Mary's TY group had a chance to try out. The teacher, Ms. Doheny, was easy to get along with. She showed us that every one can cook. She taught us how to make things from queen cakes to chilli con carne. One of the most enjoyable parts of the course was



tasting the fruits of my labour. By the end of the course we left as young "Jamie Olivers". This was one of the most enjoyable modules that I have tried during my TY".

By Lee Christie

"As part of our Transition Year, this year we were allowed to go to St. Mary's to take part in a Home Economics module. We got to learn how to cook and bake various dishes and cakes such as fairy cakes, fruit crumble, chicken curry and pizza, which still tasted great even though I made them. All together the module was enjoyable and I learned a lot about making food for once. So now I might be useful in the kitchen. We'd like to thank Ms. Doheny for teaching us how to cook and teaching us some skills that could come in handy in the future".

By Garreth Murray

GAEILGE

Bhaineamar go léir spraoi agus taitneamh as an obair – We are very happy to say that this school term has been an interesting & rewarding term for Roinn na Gaeilge in St. Mary's.

Bhí paidreacha ann – There were special prayers this term, over the intercom, to celebrate the feasts of Naomh Bríd, patroness of the Holy Faith Order & Pádraig Naofa, our National Saint.

Bhí dea-scéala againn maidir leis an gComórtas Díospóireachta a bhí ar siúl – On behalf of Roinn na Gaeilge and indeed, on

behalf of the whole school community of St. Mary's, we congratulate Shauna Caffrey (3 Ash), Patrice Condon (3 Elm) and Eve Kavanagh (3 Beech) on their success in the Craobh Laighin section of the Gael Linn Debates. A more detailed report on the debates is to be found in this newsletter.

Déanaimid comhghairdeas leis na cailíní agus déanaimid comhghairdeas leis an Múinteoir, Iníon Ní Chonluain. Maith sibh go léir!

Thug cailíní agus Múinteoirí cuairt ar an nGaeltacht – Iníon Ní Chonluain, Mrs. M. Devine, Iníon Ní Lúing and Ms. L. Elliott

accompanied a group of students to the Gaeltacht (Irish speaking district) of Gaoth Dobhair in County Donegal from Saturday, 6 March until Monday 8 March 2010. Here the students experienced Gaeilge being spoken as part of everyday life and indeed, they sampled Gaeilge in the song, literature, dance and folklore of the people. A more detailed report on the trip to the Gaeltacht is to be found in this newsletter. Bhain an grúpa go léir tairbhe agus taitneamh as an turas sin.

Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge againn – "Seachtain na Gaeilge" was

one of the main events which was celebrated in the school during the month of March. There were events for all to participate in including **Ciorcal Chomhrá, Céilithe, Scannáin, Físeáin, Canadh** and **Tráth na gCeist** to mention but a few. Bhain na cailíní spraoi agus sult as na laethanta sin

Bhí Béaltrialacha Gaeilge ar siúl sa scoil – The Oral Irish examinations for the Leaving Certificate were held in the school from Monday 12 April until Friday, 16 April 2010. All sixth year students & their Teachers were very busy, both before and during that time, in

GAEILGE (contd.)

their preparations for these examinations as they form such an important part of the overall Leaving Certificate Examination, i.e. 25% of the total marks. A Representative from Coimisiún na Scrúdaithe Stáit (The State Examinations Commission) visited the school on Tuesday, 13 April and he was most impressed by the dedication and hard work of the Irish Teachers and their students. The State Examinations Commission is responsible for the development, assessment, accreditation and certification of the Junior and Leaving Certificate examinations. Roinn na Gaeilge wish every success to all the Leaving Certificate candidates. Ádh Mór oraibh go léir, a chailíní!

Bhí Foirmeacha don Ghaeltacht ar fáil sa scoil – During the school year, Roinn na Gaeilge distributed information on Irish courses to be held in the Gaeltacht during the summer months. Roinn na Gaeilge has found down through the years that going to Irish College during the summer holidays has become a popular option for many of the students in St. Mary's. The Irish Colleges offer an environment where Gaeilge is the language of the community and where the ultimate aim is to improve students' abilities and confidence in communicating as Gaeilge. Students themselves have found, on their return to school, that their aural and oral skills have improved in preparation for their Certificate examinations.

Tá cúrsa nua i gceist don Ardteist – The Department of Education and Science has introduced new changes to the Leaving Certificate Irish Course and these modifications will be implemented in September 2010. There are changes to the course content, to the examination layout and to the marking scheme for the Leaving Certificate examination, e.g the Oral Irish Examination in 2012 will now be worth 40% of the total mark. Therefore, it is important to note that all students coming into fifth year in September 2010 will be affected by these changes.

Go néirí an t-ádh libh – Roinn na Gaeilge would like to take this opportunity of wishing Good Luck to all the 3rd and 6th Year Students who will be sitting for their Examinations in June. **Go néirí go geal libh uilig!**

Mrs. C. Bogan.
Co-Ordinator of Roinn na Gaeilge.

Turas ar Ghaeltacht Dhún na nGall

Ar an Satharn an 6ú Márta do thug meascán do chailíní ó bhliain a dó, bliain a cúig agus ceathrar múinteoirí aghaidh ar Ghaeltacht Gaoth Dobhair.

Turas deireadh seachtaine chuig an nGhaeltacht a bhí i gceist.

Ghlac na cailíní páirt in éagsúlacht imeachtaí ina measc tóraíocht taisce, cluichí, rince céilí agus discó chomh maith le ranganna gaeilge.

D'fhan na cailíní le mná tí agus teaghlaigh thuas i nGaoth Dobhair agus do thug na mná tí an-chuid cabhair do na cailíní agus iad ag déanamh sár-iarracht úsáid a bhaint as an nGaeilge.

D'fhilliamar ar ais chun na scoile ar an Luan agus bhí gach aon duine ar bís tar éis an deireadh seachtaine iontach a chaitheamar i nGaoth Dobhair.

Rinne na cailíní sár-iarracht an Ghaeilge a labhairt agus do chaith siad go hiontach le gach aon duine idir múinteoirí agus múintir na háite.

Tá súil againn turas eile a bheith againn an bhliain seo chugainn.



Díospóireachtaí

Comhghairdeas leis an bhfoireann shóisearach a shroich an Craobh Reigiúnach i gcomórtas díospóireachta an Phiarsaigh 2009/2010. Tá an comórtas seo á réachtáil ag Gael Linn do scoileanna dara léibhéil, nach ndéantar teagasc iontu trí Ghaeilge. Bhí na cailíní seo a leanas ag díospóireacht ar son na scoile: Patrice Condon (captaen); Shauna Caffrey (cainteoir 2); Eve Kavanagh (cainteoir 3)

Is é an rún a bhí á phlé acu sa chraobh ná 'Is fearr bheith i d'fhear'. Bhí áthas orainn go rabhamar ag díospóireacht in aghaidh an rúin. Thaispeáin na cailíní go bhfuil mná níos cumasaí ná fir i gcúrsaí oideachais agus sóisialta, agus fo bhfuil gach cosúlacht ann go mbeadh saol níos taitneamhaí agat mar bhean sa lá atá inniú ann.

Bhí ceithre fhoireann ag glacadh páirte sa chraobh Reigiúnach. Ní dheachaigh ach foireann amháin ar aghaidh go dtí Craobh na hÉireann (Meánscoil Loreto Bré). Cé nár bhuaigh na cailíní an Craobh Reigiúnach bronnadh trófaíthe orthu. Molaim na cailíní us ucht na hoibre go léir a rinne siad ag ullmhú do na díospóireachtaí. Is léir gur chainteoirí ghaelacha den scoth iad!

Ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas a ghabháil leis na múinteoirí go léir chomh maith leis an bpríomhoide agus leas príomhoide, a thug go leor tacaíochta dúinn le linn na ndíospóireachtaí.

Táimid ag tnúth go mór leis an gcomórtas arís an bhliain seo chugainn!

Ádh mór

N. Ní Chonluain, M. Ní Lúing



Patricia Condon, Shauna Caffrey and Eve Kavanagh

THE MARGARET AYLWARD AWARD 2009



I will never forget our graduation ceremony, waiting for the recipient's name of the Margaret Aylward award to be announced. I remember thinking to myself that the person receiving the award would probably be one of the most popular girls in the school (that was what most of us thought). To my enormous surprise, I was very wrong. When Ms. Murphy called out my name as the recipient, a wave of emotions flooded over me. I felt surprised, excited, proud, embarrassed, but grateful. I think everyone could tell how shocked I was as I walked trembling up to Mrs. Lennon. There were so many things I would like to have said but I was totally unprepared and completely overwhelmed. I never dreamed that I, of all people, would be standing there holding that prestigious award.

Later on, I learned some of the lovely things people thought about me. Girls were explaining to me how much they appreciated me simply listening and talking to them, helping them feel better when they were feeling under pressure or just having a bad day. I never thought twice before offering my help to someone, even if I didn't know her very well (or know her at all) and I certainly didn't believe that people would remember me helping them. I wasn't the most popular or liked student in the school, nor was I the most academic. However, one thing that I always strived for was to become the best that I could be. Several years previously, I remember my religion teacher (Ms. Byrne) telling the class that we could choose the person we wanted to be. I embraced that opportunity with open arms and never let go.

The Margaret Aylward award to me, is a symbol of the person I strive to be and is something I will cherish as long as I live. Today, I have someone I can look up to and admire and try my very hardest to become like: the incredible Margaret Aylward. It taught me how such little acts of kindness can make a difference. It gave me direction in life as I began to realise that being with people and helping them is truly what I love most in life. When people began to tell me stories about times when I had done something that they felt helped them, I began to feel I had played a special part in the community; a friend and helper to all.

Megan King

CSPE

On Friday 12th March classes 3 Ash and 2 Tory took part in an Oireachtas workshop facilitated by Aoife Ruane. Cyprian Brady, Maureen Sullivan, Joe Costello and Paschal Donoghue visited us. During the talk we learned about the houses of the Oireachtas, the Dail and the Seanad. It was very interesting and it brought to life what we studied in CSPE about democracy. Everybody really enjoyed being introduced to politics and taking part in the discussion.

Aislinn Farrell 3 Ash

Hi, we are class 3 Oak and we did our Action Project on the National Council for the Blind. On the 6th November 2009 we held a cake sale in our class to raise money for the NCBI. We sold all the cakes and raised two hundred euros. On Friday, 26th March, we invited in a speaker from the NCBI. She was able to tell us what it is like to live her daily life being vision impaired. It was a really good talk and at the end we handed over the two hundred euros that we had raised.



Dionne Draper & Nadine McCarthy 3 Oak

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

On Thursday 29th April classes 1 Shannon and 1 Liffey went on an historical trip to the National History Museum on Kildare Street. Each class was given a guided tour by their teachers Ms. Griffin and Ms. Connell. Students got an opportunity to enhance their learning through visual contact with artefacts, relevant to their first year curriculum. A great day was had by all. A big thank you to Ms. Griffin and Ms. Connell for organising the trip.

Leaving Certificate History students completed their research projects in April. They are worth 20% of the final Leaving Certificate grade. Students' projects covered a wide range of topics including "Operation Valkerie", the attempted assassination on Hitler's life, the Presidency of Nixon in America, and the Hillsborough Disaster. We wish third and sixth years good luck for their exams in June.

Ms. G Lehane

CLASS OAK OUTING



Class Oak had a class trip on March 25th. Mr. Kelly organised an outing to town as a reward for the class. All the girls enjoyed the trip which involved the cinema in the morning and a visit to the newly opened wax museum on College Green which was educational and fun. The day was finished with a bite to eat to replace all the energy spent in the wax museum where the girls even got to make their own music video. The day was great fun and all the girls were exceptionally well behaved, so there may be talks of a reunion tour next year.

Mr. P Kelly & Ms. O Griffin

DEPARTMENT OF GUIDANCE AND COUNSELLING

Incoming First Years

Summer term involved the planning for our new intake of students to St. Mary's in August 2010. To help facilitate the transition from Primary school to Secondary school we visited the primary schools and talked with the Sixth Class teachers about the students' progress and interests. There was a very positive information meeting with the parents of incoming First Years to review the issues for students and parents and to initiate our long term partnership over the next five or six years. To further this partnership we invited any of the incoming first year parents to make an appointment at the end of May for an informal interview with a member of the Care Team.

First Years

There was a meeting with the parents of the present First Year students to look at subject choice for Second Year. The counsellors also met with the students and distributed booklets about their subject choices.

Third Years

The Third Year students sat their Differential Aptitude tests (DATS). This was to help those going on into Fifth Year with making their subject choices. They each received a booklet outlining what was involved in the study of subjects for the traditional Leaving Certificate. Each Third Year student had a meeting with the guidance counsellors to receive feed back on the results of the DATS. The Third Year students with their parents attended a meeting to look at the options for next year: Transition Year; Fifth Year; LCVP.

16+Task Force

The 16+ Task Force was formed in 2007 to address the need for a multi-agency approach to meet the needs of young people aged 16 and over who are disengaged or at risk of disengaging from service providers and to create a structure and process to work with individuals, placing paramount importance on their best interests. The task force has established a Service Directory that maps out the roles of the services in the area and provides a simple and effective point of contact for other agencies and the young people in the Finglas/Cabra area. St Mary's is one of the services included in the directory and has been actively involved in the Task Force.

www.16plustaskforce.ie

CALL 8648899 for an appointment
CALL 1800201890 for Helpline

Heads Up Team & "Key West"

The Heads Up website is a very worthwhile initiative. It is a varied and well researched site offering a wide range of options to our students. It looks at the areas of Well Being, Getting Help, Fact Sheets and Personal Stories. It has an immediate text help line Text 50424. The presentation was accompanied by an exciting performance from the band KEY WEST.

DCU Access Programmes

DCU Access Service Student Shadowing Day

Many of our fifth year students have taken part in a variety of DCU programmes which encourage students to start thinking about Third Level.

Ten fifth year students took part in the DCU Access Service Student Shadowing Day on Tuesday 2nd March. It allowed them the opportunity to take part in student life at DCU. They were matched with undergraduate students pursuing a course in an area of interest to them. They attended lectures with a 1st or 2nd year student in a faculty of their choice. The students really enjoyed their experience on campus and found it very worthwhile. They were Victoria Kutsenko, Michelle Dowling, Ciara Delaney, Emma Carter, Shauna McLoughlin, Amy Campbell, Michelle Moran, Alison Martin, Jesse Keech and Niamh Kavanagh.

DCU Easter Revision Courses

Our Sixth Year Access students were invited to take part in free Easter revision courses in a wide range of subjects. Students who participated in the programmes found them very helpful.

DCU Debating Competition

A group of students, under the guidance of Ms. D. Callan, embarked on the fourth year of the DCU debating competition. Our debaters were Catherine Cormican, Lisa Barry, Aisling Martin, Hannah Whelan, Ramona Ciulei and Ciara Delaney.

Take Five Programme

"Take Five" is a programme open to all of our Fifth year students to explore the five different colleges over a five day period in June. These colleges include DCU, UCD, Trinity College, NUI Maynooth and DIT. The successful student chosen for the programme will participate in taster-college activities – attending lectures and workshops and visiting laboratories, taking part in sports halls and visiting sites around campus.

DCU have been outstanding in opening up Third Level education to our students and in sowing the seeds for students to aspire to apply for university from fifth year onwards. We are very grateful for their support over the past school year.

Sixth Years

FETAC Talks

Students had the opportunity to participate in talks with FETAC colleges during January and February. Speakers from Colaiste Ide, Killester College, Whitehall College and Marino College were in attendance. Students learned about the variety of courses on offer at each college and had the opportunity to ask questions and find out information in advance of their interviews.

CAO

CAO applications are now well and truly in and some students will be planning on readjusting their choices on their change of mind form which is accessible online from May 1st-July 1st.

FETAC

Many of the students applying for FETAC have had interviews and have been offered places subject to their results in the Leaving Certificate.

We wish all of our Sixth Year students every success in their Leaving Certificate and look forward to linking in with them in mid August for the results. Both Mrs. Downey and Ms. Devaney will be available in August to support the students when they receive their results and later on when offers are being made.

Mrs. C. Downey & Ms. F. Devaney

Japanese

The 8th JLTJ Japanese Speech Contest which is organized yearly by the Japanese Languages Teachers of Ireland, was held at the Clock Tower in Dublin on 6th March 2010. The following 5th year students from St. Mary's won awards: Windy Chai won 2nd prize and Merrusa Matusalem won 3rd prize. Their category was Transition Year/Leaving Cert. 1st Year and there were 13 participants in total from all over Ireland participating in this category. Students had to give a two minute speech about themselves in Japanese in front of a live audience.

Both Windy and Merrusa began studying Japanese as a Leaving Cert subject last September. They are studying after school in St. Mary's on Wednesdays and also at the Saturday class held in St. Michael's.

The Japanese class was introduced last September at St. Mary's with classes held weekly on Wednesdays after school and on Thursdays after school in Mount Temple. In addition the Saturday class is also on offer to students who can't attend classes after school and is organised by the Post-Primary Languages Institute.

We hope that more students will come and join us in learning Japanese and hopefully sit the subject as an extra subject for their Leaving Cert.

Yoko Wakabayashi

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

SciFest

In April, a group of three second year girls entered the Scifest 2010 competition under the guidance of their teacher Mr. Carr and successfully claimed second place in the Junior Physical Sciences section. The title of their project was the 'Design of Magic Matches and a Matchbox'. They hope to enter the BT Young Scientist competition next year with the same experiment.



From Left to Right: Rana Khalil, Ranzenallie Caranay and Roslyn Colgan with their Certificates.

Below is a picture of fifth year Chemistry student Kim Kieran partaking in a demonstration given during a Chemistry talk to senior chemistry and junior science students when Mr. Rory Geoghegan visited the school. Kim is holding washing up bubbles containing ethane gas while a flammability test is being carried out on it.



Mr. E Carr

Biology Action Research

The Second Level Support Service (SLSS) invited the Biology Department to submit an article for the SLSS journal, as a result of both biology students' and teachers' effective usage of ICT as an aid to enhance ecology fieldwork activities.

Awakenings

Upon study of the nervous system, fifth year biology students had the opportunity to see the film 'Awakenings'. The film draws on a victim of the 1916 Sleeping Sickness epidemic, who has a nervous system disorder and he is unable to secrete the chemical neurotransmitter dopamine. Fifth Year students were able to relate the film to the subject content of the biology course. Many found it insightful as it is based on a true and haunting story!

Ms. M O'Donnell

One Good Idea Project Competition

Many senior students took part in this project competition. The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness of things that everybody can do to tackle climate change by using energy more efficiently and making changes in the way we live, work and travel. By reducing our carbon footprint a big difference can be made to the environment.

Projects researched included how everyday energy saving at home and in school can help to save money and use energy more efficiently. The girls collated their research and posted it up on the corridor outside the lab.



Energy Savers: Piret Kattai, Laura Farrell, Shona Rooney, Rachel Farrell, Lauren Butler

Some fifth year students organised a 'First Year Tea Day' to raise funds to buy some trees for planting. The girls wanted to portray the message that even though buying a few trees is a small action to help the environment (trees take in our carbon dioxide!), if many people did the same action, it would help make one big difference to the environment!



First Year Tea Day



Tree planters: Suzanne Escalante, Catherine Cormican, Rachel Keating, Rebecca White.

Capture the Power Photography Competition

This competition involved the use of photography by the students to enhance people's understanding of energy and how it relates to their everyday lives and interests. The theme of the competition was 'Capture the Power and Energy in the World around You.' Well done to fifth year students Catherine Cormican and Suzanne Escalante who looked at kinetic and potential energy in a dynamic and innovative way.



Catherine Cormican - 'Crushing Chords'



Suzanne Escalante - 'A Capture of the Earth's Solar Energy'

PREFECT NEWS

Hi again everyone, Rebecca, Emma and Sophie here, the girls who are always buzzing around the school. This being the last time we write to you all, we would like to highlight all the amazing things we've accomplished together as a team this year.

It is clear that the first and second year classes were helped to settle in by the guidance, little chats and the "Agony Aunt" positions of the prefects throughout the year. We know a strong bond has been formed between us all.

The sixth year prefect group would not have developed and progressed without the dedicated Ms. Higgins. We thank her for giving up many a lunchtime for us and guiding us through this busy year. We have all become much more independent, thanks to her advice and support.

On a personal note to all of our friends and prefects, this year wouldn't have been the same without you all. We wish you all the best in your hopes and dreams for the future. We're going to go from being the oldest to being the youngest once again in our third level of the education system.

Rebecca Nugent (Head Girl)
Emma Gibbons and Sophie Gaughran (Deputy Head Girls)

MATHS DEPARTMENT

Project Maths

Project Maths involves the introduction of revised syllabi for both incoming first year and fifth year students in September 2010. It involves changes to what students learn in mathematics, how they learn it and how they will be assessed. Project Maths aims to provide for an enhanced student learning experience and greater levels of achievement for all. Much greater emphasis will be placed on student understanding of mathematical concepts, with increased use of contexts and applications that will enable students to relate mathematics to everyday experience. All maths teachers within the school have attended two in-services on the new Project Maths course. More details about Project Maths is available from www.projectmaths.ie

Maths Club

The Maths Club took place in the Interactive Whiteboard Room Monday lunchtimes and its focus was to develop students' problem-solving skills and to help students who had difficulty with particular maths topics.

IMTA Maths Competition

In March, all first year students participated in the Maths Competition organised by the Irish Maths Teachers Association (IMTA). The students achieved well in the exam. Well done to Jamie Molloy from class Liffey who was the overall winner in her year group. Aoife Byrne from class Liffey achieved second place while Mary Louise Tipones from class Lee was awarded third place in the year group. Well Done Girls!

Maths Squad

Thanks are due to the twelve transition year students, who so generously gave up many of their Wednesday lunchtimes throughout the year, to work with first years in solving maths questions.

Maths World Day

All students were informed about World Maths Day, which took place worldwide on Wednesday the 3rd March. The Maths Department marked the occasion by organising a poster competition among first years. Many first year students put in lots of effort. Well done to Danicah Monterola from class Corrib whose entry received first prize and is displayed on the maths notice board.

Mathematical Modelling School

Congratulations are extended to the many fifth year students who applied to attend the mathematical modelling school from the 21st – 25th June 2010 in the University of Limerick. The aims of mathematical modelling will be introduced through lectures. The summer school offers to students a glimpse of mathematical modelling in action, with visits to industrial sites, case studies and the chance to take part in their own modelling project. Students will be able to see at firsthand how mathematics is used in real industrial problems. The girls are wished well with their applications as, if accepted, it is an excellent opportunity for them to develop skills in real-world mathematics!

Ms. M O'Donnell

TRANSITION YEAR

Log on, Learn



Some members of the sixteen-strong 'Log On Learn' Spring 2010 team at their graduation ceremony in April. Their tutors from Mr. Carr's Transition Year Computer Studies class are in the background. Transition Year students undertook to teach a visiting group of retired people various skills in computers over a seven week block.



Mr. Eiven Murphy is pictured at the graduation ceremony addressing Log On Learn students and tutors. He said that the initiative provided an invaluable opportunity for his contemporaries to gain a knowledge and confidence around the use of computers. Mr. Murphy also highlighted the special bond that existed between his learning group and their transition year tutors, whom he praised for their kindness and ability to teach.

Mr. E Carr

ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE

Multicultural Day

The 23rd of March saw a new initiative in St. Mary's – a culture party. Some of our students come from or have had the opportunity to live in other countries. Assisted by Ms Aird and Ms Cunningham, they put together a culture party that was to be enjoyed by all first year students.

The event consisted of a presentation by these students that included thought-provoking insight on what it is like to come to a new school with a new language, in a new place, and to settle in. This was in addition to a more positive celebration of the culture from which each girl came or had the opportunity to experience.

We also enjoyed watching traditional dances and singing from Egypt, the Philippines and Ireland. The event was aptly completed with the opportunity for students to try food from all the different countries mentioned (provided by the girls).

Finally, Ms Aird and Ms Cunningham would like to thank all our lovely students for putting in so much hard work

and dedication to make the day a success.

Ms. Cunningham & Ms. Aird

A student's perspective:

It's hard for anyone to be outside their comfort zone. It's extremely hard for anyone to move to a new country, new culture, new routine – new laws, even.

You have to leave old friends behind and go to a place where they usually don't speak the same language.

Imagine how anxious and scared you would be – this wouldn't be helped by people being unwelcoming or unfriendly. Equally, it's easy to overlook someone who is different.

The fact is that we are all the same and once you pass the language barrier, it's easy to make friends. We have a lot to offer people from different countries, just as they have a lot to give us.

I know this because my best friend in primary school was a girl called Eline, from the Philippines.

Eline used to tell me about her country and stories her mother had told her as a child.

Eline lived down the road from me and I went to her house most days. Her family was always welcoming.

Eline taught me some of the Filipino language, Tagalog. Though all I can remember is 'pangit', which means 'ugly'. I also helped Eline with English homework when she needed it and we both enjoyed the same things, like singing, dancing, reading, tennis, etc.

Whenever there was a birthday in Eline's family, all their family and community came over. I was welcome also.

Eve Kavanagh 3rd Year

Multicultural Day in St. Mary's

On Tuesday 23rd March, the "English as an Additional Language" department organised a Multicultural day in St. Mary's hall for first year students who were curious to hear about other students from different countries.

A few seniors, Windy Chai, Adeline Lefang and Victoria

Kutsenko shared the role of master of ceremonies. We had a number of students from different countries taking part; Ukraine, Romania, Cameroon, Malaysia, Thailand, Philippines, Egypt, Poland, Germany, India, China, Spain, and of course, Ireland. We had an opening speech from Ms. Cunningham. Each of the students did a PowerPoint presentation about her country and culture. Some of the students sang their national anthems, some talked about life in their home country and others performed traditional dances. Some students also talked about how they felt when they first came to Ireland.

Irish students also participated in this ceremony. They talked about Ireland and performed a traditional dance.

At the end of the ceremony we had a party for the first years where they tasted food from each country. It was an enjoyable day and a good experience for all of us.

Windy Chai, Adeline Lefang and Victoria Kutsenko



ENGLISH AS AN ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE contd.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

TY Music

A Night at the Opera

Sixty two TY students went to the Gaiety Theatre on March 3rd to see Charles Gounod's opera "Romeo and Juliet" produced by Opera Ireland. The girls had a wonderful night and for most of them it was a new experience to see a full opera production, and they were pleasantly surprised at how much they really enjoyed it!

"Romeo and Juliet"

Many talents were discovered during this year's TY production and music was no exception. The students creatively decided on adding music into the classic "Romeo and Juliet" play. So a band was formed to provide the musical backing in the play. This consisted of Amy Coleman on Drums, Megan Haverty on Keyboard, Jordan Stanford on Guitar and Aoife Harbison on Piano. The chorus singers included Melissa Kitching, Katie Drea, Alison Connell, Ciana Sperin, Linda Robinson and Caitriona Nolan.

Solos singers for the play were Hannah, Lizzie Gallagher and Elizabeth Ford. The musicianship and singing were exceptional and we get the feeling that this is not the last we'll see of this talented group.

Emmanuel 2010

St. Mary's was well represented in an interview with Mr. Coll and Meaghan Rose-Nel from TY, which featured in the April issue of the "Face up" magazine. This is a R.E magazine that is distributed nationwide. The interview was based on what they thought of the Emmanuel experience.

St. Mary's Music Showcase

Towards the end of the year the musical talent of St. Mary's was showcased on one night of great entertainment in St. Mary's choir hall. Performances on the night involved students from the Junior and Leaving Cert. classes performing their practical pieces. Class performances from 1st, 2nd, 5th and 6th year music classes, the TY music classes and the school choir also featured.

The Late Marie Glackin R.I.P.

The untimely death of Marie Glackin brought great sadness to the whole school community. The school choir was asked to provide the music at the funeral, and sang requested hymns including Panis Angelicus. By way of tribute to Marie's contribution to music in St. Mary's, two awards will be presented in her honour to the best all-round music students at Junior Cert. and Leaving Cert. levels.



MUSIC DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Practicals

April was a busy month for the music department with both the Leaving Certificate and Junior Certificate music practicals taking place. All of the girls worked hard preparing for these exams and both examiners commented on the high standard of music performed. There was a wide variety of pieces performed ranging from traditional Irish music, Beethoven, Mozart and Tchaikovsky to more contemporary artists such as Ray Charles, Snow Patrol, Lloyd Webber and Taylor Swift.

Finally, we would just like to wish all our 3rd and 6th years the best of luck in their written exams in June!

Ms M. O'Rourke and Mr. C Coll

School Choir



On Thursday 25th March, fifty one members of the school choir participated in the 'Emmanuel 2010' concert which was held in the Helix. The choir sang in this concert last year with other choirs from Dublin, Kildare and North Wicklow and were all eager to sing in it again.

This year was even more special as six girls from our choir were chosen out of hundreds of auditions to sing solos in the concert. They were Jade Brady, Sophie Mulhall, Eve Kavanagh, Emma Humber, Ranzennallie Caranay and Siobhan McNamara.

It was an extremely busy day with the girls participating in workshops and rehearsals in Clonliffe College. The choir then made its way to the Helix for a full dress rehearsal with the orchestra. The music that the choir sang covered a variety of styles including Classical and Gospel and the choir had the daunting task of learning songs in Irish, African, and even Latin. This was a great achievement for the girls who sang solos and indeed the whole choir, who sang so beautifully on the night. We hope to have more girls singing solos in next year's concert so watch this space!

A huge thank you to all of the students in the choir who work so hard and are extremely dedicated. We can't wait to do more exciting musical projects with the choir next year.



COMPUTER CLUB



Both junior and senior students attended the Computer Club on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays at lunchtime. In the club many junior students were busy researching their computer and art projects using 'Google' search engine! TY students completed curricular projects while some senior students updated and printed out their CVs. Many senior students explored college courses on the web with some students completing application forms online.

Ms. M O'Donnell

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

"A Little Princess"

On 22nd March all our first years became "princesses" for the afternoon! As a reward for the tidy classroom competition held in our school, they got to watch the film of the novel they are studying: "A Little Princess". It was a day filled with excitement and happiness as our first years got to accessorise as little princesses for the afternoon. As a treat, Ms. Murphy gave them goodies so they could enjoy the film. The afternoon was a great success as our first years thoroughly enjoyed it.

Megan Daly & Ashling Talbot (Prefects 6.36)

"King Lear" in University College Dublin

Before Christmas, sixth year English students got a taste of college life at the evening lecture series in Trinity College. They were back on another campus in January when fifty four students visited University College Dublin for a performance of their comparative text "King Lear".

The production took place in Astra Hall UCD and was organised by the college's Drama Society. It was an ambitious retelling of Shakespeare's tragedy with a minimalist set. Great use was made of colour. Characters adopted a hue suited to their personality, such as grey for impetuous Lear, yellow for innocent Cordelia and green for callous Regan, etc. The play was directed by Sarah Finlay, and featured an impressive cast. Former St. Mary's pupil Sarah Maloney was involved behind the scenes.

The consensus among sixth years was that the performance, while lengthy, was faithful to Shakespeare's original text and entertaining in its delivery. They also agreed it was a great benefit to see a set text brought to life on stage, particularly with Mock exams around the corner.

Fifth Year "Hamlet" Workshop

This year a group of fifty students was invited to DCU to participate in a workshop on Shakespeare's "Hamlet". They were joined by students from St. Kevin's Secondary School. The workshop took place over three hours and gave the girls a lively and entertaining introduction to their Leaving Cert. Comparative text.

World Book Day in St. Mary's

On March 4th 2010, special events were held by the English Department to celebrate World Book Day.

The morning began with "Book and Breakfast" in the English room. From 8am students could come up with their books, grab a bite to eat and relax before school with some reading. A great number of students participated, with some completing book reviews and posters after their breakfast.



Left to right: Mairéad Lowther, Megan Nolan, (at window) Katie Franzoni, Niamh Whelan



Left to right: Briza Dechavez, Hazel Aliwalas, Ella Mae Cruz, Alyssa Corpuz



Left to right: Ciara King, Robyn Molloy, Lucy Carroll, Hannah Kelly, Jaime Molloy

At lunchtime, "The Great Book Quiz" was held in the Interactive Whiteboard room. This quiz featured questions on famous classic and modern novels, with a special Irish interest round. The students did really well, with many teams getting full marks in each round. A special word of thanks to the prefects who helped with correcting.

To end the day a special film club was held, showing a modern bestseller adapted for the silver screen. "Marley and Me" was the popular choice and the afternoon was well attended, with many enjoying both film and treats.

In addition to the day itself, during the week students from all years were involved in library visits and book displays. Many took part in "drop everything and read" where they brought in their own books from home to read for the last fifteen minutes of class. They also received book tokens to use in any bookshop nationwide.

Thank you to all teachers and students who helped out and took part on the day. It was a great success and hopefully it will become an annual event!



Left to right: Mairéad Lowther, Megan Nolan. (Behind: Rochelle McCanley)



Left to right: Stephanie Ryan, Rochelle Mc Ginley

DCU DEBATING COMPETITION

Six students from 5.33 competed in the DCU debating competition against sixteen other teams from northside schools. The three teams consisted of Aisling Martin and Hannah Whelan, Ailish Kelly and Alison Martin and Catherine Cormican and Lisa Barry.

The teams had one week to prepare their motions and all competed in two qualifying rounds on the day. The first debate was "That this house would jail parents for the crimes of their children" and the second was "That Religion has done more harm than good in the world." The teams took different positions, arguing both for and against in various venues. It is a credit to the girls' skills and flair for debating that all three teams came first in at least one of the debates.

In the end, it was Aisling and Hannah who won both their rounds and made it through to the final. They spoke as second proposition in favour of the motion, "That this house would use hard labour as a means of punishment." The other teams in the final were from St. Aidan's, St. Dominic's and St. Mary's, Killester. After a heated and skilful debate, the adjudicators passed the motion and awarded a worthy first place to St. Mary's, praising their clarity, delivery and skills of rebuttal.

Well done to everyone involved on the day, including our supporters Orla and Viktoriya, and congratulations to the two overall winners Aisling and Hannah.

Ms. D. Callan

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

NFTE

The Business department is delighted with the enthusiasm of the students and the success of all the different businesses that participated in the NFTE programme this year. Since September the girls have been setting up and running their businesses and selling their products in the many sales fairs we held in the school. Some businesses even got the opportunity to attend a sales fair in The Royal Hibernian Mall in Dublin city centre.

The girls did exceptional work on their business plans and all companies entered their business plans in the NFTE "Biz Plan Competition". On the 10th March each business presented the business plans to two NFTE judges explaining the business concepts and the financial information. The two judges were John Bourke, a local entrepreneur, and Derek Dunne from AIB Phibsboro. Both judges said that the businesses were extremely innovative and that the standard of the presentation skills was exceptional. As daunting as the experience was for the students having to do a fifteen minute presentation, each girl thoroughly enjoyed the experience as it was such a positive one.

However there could be only one winner and that was 'Bijoux Be You' by Ashling Ahern and Aoife Harbison, a business providing unique bracelets. This business then competed in the All-Ireland NFTE finals held in DCU on 24th March. The girls were up against stiff competition from all over Ireland and did very well in their

presentation, but unfortunately they were not successful in winning the national title.

Another business that had great success was J&G Charms by Jenny Moriarty and Grainne Lynch who entered the NFTE international "Biz Plan Competition". The girls were one of ten finalists in the country who competed for the International prize on 3rd February. The girls did a great presentation and came fourth overall which was a great achievement.

Since October the girls have done a fantastic job and there are definitely some budding entrepreneurs in our midst. To celebrate the success and end of the TY NFTE programme all participants attended the All Ireland NFTE Awards Ceremony which was held in the Helix in DCU on 29th April. This was an enjoyable day and was a great opportunity for the girls to mix with other NFTE student from all over Ireland.



J+G Charms – Jenny Moriarty and Grainne Lynch (International Finalists)



Baby Cakes – Megan Rose-Nel and Meaghan Haverty



Girly Twirly Charms – Gemma Byrne and Sarah Whelan



Niamh O'Doherty, Claire O'Brien, Olga Mulhall



Bijoux Be You – Ashling Ahern and Aoife Harbison (in class winners)

LCVP

The 5th year LCVP class has been working very well all year and put great effort into our fundraising activity for the Central Remedial Clinic in Clontarf at Christmas. The girls volunteered to help the CRC with their 'Santa Bear Appeal' in Dublin city centre on 1st December. The girls managed to collect 500. The class continued on their drive in the school and went on to make over 160 by holding a raffle with a very big cuddly Santa bear as the prize. The activity was enjoyed by all and the CRC were very appreciative and asked if the class would help in the 'Santa Bear Appeal' again next year.

The 6th year LCVP class have completed their projects which were successfully handed in by all candidates on 21st April. The girls also sat the recorded interview section of their exam on Friday 5th March. All candidates sat the LCVP exam on May 5th where candidates were examined on their activities over the two year course. Well done to all the girls who have worked hard throughout the two years and we wish you every success in the future.

Ms Crowley,
Ms Griffin,
Ms Lehane
and Ms Ni Luig

ART DEPARTMENT

With the principles of the art elements behind them our first year art students demonstrated great skill in a variety of craft areas. They studied the anatomy of the face and created ceramic tiles in relief based on their self-portraits. The drawings were also used as preliminary studies for a single and two colour block lino print. The art of typography was explored. Students created a multitude of exciting letter styles which they have put into their hand-crafted books and they have also had the opportunity to experiment with a variety of printing techniques. First year students worked on a puppetry module. They created puppets using recycled materials and other interesting textures. A puppet show was held in class before summer and we enjoyed watching these characters come to life. Our second year students concentrated on

their life-sketching. They completed a 3D project which explored movement of the human figure and constructed a series of gaelic football players and puppets. Others have studied the art of the Native American Indian and created individual dream-catchers.

The April deadline for the Junior Cert. Art project brought relief to our third year students who have worked so hard developing their themes throughout the year. The projects show skilled and imaginative work in a range of art disciplines. We are proud of the students and their projects and wish them well in all their examinations.

Congratulations again to Elizabeth Ford in transition year who won third prize in the D.I.Y, T.Y fashion competition held in St. Michael's Holy Faith school in Finglas.

Elizabeth's piece 'Pixie' was created using recycled materials and she modelled it on stage in front of a judging panel. Transition year students then began their final clay and graphics module. Individual ceramic tiles represented letters from the alphabet using clay modelling, carving and construction.

The fifth year students have further developed their understanding of form, colour and composition through their observations of still life. They worked on a t-shirt design project that is based on a block study of printing, graphic and product design. Other fifth year art students completed of a large textile project inspired by the work of Henri Matisse, Vincent Van Gogh, Gustav Klimt and Edvard Munch. Batik, embroidery, beading, applique and fabric painting have been used to recreate 'The Red Dining Room', 'Starry Night', 'The Kiss', and 'The

ART DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Scream'. Their studies also continued in the history and appreciation of art.

In March sixth year students visited the Francis Bacon 'A Terrible Beauty' exhibition at the Hugh Lane Gallery. Following a very educational tour the students participated in a drama workshop based on the work of Bacon and later created paintings influenced by this experience. Final preparations got under way for the Leaving Cert. art exams. The students were busy perfecting their skills in bookcraft, embroidery, batik, puppetry, clay modelling, poster design and lino printing. They are also expected to complete exams in still life/ imaginative composition, life-sketching and the study of art history and appreciation. We are aware that students have worked hard, we wish them well in their exams and hope that they will be proud of their Leaving Cert results.

C.Kavanagh, N.Cunningham and M.Greene

Francis Bacon: A Terrible Beauty

At the Hugh Lane Gallery on March 5th, an exhibition dedicated to Francis Bacon took the attention of the 6th year students.

After travelling there by bus, we were greeted by a cheerful, well informed tour guide who took us through the life of Francis Bacon. Through pictures and photos we were told of Bacon's background: his youth, travels and his inspirations, which led to work he did until his death in 1992.

The most interesting display at the gallery was his studio. Donated in 1998, Bacon's studio was relocated here, with every last piece in its original place. A mass of paints, papers, images, photos, ripped canvases and material clutter this tiny art studio where Bacon once said, "I feel at home in this chaos." It was certainly the most important room in the artist's life.

Another appealing quality to Bacon's work is not how he put paint onto canvas or how the finished piece looked, but how he reached his decision on what would go on the canvas.

Over a quarter of the material found in his studio was photographs from which he painted. In folding, ripping and twisting pages of photographs of human bodies, Bacon would find his subject to paint.

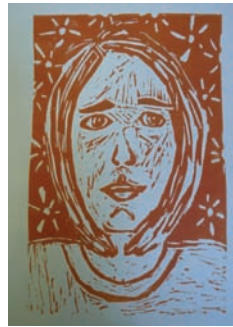
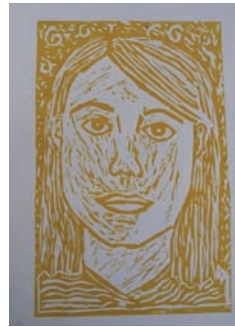
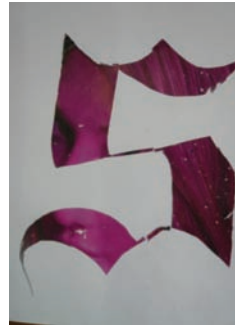
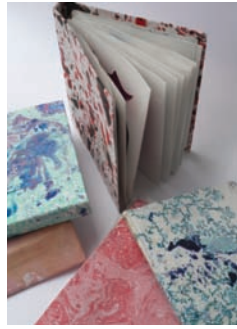
After visiting all of Bacon's work, we climbed the stairs to take part in "Francis Bacon", an inspired workshop. We were taught by another Bacon enthusiast how to express images and emotions through body art.

It was great craic and I'd say we did Francis Bacon proud!

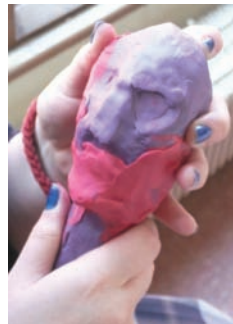
All in all, I thoroughly enjoyed visiting the gallery and seeing Francis Bacon's work and would advise everyone to go see the exhibition

Christine Kelly, 6th Year

1st year



2nd year



3rd year

