



St. Mary's NEWSLETTER

Summer 2017

A Message from the Principal

Welcome to the 2017 Summer Edition of St. Mary's Newsletter. This published edition can also be accessed through our Website and our School App. If you haven't already done so why not download our App, which is packed with daily notifications, and news items that are of interest to the whole school community and which will keep you up to date with the myriad of activities and events that are happening in our school.

This newsletter is bursting at the seams with reports and supporting photographs which will give you an overview of what has been going on in St. Mary's since our online edition in December 2016, and will outline for you some of the many academic, sporting, cultural, dramatic, musical, artistic and religious highlights of the year to date.

It has indeed been an eventful few months for us. As usual we got the year off to a good start with our Annual Health Week, which culminated as in 2016 with a whole school performance of the Operation Transformation dance on the tennis courts! Our T.Y. students have been kept extremely busy representing us at so many events and occasions throughout the year. They did us proud performing at the Student Leaders Congress in Limerick and later at Junk Kouture in the Helix. Many of them alongside a group of 6th year students completed a 25km hike around Glendalough in order to achieve their Gaisce Bronze medals while others faced the dragons to achieve great success at the Business Bootcamp and NFTE. 'Create Schools' affords all students in Transition Year the opportunity to explore their creativity through the art of film making and all T.Y. students had the opportunity to showcase their movies at the annual Oscar Night which has become a highlight of the T.Y. calendar. And that is just the tip of the T.Y. iceberg!

This has been a sensational year for sport in St. Mary's with teams reaching the finals in Hockey, Gaelic Football and Basketball, and taking the victory home as winners of the Junior and Senior Northside Hockey League, and the Leinster Senior Gaelic title in football. Amazing achievements were clocked up also as

runners up in Junior and Senior Basketball and Junior and Senior Soccer – not to mention the successes in Volleyball, Camogie and most recently Rowing.

The Arts continue to flourish and to go from strength to strength in St. Mary's.

Our Schola Choir once again reached great heights achieving third place in the Navan Choral Festival on 4th May where they competed to a very high standard in the Liturgical Music Competition reviving Ian Callanan and Geoffrey Ainger's original composition *Mary's Child* which they had recorded as a single before Christmas and released on iTunes with all proceeds going to the Peter McVerry Trust. *Stars in their Eyes* which was staged on 24th March saw an array of incredible talent from all year groups, with the three top performers being chosen to represent us in the Glasnevin Musical Society's final on 31st March where St. Mary's once again claimed two of the three top prizes! Our Musical Showcase held this year on 17th May continues to be a highlight of the school calendar where students from all year groups have the opportunity to perform in any genre in a non-competitive and uplifting celebration of music in St. Mary's. Meanwhile the artwork of our students adorns our walls in an evolving and ever changing exhibition, which displays the extraordinary talent of our art students from 1st to 6th year. Our Green Schools Committee and our new Coiste Gaelbhreach have had great success this year each achieving their goals. We are now happily the recipients of our fourth Green Flag for Travel, and are about to be presented with our Gaelbhreach for encouraging and promoting the use of the Irish language throughout the school in a way that is planned, continuous and enjoyable. Our Science students have represented us proudly in both the Young Scientist Exhibition in the RDS and more recently the SciFest in the Helix, and there is great interest and enthusiasm for competing in both events going forward. With extra-curricular activities flourishing due to the selfless commitment of teachers in their own time, it is thoroughly inspiring to witness the high standards of teaching and learning that

St. Mary's Secondary School



MISSION STATEMENT

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

continue to be a hallmark of the academic life of St. Mary's.

Our first years have settled in well, and are now ready to greet our new incoming first year students and to support them as they were supported with the genuine warmth of the St. Mary's welcome. As we look forward to the arrival of our new cohort of students I would like to take this opportunity to bid a fond farewell to all of our 6th year students who graduated on 23rd May. You have been a wonderful group of school leaders, with our Prefects and Mentors guiding our younger students towards academic and social success while our Ember team has shown great leadership and initiative in the important area of Faith Development. And there were those who contributed in subtle and inconspicuous ways – your efforts too have not gone unnoticed. You are a talented and creative bunch of young people and I hope sincerely that you all achieve your academic and personal goals, and I wish you happiness and health as you go forward on the road of life.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school community – Board of Management, staff, students and parents – for their continued support and encouragement. We aim to create a warm, welcoming and inclusive environment here in St. Mary's where each member of the school community feels equally cherished and sustained as we move forward together.

I would like to take this opportunity on behalf of myself, Ms. O'Donnell and all the staff of St. Mary's to wish our 3rd years and 6th years the very best in the upcoming State Examinations.

With thanks and good wishes to all for a happy and renewing summer!

Bernadette Bourke
Principal,
June 2017

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DCU UniTY PROGRAMME

Saint Mary's Girls Dominate DCU UniTY Awards

Saint Mary's joined the DCU UniTY programme in 2016-17 and won a very impressive three awards on their debut in the Helix. In the Smart Skills category Weronika Malecka won an award for her innovation and collaboration in the designing of an app for the Android platform.

In the Multimedia "Inspire Me" category Nicola O'Reilly, Leah Farrell, Caitlin Mangan, Louise Delaney and Nadine Spencer won first prize for their video showing that sports are not just for males. Lauren Wilson, Sarah Grace, Kym Shanahan and Caoimhe Macken won first prize for the "Education" category. Their video told a story about the dangers of teenage drinking. Well done to everyone involved.

Mr. Montague



CYBER SAFETY WEEK

Cyber Safety Week

Cyber Safety Week took place from Monday 27th February to Friday 3rd March. This was a week to highlight the importance of using the internet safely and respectfully. Events throughout the week included a cyber safety poster competition, a talk from the Guards about cyber safety, video clips from Webwise.ie and a T.Y. advice wall. Well done to Angelica Aguja and Maria Janiak from class 1 Lynn for designing the winning posters. These will be used to promote cyber safety within the school.

Ms. L. Sullivan, Mr. P Montague & Ms. J. Byrne



MATHS DEPARTMENT

The Maths Department and students in the school had an eventful second term with our students entering exciting and challenging competitions.

First Years

Our first year students took part in the annual First Year Maths quiz in DCU on Wednesday 26th April. The students were competing with other students from neighbouring schools. Well done to the students involved and in particular to Julia Slaby from class 1 Lynn who won two prizes on the maths game-based learning platform **Kahoot!**

(right) Julia Slaby from class 1 Lynn

(Far right top): Team 1: The Maths Busters: Chelsea Murphy, Saoirse Kennedy, Ella Nugent and Sofia Balog

(Far right bottom): Team 2: The Maths Wizards: Luna Giulshaniar, Alex Featherson, Allie King and Aoife Scully



MATHS DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Transition Year Maths Module

This year again our Transition Years worked on a creative maths module. They investigated the Fibonacci numbers and how these special set of numbers are exhibited in nature. The students worked out how shells developed using these numbers.

As part of their maths module the students have to work on 'nets', a two dimensional version of a three dimensional shape. The students completed nets by working out how to construct a peacock from a net.

Ms. E. Murphy



GERMAN DEPARTMENT

Penpals from Reutlingen, Germany

This year the German Department has partnered up with the Theodor-Heuss Schule in Reutlingen, Germany, with a view to raising language and cultural awareness between our students and students in Germany. Transition Year and fifth year students are participating in this exciting initiative!

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

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

Ms. S. McManus



Reutlingen – Baden Württemberg

Student Council

The St. Mary's Student Council has had a very busy year. Through countless sacrificed lunchtimes and innumerable paper cuts, I am happy to say this is the best work I've seen done in my time here (five years).

The biggest change to come: students wearing trousers. With amazing support from not only students, but parents and teachers also, our campaign is going strong. If things go as planned, we expect trousers to be an option in the school uniform for September 2017.

On a slightly less glamorous note, we have also been working hard on the toilet facilities in the school. Although I don't quite feel the urge to drink out of the toilet bowls yet, I definitely feel much more comfortable with working locks, full toilet rolls and clean floors.

At first glance, trousers and toilets may not seem like very big issues but with a little more thought, one can see how important they really are. Trousers are not only helping our fight for gender equality, but also helping students concentrate better. Without the worries of skirts being blown up or maintaining perfectly smooth legs, students can focus more on their work rather than their appearances. It is also extremely important to keep the toilets usable and clean. If a bathroom is left unkempt, it can put people off using it. If people are refusing to use the bathroom frequently for long periods of time, it can lead to serious health problems.

Overall, it has been a pretty successful year and we hope things only get better.

A. Masterson

Politics and Society

Women in Politics Conference

On Friday the 28th of April, our Politics and Society class was invited to a Women In Politics Conference in Castleknock Hotel and Country Club. We listened to an array of speakers such as Lynn Boylan M.E.P., Ruth Coppinger T.D. and actress, Eilish O'Carroll (better known as Winnie from "Mrs. Brown's Boys"!)

We heard a wide range of inspirational speeches and there was

then an open panel where the audience could ask the speakers questions, not to mention a lovely tea and snack break in the interval. After the panel, we had the privilege of meeting with and chatting to the various panellists, an experience I'll never forget.

Overall, it was a brilliant day that we all thoroughly enjoyed and was definitely a highlight of our fifth year in St. Mary's.

Sophie Lieghio



C.S.P.E. DEPARTMENT

New Owner, Forever Home

On March 28th, second year class 2 McDermott visited Dogs Trust for their C.S.P.E Action Project. This day consisted of learning about the organisation and its message. Dogs Trust is a non-governmental organisation that tries to spread awareness of animal rights. They take dogs in that have been abandoned and injured due to various causes. They raise and care for them in the hope of someone adopting them and there are many methods of doing so. Since the new born puppies get adopted almost immediately, the likelihood of the "older" dogs getting homes decreases. So Dogs Trust created "Dog of the Week", a poster shown in the entrance area with the dog's name, age, personality etc. The dog is then placed next to the poster, increasing the chance of him/her getting adopted. When they do get adopted, it is written next to their personality poster that they have found a "forever home". This warmed the heart of every student who attended. To help the organisation, the students sold badges and donated money to Dogs Trust and when, the tour guide received it, she was overcome with joy. Overall, this experience was unforgettable and the girls walked out with happy smiles.

Mr. P. Montague



2 Pearse C.S.P.E. Action Project

2 Pearse carried out a successful C.S.P.E. Action Project last month when they visited Dogs Trust Ashbourne and fundraised for this worthy cause by having a cake sale. They showed great initiative and hard work throughout the project which was a huge success. Well done girls.

Ms. Walsh

GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Leaving Certificate Geographical Investigation

On April 3rd, all fifth year geography students completed the practical element of their Geographical Investigation. This is worth 20% of their Leaving Certificate result. Our location was Balscadden Bay in Howth.

As part of the field study, students had to determine wave type by carrying out wave frequency, swash time and observational tasks. They also had to measure the long profile of the bay. Finally, a random sample of rocks was analysed to try to determine the local rock type.

It was a very productive day and, as always, the girls were a credit to the school (and the local chipper did good business!).



Senior Geography Trip August 2016

On the first weekend back after the summer holidays sixth year students were boarding a bus to visit important physical features on their curriculum.

First stop was the Marble Arch Caves in Fermanagh. Marble Arch Caves Global Geopark is host to one of the finest show caves in Europe. Visitors are guided through a fascinating natural underworld of rivers, waterfalls, winding passages and lofty chambers while stunningly beautiful cave formations glisten all around. The girls had a guided tour of the underground Karst features that also included a boat trip on an underground river. Afterwards, we took a short stroll in the surrounding geopark.

From there we headed to Belfast for the night. We were up early the following morning to go to the Giant's Causeway. This is a World Heritage Site of over 40,000 interlocking Basalt columns. Keith, our guide, talked us through the volcanic activity that helped Finn McCool forge this wonder of the world some sixty million years ago. The girls then went on a hike along the Antrim coastline and were able to view the Causeway from above. When we returned to the visitor centre Ms.Mahon, Sloth and



GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Sinead O'Rourke were nabbed for a photo shoot promoting the attraction!

Last stop was the Carrick-a-Rede ropebridge. Not for the faint hearted, Carrick-a-Rede Rope Bridge is a famous rope bridge near Ballintoy. The bridge links the mainland to the tiny island of Carrickarede. It spans twenty metres and is twenty metres above the crashing waves and the rocks below. We were very impressed with the levels of bravery, with some students overcoming their fears and making the crossing! And of course, once you go over you have to come back again...

The girls were a pleasure to bring away, and represented the school brilliantly. Their excellent manners and behaviour were commented on by several people. Thanks to the girls for their co-operation and to the teachers involved for making the trip possible.

The Geography Department



Giant's Causeway



Carrick-a-Rede ropebridge

ACTIVE LEARNING

JELL-OGRAPHY

2 Clarke were off to a shaky start in their jelly learning activity to further understand how earthquakes occur and how we as a people can limit the damage!

Earthquake Shopping List

- A bowl of Jelly
- A packet of cocktail sticks or matches
- Blu-Tack
- A Table
- An eye for Architecture or Geography

Earthquakes in 6 Steps:

1. Fill a bowl with jelly, whichever flavour you like.
2. Build a structure out of the match/cocktail sticks and the Blu-Tack, as demonstrated.
3. Place the building in the jelly bowl.
4. Give it a shake!
5. Watch the earthquake happen!
6. Eating of the jelly is optional...



Lynn Travel Agents!

If you are unsure where to travel this summer have no fear! 1 Lynn is here!

In May, 1 Lynn has been studying the importance of tourism to Ireland's tertiary sector. This included a project where the girls had to organise their own trip abroad for the summer of 2017. They were expected to find a variety of ideas of things to do, how to get there, how much it would cost and finally to create a holiday brochure! The results were tour-ific... (Excuse my pun!)

Mr. Johnson



GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT (contd.)

ACTIVE LEARNING – Student Responses

Fifth Year Response

'We enjoyed making clay models of an example of a limestone region. It was a fun way of learning about features of a karst landscape.'

Second Years Connolly and McDonagh Response

'We participated in active learning by making clay structures of volcanoes. We enjoyed this as it was good for visual learners and it was great fun.'



ICELAND 2017



It is now only six months until we're jetting off to Iceland for the trip of a lifetime. The flights are booked and the finishing touches are being put on the itinerary. Without giving too much away, there will be bathing in the Blue Lagoon, exploring caves, walking between tectonic plates, getting to grip with glaciers and we'll be keeping an eye out for a glimpse of the Aurora Borealis. Hopefully the volcanoes behave themselves!

The Geography Department

RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Our six second year classes all participated in a retreat held in the Margaret Aylward Centre for Faith and Dialogue this year. The retreat themes encompassed topics such as friendship, identity, kindness and motivation. Retreats were run by the Shekinah group who are affiliated with St. Patrick's Maynooth. The feedback from students was overwhelmingly positive. The girls thoroughly enjoyed the experience and the retreat leaders reported exemplary behaviour and great engagement with material. Well done to all involved.

Ms. L. Sullivan.



Le Chéile Schools' Collaboration

On Thursday the 19th of January, St. Mary's and St. Louis joined together to celebrate Catholic Schools Week 2017. Last year, St. Louis hosted a wonderful, collaborative event in their school so this year, St. Mary's had the opportunity to return the courtesies.

St. Louis's students, accompanied by their R.E teachers, travelled to Glasnevin and arrived with great energy and enthusiasm for the day ahead.

As the theme for this year's Catholic Schools Week was 'Catholic schools: Learning with Pope Francis to care for our common home', what better place than the grounds of the Holy Faith Convent, to host the event.

The morning began with an energy infused icebreaker on the convent lawn. This afforded students the opportunity to mingle and have fun together before returning to the Margaret Aylward Spirituality Centre to listen to a talk delivered by Evelyn from The Hope Foundation.

RELIGION DEPARTMENT (contd.)

While keeping with the theme of caring for our common home, The Hope Foundation reminded us that at the centre of our shared home are the many people around the world who suffer greatly due to poverty. Sitting in such beautiful surroundings, it was easy to forget how fortunate we are. The Hope Foundation reminded us to use the gifts we have been given to care for those less fortunate in the world.

The talk was followed by some time to reflect on the commitment both schools have towards encouraging students to look outwards and take responsibility as global citizens. Students and teachers then enjoyed refreshments and continued discussions around some of the issues raised by The Hope Foundation. The St. Mary's Ember Team then led the St. Louis students on a walking tour of the school building and grounds. This allowed students to get an insight into the daily life of another Le Chéile school. Lots of similarities and comparisons were drawn and all involved were able to connect with and get to know other members of the Le Chéile community.

The day's events concluded with a prayer service which was prepared by both schools in the weeks leading up to the event. Students read prayers and sang hymns centred on the importance of hope for the future and the plans God has for us and our global community.

The day was a very enjoyable experience and we hope the tradition of collaboration will continue over the coming years.

Sincere thanks to the Religion and Music departments in St. Louis for helping to facilitate this wonderful Le Chéile Schools' collaboration.

Ms.C. Murtagh



Le Chéile 'Pay It Forward Day'

"Scatter the seeds of kindness wherever you go"

On Friday the 24th of March, we celebrated Le Chéile 'Pay It Forward Day'. We attended the Le Chéile conference in February and we were inspired to make it a day that everyone would enjoy. Our motto for the day was, "Scatter the seeds of kindness wherever you go". Each student in St. Mary's planted a sunflower seed for the sensory garden. We made a display of a flower on the wall, and the centre of the flower was a mirror.

Throughout the day each student placed a post-it note around the mirror. Written on each note was a compliment for someone to take. Everyone got involved and the display looked fantastic.

Our sunflowers will be planted in the Sensory Garden by the sixth year Education for Living students.

'Pay It Forward Day' was a fantastic success and we would like to thank Mr. Coll, Mr. Farrell, Ms.

Cunningham, Ms. Bourke, Ms. O'Donnell and Colin for all their help.

Lauryn McCausland – 5 Birch

Casey Harris – 5 Ash

*Scatter seeds
of kindness
wherever you go*



Faith Friends 2017



Our Faith Friends programme took place this year over four weeks from the 31st of January to the 28th of February. Two fifth year classes, 5 Birch and 5 Ash, linked in with Ms. Phelan's and Ms. McGuigan's sixth classes in St. Brigid's National School.

The students met up once a week over three weeks and worked together on the programme. Our fifth year students approached their role as Faith Friends with great interest and enthusiasm. They enjoyed meeting the sixth class girls, getting to

know them and passing on their faith, as well as their own experience of Confirmation.

During the fourth week, Ms. Phelan, Ms. McGuigan and the sixth class girls were invited to come to the Convent Chapel for a Prayer Service to conclude the Faith Friends programme. The service was organized by some fifth year students. Fr. Richard officiated at the Prayer Service, which was attended by Ms. Burke, the principal of St. Brigid's and our own principal, Mrs. Bourke.

Our fifth years students presented the sixth class students with Certificates of Completion of the Programme and there was great excitement as cards and chocolate were exchanged at the end.

A special thank all those who helped to make the programme such a success this year and in particular the students of 5 Birch and 5 Ash who were great examples of the living faith of the school.

Ms. Shelly and Mr. Farrell

RELIGION DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Pastoral Care – 6th Year Mentoring Programme

Sixth year students who signed up to the Mentoring Programme in September have had a number of meetings with their mentors over the last year.

The programme's objectives are:

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

This programme has helped to encourage academic success for the students as a teachers have met with them throughout the year helping the students set their goals and ensuring they are being realistic in achieving them. It has also helped the students in learning valuable study tips.

Thanks to staff and students who have signed up to this programme.

Mr. Farrell

Margaret Aylward Day 2017

On the 18th of January we celebrated our founder and the woman who influences our whole school ethos. Born in Waterford city in 1810, Margaret Aylward worked with children found abandoned or destitute in Dublin City. This work was formalised in 1857 with the founding of St. Brigid's Orphanage. The need to provide school education for poor children saw the beginning of the network of Holy Faith schools. In these works, Margaret Aylward was assisted by Fr John Gowan, a Vincentian priest based in Phibsborough, Dublin.

This day allowed students to explore their schools heritage which enriches them as human beings as it allowed them to see that they belong to a community whose heritage is rooted in helping others.

Mr. P. Farrell

Lenten Reconciliation Services



“There will be more rejoicing in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who do not need to repent.”

On Thursday the 6th of April all year groups attended a Lenten Reconciliation Service in the Holy Faith Convent Chapel. The theme of this year's service was based on the Parable of the Lost Sheep. Students and staff had the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the service.

Mr. Farrell

Islamic Cultural Centre and Mosque Trip

On Thursday 22nd September, classes 2 McDonagh and 2 Connolly visited the Islamic Cultural Centre in Clonskeagh. The students have studied Islam in detail and as part of their Junior Certificate project they had the opportunity to visit a Muslim place of Worship. The title of their project is:

A study of how religious belief is expressed in the main features of a place of prayer associated with one of the following world religions: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam or Judaism.

It was a very informative, interesting and enjoyable trip.

Mr. Farrell.



The Novena of Grace and the Fifth Year Retreats

THE NOVENA OF GRACE.

The Novena of Grace took place this year from the 4th to the 12th of March in the Prayer Room from 1.10 to 1.20 each day. It is a series of prayers in honour of St. Francis Xavier and his dedication as a Jesuit Missionary in the Molucca Islands four hundred years ago.

Members of the Religion Department led the prayer, which was attended by staff and students alike. They came to pray for important events in their lives or for special intentions.

Ms. L. Bohan

THE FIFTH YEAR RETREATS

The team from Conexus Educate came to the school on Thursday 11th May to give a retreat to our Fifth Year Students.

The girls found the day to be really enjoyable and informative. They loved the activities, particularly those relating to boosting self-esteem. They learned new listening and identifying body-language skills and they found the meditation extremely relaxing. They were also very pleased with the information they received about preparing for college and the transition to Third Level Education. They laughed a lot and found it to be a really fun and worthwhile day.

Ms. L. Bohan.

RELIGION DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Graduation 2017 Newsletter

Our Sixth Year Graduation took place on Tuesday 23rd May in the school gym. The theme chosen was "Every great adventure begins with a single step". This not only reminded the students of the beginning of their lives with us as secondary school students six years ago, but it also looks forward to the new beginning of the next stage of their lives. A very exciting step to take!

Before the ceremony began Ms. O'Donnell addressed the parents, followed by Mr. Farrell who explained the theme of the Mass and the significance of the artwork. The students developed artwork representing their class names: Flora, Fauna, Orchard, Cedar and Butterfly. This adorned the walls of the gym turning it into a woodland of trees, flowers, animals, butterflies and one Cedar Tree, representative of the one which has stood in the convent grounds for over a hundred years.

Then the ceremony began with a

candle procession of the students into the gym. Fr Richard presided over the Mass again this year and made the ceremony very spiritual and poignant for the students. Our Head Girl Kelly Fowler and Deputy Head Girl Chloe Dalton read from *Proverbs* and Fr. Richard read *The Road To Emmaus* from Luke 24:13-35 as the Gospel Reading. The Prayers of the Faithful were read by the students, their parents and Ms. Nolan, followed by the Offertory Procession which was a mixture of dance and symbols of the theme reflecting the students' time here in St. Mary's. Then, after Communion, a reflection was read by Czarinah Bulaclac. This ended the spiritual part of the night.

The Awards Ceremony began with an address by Ms. Bourke to the students, staff and parents. This was followed by the Presentation of Certificates and Gifts, read by Sixth Year Head Ms. Kavanagh and presented by Ms. Bourke and Ms. O'Donnell. Then the most important award of the night, The Margaret Aylward

Award, was presented to its worthy recipient. The evening drew to a memorable close with the choir and students singing the final song, specially chosen for the occasion.

We would like to thank the many people who helped to make graduation such a special evening for everyone: the Choir, whose beautiful singing, under the direction of Mr. Coll and Ms. O'Rourke, greatly enhanced the night; Fr. Richard, for always making the Mass so personal for the students and for all he does for the school community throughout the year; Ms. Bourke and Ms. O'Donnell, without whose support graduation would not be possible; Liz for the Mass Booklet; Colin and Gerry for setting up the gym; Ms. Shelley for the balloons; Ms. Cunningham for the beautiful flower arrangements; the Parents' Association for providing tea and coffee in the hall afterwards and the P.E. Department who allow us to use the gym each year.

Ms. L. Bohan

Visit to the Dublin Hebrew Congregation

On Tuesday the 25th of April, Class 2 Plunkett, accompanied by Ms. Shelley and Mr. Farrell visited the Dublin Hebrew Congregation in Terenure. This is the main Jewish synagogue in Ireland. We learned many things about the history of the Jewish faith including the story of Moses and the Exodus from Egypt. Our guide explained the many different symbols within the synagogue and we were given the opportunity to see the scrolls which are very precious. We would highly recommend visiting the synagogue to see how Jewish people worship God.

Ms. S. Shelley



ROINN NA GAEILGE



An Coiste Gaelbhratach

Bhunaigh an Coiste Gaelbhratach inár scoil i mbliana. Is scéim í Gaelbhratach a thugann aitheantas do scoileanna a ghníomhann le húsáid na Gaeilge agus feasacht ar an teanga a chur chun cinn tríd an scoil ar fad agus lasmuigh di. Bhí daltaí ón chéad bhliain go dtí an séú bliain ar an gcoiste. Bhuail siad le chéile gach Luan sa seomra paidir chun imeachtaí Gaeilge a eagrú. Roimh an Nollag, d'eagraigh na daltaí oíche tráth na gceist i Scoil Chaitríona, ciorcal comhrá gach Aoine, balla na Gaeilge le méimeanna, lá le Gaeilge 24 agus ar ndóigh, díolachán cáca le Gaeilge i halla na scoile. Tar éis an Nollag, d'eagraigh na daltaí bricfeasta le Gaeilge, imeachtaí iontacha don Sheachtain na Gaeilge ar nós comórtais amhránaíochta agus céilí le Scoil Beneavin De La Salle agus faoi dheireadh, rinne siad lipéid as Gaeilge do bhláthanna i nGairdín na gCéadfaí. Tháinig na cigirí i mí Aibreáin agus labhair na daltaí go díograiseach leo faoi na imeachtaí ar fad. Maith sibh na cailíní!

Ms. C.Salmon & Ms. C.Morgan



T.Y. Fáinne - The Irish Oral

Congratulations to all the transition year students who completed their Irish oral exams. The oral examination comprises of a general conversation based on topics such as: Mé Féin, Mo Chlann, Scoil, Idirbhliain, Spórt, Ceol, and Laethanta Saoire. The Fáinne badge shows that you are able and willing to speak Irish. Students are awarded a Fáinne Óir (Gold), Fáinne Úr (Sliver) or Cúpla Focal (Bronze) badge based on their performance. This initiative is great preparation for the Leaving Certificate whereby spoken Irish is worth 40% of the marks. Many thanks to the Irish teachers for their preparation with the classes. "Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam", is fíor sin!

Ms. C.Salmon

ROINN NA GAELIGE (contd.)

Seachtain na Gaeilge



Bhain daltaí agus múinteoirí sult agus spraoi as Seachtain na Gaeilge na bliana seo. D'éagraigh an Coiste Gaelbhrtach agus

Roinn na Gaeilge an-chuid imeachtaí, ar nós céilí, tráth na gceist, comórtas póstaer, comórtas amhránaíochta, torraíocht taisce agus a lán eile. Tháinig buachaillí ó Scoil Beneavin go Meánscoil Naomh Mhuire agus ghlacadar páirt i gcéilí le muintir na hidirbhliana. Ghlac muintir na céad bliana páirt san fheachtas Gaeilge 24; chaith siad t-léinte glasa agus rinneadar iarracht an Ghaeilge a labhairt don lá ar fad! Bhain gach duine taitneamh agus tairbhe as an tseachtain.

Both students and teachers really enjoyed Seachtain na Gaeilge this year. The Coiste Gaelbhrtach and the Irish Department organised many events such

as a céilí, quiz, poster competition, song competition, treasure hunt and many other events. Boys from Beneavin School came to St. Mary's and took part in a céilí with transition year students. First year students took part in the Gaeilge 24 campaign; they wore green t-shirts and made an effort to speak "as Gaeilge" for the whole day! Everyone really enjoyed the week.

D'éirigh go han-mhaith le muintir na séú bliana sna scrúduithe cainte roimh an Cháisc. Rinne gach dalta sár-iarracht agus bhí na scrúdaitheoirí an-sásta leo. Bhí na múinteoirí an-bhrodúil astu ar fad agus guíonn Roinn na Gaeilge gach rath ar na daltaí a bhéas ag fágáil Meánscoil Naomh Mhuire i mbliana. Bíodh sonas agus síochán i bhúr gcroithe i gcónaí, a chailíní.

The sixth year students got on very well in their oral exams before Easter. Every student made a huge effort and the

examiners were happy with them. The teachers were very proud of them and the Irish Department wishes the students who are leaving St. Mary's every success. May you always have happiness and peace in your hearts, girls.

Roinn na Gaeilge

Comhghairdeas!

Is mór an onóir do Roinn na Gaeilge a fhógairt gur éirigh leis an scoil Gaelbhrtach a bhaint amach tar éis dul faoin gcigireacht le Conradh na Gaeilge. Comhghairdeas mór leis na cailíní!

It is a great honour for the Irish Department to announce that the Coiste Gaelbhrtach were successful in achieving their first ever Irish language flag for our school. Hearty congratulations to the girls!

Ms. C.Salmon & Ms. C. Morgan

TRANSITION YEAR

Gaisce

This year T.Y. students had the opportunity to take part in Gaisce. Gaisce – The President's Award is a self-development programme that encourages young people to find their passion, get active and make a difference in their community. Gaisce is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland to young people aged 15-25 to dream big and realise their potential. There are three levels of Gaisce – Bronze, Silver and Gold. By taking part in Gaisce, students agree to take on exciting personal, physical and community challenges and develop new skills and new friendships. There are four key challenge areas that must be completed to achieve a Gaisce medal.

The purpose of the award is to reward young people who have set and achieved a demanding challenge for themselves in each of four different areas of activity:

- Community involvement: for example students helped older people in a nursing home, they learned first aid or lifesaving, or volunteered in charity shops.
- Personal skill: for example some students started to learn to play a musical instrument, participated in computer skills or a cooking programme
- Physical recreation: for example, swimming, horse riding, cheering leading, football or tennis
- Adventure journey: a two day, one night 25km hike. Students went to Glendalough to complete this part.

Each student had to complete thirteen weeks in each challenge with an extra thirteen weeks in one of the challenges they chose themselves.

Once you have achieved your personal

challenges under the guidance of a President's Award Leader (PAL), you will earn your award.

Well done to the twenty two T.Y. students who completed their Bronze medal. They each received a medal in a presentation box with a certificate signed by the President of Ireland and a lapel pin at their graduation.

Some of the students are now setting out to achieve their Silver medal.

Mr. Farrell



Create Schools

Throughout the month of March, Transition Year classes had the amazing opportunity to work with 'Create Schools' to create their own short films. The T.Y.s worked in teams to come up with an original story idea and script, and then got the chance to act in, film and edit their movies and movie trailers using professional film equipment. Working closely with experienced 'Create Schools' tutors, the T.Y.s learned many useful skills and techniques relating to teamwork, editing, film production and script-writing.

The variety of films made was incredible, from 'Disney First Dates' to 'Bad Kidnappers', the creativity was immense! The Transition Year students got the chance to see each other's movies for the first time on Oscar Night, along with their parents, teachers and Create Schools mentors. It was a night to remember!

Emily McElroy, Karen Loma, Megan Bergin

DCU UniTY Modules

These three modules were new to the school this year and were part of a partnership with DCU. Students took part in three skills-based programmes that are designed to encourage educational achievement and to increase motivation. The modules were multimedia, smart skills and life skills and they involved directing and editing educational videos, developing apps, and devising strategies for coping with difficult times.

Multimedia: Video on Gender Equality in Sport

As part of this module we had to develop a one- to four-minute video on a topic of our choice. When we brainstormed we realized that one thing we all had in common was our passion for our hobbies. Nadine's was GAA, Louise's was Horse Riding, Nicola's was BMX, Caitlin's was Basketball and Leah's was Film and Photography.

The reason we chose this idea was to raise awareness for women's sports in our generation, as we felt many girls are judged for playing certain sports. The objective of our video was not to show the gender of the person being filmed. We did this by using an angle on the camera known as a "fish-eye lens" so you could only see the person's hands. After showing clips of all the different sports we played, we took off our helmets at the end and used a back angle shot to show that we were girls. This was to try and spread the message that "sport has no gender", which I think we succeeded in doing.

You can watch our film, or any of our school's films, by visiting YouTube and searching 'UniTY Awards DCU, Holy Faith Glasnevin'.

Leah Farrell, Louise Delaney, Nicola O'Reilly, Caitlin Mangan, Nadine Spencer

DCU UniTY Awards

On the 2nd of May 2017, St. Mary's T.Y.s attended the D.C.U. UniTY awards. It was held in the Helix and there were several other T.Y. students there from other schools around Dublin. When we arrived, there were people from D.C.U. offering us guided tours of the grounds. We could also go to lectures about the different courses available in D.C.U.

Paul Flynn and Johnny Cooper were guests at the awards and Paul Flynn gave a speech about inspiration and then handed out the awards to the winners when they were announced. The video our group created was about women being able to play men's sport so we were nominated in the Inspiration category along with many other schools.

To our surprise, we won the award in the Inspiration category and were given a 30 euro 'one for all' voucher each. We all got to go up on stage to receive our award and to get in a group photo with Paul Flynn. After we sat back down our video was played for everyone. We were also nominated for the best directed video but we sadly did not win it.

Another group from our school also won awards for their video in the Education category and Weronika Malecka won an Inspiration and Innovation award for an app that she designed.

The teachers were really proud of the winners and everyone who took part in the Multimedia project. We all really enjoyed getting to see the other schools' videos. We all enjoyed the experience of putting a video together and all the thought that was put into it was worth it in the end.

Nicola O'Reilly

Work Experience

Work Experience took place over two weeks at the end of January and the start of February.

We all had to have our placements organized well in advance to ensure that we were working in a place that was of interest to us. We contacted companies and schools by phone, email and sometimes in person in order to secure our places.

The places that people worked in included veterinary surgeries, primary schools, hospitals, radio stations, make up studios and theatres.

We were always busy and they gave us loads to do. We really got a taste of what it's like in the real working world. You have to be independent and you have to use your initiative because your colleagues are usually very busy. I have a new found respect for people who work hard!

At the end of our work experience, we got to realise what we want to do or even don't want to do in life. It gave us a better insight into what we want to be when we are older. Work experience in our eyes was a great opportunity and was the best two weeks of T.Y. for us. We would highly recommend doing T.Y. to get the full experience.

Leah Ainsworth and Joan McCann

Leisure Studies

Every Friday from 11am -1pm we had leisure studies. Leisure studies was split up into three classes and for each class we had a different instructor.

In term one our leisure studies consisted of yoga, self-defence and fitness bootcamp. In yoga we learned a variety of different yoga poses, the class was very calm and relaxing. In self defence it was completely different we learned all the best self defence techniques which could be very useful in the future. In bootcamp we did circuits which involved boxing, skipping and core work. At the end of our workout our instructor answered any of our questions about fitness and healthy eating.

In term two our leisure studies consisted of Zumba, dance and Irish sign language. In Zumba class we danced to very fast and energetic music, it was a very enjoyable class and a fun way to get fit. In dance class we learned dance routines and learned the choreography to Beyoncé's 'Single Ladies' track, it was a great class and the instructor was very enthusiastic. In sign language we learned how to communicate with a deaf or nonverbal person. We learned how to describe our selves, our family and where we live. I really enjoyed the class because it gave us an understanding of how the ISL (Irish sign language) community communicates.

In our final term we had driver theory, hair care and makeup. In driver theory we learned all about the rules of the road, our instructor took us through all the steps necessary when applying for our theory test. In hair care we learned all about how to take care of our hair and how to create various hairstyles and hair trends. In make up we learned how to look after our skin and how to apply each product correctly, we also got makeup demonstrations which were very helpful

TRANSITION YEAR (contd.)

as the makeup artist talked us through it step by step.

Leisure Studies was a great way to end the week, it was very enjoyable and the different variety of activities was great as there was something for everyone.

Chloe Thornton and Megan Kelly

T.Y. Spanish Cookery Demonstration with Gloria Alfonso



T.Y. students of Spanish had the opportunity to watch “tortilla española” and “ensaladilla rusa” being made by Gloria. They also got to help her and taste the food.

Mrs. Hughes and Ms. Healy

T.Y. Students Perform at the Student Leaders' Congress in Limerick

Cycle Against Suicide Student Leaders' Congress in the University of Limerick (Thursday 19th January):



The team relaxing after their performance.

The T.Y. drama group, involved in the LetItGlow celebration on 13th December last in the Science Gallery, was invited to perform its drama piece at the **Cycle Against Suicide Student Leaders' Congress** in the University of Limerick. The aim of the congress is to promote positive mental health, help-seeking behaviour in young people and the Cycle Against Suicide message that **'It's ok not to feel ok and it's absolutely ok to ask for help.'** The Congress brings together young adults and teachers from all over Ireland in an inspiring and energetic forum comprising of celebrity speakers, live entertainment, discussion and much more.

Our T.Y. drama group performed its devised drama piece ***I am not Invisible*** to an audience of over three thousand in the University of Limerick. The students were fantastic and their message was very well received. Congratulations to them all!

Junk Kouture

In October, class Boland took part in “Junk Kouture”. “Junk Kouture” is a national contest which encourages young designers in second level education to bring out their full potential to create striking couture dresses, finding recyclable items and transforming them into wearable art.

When we were put into a group it seemed like there were no good ideas at first, but after brainstorming, the ideas were endless!

After deciding on our design ideas we worked tirelessly to construct our outfits and entered them into the Regional “Junk Kouture” competition. Luckily, one costume made it through to the regional finals.

On 2nd March the group behind the ‘Amazon Warrior’ costume took part in the finals in the Helix. It was created by Mikaella SanDiego, Chloe Thornton, Megan Sheehan, Megan Kelly and Jade Kelly. It was modelled by me, Mylene Hayes.

The “Amazon Warrior” dress was made up of simple things that you can access everywhere. The head piece was made up of spray painted CDs with glitter glue and fake diamonds with bobby pins. The dress was made up of material donated from Recycle Ireland which was then hand sewn to an old dress. The shoes were old shoes, with the same fabric hot glued to the straps. The wings were made up of spray painted plant filters which were hot glued to a wooden handmade frame.

My experience in the Helix was absolutely amazing. I was so nervous at the thought of having to perform in front of thousands of people but when I got on the stage the feeling was like nothing I’ve ever experienced before.

“Junk Kouture” helps students to discover their creative side and brings them out of their comfort zone. It brings you closer to others as teamwork is key when taking part in this project.

I loved taking part in “Junk Kouture” and highly recommend it to anyone with an interest in fashion and art.

Mylene Hayes



Build a Bank

Build a bank is an in-school banking system, run by a team of five: Laura Boyne, Hannah Flood, Kirsten Lee, Lauren Russell and Caoimhe Mackin.

We named our bank ‘Bank of Galleons’ to portray our love for Harry Potter and to involve Harry Potter fans.

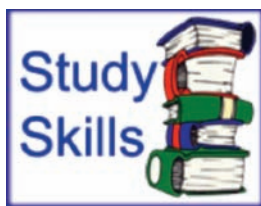
The bank opens every Wednesday at 1:10pm in St. Mary’s kitchen and allows students to lodge money into their accounts. The team has also organised events for bank members such as movie clubs to show each of the Harry Potter movies. Fruit, popcorn, and juice are provided also at the cost of €1. At Easter we had a raffle and three lucky students won prizes such as teddies, Easter eggs and the first prize included a Harry Potter official wand.

Lauren Edwards

GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING

First Year

In advance of the summer tests, all first year students had a study skills session with Ms. Gavin or Ms. Sullivan. This included tips such as smart goals and finding out which learning style suits each student. It also included study techniques such as Sq3r.



Incoming First Years



Entrance exams for incoming First Year students took place on Saturday 4th February. To help facilitate the transition from primary 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 on 1st March to review the issues for students and parents and to initiate our long term partnership for the next five or six years. This was an invaluable opportunity for the parents of the new first year cohort to learn more about the day to day running of St. Mary's including the journal, code of behaviour and pastoral system in our school. To further this partnership we are inviting the incoming first year parents to schedule an appointment at the end of May for an informal interview with a member of Guidance and Counselling department.

Second Year

Junior Discover DCU is an initiative of DCU's Access Programme targeting second year students. It takes the form of a workshop for students who have an interest in going to third level once they complete their Leaving Certificate. The aim of the workshop is to: give information, allow students to explore their fears, anxieties and expectations about third level and offer guidance and support about studying at DCU. A number of our students participated in the programme. Congratulations to the following second year students who were chosen to represent St. Mary's: Lara Rita, Ella Wheatley, Rebecca Richins, Hannah Carroll, Shannon Harte, Jade Callery, Abbie O'Halloran, Megan McKenny, Rose Roy, Megan O'Carolan.

Third Year

In January, third year students received the results of the CAT (Cognitive Aptitude Tests) they sat in December. Each student had a one to one session with Ms. Gavin or Ms. Sullivan to look at their test results and subject choice.

The third year parent evening took place on the 28th February. This was an opportunity for parents and students to find out about senior cycle options such as transition year, fifth

What four to choose:

Accountancy	Art	Biology	Business
Chemistry	French	German	History
Home Economics	Music	Physics	Economics
Spanish	Geography	Japanese	Politics & Society
LCVP			

year and LCVP. Teachers from each option subject (History, Geography, Art, Music, Home Economics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Business, Economics, Accounting and Politics & Society) delivered a short presentation to parents and students.

Transition Year

We had a number of interesting speakers give talks to our Transition year group;

Twitter representatives visited the school as part of a tech careers initiative run in partnership with CWIT and Science Foundation Ireland to deliver a presentation "IT's Not For Geeks" and encourage the students to think about technology based career options.



ESB apprenticeships came to speak to the girls about the entry routes to an apprenticeship programme. A third year female electrician came along to enlighten the students about an average day as a female electrician as well as the employment prospects and job satisfaction this position can offer.

Michaela Topley a past pupil of the school who is now a student ambassador for Chemistry in DIT gave a talk on careers in science to our Transition and fifth year students.



As part of International Women's Day on the 8th of March, thirty lucky students were selected to attend an event in DIT to celebrate women in science. This included attending presentations from female lecturers and students from a range of DIT courses including Physics, Food Science, Medicinal Chemistry and Maths. It was an inspiring event leading to a lot of T.Y. students considering choosing science subjects for Leaving Certificate.

We also had the opportunity to participate in a guided tour of the Royal College of Surgeons and learn about all of the courses and facilities on offer. This was a fantastic opportunity to see the lecture halls, student facilities and hear about the history of this prestigious college.

On the 2nd May, T.Y. students attended the DCU Transition Year Open Day and attended talks on nursing, engineering, education and science. They also availed of campus tours that were available on the day.



GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING (contd.)

Fifth Year

All fifth year classes received a presentation on the new Leaving Certificate points system which they are now familiar with. Fifth year pupils are being encouraged to make one to one career/ college choice appointments with the guidance counsellors to support their college course research.



Several fifth year students attended a Biomedical Engineering Day in DCU on 12th May. This included presentations from biomedical students and lecturers and gave a fascinating insight into this popular degree course and career area. Adriana Rup, Karrel Uy and Bayan Basmage attended this day, along with two fourth year students, Chloe Halpin and Karen Loma.

Two fifth year students, Trish Azubike and Leah Riordan, have participated in the

UFirst programme this year in conjunction with DCU. This has involved attending career workshops, study seminars and attending a DCU shadowing day where they attended lectures alongside a DCU mentor. The students will continue with the second year of UFirst next year.

Sixth Year

A parent evening for sixth year parents and guardians took place on 25th January. Parents heard from: John McGinnity, Maynooth University, on the CAO process; Susan Hawkins, DCU Access, on the HEAR and DARE schemes; and Ciaran McNulty, Colaiste Dhulaigh, on the Post Leaving Certificate options. It was a very informative evening with invaluable advice for parents shared on the night.

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.

FETAC



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

Sixth year students have enjoyed a varied schedule of college talks this year. A wide range of third level colleges, universities as well as Post Leaving Certificate colleges have spoken to the students about options after sixth year.

A group of past pupils from several different colleges and courses have also spoken to the sixth years about the transition from St. Mary's to third level. It was great to see the past pupils doing so well in Trinity, DCU and Colaiste Dhulaigh in a diverse range of courses from Philosophy to Computer Science and Architecture.

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.

Ms. J Gavin and Ms. L. Sullivan.

GREEN SCHOOLS

Saint Mary's To Be Awarded Our Fourth Green Flag

Saint Mary's students were invited to attend an awards ceremony in the Helix on 22nd May where the school was awarded its fourth green flag for travel. This has been given to us for our huge efforts to change our travel habits. The students saying that they walk to school is now at 32% compared to 19% before we started our campaign for the Green Flag. So well done everyone for your efforts.

Mr. Montague

Saint Mary's Goes Green With New Bin System

Saint Mary's is going to be the first school in the country with 0% rubbish to landfill. All class groups in the school are now using a small black bin for food only and a larger green bin for all other waste. This initiative has been facilitated by the Young Reporters for the Environment team (Aisling Boylan, Sarah Grace and Leah Morgan) as well as a group of T.Y. students (Brianna Nutley, Leanne Kenny, Katie Guyatt and Leah Morgan) who made a video promoting the use of the new bins. The entertaining video shows what rubbish should be put in each bin. City

Bins are piloting the scheme in our school and hope to roll out the initiative in other schools next year. Well done everyone for helping to reduce Saint Mary's carbon footprint.

Mr. Montague

Young Reporters for the Environment

We are writing as three Transition Year students from Green Schools. We went to the Young Reporters for the Environment Litterless competition (YRE) in the Wood Quay venue. The competition encourages young people from all over the country to raise awareness and take action by showing the importance of the environment in our everyday lives. Our entry to the competition was the campaign we set up in St. Mary's to make our school 100% recyclable by removing all black bins and replacing them with smaller "food only" bins, making everything else in the green bin recyclable. Our campaign saves our school a lot of money – up to €600 every six months.

For the competition we wrote articles and made a video with help from three other T.Y. students. At the competition,

there were talks on the environment by very interesting people, including Duncan Stewart from the TV programme "Eco Eye" and Yvette Thompson, environment correspondent from the Irish Times. These speakers reminded us of how important and easy it is to take care of the environment around us. Sadly, we didn't win as we were up against some very strong competition. However, we really enjoyed the day and we feel encouraged and confident to continue our campaign in our school.

Aisling Boylan, Sarah Grace and Leah Morgan, Transition Year.



GREEN SCHOOLS (contd.)



Education For Living

Sixth year Education For Living students have taken part in a variety of activities throughout the year including art and crafts, gardening, the 121 Digital programme and most recently the Teenagers and Gardai initiative (TAG).

We would like to extend a huge thanks to our fabulous Community Gardaí, Garda Mairead and Garda Dave, for coming to St. Mary's to work with our sixth year Education For Living group. They really enjoyed the experience, all the chats and the trip to Ballymun Garda station to learn all about the law and what it is like to work as a Garda on a day to day experience. I wouldn't be surprised if one of them decides to follow this for her career, as there was such great interest. The students' graduation from the TAG programme was marked by the attendance of the Garda Band. What a wonderful time we had with our first year student guests who were invited to see the ceremony. There was a terrific energy as we enjoyed the Jackson Five's 'Want You Back' among other great pieces of music. We were all so proud of our girls as they received their certificates from Finbar O'Brien, Chief Superintendent at Ballymun Garda Station.

Ms. N. Cunningham



"Sowing Seeds Of Kindness"

This term the gardening club, as well as the whole student body, were involved with growing sunflower seedlings, as part of our Le Chéile "Pay It Forward Day" Each form class received a tray to take care of. A seedling representing each class was planted in a flower bed outside in the sensory garden and they will grow into beautiful sunflowers. The gardening club was also involved with growing peas for a competition run by Cully and Scully and GIY.

Hopefully next year there will be more planting too. Have a lovely summer and I am so glad that the gardening club was set up to give students the opportunity to plant and add beautiful flowers to our school.

Quennie Caledra Sixth year Garden Mentor



GARDENING

Gardening at St. Mary's



Encouraging biodiversity, building on students' gardening knowledge and appreciating the natural environment has been our aims this year. Students in St. Mary's have had the opportunity to get involved in the gardening club under the care of their sixth year garden mentors Orla Carney and Quennie Caledra. They have planted bulbs and cared for our perennial plants over the year. They have learned about how to grow food from kitchen leftovers and taken part in the Cully & Scully 'Give Peas a Chance' competition. Thank you mentors and all the students involved, for your involvement over the past year. The maintenance of the sensory garden would not have been possible without your time, care and enthusiasm.

T.Y. students have all taken part in a Sensory Garden module, where they added landscape design to their skill set as well as building on their gardening knowledge and environmental appreciation.

Fifth year Education For Living students have done so much in the garden this year and have been a hugely valuable part of the gardening team. They began in September with a trip to the National Botanic Gardens to learn about propagation in the Botanic's Education Centre, where they had a hands-on class. They put this knowledge to great use when they embarked on an exciting challenge and had a go at being primary school teachers. We linked in with Glasnevin Educate Together and our fabulous students prepared a lesson on how to make biodegradable pots and sow sunflower seeds. Our students were absolutely wonderful teachers. They expressed themselves clearly and were kind and patient with their young pupils who engaged eagerly. We would like to thank Glasnevin Educate Together for inviting us to take part in this initiative and wish them every success with the development of their new school garden. We look forward to seeing the results of their sunflower trial to compare the St. Mary's harvested sunflower seeds against bought sunflower seeds.

Ms. N Cunningham, Sensory Garden Coordinator



HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

T.Y. Healthfest

Healthfest took place this April in the R.D.S. Arena and we were lucky enough to have all the T.Y. group attend. It involved lots of fun activities such as Zumba, dance, and taste testing as well as a cookery demonstration and mental health talk from 2fm's Eoin Mc Dermott. It was a great day that allowed us to be mindful of both our physical and mental health.

Ms. Walsh



Fairyhouse Cookery School

Transition year students enjoyed a fantastic day out to Fairyhouse cookery school on the 14th of February and also on the 6th of March. Only a few minutes away...it was an ideal location!! They learned very practical skills and techniques while cooking baked spring rolls, chicken and coconut curry with rice and chocolate fudge cake with chocolate sauce. They had time to sit down and relax between each course and enjoy the food they had prepared.

Household Item – Second Year

While the second year students are at present working very hard on their craftwork projects and folders, we must commend the brilliant work the students did on their household items. This year we decided to make bunting for the girls to display in their bedrooms. They learned how to use the sewing machine and some hand-stitches also. They loved the creative design of the triangles and learned how to use a delta- all great practice for the craftwork. Well done girls!!

Ms. E. Doheny



HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT (contd.)

First Year Pamper Time

This year's first years had an opportunity to try out their beautician skills when they learned all about the skin and face masks. We took some time out to unwind and take care of our skin, eyes and lips. We had great fun in the process.

Ms. Walsh and Ms. Doheny

Third Year Junior Certificate Projects

Our current Third Year Home Economics students completed both their cookery and craft exams this term. They showed great skill and effort with dishes such as fish goujons, orange puddings, chocolate mousse, and plenty of healthy noodle dishes to name just a few. We are very proud of those who worked extremely hard for this exam and we wish them lots of success in their written exam this June.

Ms. Walsh



ART DEPARTMENT

Best wishes from the Art Department to all students taking the Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate examinations this year.

Ms. Kavanagh, Ms. Cunningham and Ms. Geraghty

Art and Chemistry Creative Engagement Project 2017

This year's Creative Engagement Project sought to link art and chemistry to inspire the fifth year art students to create a sculptural installation using a student-centred approach to teaching and learning based on Dr. Enda Carr's 'Models of Conceptual Change'. The project concentrated on the role of respiration and photosynthesis in chemistry and its relationship with the environment. The students explored this through the

creative processes of visual art and drama. Artist Eleanor Phillips has been involved in each step of the project aiding the students' comprehension of the concepts being explored. She has worked with the students helping them to take an idea, do explorative primary source drawings and turn these into a design. She has also shown students how to make moulds and durable papier-mache using inexpensive household materials. It was through this process that the students created their final pieces, each contributing her unique work to one

ART DEPARTMENT (contd.)

overall group installation that explores respiration and photosynthesis.

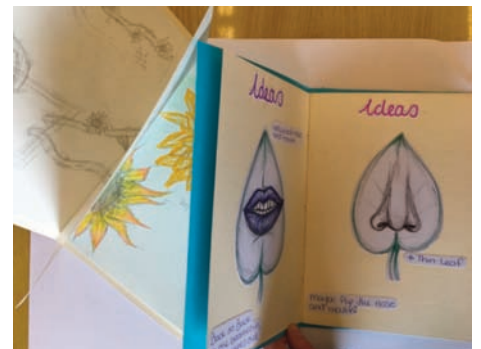
The artwork was informed by and physically linked to the Sensory Garden in St. Mary's Secondary School. Students made use of dried sunflowers and their parts in the different stages of the process.

The realised installation was made and will be exhibited in situ in St. Mary's School and will also be integrated into the Sensory Garden space.

In the first term of the next academic year, the documented process in the form of personal handmade sketchbooks made by the fifth years, photography and examples of their work will be exhibited in The Lab, Foley Street, in conjunction with UCD Science.

We would like to extend our sincere thanks to our artist Eleanor Phillips, Liz Coman Visual Arts Education Curator at The Lab, Dr Enda Carr and Dermott Carney NAPD Administrator of Creative Engagement.

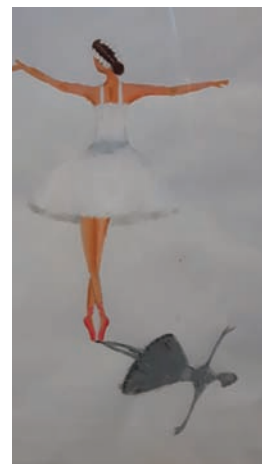
The Art Department



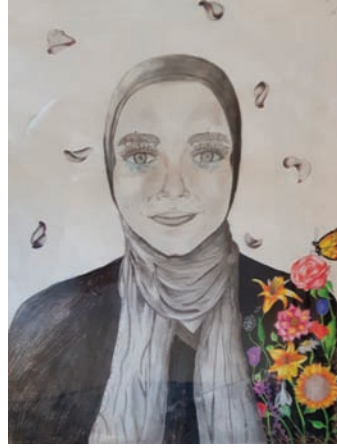
First Year Art

First year art students completed a block of life drawing concentrating on proportion and movement. They were then introduced to the elements of animation and puppetry creating a storyboard and model based on their own narrative. The results were fantastic!

Art Department



ART DEPARTMENT (contd.)

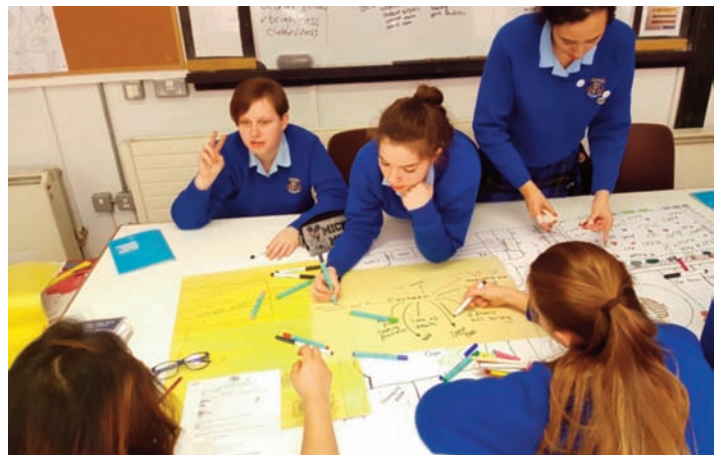


IAF Irish Architects In Schools Initiative

Emily McElroy, Karen Loma and Megan Bergin, T.Y.

Thirty four Transition Year students got the opportunity to work alongside Dublin architects Evelyn Darcy and Lyuba Stoimenova in a series of three workshops. The objective of our course was to design new facilities for our school – a cafeteria and practical subject rooms. We learned about architecture through practical work, building our own structures and models from various materials, analysing different rooms in our school and drawing them. We also studied famous buildings and examined why we liked or disliked them. At the end of the course we came up with architectural plans for our new school building which will be sent to the Department of Education along with our application for additional accommodation. We also got the chance to display our models and pitch our ideas to other students from all over Ireland who took part in the course as well as prominent architects from the Irish Architects Foundation and the Department of Education at Charleville Castle in Tullamore. It was a great day. We learned a lot from the programme and thoroughly enjoyed it.

www.mydesignjournal.ie



HISTORY DEPARTMENT

Dr. Stout visits 1 O'Farrell!

After a relaxing Easter break, students from 1 O'Farrell welcomed Dr. Matthew Stout, Medieval Archaeologist and Lecturer, from the Department of History and Geography in Dublin City University. Dr. Stout hosted a discussion on archaeology and answered a wide range of questions posed by students from 1 O'Farrell. Some tough questions were posed that put Dr. Stout's knowledge to the test. Artefacts that Dr. Stout brought in included flint stone used by Neolithic settlers, a decorated tile from his excavations that dates back to 1147AD and pens from the 15th century!

Ms. M. Doyle



T.Y. Trip to Kilmainham Gaol

As part of Transition Year history, T.Y. students went to Kilmainham Gaol where they received a tour covering some of the most heroic and tragic events in Ireland's emergence as a modern nation from the 1780s to the 1920s. The attractions that the students were particularly interested in due to covering them in Junior and Senior cycle were the chapel where Joseph Plunkett and Grace Gifford were married on the eve of his execution, the cells of the signatories of the 1916 Rising and the courtyard where many of these men were shot. Students also got to learn how the prison changed over the years in an interactive museum exhibition.

T.Y. Cinema Trip to "Hidden Figures"



As part of preparation for Leaving Certificate history, T.Y. students attended the film "Hidden Figures" this term.

American history and the rise of the civil rights movement,

advancements in military, space and technology, including the Moon Landing, are covered at Senior cycle so this film gave students an opportunity to see if it was an area that interested them. In the film three brilliant African-American women at NASA served as the brains behind one of the greatest operations in history, the launch of astronaut John Glenn into orbit. It was a very enjoyable film!

Ms. O. A. Griffin

Sixth year History Students

Congratulations to all the sixth year students who completed their Research Study Report which is worth 20% of their overall Leaving Certificate grade. A lot of hard work went into the reports and interesting titles included 'JFK's visit to Berlin', 'Operation Mincemeat', 'Night Witches' and 'Nicolas Winton'. Best of luck girls in the exam in June!

Mr. P. Montague



1 Markievicz History Project

Well done to all the girls in 1 Markievicz who have been studying the Middle Ages in history this term. Each student has chosen a specific role in Medieval society and has been carrying out research to create her own character. The class has been focusing on the feudal system and its importance in medieval culture and lore. The students organised themselves into a class feudal system, using what they have completed thus far in their projects. Great work girls!

Mr. P. Montague



American Revolution

Second year students have been putting their social media savvy to good use in revising the American Revolution.

Mr. P. Farrell



German and History School Tour

An early start of 4:20 am in Dublin airport began the adventure for sixty two students and six teachers on their four day tour of Germany and Austria. Munich was the base for the four day tour.

Munich was known as the Capital of the Movement (Nazi party). The first activity was a guided tour of the city. We saw the beer hall where the Nazi party was formed as well as buildings connected with this period. This included the Fuhrer Bau, Hitler's Offices, where the Munich agreement was signed and it is one of the best surviving examples of Third Reich architecture in Germany. On the tour we passed the key parade squares and the hotel where the SS was formed.

After the tour we went to the Christmas markets at Marienplatz. Every holiday season, Marienplatz is home to Munich's famous "Christkindlmarkt"; which has been celebrated here since 1642. The last activity of the day was an evening bowling and it was a great end to the first day.

On day two we headed to Nuremberg. We visited the Memorium Nuremberg Trials which informed us about the background, progression and repercussions of the trials, at the original location where they were held. Selected historical exhibits such as parts of the original dock, as well as historical audio tapes and films, convey a vivid impression of events at the Nuremberg Trials. From there we went to Nuremberg's southern districts. The remains of the buildings on the former Nazi Party Rally Grounds with their immense proportions are a vivid testimony to the megalomania of the National Socialist regime. This area of eleven square kilometres was an impressive backdrop for the Nazi party rallies staged to demonstrate their power. We ended our tour of Nuremberg in the Christmas markets. Later that evening we went ice-skating in the Olympic Park.

We departed by bus across the border to Salzburg a magical city of winding, cobbled streets surrounded by snow-capped, majestic alpine peaks to visit the Berchtesgarden Salt Mine. We explored this fantastic salt mine by train and by boat. From there we had a traditional meal and then we explored the Christmas markets.

The last day we visited Dachau. On March 22, 1933, a few weeks after Adolf Hitler had been appointed Reich Chancellor, a concentration camp for political prisoners was set up in Dachau. The camp served as a model for all concentration camps as a "school of

violence" for the SS men under whose command it stood. In the twelve years of its existence over 200,000 persons from all over Europe were imprisoned here included one Irish man! More than 43,000 died. The tour was a moment to remember the horror and to never forget the innocent people who died. On April 29 1945, American troops liberated the survivors.

The last part of our tour was the all-important time for the shopping and then we started our journey home.

Memories were made on this great tour and here are a few comments from the students and staff on the tour:

Students

"The salt mines and the ice-skating, over all a great experience"

"The overall experience and getting to see a different side to our teachers"

"Christmas markets and seeing the court where the Nazis were held accountable for their actions"

"Mr Montague pulling me down when he fell on the ice"

"When we were ice-skating and Mr Farrell was falling and he grabbed a German girl and fell over"

"Nuremberg where we saw the Nazi Party Rally Grounds which were massive"

"Every minute of the trip, thanks to Ms. McManus and Ms. Hayes for organising it all!!!"

Teachers

"I was so proud to hear the girls practising all the German vocabulary they had learned in class in its native setting."

Whether it was "eine heiÙe Schokolade bitte" or "Vielen Dank" it was wonderful to see and hear!

Übung macht den Meister!! (practice makes perfect!)" – Ms. McManus

"The highlight for me would have to be Nuremberg. It was so rich in German history. Being in the courtroom was chilling. A fantastic trip all round"

– Ms. Rochford

"The trip to Salzburg was a great day. Going to Dachau was a powerful experience remembering the horror that the Nazis inflicted on the Jewish people. It was a brilliant four days." – Mr. Farrell

Mr. P. Farrell

Holocaust Memorial Day

It is estimated that six million Jews were brutally slaughtered during World War II and we remembered them during Holocaust Memorial Day on January 27.

Hitler's genocide, known as Shoah in Hebrew, wiped out two thirds of Europe's Jewish population – including an estimated 1.5m children.

The focus of Holocaust Memorial Day is to remember the atrocities of the Second World War, and ensure that mankind doesn't repeat the horrific mistakes of its past.

We marked this day in school with a special noticeboard arranged by T.Y. students and the lighting of six candles to mark the six million people who died during the Holocaust.

Mr. Farrell.



Dachau Concentration Camp which students visited during the German and History Department Trip

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Navan Choral Festival 2017

The Schola Choir entered the Navan Choral Festival again this year which took place on May 4th 2017. It competed in the 'Liturgical Choir' section. The students sang two pieces in this competition, "Mary's Child" by Ian Callanan and "Every Praise" by Hezekiah Walker. They were up against six other choirs and the standard was very high. In the end they were placed joint third with a score of eighty six. The girls have worked really hard to develop this choir and it is most certainly on the up.

Emmanuel 2017



St. Mary's was well represented again this year at the Emmanuel Concert in the Helix on the 6th of March. Thirty members of the choir participated in the concert. The students had a great day in the Helix where they joined the choirs of other school to attend workshops and rehearsals. Many soloists featured in the concert too which is always a great highlight on the night. One of the pieces in the programme was "My Soul give praise to the Lord" which was composed by Mr. Coll. It is a piece the girls know very well as we have used it many times a different celebrations.

All students enjoyed the experience of singing in the Helix and a huge thanks to all the students in the choir who always work so hard throughout the year and who are always so dedicated.



Music Practicals

It has been a busy time in the Music Department in preparation for the Music practical examinations. All the girls have worked hard and both examiners commented on the high standard of

music performed. The style of pieces performed varied, from Irish traditional music, to classical, and from contemporary music to rock. We wish our third and sixth year students every success in their written examinations in June.

The Annual St. Mary's "Music Showcase" Friday May 17th

Towards the end of every year the musical talent of St. Mary's is showcased in one night of great entertainment in St. Mary's choir hall. Performances on the night this year consisted of students from the Junior and Leaving Certificate classes performing their practical pieces. Class performances from first, second and fifth year music classes, the T.Y. music classes and the school choir also featured. It was a great night of music and a great way to end the musical activities of the year.

"Stars In Their Eyes"

We had two great nights of entertainment in collaboration with the Glasnevin Musical Society. On March 15th the school held its competition of "Stars In Their Eyes" to choose three acts that

would make it through to the grand final on the 25th March. They were competing with members of the Glasnevin Musical Society for a top praise of €200 and a trophy.

The three students who made it to the final were: Casey Harris, Heather Dunne and Gwen Noval. At the grand final Gwen Noval won first place. Congratulations to Gwen – she is most certainly a great talent and one to watch in the future.

We are looking forward to more exciting musical projects next year.

Ms. O'Rourke and Mr. Coll



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

So much has happened in the science department since the new year.

In January three of our fifth year students – Divya Kripakaran, Thaara Rose Wilson and Sherine Shibhu – represented St. Mary's at the BT Young Scientist of the Year competition in the R.D.S. Their project examined the use of the stairs versus the use of the lift on students' fitness levels. The students really enjoyed the whole BT Young Scientist experience. Their project was visited by hundreds of other students and by the general public over the course of three days. Mr. Noel Rock T.D. also came to see our fifth year students' project.

Again this year our fifth year biology students had the opportunity to use equipment donated by DCU to carry out genetic experiments including DNA profiling. This was an amazing chance to use expensive and precise laboratory apparatus that is used daily in universities and crime labs to ascertain the genetic fingerprint of different samples. The students learned many new skills such as how to use a micro-pipette, how to load an agarose gel and how to compare DNA bands. In the picture overleaf you can see them busy micro-pipetting.



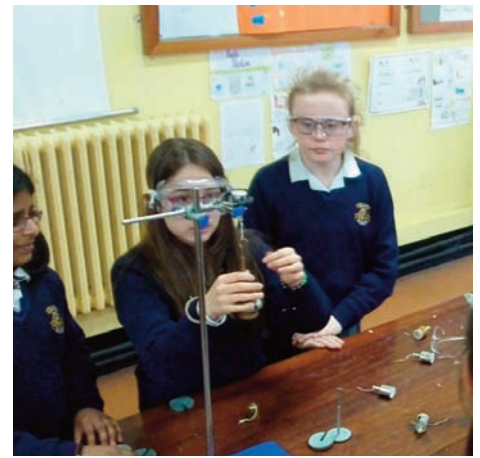
SCIENCE DEPARTMENT (contd.)

First Year Science

The first years have been busy this year engaging with the new Junior Cycle curriculum. They have produced amazing posters of the Solar System and gave presentations to their class while studying the universe.

First years have also participated in Science club which took place on Thursdays at lunch time over the past two terms. There was great fun and excitement with students carrying out experiments such as finding the force required to open a party popper.

Well done to all third year science students who completed their coursework B investigations and write ups.



Well done to all students who participated in the Scifest competition in DCU on Friday 5th May. The students performed very well when presenting their projects to the three judges and thoroughly enjoyed the whole experience.

The projects entered were:

1. "Can yoga help lower stress levels and does it have an overall benefit for a student physically and mentally?" by **Gunjan Shahapurkar and Aoibhinn Kennedy**
2. "The Malice of Microbeads" by **Anne Monique Fabian and Maebh Scahill O'Loughlin**
3. "What effect do healthy branded snacks have on our ability to learn in school?" By **Sofia Balog, Chelsea Murphy and Sandra Shallot.**
4. "Do students produce better work when under pressure for time or do they produce better work when given plenty of time to complete an essay?" **By Molly Hislop and Laura Bagayan.** Thanks to the members of the English Department for facilitating this task.
5. "Would a simple app help elderly people get more out of their phone?" **By Lauren Hammond and Ellen Clusker.**

The Science Department



BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Rising Tide Business Bootcamp Competition

This competition was introduced to bring local schools within the Finglas – Glasnevin area together to showcase student business ideas and products. The aim of the competition is to develop key entrepreneurial skills.

Two company groups were formed in St. Mary's for the competition in October 2016 and each group presented its ideas to judges, both face-to-face and during an on-stage presentation twice. Both groups presented their businesses and products once more on 23rd May in the Finals.

Both groups represented St. Mary's Secondary School admirably and each has won awards at previous competitions.

Each group has grown and developed from the beginning of the competition from doing multiple products to selling beauty gift sets and homemade cards.

One group, known as "Mesmerise" consists of Kirsten Lee, Hannah Flood, Lauren Russell, Laura O'Connor and Kelly Hayes. Joan McCann also competed in the Feasibility Competition as a member of "Mesmerise".



"Mesmerise" won the Best Stand Display 2016 award in November 2016.

The second group, known as "Full of Surprises", consists of Megan Cluskey, Megan Sheehan, Megan Kelly, Jade Kelly, Aisling Boylan and Saoirse Scott.

"Full of Surprises" won the Best Report award at both the Feasibility Competition and The Interim.

Saoirse Scott and Lauren Russell headed to London at the end of May on a day trip as a reward for their participation in the competition. The remaining students headed to Tayto Park for the day.
Ms. J. Kavanagh

Build A Bank

St Mary's competed in AIB's Build a Bank Challenge for the second year in a row. This competition involves Transition Year students designing a bank within St. Mary's from scratch and putting their own mark on it. This competition allows students to show their innovation and creativity as well as their business skills through running the bank. The students competed against other schools at the



"Mesmerise" – Kelly Hayes, Laura O'Connor, Lauren Russell, Hannah Flood, Kirsten Lee, Joan McCann.



"Full of Surprises" – Megan Cluskey, Megan Kelly, Megan Sheehan, Jade Kelly, Aisling Boylan, Saoirse Scott with Ms. Dowling



Students at the N.F.T.E. Christmas Fair

Regionals in March, and although they were not selected to move onto the National Finals, the girls did St. Mary's proud.

The students involved submitted CVs and successfully completed interviews with members of AIB. Six students were chosen to run the bank.

The students who ran the bank this year are:

Laura Boyne	Bank Manager
Megan Cluskey	Chief Operations Officer
Caoimhe Mackin	Innovations and Digital Marketing Manager
Lauren Russell	Marketing Manager
Kirsten Lee	Finance Controller
Hannah Flood	Student Body Liaison Officer

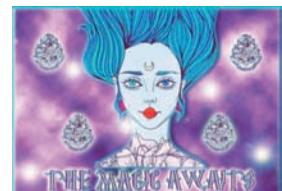


The theme of the school bank was "Harry Potter" based, with the bank being named "Bank of Galleons". The bank team worked hard on the image and the brand of the bank and posted about the bank across several social media sites throughout the year. The students also created a website for the bank.

Throughout the year, the Bank of Galleons ran a raffle for an official Harry Potter wand, held a Harry Potter themed bake sale and Harry Potter movie nights with raffles on the day for chocolate Galleons.



The presentation at the Regional Finals in March



The logo for the Bank of Galleons

BUSINESS DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Foróige NFTE Competition:

This year twenty six Transition year students from St. Mary's undertook the Network for Teaching Entrepreneurship course. The students set up mini companies consisting of one or two students and, with a small amount of seed money from Foróige, the businesses developed their own products and sold them within the school and outside. The students sold well at the St. Mary's Christmas Fair with products ranging from handmade Christmas Cards to T.Y. jumpers.

Some students also sold their goods at the National Design and Crafts Fair in the R.D.S. in December.

One business represented St. Mary's in the N.F.T.E. Regional Finals. "Bricolage Shoppe", which is run by Anthea Agudo and Sherlyn Sam, sold hand-made goods such as stress balls and baked goods.

Ms. J. Kavanagh



Sarah Langan and Nicole Mitchell



Rachel Owens and Gemma Kearns



Hannah Flood and Lauren Russell



Aisling Boylan



Megan Cluskey



Sherlyn Sam and Anthea Agudo

L.C.V.P.

Our Leaving Certificate students taking the L.C.V.P. course have a unique opportunity to develop their interpersonal, vocational and technological skills. These skills are equally relevant to the needs of those preparing for further education, seeking employment or planning to start their own businesses.

This year we aimed to develop a better understanding of what's happening in our local area. We interviewed local business owners and entrepreneurs to find out more about them. We were interested to see what career path they followed to lead them to the point where they owned their own businesses. We also invited a member from Ballymun Youth Centre to talk to us about how voluntary organisations play a key role in our area.

All fifth year L.C.V.P. students completed work experience in an area that they were interested in. The feedback from employers was fantastic! Well done to all involved.

Ms.S.Shelley

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION



Pictured above some of the members of the Parents' Association

St. Mary's Parents' Association represents the entire parent body as a partner in the school community. We review school policies, contribute parents' views on many issues that concern our daughters and work on many projects together with staff and students throughout the year. This year we were delighted to be involved in so many different events including the school Open Night, Carols by Candlelight, Stars in their

Eyes, school Sports and Fun Day and the highlight of the year – the sixth year graduation night. As a committee we are very lucky to have representatives from each year group from first year to sixth year and this enables us to be fully aware of all the issues that are relevant to our daughters and allows us relay these views to the school. Such is the ebb and flow of school life that new members are always needed as we say a fond farewell to sixth

PARENTS' ASSOCIATION (contd.)

year girls and their families. Being part of the committee is a wonderful way of finding out "what is school life in St. Mary's" and meeting up with other parents who share their wealth of experiences and knowledge in relation to the school, curriculum, study, exams, the teenage years and so much more. So we really urge you to get involved and contact us by emailing parents.stmarys@gmail.com

If you feel you cannot join the committee you can always join our "HELP" list. We have many parents who give us great help and support at school activities who are not available to become committee members.



On behalf of the Parents' Association we would like to wish all students sitting exams this summer the very best of luck and wish everyone a safe, restful and happy summer break.

As the exams approach here are some tips to ensure that we all get enough sleep.

Although, the brain accounts for only 2% of the body mass, it uses a quarter of the body's entire energy.

Poor quality and sleep deprivation has a negative impact on our attention span, memory recall and learning. Your body heals during your sleep. The way to respond better to stress, to be more productive, inspired, joyful, and happier is to get enough sleep. Good quality and restorative sleep is essential for day-to-day functioning.

Start with these seven simple tips to discover the power of sleep.

- 1. Pay attention to what you eat and drink** – do not go to bed too full or hungry. Pay attention to your intake of caffeine, alcohol, and energy drinks especially in the evening.
- 2. Stick to a routine** – try to go to bed and wake up at the same time every day including weekends.
- 3. Create a night time ritual** – have a bath, meditate, read a book, stay away from electronic devices at least thirty minutes before bedtime.



- 4. Manage stress** – give yourself permission to have a break if you consider that you need it, declutter your bedroom, organise yourself, prioritise, and learn to delegate.
- 5. Not sure about napping during the day?** Keeping your nap to a maximum of thirty minutes a day and not too close to bedtime, will not interfere with your night-time sleep.
- 6. Meditation, yoga, even praying** may help you release your tension and become calmer. Try five to ten minutes of meditation during the day and get to bed earlier in the evening.
- 7. Do you have cold feet, and find it hard to fall asleep?** You can quickly fall asleep if you put on a pair of soft clean socks before jumping into bed.

Thank you to Antonela Butuc for these excellent tips.

And remember "Never Underestimate the Power of a Good Night's Sleep!"

**SECOND HAND
BOOK & UNIFORM SALE**

WE CAN SELL YOUR BOOKS ON YOUR BEHALF

WE ALSO ACCEPT DONATIONS OF BOOKS AND UNIFORMS

BOOKS AND UNIFORMS CAN BE DROPPED INTO THE GYM

TUESDAY 27TH JUNE 5pm-7pm

SECOND HAND BOOK AND UNIFORM SALE IN THE GYM

THURSDAY 29TH JUNE 5pm-7pm

For further information check the school App and website

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT

Literacy Week

Literacy Week ran from 8th – 12th May. This was a week designed to promote students' literacy skills. There were roll call challenges and library visits, while members of staff shared their book, film and poem recommendations.

A school-wide survey revealed that students' favourite books are "The Harry Potter" series, closely followed by John Green's "The Fault in Our Stars". The most popular poem was "The Lake Isle of Innisfree" and popular films included "Marley and Me" and "The Hunger Games" among others.

Many junior students entered the Poetry competition, while sixth year students were invited to submit creative writing pieces for the Mary McCarthy Creative Writing Award. The Creative Writing club also created a Writing Wall outside room sixteen to showcase original pieces of work for the school audience.

Thank you to everyone involved!
Ms. Callan

Creative Writing Club

The Creative Writing Club was established later in the school year and we met every second Wednesday at lunch time from 1:10-1:35pm.

During our time together, we discussed topics such as how to create characters and how to develop plots. We had open discussions as well as working through handouts and doing tasks related to creative writing each week. We are

hoping to complete a group project in the future that'll involve all of us compiling our work together in one book and maybe even publishing it.

Sophie Lieghio

First Year Drama

Congratulations to classes 1 O'Farrell and 1 Markievicz on their excellent productions of scenes from "Our Day Out" by Willie Russell.

The girls showed great ingenuity and creativity in their choices of backdrops, settings, props, sound effects, costumes and staging. The quality of the acting was of a high standard.

Well done, girls! The future of drama in St. Mary's is in safe hands.

Ms. C. Nolan

The Mary Carroll Library

The library has had a very busy term with many students availing of the opportunity to study, read or chat in the library during lunchtime Monday to Friday.



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Design a Book Cover Competition

Congratulations to Eira Tabaniag 3 Amber for designing the winning cover. Eira designed a new cover for the Leigh Bardugo novel "Six of Crows". Well done Eira!

We would like to take this opportunity to thank most sincerely the seven sixth year Mentors who have worked in the library this year. Several of these girls have been involved in the library throughout their time in St. Mary's and we will really miss them.

Alice Mirt, Diana Penamora, Olive Kirby, Kiana Canilang, Sona Shiji, Nidhi Shiji and Quennie Cledera – thank you. Wishing you all the very best of luck in your upcoming exams. Also a big thank you to our many helpers from first to fifth year.

Sr. Maria & Ms. L. Sullivan.



SPORTS AND P.E. DEPARTMENT

Volleyball

This year our school set up a new volleyball team. We were coached by Ms. Colman, Ms. Walsh and Mr. Farrell. We had a total of three tournaments this year and it was an eventful year! We hope to continue this sport in the school in the future getting better with each year. For anyone who is oblivious to how the sport is played there are twelve people divided into two teams of six by a net. Each team must "volley" or "dig" the ball over the net and make the other team drop it to successfully gain a point. The game mainly revolves around teamwork and communication. We train every Monday after school in the gym for an hour. It has been an honour to participate in the volleyball team and we would strongly recommend joining, whether that be for fitness or just to enjoy yourself!

Molly Hislop – 1 Gifford
Jennifer Mirt – 1 Gifford



Camogie

Junior Camogie

The junior camogie team had a good year this year. It was narrowly defeated by Lucan CC and Loreto Crumlin but a victory over Loreto Beaufort left the girls in a semi-final play off which they won. Despite a spirited effort, the girls were defeated in the semi-final by Coláiste Cois Life. The team comprised some very talented students from first to fourth year who thoroughly enjoyed this year's competition.

Minor Camogie

The minor camogie team comprising of first and second year students had an enjoyable year. The girls suffered narrow



defeats in their group matches meaning they did not progress further but they gave their best effort in training and matches. There was a great camaraderie among the team and it was a pleasure to be involved with the players.

First Year Blitz

The first year camogie players finished off their year with a blitz in Setanta Ballymun where they played Skerries CC and Ballymun Comprehensive. The girls were unlucky to lose to an excellent Skerries team but enjoyed a victory over Ballymun. Fourth year students assisted with the blitz. It was a nice end to the year for the girls who are looking forward to representing the school again next year.

Ms. Walsh and Ms. O'Mahoney



**St Mary's
Hockey**



Congratulations to all the hockey teams on their successes this season. We are delighted to have five hockey teams in St. Mary's this year all competing in leagues. It is fantastic to be able to report that this year was successful for St. Mary's Hockey Teams as they reached two Finals again this year! The Senior and Junior teams were both winners in the Northside League.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone involved in hockey this year for helping to make it a great success. Thank you also to the players who attended training in all weathers. Thank you to our umpires Mr. McGill, Ms. Nolan and past pupil Hannah Kelly. The support we received from the side line was brilliant all year also, with lots of parents, teachers and friends supporting us, even on the chilly days. Thank you to all those who cheered us on along the way!

Senior Hockey



The Senior Team reached the Northside league final on 15th March in ALSAA sports grounds and had a terrific game beating St. Wolstan's 1-0 on the day. Our goalkeeper Chanice Dolan had some immense saves which kept St. Mary's in the game. Kirsty Conner scored the winning goal on the day. The team notched up wins against St. Wolstan's, Dominican School Cabra, Kings Hospital and Dominican School Griffith Avenue. Well done to the team for a fantastic year! Best of luck to our sixth year students (Izzy Matthews and Neave D'Souza) who will be leaving us and the St. Mary's hockey team. A special thank you also to some new recruits Fiona Daly, Leah Wheatley, Sarah Langan who were adopted to the team this year and helped the team to winning ways!

Third Year Hockey – Junior Team

The Junior Team (3rd Year) also took on St. Wolstan's, Celbridge in the Northside League Final. This was the first final for

SPORTS AND P.E. DEPARTMENT (contd.)



this team as it missed out on qualification the last few years. There was huge excitement and a desire to play well and win this year. Our goalkeeper, Chanice Dolan, was outstanding again and had some immense diving saves off the line. It was a nerve wrecking match for spectators and coach alike, with end to end play and many near misses. However, neither team could get on the scoreboard. After full time the match went to ten minutes of extra time. The team then faced a penalty shootout! The team was very confident and took on the challenge. Our goalkeeper Chanice was fantastic again, saving all five penalties from St. Wolstan's. We finally won 1-0 with a penalty scored by captain Leah Harris.

Second Year Hockey – Minor Team



There are two second year hockey teams. The teams returned after the summer break eager to get back on the pitch and continue developing from last year. This has certainly been the case! The team had a good start to the year with a win against Clontarf at home. The teams competed for the first time in the Leinster league and this proved to be a tough challenge. We competed against experienced teams and this provided us with lots of challenges and lots of chances to improve our team skills. The girls also competed in the Northside League and brought with them the confidence and experience from competing in the Leinster League games. The teams had some closely contested matches; however, they missed out on reaching a final this year. They look forward to next year and can be congratulated on the wonderful number of students who turned out for training every Wednesday.

First Year Hockey



We are delighted to have two First year hockey teams this year. The teams were so enthusiastic at training and have shown a fantastic advancement in their skill and knowledge of hockey throughout the year. The teams competed for the first time in the Leinster League Eights challenge. These were their first competitive games and a tough learning curve. We were competing against experienced teams and this provided us with lots of challenges and lots of chances to improve our team skills. The teams also took part in the Northside League and had great games, with a win against Holy Faith Clontarf and a draw against St. Wolstan's. They were delighted with their performances and improvement in winning games after the Leinster League challenge. Unfortunately, they were not strong enough to reach a final this year. They are still learning and there is great potential going forward. The girls have enjoyed the matches and are gaining confidence and experience which we look forward to utilising fully next year.

Well done to all our goalies this year. They made some outstanding saves, almost like Inspector Gadget!!

The achievements this year are a huge credit to all involved and have without doubt inspired and encouraged the uptake of hockey in the school for the future. The season ended with a mini tournament to celebrate the year. We strongly encourage everyone to come along and join hockey.

First to the ball, last to give up....Go St. Mary's!! Onwards and Upwards to next year!!

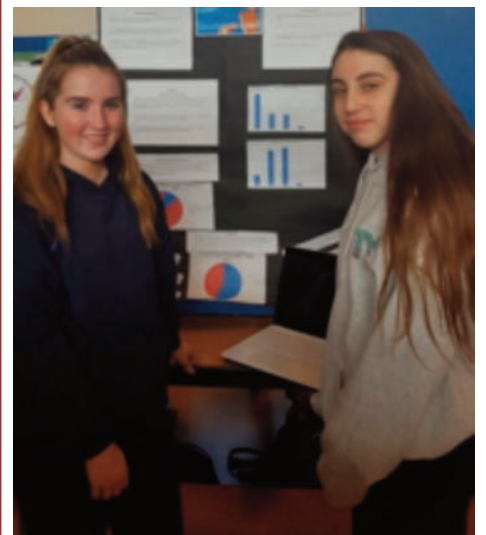
Ms. Boran, Ms. Bunnett

January saw the return of St. Mary's Health Week. Congratulations to the T.Y. Health Squad who did a wonderful job organising and running activities at break time and lunchtime. Some of the activities in Health Week included a staff and student challenge to walk around Ireland. In class time, break times and lunchtime students and staff completed laps of the school walk. The distance was recorded and a running tally was recorded for the

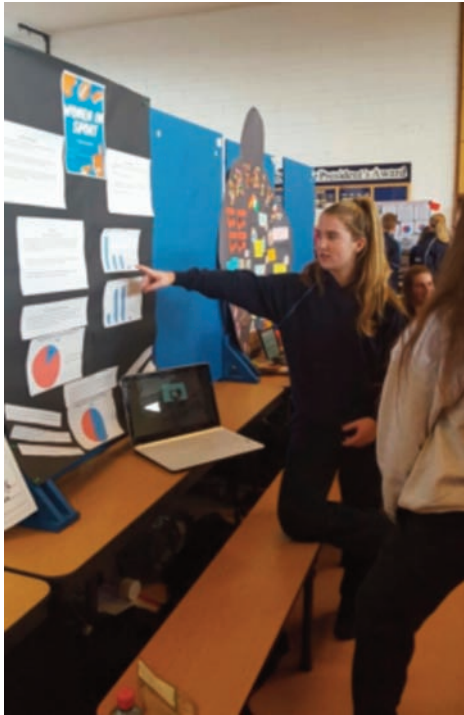
week! The fifth year students attended Jumpzone in their P.E. classes during the week. The T.Y. students attended Go Quest as part of the week, which included physical and teamwork challenges. Health Week culminated on the Friday in a jersey day and a whole school dance performance on the tennis courts.



In March T.Y. students represented St. Mary's in the P.E. Expo, which included entries from all over the country. This was our first year entering the event and the students received high praise for their video entry on 'Gender in Sport'.



SPORTS AND P.E. DEPARTMENT (contd.)



In April, thirty students from T.Y. and sixth year travelled to Glendalough to complete their Gaisce hike. The weather was wonderful as the students completed the tough Spinc route of 8km and a climb of 380 metres. It was a huge achievement and one which all students were proud of.



T.Y. Leadership module with St. Bridget's

The T.Y. students have been working with students from St. Bridget's National School since October. The T.Y. students have been developing leadership skills whilst working with small groups of younger students to develop their P.E. skills. It has been a wonderful success and we hope that this will continue into the future.



Rowing Ireland

Students from second year, fourth year and first year have been working with Rowing Ireland to develop the fitness and skills required for rowing. The project



involves bringing indoor rowing to schools by means of the Ergometer. It gives students the opportunity to engage in a new sport, where they may not have had the opportunity to do so before. It promotes fitness, general wellbeing and positive healthy eating. The T.Y. students took their skills onto the water on Tuesday 9th May and will compete in a Blitzit on the water on May 12th in the docklands.

Tag Rugby Blitz

Second year students participated in a Tag Rugby Blitz on 31st March and won all of their matches! They played against St. Michael's Finglas, New Cross and Holy Faith Killester.



Huge congratulations to Ms. Considine who was named and played as part of the Women's Six Nations rugby team. She is an inspiration to her students and staff.

Ms. H. Bunnett



Ms. E. Considine

SPORTS AND P.E. DEPARTMENT (contd.)

Gaelic Football

We enjoyed a very successful year with both junior and senior Gaelic Football teams reaching the final stages of Leinster competitions. Our junior team reached the semi-final of Leinster competition before being narrowly defeated. On another day, the result might have been different but at least they can take comfort in the fact that there will be better days ahead as they progress to senior level.

Our seniors defied all expectations this year and won the Leinster Senior D North Final on the 4th of May. The team was led by our captain Emma Kelly (sixth year), our goalkeeper, and there was great joy and excitement that we won with a penalty in the last minute!! Managers Ms. Considine and Mr. Beirne would like to thank all the students for their commitment and enthusiasm throughout the year.

Senior Team on the Day – Emma Kelly (c) Leah Wheatley, Emer Carney, Anna Barber, Rachel Hogan, Megan Kelly, Jade Kelly, Naoise Finnegan, Sarah Langan, Sarah Conway, Nicole Mitchell, Amy Wall, Katie Alcock, Megan Cluskey, Nadine Spencer, Gillian Fitzgibbon, Karla Conway, Stephanie Cluskey, Fiona Daly, Ciara Kelly, Carla Coulihan, Kirsty Conner, Hannah Gaffney, Kellie Goucher.

Ms. Considine and Mr. Beirne

First and Second Year Gaelic Football.

The First and Second Year Gaelic teams have had a fantastic year. Although our first Blitz wasn't until after Christmas, we started training early in the school year due to the teams' enthusiasm and desire to get out on the pitch.

Our first Blitz took place in Portmarnock on Wednesday 29th March. The first game was against Gaelcholáiste Reachrann and led to a victory of 1-4 to 0-0. They played Pobalscoil Neasáin in the next match with a great win of 6-5 to 1-0. The last team didn't have enough players so half of our girls volunteered to switch jerseys and help them out! Overall a successful day was had with all twenty five players getting a game.

The girls were yet again victorious on the 25th of April in their second blitz of the year. Our competition this time was much tougher and the games had a much tighter score line. The first game was against Sancta Sabina and ended with a final score of 3-6 to 1-5. An hours break gave the girls a chance to re-fuel for the second match of the day against Sacred Heart S.S Drogheda. The girls came out on top again with a score of 2-9 to 4-2. The last game was tough as the girls were



Victorious Senior Gaelic football team after winning its final

tired but this didn't hinder their performance! They beat Coláiste Chiaráin Leixlip 4-4 to 2-4. It was an outstanding performance by the whole team.

On Wednesday 3rd May the girls took on Loreto Swords in the Leinster U14 Semi Final at home in Na Fianna GAA club.

Ms. Morgan



SPORTS AND P.E. DEPARTMENT (contd.)

BASKETBALL... A Slam Dunk of a Season!

This year was a hugely successful year for basketball in St. Mary's. We entered eight teams in total into the SSA league. We had our u-19 division 1 and both our second-year junior teams progress to the finals in the National Basketball Arena.

Second Year Basketball

Two teams make it to the Final!

Junior Premier Cup finalists



Junior Premier Cup finalists

Thursday 23rd March saw St Mary's students travel to the National Basketball Arena for this year's finals! The premier team was up first against Mt. Sackville. We knew this would be tough and indeed Mt. Sackville had a sizeable lead by half time. The girls were amazing in the second half and never gave up. They put huge pressure on the opposition and began to reduce their lead. Unfortunately the clock was not on our side and after producing an outstanding performance in the second half, it just wasn't our day and the game finished 34-29. A huge congratulation to each member of the team. We're already looking forward to next season and what it brings! Captain: Sarah Hanlon, Rosie Larkin, Mai Perkins, Kate Meaney, Aoibheann Kennedy, Any Alcock, Aoife Grace, Louise McGuinness, Bethina Santos, Rachel Jones, Mia Morrison and Charley Grant. Coach: Ms. Bunnett

Junior Division 2 Cup finalists



Junior Division 2 Cup finalists

The Division 2 team took on local rivals Maryfield. It was a very tough game and the final whistle blew with Maryfield victorious by 11-2. Again this team has had a wonderful season, winning all of the league games, their quarter final against Hartstown and their semi-final against Mercy Coolock. This team has developed this season with a number of new players who have really made an impact on the team. Well done everyone and let's look forward to next season and what it may hold!

Captain: Aoife Symes, Jade Callery, Terri Townley, Sama Khalil, Paige Smith, Abbie O'Halloran, Georgia Lee Thomas, Alesha Farrell, Rose Roy, Jaydean Carney, Erin Smith and Megan Reid.

Coach: Ms. Bunnett

U-19 Division 2 finalists



U-19 Division 2 finalists

On the 26th of January our u-19 travelled to the National Arena. The girls played against Santa Sabina. The girls played out of their skins and were so unlucky to fall short by just one point. This was the last year for many players who have been committed to basketball since they were in first year. It has been such an enjoyable journey the last six years. Even when we lost by 52-0 in first year we still came together as a team and had fun. Well done girls you did yourself proud with a magnificent display of basketball. Well done to all the team:

Well done everyone and let's look forward to next season and what it may hold! Captain Emma Bolger, Vice Captain Vanessa Eduave, Ciara Kelly, Gillian Fitzgibbon, Kelly Flower, Sarah Basangan, Bekka Dunne, Queenie Joy Cledera, Mikaella SanDiego, and Stephanie Cluskey. Coach: Ms. Murphy

U-19 Premier Level Semi-finalists

Our u-19 premier level had a good campaign this year and reached the semi-final. This is an incredible talented group and with hard work they can make it all the way next year.

U-16 Premier Semi-finalists

This team was the winner of the Junior Division 1 Cup last year, so it was promoted to premier level this year. The



U-16 Premier Semi-finalists

girls found the opening games of the premier league tough but progressed and trained hard throughout the season to reach the semi-finals. With such a good team spirit and amazing talent I think this is the team to watch for next year.

Coach: Ms. Considine

U16-Division 2

Our second year division two team also had a good campaign this year and I look forward to their season starting again next year.



U16-Division 2

First Year Basketball

We entered two teams into the basketball league. Unfortunately, neither team progressed into the finals. However with such great attendance at training I can see these teams having a great season next year.



First Year Division 2

Well done to the girls for their commitment and determination throughout the season. We will be sad to say good bye to some of our sixth years and we hope they continue to play in years to come

Ms. E. Murphy