



St Mary's NEWSLETTER

Summer 2018

A Message from the Principal

Welcome to the 2018 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 and link in to our Twitter account, both of which are packed with daily notifications and news items that are of interest to the whole school community and which will keep you up to date, as does this newsletter, with the many academic, sporting, cultural, religious, musical, artistic and dramatic highlights of our school year.

It has been another sensational year for sport in St Mary's with teams reaching the finals in Hockey, Basketball and of course Camogie. Our senior and junior Hockey teams once again made it to the finals of the Northside League and fought hard to retain their titles, only losing out at the last minute and in deplorable weather conditions during the penalty shoot outs. Our 2nd Division 1 Basketball team claimed the North Dublin title at the finals in the National Basketball Arena in April and one of our TY students represented us proudly at the All Ireland Final of the Schools' Cross Country in the WIT Arena. There have been considerable accomplishments in Soccer, Gaelic Football, Volleyball, Tennis and Table Tennis and while we wish all our teams continued success going forward I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate especially our Camogie teams and their coaches who have truly put us on the map by bringing home three Dublin titles at senior, junior and minor level. We are so proud of this amazing achievement and grateful to the coaches for their unstinting dedication to and belief in their teams – which culminated in each player receiving a Dublin medal for their great efforts this season!

Our TY Programme has once again been jam-packed as you will gather from the many reports to follow. Our students excelled in the DCU UniTY Multimedia Awards in the Helix taking home the awards in three of the six categories. TY students were also involved in the Wheelchair Basketball initiative, Self-Defence, Circus Skills and Rowing and they represented the school in the Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition in the RDS and in the PExpo where they brought home the title in the Psychology of Sport senior category. They reached the regional finals of Junk Kouture, won the overall award at the Business Bootcamp in Coláiste Eoin and nearly all achieved Bronze Gaisce medals. There have been too many activities and events to list them all but we were particularly proud on the 17th May when a group of our TYs represented us in Áras an Uachtaráin at the Ceremony of the Presentation of Credentials by new Ambassadors to our President, Mr Michael D

Higgins. Our TY Programme continues to go from strength to strength and we are very appreciative of the work that goes into making it so vibrant and flourishing.

The cultural dimension of our school continues to thrive. Creative engagement opportunities abound for all students. You will see the wonderful Mask-Making project undertaken by second years which was showcased alongside the immense musical talent of our students at the annual Musical Showcase in May. Engagement with practicing artists is a hallmark of our programme and fifth year Art students worked with Eleanor Phillips to produce pieces of art making cross-curricular links with other leaving cert subjects, while the Architects in Schools Initiative under the guidance of Evelyn D'arcy culminated this year in a proposal from collaborators in DIT to create an outdoor pavilion for students as a meeting and eating space. We are truly grateful to Sima and her talented crew for this great opportunity. Our Schola Choir once again excelled at the Navan Choral Festival in May where they competed to a very high standard and were highly commended by the adjudicators for their outstanding performances. In the cultural arena the list goes on with notable achievements in Debating, Public Speaking, Drama, Mosaics and film making to name but a few.

Wellbeing is at the core of everything we do in the curricular and extra-curricular pursuit of the ideals of our Mission Statement. We are committed to actively encourage sustainability as evidenced by the ongoing work of our Green Schools committee, our newer Biodiversity team and our involvement in the Get Up And Goals Programme. Our Amber team which is committed to the promotion of positive mental health was presented with the school's first ever Amber flag at a ceremony in Ballincollig in May. This team worked hard to create awareness through their fundraiser and Amber Day for Pieta House and by participating in the Darkness Into Light event when a group of 30 teachers and students joined another 200,000 supporters outside the Phoenix Park to walk the annual DIL 5km. The Ember Team continues to be a beacon of light throughout the year contributing in a very special way to the spiritual calendar, and it was very gratifying at their Graduation Ceremony to watch the sixth-year team handing over the torch of faith development to our incoming team – igniting the spark that will continue to burn bright throughout the coming academic year.

With extra-curricular activities flourishing due to the selfless commitment of teachers in their own time, it is gratifying and inspiring to witness the high standards of teaching and

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.

learning that continue to be the distinguishing feature of the academic life of St Mary's. In this context we are very happy to be one of the first forty schools in the country to offer Politics and Society as part of our senior cycle curriculum, and this exciting and innovative new subject will be examined for the first time in the Leaving Certificate in June 2018. We wish our budding politicians the very best of luck as they demonstrate a range of new skills that they have embraced and developed over the course of the last two years.

Our first years have settled in well and are now ready to greet our new incoming first years 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 I would like to bid a fond farewell to our sixth years who graduated on 22nd May. 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.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school community – Board of Management, staff, students and parents – for the continued support, encouragement and commitment to St Mary's that sustains our community, and on behalf of myself, Ms O'Donnell, Ms Devaney and all the staff, I would like to wish our third and sixth years the very best of luck as they embark on their State Examinations in June.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Bernadette Bourke
Principal, June 2018

On the occasion of their retirements...



We would like to wish Ms Mahon and Mrs Hughes long and happy retirements. You will both be dearly missed by all in our school community.

PE DEPARTMENT

Sports Day 2018



Students and staff in St Marys enjoyed a jam-packed sports day on Friday 18th of May. Classes competed in events such as hockey, handball, benchball, sack race, egg & spoon race and many more. TY students organised and ran the events on the day. Teachers and students alike enjoyed the novelty events while taking a well-deserved break from the action. The inflatable obstacle course and human foosball provided great entertainment while the TY ice cream stand was a crowd pleaser. Sun soaked St Mary's was a hive of activity from early morning until we took a short break to welcome our special guest and applaud the winners of our Sports Awards 2018. Once the ceremony came to a close the whole school community made their way to the astro for the game of the year; teachers vs 6th years Olympic handball. Although the teachers were victorious on the day the 6th years were tough opposition and played right until the end. A fun filled, enjoyable day was had by all. A huge thank you to everyone for their involvement, enthusiasm and energy.

Health Week 2018



The new year got off to an energetic start in January at St Mary's. The Health Squad of 2018 was busy planning in the weeks leading up to this year's Health Week. As usual each day kicked off with Ms Boran and the Health Squad leading students in an active assembly. 5th and 6th year students were lucky enough to get some top exercise and nutrition tips from guest speakers. Each day staff and students alike were challenged



to get involved in the "Game of the Day". These ranged from pop up trails to tug of wars, from kick and stick to beat the bleep. There was something for everyone and each day saw a new challenge. On Monday 1st years were tested on their sporting knowledge with a quiz in the choir hall. On Tuesday 3rd years were lucky enough to welcome a nurse from the Marie Keating Foundation. This insightful talk was interesting for all in attendance. Thursday morning saw the school community pour onto the corridors for Drop Everything and Dance. The music blared over the intercom while the health squad led the school in a conga line. Another active assembly took place on Thursday afternoon but this time the Health Squad got the primary school students from St Brigid's moving in the choir



hall. Friday was a hectic day to finish the week with a bang. 3rd year hockey players were in action while the junior camogie team were crowned county champions at lunchtime. The Home Economics department treated a lucky group to a cooking demo at lunch time to top the week off.

Throughout the week the St Mary's School Community managed to walk their way around Ireland while trying to guess how many steps Colin takes in an average school day. Although nobody was spot on with their guess it became clear that Colin far exceeds the recommended daily steps of 10,000. As always Health Week was busy but brilliant. A huge thank you and well done to the Health Squad 2018 who helped make it all happen.



First Year Sports Competition

Our 1st year students must be commended for their dedication to our after-school competition this year. Ten teams fought to the bitter end to attain the winning prize of a Mystery Trip to Croke Parks Skyline Tour. In the end the winning team was made up of half of class Sienna. The winners went to Croke Park on Friday May 11th. The day started with a stroll to Croke Park where they were greeted by their tour guide. The girls were geared up and began the climb to the top of Croke Park. This was an amazing opportunity for the girls to see the city from a bird's eye view. After the Skyline Tour the girls attended the museum where they tested their skills on the GAA challenges. The girls thoroughly enjoyed their day and were well deserving winners of the competition.

Galway Trip

Our annual Team Building Trip to Petersburg in Galway was as usual a trip to be remembered. On a bright day in September, TY students set off across the country to face activities that would challenge and exhilarate them beyond anything they had experienced before. The aim of the trip was to work on the core team building skills presented to the students during PE class. On arrival the sun began to shine as did the girls enthusiasm. They were greeted by the centre manager and they were divided into task groups. In these groups the girls got to take part in activities like Gorge Walking where the girls dived into the ice cold waters of the west, Abseiling down a massive sink hole, Kayaking, Obstacle Course and many more. Evening activities included moonlight walks, orienteering, campfires, charades and singsongs. Each group was also responsible for one meal during the day. This included setting the table, serving food and drinks, washing up and cleaning up the canteen afterwards giving each student a sense of responsibility throughout the three days of the trip. The sleepy heads on the bus home suggested that the trip was a resounding success and we would like to say well done to the girls for their enthusiasm and participation. Although we were very lucky with the sunny weather, the water was very, very cold.

PExpo 2018

The PExpo is a competition that examines the science behind sport. Students from all over the country enter projects following research on a wide range of PE and sport related topics. 2017 was our first year to enter this competition which is held in DCU. This year however thanks to a new TY sports science module there were five St Marys entries.

Students from class Luimiere and Raphael worked very hard on their projects throughout the year.

- Tara Macken, Sophie McGrane and Katie Kennedy explored the area of role models in sport and the media's influence on this.
- Amy Wall, Lily Conroy, Trisha Molloy and Kate Brady with the assistance of Sile Ward and Melia McEvoy conducted a very interesting study on how exercise effects performance in class.
- Nicola Wolnowksa, Corrine Betsayda, Eira Tabaniag and Ciara Trani looked into the area of pep talks and their effectiveness.
- Eve McGrath Tully, Phoebe San Diego and Megan Roche uncovered the benefits of exercise on mental health.

- Ciara Whelan, Laura Berry, Alya Hannigan, Kerri Hanna and Zara McGlynn examined the new trend of fitness trackers. Do they really motivate the user or is it all just a fad?

Schools from all over the country competed in the 7 categories.

1. ICT and Sports Photography
2. Power of Sport – Inclusion and Cultural
3. Well-being – Physical, Mental and Social
4. Components of Fitness – The Science Behind Sport
5. Nutrition
6. Games Development and Teaching games for Understanding
7. Sports Psychology

To our delight Ciara, Laura, Alya, Kerri and Zara's project was chosen as the senior winner of the Sports Psychology Section. This is a huge achievement and one we are extremely proud of. A big well done to all the groups that got involved.

TY Rowing:

As part of the *Get Going, Get Rowing* initiative, which encourages females to take up rowing, top-level trainers came to our school to teach the girls to row. Firstly they took part in training sessions on indoor ergonomic rowers. This gave them an insight into the basic skills necessary for rowing.

The second part of the initiative was a one-day rowing camp that took place on the water in Neptune Rowing Club. The girls were really excited about getting on the water, and realised there was a huge difference between ergonomic rowing and on the water rowing.

The final event was an on the water rowing blitz. We entered 7 different teams who competed against various schools from all over Ireland. We rowed extremely well with one team making the finals. Unfortunately we did not take home any silverware, but the girls did themselves proud in a sport, which is relatively new to them.



The PExpo:



The TY's entered several projects under various categories into this years PE Expo which took place in DCU. With schools from all over Ireland entering, there was an extremely high level of competition. One project in particular from St Mary's caught the eye of the judges. The project titled 'Fitness Trackers – Do They Really Work' was entered by: Ciara Whelan, Laura Berry, Kerr Hanna, Zara McGlynn and Alya Hannigan. They took first place in an extremely competitive category.

Luck was really on our side that day as Ms Walsh won a spot prize of an Ireland football jersey.



Basketball

2nd Year

We had a wonderful season of basketball with our division 1 team this year. After losing our first match to Our Lady's Drogheda in November we went back to the drawing board, communicated as a team and really pulled up our socks! After devoting more time to practising after school and training nearly every available lunch time, we were unstoppable for the rest of the season going unbeaten into the finals at the National Basketball Arena in Tallaght. In April it was all back to where it first started between ourselves and Drogheda again for the cup. Down to teamwork, passion, communication and skill it was Mary's who ended up 2nd Division 1 North Dublin winners for 2018. Mary's ABU! Congratulations to all the team who played brilliantly and a particular mention to Captain Sarah O'Connor who was just exceptional on the day who came away with an additional accolade of MVP. Also, to our wonderful and enthusiastic mascot Alannah Darcy who had the crowd on their feet with her half time show.

While we didn't reach any final this year with our 2nd year division 2 team it cannot



go unsaid that we did not have fun! We have instilled a passion of the sport into the team with a drive for success for the season next year. With their continued enthusiasm and dedication, it will not take long for this team to have silverware.

On behalf of both teams, this season would not have been as successful without the help and continuous support, encouragement and expertise of our TY assistant coaches for this year. We would like to say thank you to Laura Berry, Hannah O'Brien, Ciara Whelan, Amy Wall and Karla Conway for everything that they have done in making this a truly memorable season.



Under 16 Basketball:

Under 16 basketball was extremely successful this year with all three teams reaching the semi-finals; Premier, Division 1 and Division 2. Our Division 1 team got through to the final and fought off old rivals Drogheda to take the title in an exceptionally competitive game.



End of Year Basketball Blitz:

The annual end of year basketball blitz had a great turnout with representatives from each year present. Mixed ability teams were made up and pitted against each other in a round robin tournament. The level of basketball was extremely high with some great basketball being played.



**Basketball-Shooting to Success!
1st years Division 2 Semi-Finalist**



First Years Division 2 semi-finalists

Our Division 2 1st year team got off to a flying start winning all of their group games comfortably. They met St Rapheala's in the quarter final. Although it was a tough match the girls managed to pull through and make it through to the semi-final. They played against Maryfield in the semi-final of the SSA North Dublin League. It was a tough Match from the beginning with both sides wanting to book their place in the Final in the National Arena the following Thursday. The match was neck and neck until the last few minutes of the game when Maryfield pulled away. The Final score was 12-6. This team have worked so hard all season and never missed training. Well done girls! You should be very proud of your achievement. We will back again next year more determined than ever.

U-19 Premier level Semi-Finalists

Our U-19 premier team reached the Semi-final of the SSA Dublin league. The team met Santa Sabina in the Semi Final and it was an unbelievable performance from the whole team.



The girls got off to an amazing start and led after the first quarter by 5. Santa Sabina fought back and we trailed by one point going into the last Quarter. Unfortunately, in the last quarter Santa Sabina stepped it up and pushed on to win the game. The team was led superbly by Captain Julie McEvoy and Vice-captain Keirsha Roache. The team's determination and talent were commendable on all levels. Sadly, this year we say goodbye to Julie and Keirsha who have been committed to basketball since they were in first year. It has been such an enjoyable journey over the last 6 years. Well done girls! You did your school proud over the last six years and you will be greatly missed on the team.

U-19 Division 2 Quarter finalists

Our U-19 Division 2 reached the Quarter-final of the SSA Dublin league. With a number of key players missing due to illness it proved a tough Challenge. The girls fought hard throughout the game. However St Raphaela's proved too strong on the day and went on to win. This is a young team and almost all the players will be there again next year. With such a good team spirit and amazing talent, I think this is the team to watch out for next year!



Unfortunately, this year we say goodbye to Rebecca Roy and Maria Hordouan who have been committed to basketball since they were in first year. Well done girls! You did your school proud over the last 6 years and you will be greatly missed on the team.

Camogie

It was an excellent year for camogie at St Mary's in 2018, the most successful year to date. Every student who lined out for the school, closes out this school year as a Dublin camogie champion. The girls were a credit to their families and their clubs and we would like to thank them for being such a joy to work with this year. We are looking forward to continued success next year and it is our hope that we will have even more girls playing, and enjoying, camogie in the school in the future.

Senior Camogie



A senior camogie team lined out for St Mary's for the first time in a number of years this year. The experience and talent of the girls was evident in every match they played throughout the year. Opening matches against Loreto Swords and Santa Sabina left the girls in a great position to qualify for the Dublin Senior Final, with a win over Goatstown in a thrilling semi-final.

Loreto Beaufort was no match for the girls' hard work and determination on the day of the final. Despite getting off to a shaky start and being two goals down in the

opening ten minutes, the team displayed great skill and strength to eventually take control of the game. The team pulled off a superb victory, much to the delight of their supporters. The girls proudly represented Dublin in the Leinster quarter final in front of a home crowd in Erin's Isle, a first for camogie in the school.

Junior Camogie



The junior camogie team began their season with wins over St Louis' Rathmines and Trinity Comprehensive. With great determination the girls took on Loreto Beaufort in their semi-final. The semi-final was quite a close match but the girls' superior skill and superb teamwork saw them qualify for the final.

A week after winning the senior final, the third and fourth years lined out against Gaelscoil Reachrann in the hopes of doing the double, while the second years hoped to get their first taste of success. The confidence and winning mentality, inspired by the senior victory, was easy to see with players all over the field giving phenomenal displays. As Dublin champions the Junior team qualified for an All-Ireland quarter final against Haywood in Laois and did their families and the school proud with their display of play.

Minor Camogie



The minor camogie team followed in the footsteps of the junior and senior teams this year. The girls got off to a difficult start in snowy conditions against St Louis' Rathmines but went from strength to strength with emphatic wins over Loreto Beaufort and Loreto on the Green.

The Dublin Minor final beckoned and the girls rose to the challenge and trained hard. The girls played well in the first half but found themselves four points down at half-time. The dedication and determination of the girls, which defines camogie in St Mary's, was evident in the second half. Following positional switches and changes, the girls settled back into the match and quickly drew level. St Mary's dominated for the last ten minutes and ran out worthy winners on a score line of 5-5 of 2-4.

Ms Walsh & Ms O'Mahoney

St Mary's Hockey

Hockey News

In September, the new first years took part in a sports induction programme. This was a fantastic success and introduced the new first years students to the many sports and activities that St Mary's has to offer. The preparation for league matches commenced in September 2017. Great excitement mounted as all teams prepared for their first hockey matches. The girls were highly excited at the prospect of getting back into playing matches and as always took great pride in representing St Mary's in hockey. The teams had a great start in their practice matches against Mt Temple. The fifth and sixth year students combined to form the Senior Team. The Senior and Junior (TY) Teams secured a place in the Northside League Finals on Wednesday 14th March 2018.

First Year Hockey

We welcomed some First year students to hockey this year! They were complete beginners in hockey. The first years took part in the Hockey Ireland Skills Challenge. We were delighted to have Kenny Carroll, Hockey Ireland Development Officer coaching the basic hockey skills to them. All the students received a certificate of completion in the hockey skills challenge. The first years also benefited from our guest coach Tadhg Cunningham who impressed the girls with his hockey skills and put them through their paces. The students really enjoyed the sessions by Tadhg. Thank you to Ms Cunningham who assisted with First year hockey this year.

Second Year Hockey

The second year team started the year by playing friendly matches against our 3rd Year team and Mt Temple. The matches built on their skills and determination in preparation for the league. The second years took on St Wolstan's in their first league match and had a great win, scoring 2 goals. This win set them up nicely for their next two matches against Malahide and Loreto Balbriggan. They had a very exciting closely contested match in Malahide winning 1-0 at the very end. However, Loreto Balbriggan proved to be too strong for St Mary's and they could not get the win on the day. Unfortunately, they missed out on qualification to the finals. Their great achievements this year has made them more eager and determined for next year.

Junior Teams – 3rd Year and TY

There are two Junior teams this year, 3rd year team and a Transition Year team.

The 3rd year team played a friendly match against Mt Temple to get them back into the spirit on hockey. The match built on their skills and determination in preparation for the league. They commenced the Northside League matches in January 2018, taking on Castleknock, winning 3-2 in a very exciting match. They also played Manor House in a

closely contested match and securing a 1-1 draw. These results kept them in contention for a place in the finals in advance of their last match against Sutton Park. However, Sutton Park proved to be too strong for St Mary's and they could not get the win on the day. It was a very close result, just losing out by 2-3 on the day. The team was disappointed as this was their first year to really come close to qualifying. Unfortunately, they also missed out on qualification to the finals. However, their great achievements this year has made them more eager and determined for next year.

Senior & Junior TY reach the Northside League Finals

Congratulations to the Senior and Junior (TY) Hockey teams for reaching the Northside League Finals. The senior and junior TY teams played some great hockey and had some closely contested matches in their leagues. Both teams secured places in the Northside League finals on Wednesday 14th March 2018.

Unfortunately, it was not St Mary's day. I can only commend all the players on a fantastic performance in some of the worst sporting weather conditions I've ever experienced. We truly did weather a storm on the day! The players braved the elements, slipping and sliding around the pitch but they never gave up and kept going to the final whistle! Both matches went into golden goal extra time and to penalty shoot outs. Unfortunately, both teams were narrowly beaten in the penalty shoot-outs.

The Junior team took on King's Hospital (KH) and played some excellent hockey. They started strong, dominating play and winning short corners. They narrowly missed the target on several occasions. They had numerous opportunities and it seemed only a matter of time before they would score. As the clock counted down the winning goal became more elusive with The Kings Hospital goal keeper keeping the opposition in the game. Against the run of play KH scored from a short corner. St Mary's finally hit the target and the final score was 1-1 bringing the match into extra time. Again, in extra time, we narrowly missed the target and had most of the chances in the game. The penalty shoot-out did not go our way, but our goal keeper Chanice Dolan made some excellent saves.



The senior team took on Santa Sabina in their final. They also played some excellent hockey and were determined to try and save the day with a win for St Mary's. By now, the conditions had deteriorated even more and they also battled the elements. They started strong narrowly missing the target and winning some short corners. The Santa Sabina goal keeper was tested by our forward line. The final score was 0-0 bringing the match into extra time. Again, in extra time, they narrowly missed the target and had most of the opportunities in the game. The penalty shoot-out did not go our way again, but some excellent saves from Chanice Dolan to keep us in the running. Final score 0-1.



The players of both teams can hold their heads up high. It is a pleasure to coach these players and we look forward to next season! It was an excellent achievement to reach the finals and they are already saying 'There's always next year'!! Thanks to all supporters on the day. Thanks to Ms S Walsh and Ms A Walsh for their assistance! Thank you to Mr McGill for umpiring matches during the year. A special thanks to all players for their commitment and participation.

Sometimes you Win, sometimes you Learn! We look forward to the new hockey season and new players are always welcome! Onwards & Upwards....

Ms Boran.



St Mary's Gaelic Football



This year was a very successful one for Gaelic Football here at St Mary's, albeit without any silverware. Our seniors played some very tough games owing to their success last year in winning their division and gaining promotion. Unfortunately, they did not progress beyond the group stages although they showed great passion and commitment throughout.

Our Junior Team reached the Leinster Quarter Final, a great achievement for themselves and the school. Ultimately, home advantage worked against us and after travelling to play the Louth champions at home, we were unable to match the high expectations of this very talented group.

Finally, our Under 14 team enjoyed the Dublin Blitz in Malahide but unfortunately did not progress on the day. The future is bright for Gaelic Football here in St Mary's and I'm sure silverware will return once again. On behalf of Mr. Beirne and Ms Morgan, a big thank you to all the students who showed great commitment and dedication all year.

Tennis Club



This past year in St Mary's the tennis club met every Monday at lunchtime in the Gym. The club is open to all school members regardless of whether they have played tennis before or not so why not come along and see if tennis could be the sport for you! It is a fun environment where students learn the basics of tennis by rallying and playing games with their school mates. We have had a great turnout in recent weeks and hope to see this continue when we return from the holidays. The Spring Championships saw players compete against each other over a number of weeks and the matches were brilliant to watch! The St Mary's Tennis Club would like to wish all students, teachers and families an enjoyable summer holiday.

Enjoy the break,
Mr. O'Connell.

First Year Soccer make Leinster Finals

Hard work and dedication saw St Mary's First Year Soccer team make the final of the Leinster Championships this year, where they were unfortunate to fall at the final hurdle. The match took place at Home Farm FC against local rivals Dominican College and concluded with the latter team running out victors on the day. Both teams' achievements were celebrated after the final whistle with a medal presentation and a few words from goal scorer and captain for the day Kate Watson who scored in every round apart from one in the build up to the final.

Their journey to the final was meteoric as the girls swatted teams aside with score lines like 5-0 and 5-1. As the success of the team built and echoed around the first-year cohort, the soccer team grew in personnel and support throughout the year culminating in a panel of twenty players, each of which played a part in their journey to the final.

Well done again to the soccer team who have set the standard for the future of soccer in St Mary's.

TRANSITION YEAR

TY Multimedia students excel in UniTY DCU awards



St. Mary's girls swept the board by winning three out of the six award categories at the UniTY DCU Multimedia awards in the Helix. Competition was tough as St Mary's was competing against students from eighteen other schools in north Dublin. Maria Zubascu, Ceri Doyle and Maja Grandzewska

won the award for the "Role Models" category; Gwen Prizeman, Kelsey Duggan, Katie Rooney and Jamila Hannigan won the award for the "#It'sYourRight" category and Christina Crosby, Kate Hughes, Niamh Finnegan and Jules Dixon won the prize for the most viewed video. Check out their videos and other St Mary's videos on Youtube by searching for UniTY DCU 2018.



TY Wheelchair Basketball Championship

In association with The Irish Wheelchair Association

The school supported the Irish Wheelchair Association as one of our chosen charities this year. The TY students raised €1,000 for the charity through the annual fundraising campaign, 'Angels'. This was the first year of the initiative and St Mary's was one of 50 schools across the



country to take part. Ten students travelled to Gormanstown College in Meath to take part in the regional competitions on the 8th of February. The students were immersed in the fast paced edge of your seat Paralympic sport of Wheelchair Basketball. It provided an authentic, first-hand, inclusive experience of this incredible game. All teams for the event were mixed for the matches so we were joined with St Eunan's College in Letterkenny. The teamwork displayed between the newly formed teams was amazing to watch! Our team consisting of Karla Conway, Tara Macken, Catriona Comerford, Niamh Finnegan and Sophie



Morrissey, finished third in the Leinster final and progressed on to the All-Ireland Final in Tallaght in March. The TY students had a great time at the Finals. We were faced with tough competition throughout the day. The event was a real eye opener for the students as they played against students of their own age who play Wheelchair Basketball in clubs and one student in particular showed amazing strength, speed and agility, despite having two amputated legs. This has really shown students that sport is for everyone and it's really more about ability than disability!

Self-Defence (TY Module)



This year, each group of TY students undertook a ten-week self-defence module. The module consisted of theory and practical elements. Throughout the module students learned how to understand the criminal mind-set and practised reading body language before conflict. They also learned how to verbally de-escalate potentially dangerous situations and discussed the concept of self-defence and the law in Ireland.

Students observed demonstrations of techniques and then practised some of these techniques under careful supervision and guidance. Students learned about pre-emptive strikes, how to escape from bear hugs, head locks, assault positions and studied a variety of arm grabs, collar grabs and releases. Here is what 4 Lumiere had to say about the module:

"Self defence helped me become more forward and defensive. I enjoyed the

module and I really think everyone should learn how to properly protect themselves."

"What I enjoyed about self-defence was that we were able to learn what to do in dangerous situations. It was definitely one of my favourite subjects of TY."

"I really enjoyed practicing the different moves, but the theory behind them was really helpful too."



BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2018

Congratulations to Lauren McGuinness and Sarah Brady from TY who were selected to take part in the RDS at this year's BT Young Scientist and Technology competition. The project 'An investigation into young attitudes towards televised drink and drug driving campaigns' received wonderful positive feedback from the judges and interest from politicians, journalists and academic researchers. They built and incorporated a virtual driving experience at their stand which allowed people to experience how dangerous it is to drive while under the influence of substances. They also tested televised campaigns with audiences to gauge and measure their reactions.



TY Gaisce Award

Gaisce was probably the biggest part of Transition Year for me as we began it all the way back in September. There were four different components to Gaisce; community work, a skill, a sport and an adventure journey. Community work involved us taking an hour out each week to help either an individual person or group in our community. This ranged from checking in on an elderly neighbour to volunteering in a charity shop in the area. The Personal Skill involved us learning something new, an example of which was

knitting, learning to play an instrument or drawing. The list of possibilities is endless. The Physical Recreation is all about developing a healthy lifestyle by committing at least one hour a week to a sport such as gym work, hiking or cycling. I personally really enjoyed this part of Gaisce as I did learn a lot of new things. Finally, Gaisce concluded with a hike that was difficult but was probably my favourite part of it all. It brought us all together even more as a team. Let's just say that yes, the hike was hard, some called it hell, but I really enjoyed it.
Abbie Jakes (4 Schumann)



TY Circus Skills Workshop

TY students had the amazing opportunity to take part in a circus skills workshop this year. Thirty students headed to "Taking Flight" Aerial and Acrobatics Company in Phibsborough on the 11th of May, where they engaged in new skills such as plate spinning, juggling and trapeze. This trip proved to be an excellent team building and bonding experience. The girls enjoyed every minute of it!



Historic Visit To Áras an Uachtaráin

Thursday 17th May was a proud and historic day for St Mary's when 28 of our TY students were chosen to be invited guests at the ceremony of the presentation of Credentials by new Ambassadors from Saudi Arabia, Jamaica and Kazakhstan to our President, Michael D Higgins, in Áras an Uachtaráin!

The students, accompanied by Ms Boran, Mr Farrell and their Year Head Ms Hughes were given a tour, formed a Guard of Honour and were seated at the formal presentation of credentials by the new Ambassadors. We are honoured to have been chosen and are very proud of the students for the dignified way they represented themselves and their school at this prestigious event in the Áras.

Following the ceremony refreshments were provided. This was a truly historic moment for our students, one which they will hopefully remember proudly for years to come.



Visit To Áras an Uachtaráin



Politics and Society

While reflecting on the past two years of studying Politics and Society, I remember all of the things that my class and I have learned as citizens of the world. Our class will be one of the first ever classes to sit Politics and Society as a leaving cert exam which is exciting but also quite daunting. We have had an amazing two years studying this new and innovative subject with our amazing teacher Ms. Hayes. It has allowed each and every one of us to flourish not only as students, but also as people. By studying this subject, we were allowed to formulate our own opinions on current social issues and on topics that actually matter in the world. We learned that as long as you have evidence to back up your argument then this argument is viable. This is a skill that every single one of us will take with us into the future.

Over the past two years, our class was

lucky enough to have gone on a few trips and to have had a few guest speakers to come in and talk to us. Noel Rock TD came to our class to take part in a discussion. Following this discussion, we were invited to go to the Dail for a tour. This was very interesting. We also went to a Women in Politics conference which was also very interesting and inspiring. At this conference we met Lynn Boylan MEP. Not too long ago she actually came in to talk to our class about everything EU. This was a very helpful talk that aided us a lot in learning about what the EU actually do. (Who knew that they do so much!) We also went on a group trip to Belfast and Derry to learn about the complex political situation in Northern Ireland. This trip was an unforgettable experience that was educational and eye opening, but also incredibly fun. I think that sums up Politics and Society as a subject – unforgettable, educational and eye opening,

but also great craic.

Overall, I am so grateful for being given the opportunity to do this subject. Don't get me wrong, it was extremely hard at times (like when we had to do our active citizenship projects for the leaving cert ...) but it was so worth it in the end. We also found it difficult to come to terms with who are members of the mysterious Board of Management but after a while we found other things to discuss/debate. Doing this subject was the best decision that I have ever made. It has helped me decide on what I want to do in the future and how to actually get there. I will never forget our class and how much we have grown together as people, I love those guys. Thanks for reading!

Leah Riordan,
Politics and Society Mentor.

HISTORY DEPARTMENT

History Society

This year in St Mary's a history society was created. The group meet every Wednesday at lunch time in Room 26. There is a large range in the society with students from 2nd, 5th and 6th Year and all new members are always welcome. The society allows students to come together to discuss their favourite areas of history. Students chose a topic individually which they then researched and presented to the society. Over the course of the year we have heard presentations from the history of witches and vampires to the ancient and modern world with some excellent discussions arising. In addition, some members of the

society attended the first ever permanent exhibition of the Irish flag at the GPO. The St Mary's History Society would like to wish all students, teachers and families an enjoyable summer holiday.

Enjoy the break,
Mr. O'Connell.

The End of a Successful and Memorable Academic Year for The History Department

This academic year has been a memorable yet busy one for the History Department. This year Leaving Cert students from both 5th and 6th year went on a trip to Derry and Belfast with their History teachers as part of the Northern Ireland aspect of their Leaving Cert course. This included visits to the Derry Bloody Sunday Memorial Museum, the infamous Peace Wall and a trip to Stormont in Belfast. The trip was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The History Department also celebrated women's history month in March



with a wonderful display dedicated to women in history on the History noticeboard as well as a display by our staff room celebrating 100 years of votes for women. The display was beautifully decorated by 6th year students Ríodhna Mackin, Sabrina Lakatos and Sophie Lieghio. Some members of the History club attended the first ever permanent exhibition of the Irish flag at the GPO Witness History Visitor Centre with Mr O'Connell and Ms Doyle. The exhibition installed by the Thomas Meagher Foundation was dedicated at a ceremony to commemorate the 170th anniversary of the first flying of the flag. We

were also very fortunate to have a talk by Tomi Reichental a Holocaust survivor who visited the school to talk to 5th year History students as well as our TY's. He spoke to the assembled group about his experience of the Holocaust as a child. It was a truly eye-opening experience for all. We would also like to wish our 6th year History students, the best of luck in their Leaving Cert History exam this June and best wishes for their future.

Erika Byrne
History Mentor, Sixth Year

The teachers of the History Department would like to thank Erika for her work this year in helping to promote history within the school and we wish her all the best for the future. Thanks Erika and best of luck in all you do!

TY Tomi Reichental visit



We were very fortunate to have Tomi Reichental, a holocaust survivor, visit the school on Thursday 15th March to speak to TY History and Leaving Cert History and German students. Tomi Reichental was born in 1935 in Slovakia. He was nine years old when the Nazis deported him with his mother, grandmother, aunt, cousin and brother to Bergen-Belsen concentration camp. Tomi lost thirty-five members of his family in the Holocaust. Tomi has lived in Dublin since 1959 and regularly talks in Irish schools about his wartime experiences. We were delighted to be able to open this event also to interested parents and are particularly indebted to photographer Keith Dixon who attended and took the photographs that accompany this piece. Tomi spoke about his experiences – both harrowing and uplifting – to a rapt audience for almost two hours, after which he took questions from the floor. At the end of the talk two of our TY students presented Tomi with a beautiful planted basket as a token of our gratitude and appreciation. After the event Tomi kindly stayed behind to sign copies of his book for students, teachers and parents.



1st Year History Medieval Role Play – 1 Azure

Well done to class 1 Azure who as part of studying the Medieval period presented a Medieval role play to the class. The girls were divided into the different groups of the feudal system and they then carried out research on their role. Together they wrote great scripts and had many fun facts about lords, ladies, knights, monks, craftsman and peasants.



History Department - Guest Speaker



Dr. Juliana Adelman of DCU's School of History and Geography.

This term, first year classes 1 Sepia and 1 Crimson had a visit from Dr. Juliana Adelman who is a lecturer in DCU's School of History and Geography. Students learned about developments in medicine in Medieval and Renaissance Europe. They also studied and discussed primary sources on the plague and dissections in Renaissance Europe. Students from 1 Sepia felt that the talk was "very interesting" as they had the opportunity to examine sources and engage in group discussion throughout the talk. We would like to thank DCU's School of History and Geography for helping facilitate this talk.

Ms Doyle



including St Vincent's Secondary School (Glasnevin) and St Raphaela's Secondary School (Stillorgan) amongst others. Each school entered four members per team. Our history teachers organised a variety of challenging questions for the quiz ranging from 19th Century Europe to a round on the History of Sports. After each round, members of our year helped collect the answer sheets and corrected them to tally the scores. The competition was intense. The scores on the scoreboard were constantly changing, it was hard to tell who would win! In the end, St Vincent's Secondary School won the 1st place

TY History Quiz

On Wednesday the 28th of March, our school hosted an inter-schools history quiz for Transition Year students which was a fundraiser for the *World Meeting of Families 2018*. Different schools were in attendance



prize of €100 and St Raphaela's Secondary School from Stillorgan won the 2nd prize which consisted of four tickets to Glasnevin Cemetery. St Mary's did not go home empty handed however with our very own Kate Brady, Lily Conroy, Heather Dunne and Amy Wall taking home the 3rd place prize. The girls each received a copy of *The History of Glasnevin Cemetery*. We would like to take this opportunity to thank Glasnevin Cemetery for sponsoring our 2nd and 3rd

prize. Our TY group would like to say a special thanks to Ms Bourke, Ms O'Donnell and Ms Devaney for allowing us to hold the fundraiser. We would also like to thank Ms Doyle, Mr. Farrell, Ms Murray and Ms

O'Doherty as we would not have been able to host such a successful event without their help and support.

Corinne Betsayda 4 Lumière



TY SOCIOLOGY



Well done to all TY students who participated and contributed so fully in this year's sociology module. Topics covered included

gender roles, stereotypes and expectations, gender representation in the media and exploring the role of women in society and growth of feminist movements. Students all really engaged with the module well and drove excellent discussion and debate on all the different issues. As part of the module students attended the Coco Brown Future Leaders event at Johnstown House Hotel. The girls got to listen to four inspiring women including Marissa Carter, CEO of Coco Brown. The day was really motivational and it became clear that we have many future leaders in our current TY group.



RELIGION DEPARTMENT



6th Year Reconciliation Service

The father said, 'you are always with me, and everything I have is yours.'

Luke 15:31

During Lent all 6th year students 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 Prodigal Son**. Students, staff and Holy Faith sisters had the opportunity to receive the Sacrament of Reconciliation during the service.

Synagogue Visits

Second year classes visited a Jewish place of worship as part of their Junior Cycle project which counts for 20% of their overall mark next June. The title of their project is:



A profile of how prayer can be a key feature in the daily life of members in **one** of the following world religions: Buddhism, Hinduism, Islam or **Judaism**."

In completing this project students are reminded of Hans Küng famous quote:

- "No peace among the nations without peace among the religions.
- No peace among the religions without dialogue between the religions
- No dialogue between the religions without investigation of the foundation of the religions."



Praying for the missing Nigerian School girls

As part of the Young SVP TY programme some TY students raised awareness about the 110 school girls who were missing in Nigeria. The girls lit eleven candles to pray for the safe return of the girls to their families.



On February 19th, armed insurgents attacked the Government Science and Technical College in the town of Dapchi in Yobe state, Nigeria.

The Nigerian government confirmed that 110 girls were missing after suspected Boko Haram militants attacked a school in the northeast of the country. The kidnapping brings back painful memories of the 2014 Chibok abduction when Boko Haram kidnapped 276 girls from their school, an event that garnered international attention with the worldwide #BringBackOurGirls campaign.

We as a school prayed for the safe return of the students.



Catholic Schools Week

As part of Catholic Schools Week on St Brigid's day, class 1 Indigo made St Brigid's crosses.

The many strands that make up a St Brigid's cross represent the different strands of our own lives. They pick up on our joys and blessings but also on our struggles, problems and difficulties.

For Brigid the cross was not an end in itself but pointed to a firm and sure hope in a loving God.

For Brigid this loving God helps us to make sense of everything that's going on in our lives. Dark winter days are nearly over and spring is just around the corner.

'A Naomh Bríd, a Mhuire na nGael, scar orainn do bhrat. A Naomh Bríd, a chroí na féile, stiúir sinn ar an mbóthar ceart.'



Mr Farrell



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 mentor over the last year.

The programmes objectives are:

- 1) To encourage academic success for 6th year students
- 2) To ensure that students are receiving one-to-one support
- 3) To ensure that students are working towards their goals

- 4) To facilitate students to make good decisions about their leaving cert year.

This programme has helped encourage academic success for the students as a teacher met with them throughout the year helping the student 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

Icon Workshop



Twelve TY students participated in an Icon workshop in January.

Icon is the Greek word for an image (Eikon). Icons are generally images of Christ, the Virgin, Saints or scenes from the Bible. This TY Icon workshop followed the Byzantine tradition by using wooden boards covered in gesso (a form of plaster) with paints made from egg tempera (a mix of pigment, egg-yolk, vinegar and water) The practice or 'writing' an icon takes much time and patience.

The students enjoyed taking time out to create an Icon for our new prayer room.



Mr Farrell

Faith Friends 2018

Our Faith Friends programme took place this year over four weeks from the 25th of January to the 22nd of February. Two fifth year classes, 5 Coral and 5 Diamond, 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 5th year students approached their role as Faith Friends with great interest and enthusiasm. They enjoyed meeting the 6th 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 6th class girls were invited to come to the Convent Chapel for a Prayer Service to conclude the Faith Friends Programme which was organized by some 5th 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, Ms Bourke.

Our 5th years students presented the 6th 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 thanks to all those who helped to make the programme such a success this year and in particular the students of 5 Coral and 5 Diamond who were great examples of the living faith of the school.

Ms Bohan & Mr Farrell

Pay it Forward Day – St Mary's

Emma O'Reilly and Lauren Russell were our two students who represented us at the Le Chéile Conference. They planned a great 'Pay it Forward' day in the school, where they made thank you cards and gave them to staff and students. Over the course of the day everyone was encouraged to write a message of thanks and give it to someone at some point in the day. They also had a thankfulness board, on which students could put up what/who they are thankful for. As part of the day, twelve Blessing Bags containing basic toiletries will be given out randomly to staff and students



to give to someone in need. This way our 'Pay it Forward' initiative went beyond our school gates to help the homeless.

Thankfulness Board



Blessing Bags – given to staff and students

Le Chéile Link up Day

For the past two years we have established a link with another Le Chéile School, St Louis Rathmines. Each year during Catholic Schools week we plan a link up event where students from both schools come together and join in a day of workshops and events concluding in a liturgy that the students lead. This year it was our turn to visit St Louis. It was another great day full of information and fun, as well as quiet time during the liturgy. Next year St Mary's will host this event and we look forward to welcoming the students of St Louis back to St Mary's.

TY students from St Mary's and TY students from St Louis at their link up day.

TY students from St Mary's and TY students from St Louis at their link up day

6th Year Graduation 2018

The theme of Graduation this year was 'The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams'. In choosing this theme, the students wanted to focus on their future lives, their ambitions, hopes, goals and dreams. As they leave us and go out into the world they have the potential to achieve so much, to make a real difference in their lives and the lives of others.

Each class created a life size dream-catcher to represent the dreams of the class. They also painted a canvas frame with symbols and images of their hopes and dreams for the future. These were hung around the walls of the gym for their parents to see. The banner also displayed the theme of the night.

This year the Graduation Ceremony took the form of a liturgy, with prayers, readings, a gospel, homily and prayers of the faithful. It began with a candle procession followed by a candle ceremony with students, staff and parents. Fr Richard presided over the liturgy and was inspirational in his homily to the girls where he focused on

the theme of dreams, hopes and goals for their future lives. The Ember Team handed over to the new team in a spiritual ceremony. Interspersed with each of these were class presentations of certificates and gifts to the students. The Margaret Aylward Award was presented to the worthy recipient, Sophie Lieghio, as voted for by the students themselves. Ms Bourke addressed the students, parents and staff. This was followed by the Head Girl Lauryn McCausland and Deputy Head Girl Rachel Hogan's address to their fellow students combined with a poignant film of their journey through St Mary's.

As always, the choir were excellent and really enhanced the evening, particularly at the end when they all sang the graduation songs.

We in the Religion Department would like to thank everyone who helped us so much with graduation. Ms Bourke, Ms O'Donnell and Ms Devaney for their constant support. Fr Richard for always making the evening such a special, spiritual occasion. Colin and Mr O'Connell for setting up the gym. Liz, Jacinta, Michelle and Denise for all of the administrative work. Ms O'Rourke, Mr Coll and the choir for their beautiful singing and playing, which always enhances the evening. The Parents Association for providing refreshments and parents for their support of the event. Lastly, the staff who attend in such numbers and contribute so much to the evening.

Ms Bohan.



GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT



5th Year

Our current 5th year students recently went to Balscadden Bay in Howth to conduct their geographical investigation as part of their senior cycle geography course. The girls became active geographers by carrying out different coastal tests and methods to investigate and analyse processes that are currently affecting the bay's formation. By using primary data results and secondary sources of information, St Mary's students were able to identify active coastal process which have resulted in the bay to retreat at an average rate of 37m since 1840. We were blessed to have such wonderful weather that really added to the atmosphere of the day which we finished off with ice-cream down on Howth Pier.

Iceland Trip

Day 1

We arrived in Keflavik airport on October 26th. From there we drove to the volcanic peninsula of Reykjanes, an area of great volcanic activity with several dormant volcanoes and many extensive lava fields. Onwards to Krísuvík Geothermal Area to witness a moonscape of bubbling sulphuric mud-pools and steam vents. The last stop before we settled in to the hostel, was the newly opened Lava Centre which had excellent interactive displays explaining the tectonic history of Iceland.

Day 2

We started with a tour of the SW of Iceland which included three of the best-known attractions Iceland has to offer. Starting with **Gullfoss**, The Golden Waterfall, one of the most impressive waterfalls in Europe, continuing with The **Geysir** Area with numerous hot springs, fumaroles and geysers and **pingvellir**, a remarkable geological site where we stood between the Eurasian and North American plates. On the way back we stopped off at Kerid Crater where we walked the rim then descended into the crater lake.



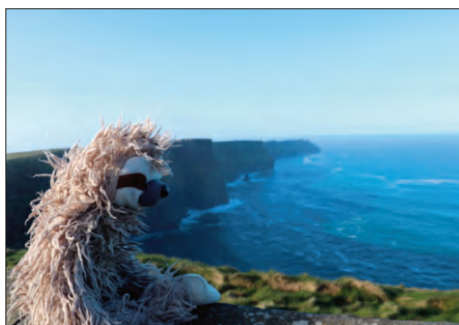
Day 3

Blue skies and sunshine were with us for our hike on the **Sólheimajökull glacier**. In the background we could see the snow shrouded Hekla and the ice capped volcano Eyjafjallajökull, which was last active in 2010. We then continued onto the coastal town of Vik for a spot of shopping. Next stop was the famous black sand beach of Reynisfjara with its towering basalt columns. We finished off an amazing day by watching the sunset while walking behind a waterfall.

Day 4

The morning was spent exploring one of Iceland most beautiful lava caves – Raufarhólshellir. This was followed by a hike to the Reykjadalur valley; a geothermal area with a naturally heated river where you can bathe. Back to the hostel to pack up for the journey home but not before one final trip – a night time visit to the world famous Blue Lagoon. The Lagoon is a unique formation; a lagoon with pleasantly warm mineral-rich geothermal water in a middle of a black lava field.

The girls were absolutely fantastic and embraced everything with enthusiasm. It was a pleasure to travel with you all! A massive thanks to the teachers who generously gave of their time to make this happen – it is much appreciated, as are your card playing skills!



6th Year Burren Trip

6th year geography students headed off to the Burren for the first weekend of the Easter holidays. We made a brief stop off at the Ailwee caves en route to check out the effects of carbonation on a Karst landscape. Saturday was jam-packed with activities. We started the morning with rock climbing and abseiling; we were so impressed with some of the girls who overcame their fears to make it to up the rock wall. This was followed by a guided hike across the limestone pavement where we observed many features typical of the Burren. It was a beautiful day and the Aran Islands were visible off the coast. We rounded off the day with a trip to Lahinch. We were kitted out with wetsuits and surfboards, and we hit the waves. Literally! We had a two-hour surf lesson and a lot of fun. On Sunday we





visited the Cliffs of Moher and walked along the top of the cliffs. We then saw the cliffs from the sea as we embarked on a boat trip from Doolin Pier. We managed to squeeze in a quick trip to the Rock Shop – a must see for budding geographers!

There was still time to hike up Mullaghmore before getting the bus home. Again, we couldn't have asked for a better group of students who got stuck into everything with good cheer! Many thanks to the teachers who gave up the first weekend of their holidays.



TY Geography

The geography module this year placed a great emphasis on plate tectonics resulting in the formation of Volcanoes and Earthquakes. Throughout their study of the world's most famous and deadly volcanoes, students also had to get hands on by re-constructing their chosen case studies and recreating their deadly eruptions to their peers. With fire extinguishers at hand most eruptions did not lead to any loss of life as the burning lava was diverted along different pathways.



FRENCH DEPARTMENT

French Club this year was great fun. French club was on every Tuesday at lunchtime. The good thing about French Club is that you don't need to study French to come along. We had a lot of fun playing French games and eating delicious snacks like biscuits, croissants and chocolate. We played French games like Sept Familles, Boules and a French card game called Love Letters. Sept Familles is a great game where we each get a set of cards. The aim of the game is to find a whole family set. The person who completes the most amount of sets wins. At first we played this game through English but by the end of the year, we could play it almost entirely through French by asking questions like 'As-tu la carte rouge?' which means 'Do you have the red card?'. The game can get really competitive and is great fun. Boules is also a great French game. This

is a game that you see people playing throughout France. It's great fun to play, especially outside on a sunny day. We are very thankful to Ms Murray for hosting this year's French Club and bringing us the wonderful treats every Tuesday.

By Raghad Achour (1 Sienna)



TY students took part in a modern language Fashion show and continental breakfast. Students modelled different outfits as another student described their outfit in either French, German or Spanish. This was followed by a delicious breakfast of French cheeses, German and Spanish meats and even some Spanish Tortillas prepared by Mr. Grace. Students thoroughly enjoyed trying the different types of food.



CSPE DEPARTMENT

2 Lynn – CSPE Action Project

2 Lynn's Action Project focuses on the homeless crisis in Dublin and how we can help aid this cause. We asked students in our school to donate items for a Simon Care Package which will be given to the Simon Community and then distributed to the

homeless people who need it. We are also raising awareness around the school for the Simon Community and the excellent work they do to help with the current homelessness crisis.



2 Sheehy

2 Sheehy embody the core concepts at the heart of CSPE! Upon deciding on their focus area of stewardship for their action project, they wanted to ensure they selected an organisation to raise awareness and funds for democratically. After researching a number of possible organisations and canvassing to the class, the votes were counted – and the ISPCA were the clear winners! The whole class worked extremely hard, helping each other fantastically all the way through this project. Well done 2 Sheehy on a very successful awareness raising campaign and for raising much needed funds for the ISPCA!

HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

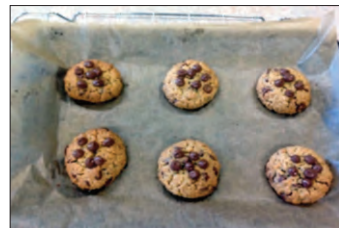
Breakfast Club

This year we were delighted to introduce free healthy breakfasts to all students in St Mary's. Breakfast Club runs daily from 8.10am – 8.40am in St Mary's Kitchen. There is a great choice of healthy foods to choose from including cereal and fruit pots, fresh fruit, scones, oat bars, yogurt, soft cheese and lots more. Free breakfast items are also available at the Glanmore Food Station during break time.

Breakfast club has been a huge success, giving students an opportunity to start off their day with a healthy breakfast while also allowing them to meet new friends and chat before the start of each school day.

A big thank you to all volunteers and teachers helping out each morning!

Little Chef's Cookery Club



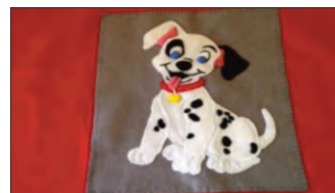
The Little Chef's Cookery Club was a huge success this year. First and second year students have enjoyed working with their friends and have gained huge confidence in their culinary skills. This year the students have enjoyed making chocolate chip cookies, chicken fajitas, homemade pizza, chocolate and caramel brownies as well as chicken goujons and spicy potato wedges.

Well done to all the girls involved.

Ms Martin

Junior Certificate Practical Cookery Exams

Congratulations to all the third year Home Economics students who recently undertook their practical exams in cookery. The



dishes made were of a very high standard this year and were presented beautifully. The craftwork projects and folders were also presented and the girls did a fantastic job. Well done!

Health and Wellbeing Week



Health and Wellbeing week took place in January of this year. Ms Boran, members of the transition year Health Squad and the PE and Home Economics department did a fantastic job promoting the importance of a good diet and exercise to members of the school community.

Some of the healthy and tasty snacks on offer during the week included overnight oats with a raspberry topping, summer fruit/ tropical smoothies and popcorn.

There were also a number of guest speakers during the week who spoke to students about nutrition and the importance of healthy lifestyle choices.

Special thanks to all involved!

First Year and Second Year Cookery & Crafts

Second year Home Economics students have commenced work on their Junior Certificate craftwork projects which account for 15% of their overall grade in the subject. Ms Martin's class are making colourful cross stitch pictures. Ms McCarthy's class are making beautiful embroidered cushions. Both classes must also put forward support folders with their projects to explain the design process.

Well done to Ms Martin's first year class on completing their personalised gym bags. Students developed huge skills in hand sewing, textiles and use of the sewing machine. The students were enthusiastic and worked extremely hard.

Fifth Year Food Journals

We would like to take this opportunity to wish our current fifth year students the best of luck as they complete their Leaving Certificate food journal work which accounts for 20% of their overall grade in the subject. The assignments are based on the following topics:

- Low income families
- Vegetarianism
- Soufflés
- Homemade preserves
- Sensory analysis

These assignments require students to investigate, prepare and serve a dish relating to the above topics.

Best of luck girls!

Ms Martin, Ms Noonan and Ms McCarthy.



Debating

This term, the Senior debating club was very busy with both the Denny All-Ireland Schools' Debating Competition and the Concern Debates. However every member of the club rose to the challenge and worked together to ensure great successes, whether travelling across Dublin to debate or dedicating time to researching a wide variety of topics and themes. The team representing St Mary's in the Concern debates tackled some of the most important issues facing the world today, such as the AIDS epidemic and the importance of education for women. It was clear to the audience that our students were highly passionate about these topics and worked very hard in delivering well researched, thoughtful arguments. While the Concern debating team were excellent in each of their debates and received high praise from the adjudicators, they narrowly missed out on progressing to the next round of the competition.

The Denny All-Ireland Schools' Debating Competition also continued with great success with the third round taking place in January this year. Kerry McManus, Alan Masterson, Sophie Lieghio and Riodhna Mackin represented St Mary's again and debated a number of controversial topics on Tuesday evenings in both Trinity College Dublin and UCD. The quarter finals took place on Tuesday the 23rd January in UCD. Sophie and Riodhna opposed the motion that *This house believes developing countries should put in place policies that heavily disincentivise rural to urban migration* while Alan was in favour. The standard was extremely high at this stage of the competition which led to a fiery event with participants battling it out to guarantee a win!

Sophie and Riodhna went on to compete in the semi-final of this prestigious competition on Tuesday the 30th January in Trinity College Dublin. The girls were dealing with the extremely difficult and controversial topic of religious warfare in Iran and came up against a number of very well-established schools within the debating community. Despite this, the team spoke with great confidence and belief in their position on the topic. Unfortunately, they narrowly missed out on a spot in the final of the competition.

The whole school community was delighted and very proud that, although this team was new to the world of competitive debating, it was still an immense success. This was due to the hard work and dedication of both the debaters and researchers alike at every step of the way. We hope to continue these great successes next year with our senior cycle debaters while also wishing our 6th years every success in their bright futures within the English, drama and arts disciplines.

Ms Molloy, Ms O'Flaherty, Ms Warren



MATHS DEPARTMENT

The Maths Department and students have had an exciting 2018 so far. The following events took place in the Maths Department during this term:

Maths Olympiad

After successfully getting through to the second round of the Maths Olympiad, Maria Zubascu in TY participated in the four initial training classes on 27th January, 3th, 10th and 17th February 2018. On Saturday 24th February 2018 there was a selection test at the end of which the best 40 students were invited for more intense training in view of progressing to the Irish Math Olympiad. Maria was successful and was chosen for this. Maria was 12th place in the country after the selection test. The final round took place at a national level on Saturday 12 May 2018. The best six pupils at the Irish Math Olympiad will represent the country at the International Math Olympiad which will take place in Romania in July 2018. Maria is awaiting the results to see did she get through. Regardless of whether she gets through or not, we are so proud of Maria's achievements and we wish her the best of luck! You are a superstar Maria

Maths Support Centre

Ms Farrell and Ms Dowling have been working hard in setting up a Maths Support Centre which has been of great help to students who need any type of extra help with certain maths topics.

MMSC
Mary's Maths Support Centre

Days:
Monday and Wednesday

Time:
Lunch Time: 1.10pm - 1.45pm

Location:
Arts and Crafts Room
(beside choir hall)

Avoid the so-called Maths demons
Come along we've got you covered!

Lego League @DCU

Class 4 Raphael took part in an initiative in conjunction with Learnit and DCU Lego Education Innovation Studio which is based at St Patrick's Campus in Drumcondra. The league involves a global science and technology challenge for students to encourage them to have interest in real world issues of pivotal importance to a knowledge-based society. The challenge includes students working in teams, exploring a given topic which this year is hydraulics and then designing, building and programming an autonomous Lego robot to solve a series of missions.

All the girls worked so hard and were brilliant. Two of the teams picked up awards. Water warriors won the award for overall display of core values and Disney Droids won the award for overall best robot Design. Well done girls!



Team Disney Droids: Abbie Leeper, Hannah O'Brien, Tara Macken, Katie Kennedy, Sophie McGrane, and Heather Dunne



Team Water Warriors: Anna Mandzyuk, Joy Stokes, Aoife Roche, Carla Ward and Juila Wysocka

Quiz Mania

First Years

Our 1st year students took part in the annual First Year Maths quiz in DCU on Wednesday 18th April at St Pats in Drumcondra. The students were competing with other students from neighbouring schools. Well done to the students involved from Class Indigo. We had two teams competing on the day. The Fab Four and Two Squared. Both teams competed to a high standard on the day. Impressively Two Squared came in third place with just a single point separating each of the top teams. They received a DCU top each as their Prize. Between each round of the quiz there was a Kahoot quiz for the audience. Shaniah Llane Rollo picked up the top prize in one of rounds.



The Fab Four: L to R Leian Vista, Anastasia Berzoi, Sophie Burke and Tara Sweeney.



Two Squared: L to R Ms Murphy, Jade Whelan, Ciara Abragan, Katelyn Ward and Vivienne Ulugbek

Second Years

A group of four second years entered the annual DCU 2nd Year Maths Quiz on the 7th of March at the St Patricks Campus in DCU. The girls did exceptionally well and managed to claim second place! Well done girls!



Second Year DCU Maths Quiz Participants (L to R): Alina Boldan, Kacey Boyd, Emma Wu Yang and Lauren Hammond

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

Science Department

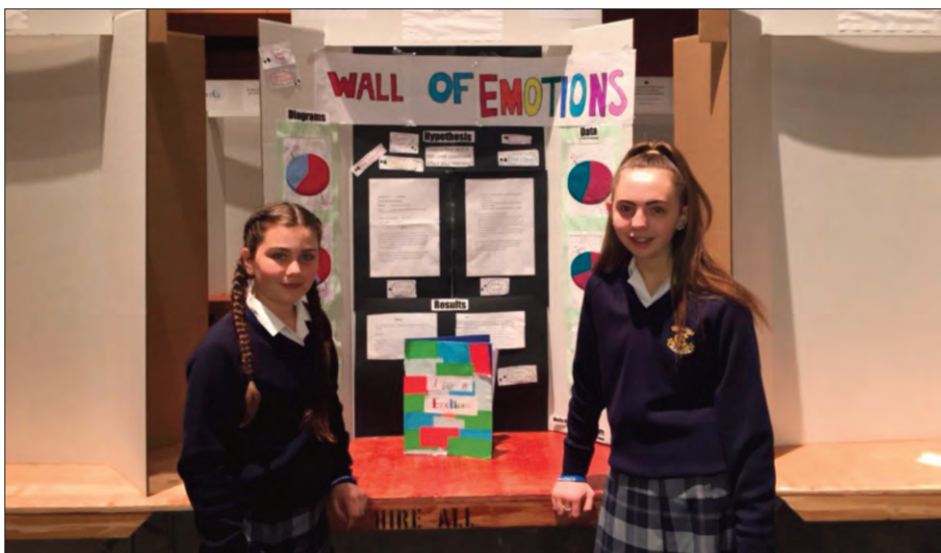
The Science Department started off the new year with a visit to the BT Young Scientist Exhibition in the RDS. A group of scientifically minded TY students attended the exhibition with their teachers Ms Nolan and Ms Browne to lend their support to participating students Lauren McGuinness and Sarah Brady and their teacher Ms Mulvey. Their project entitled 'An Investigation into Televised Road Safety Campaigns, to see if they are having a lasting impact on Young Teenagers' Attitudes Towards Drink and Drug Driving' gained lots of attention from the judges, media and the public with the girls being interviewed for The Evening Herald newspaper.

Every Tuesday the budding scientists of St Mary's put on their lab coats and safety goggles to get stuck into fun and fascinating formulations at Science club. With the assistance of Ms Byrnes, Ms Nolan, Ms O'Keeffe and Ms O'Donnell, the future scientists and engineers created crystals, examined electrical circuits and formulated fizz bombs.

In April eleven St Mary's Science students (four groups) completed at the Scifest fair in DCU. For several months before hand the students carried out research and experimental work and then presented their hard work at the fair. The topics ranged from psychology to sports science. The students also enjoyed the exhibition of projects, a prize-giving ceremony, science talks, science demonstrations in the college laboratories and advice on careers in STEM and courses available in the college.

Pictured below is Molly O'Rourke and Alesia Doyle exhibiting their project 'Wall of Emotions' which examined the effects of colour and a print rich classroom on students learning.

Throughout the springtime TY students with the help of Mr Montague and Ms Coleman collected data for the GLOBE programme. This environmental science project was run in collaboration with An Taisce and NASA and aimed to foster 'Citizen Science' with school students around the globe. The students monitored the air quality in the gardens of St Mary's using equipment supplied by An Taisce and recorded their observations of cloud cover and weather conditions. This information was then uploaded to the NASA database.



Darkness into Light

The Darkness into Light annual fundraising flagship and awareness event for Pieta House took place on May 12th this year. This year marked the 10-year anniversary for the event. There was a sea of yellow in the Phoenix Park where the event embraced over 14,000 people as they walked along the 5-kilometre route through the city park. Over twenty students from St Mary's and six staff members walked together as a group where we met at Comiskey's at 3.45am to begin the walk at Chesterfield Avenue at 4.15am. The event began in darkness and we walked together as dawn broke and the sun rose in the park.

The symbolic 5km walk promotes awareness of mental health difficulties and raises vital funds for the charity that works to prevent suicide and provide services for those affected by suicide. Pieta House's vision is of a world where "suicide, self-harm and stigma have been replaced by hope, self-care and acceptance."



BUSINESS DEPARTMENT

Sweet Treats taste success at the Business Bootcamp

Big congratulations to TY students Erica Carrie, Sarah Bateson, Chanice Dolan, Chloe Cahill, Karla Conway, Hannah O'Brien, Katie Kennedy, Tara Macken and Abbie Leeper on their triumphant performance in the Business Bootcamp competition held in Colaiste Eoin. The girls who took home the



top prize for two out of three events this year winning additional awards for best stage presentation and best company image throughout the competition, which proved to be the best entrepreneurial team with their culinary inspired selection of 'Sweet Treats'.



When the girls weren't winning competitions, they were reaping the rewards from their hard work with multiple bake sales in the school capped off by a successful Scrumdiddly's inspired ice-cream sale on Sports Day.

Well done Sweet Treats!

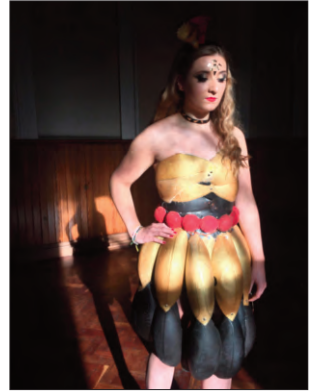
ART DEPARTMENT

Junk Kouture

TY students Jamila Hannigan, Sophie Morgan Furphy and Shannon Fowley represented St Mary's in Junk Kouture at this year's Regional Final in the Helix. Following on from their wonderful success our remaining Junk Kouture entries performed at St Mary's Music Showcase in May.



Junk Kouture (contd.)



National Architects in Schools Initiative 2018

Irish Architects Foundation.

This year St Mary's TY students worked with 4th Year Architecture students from Dublin Institute of Technology developing design ideas to reimagine the use of open spaces in the school. Under the guidance and tuition of architect Evelyn D'Arcy, DIT students and staff, our students responded to their brief. The collaboration was a fantastic opportunity for the students, and there are plans to make a beautiful wooden pavilion in September that will be in situ close to the entrance of the school. The project was on display at the IAF's National Architects in Schools Initiative Exhibition held in Waterford city's new public space, the Apple Market from 18th – 20th May.



First Year Art

First year art students created a graphic piece where they illustrated their own story inspired by the snow days. Each student then created a 3D model which helped to animate their characters and bring life to their unique individual stories. Their inspiration came from the wonderful work of Belfast born graphic artist Oliver Jeffers.



2nd Year Creative Engagement Project – mask-making based on the theme of identity

2nd years had the opportunity to explore the skills in designing and creating functional masks, based on their own original ideas, under the guidance of artist Eleanor Phillips and their teacher Ms Cunningham. This project built on their previous term's work, where they learned about portraiture. Students took casts from their face using plaster bandage and used a variety of different techniques to build form and shape, before adding their final decorative features. Students presented their masks to the class as part of their oracy summer test and a number of students performed at the music showcase to the song, 'This Is Me', sung by 6th year Gemma Reilly. Many thanks to Gemma for her generosity in sharing the performance.



Creative Engagement

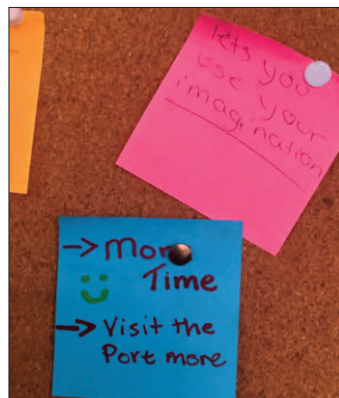
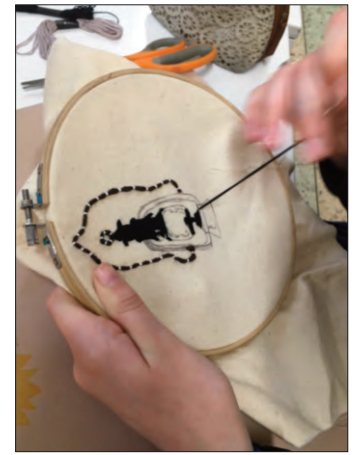
This year, St Mary's Art department embarked on two new Creative Engagement projects. The first began in January, where the 5th years engaged in original research, making cross-curricular links between one of their Leaving Cert subjects and a school trip to Dublin Port. The project was led by artist Eleanor Phillips and art teachers Ms Kavanagh and Ms Cunningham.

Each student was required to create an art piece from the Leaving Cert coursework that reflected their research. The project was not without its challenges, as it asked students to engage with higher level thinking and to work in a disciplined and self-motivated manner, under the guidance of their teachers and artist. The project culminated with a group-based evaluation facilitated by Eleanor Phillips, which enabled the students to reflect on their engagement in the project and the success of their realised work. We're very proud of the students' hard work and look forward to exhibiting it in the autumn.

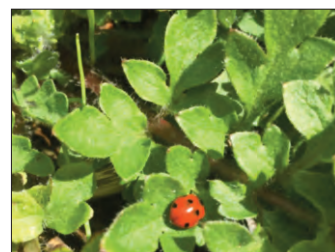


TY Craft and Media

In terms two and three, the Art, Craft and Media module students have created individual hand-built ceramic flowers. They learned about the history and skills of working with mosaic and put these to the test in adding to the mosaic wall. Their personal ceramic pieces were surrounded by mirror and tile. Not only have they learned these traditional skills; they have also employed their technological skills to record the process, creating a short documentary.



Sundown on a busy week in the Sensory Garden. Alliums out, beans, peas and sunflowers planted. TY mosaic wall added to. Weeding, watering and tidying completed. A new edition, the biodiversity bed sign looks amazing. We explored growing food from waste, including potatoes, celery and butternut squash. We've linked in with Wellbeing and all 1st year classes got to sow the special St Mary's sunflower seeds. Well done to all of the students that helped out in the various projects and a big thanks to Colin, our caretaker, for putting up the sign. This garden belongs to the students – this is your garden and you have really taken ownership of it this year, particularly those who took part in the Gardening Club.



Biodiversity garden launched by Holy Faith sisters and Green Schools committee

The Holy Faith sisters, St Mary's Green Schools committee, some members of the public and celebrity environmentalist, Duncan Stewart, launched a new biodiversity garden on Saturday April 21st. This garden will be in the field beside the tennis courts. It will contain native Irish wild flowers which will attract pollinating bees and bugs which will encourage more plants and wildlife to flourish. This is important for the future of life on earth and is one of the greatest challenges facing humans. Members of the Green Schools committee are holding a competition to name this wildflower garden and a lucky winner will be picked soon.

Biodiversity Flag

St. Mary's Green Schools committee are going for their fifth green flag for biodiversity. So far St Mary's have got their flags for recycling, water, energy and travel.

This flag is so important to raise awareness of how we can protect the species of plants and animals that are endangered. Can you imagine a warm summer's day without the buzz of a bumble bee? This is entirely possible now. We rely on species like the bumble bee to pollinate our plants to move pollen from one flower to another – causing new plants to grow.



Picture courtesy of Brianfitzpatrickphotography.com

Without pollinating insects, the plants on which we rely for food simply won't grow! So many of the species of plants and animals on which we rely on are now extinct. Did you know that since 1970 40% of species are extinct! What will earth be like in 50 years if the trends keep going this way?

Following our recent biodiversity survey, we will be taking steps to protect and develop the native plants and animals on our campus soon.

If you care about this join our committee in the coming term.

STUDENT COUNCIL

Ministerial Visitor Urges Students to Embrace Leadership Roles

The Student Council celebrated 100 years of Votes for Women with past student Minister Regina Doherty



1918 was the first time Irish women were permitted by Law to vote and stand in parliamentary elections. Our Student Council during the month of February 2018 celebrated this important centenary which involved hosting a ministerial visit.

The Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection Regina Doherty visited her Alma Mater, St Mary's on Monday 26th February

Members of the Student Council, class captains and vice-captains, Fifth Year Politics and Society students as well as teachers from the History Department and the management team greeted Minister Regina Doherty at 2pm on Monday 26th February. She kindly accepted the Student Council's invitation to come to her Alma Mater to celebrate with students the 'Road to Votes' which celebrates 100 years of votes for women. The ceremony was fittingly opened with Hannah Ryan Murphy singing 'Amhrán na

bhFiann'. Members of the Student Council – Emily McElroy, Karen Loma, Rheanne Robles, Emily Dixon and Emily Gallagher participated in the ceremony. Emily told the assembled group about the background of the 'Road to Votes' while Karen gave a potted history of Constance Markiewicz. This was followed by Leanne speaking about the role of women in Irish Parliamentary Politics today.

After this wonderful presentation Ms Bourke welcomed the minister to the stage to speak about the importance of women in leadership and to inspire them to seek out leadership roles. The minister welcomed questions from the audience after her

insightful speech. The closing music for the ceremony was from our Head Girl Lauryn McCausland who sang the hauntingly beautiful ballad 'Grace'. Two of our First Years, Emily Dixon and Emily Gallagher presented the minister with a framed picture of the school surrounded by inspirational quotes which was designed by Mazzy Hollerich. Ms Bourke concluded the ceremony and the members of the student council brought the minister to the library for refreshments. We thank the minister for marking the 'Road to Votes' in the school (and later tweeting about it!) and also to Mr Farrell for organising this unique event in the school community.



Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection Regina Doherty being presented with a framed picture of the school



MUSIC DEPARTMENT

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Navan Choral Festival 2018

The Schola Choir entered the Navan Choral Festival again this year. They competed in the 'Liturgical Choir' section. They sang two pieces in this competition, "Stella Splendens" by Tony Alonso and 'Everything I have is yours' composed by Mr. Coll. They were against eight other choirs and the standard was very high. The girls have worked really hard to develop this choir and it is most certainly on the up.

They received outstanding comments from the judge and were complemented for their "beautiful, heartfelt and rousing performances"

Emmanuel 2018

St. Mary's was well represented again this year at the Emmanuel Concert in the Helix. Forty-five students represented the school at the annual Emmanuel Concert in The Helix on Monday 5th February. Special congratulations to our three soloists Casey Harris, Gemma Reilly and Diana Butoc. For Casey and Gemma it was an emotional occasion, as, being



Soloists from St Mary's: Casey Harris, Gemma Reilly and Diana Butoc

6th years this was their last opportunity to participate in this glorious yearly event. Diana is in 2nd year so she will have many more opportunities to take part. On Monday Diana was one of a group of four students from various schools chosen to sing Mr Coll's own composition 'Everything I have is Yours.' It is a piece the girls know very well as we have used it many times for 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 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 3rd and 6th years every success in their written examinations in June.

The Annual St Mary's "Music Showcase" 2018

Towards the end of every year the musical talent of St Mary's was showcased in one night of great entertainment in St Mary's choir hall. Performances on the night consisted of students from the Junior and Leaving cert classes performing their practical pieces. Class performances from 1st, 2nd and 5th year music classes, the TY music classes and the school choir also featured. In total there were 37 performances with compere on the night, Mr McGill. Some 2nd Year Art students wore masks to accompany Gemma Reilly's performance 'This is Me' and the audience got to view the fabulous Junk Kouture costumes that were created by TY students with the help of Ms Kavanagh. It was a great night of music and a great way to end the musical activities of the year.

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



Musical Showcase Practice with Ms Dowling.

Ms O'Rourke & Mr Coll Music Department



IRISH DEPARTMENT

An Coiste Gaelbhhratach



D'éirigh go hiontach leis an gCoiste Gaelbhhratach i mbliana. Bhí Hannah Ryan Murphy, Ollie Dorgan Hughes, Zara McGlynn, Klaudia Tyczko, Alannah Dillon, Jodie Moore, Kellie Jones Ryan, Chloe King agus Sarah Aboud mar bhaill ar an gCoiste. Rinne na daltaí sár-iarracht ar son na Gaeilge.

Bhí ceolchoirm acu ag tús na bliana agus tháinig an Ard-Mhéara Micheál Mac Donncha chun ár gcéad brath a ardú. Bhí ceol agus amhránaíocht ar siúl ar an lá. Bhí bricféastaí Gaelacha ar siúl gach mhí agus d'éagraigh na daltaí cártaí vailintín a thabhairt do mhuintir an chéad bhliain i Mí Feabhra. Roimh na Bealtrialacha bhí tae, caife agus comhrá eagraithe do mhuintir an séú bliain.

I rith Seachtain na Gaeilge d'oibrigh an Coiste leis na múinteoirí Gaeilge chun Tráth na gCeist, Céilí, Scannánaíocht agus imeachtaí eile a eagrú. Thug an Coiste cuireadh do dhaltaí ó Scoil Naomh Bhríde teacht isteach chun céilí a dhéanamh agus bhí tráthnóna iontach acu.

De bharr an iarracht a rinne said, bronnadh an dara brath orthu cúpla seachtain ó shin. Comhghairdeas libh ar fad agus go n-éirí an t-adh libh an bhliain seo chugainn.

Ms O'Mahoney, Ms Salmon, Ms Morgan

Seachtain na Gaeilge

Seachtain den chéad scotch a bhí ann i mbliana. Bhí gach duine páirteach agus bhaineamar ar fad an taitneamh as. Bhí atmaisféar fíor gaelacha sa scoil agus d'éirigh go hiontach leis na himeachtaí ar fad a bhí eagraithe don tseachtain.

Thosaíomar ar an Luan le cluichí inchinne sa rang teagaisc. Rinne na daltaí ceann dóibh siúd gach maidin chun go mbeidh gach duine ag smaoinemh as Gaeilge

láithreach ar maidin.

Ar an Mháirt bhí tráth na gceist sa halla cóir agus chabhraigh an Choiste Gaelbhhratach go mór le seo a eagrú agus na freagraí ar fad a cheartú. Bhí an iomaíocht géar idir na foirne ar fad.

Ar an gCeadaoin bhí scannáin as Gaeilge ar siúl do na daltaí agus ba léir gur bhain siad an taitneamh astu. Picturlann gaelach a bhí ann sa halla cóir!

Bhí lá iontach againn ar an Deardaoin nuair a bhí an chéilí mór ar siúl. Chabhraigh na daltaí ón idirbhliain linn chun na céimeanna a mhúineadh agus bhí sult agus spraoi acu ar fad. Comh maith le seo, tháinig na daltaí ó bhunscoil Naomh Bhríde chun Céilí a bheith acu. Arís chabhraigh an choiste go mór le seo. Cheap siad go raibh na páistí fíor gleoite ach bhí siad tuirseach traochta i ndiadh an damhsa a mhúineadh dóibh!

Ar an Aoine bhí ceol gaelacha ar siúl ar an idirchum ag am lóin agus bhí díolachán cáca eagraithe ag an gcoiste. Freisin, labhair na múinteoirí Gaeilge faoi dul chuig an Gaeltacht agus bhí deis ag na daltaí ceisteanna a chur agus eolas a fháil faoi.

Bhí an iomaíocht géar arís idir na ranganna sa chéad bhliain agus iad ag cleachtadh do chomórtas na h-amhráin a bhí ar siúl de hAoine comh maith. D'fhoghlaim siad ar fad amhrán as Gaeilge agus chan siad in árd a gcinn is a ngutha ar an stáitse. Maith sibh ar fad bhí sibh ar fheabhas.

Níl aon amhras ach gur seachtain iontach a bhí ann. Rinne gach duine – múinteoirí agus daltaí san aireamh aon Ghaeilge a bhí acu a úsáid sa rang agus taomh amuigh. Táimid fíor bhrodúil as an nGaeilge as scoil agus ba deis iontach í Seachtain na Gaeilge ár dteanga dhúchais a cheiliúradh.

Irish Week

What a wonderful week it was this year! Everyone took part and we all really enjoyed it. All events planned were a great success and there was a lovely atmosphere in the school.

We started off on Monday with puzzles and brain teasers. The students did these every morning which was ideal as it meant they were thinking in Irish first thing in the morning!

On Tuesday there was a table quiz for all year groups in the choir hall. The Irish Language Flag committee helped to organise this and also corrected all of the answers. The competition was fierce between all teams!

On Wednesday the students watched Irish language movies which they thoroughly enjoyed. We had our own Irish language cinema in the choir hall!

Thursday was a major highlight with the Céilí Mór. Thanks to the TY's who helped out with this and taught everyone the steps. It was great fun! As well as this the students came over from St Bridget's primary school to get involved in the festivities! The Irish committee helped this time to teach the dances. They really enjoyed working with the children and were exhausted when they left!

On Friday we had Irish language pop songs over the intercom and the committee organised a cake sale which was a great success. Also, the Irish teachers spoke to everyone about the advantages of attending the Gaeltacht and the students had the opportunity to ask questions and get information about this.

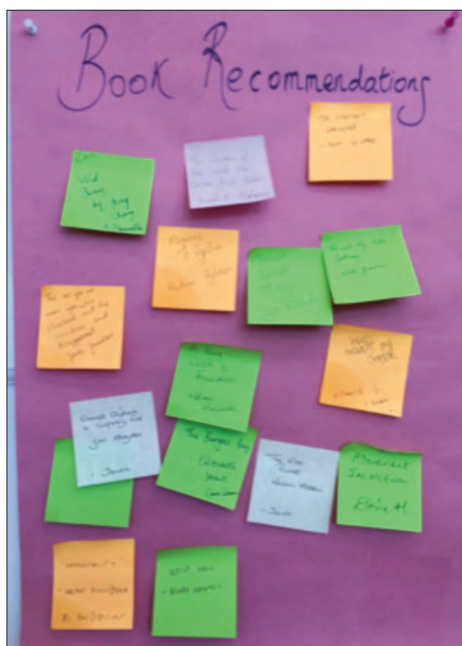
The competition was fierce again between the 1st year classes as they practiced for the song competition which also took place on Friday. They all learned Irish language pop songs and they sang at the top of their lungs from the stage. Well done to all involved.

There is no doubt that it was a fantastic week. Everyone – students and teachers alike made an effort to speak whatever Irish they had both inside and outside the classroom. We are so proud of the Irish language in our school and Seachtain na Gaeilge gives us a great opportunity to celebrate our native tongue.

Cailín Morgan



ENGLISH DEPARTMENT



Literacy Week 2018!

This term, we celebrated literacy week with a variety of events and activities. Each junior year group took part in a 'Drop Everything and Read' and visited the library to get lost in a book of their choice. First year students also completed a poetry competition which allowed them to demonstrate their wonderful talent and creativity. Well done to Vivienne Ulugbek from 1 Indigo who was the deserving winner, having penned a poem on the process of writing.

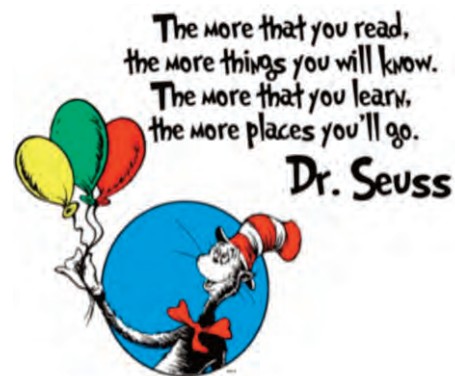
Students were also invited to a pop-up book club which was held in the library. Each student brought along a novel that they have read or are currently reading and shared this with the group. We had some amazing recommendations ranging from 'The Complete Works of William Shakespeare', 'The Maze Runner' by James Dashner, 'The Choice' by Philly McMahon and even some manga comics! A particular thanks to Ms Murray who also attended the book club and shared her book of choice 'Dear World' by Bana Alabed, about a seven year old girl growing up in war-torn Syria.

It wasn't just the students who got involved in literacy week however. A huge thanks to all of the teachers who contributed to the 'Book Recommendation Wall' in the staff room.

Ms Doyle

McCarthy Award for Creative Writing

The Mary McCarthy Award is an annual award given to a 6th year student who has excelled in creative writing. It is awarded by the English Department in honour of a much beloved former English teacher in St Mary's. Mary McCarthy was a successful, published author and nurtured the creative talents of her students during her time here as a teacher. This year's recipient is Sophie Lieghio, a founding member of the Creative Writing Club and a student who has consistently impressed with her writing skills during her time here as a student. Sophie was presented with a statue at the 6th Year Awards Ceremony on graduation day. We have no doubt that we will be seeing Sophie's name in print in the future!



English Department- Newsletter- Junior Cycle CBAs

This has been a busy last term for our Junior Cycle students as both our 2nd and 3rd Years completed their Classroom Based Assessments.

Every 2nd Year had to make a three-minute presentation in front of their class, comprising of either a performance or a speech. The students had to research and develop their own ideas, and we witnessed a fantastic variety of topics and performances. In April, our 3rd Years finished their portfolio of texts, which they have been creating for the last two years. This involved creating pieces of writing, editing and then redrafting into completed texts. This involved a great deal of effort and skill from our students, and we're sure these skills will be of tremendous value to them in Senior Cycle.

On the 24th May the 3rd years also completed 10% of their final grade, when they sat a classroom-based exam.

Well done to all for completing these important assessments as part of their Junior Cycle.

GUIDANCE & COUNSELLING



1st Year

Incoming First Years

The entrance exams for First Year students took place on Saturday 3rd February. To help facilitate the transition from primary to secondary we are visiting the primary schools and talking with the 6th class teachers about the students' progress and interests.

There was a very positive information meeting with the parents of incoming first years on 21st of March to initiate our long-term partnership over the next five or six years. This is an invaluable opportunity for the parents of the new 1st 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 any of the incoming first year parents to make an appointment at the end of May for an informal interview with a member of Guidance Counselling department.

2nd Year

This term 2nd year students received a very informative talk from Body Whys about eating disorders, healthy body image, self-esteem and media influence.

Junior Discover DCU is an initiative of the DCU Access Programme targeting 2nd 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 Cert. The aim of the workshop is to give information, allow students to explore their fears, anxieties and expectations about

third level, offer guidance and support about studying at DCU and several of our students participated in the programme. The following 2nd year students were nominated by teachers to attend:

Leah Devlin	2 Markievicz
Roukayah Mutoola	2 Markievicz
Katie O' Reilly	2 Lynn
Meagan Pabualan	2 Lynn
Amy O' Connor	2 Sheehy
Aoife Hughes	2 Sheehy
Emma Flynn	2 Gifford
Annah Dillon	2 Gifford
Emma Yu Wang	2 O'Farrell
Jeannine Grierosu	2 O'Farrell



3rd Year

In January 3rd year students received the results of the CAT (Cognitive Ability Test) they sat in December. Each student had an individual session with a guidance counsellor to look at test result and subject choice.

The 3rd year parent evening took place on the 7th March. This was an opportunity for parents and students to find out about leaving cert options such as transition year, 5th 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.

TYs



TY students attended the Future Sparks Business and Entrepreneurial Fair in the Rds on 22nd March. It was an inspiring day where the girls attended uplifting and motivational talks from current bright sparks!

Four TY students attended extra work placements facilitated by DCU. Maja Grondzewska went to Google for one week. Ciara McKenna, Maria Zubascu and Georgia Walsh all spent a week at legal firm Arthur Cox. This was a fantastic opportunity for the students who represented us excellently.

On 18th April TYs attended a careers fair at St Michael's Holy Faith, Finglas. This was a joint venture organised by several schools in the area. Students were able to speak with representatives from many colleges. It was a great help to their senior cycle college research.

As part of the DCU UniTY programme TY students have undertaken modules including Smart Skills Multimedia, Employability and Student Empowerment. This is the first year the UniTY programme has run in St Mary's, culminating in an awards show on 25th April. It has been a great success with students winning awards in three categories.

On the 1st May, TY students attended the DCU Transition Year open day, a very informative experience. Students experience lectures and received campus tours.



5th Year

Five 5th year students, Hadeel Abbas, Eisha Munir, Bayan Basmage, Kerry Tynan and Amy Bernardos 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 with a DCU mentor. The students will continue with the 2nd year of Ufirst next year.

6th Year

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 5th-July 1st.



FETAC

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

6th 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 cert colleges have spoken to the students about options after 6th year.

A group of past pupils from several different colleges and courses have also spoken to the 6th 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. Their visits were a particular highlight for current 6th years.



We wish all of our 6th year students every success in their Leaving Certificate and look forward to linking in with them in mid-August for the results. Ms Sullivan will be available in August to support the students when they receive their results and later on when offers are being made.

Breakfast Club

This year St Mary's welcomed a new and improved breakfast club which ran daily from 8:10am-8:40am throughout the academic year in St Mary's kitchen.

The students benefited greatly as new foods were introduced including a selection of exotic fruits, cereals, cereal bars, yogurts and weekly treats. Junior and Leaving cycle students alike popped by to pick up a bite to eat, chat with fellow students and supervising teachers while preparing themselves for the day ahead. It was a huge success and we look forward to welcoming students, old and new in September 2018.

