



December 2016

A Message from the Principal

Welcome to the December Edition of St Mary's Newsletter. This online edition can be accessed through our Website and our School App. This newsletter, which is packed with reports and supporting photographs should give you an overview of what has been going on in St Mary's since September 2016, culminating in the Christmas Festivities which began on Thursday 8th December with our *Carols by Candlelight* in the Convent Chapel, followed closely by the release on iTunes of the single *Mary's Child*, composed by Ian Callanan and performed by our Schola Choir. As you are all probably aware, the single quickly rose to Number One in the Christian Charts, and all proceeds go directly to The Peter McVerry Trust, to help the homeless in our city. It is not too late to download your copy at <https://itunes.es/ie/ZxDSqb>. This link can be accessed on our own website at <http://www.stmaryshfcglasnevin.com/marys-child-released-on-itunes/>

It has indeed been an action packed term incorporating trips to Paris with the French Department, Spain with the Spanish Department, Germany with the German and History Departments alongside the myriad of TY outings that happen on a weekly basis. Our Basketball, Camogie, Gaelic Football and Hockey teams continue to go from strength to strength while Soccer and Volleyball are also becoming established as strong team sports here in St Mary's. With extra-curricular activities in abundance due to the selfless commitment of teachers in their own time, it is equally inspiring to witness the high standards of teaching and learning that continue to be a hallmark of the academic life of St Mary's.

Our first years have settled in well supported along the way by the genuine warmth of the St Mary's welcome. It is my earnest wish for them that they each feel sustained in the warmth of that welcome, and I hope that each member of the school community feels equally cherished and included as we move forward together.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank Sr Antoinette Keelan who retired this year as Chair to our Board of Management after twenty one years of selfless service to St Mary's, and on behalf of you all to wish her health and happiness in her retirement.

With sincere thanks to you all and wishing you health and happiness in 2017.

Bernadette Bourke

**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.

CONTENTS:

Principal's Address	1
German Department	2 - 4
French Department & CSPE	5—6
Transition Year	7-11
History Department	12—13
Religion Department	14-17
Green Schools	18
Science Department	19– 20
SPHE	21-22
Maths Department	23—25
Music Department	26—27
Roinn na Gaeilge	28
Art Department	29—34
Gardening Club	35
Education For Living	35
English Department & Library	36
Business Department	37-38
Sports and PE Dept	39— 46
Guidance & Counselling	47—52
Thanks	53

German and History Trip



Christmas Markets

German School Trip

The German and History departments eagerly anticipated this year's trip to the fascinating and vibrant cities of Munich and Nuremberg in December 2016. Students of German or History, along with their teachers, embarked on a four day adventure of historical and cultural cities. Excursions included a visit to Dachau Concentration camp, the Nuremberg Courts and Zeppelin Fields. Other activities involved a day trip to Salzburg, ice-skating and a shopping trip to the world-renowned Christmas markets. This was a fantastic opportunity for students to immerse themselves in German culture, history and language.

Ms Mc Manus



Zeppelin Fields- Nuremberg



Dachau Concentration Camp

German Department

CHEFKET – October 14th 2016

On Friday October 14th T.Y. German students attended the fantastic “Chefket” concert in Whelan’s as part of his tour of North West Europe. In conjunction with the Goethe Institut, the famous German rapper had us dancing and singing at the top of our lungs to his hit, “ich bin Rap, ich bin Soul, ich bin Jazz, Rock & Roll”. Vielen Dank Chefket!



Deutschmobil

Students of German in St. Mary’s enjoyed a wonderful experience on Tuesday October 18th, when they welcomed Katharina from the *Deutschmobil* to their school. The *Deutschmobil*, a touring bus and the initiative of German Connects, has been visiting schools and other educational institutions throughout the country as part of their language campaign to foster the learning of the German language throughout Ireland.

Our first, second and transition year students were very fortunate to welcome this unique event to the school and were treated to a morning of German language and cultural activities not to be forgotten. German music, cultural quizzes, map-work and interactive vocabulary learning games were just a few of the many versatile, student-motivating activities included., Colourful teaching materials were used to enthuse and encourage the girls to learn more about the language and culture of Germany .



The programme is an initiative by the German Embassy and the Goethe-Institut Irland, and is developed in close association with key Irish educational institutions and business. With a growing demand for high levels of language skills from domestic, Irish-based German companies in Ireland, this is the perfect time to learn German!



TY students working on their German song



1st years - having fun learning the German words for the animals

German School Trip

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

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

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



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

The last day we visited Dachau. On March 22, 1933, a few weeks after Adolf Hitler had been appointed Reich Chancellor, a concentration camp for political prisoners was set up in Dachau. The camp served as a model for all concentration camps as a "school of violence" for the SS men who ran it stood. In the twelve years of its existence over 200,000 persons from all over Europe were imprisoned there, including one Irish man! More than 43,000 people died. The tour was a moment to remember the horror and to never forget the innocent people who died there. On April 29 1945, American troops liberated the survivors. The last event on our tour was the all-important time for shopping and then we started our journey home.

Students: "The salt mines and the ice-skating, over all a great experience." "The overall experience and getting to see a different side to our teachers." "Christmas markets and seeing the court where the Nazis were held accountable for their actions." "Mr Montague pulling me down when he fell on the ice." "When we were ice-skating and Mr. Farrell was falling and he grabbed a German girl and fell over." "Every minute of the trip, thanks to Ms. McManus and Ms. Hayes for organising it all!!!"

Mr P Farrell

French Department



Voyage Scolaire à Paris 2016

On the 6th of October 2016, thirty-six students from second to sixth year travelled to Paris for four very memorable days. It was a unique opportunity for students to practise French in its native setting and to savour various aspects of French culture and history.

On the first day in Paris, we took a seat on the deck of the Bateau Parisien and sailed down the River Seine to admire the architectural treasures and the breath-taking views of the city. That same evening, we had dinner on the Champs-Élysées, the world-famous boulevard which the French call, 'La plus belle avenue du monde'.

The second day began with our local guide bringing us on a tour around Paris to visit the city's most famous sites. Our tour ended in front of the largest and most famous museum in the world, Le Louvre. Here we had the opportunity to see some of the most famous Neo Classical and Renaissance paintings and sculptures, including the most renowned painting by Leonardo da Vinci "Mona Lisa". That evening we visited The Cathedral of Notre-Dame, had ice-cream while walking around The Ile de la Cité and went to Paris's Hard Rock Café for our evening meal.

The third day was a whole day in Disneyland Resort Paris!!

Our final day in Paris began with a walk up the steps of Le Sacré-Coeur. Following that we visited the fabulous Chateau de Versailles, the former residence of the Court of France!

We ended our adventurous few days in Les Quatre Temps Shopping Centre, the largest shopping centre in Paris where we got our last-minute souvenirs!

The thirty-six girls who travelled to Paris were an absolute treasure; they were a credit to the school. We had an amazing four days exploring the wonderful city of Paris and practising our French along the way. I know the girls had an incredible amount of fun on this trip and have brought home many memories. They will remember it for years to come.

A big thank you as well to the teachers who accompanied us on this trip. They made it even more memorable: Ms. Murphy, Mr. Farrell and Ms. Murray.

Merci à tous,
Ms. Shanahan

Voyage Scolaire à Paris 2016



CSPE Department

On Monday 21st November, Mr. Noel Rock, a TD for Dublin North-West, came to talk to class 3 Amber about the Dáil and Democracy. Noel Rock is one of the youngest TDs in the Dáil and he really engaged with the students. Noel told the students about his own journey from leaving school to being elected to the Dáil. The students were fascinated by his story and they were amazed that he had worked for Hillary Clinton. Noel also told the students about the workings of the Dáil and how bills are debated and passed. The students really enjoyed his visit to the class.

Ms. O. O'Keeffe



Transition Year

Transition Year

Our four Transition Year classes this year are named after celebrated Irish authors- Eavan Boland, Brian Friel, Samuel Beckett and Anne Enright. We are happy to say that all four classes are living up their names and are bringing great creativity, energy and talent to the year's activities. Some of the highlights so

Causey Farm

We kicked off our year with a fun day out in Causey Farm, Co. Meath, where the girls got to bond through farm based activities. Each class worked together to bake loaves of bread from scratch, which the students got to bring home at the end of the day. We also got to meet some of the residents of the farm, including adorable little puppies and piglets. To top the day off we travelled to the bog and the students spent an enjoyable afternoon throwing themselves in with gusto! The bus journey home was, unsurprisingly, a quiet one after all of those activities!



Transition Year

Charity Work

Trick or Treat for Temple Street

Charity work is a very important part of Transition Year and we were delighted to team up with Temple Street and their annual 'Trick or Treat' fundraiser. In late October, we spent the day in various locations around the city centre collecting money for vital equipment that is urgently needed in the hospital. Despite the cold weather the students made a great effort in dressing up and raised a staggering total of €2,785.80. We are so proud of this achievement. Well done girls.



1916 Bus Tour

Another highlight of the year so far was the trip around Dublin on the 1916 Freedom Bus Tour. This was such a fun way to learn about the events of Easter Week. The bus tour took in all of the significant rebel held buildings and we even stopped along the way to have a closer look at some of them. The tour guide showed us replicas of the guns and ammunition used at the time as well as the uniforms worn by the rebels.

See page 12 for more photos.

Zeminar

In October the Transition Year students were fortunate enough to attend Zeminar in the RDS. This is an event created specifically for young people. It involved speakers from charities, mental health experts, sports personalities and many more. The whole aim of Zeminar is to help young people become more active in society and to encourage them to reach their goals. On the day the girls attended talks by Jim Breen from Cycle Against Suicide and James McAreavey, founder of the Michaela Foundation. They also attended a workshop by the rugby player James Downey.

Ms. C. Warren and Ms. G. Shanahan

T.Y. Co-ordinators

Transition Year

TY Students Get Creative In D.C.U.

TY classes Boland and Enright have been busy since September planning, shooting and editing their videos for their Multimedia classes. This course is run in conjunction with DCU who lend us their expertise and support us in allowing us to visit. Third level Multimedia students guide our TY students through the editing process using their Macbook Pros on D.C.U.'s campus. The students learned a lot on what was a very interesting and enjoyable journey. I saw many budding directors and actors emerge. The final videos produced by the teams were excellent. They will be uploaded onto Youtube and will be entered into a competition run by DCU where the best films from North Dublin will be chosen later on in the year. 4 Beckett and 4 Friel will be starting the course in January, 2017.

Mr. P. Montague



Gaisce - The Irish President's Award

The President's Award is a three-tiered personal development programme challenge from the President of Ireland for young people aged fifteen to twenty-five. It is a self-directed personal development programme for young people in the Non-Formal Education sector. This year students in fourth year have been given the opportunity to challenge for the Bronze Gaisce Medal. Forty-five pupils have taken up the challenge! The Bronze Medal takes a minimum of twenty-six weeks. If all four requirements of the challenge are completed by the student, she will receive a medal and certificate from Gaisce.

There are four areas of involvement:

- 1) **Community Involvement:** 1 hour per week over 13 weeks
- 2) **Personal Skill:** 1 hour per week over 13 weeks
- 3) **Physical Recreation:** 1 hour per week over 13 weeks

When the student completes thirteen weeks they must complete another thirteen weeks in one of the three areas which adds to twenty-six weeks.

- 4) **Adventure Activity:** Planning, preparing and undertaking a two days/one night Adventure Journey camping and hiking (22km) fulfils this requirement.

What's it all about? It's about challenging yourself.

Gaisce - the President's Award works on the basis of a personal challenge set by the participant. The participant will set the challenge and get the agreement of a President's Award leader (PAL). Participants don't compete with other participants as each challenge is completely individual, so the only person you compete with is yourself.

Best of luck to all the participants. Let's hope they all achieve their award!!!

Mr. Farrell

Transition Year

Team Hope Shoebox Appeal

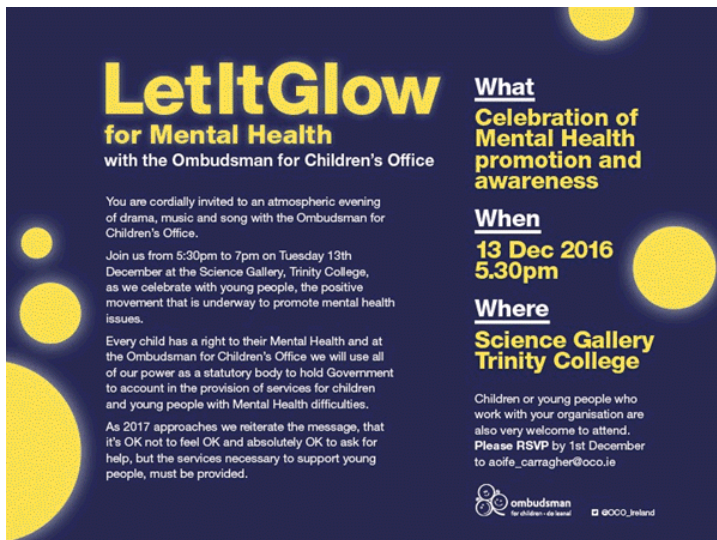
This year a small group of T.Y. students co-ordinated the shoebox appeal in the school. This involved promoting the charity, collecting money and organizing the shoeboxes for collection. These shoeboxes were sent to areas in Africa and Eastern Europe, to be opened by children who otherwise would not receive any Christmas presents. We also volunteered for a day in the warehouse getting shoeboxes ready to be shipped off. This involved wrapping boxes in Christmas paper and checking that each box had enough 'wow' items in it, such as toys and sweets. It was great to know that our involvement would help to make Christmas special for a child somewhere in the world.

Ms. C. Warren and Ms. G. Shanahan

T.Y. Co-ordinators



Transition Year



LetItGlow
for Mental Health
with the Ombudsman for Children's Office

You are cordially invited to an atmospheric evening of drama, music and song with the Ombudsman for Children's Office.

Join us from 5:30pm to 7pm on Tuesday 13th December at the Science Gallery, Trinity College, as we celebrate with young people, the positive movement that is underway to promote mental health issues.

Every child has a right to their Mental Health and at the Ombudsman for Children's Office we will use all of our power as a statutory body to hold Government to account in the provision of services for children and young people with Mental Health difficulties.



As 2017 approaches we reiterate the message, that it's OK not to feel OK and absolutely OK to ask for help, but the services necessary to support young people, must be provided.

What
Celebration of Mental Health promotion and awareness

When
13 Dec 2016
5.30pm

Where
Science Gallery
Trinity College

Children or young people who work with your organisation are also very welcome to attend.
Please RSVP by 1st December to aoife_carragher@oco.ie

LetItGlow Celebration

Congratulations to our wonderful TY students who participated in the LetItGlow Celebration of Mental Health Promotion and Awareness in the Science Gallery on Tuesday 13th December 2016. This inspirational event was hosted by the Ombudsman for Children's Office in association with Cycle against Suicide.

The girls performed their own drama piece devised with the help of Ms O'Doherty which conveyed the message that

It is ok not to feel ok and it is absolutely ok to ask for help



The LetItGlow Team with The Ombudsman for Children, Dr. Niall Muldoon.



The team got their message across brilliantly in their devised drama piece inspired by the message that 'it is ok not to feel ok and it is absolutely ok to ask for help'.



Solo performance 'Last Night on Earth'.



History Department

1 Sheehy

Well done to class 1 Sheehy who, even though it was dress up day and we had clowns, zombies and a range of animals in the class, presented their Mesolithic and Neolithic houses as part of their Christmas assessment. The girls all worked in groups, designing their models and presenting them in front of the class sharing many different facts and details. The assessment was worth 10% of their Christmas exams. Well done again girls.



2 Connolly

Well done to Class 2 Connolly who completed their Age of Exploration Model assessment and improved their oral skills by presenting their model to the class explaining different functions and parts of Caravels, hour glasses, astrolabes and quadrants. The assignment was worth 10% of their Christmas Exams. The students also wrote and preformed their own 'Reformation Rap' songs detailing the Reformation and the life of Martin Luther.

6th Year

Well done to 6th year Leaving Cert. students who have begun the process of their Research Study Report project. This report is worth 20% of their Leaving Certificate history

grade and students will begin writing their research into the official booklets in December. Titles chosen by students include: Tutankhamun and his reformation in Ancient Egypt, The Grand Sasso Raid, The fall of the Berlin Wall, The role of Nocolas Winton in the Kindertransport from Czechoslovakia and the Aranmore Disaster. Well done to all students for their hard work and dedication thus far.

Ms. O.A. Griffin

T.Y. History

All T.Y. students visited Glasnevin Cemetery where they were given a tour of the cemetery and a brief history of the notable figures buried there. Students were fascinated to learn about Cholera Pits and grave diggers. Then, following the extensive coverage of the 1916 Rising last year, students were moved to see the graves of Michael Collins, Arthur Griffith and Eamonn De Valera. It was a great day.

1916 Freedom Tour

TYs had another busy day on September 21st when all students went on the '1916 Freedom Tour', a very informative bus tour exploring the key locations of 1916 Dublin and highlighting landmarks and areas where battles took place.



History Department



2 McDermott “Age of Exploration” models by Mazzy Hollerith

For this term, second year students are learning about the Age of Exploration in History, and about different voyages and explorers.

As part of this topic, they have been assigned a project, to recreate the tools which were used during the Age of Exploration. Each student chose one of the tools and had a chance to really make the tools come to life!

Students presented their projects to their classmates telling them what they had learned about the Age of Exploration and how they had made their tools. There were many different materials used to make some pretty awesome projects! Some students who created hour glasses used recycled bottles and sand and stuck them together, which looked really accurate! There were also caravels. Some students used lollipops sticks and designed sails, making their miniature ships look realistic. Other projects were the log and line and line and lead which involved string usually with something attached to it. Christopher Columbus’s log book was also made. It contained the information that Christopher Columbus had discovered and some humorous statements added to make it interesting. The quadrant and the astrolabe were projects which were challenging to create, but were made brilliantly using different materials and gold paint. It is clear that my classmates put a lot of hard work and time into them.

All the projects proved to be very enjoyable to look at and everyone was impressed with each other’s designs. Many students had fun listening to their classmates talk about their projects and it was an exciting new learning experience for everyone!

Mr. P. Montague

Religion Department



THE SCHOOL MASS 2016

Our School Mass took place on Friday, 23rd of September, in Mother of Divine Grace Church. Once again, Fr Richard led the liturgy for us. The theme chosen this year centred on “Our Talents” and was based on the inspirational words of Pope Francis :

“Do not bury your talents, the gifts that God has given you! Do not be afraid to dream of great things”.

Mr Farrell addressed the congregation at the beginning of Mass, explaining the theme as the members of the Ember Team placed symbols at the altar representing some of the many talents we have. They were then presented with their Ember Badges by Mr Coll, to acknowledge the completion of their training in Peer Faith Leadership.

The readings were read by the Head Girl, Kelly Fowler and Deputy Head Girl, Chloe Dalton. This was followed by the Gospel and Fr Richard’s homily on how many talents we have and how they enhance our lives and our school community.

After the Prayers of the Faithful, each First Year class placed a picture of the inspirational woman it was called after, on the altar. These women are: Countess Markievicz; Grace Gifford; Elizabeth O’Farrell; Hannah Sheehy-Skeffington and Kathleen Lynn. While they did this, two of their fellow students, read out a brief history of each woman and how we can learn from the gifts and talents they showed in their lives. Another inspirational woman, St. Teresa of Calcutta, was acknowledged in the Communion Reflection.

The ceremony for Commissioning of the Prefects changed this year. Kelly and Chloe read out quotes about the qualities and characteristics that the First Year students felt Prefects should possess. The Prefects were then called to the altar where they were presented with their badges by the Captains of each class they look after.

Once again this year, Fr Richard commissioned new Ministers of the Eucharist during a short ceremony on the altar and these Ministers, both staff and students, proceeded to give our Holy Communion.

As always the choir, under the direction of Ms O’Rourke and Mr Coll, greatly enhanced the Mass with its beautiful singing. We would like to thank everyone who helped to make our Beginning of School Year Mass such a special occasion, in particular, Fr Richard, Ms Bourke, Ms O’Donnell, Sr Irene in Our Lady of Dolours church, the staff and all of the students who took part.

Ms. L Bohan

Religion Department

Team Hope Shoe Box Appeal

A group of fourth year students organized the Team Shoe Box Appeal again this year. All students and staff were invited to fill shoe boxes. Once again the generosity of the students and staff was outstanding.

Team Hope sends hundreds of thousands of shoebox gifts to poor children in Africa and Eastern Europe. The Shoe Boxes that are sent show God's care for the less fortunate in Africa and Eastern Europe and they bring a ray of hope with lots of excitement and laughter on Christmas Day. The girls also went to the Team Hope warehouse to help sort and package the Shoe Box gifts.

Well done to the fourth year students in showing their care for others by organising this appeal. **Mr. Farrell**

Pastoral Care – 6th Year Mentoring Programme.

Sixth year students who signed up to the Mentoring Programme have been meeting with their mentors over the last few months.

The programmes objectives are:

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

This programme will help encourage academic success for the students as a teacher will meet with each of them throughout the year. They will set their goals and ensure they are being realistic in achieving them. It will also help the students in learning valuable study tips.

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

Mr. Farrell

November Remembrance Service.

“Death ends a life, not a relationship”

During the days of November, as daylight shrinks in the Northern Hemisphere and frost turns the vegetation brown, we recall the sense of loss we have experienced by the deaths of those we have loved. People in the Southern Hemisphere are bathed in sunlight and warmth reminding us of our dear departed who died in the hope of breathing the exhilarating welcoming air of Heaven and of gazing upon the Glory of God. Wherever we find ourselves in November we hold hands across the globe in memory, tribute and prayer for all our loved ones who have died.

During November we held a prayer service to remember our loved ones who have passed away. The theme of this year's prayer service was, “Death ends a life, not a relationship”. We placed the names of our departed loved ones on the remembrance tree aware that the tree is bare but it will be full of new life in a few short months.



Religion Department

St Mary's Ember Team 2016-2017



Ember Team Training Avoca September 2016

This year's Ember Team is made up of ten Sixth Years: Emma Bolger, Abbie O'Leary, Neave D'Souza, Rachel Watters, Czarinah Bulaclac, Sona Shiji, Nidhi Shiji, Joanna John, Kate Stringer and Allannah Beatty.

They took part in three days of training in Ovoca Manor in Avoca Co. Wicklow. At the end of the training the team was commissioned by Bishop Eamon Walsh.

The purpose of the Ember Team members is to be Faith Leaders in our School community. Their aim is to be a peer witnesses to faith and to uphold the values and ethos of our school. The students aim to help our school community grow in faith and continue to develop and live out our ethos.

Mr. Coll

Religion Department



Ember Team Lead Workshop at National RE Congress 2016 - Maynooth

Congratulations to our sixth year Ember Team who were invited to participate in the Religious Education Congress 2016 on the topic of 'Social Justice in Action'. The R.E. Congress is an annual gathering of R.E. teachers and chaplains from around the country. This year it was held in St Patrick's College, Maynooth, Co Kildare, on Saturday 1st October. The theme for the congress 2016 was 'Connect! Communicate! Celebrate! Ceangail! Cumarsáid! Ceiliúradh!

Our Ember team facilitated the workshop on 'Social Justice in Action' and the post workshop Q&A session.

There was great feedback on the team's input. Well done to the team who put in a lot of effort into preparing their presentation. They represented the Ember Programme and St. Mary's, Holy Faith Glasnevin, very well.

Mr. Coll



Margaret Aylward Day 2016

We celebrated Margaret Aylward Day in the school on Wednesday 23rd November. Margaret was the foundress of the Holy Faith Order and she was born on the 23rd of November 1810. The Ember team had an information pack for each student in each tutor folder to mark the day. Her founding vision was born in the context of the poverty and related proselytism of post famine Ireland. Her profound appreciation of the gift of Faith, her active compassion for the poor and her conviction of the role of the family in nurturing the dignity of each child, inspired all her undertakings.

The information sheet was used in all R.E. classes that day as the students got to know more about Margaret Aylward.

Mr. C. Coll

Green Schools

Green Schools Ambassador Programme

It was an honour for Anne Fabian and me to attend the training day of the Green Schools Ambassador programme on the 23rd of November, with our supporting teacher, Ms. Wilson.

We were able to gain valuable information on the theme of water. We learned about water pollution, water quality testing, water saving techniques, virtual water, marine litter and water treatment.

We learned that water is a crucial aspect of our lives, not only for drinking and washing but for industry, agriculture and for making almost all types of products. Our demand has grown to the point that the natural water cycle can no longer keep up. We learned about the long journey our water takes before it comes to our taps, clean and fresh.

We went on a very interesting trip to Ringsend Wastewater Treatment plant where we saw stages of water treatment and we were informed about the water treatment stages that happen at Ringsend.

Overall we had a great day. We became more aware of the importance of water and issues surrounding this resource.



Walk On Wednesdays

A big thank you to all parents and guardians who have been encouraging their children to Walk On Wednesdays in 2016. We are hoping to get our fourth Green Flag this May and these Walk On Wednesdays are helping Saint Mary's achieve that goal. We had a visit from the Green Schools organisers, An Taisce, in October. They were very happy with the progress that has been made. They said that fewer students are being driven to school. This has reduced the congestion outside the school gate, reducing the risk of accidents, for your children. Thanks to your efforts, Saint Mary's Holy Faith is helping to reduce carbon emissions which cause climate change.

Mr Montague.



Science Department

Science Week 2016

On Wednesday 16th November at lunchtime, the science teachers Ms. O'Keeffe and Ms. O'Donnell hosted Science Day in the upstairs lab. The room was set up in three different stations: a physics station at the back of the room where Ms. O'Keeffe did cool experiments, a kidney dissection station and a heart dissecting station.

At the physics station Ms. O'Keefe conducted really awesome experiments, inflating a balloon inside a glass bottle and crushing a coke can using compressed air.

At the kidney and heart dissecting stations, Ms. O'Donnell and sixth years helped us to dissect and learn more about the organs .

Everyone there really enjoyed it and we all learned something from it, whether it was about hearts being able to pump blood around the body in a few seconds or about how physics doesn't always go the way you want it to.

All in all it was a really great experience and we owe it to all to the teachers and students who organised the day and we hope to do something similar again.

Julia Slaby and Sofia Balog



First term in the Science Department is always a busy affair. Our senior biology students completed their long ecology module. Lucky for them we have fantastic grounds in which to carry out all of their mandatory practical activities.

A new initiative this year saw our first year students trial each of the option subjects for the first term before deciding on their preference. Here are some pictures of what happened in the science classes. The students made reliefs of the internal structure of cells to aid their understanding of this topic. They may have had some fun too!

Ms. R. McCormack



Science Department

BT Young Scientist



Congratulations to our three students from fifth year: Divya Kripakaran, Sherine Shibhu and Thaara Rose Wilson who have succeeded into getting into the BT Young Scientist competition which will be held in the RDS in January. The title of the students' study is, *'Does Using a Lift Have a Negative Impact on the Health of Teenage Girls?'* The students have been busy recruiting volunteers to take part in the study. Half of the volunteers will be allowed to take the lift for three weeks and the other half will continue to use the stairs. The students' blood pressure, heart rate, lung capacity and fitness levels have been recorded and will be recorded again at the end of the three week period. The students wonder if they will see a difference in the fitness levels of the volunteers before and after the study period.

Best of luck to the students in January.

Ms. O'Keeffe

Reelscience Competition

Well done to Anthea Agudo, Sherlyn Sam and Darlene Penamora from transition year who entered the "Reelscience" competition. They produced a video about how our galaxy works. Unfortunately the girls narrowly missed out on a prize due to the extremely high standard of the competition.

Science Week:

Fifth year physics students made a 3 D hologram. This 3D image can be viewed without 3D glasses.

Third year science students investigated how a convex lens can be used to boil water. **Ms. R.**

McCormack



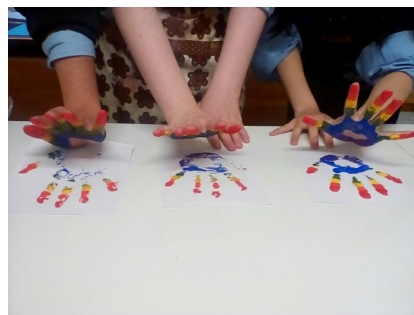
E-learning from nature

The Science Department continues to engage this year in a Pan-European ERASMUS project to contribute to the area of 'E-learning from Nature'. At this point, two e-learning videos have been made regarding teaching and learning through the chemistry and biology of nature in the grounds of the school with transition year.

Crystal Growing Competition

Good luck to the students taking part in the national crystal growing competition run by the Synthesis and Solid State Pharmaceutical Centre. The aim of the competition is for an individual student to grow a single crystal using either salt (sodium chloride), alum, sugar or copper sulphate. Those entering will be judged by an international panel of judges who are experts in crystallisation and crystallography. **Mr. E. Carr**

SPHE Department



Stand Up Week November 11th-18th

Stand Up Week is an annual national event, supported by the Department of Education. It encourages students to stand up against homophobic bullying and to support the LGBT community. This year it coincided with Science week.

St Mary's Transition year students took part in a cross-curricular science and SPHE activity. Students learned the names of the bones in their hand and arm and created fun rainbow hand mono prints to decorate the school. They wrote positive messages of support on the palms of the hand prints for the school community. These were put together in a display at reception for all the school community to see. Meanwhile in SPHE and senior cycle Religion classes during the week, lessons were taught on various topics relating to LGBT+ awareness.

The staff also took part. Each member wore a colour from the rainbow on Friday, November 18th. We gathered in our colours as a rainbow flag and had our picture taken at breaktime. There was a really wonderful atmosphere and great sense of collegiality. A big thanks to everyone for getting involved.

Ms. N. Cunningham



SPHE Department



Diversity and Culture Celebration

To celebrate cultural diversity within the school, we organised a world culture day in conjunction with the SPHE department. It was a day in which the school community learned more about the many cultures in the school and developed a more profound understanding of one another.

To launch the event, students from all year groups were asked to bring in a sample of their traditional food. A vast variety of delicious foods were presented on the day.

Students were also asked to prepare a performance. The audience was exposed to a flurry of vivid colours and different kinds of music. The atmosphere was amazing as we established bonds with each other. Our first multicultural experience was when we were first years, so it was very nostalgic to be doing it again. To see all the participants dressed in traditional clothing, parading in the fashion show was a sight to behold and we learned more about everyone's cultural identity. We really hope that this event will continue long after we've left the school as it is such a memorable and enjoyable day.

Olive Kirby, 6th year. Queenie Celedra, 6th year. Nidhi Shiji, 6th year. Sona Shiji, 6th year

Maths Department

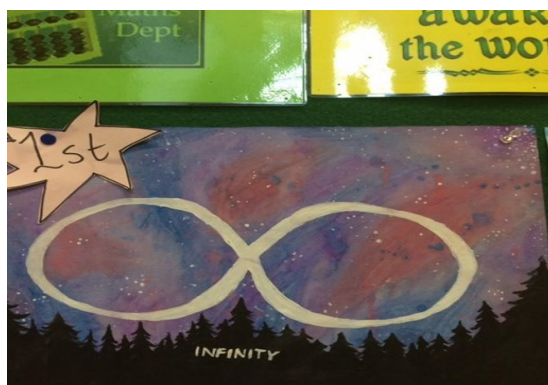
The Maths Department and students in the school had an exciting first term. The following events took place in the Maths Department during the first term:

Maths Week: Maths week was celebrated in St. Mary's in Mid-October. Our first day of Maths Week got off to a great start as the whole school community was involved (even teachers!) in 'Mental Maths Monday' from 8.55am-9.10am. During this time, all students enhanced their numeracy skills by attempting maths puzzles. There were numerous activities for junior and senior students throughout the week. The winners of the "Mental Maths Monday" were: 1st Place: Fergie Oller and Alyssa Simbulan (6th Year), 2nd Place: Sarah Hanlon and Jessica Wolasewicz and 3rd Place: Molly Beatty and Jodie Moore. Well done girls!

First Years – All first year took part in a maths trail around the Botanic garden. The aim of the Maths trail was to give students the opportunity to work as part of a team and to develop their problem solving skills. The winning team members were: Allie King, Aoife Hughes, Aoife Skully and Rugile Auskalynte. Well done girls!



Poster competition: There was a huge entry for the unique infinite poster competition. The standard was so high again this year that we awarded eight places instead of three. 1st Place was awarded to Rheanne Robles. Congratulations to all the girls on their fabulous posters.



Second Years – A table quiz was organised for all second year students with the help of some T.Y. students in the Choir Hall. The students worked in teams and there were many differentiated Maths questions in the various rounds. The teams were very competitive.

Third and Sixth Years—Students from these years took part in a Bingo Bonanza, Students got the opportunity to have fun playing bingo while also revising key skills from topics such as probability and geometry.

Fifth Years—Fifth years watching the film '21' in the choir hall and thoroughly enjoyed it!



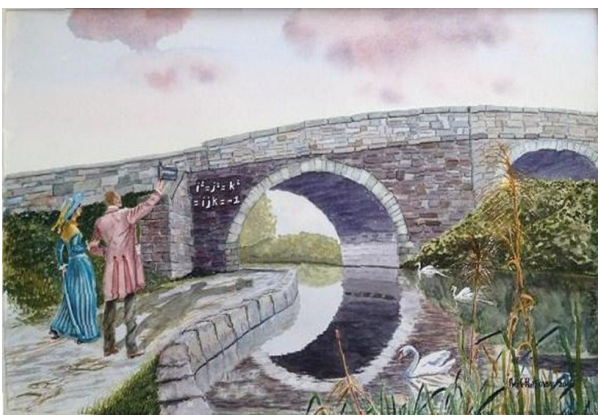
Maths Department



Transition Years—the TY's had the opportunity to take part in two maths events during maths week. At the beginning of the week, some of the TY's participated in Neil Hanlon's play called 'An October Resolution' about the life of William Hamilton. The students who took part were: Claire Mulcahy, Nicole Ledden, Julia Suska and Mylene Hayes. The girl's acting was fantastic and they had the privilege of performing it to Neil Hanlon himself.



And last but not least, St Mary's was privileged to receive a beautiful painting by Neil Hanlon depicting the Irish mathematician, William Hamilton's moment when he came up with his famous equation which created quaternions. Neil's talents have no limit in all fields! Thank you Neil.



All TY students also took part in the Marshmallow challenge. The Marshmallow Challenge is a remarkably fun and instructive design exercise that encourages teams to experience simple but profound lessons in collaboration, geometry and creativity. The task is simple: in eighteen minutes, teams must build the tallest free-standing structure out of 20 sticks of spaghetti, one yard of tape, one yard of string and one marshmallow. The marshmallow needs to be on top. The girls all worked so well.



Members of the two teams that built the tallest free-standing structures

Music Department

Choir - Opening Academic Year Mass

On September 23rd the school community celebrated the opening of our academic year, in Ballygall parish church. The theme of this year's mass was "Our Talents". The choir focused on pieces of music that celebrated this theme, a number of songs were from the Emmanuel programme. For our new members this was their first time to sing with the school choir so this was a great experience for them. It was a taste of things to come for them. Many of the first years also did solos which was great to see. Well done to all our members, for their dedication and commitment .

Carols by Candlelight 2016 - Convent Chapel. And, Annual School Carol Service.

This December the convent chapel was the beautiful setting for 'Carols by Candlelight'. The school choir and the Schola Choir performed a night of Christmas carols and festive music for parents, staff, Holy Faith sisters and members of the local community. This was the second year of "Carols by Candlelight" and it has quickly become an evening not to be missed on the lead up to Christmas.



Culture Night 2016

The school choir was invited by the Holy Faith Sisters to sing in the Margaret Aylward Centre as part of Culture Night 2016. During the evening, between different talks and walks in the convent grounds, the choir sang to entertain the many people who attended. Other highlights of the evening were: the tour of Glasnevin House, The Home of Lindsay of Lindsay Road, led by Sr. Vivienne Keely, author of *Glasnevin House, A Sense of Place*, and a short talk by Peter Clarke on the Graves and Grave Yards of Glasnevin and Drumcondra – *Gone but not Forgotten*.



School Choir are Special Guests at Christmas Concert in Our Lady of Dolours Church, Glasnevin.

On the 6th of December, the choir was invited to perform with the *Diva Voces Choir* at the Christmas concert in Our Lady Of Dolours church, Glasnevin. This has become an annual event in the local community as a way of celebrating the true meaning of Christmas.

Mr Coll, Ms O'Rourke.

Music Department

DCU Access Achievement Awards Night.

Twenty third year students were honoured at the DCU Access Awards Ceremony in the Helix on the 29th of November. They received awards for achievements in the areas of: Academic, Arts and Culture, Community Spirit and Sport. Entertainment on the evening was provided by students from the eighteen schools participating. St Mary's was proudly represented by Casey Harris and Lauryn McCausland, and Mr. Coll provided piano accompaniment for all the acts performing.



Mr Coll, Ms O'Rourke.

Schola Choir release Christmas Single, "Mary's Child", on iTunes

On Friday the 2nd of December, the Schola Choir recorded "Mary's Child" composed by Irish composer Ian Callanan. On same day a video was shot to accompany the piece. The track is available on iTunes and all the proceeds of the single will go to the Peter McVerry Trust to help the homeless this Christmas. The choir are delighted to use its talents in a way that can make a difference to the homeless this Christmas.



Music Department



Schola Choir Invited to sing at DCU Incorporation Event - 22nd November 2016

On 1st October 2016, St Patrick's College Drumcondra, Mater Dei Institute of Education and Church of Ireland College of Education were formally incorporated into DCU. The process has resulted in the creation of the new DCU Institute of Education. St Mary's Schola Choir was honoured to be invited to perform at the star studded 'Evening of Celebration to mark the Historic and Successful Completion of Incorporation'. The finale of the evening was a performance of Leonard Cohen's 'Hallelujah' by our Schola Choir (led by soloist Casey Harris), the DCU Lumen Chorale, the Laetare Vocal Ensemble and the DCU Campus Choirs. An Taoiseach Enda Kenny and Minister of Education and Skills Richard Bruton were in attendance and met with the choir after the concert. **Mr Coll, Ms O'Rourke.**



Roinn na Gaeilge

An Ciorcal Comhrá/An Club Gaeilge (Bliain a 1)



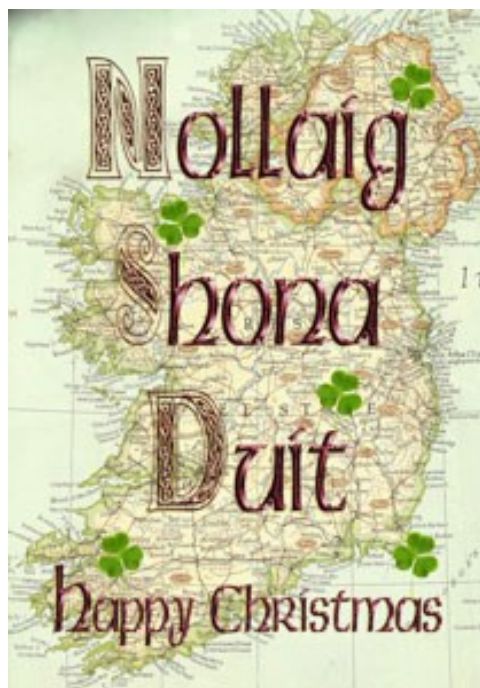
Bíonn sé ar siúl sa Seomra Urnaí ag am lóin gach seachtain. Tá 40% ag dul do bhéaltriail na hArdteiste anois. Tá labhairt na Gaeilge an-tábhachtach! Tugann sé seans mhaith do na cailíní chun an Ghaeilge a labhairt. Tagann Bliain a 1 go dtí an club. Déanann muid cluichí teanga, biongó agus cartaí. *'Tá an t-atmaisféar go hiontach sa chlub!'* a dúirt Leah Devlin (1 Markievicz: An Coiste Ghaelbhreach) *'Is aoibhinn liom a bheith ag caint as Gaeilge sa chlub!'* a dúirt Jodie Moore (1 Gifford: An Coiste Ghaelbhreach) Maith sibh go léir!

Gaeilge 24

Dé Máirt seo chaite an 15ú lá Samhain, ghlac an dara bhliain páirt sa dúshlán 'Gaeilge 24'. Lá iontach a bhí ann agus bhí go leor Gaeilge á labhairt ar gach duine ar an lá – daltaí agus múinteoirí san áireamh. Bhí t-léinte á chaitheamh ag muintir na dara bhliana don lá agus bhí céilí ar siúl le linn an rang Gaeilge. Comh maith leis an dara bhliain, d'eagraigh an choiste Gaelbhreach céilí ag am lóin d'éinne eile a bhí suim acu páirt a ghlacadh. D'éirigh go hiontach leis an lá ina iomlán agus táimid ag súil go mór le páirt a ghlacadh an bhliain seo chugainn arís.

On Tuesday, the 15th of November, the Second Year students took part in the 'Speak Irish for Twenty Four Hours' challenge. It was a wonderful day and a great deal of Irish was spoken by both students and teachers. The second year group sported T-shirts for the day and attended a céilí during their Irish class. As well as second years, the 'Gaelbhreach' committee organised a céilí at lunchtime for everyone else who wished to take part. The day as a whole was a great success and we are already looking forward to next year.

Ms.C.Salmon: Roinn na Gaeilge



Art Department

Leaving Certificate art students are preparing for their practical craftwork exams. They will be the last year group to take the existing Leaving Certificate examination, as next year students will complete the revised art exam. Sixth year students have created work in graphic design, calligraphy, ceramics and block printing based on their primary source visual interpretations of themes.

Ms. C Kavanagh



Fifth year

Fifth year art students have had two art trips this term as part of their Art History Curriculum. The first trip back in September saw them visit Dublin City Centre to explore Georgian Dublin, experience public art up close and visit one of our National Galleries, The Hugh Lane, where they had a wonderful tour that included the studio and work of Francis Bacon. In October they also visited "Sculpture in Context" at the National Botanic Gardens and used this as visual research for their art appreciation studies.

We got a coach to town, to Parliament House on College Green. We took pictures of it from across the road and then we went over and examined the architecture. We went inside and were given a great tour by John of 'The House of Lords' as well as behind the scenes.

We then made our way to the Hugh Lane Gallery on Parnell Square where we had a really interesting guided tour. We got to see Francis Bacon's studio which had been moved from its original location in London to the gallery in Dublin. Everything was moved really carefully, even the walls and ceiling and put back in the exact position!

We also went to see the 'Sculpture in Context Exhibition' at the National Botanic Gardens. Firstly we visited the gallery space upstairs where the more delicate sculptures were exhibited. Then we went outside and split into groups. We went about taking notes, sketching and getting a good look at the bigger sculptures. It was a really enjoyable experience.

Ms.Kavanagh, Ms.Cunningham and Ms.Geraghty



Art Department

First Year

First year students took part in the new subject sampling system in St Mary's this year. Having had a taster of all subjects, they made their selections before the mid-term break and started studying their subject choices the beginning of November. We now have two fabulous art classes in first year, brimming with talent and enthusiasm. This was evident in their "Doodle 4 Google" project that all art students took part in.

Doing the "Doodle for Google" was amazing but also a hard project. We started by researching lots of inventions together in class, for example we looked at glasses and what impact they had had on our lives. We then made mind maps based on our research of inventions and came up with ideas for our very own inventions. We based our plans for these inventions on our personal primary source object drawings. We then picked our favourite idea for the tricky but fun theme, 'If I could create anything...' and used expressive typography to show our ideas. The art students wrote and drew the word google in so many different ways. It was a great experience and we are grateful that we got to take part. All the Doodles were displayed on the first floor corridor. Unfortunately only six Doodles could be submitted to the competition, three were sent in from each art class. Congratulations to all who took part and the following students whose work was submitted: Rheanne Robles, Meagan Pabualan, Jennifer Ta, Angelica Aguilar, Zinaida Nestor and Sofia Balog.

Ms Cunningham, Ms Kavanagh.



Eve Keely and Suzie Russell, 1st Year Gifford



Art Department



#STATEOFTHEART

On October 26th Art students across the country took part in a day of action to campaign for full reform of the Leaving Certificate Art Curriculum. The campaign asked the Minister to make our curriculum 'State of the Art' and the St. Mary's art department prepared cross-curricular lesson ideas fit for the twenty-first century.

Our students participated in these lessons led by their wonderful teachers, for example: Ms. C. Nolan's first and second year English students used illustrations to support the teaching and learning of their English novels. Mr. Carr explored the power of colour through chromatography with his second year science students and Ms. Callan's senior English students created artwork to further explore the narrative in literature.

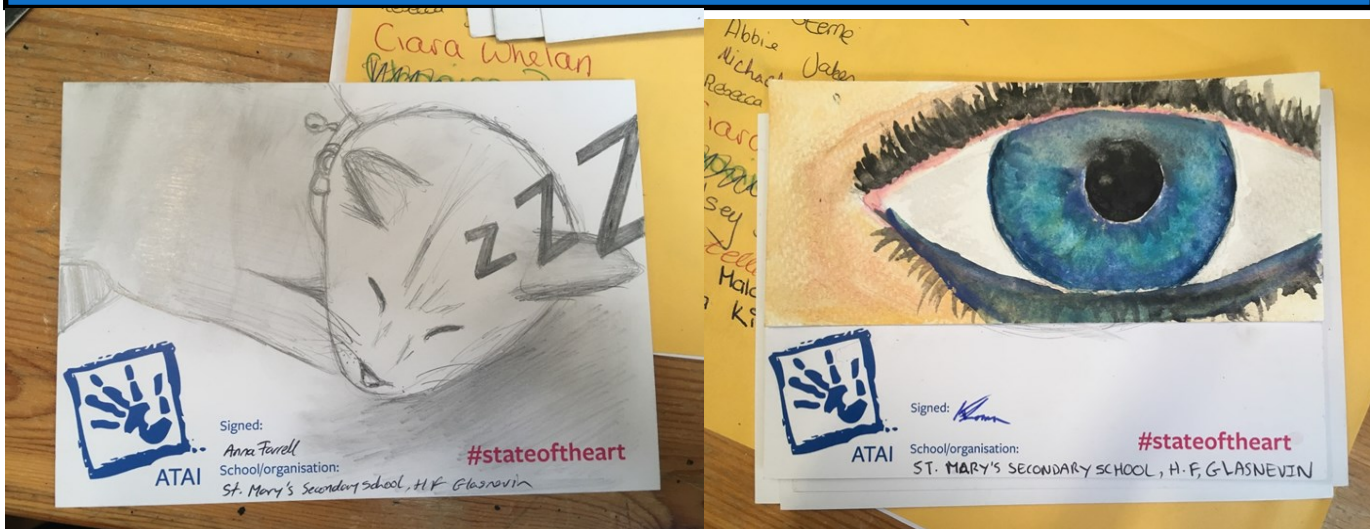
We were also fortunate to have professional photographer Naoise Culhane visit for a photo shoot with our fifth and second year art students. Nicole Lawlor of fifth year created designs for facial theatrical make-up, while second year art students modelled blank masks. The effect of this was very dramatic. It was a fabulous surprise to see our students on the front cover of both "The Irish Times" and "The Irish Examiner" on October 26th. Well done to all involved.

The students were also invited to take part in a National Postcard Campaign to the Minister of Education. The quality and individuality of their work was outstanding and we would like to thank them and their families for their support and for the beautiful work they created.

We are delighted with the successful outcome of the Campaign. Based on the #STATEOFTHEART, Campaign, together with the work of previous Art Teachers Association Committees and its members, art teachers have been informed that the NCCA will be forming a new Leaving Certificate Curriculum Reform group in the new year.

Ms. C. Kavanagh, Ms. N. Cunningham

Art Department



Art Department

NATIONAL ARCHITECTS IN SCHOOLS INITIATIVE

TY

Transition Year Students are taking part again this year in the “Architects in Schools” initiative with architect in residence, Evelyn D’Arcy, supported by The Irish Architecture Foundation. They will be following a design brief which will be exploring the use of existing space within the school and its immediate environment.

Creative Engagement Project.

In October students from St. Mary’s were invited to perform ‘Rising Voices’ and exhibit ‘Sacred Spaces’ and ‘Whispers’ in the Irish Museum of Modern Art at the annual Creative Engagement Showcase. Following on from this wonderful experience the Art department made another application to the NAPD for their S.T.E.A.M project and it was accepted. This year fifth year students will collaborate with Dr. Enda Carr and Liz Colman to create a ceramic sculpture based on “Models of Conceptual Change”.

Ms. C. Kavanagh, Ms. N. Cunningham

Art Club

There are several sixth year Art Mentors who run an art club each week in St Mary’s. It is held at lunchtime in one of the art rooms on a Friday and is free.

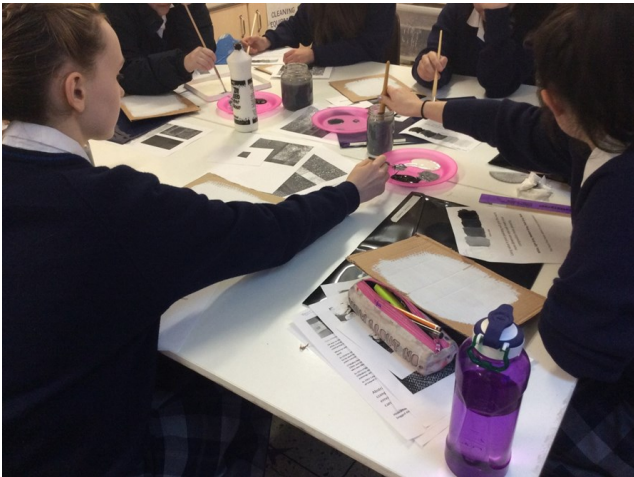
It is a really fun and engaging thing to do and it helps us to get to know the first year students. It offers a space to students who want to develop their drawing skills or those interested in exploring fun craft ideas.

We do drawing, painting and a selection of seasonal crafts. We made thaumatropes for Science Week. These are a simple way of animating, creating the illusion of merging two drawings together, for example a bird in a cage or, decorations onto a Christmas tree. For Christmas we had a themed art club and the students made beautiful bookmarks among other things. We look forward to seeing more students in the new year when we will be running special themed ‘Pop Up Art Club’.

Shannon Joyce, 6 Butterfly.



Art Department

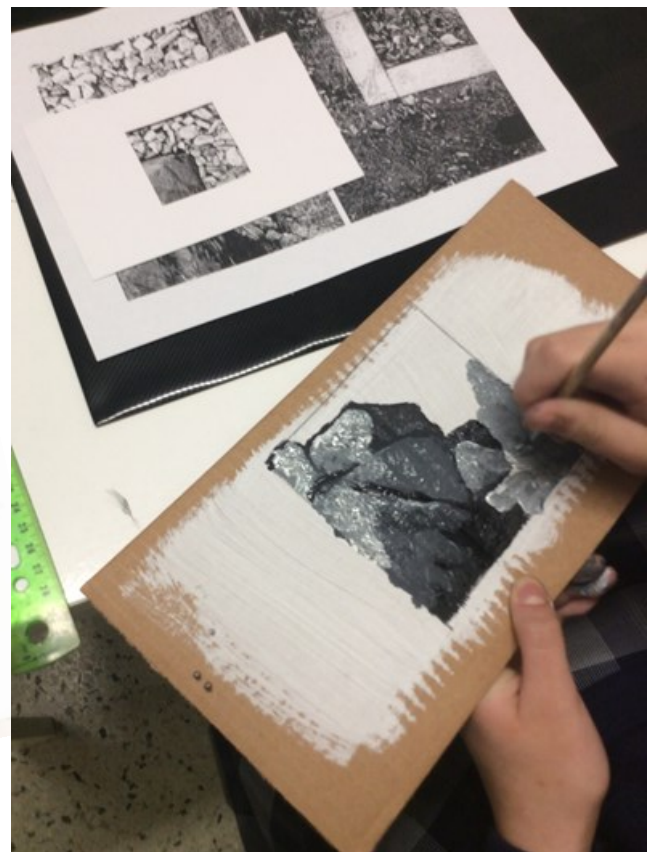


Junior Art Students

Second and third year art students visited the annual 'Sculpture in Context' exhibition in the Botanic Gardens as a support study for their artworks. Third year students are now using their primary source drawings and photography as preparatory work for their Junior Certificate art projects.

Second year students created beautiful woven pieces with textile artist Ms. Geraghty inspired by the work of Irish landscape painter Tony O'Malley.

Ms. C. Kavanagh, Ms Cunningham.



The Gardening Club

Education For Living

Gardening Club has been very productive this term. We have planted beautiful flowers such as hyacinths, daffodils and crocuses that will bloom in spring. We have also planted some tulips, irises and alliums for the summer term.

We helped to harvest the produce in the garden, such as the fragrant lavender, which was sold at the end of September in our harvest sale run by sixth year Education for Living class. For Hallowe'en, we harvested some of our pumpkins which were decorated by these students. These were then displayed at reception for the schools fundraising event, 'Scary Mary Day' on October 28th.

Gardening club finished up for the winter by planting garlic. The club will start up again in the spring after the February mid term break. We look forward

Ms Cunningham



Education For Living

Fifth year Education For Living students had the opportunity to go on a trip to the National Botanic Gardens where they took part in a lesson on propagation. The students learned to take cuttings and had a go at making their own biodegradable pots in the Gardens' Education Centre.

Back in school they learned about flower arranging. In pairs, they created beautiful flower arrangements using a mix of bought flowers and some picked from our sensory garden, for our school's open night at the end of September. They planted a selection of spring and early summer bulbs to bring scent and colour to the sensory garden from February. More recently they made bird seed feeders with the



English Department

Drama

Creative Engagement Exhibition

Congratulations to the students who represented the “Rising Voices” production at the Creative Engagement Exhibition in the Irish Museum of Modern Art on the 11th October. The girls reprised their roles from last year’s production in the beautiful setting of the Baroque Chapel in the Royal Hospital Kilmainham. They performed a number of key scenes including the wedding of Joseph Plunkett and Grace Gifford, the execution of the 1916 rebels and Countess Markiewicz’s monologue. On the day, the exhibition featured creative projects from a number of schools around the country and was attended by students, parents and members of the NAPC and the Heritage Council. “Rising Voices” attracted great interest and praise and the day proved a fitting tribute to what has been a unique St. Mary’s production.

First Year Reading for Pleasure Programme

This year, our first year classes are making great progress in their personal reading time. As well as following the fate of August Pullman, the young protagonist of the first year novel “Wonder” by R.J. Palacio, the girls are also engaged in reading for pleasure – a key learning objective in the new Junior Cycle course. Students have visited the school library, designed book covers, completed book reviews and will continue to build up their reading activities as the year progresses.

Ms D. Callan



Transition Year English

This year the Transition Year English course has been redesigned, taking into consideration student and teacher evaluations from last year. The new course looks particularly at female voices in literature. Students are studying the ground-breaking poetry of Sylvia Plath, Emily Dickinson and Maya Angelou and will begin reading the novel “The Secret Life of Bees” by Sue Monk Kidd after their Christmas exams. They will also engage in speech-writing and personal writing as the year progresses. A number of important T.Y. modules also cater for developing students’ English skills in creative and dynamic ways such as Drama, Film Studies and Creative Writing. Already the girls have participated in a number of English activities, such as the fantastic Inspireland Poetry workshop, a trip to the Lighthouse cinema, and soon they will attend a theatre production of “The Snow Queen”.

Ms. D. Callan

Library News

The library mentors are assisting Sr. Maria in running the library at lunchtimes. The library is open every day from 1.00-1.40pm. All mentors have been trained in on the computerised system which is operating very smoothly.

First Year English teachers have brought their classes to the library for an introductory session. They borrowed books and had a reading class.

Sr. Maria and Ms. Sullivan went book shopping in September. The students recommended many titles that they managed to purchase. The mentors and Sr. Maria then set about covering the books so they were ready for borrowing.

Sr. Maria & Ms. Sullivan

Business Department

Rising Tide Business Bootcamp Competition

Congratulations to the Transition Year Students involved in the first Business Bootcamp Competition held on Tuesday, November 22nd.

The competition brings local schools together to showcase student business ideas and products to develop entrepreneurial skills. Two company groups were formed in St Mary's for the competition and they presented their ideas to judges, both face-to-face and during an onstage presentation. Both groups will present their businesses and products twice more during the coming year against other schools in the Finglas/Glasnevin area. Both groups represented St Mary's Secondary School admirably and both won awards at the first competition presentation. Mesmerise won the Best Stand Display 2016 award.

One group, known as "Mesmerise" consists of Kirsten Lee, Joan McCann, Hannah Flood, Lauren Russell, Laura O'Connor and Kelly Hayes.



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

Full of Surprises won the Best Report 2016 award.



Business Department

Build a Bank

St Mary's is competing in AIB's "Build a Bank Challenge" for the second year in a row. This competition involves Transition Year students designing a bank from scratch within St Mary's and putting their own mark on it. This competition allows students to show their innovation and creativity as well as their business skills by running the bank. The students will be competing against other schools on a regional and hopefully national basis throughout the year.

After submitting CVs and successfully completing interviews with members of AIB, six students have been chosen to create and run the St Mary's Bank for 2016/2017. The School Bank will be competing against other schools in the Regionals in March.

The students running the bank this year are:

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

Ms. J. Kavanagh



Sports and PE Department

1st Year Sports

First year sports have taken place on Thursday afternoons since September. All first years have been assigned a county and have competed in a different sport every week including benchball, football, hockey, basketball and soccer. The girls have been very enthusiastic and the leader-board is very close! The competition finished at Christmas with a surprise for the winning team!

Ms. H. Bunnett



TY Leadership Module:

We are delighted that the strong link between St. Mary's and St. Bridget's schools continues this year. The T.Y. students have been developing their leadership skills whilst working with the first class students in PE lessons. From September to mid-term, class Beckett lead the children in throwing and catching games and benchball. This term, class Friel is delivering dance lessons focusing on car wash as a stimulus. The lessons have been energetic and have proven to be a wonderful experience for all involved!



Camogie

The St. Mary's Junior camogie team is mid-way through the group stages of the competition. To date it has been narrowly defeated by Lucan CC and Loreto Crumlin. The girls are due to play Loreto Beaufort in the coming days. The team is comprised of students from first to fourth year. This very talented group of girls train very hard and are enjoying the season.

Ms Bunnett.



Basketball

Under 16 Premier Basketball Team



It's been promising start for basketball in St. Mary's.

U-19 Div. 2 team

Our U-19 Div. 2 team has already recorded wins against Maryfield and St. Mary's Killester. They play Santa Sabina in their next game.

Due to the huge interest shown, we have entered both a 1st year division 1 and Division 2 team this year. In 2nd year we entered two teams at Premier and division two. We have also entered two U-16 and two U-19 teams, which consist of a division 2 team and a premier team in each.

With such a high level of dedication and enthusiasm being shown by the students, let's hope this will be a successful year for St Mary's.

Ms Bunnett, Ms Considine and Ms Murphy.

Under 16 Premier Basketball:

Having won the second-year division 1 last year, we have been promoted to the premier division for under 16. Against stiffer competition in the first round however, we lost to Mount Sackville but have two more fixtures to play. The girls are optimistic having learned valuable lessons from their first premier outing.

Basketball



Second Year Basketball

There is no doubt about it. The basketball season is in full swing in St Mary's! The second year division 2 team has started its season this week in a wonderful way with two wins against St Mary's Killester (24-4) and Maryfield College (18-12). It will have future matches against Baldoyle and Drogheda. The top two teams from the division will go through to the semi-finals. The second year premier team was excited about its first match against St Raphael's. Well done everyone and keep up the training!

Ms Bunnett.



Gaelic Football



Senior Gaelic Team in their new jerseys kindly sponsored by Lidl.

Gaelic Football:

Senior Football:

The seniors had three outings so far this year with two wins out of three for the girls of St. Mary's.

In the opening round, they lost to Loreto Swords by a goal after a hard-fought battle. They picked themselves up for the remaining two games where they travelled to Drogheda to play Our Lady's and came out easy victors on the day. Next up was local rivals Scoil Caitríona and as usual, it proved a tough decider. Luckily after a great team effort, we managed a final score line of 7.12 to 2.12 in Mobhí Road.

They are awaiting the final group game to determine our progress to the next stage.

Junior Football:

This league is currently ongoing with one remaining fixture to be fulfilled.

However, St. Mary's are looking to progress from the group stages based on their previous wins.

Our first game saw an easy victory over Hartstown C.S and similarly, through excellent teamwork we were victorious against Coolmine C.S. St Michael's, Finglas, await us in the last and final round of junior football.

Volleyball

Volleyball

This year we have a new Volleyball team for first and second year students. Getting to understand the rules and how to play the game has been the aim of this semester.

Both year groups have started to play SPIKEBALL which is an initiative developed by the volleyball association of Ireland to introduce junior volleyball to students. SPIKEBALL is an adapted four player vs four player volleyball game that was introduced to Ireland in the last three years.

All teams have played in two competitions which have been tough but they have battled on and have never been disheartened. The teams should be very proud of their efforts and the excellent team spirit will help them improve over the year.

Best of luck to the girls in the year ahead.

Mr. Farrell



Soccer

St Mary's Soccer Teams

Soccer has returned to the school this year, and is open to players of all levels and ages. We have been carrying out training sessions on the hockey pitch twice a week since early September, and all students were welcome. First Year training is every Tuesday and all other year groups train on a Thursday. This will continue throughout the school year. Approximately ninety students have participated, which has been very encouraging.

Apart from the all-inclusive, 'Fun Soccer', St Mary's have not played competitive soccer in a number of years, but we have returned to competition for the 2016/2017 season.

We have entered three different panels in three different age-category leagues, -First Year, U15, U19. All games so far have been really encouraging, with the First year team finishing as the top Girls' team in the D.C.U. soccer blitz,

The U15 team have played one league game, defeating local rivals St. Michael's, Finglas, by an incredible 10-0 score line. The U19 team has played two league games where they have remained unbeaten, with one win and one draw.

It has been a very positive experience from the beginning and we are excited about the teams' potential coming into the new year.

The Competitive teams are organised by:

Mr. S. McGlynn, Ms. C. Morgan.

Three P.ME. teachers have helped us with training;

Ms. R. O'Shea, Mr.A. Johnson, Ms.J. Dowling.



First Year Team—DCU Soccer Blitz

St. Mary's Hockey

Hockey News

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

The preparation for league matches commenced in September. Great excitement mounted as 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 Holy Faith, Clontarf, Mt Temple and Dominican, Griffith Avenue.

The fourth, fifth and sixth year students combine to form the **Senior Team**. The Senior Team had a very successful match against Dominican, Griffith Avenue. St. Mary's definitely had the match under control and was on the attack from the start. There was great team work and play from the whole team. This was its first match of the season. The team look forward to the league games and promising results. It will commence with some warm-up matches in preparation for the Northside League in January.



The Junior Team (third year) also played against Dominican, Griffith Avenue. This was a more closely contested match. The play was end to end with good attacks and near misses from both teams. Our goalkeeper was definitely tested and had to make some fantastic saves to keep St Mary's in the game. The Dominican team scored the first goal. However, St Mary's kept going and finally got the equalising goal to finish the match 1-1. They also played a match against Mt. Temple in their warm-up games. This was a great game, with St Mary's dominating the game. There was great defending and attacking play from our forwards and midfield. They showed great skill and determination throughout. Despite all our possession and opportunities to score the team could not put the ball past the Mt. Temple goalkeeper. It had various near misses. The match ended as a draw 0-0. The team will continue with training in the lead up to the Northside League. It was an enjoyable afternoon for all teams, regardless of the results, and a good start to preparation for the season. **Ms Boran.**



Senior Hockey Team – 4th & 5th Year

St Mary's Hockey



Minor Team—2nd Year.

The second year team returned after the summer break eager to get back on the pitch and continue developing from last year. This has certainly been the case! The team had a good start to the year with a win against Clontarf at home. The team is competing for the first time in the Leinster league and this is proving a tough but wonderful experience. We are competing against experienced teams and this has provided us with lots of challenges and lots of chances to improve our team skills. The girls have enjoyed the matches and are gaining confidence and experience which we look forward to utilising fully when we start our matches in the Northside league after Christmas. There will be two second year teams in the Northside League due to the wonderful number of students who turn out for training every Wednesday! Congratulations to Tara McCabe who was chosen by her teammates to captain the team this year.

We are looking forward to the new hockey season this year and new players are always welcome. With such enthusiastic and talented players, we will enjoy playing and representing St. Mary's with great spirit and enthusiasm. We highly recommend playing hockey. and invite everyone to come along and join us. We wish the teams luck in this year's Northside League.



First Year Hockey

There are two first year beginners teams and they took part in a Super Eights challenge against Holy Faith, Clontarf. They also played two eight aside matches against Mt Temple and there was great excitement as Mt. Temple arrived. The teams were under a lot of pressure from the more experienced Mt. Temple players. However, they kept going and in the second half were more comfortable and eager to fight back. Unfortunately, the games ended with victory for Mt Temple. It is still early days for the first year teams with only a few weeks of training completed. They are still learning and there is great potential going forward. The teams participated in their Leinster League matches after Halloween and look forward to the Northside League in January. We wish both teams luck in this year's Northside League.

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

Ms Boran, Ms Bunnett.

Department of Guidance & Counselling

UFirst

UFirst is a DCU initiative aimed at fifth Year students. It is a two year programme of supports specially designed for students in fifth and sixth year who are part of underrepresented groups attending third level. It's designed to give students the knowledge, confidence and skills needed to begin their university journey. Two fifth year students have been accepted onto the programme, Trish Azubike and Leah Riordan. There were only a certain number of places available and this is a fantastic achievement by Trish and Leah.

Unity Programme

In conjunction with DCU the transition year students are participating in four DCU designed courses; Student Empowerment, Leadership and Employability, Multimedia and Smart Skills. Ms. Sullivan, Ms. Gavin, Mr. Montague and Ms. Byrne all attended training at DCU and are delivering the respective courses. The content is both interesting and relevant and this is a great opportunity for students.

Third Year CAT Exams

The Third Year students sat their CAT (Cognitive Abilities Tests) exams on the 9th of December. These tests help the students to build up personal profiles of their specific strengths, which will assist those going on to Fifth Year with making their subject choices. They are also of value to those students who are considering Transition Year, helping them to explore subjects linked to their aptitudes. Each student will have an individual meeting with the guidance counsellors to receive feedback on her result.

Sixth Year - Higher Options

The twenty-eighth Higher Options Conference took place at the RDS, Ballsbridge on the 16th of September. All of the sixth year students from the school attended on the Friday and found the event very informative.

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

The Sixth Year students have participated in Third Level talks every Thursday this term. Speakers from DCU, NCI, TCD, DIT, UCD, Maynooth University, Hear Scheme and Colaiste Dhulaigh have been in attendance.

Notice of up-coming career talks will be highlighted on the careers notice board on the Sixth Year corridor and on the notice boards in all Sixth Year classrooms.

Life Coaching Workshop

On Tuesday 15th November the fourth years received a workshop on confidence building with Mr. Cillian Murphy. These interactive workshops aimed to help students become aware of life skills such as confidence building and taking care of our mental health.

Zeminar

All four TY classes attended Zeminar- A life changing day for generation Z in the RDS on the 13th October. Zeminar is a new social enterprise created to bring together those invested in the development and wellbeing of young people. It involved numerous speakers and students attended many talks, workshops as well as fun activities. Many of the speakers were very inspirational and the day was a very worthwhile endeavour.

Ms. J. Gavin & Ms. L. Sullivan

Department of Guidance & Counselling

DCU Access Achievement Awards

The Access Achievement Award Scheme was set up to reward and recognise the achievements and efforts of students attending schools linked to DCU. The awards ceremony was held on Tuesday 29th November in the Helix, DCU. Casey Harris and Lauryn McCausland, fifth year students, represented the school in the musical element of the night. Twenty students from third year were in attendance to receive awards for their achievements in sports, community spirit, arts and culture and academics. Parents/Guardians also attended this very special evening.

Ms Sullivan, Ms Gavin.

Award	Student
Academic	Kebron Joseph
Academic	Catriona Comerford
Academic	Fiona Conway
Academic	Maria Zisbasu
Academic	Maja Grondzewska
Community Spirit	Ciara McKenna
Community Spirit	Anne Fabian
Community Spirit	Denisa Mihalute
Community Spirit	Maebhdh Scahill O' Loughlin
Community Spirit	Aoife Roche
Arts & Culture	Eve McGrath Tully
Arts & Culture	Melia McEvoy
Arts & Culture	Alexandra Rosus
Arts & Culture	Hannah Crowley
Arts & Culture	Patricia Molloy
Sport	Amy Wall
Sport	Laura Berry
Sport	Hannah O' Brien
Sport	Chanice Dolan
Exceptional Nomination	Karla Conway

Department of Guidance & Counselling

HEI College Placements Class of 2016



<u>Dublin City University (DCU)</u>	<u>15 Students</u>
Economics, Politics & Law	1
Education & Training	1
Humanities (Irish & History)	1
Humanities (Hist & Geog)	1
Humanities (Hist & Law)	1
Joint Honours	2
Law & Media	1
B.ed. in Primary Education	1
Post Primary Teaching (RE & Hist)	1
Engineering	2
General Nursing	2
Multimedia	1

<u>Trinity College</u>	<u>8 Students</u>
Computer Science & Business	1
Nursing	1
Human Genetics	1
Earth Sciences	1
Physiotherapy	2
Single Hons Philosophy	1
Psychology	1



<u>Maynooth University</u>	<u>7 Students</u>
Music Technology	1
Arts: English & Geography	4
Social Science	1
Business	1

<u>University College Dublin (UCD)</u>	<u>4 Students</u>
Politics & International Relations, Sociology & History	1
Philosophy & Sociology	1
Geography & German	1
Social Science	1



<u>National College of Ireland (NCI)</u>	<u>5 Students</u>
Human Resource Management	4
Psychology	1

<u>Institute of Art, Design & Technology (IADT)</u>	<u>1 Student</u>
English, Media & Cultural Studies	1

Department of Guidance & Counselling

HEI College Placements Class of 2016



<u>Dublin Institute of Technology (DIT)</u>	<u>10 Students</u>
Science (Gen Entry)	1
Creative and Cultural Industries	2
International Business & Spanish	1
Business	1
Retail & Services Management	1
Architecture	1
Science Gen Entry (Level 7)	2
Medicinal Chemistry & Pharmaceutical Science (Level 7)	1

<u>Institute of Technology Blanchardstown (ITB)</u>	<u>3 Students</u>
Digital Forensics & Cyber Security	1
Sports Management & Coaching	1
Childcare	1



<u>National College of Art & Design (NCAD)</u>	<u>3 Students</u>
Art & Design	1
Visual Culture	2

<u>Dundalk Institute of Technology</u>	<u>1 Student</u>
Community Youth Work	1



<u>Griffith College</u>	<u>1 Student</u>
Law	1

Department of Guidance & Counselling

PLC College Placements Class of 2016



<u>Colaiste Ide</u>	<u>9 Students</u>
Travel & Tourism	5
Pre University Science	2
Physiotherapy	1
Business Practice, Marketing & Human Resource	1



<u>Marino College</u>	<u>1 Student</u>
Legal Secretary Studies	1



<u>Whitehall College</u>	<u>3 Students</u>
Nutrition & Dietetics	1
Business & Finance	2



<u>Killester College</u>	<u>3 Students</u>
Animal Science	1
Pre University Science	2
<u>Colaiste Dhulaigh</u>	<u>7 Students</u>
Pre Nursing	2
Architecture	1
Physiology & Sport	2
Animation	1
Medical Laboratory Science	1



<u>Liberties College</u>	<u>8 Students</u>
Healthcare Assistant	1
Portfolio Preparation	1
Early Childhood Care & Education	3
Pre University Arts (TAP)	1
Pre University Arts	1
SNA Classroom Assistant	1

<u>Ballsbridge College of Further Education</u>	<u>1 Student</u>
Property Management	1



<u>O' Fiach College of Further Education</u>	<u>1 Student</u>
Pre Nursing	1

Department of Guidance & Counselling

PLC College Placements Class of 2016



<u>Ballyfermot College of Further Education</u>	<u>1 Student</u>
Portfolio Preparation Course	1

<u>Rathmines College of Further Education</u>	<u>1 Student</u>
Computer Programming	1

<u>Inchicore College of Further Education</u>	<u>1 Student</u>
Dance Studies	1



<u>Repeat Leaving Cert</u>	<u>3 Students</u>
-----------------------------------	--------------------------

<u>Employment</u>	<u>3 Students</u>
Ryanair Cabin Crew Training	1
Airport Course in October	1
Peter Mark Apprenticeship	1

International Mental Health Day

International Mental Health Day

On the 10th October we celebrated world mental health day. Each student received a positive quote at roll call to stick into her school journal. Students were encouraged to wear their hair in a unique style- "Unique Hair for a Unique You".

Ms Sullivan



Thanks!

Special thanks to all the staff and students who contributed to this online edition of our December Newsletter. Thanks also to Ms Nolan for editing prior to publication and to Ms Boran for graphic design and layout.



*Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year from
all at St Mary's!*