



St Mary's NEWSLETTER

Summer 2019

A Message from the Principal

Welcome to the 2019 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.

To start with sport it has been another great year for St Mary's. In basketball three of our teams – the u19 Premier Team, the u16 Division 1 team and the 2nd Division 2 Team – made it to the finals in the National Basketball Arena Tallaght. Hockey continues to go from strength to strength with a huge interest this year from our first years who participated in the Hockey Skills Challenge and we were delighted to have had Hockey Ireland Development Office Kenny Carroll on hand to introduce them to the basic hockey skills after which they all received a certificate of completion. After a tremendous season in Camogie last year all of our teams have been moved up to Group B and the pressure is now on to get to the top in this group – a challenge our girls are ready to embrace. There have been considerable accomplishments in Soccer, Gaelic Football, Tennis, Badminton, Tag Rugby and Spikeball. St Mary's has begun to distinguish itself in Volleyball also and we are very proud of our Junior team which reached the All-Ireland finals at the University of Limerick earlier in the year. We have seen successes once again in Athletics and Cross Country and were delighted for one of our students to have won the silver medal for her performance in the 1500m which qualifies her for the Leinster Championships. As a school we are committed to the Women in Sport 20/20 Campaign and we wish all our teams and athletes continued success going forward. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our coaches for their unstinting dedication to and belief in their teams throughout an action-packed year.

Our TY Programme has once again been vibrant and dynamic as you will gather from the many reports to follow. Our students for the fourth year in a row distinguished themselves at the DCU UniTY Multimedia Awards in the Helix, and at the PE Expo which also took place in DCU. Students were also

involved in the Rowing Ireland initiative, Self-Defence, Build a Bank, Business Bootcamp and NFTE, and they reached the regional finals of Junk Kouture for the third consecutive year while nearly all students achieved Bronze Gaisce medals. There have been too many activities and events to list them all but we were particularly proud of their Creative Arts project – a cross-curricular initiative in collaboration with Taking Flight which culminated in their unique and innovative student led production *The Endless Chase* in the Axis Theatre on 8th and 9th April. 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. We are one of the 150 schools nationwide chosen to be part of the Creative Schools programme and with our Creative Associate Sharon Carty of Irish National Opera we are striving to offer creative engagement opportunities to all of our students both inside and outside of the classroom. You will see the wonderful examples of student creativity and art work in the pages that follow including the vast musical talent of our students at the annual Musical Showcase in May. Engagement with practicing artists is a hallmark of our programme and the Architects in Schools Initiative for 2018 under the guidance of Evelyn D'arcy (in collaboration with DIT) culminated this year in the creation of our beautiful outdoor pavilion designed by and for students as a meeting and eating space. Our wonderful choirs continue to excel and enhance all of our events and celebrations throughout the year with their outstanding choral proficiency. In the creative arena the list goes on with notable achievements in debating, public speaking, drama, mosaics, ceramics, coding, multimedia, smart skills and cookery.

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 Development Education and actively encourage sustainability as evidenced in the ongoing work of our Green Schools committee, and our involvement in the Get Up And Goals Programme. We are proud to report we have just been awarded our 5th flag for Biodiversity and we are truly grateful to the Green Schools team for the tremendous work and dedication they have

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.

put into achieving that goal. We are likewise grateful to our Coiste Gaelbhratach who have been awarded their third flag in recognition of all the hard work they have done to make Gaeilge a living language among the school community. Comhghairdeas leis an gcoiste iomlán! The Ember Team continues to be a beacon of light throughout the year contributing in a very special way to the spiritual calendar, and we are very grateful to the sixth-year team who will now be handing over the torch of faith development to our incoming team of TY and 5th years – rekindling 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 learning that continue to be the distinguishing feature of the academic life of St Mary's. With most subjects now operating within the New Junior Cycle it has been a busy year for teachers and students as CBAs (Classroom Based Assessments) become part of the school calendar and students develop new skills which will empower them to become independent learners into the future.

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 21st 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.

Le gach dea-ghuí,

Bernadette Bourke
Principal, June 2019

GREETINGS FROM THE GUIDANCE DEPARTMENT

“Happiness is not something you postpone for the future; it is something you design for the present!”

Guidance, one to one, group counselling, classes and workshops have been ongoing throughout the year. This year there was a huge emphasis put on the area of women studying and working in the area of Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths. The purpose of this was to raise awareness about the possibility of working in one of these fields. Engineering week was most exciting with quizzes and displays throughout the school.

All guest speakers that were invited to come in were asked to talk about their stories and how they came to be working in their field. Some speakers were just inspirational particularly the Robotics Lady as she is called from DCU.

CV workshops are continually run at lunch time and are open to all students, some students avail of this time to prepare CBAs, carry out research about courses, job opportunities. There was a steady flow of students who regularly attended.

1st Year

Our first year students continued with their weekly Wellbeing classes and part of this included workshops about study skills. Guest

speakers from the ISPCC came in to talk to all the first year classes about their services. Students were delighted with their free badges and stickers worn throughout the day. Several of our first years participated in a DCU quiz which was thoroughly enjoyed by all.

2nd Year

Our second year students participated in a 6 week Resilience Academy facilitated by Pieta House. Students received the opportunity to discuss, work in groups and examine techniques that will help them become resilient and face diversity in their lives. Some students have signed up to participate in DCU summer camps in the weeks ahead.

3rd Year

All the 3rd year students sat the CAT psychometric testing which revealed where their strengths lie. Students have been working hard on CBA's and exam preparation. Guidance offer continual and ongoing support throughout the year for students focusing on exams, study technique and stress management.

Transition Year

Transition year is the time when students get the opportunity to experience working for a variety of different National and International companies. We were very fortunate this year that three of our students had the opportunity to carry out one week work experience with Google. Loved by all. Also two of our students worked for one week with the ESB. They received the opportunity of working alongside engineers of the ESB. Thoroughly enjoyed by all.

Student empowerment is a modular subject delivered to all TY students which challenges the students thought processes.

All TYs attended numerous Open Days including DCU and Liberty College. This year in conjunction with the Drug Task Force, a number of students participated in the Peer to Peer Programme. Students were taught about drugs and alcohol and the side effects. Then students gave a presentation to different classes in the school. They were fantastic!

5th Year

All 5th years continued receiving talks from various speakers including representatives from the Army, Human Resources, Social Sciences, Apprenticeships routes, Post Leaving College Talks. Some of our 5th years have signed up to DCU, UCD and National College of Ireland Summer Camps. For students considering studying abroad now is the time to carry out research as applications for Eunicas and UCAS are now open.

6th year

6th year is a hectic time for all students, and the Guidance Department has assisted students applying to the CAO, Post Leaving Certificate courses, the HEAR and DARE schemes, scholarships and SUSI grants.

The Guidance Department would like to take this opportunity to wish our 6th years the very best for their Leaving Certificate examinations. They are all fantastic students and it has been our privilege working alongside each and every one of them. Aim for the stars as the possibilities are endless!

CSPE DEPARTMENT



THE CAPUCHIN DAY CENTRE
FOR HOMELESS PEOPLE

1st Years

During the course of their studies on the concept of Human Rights and Responsibilities in CSPE, our First-Year class 1 Daisy decided they wanted to take action. The girls decided upon supporting a local non-profit organisation: The Capuchin Day Centre. The centre, which is based locally in Smithfield, caters to the needs of homeless individuals and families. Upon contacting the Capuchin order to enquire what they would like the class to focus their efforts on, 1 Daisy was informed there were more homeless families with young children than ever



before. They were desperately in need of baby formula, baby food, nappies and other sanitary products. The girls set to work, advertising their campaign around the school and collecting the requested supplies. The Capuchin order was extremely grateful to receive our donations and have asked St Mary's to consider assisting them in the coming years. Well done to all students involved!

Ms Donegan

CSPE Cake Sale for Focus Ireland

Class 1 Daisy hosted a cake sale in aid of Focus Ireland this year. As part of the CSPE course, students learnt all about homelessness. Students undertook a CBA in May and decided to focus on homelessness. Each student participated in planning, preparing and running the cake sale by having different jobs to carry out such as selling cakes, overseeing money, posters, contacting Focus Ireland etc. The cake sale was very successful and raised €223! This money went directly to **Focus Ireland** and it will make a great difference. Well done to all!



TRANSITION YEAR

Politics & Society



Congratulations to our Transition Year Students who have successfully completed the European Parliament Ambassador School Programme. Their dedication, enthusiasm and hard-work has earned our school the prestigious honour of officially becoming a European Parliament Ambassador School.

On the 1st of April, our Junior Ambassadors were presented with their awards, and a plaque dedicated to St Mary's by Current Members of the European Parliament, Mairead McGuinness and Matt Carthy.



Ms Donegan.

Transition Year Coding Programme

Since January the TYs have had an amazing opportunity to learn coding every Wednesday for two classes. This workshop was made possible by Ms Cryan and an IT company called 'Work Day'. I.T. specialists from 'Work Day' came to our school and taught us things like how to make a website and how to use



Python. This workshop was enjoyable and very educational and for me it was one of the best parts of the Transition Year Programme.

We believe that coding has given us useful skills for the future. It has benefitted most of us especially those interested in a programming career. Coding has taught us things that we otherwise would not be able to do. For example, designing websites or even starting up an online business. But most importantly, we got to learn and understand how technology shapes our world. We never knew how much coding surrounds us every day and we tended not to notice the advanced software that was right in front of us. But thanks to the weekly coding workshops we have tasted the immense world of coding.



By Alaina Susan and Lysie Cabrera (TY students)

TY – AIB Build a Bank 2019



Transition year students sat interviews back in February to a panel of AIB representatives and teachers. Of all the students who presented on the day, the following students were successful in obtaining a position on the AIB Build a Bank team: Anna Farrell, Tara McCabe, Ella Corcoran, Sarah Pollard and Alannah McDonald. The objective of the national competition is for each school to open a school bank which is set up and



operated by the students. Students are in charge of coming up with a theme for their bank and the St Mary's theme this year was Bohemian Banksody.

A launch day saw the team sign up 20+ accounts. The students promoted and informed the rest of the students of the school on a daily basis through various methods of advertising.

Bohemian Banksody competed in the RDS in March and presented to entrepreneurs and AIB representatives and schools from all over Ireland. They have successfully opened 82 new student accounts and lodged over €600 to date.

A huge well done to the students from Bohemian Banksody from Ms Dowling. Their hard work and dedication to this project was second to none. They went above and beyond to achieve and surpass their goal.



T.Y. Fáinne – The Irish Oral



Congratulations to all the transition year students who completed their Irish oral exams. The oral examination comprises of a general

conversation based on topics such as: Mé Féin, Mo Theaghlach, Scoil, Taithí Oibre san Idirbhliain, Spórt, Ceol, and Laethanta Saoire. The Fáinne badge shows that you are able and willing to speak Irish. These students were awarded a Fáinne Óir (Gold), Fáinne Úr (Silver) or Cúpla Focal (Bronze) badge based on their performance. This initiative is great preparation for the Leaving Certificate where spoken Irish is worth 40%. Many thanks to the Irish teachers for their preparation with the classes. Mar a deir an seanfhocal, "Tír gan teanga, tír gan anam"

Ms. C.Salmon



Winner of the UniTY Multimedia Award 2018/2019:
Aoibheann Kelly with Mr. Montague



Gaisce – Bronze Award

Gaisce – The President's Award is the most prestigious Award in Ireland for young people aged 15 to 25. We are delighted to have the President of Ireland, Michael D Higgins as patron of the Award programme.

This year, St Mary's TY students embraced the Gaisce Bronze Award. Their adventure journey took place on the 7-8th of May with an overnight stay at Lilliput Adventure Centre with their teachers Ms O'Doherty, Ms. Martin, Ms. Ní Lonnáin and Ms. Morgan. Activities the TYs took part in included hiking, orienteering, rock climbing, kayaking, night games and a bog run. As part of Gaisce programme requirements, TYs also helped in the preparation of their own meals on their stay. The girls had great fun and thoroughly enjoyed their experience with many commenting that their overnight stay was their highlight of TY!

The Award is a self-directed personal development programme in which participants are supported and mentored by a more experienced person, a volunteer, a President's Award Leader (PAL), to set and achieve a personal challenge over a period of time.

The minimum period to complete the Bronze Award is 26 weeks. The programme challenges young people to set and pursue personal goals in four different areas of activity:

- Community Involvement
- Personal Skills
- Physical Recreation
- Adventure Journey

Participation in the Award provides an opportunity to grow and develop with the assistance and support of a President's Award Leader (PAL) during that vital transition period from young person to young adult. In embarking on the Award, the PAL works with the participant to select their activities and their goals for each. As the participant progresses with the activities, the PAL supports and mentors the participants and helps them overcome any obstacles.

Upon completion of the Award Programme, the TYs were presented with a certificate signed by the President of Ireland and a commemorative medal for their achievement.



SCIENCE DEPARTMENT



St Mary's at SciFest 2019

A huge congratulations to Mony Armalla (1 Daisy) on winning the SciFest 2019 Technology Award for best project in the Physical Sciences and Technology categories at the regional final of the competition on Friday 3rd May.

Her project involved the development of a 'micinfo' app which she linked to an investigation to change the learning habits of adolescents. The app generates facts, challenges users and provides quizzes to test the users with their general knowledge. Her project stand was very impressive as she outlined her hypothesis, experimentation methods, data collected, conclusions and further research she carried out regarding this physical Science project.

Well done Mony!

Ms Browne.



Science

On Wednesday 27th March 20 TY students, along with Ms Browne and Ms Ní Cheallaigh, were privileged to be invited to an Open Day held by DCU Women In Engineering.

The students gained an insider perspective into the life of an engineering student in DCU along with hearing from female engineers out working in industry.

The main aims of the Open Day were to show the range of careers that are available to engineering graduates along with removing the stereotypes of women not being able for engineering. Through talks from experienced women in industry and hands-on demonstrations given by female engineering students, this day proved that women were more than capable of becoming engineers!

Teaching the curriculum in 3rd year Science and 5th year Biology

3rd year Science students making water flutes by adding different quantities of water to make each note. They were exploring sound energy and resonance.

5th Year Biology students conducting a quadrat study for ecology on our school grounds.



Science Department

St Mary's has continued its strong ties with Dublin City University this year collaborating on a project titled 'Improving Gender

Balance in Ireland'. The Science Department worked with Deirdre O'Neill, PhD candidate, trying to improve the uptake and outcomes for Physics with young women

and girls. This involved many workshops 'unpacking' the learning outcomes for the new Junior Cycle and devising new and innovative ways to make physics fun.



3rd year Science students making water flutes.



5th Year Biology students conducting a quadrat study on our school grounds.



RELIGION DEPARTMENT

Faith Friends.

Two of our Fifth Year Classes, 5 Sherkin and 5 Aran, took part in Faith Friends this year with Ms Phelan's and Ms Devlin's 6th Classes from 28th January to the 11th February. The girls went to St Brigid's every Monday for three weeks to work with the 6th Class girls in passing on their knowledge and faith. This was very successful. The girls really enjoyed getting to know each other and speaking about their own experiences of Confirmation.

On 25th February the girls from St Brigid's came to the Convent Chapel for the Prayer Service. They were accompanied by their teachers and their Principal Ms Burke. Our girls led the service with readings, prayers and a symbolic ceremony where the light of faith was handed on from a Fifth Year Student to a 6th Class Girl. Our girls then gave each 6th class girl a certificate of completion of the Faith Friends Programme and our Principal Ms Bourke read a final reflection. As always some members of the choir, with Mr Coll were there to enhance the proceedings with their music and singing.

Three girls from St Mary's attended the confirmation ceremony as representatives of the Faith Friends programme. It was a fitting end to a very enjoyable and successful programme.

Ms L Bohan and Ms L McGonagle



Reconciliation Service

The reconciliation service which took place in the Convent Chapel on the 11th of April which was attended by staff and students of 3rd, 5th and 6th year. Fr Richard led the service along with priests from neighbouring parishes. The sacrament of reconciliation offered all a unique experience and compassion, and was beneficial for all present.



Novena of Grace

The Novena of Grace took place in honour of Saint Francis Xavier between March 4th and 12th. Students and staff were invited to the prayer room each lunch time between 1:10 and 1:20 where they could pray the Novena for a particular intention. Many students and staff came to join in the prayer each day, in doing so acknowledging that God is the giver of all gifts.

Graduation 2019

The theme of graduation this year was "time is free but memories are priceless". The students chose this theme to symbolise the changes in their lives over time and all of the potential for change in the future. They sewed this theme onto the banner along with an hourglass filled with their class names and precious stones for everyone to see as they entered the gym. They also decorated the walls of the gym with miniature versions of themselves holding a clock with key points in their lives and they hung clocks from the ceiling with specific times of day on them.

The evening began with an address from Ms Devaney this was followed by an explanation of the theme and artwork by Mr Coll. The opening candle procession began where the students processed into the gym carrying their graduation candles. They were followed by Fr Richard who was celebrating the Mass for us. Ember Team Members Becky Kelly and Claire Mulcahy did the readings, while the Prayers of the Faithful were read by the students. This was followed by the Offertory procession which focused on key points of the students' life journey so far. The communion reflection was read by Georgina Tierney, leading on to the conclusion of the Mass.

The spiritual part of the evening was over and the official part began. Ms Bourke addressed students, parents and staff with a very poignant and meaningful speech. This was followed by the Awards Ceremony where the students received graduation certificates and a gift. The Margaret Aylward Award was presented to its worthy recipient by Ms O'Donnell. This is voted for by the students themselves which makes receiving it even more special. The Head Girl Emily McElroy and Deputy Head Girl Chloe Halpin then spoke to their fellow students, recounting anecdotes, fond memories and hopes for the future. The evening then concluded with a lively rendition of the graduation song "Never Forget" by Take That.

This is always such a special evening for students, parents and staff. It wouldn't happen without the help and support of many people who we need to thank. Firstly, to Fr Richard for always making Graduation Mass so personal and spiritual for everyone. To Ms Bourke, Ms O'Donnell and Ms Devaney who support us in the Religion Department and facilitate all that we need to do. To Ms O'Rourke, Mr Coll and the choir for the beautiful music and singing, which enhanced the whole event. To Colin and Mr O'Connell for transforming the gym into such a special venue. To Liz for all of the photocopying. To Denise and the Parents Association for all of the refreshments. To the staff for their continued and on-going support of graduation and to the parents and students to whom the evening belongs to.

L Bohan and the Religion Department

Volunteering For All School Award

The Volunteering For All Workshops introduced TY students to the key concepts around youth volunteerism. After participating in the Volunteering Workshop the TY students were able to appreciate the benefits and positive impact that volunteering has for our community. As part of the Volunteering for All Workshop students were challenged to profile and record volunteering that currently takes place in our school, by students, teachers and staff. The Volunteering For All Award is non-competitive and it allowed the school to celebrate and recognise volunteering currently being undertaken in the school and outside the school by members of the school community. From this the students designed a volunteering charter for our school. The TY students received the Volunteering For All School Award from our local TD Noel Rock.

Mr. Farrell





St. Mary's Secondary School Volunteering For All Charter

St. Mary's Secondary School recognises volunteerism as a means of promoting positive wellbeing. As a school community we value the importance of sharing our time, and supporting those in need in our community. This school believes volunteerism is a means of providing opportunities to learn new skills and enhance existing ones. St. Mary's Secondary School celebrates the diversity and multiculturalism of our community.

- As volunteers we have the right to be included. We have the responsibility to participate and work together as a team.
- As volunteers we have the right to be respected. We have the responsibility to be free of judgement and to listen to others.
- As volunteers we have the right to be treated equally. It is our responsibility to ensure everyone has the same opportunities to be successful.
- As volunteers we have the right to be ourselves. It is our responsibility to ensure we celebrate our diversity, and make our school a safe space.
- As volunteers we will lead by example.
- As volunteers we will recognise a need in our community, and be of service to that need to empower our community.
- As volunteers we will do our best and encourage others to do their best too.

St. Mary's Secondary School recognises that students and staff of our school, our families and the Glasnevin community are stakeholders to our success in volunteerism.



On behalf of St. Mary's Holy Faith College, Glasnevin the
TY Students of 2018-2019 have developed and enacted the
Volunteering For All Charter on
20.08.2019

Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards



Minister Paschal Donohoe was at St Mary's Holy Faith, Glasnevin to present one of our students with the prestigious 2019 Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards for her volunteering work. Ciara McKenna was nominated for her work with Child-Vision, assisting with the educational and therapeutic needs of children with various disabilities. The Spirit Of Community Awards, which is run in partnership with the National Association of Principals and Deputy Principals (NAPD) and the General Teaching Council for Northern Ireland (GTCNI), honours post-primary students for outstanding acts of volunteerism and the positive contribution they make in their local communities. Ciara was one of twenty students presented with €500 and an engraved silver medallion at an awards ceremony on 28th March at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin. Ciara along with their fellow students who also applied for the award were presented with a certificates by Minister Donohoe at an Awards Ceremony held in the school on Friday 22nd March 2019.

Pastoral Care – 6th Year Mentoring Programme.

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

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 will help encourage academic success for the students as a teacher will meet with them throughout the year helping the student set their goals and ensuring 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

Social Care Placements for Transition Year Students

Peter McVerry Trust Social Outreach Programme



Seven TY students took part in the social outreach programme offered by the Fr Peter McVerry Trust. This is a one week rolling programme, which aims to raise awareness of social issues such as homelessness and drug use.

people become and remain homeless and why some people use drugs and the difficulty in giving up drugs, how homeless people see their past and see their future and to compare their experience with your own.

Activities include:

Visiting our drop in centre

- Site visits to our residential services
- Meeting Fr McVerry, staff and service users
- Interviews with our service users
- Visit to the Criminal Courts of Justice.

Ella Corcoran was one student who took part in the week long programme and she said at her TY Graduation – "It was one of the highlights of my TY experience, I really enjoyed taking part in this Social Outreach Programme"

Programme details

The week begins with an introduction to the work of the Trust and background before meeting the founder Peter McVerry. The purpose of the placement is to learn why some

Pictured Left: Margaret McKenna, Minister Paschal Donohoe, Ciara McKenna, Noel McKenna and Ciaran McCormack (NAPD)

Pictured Below: Deputy Principal Ms. O'Donnell, Amy Wall, Niamh Finnegan, Tara Macken, Minister Donohoe, Ciara McKenna, Alex Fitzgerald, Leah Harris, Principal Ms. Bourke and Deputy Principal Ms. Devaney



GEOGRAPHY DEPARTMENT

Introduction of New Junior Cycle Program

1st year students engaged with the new Junior Cycle Geography Syllabus this year. This new specification puts students at the centre of learning, and students enjoyed a variety of active learning methodologies in their classes. All 1st year students participated in a mini CBA 'Geography in the News' which saw them research and present about a recent geographical event of their choice. Students were very creative and presented projects on various topics including Climate Change, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes and sustainability measures. Students also engaged in the new Junior Cycle 'Key Skills'. Students gained skills such as creativity, communication, managing information and thinking and working with others.

Fifth Year Geographical Investigation

All 5th year geography students completed the practical element of their Geographical Investigation. This is worth 20% of their leaving cert result. Our location was Balscadden Bay in Howth.

As part of the field study students had to determine wave type by carrying out wave frequency task, and track oranges being transported along the coast by longshore drift. They also had to measure the long profile of the beach. Finally, a random sample of rocks was analysed to try determine the local rock type.

The girls did a great job and have been busy writing up their booklets in preparation for the Leaving Certificate.



Burren Trip

6th years headed to the Burren for their final trip as St Mary's students. And even though there were some last minute itinerary changes due to the arrival of Storm Hannah, it proved to be a very memorable weekend. On the first day we visited the iconic Cliffs of Moher, took a brief diversion to the Rock Shop and then finished off the day by descending into Doolin Cave to see Europe's biggest stalactite. Then it was back to the hostel to batten down the hatches before the arrival of the storm. The winds and flickering lights were barely noticeable with the distraction of some excellent lip sync performances and some fiercely competed card games. The second day began with a hike over the limestone pavement at Blackhead where the effects of carbonation were obvious in the many grykes, karrens and flutings. The next stop was Lahinch where we gave rock-climbing and archery a go. Then it was time to get the wetsuits on and grab our surfboards for a two hour surfing lesson. The weather had cleared for our final day so we were able to get the boat out to Inisheer, where we hopped on bikes and went to visit the Plassey shipwreck. Our last stop was Fanore beach, then it was back on the bus to head for home.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the teachers who gave up their Easter holidays, and the students who were an absolute pleasure. The girls got stuck into all of the activities with a great attitude and sense of fun. The owner of the hostel emailed afterwards to say "what a lovely group the girls were and the respect they showed the property and the condition they left it in for a group was very much appreciated". Already looking forward to #Burren2020



Transition Year Geography

This year, our TY geography students engaged in several modules covering a wide range of geography topics from current geographical natural disasters, environmental sustainability and research into world issues such as climate change and plastic taking over our oceans. Students were able to engage with the above material in interactive formats, using and developing their ICT skills to map and track their understanding, centre their learning and questioning in group environments and even report and analyse their findings together in their published school work titled 'A Plastic Truth'.

Students have developed skills to make them question the actions we take and the consequences they have on the world we live in. They have engaged with material which has prepared them to be active geographers.

Slovenia

The final preparations are being put in place for the Geography Tour to Slovenia in September 2019. The itinerary is almost ready and includes hiking in the Julian Alps, a boat trip on Lake Bled, a cable car to Vogel Mountain, and a visit to two of the world's most impressive cave limestone cave systems. Ms. Byrne and Ms. Bunnett will be doing a brief inspection tour in advance of the trip to make the final arrangements.



Climate Change Initiative

This year a global climate change initiative was created by a young Swedish activist named Greta Thunberg. Her concern about our humanity's neglect towards the welfare and sustainability of our earth's resources led her to spark international awareness amongst adolescents all around the world. She created a global initiative titled 'Fridays for Change' which saw young people from all around the world strike outside government buildings demanding our policy makers to make change and start preserving our earth's finite resources by placing greater emphasis on renewable energies and by setting goals to reduce carbon emissions. On Friday March 15th 2019, a world climate change rally took place with thousands of young people marching in the streets of Dublin to support this cause. Our 1st year geography students along with some TY and 6th geography students acted as ambassadors and prepared for the event by publicising it and informing our St Mary's cohort about the dangers of climate change and what we can do to reduce our carbon footprint.



PE DEPARTMENT

Athletics and Cross Country

We had a fantastic day at the North Leinster Schools Track & Field Championships in Morton Stadium, Santry. A small group of very talented students competed in various events with Sarah Bateson grabbing the silver medal after a wonderful performance in the 1500m, qualifying her for the Leinster Championships. Sarah also attended the second track & field day where she took 3rd place in the 3000m. Two amazing results, well done to the team and Sarah for bringing home the medals!

The North Leinster Schools' Cross-Country event took place in the Phoenix Park this year. And Sarah once again had an outstanding performance getting a top 3 finish qualifying her for the Leinster Schools' Cross-Country event, an amazing accomplishment.

PE Expo

Well done to the TY students from class Santiago who submitted projects into the PE Expo this year which took place in DCU. Three really interesting and thought invoking titles were submitted and a lot of hard work

was put into the research and presentation of these projects. On the day these amazing students had no problem with presenting their findings to the judges. The topics ranged from:

- *Girls participation in Sport,*
- *Does feedback in Sport Matter? and*
- *Brains and Gains – Does mental preparation affect your physical performance?*

A fun and enjoyable day for all!

Women in Sports 20/20 Campaign

As part of the 20/20 campaign promoting women in Sport, the PE Department organised a whole school trip to watch the Womens Ireland rugby team and our own superstar Ms Considine in a Six Nations match in Donnybrook. It was a great evening and we look forward to continue promoting women in sport and the 20/20 campaign.



Tennis Club

This year in St Mary's the tennis club has been meeting every Wednesday 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. A special mention to our Player of the Year Sophia Francis and our most Dedicated Player Sophia Burke!

Enjoy the break.



St. Mary's Secondary School, Holy Faith Convent, Glasnevin
Tennis Club 2018/2019 with Mr. O'Connell & Ms. Lennon

Mr. O'Connell and Ms. Lennon.

Sports Day 2019:

Sports day 2019 was a huge success even if the weather wasn't on our side. Each year group took part in various activities and competed against other class groups. Sports team members then got presented with their player of the year and dedication to sport awards. The day finished with the annual teachers v 6th years Olympic handball game.

Sports awards were presented by Lindsay Peat Irish Rugby, Basketball & Soccer International and she gave an inspirational speech about the 20x20 campaign and women in sport.

Senior Gaelic Football:

The seniors had another successful year reaching the Senior D final for the second time in two years. They played Old Bawn Tallaght and unfortunately lost with a score from Old Bawn in the last minute of the game. Stand out performers on the day were Amy Wall, Karla Conway, Chanice Dolan, Nicole Mitchell, Jade Kelly & Megan Kelly. Gaelic player of the year went to captain Nicole Mitchell and Dedication to Gaelic was won by Leah Wheatley.



6th Year members of the Gaelic Football team.



Senior Gaelic team with Coaches Mr. Beirne and Ms. Considine



Nicole Mitchell Captain & Player of the year 2019

Tag Rugby:

The first year tag rugby girls made huge improvements this year through various blitzes run by Leinster Rugby. In the final blitz of the year they played 5 games and finished 4th place out of 12 teams. Most of the opposition teams consisted of 2nd and 3rd years so our first years did brilliantly and the future looks bright for tag rugby in St Mary's. Our player of the year was Janessa Austria and our most dedicated player was Mairead McGuinness.



6th Year Sport Awards

Each year a sports person of the year is chosen in St Mary's. This person shows exceptional skills and is a vital part to their teams. Huge dedication and commitment to sport in St Mary's is also a requirement. This year there were joint winners, Megan and Jade Kelly.



Megan and Jade Kelly Sportspersons of the year 2019 with Lindsay Peat.



Nicole Mitchell won the Dedication to Sport award 2019

Volleyball and Spike-ball

A huge congratulations to the Junior Volleyball team who reached the All-Ireland semi-finals at the University of Limerick this year. In the lead up to the finals day the teams had a very successful run on matches defeating Mercy Coolock, Colaiste Mhuire Ennis, Ardscoil Mhuire Ballinasloe and Strokestown. The dedicated students trained on Tuesday lunchtimes and Wednesdays after school. A huge thank you to all the students from 1st to 6th year who helped out at training and acted as umpires and scorekeepers during the tournaments.



St. Mary's Secondary School, Holy Faith Convent, Glasnevin
Volleyball Junior Team 2018/2019 with Ms. Coleman

Extra Curricular Activities

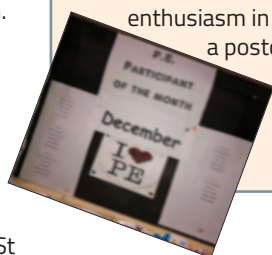
Basketball Season 2019

Our basketball teams had another successful year with three teams making it to the finals in Tallaght – the u19 Premier team, the u16 Division 1 team and the 2nd division 2 team. The u19 premier team- the highest division in the league had many tough games including a semi final against Mt Sackville. The girls made it to the finals to face Dominicans Griffith Avenue – who they had narrowly beaten in the pool game. The final was a tough game with both sides battling hard. Unfortunately it wasn't to be St Marys day and the team was narrowly defeated.

The second-year division 2 basketball team had another great year getting to the final in the national basketball arena. We played a very tough game against Maryfield with both sides evenly matched, the score level at half time, but unfortunately Maryfield took the lead and secured the victory in the final quarter. It was a fantastic performance from every member of the squad with this being the only defeat the girls suffered. The stand out performance on the day was from team Captain and player of the year Ella Ward.

This year we have introduced a **'Participant of the Month'** award in PE. The award was given to students who showed motivation, excellence and enthusiasm in PE and they received a postcard home.

Congratulations to all the recipients.



St. Mary's Secondary School, Holy Faith Convent, Glasnevin
Under 19 Premier Basketball 2018/2019 with Ms. Bunnett



St. Mary's Secondary School, Holy Faith Convent, Glasnevin
Under 16 Basketball Winners 2018/2019 with Ms. Mulvey



St. Mary's Secondary School, Holy Faith Convent, Glasnevin
2nd Year Basketball 2018/2019 with Mr. Byrne



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 2018. 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 Junior (TY) Teams secured a place in the Northside League Semi-Final, unfortunately losing to The King's Hospital in an exciting Shuttle Shoot-out.

First Year Hockey

We welcomed new 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 year's took part in the Northside League playing four matches of which they drew two with Dominican Griffith Avenue and Dominican Cabra. Unfortunately, they did not reach a Final this year. However, the matches built on their skills and determination in preparation for next year.



First Year Hockey Team



First Year Hockey Team & Hockey Ireland Kenny Carroll

Second Year Hockey

The Second year team entered the Northside League this year for the first time. They had great success in their matches playing Dominican Cabra, Castleknock and with a great win against Dominican Griffith Avenue. Unfortunately, they missed out on

qualification to the finals. However, this year has made them more eager and determined for next year.



2nd Year Hockey Team with Ms. Cunningham and Ms. Dowling

Junior Teams – 3rd Year and TY

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

The 3rd year team commenced the Northside League matches in January 2019. They took on Dominican Cabra, St Wolstans, Manor House and St Joseph's Lucan. They had an exciting win against Manor House 1-0 and a closely contested match securing a 1-1 draw against St Joseph's Lucan. However, this was not enough to qualify. The team was disappointed as they really come close to qualification to the finals. However, their great achievements this year has made them more eager and determined for next year.



3rd Year Hockey Team braving the elements! with Ms. Boran

Senior & TY Teams

The Senior team was a combination of both 5th years and 6th years and commenced their Senior 3 league matches in January 2019. They narrowly missed out on winning the final last year and were eager to win that trophy again. They played Castleknock, St Wolstans, Dominican Griffith Ave and Dominican Cabra. They played some great hockey and had some closely contested and very competitive matches in their league this year.

Unfortunately, it was not St Mary's year. I can only commend all the players on fantastic performances only just losing out by narrow margins. The team did everything to score goals, missing many opportunities. They narrowly missed the target and had most of the opportunities in their games, however, scoring the goals this year seemed elusive!

Senior Hockey Team



Senior Hockey Team with Ms Boran

The TY Junior team took on St Wolstan's, Holy Faith Clontarf and King's Hospital (KH) and played some excellent hockey. They reached a play-off semi-final against KH. KH 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. Glasnevin got back into the game with a fantastic goal 1-0. As the clock counted down the Glasnevin win was looking good. In the last few minutes of the game KH scored from a short corner (1-1) bringing the game to penalty shuttles. The penalty shuttles went into sudden death with a final score of 13-14 to KH. Unfortunately, it did not go our way, but our goal keeper Tara McCabe made some excellent saves.

TY Hockey Team

The players of all teams can hold their heads up high. We say Goodbye to our 6th Year Hockey players and thank them for their participation and contribution to St Mary's Hockey. It is a pleasure to coach these players and we look forward to next season! They are already saying 'There's always next year!!' Thanks to all supporters on the day. Thanks to Ms Bunnnett, Ms Cunningham and Ms Dowling 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....



TY Hockey Team braving the elements! with Ms. Boran and Ms. Bunnnett

A. Boran



Minor Camogie



Having won their final last year, the minor team was given the chance to move up to Group B this year. The team made up of first to third years jelled well together and started off their campaign with a win against Loreto Swords, having battled horrendous winds and snow. A tough game and a defeat against Maryfield left the team in no doubt that stepping up to Group B was a difficult task. The girls showed they were up to the task with an excellent display and a superb win against MacDaras. A semi final against Clane, who we had overcome in the final last year, beckoned. The match against Clane was a

close fought battle with the team running out one point winners. A rematch against Maryfield in the final proved to be a step too far for the girls. Having played extremely well in the first half, the girls couldn't hold on to their lead in the second half. This team have a great future ahead of them in the St Mary's jersey and we look forward to the finals to come.

Junior Camogie



Following their success last year, the junior camogie team moved up to Group B. Following a narrow defeat to Scoil Chaitríona the team regrouped and put in an excellent display against St Colmcilles. Despite another defeat by Clane in their last group match the girls qualified for the quarter final against Coláiste Cois Life. Unfortunately the girls were no match for Coláiste Cois Life on the day.

Senior Camogie



The senior camogie team faced a tough challenge this year, moving up to Group B after last year's success. The first match against St Colmcilles showed the girls the standard they needed to reach to compete in the higher division. A hard fought win against Loreto Stephen's Green left the girls with a chance to qualify for the quarter final if they could overcome Scoil Dara from Kildare.

In their final group match, the team pulled off an amazing 18 point win. Unfortunately the quarter final proved a step too far as the girls lost out in a thrilling game against Maynooth which saw 11 goals scored between the two teams.

Best wishes to our 6th years, we look forward to seeing you represent your clubs (and hopefully Dublin) in the future!

HOME ECONOMICS DEPARTMENT

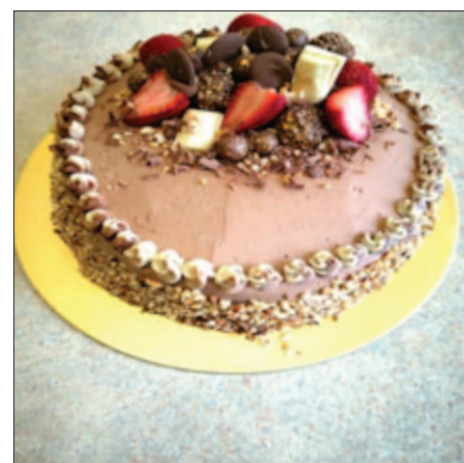
Little Chef Cookery Club

It was another successful year in the after-school kitchen for the Little Chef Cookery Club. This year, the girls improved and developed their Home Economics skills by making both sweet and savoury dishes. The club is increasing in numbers each year as the girls not only develop their culinary skills in a fun environment but also make friends when doing so. Well done to everyone involved.



Staff Bake Off

The students weren't the only ones who had fun in the kitchen this year! For the second consecutive year, a group of teachers put their baking skills to the test for the St Mary's Bake Off. Each week, the standard of bakes got higher and the competition became heated. In the end, it Ms. Coleman who took home the trophy for the competition this year.



First Year and Second Year Cookery & Crafts

All second year Home Economics students have commenced work on their Junior Certificate craftwork projects. This year, students are making colourful cross stitch pictures suitable for use in either a teenager's bedroom, as a gift for someone special or as a special momentum. This project accounts for 15% of their overall grade in the subject and students must also put forward a support folder with their project to explain the design process. The girls are really enjoying this style of craft as it helps them to be creative while learning the skill of embroidery.

To finish the year, first year Home Economics students took up an upcycling challenge which saw them transform their old unloved textile items into something new using the craft of tie dye. Throughout the year, students developed and improved their culinary skills and produced lots of tasty and nutritious starter, main and dessert dishes. Well done on a great first year!



Junior Certificate Practical Cookery Exams

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



Fifth Year Food Journals

This year's fifth year students are finishing up work on their Leaving Certificate Food Coursework Journals which account for 20% of their overall grade in the subject. The year's assignments were based on a broad range of topics including:

- Nutritional needs of school-going children
- Obesity
- Roasting as a method of cooking food
- Denaturation of protein
- Sensory analysis



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

Health and Wellbeing Week

Health and Wellbeing Week was hugely successful this year. Ms. Boran, members of the TY Health Squad, the PE and Home Economics department did a fantastic job in promoting the importance of a good diet and exercise to members of the school community.

Some of the healthy and tasty snacks on offer to students and staff during the week included overnight oats, brown bread, homemade popcorn, protein energy balls, fruit pots and summer fruit/tropical smoothies.

There were also a number of guest speakers present during the week who spoke to various year groups about nutrition and the importance of making healthy lifestyle choices.



Health Squad 2018/2019 with Ms. Bunnett, Ms. Considine and Ms. Boran

Culture Week Food Event

During 'Culture Week' there were excellent displays of foods from all around the world made by many students. This was a brilliant opportunity for the students to share foods from various cultures. The variety of foods was prepared in school and available for the whole school community to try! Well Done to all involved!



Christmas Baking

The 2nd, 3rd and 5th Years were busy before Christmas making chocolate biscuit cakes that resembled Christmas puddings to bring home for Christmas!



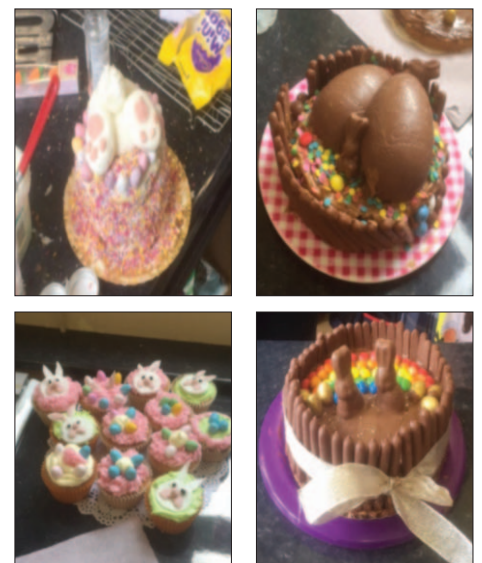
Pancake Tuesday

The 2nd Years enjoyed making, flipping and eating pancakes on Pancake Tuesday!



Easter Cake Competition

The 1st and 2nd Years proved to be very creative in their entries for the Easter Cake Competition! Well Done to all involved! Ms O'Donnell and Ms Caffrey had the difficult job of choosing the winners!



Ms. E. Martin and Ms. A. McGinn

PAIRED READING PROGRAMME

Book Buddies

Reading Gains Programme

Transition Year and First Year students came together again this year for another successful Reading Gains Programme. The Reading Gains programme is designed to help First Years who are experiencing difficulty with reading to gain confidence and skills through enjoyable, relaxed reading time.

Every Friday morning, TY and First Year students settled down on the comfy couches in the school library to browse and enjoy a wide selection of books. The First Year students were encouraged to read aloud, listen and share their experience of just reading for fun. TY students worked individually with students and in small groups, helping the First Years to gain confidence in their reading.

A special thanks to the TY students who volunteered for this very worthwhile activity – your patient mentoring was much appreciated!

Picture courtesy of stmaryane.org.



GARDENING CLUB

Gardening Club

We have had lots of fun activities at lunchtime on Thursdays for gardening club, most recently we ended our year with 'Drop everything and Weed!'

A big thank you to all the staff, our gardening mentor Gwen and the students who have helped us keep our Sensory Garden thriving through a variety of planting activities like our Lumper potato planting history lesson with Ms O'Doherty and chemical free by weeding by hand.



Our Sensory garden, a space for relaxing, socialising and learning.



'Drop everything and Weed'

Lumped Together, History in the Sensory Garden



This year the History Department and the Gardening Club were able to unite on a unique project. Glens of Antrim potato growers have managed to revive a historic potato variety, the Lumper. So called because it is not a potato known for its beauty, it is quite lumpy and yellow skinned. It was one of the most common varieties grown in Ireland in the early 1800s because it had the ability to grow well even in poor soil. The school was lucky to be a part of a nationwide programme to commemorate the Great Famine by receiving free seed potatoes to plant. The seed potatoes have now been planted in the sensory garden in an effort to increase biodiversity within the garden and of course to remember one of our great tragedies. Many thanks to Ms. Cunningham and the gardening club who gave their expertise in the supervision of the planting of the Lumpers. This project will continue in the new school year as we dig up our produce and give the school community a chance to taste a little bit of history.

Ms O'Doherty

Green Schools and our Biodiversity Plan

Through Local Agenda 21 funding, we put in place a biodiversity plan in the sensory garden and surrounding grounds in St Mary's. Our aim was to increase the level of biodiversity by improving existing habitats and providing new habitats for wildlife, create greater awareness and understanding of biodiversity amongst the student cohort and gain our biodiversity Green Schools flag. Another aim was to increase the sustainability of the area with the addition of five new water butts, to maximise the collection of rainwater and ensure no tap water would be used for watering the Sensory garden area. As part of this plan we requested that no weed killing chemicals be used in the Sensory garden area between the student gate and the car park steps. This is in support of increasing biodiversity and caring for our planet. Self-seeded plants are now removed from cracks in the concrete by hand by staff and student volunteers.

One of our areas of improvement included the pond. We have successfully improved the existing pond through the introduction of aquatic plants, created a new raised pond which will also act as a learning space for students to see pond wildlife up close. This has been planted with native aquatic plants suitable for pollinators. Second year students and fifth year education for living students were involved in this.

A group of Green Schools students went on a trip to Desireland in Stoneybatter, to learn about pollinators and their importance. Students from the trip helped to host a presentation using PowerPoint to 1st year students during Green Schools Week to share their knowledge. All first years were then invited to sow a St Mary's harvested sunflower seed which they could bring home or leave to be planted out in the school.

Mr McGill oversaw the introduction of Swift Boxes, arriving in May, to the school building in an effort to expand on the biodiversity of our grounds and further to this Mr Montague oversaw the commission of bat boxes from Finglas Men's Shed group. These will be situated later in the year on the advice of Sister Enda Mullen who spoke to the whole TY group earlier in the year about bats. Small bird nesting boxes and feeders were introduced before Christmas and we have seen them being used by Blue Tits. Students in gardening club made fat balls using St Mary's sunflower seeds mixed with bought seed to feed the birds over the Christmas



break.



were all planted by students in October and November to provide nectar and pollen for our bees in early and late spring in the Sensory Garden. We have seen many varieties of bumble bee and our native black bee availing of them as early as the first week of February. We are intentionally not clearing all weeds such as nettles (essential for the Peacock butterfly), thistles (their flowers are excellent for bees) and any wild



TY seedlings from their Birds and Biodiversity module

flowers that have self-seeded (excellent for all pollinators and don't need watering). We are maintaining our lavenders, currents, raspberry and strawberry plants as well as all our Mediterranean herbs as they enjoy the conditions in the Sensory garden and provide for all the pollinators. The majority of these plants are also relatively drought proof so not requiring so much water.

Students have learned to plant in our sensory garden, broad beans, peas, potatoes, runner beans (great for pollinators) and chard for eating and sunflowers to provide habitats

and nectar for pollinators.

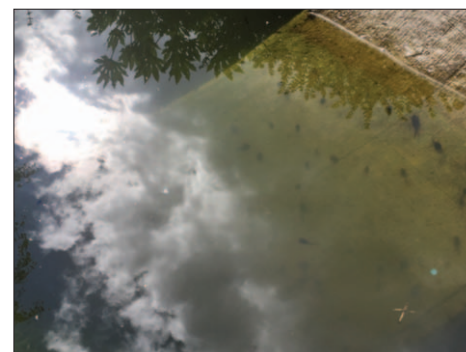
Our planting aims are simply to grow plants that are useful for the environment and teach students about sustainability and self-sufficiency. Where a student doesn't have garden access for example, I encourage them to take a small pot for harvesting shoots of peas or consider sprouting shoots.

Mr Tierney or caretaker took on the task of constructing a great Insect chalet in the biodiversity bed next to the gym which will be filled with twigs and branches collected from the school grounds and ceramic waste from the art department.

Mr Montague and I have linked students in with the Convent biodiversity meadow.

My fifth year Education for living students worked with 4th class students from St Bridget's back in November to plant bulbs for early spring to create a space for pollinators to feed. My sixth year education for living group have done some weeding of the grass from the biodiversity meadow and also sowed 200 sunflower seeds, the majority of which have survived and approximately 60-80 planted out by them and members of the committee on May 1st.

We held a native wild flower seed bomb work shop back in the winter term for green schools as a fun way to learn about seed dispersal. These will be used in our last week of the academic year to spread wildflower seed into the biodiversity bed.



Our existing pond reinvigorated, reflects our biodiversity aims and is teeming with life!

Supervised Study

Well done to all the students who took part in supervised study this year. The number of students doing supervised study after school was very high and these students found the experience very beneficial in preparation for their exams. Over 60 students availed of supervised study at Easter. Don't forget that supervised study will start up again in September and is run for the whole academic year from Monday to Thursday for 2 hours after school.

Ms Higgins.



Breakfast Club

St Mary's breakfast club has gone from strength to strength over the last number of years with more and more students from each year group availing of our wonderful selection of complimentary fruits, scones, oat bars, cereals and treats. It runs each and every day from 8am to 8.40am in St Mary's kitchen. It is a wonderful place to bump into a friendly face and meet new people. Over the course of the year breakfast club hosted some wonderful specialised mornings including an Irish breakfast morning as part of Seachtaine na Gaeilge and a French morning whereby students got to sample a typical French breakfast. We look forward to welcoming all our students new and old to our club in the coming academic year.



HISTORY DEPARTMENT

History Society

The St Mary's History Society met every Monday at lunch time in Room 26 and all new members were always welcome. The society allows students to come together to discuss their favourite areas of history. Students can choose a topic individually and then research and present it to the society. I would like wish all the History Club a fantastic summer and to say a particular thanks to our outgoing Sixth Years members. The History Club wishes you all the best for the future. Enjoy the break,

Mr. O'Connell

The Big History Quiz

In March, a group of thirty 2nd years participated in a "Big History Quiz" at St Vincent's Boys school. Accompanied by Mr. Farrell and Ms Conkey the thirty hopefuls left the tennis court during lunch and walked to St Vincent's in Glasnevin. The weather was glorious and the anticipation was palpable!

St Vincent's were wonderful students and provided goodies for all the students. TY students made sure our ladies were well looked after. The History Quiz was filmed and live-streamed via YouTube to the remaining St Vincent's students. For a few rounds St Mary's girls were holding their own against the boys, but unfortunately St Vincent's snagged the win and the beautiful History Quiz trophy shall remain with St Vincent's... until next year!

Ms O'Doherty

Trip to the Clonskeagh Mosque

On the 30th of April, two second year classes, Sienna and Sepia along with their religion teachers headed off on the number 11 bus to Clonskeagh Mosque. This trip was organised to help complete their Religion Journal Work, an important part of their Junior Cert. course. When we arrived at the mosque we were met by our wonderful tour guide Dr. Ali. He was an engaging speaker who had everyone on their toes with the promise of presents for correct answers to his questions. After this introductory session, we were brought into the main prayer hall, shoes off of course, where we were joined by another school group. He encouraged us to observe the main hall and as the students identified different features, he gave further explanation, for example we found out that they chose a green carpet to reflect Irish culture. Everyone was delighted when the promise of presents for answers turned into presents for everyone. In line with the new focus on climate change, every student received a lovely green reusable water bottle. Overall, the trip was a great success and has helped our second years to deepen their understanding of another faith and encouraged them to engage with interfaith dialogue.



STUDENT COUNCIL

St Mary's Student Council 2018/19 have had a busy year! They engaged in weekly meetings where an agenda was set, and each student had the opportunity to voice and discuss their opinion on various matters that arose.

The Student Council began the year with a visit to Dáil Éireann to meet with past student, Regina Doherty TD, who is the Minister for Employment Affairs and Social Protection. The students also received a tour of the Oireachtas and had the opportunity to view a live Dáil debate. The visit concluded the work carried out by the Council in the previous academic year, which celebrated 100 years since women won their right to vote.

The Student Council was asked to review a number of policies this year. These included;

The Health and Safety Policy, The Substance Abuse Policy, The Child Protection Risk Assessment, The Child Safeguarding Statement and perhaps most significantly, The Code of Behaviour Policy. Each of these reviews took place during lunch time meetings in the library. The reviewing of various school policies formed a platform from which many

meaningful discussions with students took place. Within these discussions, many concerns, ideas and general comments were voiced. The Student Council also surveyed all Fifth and Sixth Year students, in order to assess what some of the key issues for Senior Students were.





St. Mary's Secondary School, Holy Faith Convent, Glasnevin
Student Council Members 2018/2019 with Ms. Murtagh

Prefects

The Sixth Year Prefects were a great support and asset to the life of St Mary's this year. They engaged in regular meetings with their own peer group and with various members of staff, in order to ascertain how they could best serve the school community. The Prefects took



St. Mary's Secondary School, Holy Faith Convent, Glasnevin
6th Year Prefects with Ms. Murtagh 2018/2019

their roles as leaders seriously and did their best to lead by example. They also engaged in various initiatives throughout the year: The Dress Up Day competition for 1st Years; The SVP Hamper collection; Building Bonds and the Get to Know My Prefect strategy.

ROINN NA GAILIGE

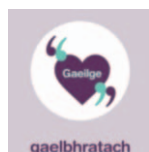
Seachtain na Gaeilge

Roinn na Gaeilge celebrated seachtain na Gaeilge with style this year. We had a céilí, joined by Italian students who were delighted by all the fun! We spent time relaxing in classes and catching up on our culture by watching Irish films and reading Irish novels. We had a treasure hunt, a quiz and a song contest for 1st years which was well attended and applauded! Well done to all who helped to make this Seachtain na Gaeilge one to remember.



Rinne Roinn na Gaeilge ceiliúradh galánta ar Sheachtain na Gaeilge i mbliana. Bhí céilí againn le daltaí ón lódáil a bhain taitneamh agus tairbhe as an ócáid! Ligeamar ár scíth sna ranganna go cultúrtha ag féachaint ar scannáin Ghaeilge agus ag léamh úrscéalta Gaeilge. Bhí réimse imeachtaí againn; tóráocht taisce, tráth na gceist agus comórtas amhránaíochta do lucht na céad bliana. Bhain an lucht féachana an-sult as! Míle buíochas do gach éinne a ghlac páirt sa seachtain rathúil seo.

Coiste Gaelbhratach



The Coiste Gaelbhratach had an excellent year this year. In November the Coiste and some first year students took part in Gaeilge 24. They

spoke Irish for the day and they had a bit of craic and a céilí at lunchtime. For Valentines Day fifth year students created hearts with phrases through Irish. During Seachtain na Gaeilge the Coiste was central to all events. There was a breakfast club, a Gaelic football match, board games, and a treasure hunt. During the year there was an Irish wall with memes and information about the Gaeltacht. At the end of the year the Coiste had a visit from representatives of Conradh na Gaeilge and were presented with their third flag as a result of all the hard work they have done this year.

Bhí bliain iontach ag an gCoiste Gaelbhratach i mbliana. I Mí na Samhna ghlac

an coiste agus roinnt daltaí ón gcéad bhliain páirt i nGaeilge 24. Labhair na daltaí Gaeilge don lá ar fad agus bhí craic agus céilí acu ag am lóin. Do Lá Fhéile Vailintín, chruthaigh daltaí ón gcúigiú bliain croíthe le frásaí deasa trí Ghaeilge. I rith Seachtain na Gaeilge, bhí an coiste lárnach sna himeachtaí. Bhí club bricfeasta, cluiche peile, cluiche cláir agus tóráocht taisce ar siúl. I rith na bliana bhí balla na Gaeilge ag an gCoiste le meimeanna agus eolas faoin ngaeltacht. Ag deireadh na bliana, fuair an coiste cuairt ó ionadái Chonradh na Gaeilge agus bronnadh an triú bratach orthu as ucht an sár-obair atá déanta acu i mbliana.



St. Mary's Secondary School, Holy Faith Convent, Glasnevin
Coiste Gaelbhratach 2018/2019 le Ms. Morgan, Ms. Lennon agus O'Mahoney

GREEN SCHOOLS

Green Schools Week

Green Schools week took place this year from the 4th-8th of March 2019 and was nothing short of a roaring success. Students from 1st to 6th year took part in numerous activities which ran all week promoting biodiversity, the importance of our bees, recycling, energy and transport and sustainability. We had short dramas, junk kouture items, eco bricks, a cake sale to raise funds for green school projects. We even had a cinematic experience with Blue Planet in the Choir hall with eco-friendly goody bags to munch on! The whole school community played a part as the Home Economics, Science, Art, English and of course Geography

departments created amazing posters, experiments and displays depicting the impact we are having on our Planet and in particular our Oceans. The green school committee promoted plenty of positive ways we can reduce our carbon footprint with multiple activities to take part in throughout the week while our 4th years had the pleasure of making their own beauty products thus reducing waste.

The week was a massive success and we had the pleasure of finishing off our week with a 'Go Green for Green Schools' day on the Friday. All students were invited to wear green for a day with a small donation. We made over 1000 euro to put towards green initiatives while raising awareness around vital green issues. We had great fun learning from each other all week and look forward to topping this year with an even better Green Schools Week in 2020!



Biodiversity Flag



Biodiversity is the fifth Green schools theme and looks at steps which can be taken to increase awareness of the importance of native plants, animals and habitats, and to increase species-richness in a locality. Sanfra Shallot, Sofia Balog and Kate McManus accompanied Mr Montague to the Green Schools Award ceremony in the Helix on Wednesday 22nd May.

They were presented with our fifth Green Schools flag for all their Biodiversity efforts including the creation of the Biodiversity Garden with the Holy Faith Garden Committee, the maintenance of our own sensory garden, cross-curricular endeavors, Green School's Week awareness activities, partnerships with local schools, TY's work during their 'conservation' module and student workshop with BÍ Urban in Stoneybatter. Congrats to all involved on this wonderful achievement!



Ember Graduation 2019- St Mary's Host Diocesan Event

In May, St Mary's hosted the Ember Graduation for all of the Dublin Dioceses groups. On the day we had 120 students from 15 Ember teams from across the Dioceses. Our own Ember team hosted the event which was a great success. The students went on a reflective walk in the Botanic Gardens and then had a lovely talk from our guest speaker Gerry Keegan in the Margaret Alyward Centre. The day finished with the graduation liturgy in the Convent Chapel.

It was a lovely occasion for our Ember Team and for all who visited.



LANGUAGES DEPARTMENT

German Language Assistant



Ms. Amelie Betz

We were very fortunate to have our German Language Assistant – Ms. Amelie Betz join the German Department this year from October to April. This was a wonderful opportunity for students to experience German as a living language. Students had the invaluable opportunity to improve their fluency through debating and classroom-based discussion, as well as gain a better understanding of the way of life and customs of German speaking countries. From Christmas baking and singing to games and fun we were always kept entertained!

Vielen Dank Frau Betz!

School Tour to Germany

In September, the German Department looks forward to announcing the next exciting school tour to Germany! Watch this space!



French Department

The French Department is currently preparing for its educational trip to Paris. In October 2019, 42 French students from St Mary's ranging from 2nd year to 6th year will embark on a four-day excursion around France's Capital. This trip will be a unique opportunity for students to practice French in its native setting and to savour a multiplicity of aspects of French culture and history. The students will have an opportunity to visit all the major tourist sites in Paris including the Eiffel Tower, Le Sacré Cœur, le Château de Versailles, Le Louvre Museum and even a day trip to Disneyland Paris!

Congratulations to St Mary's Senior French Debating Team this year. The members were Alex Rosus, Mazzy Hollerich, Eira Tabaniag, Eva Murray. The students were victorious in the second round of the competition this year in the Alliance Française in Dublin. Congratulations to Mazzy Hollerich who was awarded a medal for 'Meilleure Oratrice' or Best Speaker from the second round of the French Secondary Schools Debating Competition. We look forward to working with our French Debating Team again in September!

Merci beaucoup!

The French Department



St. Mary's Secondary School, Holy Faith Convent, Glasnevin
French Debating Team 2018/2019 with Ms. Shanahan and Ms. O'Callaghan

School Immersion Programme to Ghana 2020



As a school we have been working with the Vincentian Lay Missionaries (VLM) to develop a volunteering programme for our school which would involve eight students and two teachers travelling to Ghana for three weeks each summer, to work with the Daughters of Charity in Kumasi, Ghana, in their outreach programme for street children.

VLM is a not for profit volunteering organisation which works exclusively with the Daughters of Charity and the Vincentian Fathers to support many of their outreach projects in Ethiopia, Ghana, Kenya and Burkina Faso. They are a Registered Charity

and have achieved the highest standard of "Comprehensive Compliance", of the Comhlámh Code of Good Practice for Volunteer Sending Agencies, since 2013. VLM is also a member of Dóchas, the Irish Association of Non-Governmental Development Organisations.

VLM currently facilitates Schools Immersion Programmes in Castleknock College and St Paul's College, Raheny. Each year eight students and a minimum of two teachers from each school travel to Ambo in Ethiopia.

The project that we as a school are going to support in Ghana is run by the Daughters of Charity. In this project there is a **drop-in centre** in the centre of Kumasi for young girls and boys who are living and working on the streets. The "Street Programme" includes a **Residential Vocational Training Centre** for about 40 young women who have been rescued from the streets and have committed to enter a programme of education and training. At the centre there

are some basic educational and counselling services and facilities for personal hygiene and laundry. There are **two crèches** for the children of the girls who are enrolled in the service while continuing to live and work on the streets. One crèche is located at the drop-in centre while the second is located in the Market. Our students will be working to help in the project in a structured and helpful way.

In September the application process will open for 5th year students with interviews being held by VLM where eight students will be selected to travel with two staff members during the June/July 2020. Each person travelling is set a target to raise €2,000.

The overall approach of this Immersion Programme is not "**poverty tourism**" it is a **journey of solidarity and learning with the marginalised in our world**, which we hope will continue long after the volunteers return home.

Mr Farrell and Ms Morgan

MATHS DEPARTMENT

The Maths Department and students have had an exciting 2019 so far. The following events took place in the Maths Department during this term:

Pangea Mathematics Competition



Pangea is a reputed competition organised in 21 European countries and was held for the sixth time in Ireland. The Maths Olympics is a fun and challenging competition for the

primary and secondary students. These competitions bring together students of like interests and abilities, allowing them to form their own community in which they will find friendship, inspiration, and encouragement to a far greater degree than most of these students can find in the typical classroom. Four students from St Mary's got through to the final competition that was held in Trinity on Saturday 4th May: Mony Aramalla, Nicky Wu (first years), Meghan O'Sullivan and Raghad Achour (second years). The girls did brilliantly and enjoyed the day immensely. Mony came in 3rd place and got a bronze medal. Well done to the girls and a huge congrats to Mony!

DCU Maths Quiz



Our 1st year students took part in the annual first Year Maths quiz in DCU on Wednesday 18th April in DCU. The students were competing with other students from neighbouring schools. Well done to the students involved from first year. We had two teams competing on the day. The Electric Elevens: Nellija Spridzane, Mony Araballa, Charlotte Prizeman and Roxinna Bimbo and The Magic Mathematicians: Kayla Hutch, Ellie Fox, Cara McClean and Chloe Nicole Esguara.

Both teams competed to a high standard on the day. Impressively The Electric Elevens came in fourth place. Well done girls!

UL research visit

On behalf of the Department of Education and in conjunction with Dr Aoife Guerin, a post-doctoral researcher from University of Limerick, Ms Sheridan was involved in a classroom based research study which investigated the beliefs and classroom practices of secondary school Mathematics teachers. It gave Ms. Sheridan the opportunity to reflect on and discuss her experiences teaching Mathematics to enhance her teaching as well as contribute to the development of a new Mathematics Teacher Education Program. Ms Sheridan and her first and second year students took part in questionnaires to evaluate the teaching experience. Six Mathematics lessons were also video recorded which would be used as part of the study to assess methods and practices currently used in teaching Mathematics in post-primary education.

Maths Support Centre

Ms Sheridan has been working hard in Mary's Maths Support Group which has been of great help to students who need any type of extra help with certain maths topics.

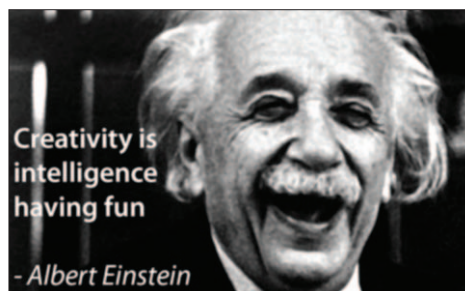


DCU Biomedical Workshop

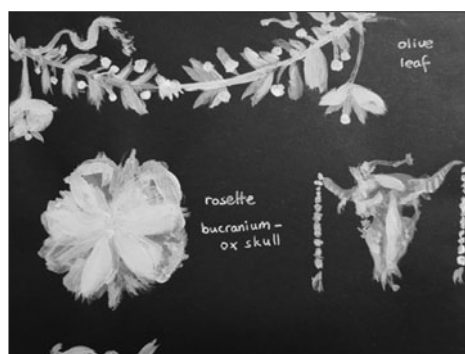
DCU hosted a Biomedical Workshop which is took place Saturday 11th May at the DCU Glasnevin Campus. Five of our senior cycle students: Kirsten Lee, Zuzanna Bartkowska, Lauren Russell, Eira Tabaniag and Corinne Betsayda attended the workshop and found it very insightful and enjoyable.



ART DEPARTMENT



First year art students completed a great year of wonderful work for their Junior Cycle Visual Art course. They focused on their use of critical and visual language, drawing, visual culture and appreciation, the art elements and design principles and their use of media. Their final clay tile based on the craft strand was inspired by Irish Georgian Stuccowork.



Our 2nd year art students successfully completed the first ever CBA 1 in Junior Cycle Visual Art!

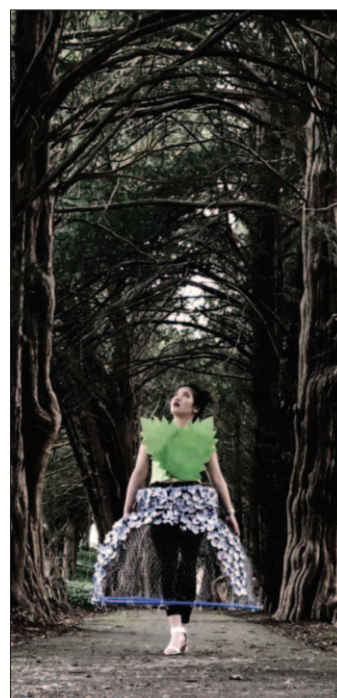
The art dept. was delighted with the learning outcomes of the clay modelling craftwork based on the NCCA themes 'Out of Place', 'Roadsides and Pathways' and 'Grotesque'. Each student experimented with a broad variety of art media to create a unique glazed clay model.





Junk Kouture 2019!

Some TY students took part in the Junk Kouture module using recycled materials to create original and interesting costumes. We were delighted when we received the news that the costume Paige Smith and Aoife Symes designed and created made it through to the Regional finals in The Helix. Congratulations to all our other entrants whose costumes were proudly displayed as part of our Creative Arts Performance in the Axis Theatre in Ballymun on 9th April.



TY Set Design and Lighting Project

In April our TY students exhibited in GMIT Galway their set design and lighting project they completed with Architect Evelyn D'Arcey and Ms Cunningham as part of the architect's foundation. Architect Dermot Bannon was particularly interested in how the students used light and colour in their design thinking to create spaces on the stage.

Both Fifth Year art classes worked together to create a sculpture made completely from single use recycled plastic. The intention of the artwork was to raise an awareness about the critical need to reduce the level of pollution in our oceans.



Students used various found plastics as their media and embroidery as their craft. The realised artwork is exhibited in St Mary's glass passage and supports The National Get Up and Goals Programme.





Fifth Year students also began preparing for their Leaving Cert. Coursework Workbook. They explored various themes, developed their creative processes and completed realised work in painting and craft.



1st year Junior Cycle Visual Art

1st year JCVA students have been busy learning about the art elements and design principles and how to apply these through their personal response to lino block printing and ceramics, with beautiful results.



2nd year Junior Cycle Visual Art

2nd year JCVA students completed CBA 1 in term to, working on an ambitious 3D ceramics project. Students researched support artists, designers and craftspeople and sourced primary source objects based on their chosen theme, creating individual responses through their process, resulting in a unique realised ceramic piece. Students showed great skill and competence in their clay construction and application of glazes as can be seen here, well done all!



3rd Year Art, Craft and Design

Our final year of the Junior Cert Art, Craft and Design project saw students completing their three realised and drawing exam with great skill and personal consideration. We wish them all the best of luck with their results for September.

Transition Year Creative Arts Module

TY students had an amazing opportunity this year to be immersed in the creative Arts, as part of a Creative Arts Module.

All students had the opportunity to sample aerial acrobatics at Taking Flight Dublin as well as having the freedom to select an area of the production that they wished to pursue, from dance to acting, script writing to stage management and exploration of space through the architects in schools project run by the IAF which resulted in the lighting design used for the students final performance in the Axis Theatre in Ballymun. To add to this experience we had the privilege to perform alongside students from Trinity Comprehensive.

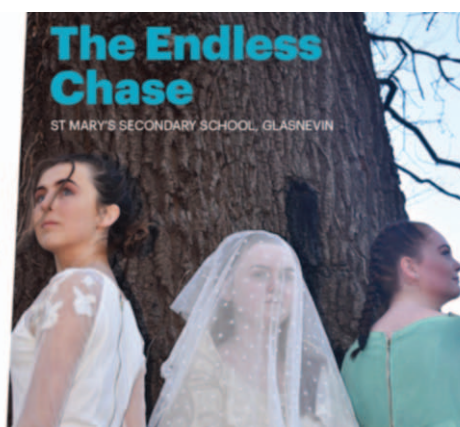
Thank you to all the staff in the Axis and Shane Holohan and his team from Taking Flight Dublin, the school staff and families and finally local community, especially the students and staff of St Michael's House SNS for being such a fantastic audience to perform to.

The Endless Chase

A Unique and Innovative Production at The Axis

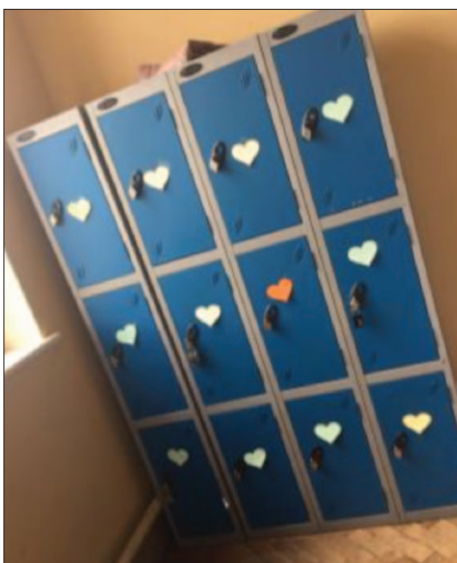
We are very proud of the TY Production of *The Endless Chase* that was performed in the Ballymun Axis Theatre on Monday 8th and Tuesday 9th of April at 7.30pm. There was also a day time performance at 11am on the Tuesday. As part of our involvement with 'Creative Schools' our TY students and a group of dedicated teachers created a unique collaborative piece called *The Endless Chase* which is a retelling of the Irish myth of Grainne and Diarmuid. The show involved student-led and student-designed dance, acting, music, costumes, sound and lighting. The most unique element of the show was aerial acrobatics – a group of TYs had been training with Shane Holohan from *Taking Flight* in Phibsboro for 6 weeks, and the results of this collaboration were spectacular. On the night, our students shared the performance space with Trinity Comprehensive Ballymun, who also performed their own production devised in collaboration with *Taking Flight*. Many thanks to Ms Cunningham, Ms Callan, Ms O'Donnellan and Ms Bunnett who drove this project and to Ms Kavanagh, Mr Coll, Mr Murphy and Ms Watts for their valuable assistance, and of course to Shane and all at *Taking Flight* for giving our students this amazing opportunity. Please visit our website at the address below to see some video footage of this unique production.

<https://www.stmaryshfcglasnevin.com/creative-arts-project-the-endless-chase-videos/>



Pay it Forward Day – St Mary's

Alex Fitzgerald and Gwen Prizeman represented us at the Le Cheile Conference. They planned a great pay it forward day in the school, where they made love hearts with quotes and put one on every locker in the school and gave one to all staff. These were positive quotes to inspire everyone at the beginning of their day. Each RE Class was given a lesson plan on the Le Chéile crest and a history of Le Chéile to be used in class. The girls also started and finished the day with a reflection and they played a verse of the new Le Chéile song "Together, we are called".



Catholic Schools Week – 2019

On the last week of January we celebrated Catholic Schools Week. We began the week with the school being involved in the Saturday evening mass in Our Lady of Dolours. Our Ember team and members of choir and different year groups took part.

During the week the Ember team gave a daily reflection on the intercom and all 1st years attended the 10am morning mass on Tuesday of that week in Our Lady of Dolours.

The week is a time when we reflect and celebrate the richness within all Catholic Schools and the values and ethos that our students experience each day.



World Day of the Sick 2019

Erica Carrie and Aoife Roche 5th year students, represented the school at the Dublin Diocese Annual World Day of the Sick Mass. The girls helped the Archbishop as oil bearers during the ritual of anointing the sick, a very special moment in the Liturgy. In the Mass we were reminded of Pope Francis' message for the day when he urged believers to promote a culture of generosity, noting that the joy of generous giving is a barometer of the health of a Christian. Pope Francis says that those who care for the sick give of themselves with generosity and straightforward love. He supports this message with Jesus's words to the Apostles: "You received without payment; give without payment" (Mt 10:8).



Aoife Roche, Archbishop Martin, Erica Carrie and Ciaran Coll

Le Chéile – Celebrating 10 Years 2009–2019

"Together We Are Called" is a new composition commissioned to mark the 10th anniversary of the Le Chéile Catholic Schools Trust. Composed by Mr Ciaran Coll and Sr Marie Dunne CHF this inspirational piece of music was officially launched at the Le Chéile Conference in Athlone on 7th – 8th February. It is available to listen to on the Le Chéile website. A special choir of students and teachers was organised to sing at the 10th Anniversary mass at the conference.

The new song was recorded in St Mary's with the members of the Schola choir with soloist Aoife Grace TY. This new piece is now being used by every Le Chéile School over Ireland as the Trust celebrates its 10th anniversary.



ST. MARY'S PARENTS ASSOCIATION



Membership of the Parents Association

St. Mary's Parents' Association continues to be a very active group within the school working behind the scenes in partnership with the school. We are involved in supporting many events in the school and providing feedback to the management team on the views and opinions of parents. All parents of St. Mary's girls are automatically members of the parent's association so why not join our team as we partner with the school in our various activities. It is a great way to meet and hear news from other parents and learn too from others who have older daughters and have almost done it all! It is also very rewarding to be included in school policy making as we review the numerous school policies with the others schools partners.

So get in contact with us at parents.stmarys@gmail.com and if you are not able to join the committee you can always join our "HELP" list. We have many parents who give us great help and support at school activities who are not available to become committee members

BOOK & UNIFORM SALE

Our annual **SECOND HAND BOOK AND UNIFORM SALE** will take place again in **June**. Keep an eye out on the **School App and Website for dates**. Text messages will be sent out in advance of the sale.

The book sale works by us selling your books on your behalf during the sale night. All monies recieved go back to the seller.

We also accept donated books and uniforms, which are sold to help fund school activities.

Please note we only accept donated uniforms, we cannot sell uniforms on your behalf.

There will be an evening to **DROP IN** books and an evening to **BUY BOOKS**. It has been hugely successful each year for both sellers and buyers availing of lots of bargains and making a bit of cash. The books are fairly priced and in really good condition.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT

Emmanuel 2019

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 two soloists Caoimhe Mackin 6th year, and Angel Solidum TY. For Caoimhe it was an emotional occasion, as a 6th year this was her last opportunity to participate in this yearly event which she has been a part of since 1st year. Orlaith Toral passed the audition process to be part of the stage band for all 4 nights of the concerts, she was playing guitar. This was a great experience for her, as she got to play alongside professional musicians each night, we are very proud of her. Our students alongside students from various schools sang one of Mr Coll's own compositions which was part of the set for the night, this was a setting of a Psalm 'You Lord, You Are my Praise'. This is a piece the school choir have used this year at many of our school celebrations including the opening school mass and more recently the 6th year graduation.

In total 40 students attended Emmanuel from across all year groups, they enjoyed the experience of singing in the Helix and we thank the students who always work so hard throughout the year and they are always so dedicated.



Angel Solidum performing on the Helix stage



Orlaith Toral playing in the stage band



6th Year students who attended Emmanuel 2019

DCU Access Pop-up Choir

We were delighted that 25 of our students were chosen to be part of this exciting new initiative. The choir which was made up of students from all of the schools in the Access area performed at two events in the Helix DCU. These events were part of the DCU Anam week. This is a week long programme in DCU that celebrates the connections the University has with the local community in all its forms. In the morning of April 1st they performed as a pop-up choir at the opening lecture and then that night they performed at "A Celtic Journey" concert. All money raised at these events went to St Francis Hospice.



Students from all the DCU Access Schools forming one choir for DCU Anam Week 2019

Heather Dunne wins Third Place in 'Battle of the Bands' Competition in Coláiste Eoin

The Battle of the Bands took place for the fourth time in Coláiste Eoin on Thursday 2nd May. The MC for the night was well-known MC Jim McCabe from 4FM. There were nineteen acts from ten schools competing for one of the top three awards! Congrats to our



Heather with her award – Battle of the Bands 2019

senior students Kelise Penrose, Tara Sterne and to Heather Dunne who each performed their solos beautifully and sang with conviction on the night. All three participants got many positive comments from the judges.

Congrats especially to Heather who sang 'She Used to be Mine' and was awarded third place in the competition and was awarded a beautiful glass shield award.



Kelise Penrose, Heather Dunne and Tara Sterne at the Battle of the Bands 2019

Music Practicals

It was a busy time in the Music Department before Easter 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" 2019

Towards the end of every year the musical talent of St Mary's is showcased in one night of great entertainment in St Mary's choir hall. Performances on the night 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 and the comper on the night was Mr McGill. The 6th years didn't disappoint with their finale piece, this year taking on Abba which had the audience on their feet.

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.

Ms O'Rourke and Mr Coll