



December 2019

A Message from the Principal

Welcome to the December Edition of St Mary's Newsletter. This online edition can be accessed on our Website, our School App and on Twitter. We invite you to peruse this special newsletter which is packed with reports and supporting photographs and should give you an overview of all that has been happening in St Mary's since September 2019 as we mark our 80th year. It was on 8th December 1939 that the foundation stone was laid for our beautiful and much loved school building and we began our celebrations with a hugely successful 80th Anniversary production of *High School Musical* in early December and continued to mark this special event sublimely with our annual *Carols by Candlelight* in the beautiful Convent Chapel on Wednesday 18th December.

It has been a wonderful and an action packed term incorporating trips to Slovenia with the Geography Department, Paris with the French Department and Northern Ireland with the History and Politics and Society Departments, alongside the innumerable TY outings and events that happen on a weekly basis many of which are reported on in this publication. In the sporting domain our u19 Division 2 Basketball Team has had a wonderful season comfortably defeating all competition to reach the top of section B and the semi-finals. The u19 Premier Team has also had a great season and having won most of their games are now also strong contenders for a semi-final place in the new year. We wish them luck and acknowledge and celebrate all our sporting champions who represent our school so proudly all year round in Hockey, Gaelic Football, Tag Rugby, Camogie, Volleyball, Soccer and Rowing to name but a few. Meanwhile we continue to participate in the annual Soroptimist International Public Speaking Competition, to compete in multi-lingual debating events including most recently in the Alliance Francaise and our two beautiful choirs enhance every important school occasion from our Opening Year Mass to our Christmas Prayer Services with their own special magic. Regarding STEM we are proud to announce that this year St Mary's has had four successful projects making it to the finals of the BT Young Scientist Exhibition in the Social and Behavioral and the Technology categories. We wish our finalists the best of luck in the RDS in January. The art work that adorns our walls and public spaces is a testament to the creativity of our unique school community more of which we invite you to read about and view in the pages that follow.

The extracurricular life of the school is flourishing due to the dedication of students and the selfless commitment of staff in their own time, and the curricular life is equally thriving and it is inspiring to witness the high standards of teaching and learning that continue to be the hallmark of the academic life of St Mary's.

As a whole school community we are committed to a sustainable future and are one of ten schools in Ireland which has been chosen to participate in the EU funded *Get Up and Goals* Project which promotes the 17 Global Sustainable Goals and our commitment is clear as we strive this year to achieve our sixth green flag for 'Global Citizenship'.

Our first years have just completed their first term and are settling in well supported all the way by the genuine warmth of the St Mary's welcome. They are embracing the Junior Cycle specifications in all their exam subjects and are also taking Short Courses in PE and CSPE alongside our own modular Wellbeing Programme.

**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.

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The goal for wellbeing is human flourishing which rests on five pillars that we have incorporated into our programme which teaches knowledge, skills, values and attitudes that will hopefully sustain them throughout their lives.

On behalf of myself, Ms O'Donnell and Ms Devaney I would like to express our earnest wish that each member of the school community feels equally cherished, sustained and included as we move forward together. With sincere thanks to you all for your continued support and wishing you a spiritually enriching Christmas and health and happiness in 2020.

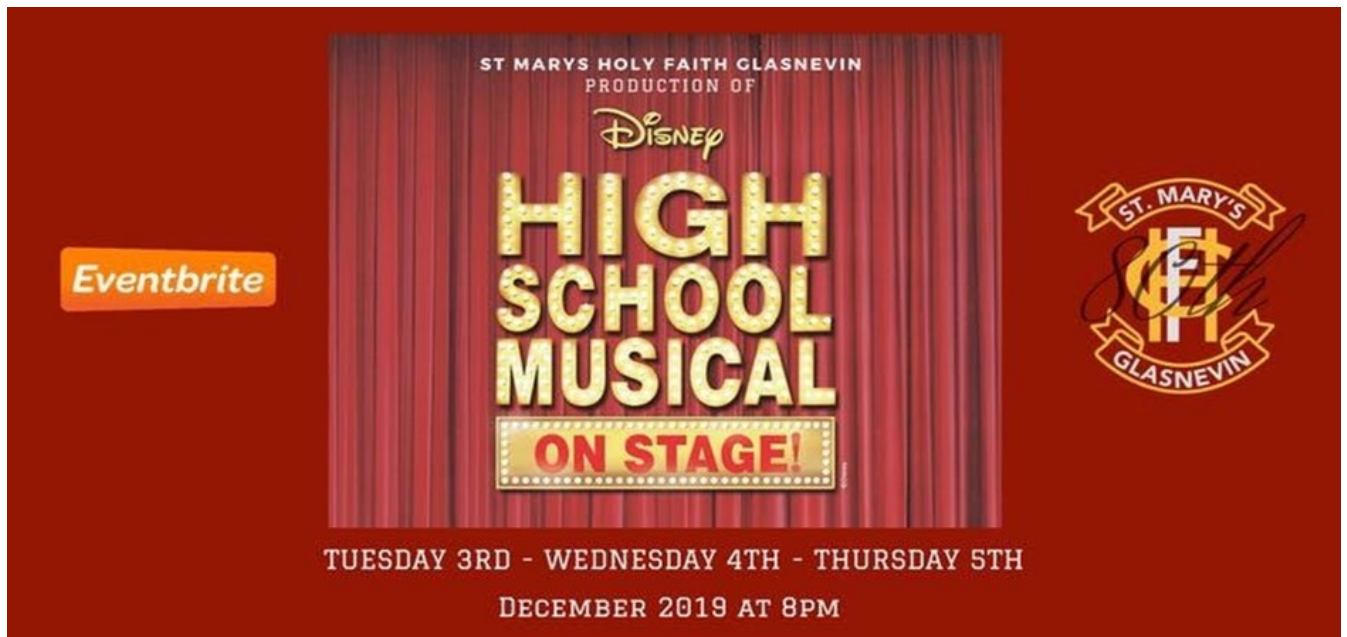
With thanks and good wishes,

Bernadette Bourke

Principal
December 2019



School Production



High School Musical: We're All in This Together!

To mark 80 years of St Mary's this year's production took a suitably school-based theme, and *High School Musical* was selected. The show that resulted was truly a celebration of our school's creativity, performing talent and collaboration.

The hardworking and dedicated team of teachers in charge of the initiative were Ms O' Mahoney, Ms Morgan, Ms O'Doherty and Mr. Coll. They spent months auditioning, rehearsing and organising a cast of over 40 student actors and dancers. Leading the cast were Lana McCaffrey and Catherine O'Brien Cox playing the singing basketballer Troy Bolton and Merralla Kaaran and Hazel Kirby as transfer student Gabriella Montez.

The show ran over 3 days from Tuesday 3rd to Thursday 5th of December with matinees for local primary schools during the day and sell-out evening shows for the public. To showcase all the amazing talent of our school, a dual cast was created so as many students as possible could perform in the leading roles.

Another unique feature of this year's production was the House Band, directed by Mr Coll. Featuring piano, keys, electric guitar, drums, acoustic guitar played by Orlaith Toral from TY and the bass guitar talents of our very own Mr Murphy, they created an upbeat and dynamic live soundtrack to accompany the talented cast. Of course, no musical is complete without dancing! Third Year Layla McVeigh choreographed a number of routines with her cheerleading team to dazzle the audience, assisted by Ms Bunnett and Ms Dowling.

During the performances, the atmosphere was electric and each member of the cast and production crew 'got their head in the game' to give it their all! From the Jocks to the Brainiacs, the Skaters to the Thespians, Coach Bolton to Mrs. Darbus – the teen love story of Troy and Gabriella magically came to life on stage.

Special mention must go to the comedic talents of Courtney Byrne and Ceri Doyle as Sharpay and Aoife Roche and Ellen Clusker as Ryan who provided many laugh out loud moments as the sibling drama divas!

Thanks also to the huge number of students involved behind the scenes with backstage, lighting, sound and set assisting Stage Manager Ms Byrnes and Set Designer Ms Cunningham, and to those who volunteered as ushers, ticket sellers or to help Mr Farrell run the shop.

School Production



HIGH
SCHOOL
MUSICAL



School Production



Modern Foreign Languages

French Department

Voyage Scolaire à Paris, October 2019

On the 17th October, forty-two students from third to sixth year travelled to Paris for four memorable days. It was a wonderful experience for students to practice French in its native setting and to savour various aspects of French culture and history.

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

On the second day, the Mickey Mouse ears were put on and we spent the whole day in Disneyland Resort, Paris!

The third day began with our local tour guide who brought us to see the most famous sites in Paris. Our tour ended in front of the largest and most famous museum in the world, Le Louvre. We had the opportunity there to see some of the most famous Neo Classical and Renaissance paintings and sculptures, including the renowned painting by Leonardo da Vinci “Mona Lisa”. That evening we visited Montparnasse Tower, where we took a lift to the 56th floor to admire the best panoramic view of Paris, admiring the most impressive monuments of the capital.

Our final day began with a tour of the Chateau de Versailles, the former residence of the Court of France. We ended our memorable four days with a trip to Aéroville shopping centre to pick up our last minute souvenirs!

We had a fantastic trip exploring one of the most beautiful cities in the world. The forty-two students who travelled to Paris were a credit to the school. I know the students had so much fun and have brought back memories that they will share for years to come.

Thank you to the teachers who accompanied us on the trip and who made it even more memorable: Ms, Shanahan, Ms Griffin, Ms Mc Manus and Mr Farrell.



French Trip

Voyage Scolaire à Paris, Octobre 2019



Modern Foreign Languages

French Department

St Mary's Senior French Debating Team

The members of the St Mary's Senior French Debating team had a busy first term. The four members of the team - Mazzy Hollerich (capitaine), Fiona Conway, Eva Murray and Athlea Cabusas – were ably assisted by the members of the school Debating group (Pouspaynee Marden, Alannah McDonald, Rheanne Robles, Jennifer Brunton, Ella Phelan and Emma Wang) as they prepared for the first round of the Alliance Francaise national debating competition.

The team opposed the motion that “Le programme du Leaving Cert est surchargé” (the Leaving Certificate curriculum is overloaded) and were drawn against St Michael's College, Ballsbridge. The debate was held in the Alliance Francaise in Dawson Street and the team gave a superb performance, with special recognition from the judges for the originality of the speeches. Unfortunately, St Mary's were very narrowly defeated but Fiona Conway was awarded a special prize of 'Meilleure Oratrice' (Best Speaker) and will be presented with a medal by the President of the Alliance Francaise in May 2020.



Spanish Department



Talk from Latin American Solidarity Centre
5th year Spanish students had a talk from Sahar of the Latin American Solidarity centre on Tuesday November 4th on Latin American development issues.

Students had an interesting introductory talk in Spanish about Latin America with a focus on the current environmental problems in Brazil. It was an engaging and interesting workshop which all students really enjoyed!

On Thursday 26th September, we celebrated '**European Day of Languages**' which aims to encourage language learning across Europe and to encourage lifelong language learning in and out of school.

To mark the day, MFL Department had various events during the week. First Years and Fifth Years participated a language table quiz in the Choir Hall during their language time and TY's marked the day by having language based activities in the Botanic Gardens.

The students were mixed together in groups where there were able to share their knowledge in the culture of their studied language.

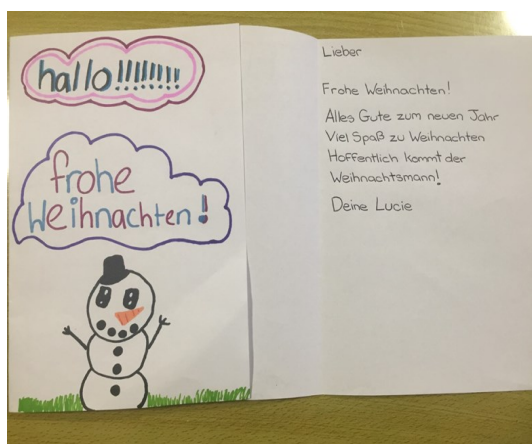
Ms Alvarez

German Department

Christmas Card Exchange

Our 1st and 2nd year German classes have been very busy spreading some Christmas cheer this December. They sent Christmas good wishes to the boys in St Kevin's CBS, Ballygall!

Frohe Weihnachten an euch alle!



Think Languages Workshop

On Friday 6th December, all TY students took part in the 'Think Languages' workshops in the Convention Centre. It gave the girls a sneak peek into how they can use their language skills in the real world. They discovered many new cultures, through workshops in Arabic Belly Dancing and Korean Taekwondo to name but a few! They sampled foods from Italian 'Dolci' to Spanish 'Churros', and even got to decorate German Christmas cookies!

The girls had the opportunity to meet with a wide variety of people from different cultures, who use foreign languages in their careers. The special guest speaker Hector Ó hEochagáin inspired us all as he explained how having foreign language skills enhances your travel and work experiences. Having a foreign language opens doors and opportunities to us all!



Spaß im Kino!

The TY German classes attended the heart-warming comedy 'A Jar full of Life' in the IFI in Temple Bar on Thursday 28th November. Watching a movie in a foreign language is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn new words and grow accustomed to the sound of the language. It also gives students an insight into German culture! Es hat uns viel Spaß gemacht!



SPHE Department

SPHE and Wellbeing in St Mary's

Stand Up Week 11th— 15th November 2019

This year at St Marys we celebrated stand up week and did our part in spreading awareness about LGBTI+ targeted bullying.

Our juniors and seniors had classes centred around the topic of LGBTI+ bullying in SPHE and Religion and this year we also had some CSPE and History classes covering the Stonewall riots and the history of gay rights in Ireland.

Our Art Club created decorations to be hung around the school of the different pride flags that our students identified with and representatives from Finglas Youth Centre (they hold a youth LGBT+ Group) came to our 3rd years and spread awareness and advice about LGBT+ targeted bullying.

Our transition years made and gave out free fruit pots filled with rainbow coloured fruits, while Radio St Mary's played songs at lunchtime made by gay, lesbian or bisexual artists.

And on Friday, the final day, to complete stand-up week, each year group was assigned a colour and asked to wear a hair accessory of that colour and give a donation to be collected for BeLonG To (an LGBTI+ organisation that helps young LGBTI+ people and their families).

LGBTI+ targeted bullying is the most common kind, but we at St Marys are taking a stand against it, by educating and enlightening our students.

Report by 3rd year Alyiah Lennox
and Ms Cunningham



CSPE Department

CSPE Department

This year as part of their studies in Civic, Social and Political Education, class 1 Clover decided to take action!

After researching different organisations that help improve the rights of people in developing countries they decided to raise awareness and much needed funds for 'Sightsavers'.

'Sightsavers' is an international non-governmental organisation that works in developing countries to treat and prevent avoidable blindness and promote equality for people with visual impairments and other disabilities.

After brainstorming on possible approaches to achieve their goal, the girls decided to open a 'Sightsavers Sweet Shop'.

The shop was a fantastic hit with the student body and allowed 1 Clover to achieve their awareness and fund-raising goal raising a total of €192.08. Congratulations Class Clover!

Ms Donegan.



3 Sienna to visit the Mansion House

3 Sienna are planning on visiting the Mansion House as part of their 3rd year action on January 13 2020.

They will be hosted by the Lord Mayor of Dublin, Finglasman, Paul McAuliffe.

They have written to him to ask for permission to visit him. They have also found out facts about him and made presentations to the class about his policies and achievements. 3 Sienna are very excited to be visiting him.



Science Department

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

The Science department always has such a busy first term. Prior to choosing their optional subjects, first year students are given the opportunity to try out all subjects. In science, over the course of a few weeks, the students eagerly engage in Space exploration, the chemistry of acids and bases, the cellular basis of life and electrical circuits to name but a few topics.

Once science is taken as an optional subject, the girls delve straight into their first mission, as they plan, design and carry out their first practical experiment. This year, our students worked in groups to design an experiment to determine which kitchen paper had the best absorbency rate. We can see some of our first year students working hard in the lab.



Following on from their very successful first experiment, the first years continued their creative streak and went wild designing and making phenomenal models of plant and animal cells. Cell biology is a branch of biological science that studies the structure and function of the cell, the basic unit of life.

This is a very important topic and concept in science and one all young scientists must learn about. Some outstanding creations were completed including a plant and animal cell modeled out of Styrofoam. However all models were noteworthy and showed great awareness of the importance of the cell.

A lunchtime LGBTI themed chemistry workshop also took place during Science Week and a science quiz for all third years.



Science Department

SCIENCE DEPARTMENT

In addition to all of the fantastic work completed in science class, Science Week also occurred during the first term and so there were lots of extra activities. During this week, some of our senior science students participated in the Senior Science Quiz hosted by Trinity College on the Thursday evening.

As well as covering material that the students learn during the course of the two-year science programmes in biology, physics and chemistry, the quiz also features extra material related to the courses.

Congratulations to the girls on a great performance on the night.



BOHR Diagrams

At the same time, our second year students were busy learning about the nature of matter, that is, atomic theory.

To help them understand this topic more, some of them decided to use the tennis courts to graphically illustrate the Bohr diagrams that they have learnt about in class.



Science Trail

A science trail focusing on dendrochronology was the task for all of the second year science students in the fabulous grounds of the Botanic Gardens.

As a school, we are so lucky to have the Botanic Gardens right on our doorstep. It is such a fantastic resource for scientists and we use it regularly.

Science Department

Meeting a NASA Astronaut

Physics students along with some second year students got to step into the shoes of a real NASA astronaut when they attended the inspiring 'Lift Off to the International Space Station' talk with their teachers Ms Byrnes and Ms Browne.



Visit to National Botanic Gardens

Students from second, fifth and Transition Year along with Ms Browne, Mr O'Reilly and Ms Coleman also got the opportunity for a guided tour of the National Botanical Gardens learning about the killer, clever and chemotherapeutic plants inhabiting the gardens.



Science Club

Curious chemists, biologists and physicists enjoyed the weekly Science Club with Ms Browne, Ms Fitzgerald, Ms O'Keeffe and Ms Byrnes. Experimenting with fun experiments and learning new skills, they got a chance to have a closer look at some real-life eye specimens with a spooky eye dissection!



English Department

English Department

Senior Cycle Public Speaking News!

Soroptimist International is a global organisation which inspires action and creates opportunities to transform the lives of women and girls around the world. One of the ways they provide a global voice for women is by holding an annual public speaking competition for girls.

Corinne Betsayda (6th Year) represented our school at the Soroptimist competition this year. The competition took place in HSBC, Grand Canal Dock on the 6th December. Fifteen girls from schools all around Dublin presented their speeches on one of several topics: human rights, health, environment, democracy, friendship and volunteering, education or empowerment of women. Corinne chose to discuss the topic of female empowerment. Her speech highlighted the importance of young women challenging their 'fixed mindsets' and conquering their fears.

"A hero of mine once recited a Filipino proverb to me. "Pag may tiyaga, may nilaga," my mom had said. If you are tenacious, you will bear the fruits of your labour. Adversities will not win in the battle against your perseverance and hope.

Perspective truly is everything, so what is yours?

I am not afraid. Women before me have inspired the woman I will be. The girls of today will ultimately be the women of history, and our world will one day see absolute equality. Until then, we are against all the odds, but we will be triumphant."

Corinne Betsayda, 6th Year Student)



Junior Cycle Public Speaking News!

Junior Public Speaking Club will commence in the new year for any first or second year students interested. Students will meet on a weekly basis to take part in discussions on a variety of topics (e.g. social media, health and teenage years), to practice speech writing and presentation skills.

If interested, students will have the opportunity to enter the annual public speaking competition hosted by the **Irish Federation of University Women*. The aim of the competition is to give junior cycle students the opportunity to make their public speaking debut in a relaxed and encouraging atmosphere and to give these students an opportunity to meet their peers from a broad range of social and cultural backgrounds.

Students are not obliged to enter the competition and are more than welcome to come and sit in on some interesting discussions each week.

(*The IrFUW is a member of GWI (Graduate Women International). The GWI is an organisation run by and for women, for women's rights, equality and empowerment through access to quality education and training up to the highest levels.)

Ms Doyle.



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:

Maths Week October 12th — 20th

As per usual, maths week was full of brain buzzing maths madness.

2nd Years competed in groups in a themed maths table quiz in the gym. The competition was high but all had fun

5th Years watched 'Hidden Figures' in the Choir Hall and they were truly inspired.

1st Years competed in the Botanic Maths Trail. The sun shone on us and we enjoyed the links between maths and nature. The winning team was team 'Nightmare' from class 1 Fern.

TY's competed in teams against each other to build the tallest freestanding structure with limited resources: 20 pieces of Spaghetti, 1m of tape, 1m of string and a marshmallow. This activity allowed students to show their creativity, geometry and team skills.

6th Years and 3rd Years had a fun filled class of problem solving and a bingo bonanza!



Poster competition:

The annual Infinity Poster competition this year was truly inspirational with a lot of cosmic themed posters and beautiful art pieces. We also ran a competition 'Have you got your maths eyes?' for all students in the school. Beau and Lexi Doherty from 1 Clover won this competition with their maths video they created. Well done girls!



Maths Olympiad November 11th — 15th

Josephine Xin Tong Choo from 2nd year, Raghad Achour and Vivienne Ulugbek both from 3rd year were the top scorers in this year's first round of the maths olympiad. They will be attending enrichment classes to prepare for round two. Well done girls!

Maths Hub

Ms Rochford and Ms Sheridan have been working hard in Mary's Maths Hub in room 26 every Tuesday. It has been of great help to students who need any type of extra help with certain maths topics.



Music Department

Culture Night 2019 — 20th September

Visitors flowed into the Margaret Alyward Centre for a reflective nature walk, a beautiful concert and a thrilling chance to see Saturn and its rings by telescope.

The School Choir were in fine voice as they delighted the audience with songs old and new, from folk to musicals. This has become a regular feature of Culture night in the centre and we are delighted to be part of it.



DCU Access Awards

The Annual DCU Access Achievement Awards took place in the Mahony Hall in the Helix DCU on 26th November.

Entertainment was provided by students from the participating schools and three of our 5th year students – Mirelle Patricio, Angel Solidum and Ella Phelan were privileged to be chosen to perform at this prestigious event.

They were excellent and sang with such confidence and passion. They also joined the other students who performed at the end to sing a Christmas Medley.



Music Department

High School Musical / 80th Anniversary Gala Performance.

In the first week of December the school was filled with the music of *High School Musical*. The cast and crew of almost 50 students from all year groups performed three sell out shows and three matinee shows for the local primary schools.

Wednesday 4th of December was particularly special as we had a gala performance of the *High School Musical* to coincide with the 80th Anniversary of the school. Eighty specially invited guests were in attendance on this night. These guests were made up of past staff, current staff and many of the Holy Faith sisters. They gathered for a beautiful pre-show reception which was followed by the show itself.

There was a great atmosphere with the guests mingling, catching up and celebrating this historic milestone together. Many thanks to all involved in making this night so special, it was another great St Mary's evening to remember.



Carols by Candlelight 2019 and Annual School Carol Service in Convent Chapel

On December 18th the Convent Chapel was the beautiful setting for *Carols by Candlelight*. The School Choir and the Schola Choir performed a night of Christmas Carols and festive music for parents, staff, Holy Faith Sisters and members of the local community. This was the fifth year of "Carols by Candlelight" and it has quickly become an evening not to miss in the lead up to Christmas. Donations were collected on the night for the Ghana Schools immersion project. The Parents Association served mince pies, tea and coffee afterwards in the Choir Hall.



Religion Department

The School Mass 2019.

Our Mass to celebrate the beginning of the school year took place this year on Wednesday 3rd October in Our Lady of Victories Church. Fr Richard celebrated the Mass for us. This is the school's 80th Anniversary and to mark that, the theme chosen was a quote from Margaret Aylward, foundress of the Holy Faith Order. "Under God it began, through God it has grown".

The Mass itself began with an opening address from Mr Coll about the theme and the school's anniversary. This was followed by an opening procession where a jigsaw picture of the school was created by students with a commentary on the ethos of St Mary's and all the pieces that make it such a special place to be.

During the Mass itself, the Head Girl and Deputy, Alex Fitzgerald and Amy Wall read the First and Second readings while students from each year group read the Prayers of the Faithful. Fr Richard's Homily, after the Gospel was about Margaret Aylward and the school and how it has grown, It was also about diversity and inclusion, a theme continued in the Offertory Procession.

This year the First Year classes are named after biodiversity; Clover, Fern, Poppy, Cedar and Meadow. The captain from each class brought up a symbol representing their class and gradually, a garden was created on the altar. Ms Warren, their Year Head spoke about the significance of each symbol.

Just before Holy Communion, a group of Sixth Years went up to the altar to be blessed and commissioned as Ministers of the Eucharist by Fr Richard. They then went on to give out Holy communion to the students and staff.

After Communion, the reflection was read by Denisa Mihalute.

Ms Murtagh then spoke about the Commissioning of the Prefects, which was led by Alex and Amy. The Prefects said their prayer in front of the whole school community and turned to face them to a big round of applause.

Ember Team 2019-2020

Our new Ember Team was trained and commissioned in Ovoca Manor Wicklow in September. The new team is made up of both 5th and 6th years students.

They have been very involved since they were commissioned, playing an active role in the opening school Mass, intercom reflections, students prayer services, and more recently planning and preparing the Christmas Carols Service.



Religion Department

TY Retreat to Knock Shrine—Co Mayo

Thirty of our TY students went on Retreat in Knock Co Mayo in October. The Knock youth retreat team worked with the girls that day, which concluded with mass in the Apparition Chapel. They stayed overnight in Knock in the International Hostel.

The next day they stopped in Longford for a tour of its Cathedral. The Cathedral was destroyed by a fire but has since been beautifully restored. They really enjoyed the two day experience, it was prayerful, reflective and fun.



November Remembrance Service

During November we have our annual remembrance service which was held in the Convent Chapel this year.

The remembrance tree was used again this year and staff and students were invited to write the names of their deceased loved ones on leaves and place them on the tree.

The tree was then put in the main reception area for the month of November and students could add names to it over the course of the month.



Religion Department

Our trip to the St Vincent de Paul Sunshine House

Four girls from 4 Austen had the privilege to go to the St Vincent's de Paul Sunshine House in Balbriggan. The purpose of the event was to bring the youth together and talk about the Young SVP One World Week which was to take place in the first week of December.

While we were there all students were split up and put into groups so that the schools being represented were mixed up. We did 'getting to know', 'working conditions in certain factories' and the 'affects factories have on the environment' activities.

There were two women who worked with SVP and each one gave a talk about what has been achieved in SVP and what they do. At the end we all got t-shirts and designed them.

We wrote messages onto the t-shirts like 'Shop Sustainably' and 'Save the Earth'.

There were prizes given out for the best t-shirts. After that we had lunch and went home.



St Vincent De Paul Hamper. 4 Austin's Story of Action

In our Religion Module we learned about the work of Saint Vincent de Paul. A visitor from the society of St Vincent de Paul showed us a presentation on the history of this organisation. We also had the opportunity to explore the theme 'What is Justice?'

So as a class, we decided to contribute to the work of SVP. Our class promoted the SVP food hamper appeal by creating and presenting posters. Every student in 4 Austin was assigned a class to remind them about the food hamper every morning. We checked to see if the hampers were full of non-perishable food items because the food will need to last.

All families deserve a Happy Christmas. We hope that all families will have a Christmas filled with joy this year.



Art Department

Art and Creativity in St Mary's

St Mary's Secondary School Glasnevin was one of the first one hundred and fifty schools to be selected by Creative Schools in 2018, as part of the first pillar of the Creative Ireland initiative.

In our second year now, we aim to embed and acknowledge the creativity within our school. Our management has committed to this and has supported it in many ways, through whole staff training on creativity with Roisin Markham at the start of the academic year, our participation in Creative Schools National Celebration at the National Gallery of Ireland on November 8th, as well as Creative Engagement on November 19th in the National Arena, Dublin. On a daily basis St Mary's students have an abundance of opportunities that stretch their passions and imagination particularly through all the extra-curricular activities that unfold across the school but they also get to experience that creativity within the classroom. Here is a small taste of what has been happening this term!



Science:

During Science week science, students engaged in active learning in many ways, such as the second year group who used coloured chalks to draw out large diagrams of atomic structures on the tennis court. They reported a better understanding of the process on completion as well as getting out into the fresh air to learn. Science club also made links with Stand Up Week, exploring colour by creating the pride colours through flame test, splitting light through a prism and chromatography.

Wellbeing

This academic year, each student in first year gets to partake in Music Wellbeing once a week and each second year enjoys an Active Wellbeing lesson once a week in addition to their other timetabled Wellbeing class. All other timetabled wellbeing classes make use of active and creative learning methods that cover topics such as resilience, digital awareness, creative play, mindfulness, being active and logic games. As part of our whole school wellbeing junior and senior students cheered up the corridors with 'Positive Pumpkins' ahead of the Hallowe'en mid term break.



Art:

First year art students were part of a new initiative from JCT and Creative Schools called 'Design Skills'. They had the opportunity to work alongside designer/artist Niamh Sinnott, in St Mary's over 6 sessions, who helped them develop their design thinking skills.

Art Department

Music:

Students across the school were invited to put forward an expression of interest in setting up a school orchestra. Updates on this in the new year.

Links were made with Brendan Breslin at the Royal Irish Academy of Music and there are plans for a senior student experience in 2020, where they will get to sit in with orchestra musicians and explore solo versus group performance, as well as self-expression through music.

Home Economics

As well as their involvement in Stand Up week, creating 'Pride Pots' (rainbow coloured fruit salads) which were distributed to students complimentary, our noses tell us on a weekly basis that students are busy creating delicious dishes and deserts.

Art and Games Club

Fancy popping in to have a game of cards or chess, play with some LEGO, free drawing, do a doodle or take part in some seasonal crafts? Art and Games club is for you! It takes place every Tuesday lunchtime in the Art and Craft room, all welcome.

Coming soon, Anime club! Thanks to one of our lovely 1st years we held a Pop-Up Anime event in November, which had a huge response. We hope to run an after school event for interested students. You should get in touch with Ms Cunningham if you would like to find out more.



Religion

The beautiful remembrance tree has provided a reminder to think of those who have gone before us and given us the opportunity to add a name on the cut out leaves in their memory. A first year group linked in bit Maureen in the Margaret Aylward Centre for Spirituality and helped plant spring bulbs for the convent in the new raised beds beside their biodiversity meadow. These will provide much needed nectar for pollinating insects from early spring as well as a positive visual boost for those who visit the Margaret Aylward Centre.



High School Musical

All students across the school interested in drama, music, production and design had the opportunity to get involved with St Mary's production of *High School Musical*. There has been terrific energy shown in the preparation for the show as the students involved in the music, production, acting and theatre design brought these elements to completion. TY Creative Arts has also afforded students a great opportunity to learn about their chosen area and get involved on a voluntary basis applying what they have learned in class to the production.

Art Department

2nd Year Self Portraits.

2nd year art students created personal expressive self portraits inspired by the work of artists such as Frida Kahlo, Pablo Picasso, Sean Keating and Artemisia Gentileschi. We are thrilled with their paintings and we look forward to seeing them exhibited on the first floor gallery space.



Art Department

2nd Year Self Portraits



Art Department

2nd Year Self Portraits



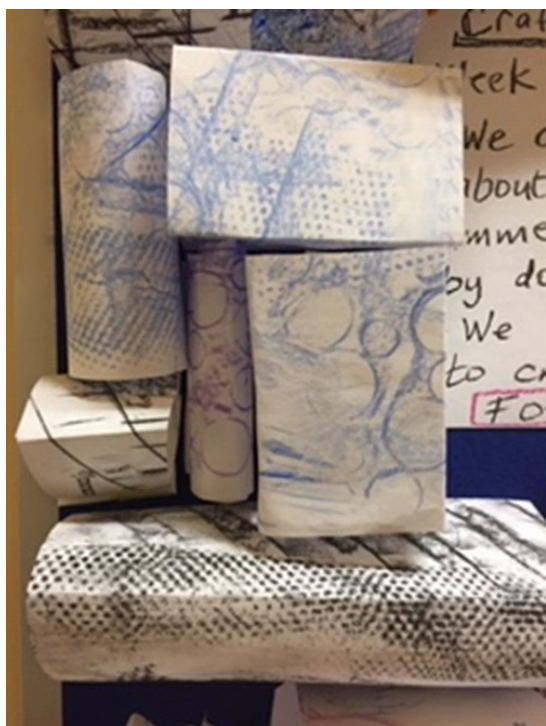
Second
Year Self
Portraits

Art Department

1st Year Art:

1st year art students were part of a new initiative from JCT and Creative Schools called 'Design Skills'. They had the opportunity to work alongside designer/artist Niamh Sinnott, in St Mary's over 6 sessions, who help them develop their design thinking skills.

The five week project is part of designSKILLS as an Arts in Junior Cycle initiative supported by Creative Ireland Program.



Art and Board Games Club

Each week students can take the opportunity to express themselves through art and unwind with friends playing boardgames. The club is always a busy hive of activity, and a lovely positive space for our students to enjoy together. Students are free to avail of art supplies, with seasonal suggestions provided as inspiration. Those playing boardgames have taken the time to teach each other new games and make new friends!

“Art and games club is really fun and a great opportunity to relax and draw, play games and chat with friends”

First year student – Kate

Ms Cunningham, Ms Donegan and Mr Murphy.

Green Schools

Green Schools Committee starting 6th Green Flag

The Green Schools Committee has been busy since we were awarded our 5th Green Flag for Biodiversity in May.



The first step in our Global Citizenship: Litter And Waste flag was to set up a committee. We've set up our committee, with some new first years getting involved and new recruits from within the rest of the school from both staff and students.

We've tried to get a Green Schools representative from each class.

We've also surveyed a sample of our students to find out if they:

- give used items to charity shops;
- participate in community clean ups;
- are aware of the countries from where their food comes from;
- regularly buy fair trade products;
- buy food from local farmers;
- believe they have anything in common with people living in a poorer part of the world;
- have ever written to a public figure or newspaper about an issue that they believe in.

The Green Schools committee will be displaying the results of the survey in the school soon.

History Department

History Society

The St Mary's History Society meets every Wednesday 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. So far this year we have discussed topics ranging from Ancient Rome to World War Two and Brexit!

We would like wish all the History Club a Happy and Merry Christmas.

Enjoy the break.

Mr O'Connell and Mr Mulligan.

Business Department

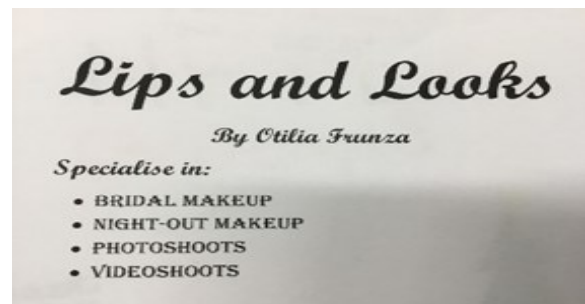
NFTE

NFTE (Network For Teaching Entrepreneurship) is an optional module for our Transition Year students. The students are required to form teams, brainstorm, design a potentially successful product, create and market this product, sell it, and hopefully make a profit at the end of the process! This provides them with the opportunity to develop numerous skills including communication skills, organisational skills, team work skills as well as enhancing their ability to use their own initiative.

On Tuesday 26th of November the NFTE students took part in a Christmas Fair in the choir hall. The students put in a lot of work and effort and were well supported by their fellow students, teachers and school management. There were numerous products for sale including Christmas decorations, customised photo frames, beauty products, beauty tutorials, phone accessories, hair accessories, TY jumpers and Christmas treats! Many groups sold a lot of their stock on the day! It was a fantastic event and plenty of profit was made!

These lucky students also had the opportunity to attend a Business Bootcamp competition in Colaiste Eoin on Tuesday 10th of December. The students organised themselves into three groups and designed posters and created projects based on their new business ideas; "Fancy Phone Cases" "Happy Adappy" phone accessories and "Jar-spllosion" Christmas jars. Some students presented their idea on stage! Round two of this competition is in May!

These students were a credit to the school and enjoyed the day out!



Business Department

Build a Bank—Transition Years

Transition year students sat interviews back in October to a panel of AIB representatives and teachers. Of all the students who presented on the day, the following students were successful in obtaining the following positions on the AIB Build a Bank team:

Bank Manager	Diana Butuc
Chief Operating Officer	Éabha Ball
Financial Manager	Christine Daly
Financial Controller	Rexine Alkuino
Marketing Manager	Merrella Karaan
Public Relations Officer	Otilia Frunza
Social Media Controller	Kira Duff

Build a Bank

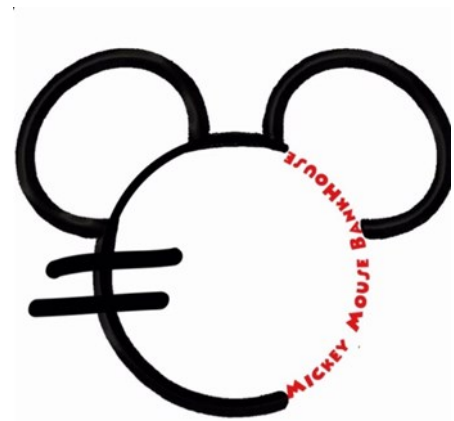
The objective of the national competition is for each school to open a school bank that is set up and operated by the students. Students are in charge of coming up with a theme for their bank and the St Mary's theme this year is Mickey Mouse Bankhouse.

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.

Mickey Mouse Bankhouse have set themselves a target of opening 100 bank accounts before the Christmas break. They also have some objectives and targets for the New Year and are working very hard in the meantime to make all things possible.

Keep an eye out for the girls on Instagram @mickeymousebankhouse2020 for up to date news and competitions.

Ms Dowling



BT Young Scientist



**BT YOUNG SCIENTIST
& TECHNOLOGY Exhibition**

Young Scientist Finalists

Congratulations to our finalists — Aoife Scully, Aoife Hughes, Rugile Auskalynte, Mony Aramalla, Jack Bateson, Erin Tuke and Robyn O'Donnell who qualified four projects into this year's upcoming BT Young Scientist Competition.

With over 4,736 projects which entered the competition, only 550 made the cut to the finals, which take place in the RDS Ballsbridge from the 8th to the 11th of January.

Our students have been working on their projects since September investigating and re-searching their topics, gathering and collating data, coding and making prototype software and devices.

The qualified projects will be competing in the social and behavioural category and technology category in January.

We wish our students the very best of luck as they enter their final stages of research and preparation for the upcoming competition. #Mary'sAbú.

Qualified Projects:

1. *Is Climate Change Changing Me? An Investigation Into Teenagers Attitudes and Actions Towards Climate Change. By: Erin Tuke and Robyn O'Donnell.*
2. *The importance of gender identification during adolescence to support positive mental health and wellbeing in secondary schools. By Jack Bateson.*
3. *An investigation into the creation and awareness of the 20×20 female sports campaign. Does it have the power to shift Ireland's cultural perception and participation of women in sport? By Aoife Scully, Rugile Auskalynte and Aoife Hughes.*
4. *e-CBT – An Electronic Solution To Impulse Control. By Mony Aramalla*

Ladies Football

Our seniors have played one game v Scoil Caitriona with one game remaining. Thanks to Lidl for our new jerseys.



PE as an Examinable Junior Cycle Subject

We are delighted to be one of the schools that have introduced PE as an exam subject for the Junior Cycle. Our 2nd years are currently finishing up their CBA's in PE and they were a huge success. The 3rd years completing their CBA's during the first term.



TY Rowing

This term, we have been lucky enough to have had some rowing machines and coaches from Rowing Ireland coming in to some of our lessons. They have been working with the students on technique and building on the work that they did in lessons last year.

Pictured are some of our TY students from class Austen competing in a team rowing challenge.

All of TY took part in a rowing competition which took place in St Mary's sports hall on 4th December to finish the module. The competition was organised by rowing Ireland along with Ms Shipley and Ms McMullan.

All students were divided into teams of four and competed against each other in various challenges over the course of the morning. The students put in an excellent effort throughout and the eventual winners during an exciting final were the following students. Well done ladies.

Donna McCarthy, Ciara Dobbyn Williams, Molly Beatty, Luci McCarville, Zoe Goga.



PE and Sports Department

Tag Rugby

On Wednesday, 49 girls attended a tag rugby blitz at Railway Union RFC. Our three junior teams had 4 games each and had a great introduction to tag rugby. Our seniors were really put to the test with 8 games each! All of the girls played with a brilliant attitude and had a fantastic day.

Leinster Tag Rugby Trials

Leinster Rugby have hosted a number of tag tournaments this year. A number of St Mary's students have impressed and as a result, Karla Conway, Bethina Santos and Caitriona Comerford were called for Leinster trials.

Students from first to sixth year took part in a tag rugby blitz in Clontarf RFC, with some girls doing contact elements in the games.



PE and Sports Department

PE News

1st Year Team

Congratulations to the students from 1st year who are representing St Marys in basketball. The team have begun training and will play their first match against Maryfield on 13th January.

TY Hike

The annual TY Howth Hike took place on the 12th of September. 100 students completed the hike and a number of team challenges along the route. It was a fantastic day filled with beautiful sunshine and views!

1st Year Afterschool Sports

First year sports has taken place most Thursday afternoons since September. Students have competed in county teams in soccer, hockey, football, basketball and benchball every week and earned valuable points for their teams. The final week saw students complete lots of relay races to crown this year's winners Donegal! The members from team Donegal can look forward to a mystery trip next year!

Sports Mentors



PE Participant of the Month!

The PE Department continue with the PE participant of the month. There will be monthly winners for participant of the month until the end of the school year.

This student shows huge enthusiasm in PE and tries her hardest, regardless of athletic ability, but sometimes exemplary ability! Look out for next month's winner!

First Year Afterschool Sports Club



PE and Sports Department

Ladies Gaelic

St Mary's Ladies Gaelic team has qualified for the quarter finals after winning all their group games in the Junior North competition! They got the campaign off to a winning start after a comprehensive win against St Michael's HFC Finglas.

This was followed with wins against Clontarf Community College and Hartstown Community College.

The girls have been training hard with Ms McMullan and Mr Walsh during lunch in preparation for their quarter final against Santa Sabina Dominican College.

Well done ladies on a brilliant campaign and keep up the great work!

Ms McMullan.



Basketball News

The u19 basketball teams have had a wonderful season. The u19 division 2 team led by captain Tara Mackin played against Maryfield, St Dominics Cabra, Santa Sabina and St Louis Rathmines. The team comfortably won all their matches and have topped the u19 Division 2 section B.

They are waiting to hear who they will face in semi-finals after the Christmas break. This is a wonderful achievement for a team made up of established players and new players. Watch this space!

The u19 Premier team has also had a successful season resulting in wins against Dominicans Griffith Avenue, Maynooth PP and Santa Sabina. The team had narrow defeats to Drogheda and Mount Sackville and await news of whether they will make a semi-final in the new year. Fingers crossed for positive news in the new year!



PE and Sports Department

Hockey

It's Hockey Time...Hurrah!

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

The preparation for league matches commenced in September. Great excitement mounted as teams prepared for their first hockey matches. The teams were highly excited at the prospect of getting back into playing matches and representing St Mary's in hockey. We have had a great start to training with high numbers attending. Training takes place after school on Wednesdays. We also have a 'Stick With It' incentive for attendance at training. Students will take part in a monthly lucky dip draw for their attendance at training.

There are two new first year beginners teams. The new recruits have thoroughly enjoyed taking up hockey and show great potential for the future.

In October, our First and Second year hockey players had their first friendly games of the season. The first years played their first ever game against Mt Temple and were unlucky not to take the win. They played brilliantly as a team and showed great promise for future matches. The player of the match title was shared between Anna, Lexie and Beau. Congratulations to all involved!

The second years faced some strong opposition, but put up a great team performance. Their second half comeback also saw them score their first goal, courtesy of Maria Syjo. The Northside League commenced in December.

The First years played their first league match against Holy Faith Clontarf. They played a great game, however, were beaten on the day by a skilful Clontarf team.



1st Year Hockey Team



6th Year Hockey Team

We also have a TY Team (4th Year) and 2 Senior Teams (5th and 6th year) this year. The 5th and 6th teams played each other in a practice match in preparation for the league matches. The 6th Year team played their first league match against Kings Hospital and were beaten by a stronger KH team. The team made a close comeback with a cracking goal by Karla Conway, before KH went on to win 1-3. The 5th Year team played against Mt Temple and had a great win beating Mt Temple 2-0.

Both teams will continue in the league games in 2020, hoping to progress to a Final!

PE and Sports Department

Hockey

The 3rd year team continues to practice on Wednesdays and are very enthusiastic this year having narrowly missed out in last year's league finals .

The 3rd Year team played their first league match against St Domnick's, Cabra. They were narrowly beaten, 0-2. Playing on the old style grit pitch was definitely a challenge for the team! They look forward to their next challenge match in 2020.

The 2nd Year team will commence the Northside League in the new year and will be eager to progress further this year.



First Years using the New Skills Mats!



3rd Year Hockey Team

We are looking forward to the next challenge matches. We wish all teams the best of luck in 2020!

With such enthusiastic and talented players, we will enjoy playing and representing St Mary's with great spirit and enthusiasm.

We highly recommend to everyone to come along and join hockey.

Be Active...Play Hockey!!

Ms Boran, Ms Bunnett, Ms Cunningham, Ms Shipley.

3rd Year Match Report by Sanusha Sojan

Today my third-year hockey team played against St Dominic's College! It was a very tough match but we stuck together as a team and played brilliantly. Unfortunately, we lost 2-0, but all in all, we worked together and defended many goals. Our players played amazingly! We were determined and wanted to give it our all. We had amazing defence, midfield, forwards and backs! Even though, we sadly lost I noticed and admired how energetic, positive and lively our team was. On the bus back to our school, our team was buzzing with excitement and had only had positive feedback from our game!

We've come a long way from where we were when we started playing hockey. Every year we have fantastic new people joining our wonderful team. Our team trains very hard, every Wednesday after school. When our players started to play hockey, there were no 1st-year hockey teams, our team created a Hockey Revolution and started our fantastic team! It was very hard at the start because we had no basic knowledge or skills for playing hockey, but we were confident and got through it all with our wonderful coaches, Ms Cunningham, Ms Dowling, Ms Boran and the TY students who all sacrifice their time for us.

Every single player in our team is committed and has a strong passion and love for hockey. Our team has created and formed a wonderful, deep and everlasting friendship through our favourite sport. I asked the girls "What they like about hockey?" and these were some of their responses: "The friendship!" "The commitment" "The teamwork!" and "The fun aspect of hockey". I am so thankful for being in such a healthy and positive environment when I play and train for hockey. I've made so many new friends that are almost like my family now, through our passion for hockey.

All of our players have only excitement and joy for new players that decide to join hockey with us! I would encourage all of you to at least come along and try training for hockey. I promise you will love our team and the amazing and wonderful sport hockey!

Transition Year News

It has been a really busy first term for all TY students. The year started off with a trip to Causey Farm, which really helped the year group bond as they made scones, took part in a celli and ended the day with a trip to the bog! Other trips that have been highlights so far this year would be;

- Howth Hike
- Get to know your city
- Knock Retreat
- Galway Team Building
- Glasnevin Cemetery
- Dublinia
- Zeminar
- Dundum on Ice
- Movie trips in languages,

The TYs have also been fantastic in leading and taking part in a number of initiatives such as;

- Scary Mary Fundraiser Event
- High School Musical
- Ghana Project
- Build a Bank
- NFTE – *well done to all those who took part in the Christmas craft fair*
- Trick or Treat for Temple Street
- Create Schools Film Making Workshops
- Global Citizenship,
- Shout Out,
- SVP Workshops

These are just some of the activities that have been taking place along with the fantastic and unique TY modules being taught in school such as Gaisce, Sustainable Fashion, GAA leadership, Cultural Studies, Self Defense, Lego Maths. Well done girls for fantastic enthusiasm, creativity and involvement so far We look forward to what the second term brings.

Ms Shanahan
TY Co-ordinator



Transition Year News

TY Talk From Sustainable Fashion Dublin

On 15th November the TYs had a talk from Sustainable Fashion Dublin about fast fashion, the fashion industry, the environmental effects of our fashion habits on the planet and more environmentally friendly alternatives.

Classes Austen and Bronte then were given a workshop on upcycling and created some unique garments that showed off their unique style and creativity. This talk and workshop arose from class Austen's Development Education module where the students showed a huge interest in the current climate crisis and climate issues.

The students thoroughly enjoyed the day and learned a lot about the fashion industry. The innovative and enthusiastic ladies behind Sustainable Fashion Dublin can be found on Instagram @sustainablefashiondublin



Transition Year News

Relove Fashion Competition

4 Bronte

As part of Ms Sheridan's TY Religion class on the Ethics of Sustainable Fashion, Class 4 Bronte took part in the Relove Fashion Competition in association with Dublin City Council and the Rediscovery Centre, Ballymun.

Their sustainably sourced and upcycled outfit made it into the final and 7 students went to the Rediscovery centre where all the finalists' outfits were on show.

As a runner up the entire class was invited back to the Rediscovery centre in the new year to complete an up-cycling workshop and tour of the centre.

Well done to all involved!



Transition Year News

European Parliament Ambassador School Programme



This year St Mary's is participating in the European Parliament Ambassador School Programme, as a result of our successful completion and award last year.

This year promises to be an even bigger and more successful year for our TY cohort. So far, in addition to learning all about how and why the EU was set up and how it impacts our lives, students endeavoured to try to see how the Parliament works in a practical way.

To this end, students got to work on researching our current MEPs. Fascinated by the activism and passion of one in particular, the girls decided to invite MEP Clare Daly in for visit.

The entire TY cohort attended this talk on the 18th of November, in which Clare Daly provided honest and fascinating insights into her career and the work of the European Union.

Best of luck to our TY students in their continued diligence and hard work in achieving this prestigious award this year!

Ms Donegan



TY Multi Media Module

Class 4 Shelley and 4 Bronte visited DCU for two mornings at the beginning of December.

They were hosted by Aidan O'Driscoll of the Access team along with two student mentors studying Multimedia in DCU.

The Saint Mary's girls were taken on a tour of DCU and asked to choose locations for filming their videos.

They were then given cameras and microphones to film their videos. The next day the girls edited their videos on the laptops that DCU provided for them.

The movies that the girls edited will be entered into a competition against 20 other schools from north Dublin and they will be showcased in the Helix this coming April.

Mr Montague.

Politics and Society Department

TY Politics and Society

Our TY students have been very active so far this year in the subject area of Politics and Society. Though this TY module affords students the opportunity to try out this subject academically ahead of deciding upon their Leaving Certificate subjects, the TY module also provides them with an insight into how Politics in Ireland works today, bringing the subject material to life. So far this year, students have availed of excursions to Leinster House, sitting in both the Seanad and Dáil chambers and participating in a debate using the same stations and equipment as our current political representatives.



Students also undertook a day of learning and activity in Irish Aid, learning all about the current aid projects Irish Aid are undertaking around the world.

The day culminated with students participating in a large role-play exercise, putting themselves in the shoes of small farmers who rely on the extraordinary efforts of this organisation to help them and their families survive, and hopefully thrive.

Ms Donegan



Students attended a tour of Dublin City Hall, learning all about the rich history of this building and the work performed here.

Councillor Mary Callaghan provided a candid talk to the girls outlining exactly why she became interested in politics, how she went about becoming a Dublin City Councillor and her hopes for the future of our constituency.



Politics and Society Department

Politics and Society Students at Comhairle na nÓg

Students from our Fifth Year Politics and Society Class were invited to attend this year's Comhairle na nÓg AGM. Comhairle na nÓg is the Youth Council of Dublin City Council. As so many of us wanted to attend, we democratically decided that names would be picked out of a hat and five members of the class were chosen.

On Tuesday 19th November we headed to Croke Park Conference Centre where the event was to be held for the day. Initially, we were unsure of what we were getting ourselves into, but soon found the various discussions and workshops to be highly engaging and insightful. Comhairle were in search for a new topic to work on for the coming year, and among options were: Youth's Mental Health, Youth's Physical Health, Climate Change, and Cyber safety - all of which we were able to discuss with other students from various schools within the Dublin Region. A vote was held, and it was decided that Climate Change would be the topic to work on.

In addition to this, 25 new Comhairle students were elected onto the Council, and 2 of us were fortunate enough to be chosen for it! We believe it to be a great honour, and we are looking forward to be working closely with Comhairle na nÓg and Dublin City Council to work on a topic that we and our class are incredibly passionate about.

Rheanne Robles and Ella Phelan



Politics and Society Trip

History and Politics and Society Northern Ireland Trip 2019

The History and Politics and Society Departments held another successful trip to Derry and Belfast, where students got to experience the following:

- A guided tour of the walls of Derry
- A guided tour of the Bloody Sunday Free Derry Museum and the Bogside Murals
- A guided tour of the Apprentice Boys of Derry Hall
- The Titanic Interactive Museum Experience
- A guided tour of the chambers of Stormont
- A guided tour of the Falls Road, Shankhill and Peace Wall in Belfast

The students got to discuss the history of the North with people who have been directly involved in the Troubles, including some of the relatives of the victims of Bloody Sunday. And there was also time to go bowling and watch Elf!

As always, our students were a pleasure to take on tour and all involved had a brilliant time.

Mr Farrell, Ms Hayes, Mr McGill, Ms O'Doherty



The Free Derry Museum



The Main Hall at the Apprentice Boys of Derry

Politics and Society Trip

History and Politics and Society Northern Ireland Trip 2019

On the main staircase at Stormont



Our girls and the Derry Girls!



Teachers rule the roost at Stormont



With tour guide Eugene at the iconic Free Derry mural

Guidance and Counselling Department

DCU Achievement Awards

Congratulations to our third year students who were recognised at Dublin City University's Achievement Awards on Tuesday the 26th of November. Organised by DCU's Access Service, the annual awards celebrate the achievements of third year students for their accomplishments in the following areas: academic; sport; arts and culture, community spirit and exceptional nomination. It was lovely to see so many parents and guardians attending on the night in support of the students.

Well done to Mirelle Patricio, Angel Solidum and Ella Phelan who performed musically on the night. Thanks to Mr Coll for all of his hard work coordinating the musical performances on the night.

Congratulations and well done to the following third year students. Shauna Brannigan, Sarah Aboud, Dara Cabalo, Trisha Quijada, Lana McCaffrey, Sophie Burke, Ciara Doran, Wiktorja Czajka, Katelyn Casey, Ciara Harris, Klara Sych, Raghad Achour, Latifa Ajmi Boujila, Catherine O'Brien Cox, Kate Watson, Niamh Dunne, Ella Ward, Chloe Quijano, Paige Vance, Emily Dixon.



UFirst Programme

Congratulations to the following 5th year students, Toni Fitzpatrick, Jodie Kearney and Katie McGuirk who have been accepted onto the DCU UFirst programme.

The aim of UFirst is to encourage students to begin preparing for third level. It covers study skills, career investigations as well as providing an opportunity to shadow DCU students.

This programme gives students the opportunity to get involved in events, activities and workshops throughout 5th year and provides supports in sixth year.

Guidance and Counselling Department

Sixth Year College Talks

It's been a busy term for our 6th year students. They all attended Higher Options in the RDS in September. They have had a number of college talks including DCU, Maynooth University, TCD, UCD, National College of Ireland, Technical University Dublin, Liberties College of Further Education, Vanity X School of Beauty, Whitehall College of Further Education, Killester College of Further Education and a talk on the HEAR and DARE programme.

Zeminar

All transition year students attended Zeminar in the RDS. This was an education and wellbeing event for young people. The conference featured keynote speakers as well as learning and empowerment workshops.



International Mental Health Awareness Week

International Mental Health Day took place on Thursday the 10th of October. We celebrated the day in a number of ways. First Years participated in a 'Connect' themed Fun Activity involving colouring their own unique button and connecting them together as a year group. Each button was very unique and showed how each individual's uniqueness connects together!

The Whole School Community engaged in Thankful Thursday. Each student took time to write down something they were grateful and thankful for.

First year students attended a talk by Monica Rowe which focused on 'Minding Our Mental Health.' Parents also attended a talk by Monica Rowe in relation to supporting their daughter with the transition from primary to secondary school.

Students also participated in an Art Competition in relation to raising awareness on the importance of Mental Health. There was lots of wonderful artwork created for the competition. Congratulations and well done to the First Year students Amy Walsh and Nesha Polintan who won the competition with their outstanding posters.

All students took part in meditation and mindful moments throughout Mental Health Day and were reminded of the slogan: Be Kind.

Staff also had the opportunity to attend a Mindful Meditation at lunch time in the Margaret Aylward Centre.

Guidance and Counselling Department

HEI College Placements Class of 2019

Congratulations to the Class of 2019, we wish them all the best for the future!



- Computer Science
- Social Sciences and Cultural innovation
- International relations and Spanish
- Business
- Early Childhood Education
- Science
- Humanities:
- Arts Joint honours - History and Law



- Psychology
- Science



- General Nursing



- Criminology
- Arts
- Music
- Business and geography



- Business
- Marketing Practice
- Psychology



- Aviation Studies
- DNA and Forensic Analysis
- Business and Information Technology
- International Business and French
- Travel and Tourism
- Social Care



- Business



- Animation



- Drama



- Pilot Training

Guidance and Counselling Department

PLC College Placements Class 2019



- Sport and Leisure Management
- Medical Secretary
- Travel and Tourism and Aviation Studies
- Accounting Technician



- Pre Nursing
- Digital Marketing
- Psychology and Counselling studies



- Psychology
- Repeat Leaving



- Business
- Social Care
- Graphic Design
- Hairdressing



- Pre-Science



- Music and Event Management
- Graphic design

Tolka Valley Community Training

- Beauty Therapy



- Travel abroad

Employment

- Ryanair training cabin crew
- Working
- Hairdressing Apprenticeship
- Apprenticeship (Pharmaceutical company CSC)

Thanks!

***Special thanks to all the staff and students
who contributed to this online edition of
our December Newsletter and to Ms Boran
for putting it all together.***



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