



December 2020

A Message from the Principal

Welcome to the December edition of St Mary's Newsletter. This online edition can be accessed through our website and our School App.

At the end of a challenging term, more challenging than any in decades, our school community- Board of Management, staff, students and parents- should be proud of how we're facing it and how we're overcoming it together. We are where we'd hoped to be last August - safe, together and happy.

This newsletter is a celebration of what we've done to overcome the challenges we have faced as a result of the pandemic. Each activity and achievement shown in this newsletter is the result of the collective efforts of staff, students and parents, with the same creativity, innovation and spirit that St Mary's is renowned for. It shows subject departments adapting to new methodologies and pedagogical practices and extra and co-curricular activities developing the gifts and talents of our students and staff.

This is a diverse, dynamic, creative, nurturing and inclusive school that faces challenges together and overcomes them together. The greater the challenge, the greater our collective response. "Breath by breath our inner light let shine." Every staff member, student and parent continues to be a light and hope to each other.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your kind and generous welcome to me as Principal, especially during this time of uncertainty and change. Your warmth and support is appreciated and cherished. I hope you have a peaceful, restful and happy Christmas break. We look forward to an easier and brighter 2021.

With thanks and good wishes,
 Paul Clarke
 Principal
 December 2020

**St Mary's
 Secondary School**



Mission Statement

St. Mary's follows the Holy Faith philosophy of creating a 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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News & Events

History Award

We wish to congratulate Ellen Clusker on winning in her category in the Decade of Centenaries Competition organised by University College Cork. She submitted an excellent essay that was thoroughly researched. There were four categories to enter and Ellen chose to do Ireland and World War 1. She chose this because of a family connection, her great-uncle Christopher Brennan. A man Ellen considers to be "The Bravest Man She Never Met". He fought and died at the Battle of the Somme. Her excellent project not only investigated Christopher Brennan but the circumstances surrounding him and many young men like him to sign up to fight in "Great War". We are awaiting the lifting of restrictions because of the Covid-19 pandemic to attend her prize winning ceremony in University College Cork. She was presented with a school certificate to acknowledge this great achievement.



Maths Week

Our TY students loved getting out and doing some "fun maths" during Maths Week 2020. The TY Maths Treasure Hunt took place on the school grounds with Mr. O'Keeffe and Ms. Rochford.



Stand Up Week November 2020

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 many different subjects and tutor time his year. Our TY students created colourful rainbow heart decorations to be hung around the school together with the different pride flags representing LGBTI+.

Radio St Mary's played songs at lunchtime. Ms Gallagher organised a Ted Talk focussing on LGBTI+ issues and awareness where many students came together as a focus group. This was hugely informative and successful.

And on Friday, to complete stand-up week, the students were asked to wear a 'rainbow' hair accessory. 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. We would like to thank the large number of students from every year group who worked together to organise a very successful week. Ms Morgan.



All Things Christmas

Christmas Hamper Appeal

TY Class 4 Danu co-ordinated the Christmas Hamper Appeal this year. Once again, we are happy to announce the success we received from this year's Christmas Hamper Appeal.

We were lucky enough to do the Christmas Hamper Appeal again this year and we are amazed with the amount of goods each class brought in.

We've seen many lovely Christmas boxes filled with so many goods and we'd like to thank all the students who contributed and brought in those goods. We'd also like to thank all the captains and the vice captains for bringing in the wrapped boxes.

These boxes will be brought to a good cause and will help many families and others during this Christmas.

4 Danu helped so much as they prepared this appeal by creating numerous posters and displaying them throughout the school and announcing the appeal. And a thank you to Mr. Clarke for reminding each class about the appeal every morning.

We appreciate the help that everyone has given and very grateful for this opportunity, despite the troubling situation of Covid-19. A big thank you to those who contributed!



St. Vincent's De Paul: Virtual Gift

We're very thankful for the generous donation of money given to us by all the TY students. This year we were lucky enough to have the opportunity to collect money for families in need this Christmas in favor of St. Vincent De Paul. The money will be either given as a cheque or vouchers to these families, which will definitely make their Christmas.

Thanks to the TY class, 4 Danu, for making this project happen. The class began this as their Action Project and prepared for it by creating lovely posters and displaying them around the other TY classes to inform them of this project. Later on, a few students of 4 Danu went around to the other TY classes every morning, collecting the money and amazingly they've raised €87 going towards a good cause.

We are glad that every TY class contributed and are once again very thankful for the donation.



All Things Christmas



Irish Christmas Cards

Some of our TYs have taken on a Christmas Card Campaign to send to various convents and nursing homes.

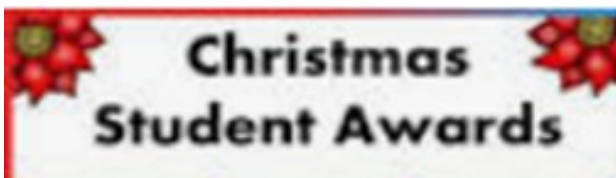
They have been busy designing the cards in Irish but are writing personal messages to the recipients.

Some have even included letters a return address if they wish to write back to them over the Christmas period.

Well done to all.

German Christmas Card Exchange

Our TY 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!



Spanish Christmas Cards

Beautiful Spanish Christmas cards made by our TY students.

Well done to all.

Junior Students Christmas Awards

Awards took place for Junior Students 1st Year to 3rd Year in the following categories:

1. Excellent academic achievement
2. Excellent participation
3. Attendance

The Class Tutor presented senior students who have had excellent attendance with a certificate. Tutors will give junior students who have achieved many nominations in the areas of 'Excellent Academic Achievement' and/or 'Excellent Participation' and/or 'Excellent Attendance' certificates of achievement.

Each First Year student will receive a winter-themed gift to congratulate them on their endeavours for the first term.



Education for Living



Our Christmas Feast
3rd December 2020

Christmas Menu

Starter
Asparagus Rolls

Main Course
Roast Chicken with Stuffing
Served with Roast Carrot & Parsnip
Roast & Mash Potatoes
Yorkshire Pudding

Dessert
Chocolate Brownie & Ice Cream

6th Year Master Chefs

Terri Townley
Chloe Ratcliffe
Elle Owens Wynne
Alannah McDonald
Lara Hughes
Alicia Hughes
Louise Glass Somers
Alesha Farrell
Annmarie Duff
Hannah Carroll
Daenna Cabalo
Angelica Aguijar

Thank You to Ms Byrne and Ms Cunningham
for their support.

Sixth Year Education for Living hosted their first ever St Mary's Christmas dinner. Everyone joined in together to decide on the menu and to do the preparation for this event. They only had 3 class periods to get everything prepped, cooked and cleaned up to sit down and enjoy the Christmas dinner. It was an amazing team effort and we hope it is the start of a new St Mary's festive tradition. The guest of honour was Ms Griffin, the 6th Yr., Year Head. Mr Clarke also joined the students to sample the menu.

As well as being fantastic chefs the students also displayed their creative skills by decorating the room and tables. They finished off their last class before Christmas by decorating a gingerbread house. A big thanks to Ms McGinn for baking a lovely chocolate biscuit cake pudding. Thanks to the Home Economics teachers for the use of their kitchen and facilities. Ms Byrne, Ms Cunningham.



Transition Year News



Leading Ireland's Future Together (LIFT)

Leading Ireland's Future Together (LIFT) is a nationwide, non-profit initiative aimed at developing leadership skills in Ireland. Last year, myself and Ms. O'Donnell completed the training along with a group of Transition Year students as a pilot of the LIFT Leadership programme, which has now become a permanent TY module as of this year.

LIFT is used across Ireland in schools and a variety of professional environments including the Munster rugby team, banks and corporate businesses to give people in these organisations the opportunity to develop positive leadership skills.

Following completion of their own 8-week LIFT training module, our Transition Year students will then repeat this module in the new year as instructors for all Second Year students. This will reinforce the skills learned during their LIFT training and begin to spread positive leadership throughout the school community.

As St. Mary's is now a member of the LIFT initiative, the opportunity to take part in LIFT training is now available to all members of staff. This training involves a series of 45 minute, online round-table discussions which each focuses on one of the eight key leadership values of LIFT.

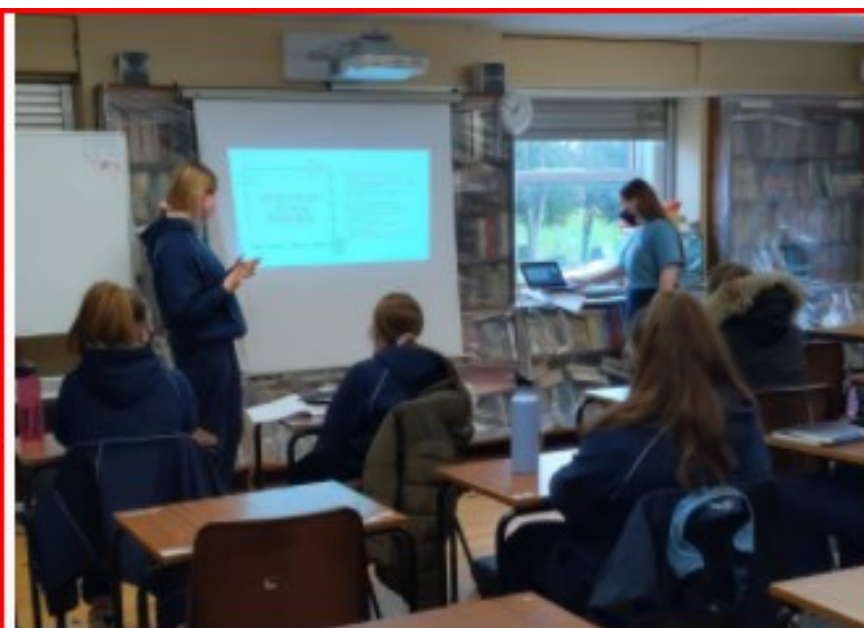
If you would like more information on LIFT, please feel free to link in with me and look through the information available on their website: <https://liftireland.ie/> . Ms Shanahan.

Global Citizenship Projects

Well done to all the T.Y students who presented their Global Citizenship Projects.

Topics researched included racism, sectarianism, sexism, homelessness, and climate change to name but a few!

The students presented their projects in an eloquent and articulate manner. Well done girls!



Transition Year News

DCU Early University Entrance Programme.



We are delighted that several of our Transition Year students have been accepted this year into the Early University Programme at Dublin City University. Transition Year students with high academic ability participate in the Early University Entrance Programme at Dublin City University. Here students get the opportunity to study modules from a degree programme of their choice on one day each week, over the course of one or two semesters. Courses are based on degree programmes on offer in DCU. Each follows 2 modules from the associated degree programme.

The Early University Entrance courses include the following;

Biology (based on modules from the Common Entry into Science)

How Life Works 2 (semester 2)

Engineering (based on modules from Common Entry to Engineering)

Software Development for Engineers (semester 2)

Statics (semester 2)

Law & Politics (based on modules from the B.A. in Economics, Politics & Law)

American Political System (semester 2)

Constitutional Law (semester 2)

Mathematical Science (based on modules from the B.Sc. in Mathematical Science)

Mathematical Processes and Skills (semester 2)

Mathematical Problem Solving (semester 2)

Philosophy (based on modules from the Bachelors of Arts (Joint Honours))

Political Philosophy (semester 2)

Second module to be confirmed (semester 2)

Physics (based on modules from the B.Sc. in Applied Physics)

Electricity and Magnetism (semester 2)

Second module to be confirmed (semester 2)

Psychology (based on modules from the B.Sc. in Psychology)

Biological Psychology (semester 2)

Social Psychology (semester 2)

We wish our Transition Year students well as they continue to engage in this highly educational programme.

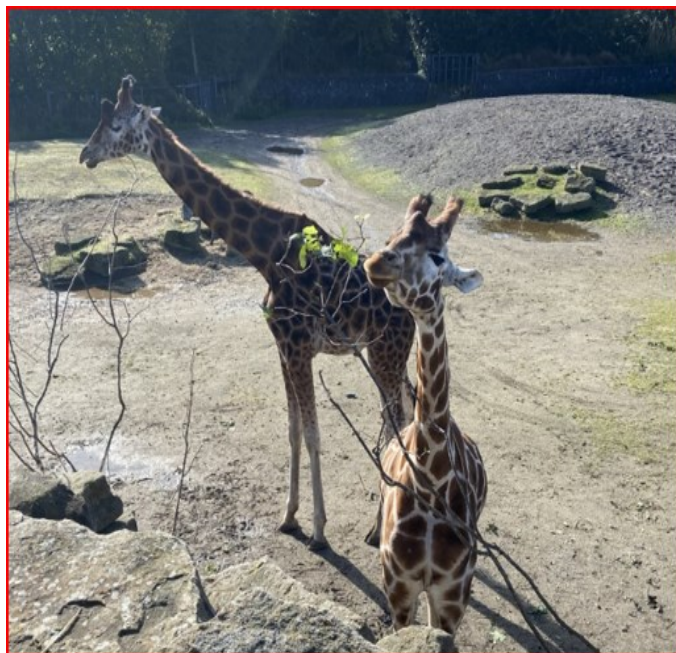
Ms. Kavanagh

Transition Year News

TY Trip to the Zoo

All TY students visited the Zoo on October 1st.

We got great weather for it and since we were there early, we managed to see many of the animals getting their breakfast! The zoo was really safe, and we followed the one-way system. The zookeepers were really informative. We were all surprised to learn that something positive happened during lockdown in the zoo – the first penguin chicks were born since 2013!



Walk in my shoes

My name is Allannah Darcy and I took part in the walk in my shoes course with St Patricks Hospital. Over the course of a week I took part in an online course that focused on various aspects of mental health, education and career pathways. We were given a diverse timetable of virtual sessions. During each session we were given different activities and scenarios that we had to discuss in our groups. We also watched virtual tours and listened to many guest speakers and their role St Patrick Hospital. At the end of the week we were put into small groups to make a presentation to spread awareness about mental health in our schools. When we were finished we had to present it to everyone who had taken part in the programme. I graduated from the programme feeling empowered to act as a mental health ambassador both in school and my local community.

DCU Early University Programme

Every Thursday, I partake in an early university entrance programme in DCU. There are a variety of different courses to do, for example, psychology, philosophy, engineering, law & politics, biology, sports science, business. I do psychology.

There are two different modules this semester cognitive psychology and child development. All of the theory taught is what an undergraduate would study in their first year of college. Assignments and exams must be completed too.

Overall, the experience has been amazing and I've learned so many new things and I have made lots of new friends. I can't wait for semester two where I will study law and politics. Sarah Aboud.

Transition Year News

TY Wellfest

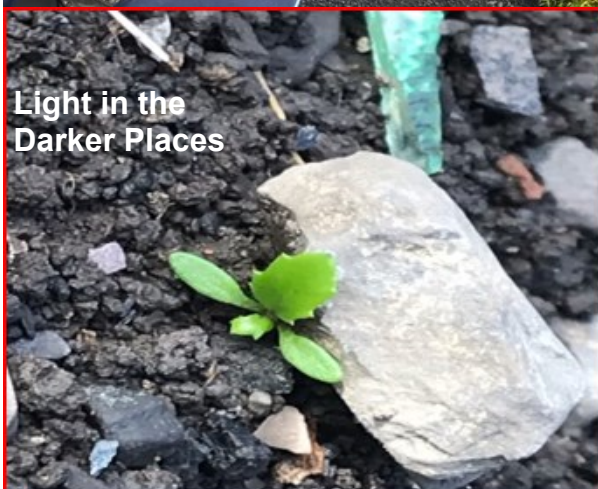
At first, I was skeptical; not only of TY but of this school year as a whole, as I was 'the new student' in my class. Because of all the events unfolding in real-time concerning COVID-19, I started teaching myself to expect the worst out of the rest of 2020. I am essentially grateful that I didn't.

Well-being week, a.k.a Well-fest, was the first event week held in early October, since the beginning of school in late August. It was a week of planned activities and workshops for Transition year students to partake in. Activities which included a Creative Wellbeing Workshop with Ms. Kavanagh, A 'Hope In The Now' Workshop with Mr. Coll, a Hope Heroes Walk with Ms. Griffin and Ms. Boran, a Movie Morning, a Workshop with the Guidance Department and a whole School Moment which was enjoyed in every classroom over the intercom.

It was such an experience; not only because it was my first time being involved in such events, but because I gained a lot from virtually everything! From the inspiring speech we watched in the Guidance Department Workshop about Mental Health and its Impact on Youth to becoming certified Hope Heroes, with a capital H, with Ms. Boran. It really encouraged me to embrace this unconventional situation we all have found ourselves in and fight the good fight against COVID-19.



In that same light, I leave you with these pictures I took as part of our Hope Heroes training and the beauty I saw in it. Kalaine Annabelle Akinniranye. 4 Luna



Transition Year News

BTYSTE 2021

Lana Nolan, Paige Vance and I (Catherine O'Brien Cox) entered the BTYSTE in hope of learning new skills and making the most out of our TY experience. We were very excited to find out we had made it to the finals and couldn't wait to go into more depth with our project and research. Our project is a systematic investigation into the affects that genres and characteristics of musical styles have on the habits and techniques of drivers. Does music control our steering wheel? In other words we are testing to see if music distracts how people drive. We have been doing ongoing research and pursuing different experiments and surveys throughout the past few weeks to gather enough information to prove our hypothesis. Doing BT Young Scientist especially during TY is a great experience that we would recommend.



Physics Seminar

I attended the UCD Physics seminar on the 30th of November. I never really had an interest in physics, but I found it really interesting. All of the professors had really interesting points to make! My favorite was the physicist who spoke on photography of the stars. He taught us about the different ways that you can take these pictures, and all of the different things that they discover. For example, when you take pictures with a red filter on the camera, you can get beautiful swirling pools of red and orange. In other ones, if you take pictures using a blue filter, you can get clear pictures of hundreds of thousands of stars. Before I watched this seminar, I never knew anything about how they took the beautiful pictures my science teacher had in her presentations.

They also finished with a panel of young physicists, and asked them many questions. One of the women on the panel only spoke English as a second language, and she told us about the rich history of physics in the Middle East. I found her incredibly inspiring, as she had had to work very hard to become a physicist. It made me realise that women can do anything they set their minds to, no matter how much they have to overcome. I would recommend this lecture to anyone, even if they have no interest in science. I promise you will fall in love!

Lana McCaffrey

Transition Year News

Create Schools Film Workshop

For Create Schools, we first started by researching the logline and director of our favourite film and learning the different camera angles and how to create more cinematic scenes.

We each then had to go into groups of 7-8 and create our own short film. We picked our jobs in creating the film. Some people chose to be actors and the people who didn't want to be shown were the person behind the camera or editing the film.

It wasn't that difficult to get an idea of what the plot would be, but it did take a while to plan the script and storyline of each scene. We had to come up with the costumes and bring it in the next day. It took us quite a long while filming as it took many takes to get a scene right and to capture the different angles of a scene. It was a fun experience acting out the script we planned.

Stand UP TY Committee

From the 16-20th November, the Stand Up Committee held the annual BelongTo Stand Up week against LGBTQIA+. We put up posters of information about the week and on the Monday, we held the TY radio where we played songs surrounding LGBTQIA+ acceptance from artists such as Lady Gaga, the Neighbourhood and Spice Girls. On Tuesday, we went around to our classes with packs to make rainbow cloud hanging decorations with Ms. Cunningham.

We then decorated the door beside the staff room with a rainbow balloon arch. Most days during the week, tutors were encouraged to show each class a video made by BelongTo discussing topics of the LGBTQIA+ community such as Gender Expression and/or respectable Terminology. On Wednesday, all TY classes were invited to a Zoom Discussion on Gender And Terminology and how to respect people in our school community who may be transitioning which was held by SpeakOut.

On Friday, the school community were encouraged to wear a rainbow accessory and we held our final TY radio, completing our BelongTo week. Overall it was really great to see the support from the school community and we want to thank everyone for getting so involved. Ruby Gill.



Transition Year News

Lego Robotics Workshop:

This is a STEM annual initiative led by Mr Walsh in conjunction with DCU, who will invite interested TY students in coding, computing, or robotics to participate in an online STEM-related Robotics .



TY Robotics

Over the past number of years, St. Mary's, in conjunction with the DCU Learnit Academy, has offered a robotics module for TY students who have an interest in Coding and Computer Programming. The module consists of students building a robot (made of Lego!), and programming it to move around a map to complete a series of missions. Students would, under normal circumstances, represent St. Mary's in the FIRST LEGO League which takes place in March each year. The league involves a Global Science and Technology Challenge to encourage students to apply their interests in issues of pivotal importance to a knowledge-based society. It also gives students the opportunity to explore Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics in a fun, engaging and hands-on manner. St. Mary's has been a competitor in the FIRST LEGO League over the past number of years and has performed extremely well, even winning a trophy in 2017/2018!

Unfortunately this year due to COVID-19, we were unable to offer this module to the current group of TY students. However, the team at DCU were kind enough to call to the school on Wednesday 9th December, to conduct a one-day workshop with a small group of TY students who have an interest in the field. We are hoping to run the module for next year's TY students, with a view to encouraging more young women to become involved in the STEM field.



Relove Fashion 2020

Relove Fashion Competition 2020



This year saw nine of our students entering the Relove Fashion Competition. Three groups worked on three separate fashionable creations. The objective was to upcycle any old materials, shoes, jewellery etc to create a whole new outfit and look. The rules were clear, nothing was to be bought, a mood board had to be created and a knowledge of materials and the impact they have on the environment had to be clearly shown.

The three teams produced unique styles. A dress was created from a scarf, a dress was cut up and sewn into a jumpsuit and a whole outfit was created from leggings which received the tie die treatment and a top and jacket which were sewn together from old tops and bed linen! All outfits were wearable as this was also a stipulation. All teams did extremely well and we are awaiting the live final, well done ladies, good luck in the final! Ms Watts.



Second Year Students

Alex Andrina Kruptsova
Amy Sperin
Caitlyn Curran
Ella-Mai White
Kate Brady
Naoise Donaghey
Rahela Grigorina Tolan
Sharon Shibhu
Sunamita Singeorzan

PE & Sports Department

Skipping Workshop

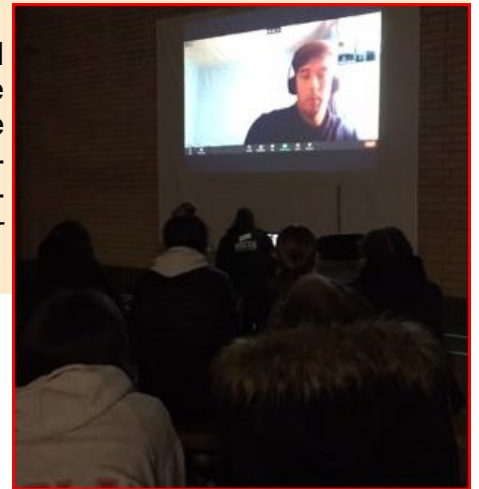
The PE department were delighted to have Mark McCabe in delivering a skipping workshop to some students in November. Marks skills with a skipping rope were mesmerizing and students really enjoyed learning new skills. Class Clover participated in a special class with Mark as reward for winning the After school sports competition last year.



Leaving Certificate PE

History was made in St Marys' this year with the first students opting to study Leaving Certificate PE. We have two classes this year and students have been studying psychology, sports psychology, training types and principles of training since September. The course is 50% practical and includes a performance based coursework. To coincide with Careers week, the classes participated in a Zoom call with sports psychologist, Luke O'Loughlin.

We look forward to following the students and the department progress as they continue with their studies.



Pop-Up Rugby Sessions Tag Rugby Leinster



St. Marys' were delighted to take part in a six week pop up club for 1st Year students ran by Leinster rugby and held in DCU.

The purpose of the pop-up club was to keep students active and healthy through games and non-contact rugby games. The students involved showed great enthusiasm regardless of the

weather and were a credit to the school. The students were joined in one of the sessions by Ms. Considine, who joined in some of the games allowing the students to test their skills against an Irish rugby player. The students also featured in the Leinster program for their match against Cardiff!



Thanks to all involved and especially to Juliet Short, Leinster Community Officer.



New POP-UP CLUB IN NORTH-WEST DUBLIN

Leinster Rugby and Dublin City Council are delighted to have made a special arrangement to run a new pop-up club for 1st year students from the local secondary schools in the area.

The club will provide a safe and fun environment for students to learn the basics of the game and to enjoy the excitement of the game.

The club will be held on a regular basis and will be a great opportunity for students to learn from professional players and to be part of the Leinster Rugby family.

If you would like to know more about the club, please contact your Head of PE or your school or area Leinster Rugby Community Officer.

Modern Foreign Languages



'Think Languages'
National Event

#ThinkLanguages
TY National Event 2020
Event Hub

We celebrated

world languages in the school as part of the 'Think Languages' national event. The event which aims to celebrate the benefits of foreign language learning across the country! #ThinkLanguages is a great opportunity for TY students to see foreign languages brought to life and appreciate the benefits of language skills beyond school and exams.

In these uncertain times, making connections is more important than ever. Languages Connect promotes the many cultural, social, personal and career benefits of foreign language skills for all people in Ireland.

To help us celebrate, we showed a 30-minute language workshop video in all TY classes. The workshops included Chinese Workshop, Italian and Italian Cuisine, Greek Language, Arabic and Belly Dancing, Danish and Design, Polish Language Workshop and Spanish/German/French workshops with TY Language Teachers. Languages Department.

German Pen Pals

Our 2nd year students of German are participating in a very exciting Pen Pal programme with our partner school *Ludwig-Thoma Gymnasium* in Germany. This programme is a fantastic opportunity for our students to get to know native Germans, learn about Germany and its culture, while also improving their foreign language skills.

With emails flying back and forth at great speed, who knows where these new friendships will take them! S. McManus.



English Department

Outdoor Theatre Comes to St Mary's

There hasn't been much chance for theatrical productions this year, but 3 Dandelion and 3 Bluebell were treated to a performance of "Romeo and Juliet" on the school's tennis courts just before the Halloween break.

On a crisp but sunny day, actors from "Festival in a Van" acting company performed some of the key scenes from Shakespeare's romantic tragedy, moving the action to Dublin of the 21st century.

Seeing such a performance will undoubtedly help these students in their Junior Cycle. Many thanks to the Arts Council for supporting this initiative in the school.

Ms. Donohoe.



Roinn na Gaeilge

The logo for Gael Linn, featuring the words 'GAEL LINN' in a white, serif font on a blue rectangular background.

Gael Linn Irish Debating – Cómortas an Phiarsaigh 2020

In November, three of our second-year students, Khushi Ferguson, Beau Doherty Doyle and Lexi Doherty Doyle took part in round one of the Gael Linn Irish Debating Competition. This year, the girls gave speeches instead of debates.

Working with Ms Salmon and Ms Condon, the girls prepared and presented speeches on different topics. Our chosen motions for discussion were, 'The Irish Government are dealing well with Covid 19' and 'The most valuable things in life are free'. The girls represented our school extremely well and we will cross our fingers that we get through to the next round.

Best of luck to the girls! A preview of their speeches is available on our school website here: <https://www.stmaryshfcglasnevin.com/good-luck-to-our-students-in-the-gael-linn-debating-competition/> - Ms Condon

I mí na Samhna, ghlac triúr dár gcuid mac léinn dara bliana, Khushi Ferguson, Beau Doherty Doyle agus Lexi Doherty Doyle páirt i mbabhta a haon de Chomórtas Díospóireachta Gael Linn. I mbliana, thug na cailíní óráidí in ionad díospóireachtaí.

Ag obair le Ms Salmon agus Ms Condon, d'ullmhaigh agus chuir na cailíní óráidí ar ábhair éagsúla i láthair. Ba iad na rúin a bhí á phlé acu ná, 'Tá Rialtas na hÉireann ag déileáil go maith le Covid 19' agus 'Tá na rudaí is luachmhaire sa saol saor in aisce'. Rinne na cailíní ionadaíocht thar a bheith maith ar ár scoil agus tá súil againn go n-éireoidh linn! Ádh mór do na cailíní!

Tá sampla dá n-óráidí ar fáil ar ár suíomh Gréasáin scoile anseo: <https://www.stmaryshfcglasnevin.com/good-luck-to-our-students-in-the-gael-linn-debating-competition/> - Ms Condon

Cartaí na Nollag don Phobal Áitiúil



Rinne roinnt de na daltaí ón idirbhliain cartaí na Nollag don phobal áitiúil i mbliana. Rinne siad cartaí na Nollag do na daoine atá sna tithe altranais agus sna clochair áitiúil i mbliana. Chuir na daltaí seo a lán oibre sna cartaí seo.

Míle buíochas mór le Ms. Considine & Mr. Coll agus le múinteoirí Gaeilge go léir as an gcabhair leis an tionscadal seo. Maith sibh go léir! Roinn na Gaeilge

Wellbeing in St Mary's



Amber Flag Committee

We are part of the Amber flag committee to help to spread awareness and promote mental well-being within the school community.

The committee has come up with a few ways to try promote this such as Tea Tuesdays where fifth and sixth years have the chance to come in to school and have a cup of tea, coffee or hot chocolate to help them relax before the stressful day ahead.

We will be holding an awareness day held during health week and as a fundraiser we will be participating in darkness into light.



Tea-Tuesday Morning for Sixth Year Students Amber Flag Committee Initiative

Ms Shipley leads this initiative in the school. The members of the Amber Flag committee have a significant influence in the school community, whose aim is to support positive mental health, in particular among our student cohort.

There are student representatives from each year group on the committee, and one of their aims is to design a senior sports tracksuit and school scarf.

Tea-Tuesday for Sixth Year Students



Supervised Tea-Tuesday for Sixth Year students will allow Sixth Years to have a cup of tea/coffee from 8.20am onwards to 8.40am before Tutor-Time.

The school will provide disposable, environmental cups, tea, coffee, milk, and sugar, and students are most welcome to avail of the Breakfast Club items.

Picture of the Amber Flag Team:
(not pictured: Jade Gallery, 6th year)

Wellbeing in St Mary's

Sensory Garden and Garden Team Update

Thank you to all the students and staff who have worked in the Sensory Garden this term: as part of Education for Living, Mental Health Awareness day, the Creative Play Wellbeing Modules, 2nd year SPHE and those on the Gardening Team who have volunteered their time before school and at lunchtime to help rejuvenate it after the long school closure.

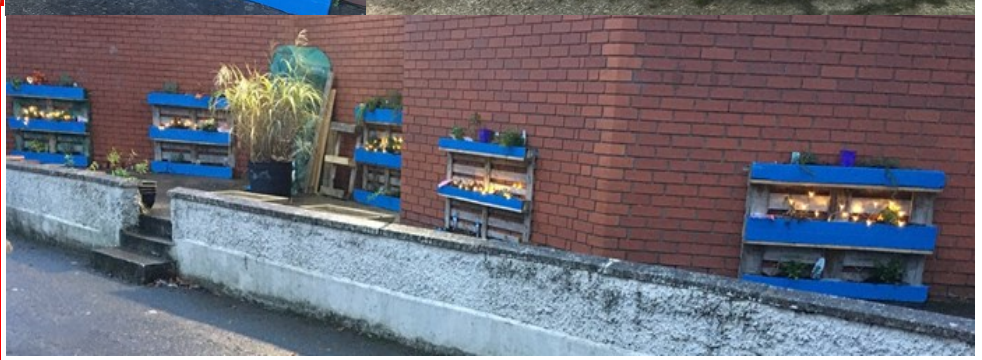
This term we planted pollinator friendly spring and summer bulbs (Snowdrops, Crocus, Muscari, and Alliums) in the flower beds and in containers, as well as a selection of plants that will increase biodiversity in our school grounds, such as Lavender, Sedum, Hellebores, a selection of herbs including: Rosemary, Thyme, Mint, Parsley and Marjoram, flowering alpine plants and Ferns! A bed of onions have also been planted, with a view to being both useful for the Home Economics and Science Departments.

The Pavilion flower beds have been reinstated, providing scent, texture and beautiful flowers to look at over the coming months. We especially look forward to seeing the display of tall purple alliums in May and the lavender in September.

As a team we have completed the planting of our new project, the vertical garden beds. The planting includes a herb section for the Home Economics Department, An Alpine/dry section, and three other beds with a variety of hardy plants to provide oxygen, nectar for our pollinators and a habitat for creatures in need of shelter. Now that this space is ready, we will move into phase three. Mr Carr, our Garden Team & Green Schools student designers, with assistance from Ms Watts and Ms Cunningham will work out a system to use harvested rainwater to irrigate the vertical planters in dry weather. We look forward to seeing their great ideas and how we can realise their plans for the irrigation system.

This links in with our World Wide Global Schools education. As part of this gardening project we will be looking at the causes of drought and its global impact on people, the environment and economies. The addition of lights to the Sensory Garden area for December has brought a little sparkle to our everyday. Thank you Colin & Mr Murphy for putting them up!

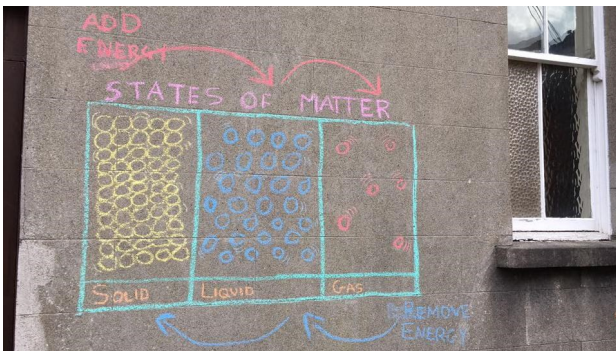
Ms Cunningham



Science Department

Science Week 2020

Science week took place in November. The TY Class Luna were involved in many science activities. They learnt about the digestive system, its processes, components and functions. In addition they explored our solar system, researching the milky-way, looking at the differences from the sun. They created a colour display with all their information. Well done to all of Class Luna for their hard work. The students of German completed Research projects from German speaking countries. Ms Coleman.



Young Scientist Entries 2021

Congratulations to the following students who have successfully submitted project proposals and been accepted as finalists for this year's BTYSTE 2021. For the first time in its history it will be a virtual exhibition but it still promises to be an exhilarating competition. We wish all the students the very best of luck & support as they carry out their experiments and ongoing research on their projects. They will represent the school in January's Final.



- Biological & Ecological Junior category we have the following 2nd year group of: Erica, Hannah and Anna with their project titled: **'An investigation into the human reaction to different types of music'**

Technology Intermediate category we have 3rd year student Mony Aramalla with her project titled:

'Careercoaster - The ultimate Career Guide for secondary school students'

- Social & Behavioural Science Intermediate category we have the T.Y. group of Lana, Paige & Catherine with their project titled:

'A systematic investigation into the affects that genres and characteristics of musical styles have on the habits and techniques of drivers. Does music control our steering wheels?'



- Social & Behavioural Science Senior category we have 5th year student Emma with her project titled:

'Why is there such a taboo about female menstruation in Ireland'

Many thanks to the young scientist team, Ms Coleman & Ms Mulvey.

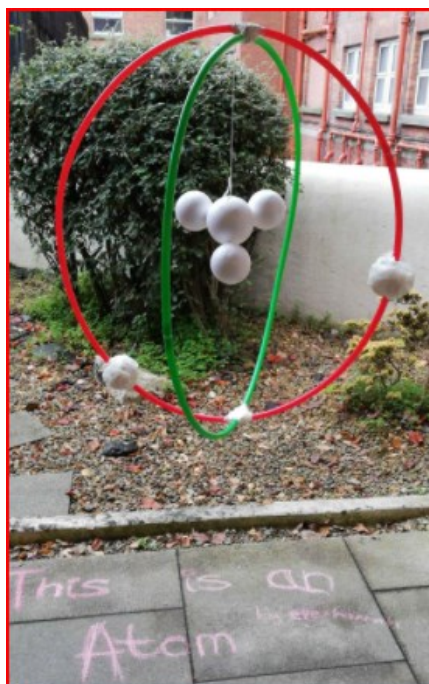
Science Department

September heralded lots of changes to the way the students studied science. The students took on the new challenge with great gusto and have adapted to this new way of working with incredible tenacity. This included more use of digital resources, more independent work and making use of our outdoor spaces to explore the science around us.

In September TY Juno were given a guided tour of the Botanic Gardens in small groups. They learnt about the history of the gardens and the many species of plants found in the gardens.

TY students made the most of Science Week by making displays and models in the Sensory Gardens. Topics included building a liquid tower to show the density of liquids and gases, the physics of music and sound, DNA displays, States of Matter, building a model of an atom, showing how surface tension creates bubbles, Light and the electromagnetic spectrum, solar system and facts about the digestive system.

They topped off the week by competing with hundreds of other schools in an all Ireland Science Quiz via zoom. Ms Coleman. Our other year groups also enjoyed a digital science week with an zoom interview with Dr Eilish McLoughlin from DCU School of Physics and many fun online science shows



During Science Week students from Fifth Year Physics and Fifth Year Biology along with their teachers Ms Nolan and Ms Coleman interviewed Eilish McLoughlin, Associate Professor of Physics at Dublin City University, Deputy Head of the School of Physical Sciences and Director of the Research Centre for the Advancement of STEM Teaching and Learning (CASTeL). The students asked Professor McLoughlin about her day to day job, education, career path and favourite scientists and areas of physics. Professor McLoughlin explained that the favourite part of her job is working with students and learning from them. Her favourite scientist is Lise Meitner and in 2018 Professor McLoughlin won the Institute of Physics Lise Meitner Medal for work in science education. Her advice for all the students was to believe in themselves, follow their dreams and let anything stop that.

Art Department



Art Department.

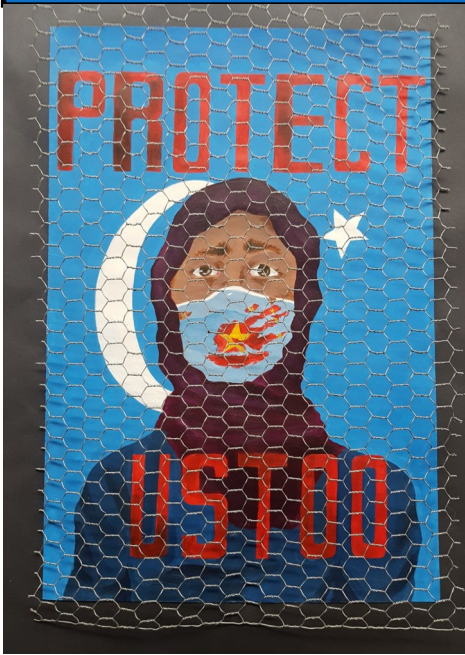
The 6th year art students made their personal creative responses to their Leaving Certificate craft option. The task was to create a poster communicating the significance of wearing face masks in school to protect themselves and others from the spread of the Coronavirus, Covid 19. The process itself enabled every student to explore a broad variety of art media and surface grounds.

Each student created an original poster influenced by primary source drawings they made of each other wearing masks in their art class. The 6th year art students also made reference to visual culture links they researched throughout their artistic process.

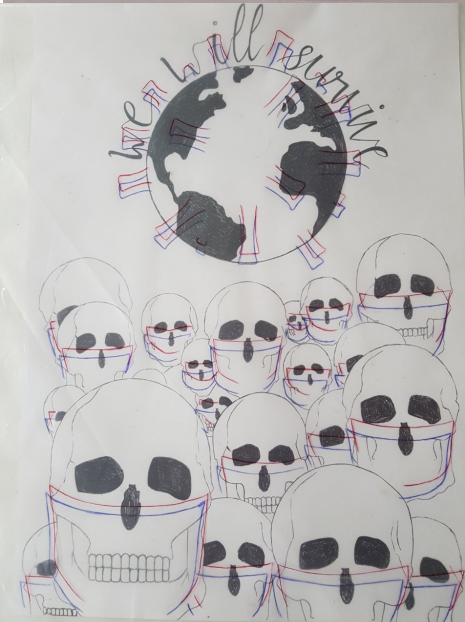
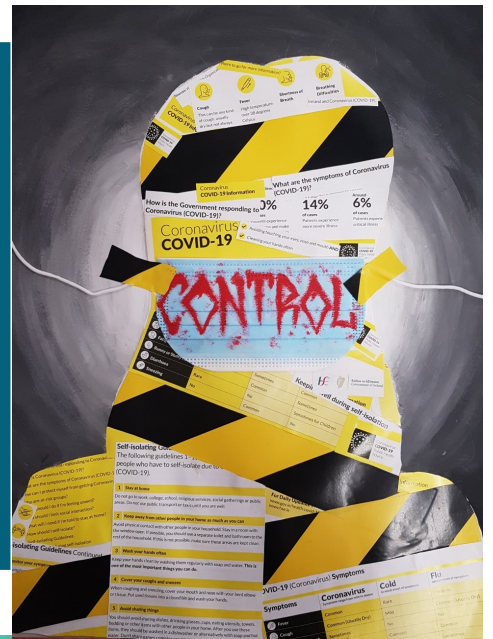
The completed posters will be on exhibition in St. Mary's HFG in the New Year.

Ms.Kavanagh

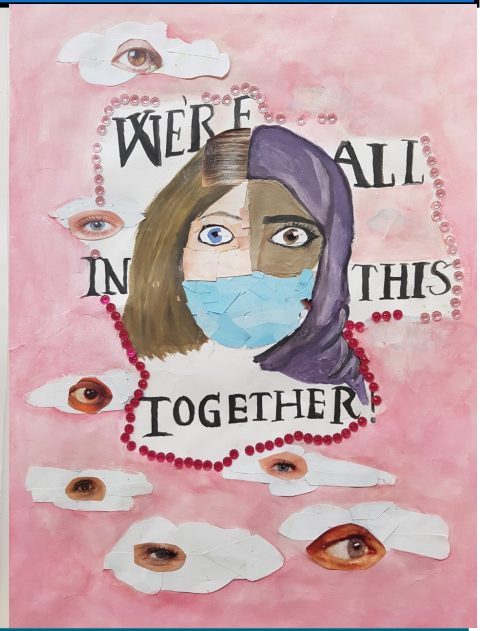
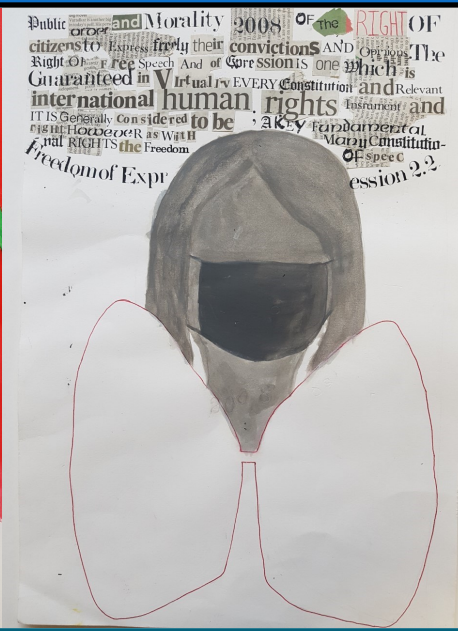
Art Department



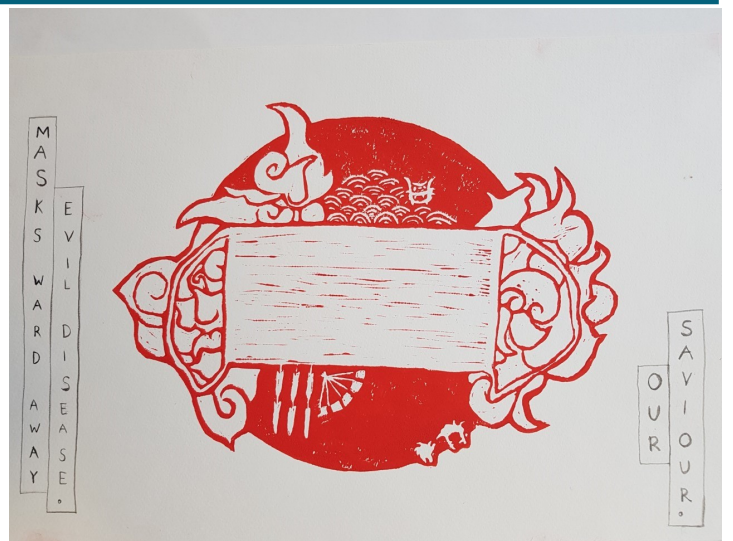
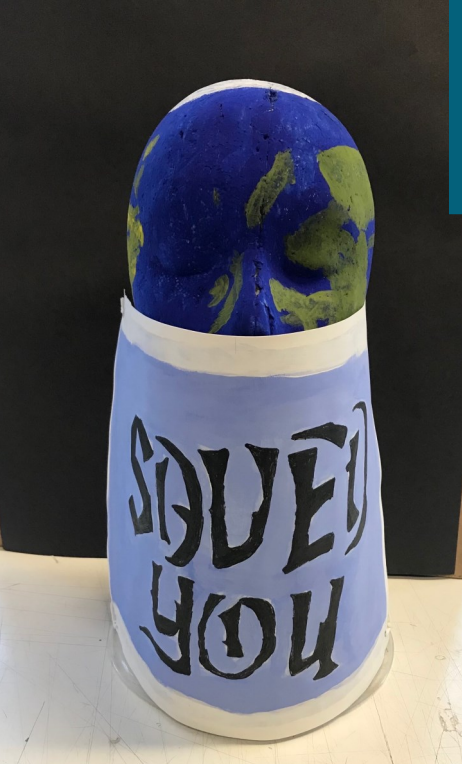
An exhibition of creative work made by Sixth Year Art Students



Art Department

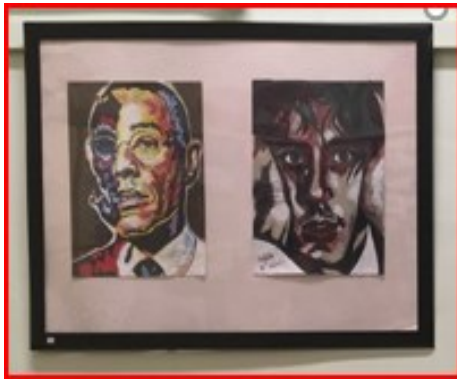


An exhibition of creative work made by Sixth Year Art Students



Art Together ApART

Art Together ApART Exhibition



During the school closures in May 2020, we held our first Arts and Literacy week in St Mary's. As part of our week celebrating and fostering creativity, a call was put out for creators in our school community to submit a piece of original work that they created while at home.

We are delighted to see the work of teachers, students and past pupils adorn our gallery wall for the final week of this term, shining a light of creative hope at the end of a challenging year. Thank you to all of you who submitted work and to our TY Curators, A Carpenter E Connolly, K Sych & E Ward.



An exhibition of creative work made by the school community during school closures in 2020

Art Together ApART

Participants

1. E Keeley, Painting, Medium used: Acrylic on canvas
2. A Carpenter, Earrings, Medium: Oven clay
3. K Sych, 3D horse head, "Bear", Media used: Velvet, wool and thread
4. B & L Doherty Doyle, Assorted 3D figures, Medium used: Playdough
5. K Duggan, Christmas decorations, Media used: mixed recycled materials
6. Ms M O'Doherty, Zoom Doodles, Medium used: Pen & pencil on post it notes
7. A Harrington, Cats, Medium: Clip Studio Paint and a XP Pen Star G960, digitally painted
8. D Butuc, Elephant, Medium used: Acrylic on canvas sheet
9. L Brumnjak, Portrait, Medium used: Drawing Pencil
10. S Russell, Portraits, Media used: Drawing pencil, collage and gouache
11. S Coll, Portrait, Medium used: Drawing Pencil
12. K Balfe, Portraits, Medium used: Acrylic paint, pen and collage on mixed ground
13. E G Tabaniag, Title: "Front Seat Views on the Way to School." Media used: Pencil, gouache, acrylic paint, fine liner.
14. E Keeley, Hands and blossom, Medium used: Acrylic on Canvas
15. S Coll, Top and Skirt, Medium used: Satin
16. Mr M Murphy, Design for ceramic work, Medium used: Drawing Pencil
17. E Connolly, Portraits, Medium used: Acrylic and pen on paper
18. M McEvoy, Flower studies, Medium used: Water-colour
19. Ms C Geoghegan, "To my Students", Poem
20. A Lan Maguire, "Slytherin Pride", Media used: Pencil & Twistable
21. L Quinn, "Mighty Dubs", Poem
22. C Cox O'Brien Cox, "Pride", Poem
23. R Achour, Poem
24. Vista, "From the Inside Out", Medium used: Drawing Pencil
25. A Azubike, "The minds adventures", Media used: watercolours, posca pens
26. Z Dunne, View, Media used: Pencil and pen
27. Ms E Martin, Embroidered T-Shirt, Medium used: thread
28. E R Murphy, "In the Woods Somewhere", Medium used: oil on canvas board
29. A San Diego, "The Doomed Ship", Short story.



Green Schools

Green Ways to School

WoW Wednesday (Walk on Wednesday)

We plan to have a WoW Wednesday every Wednesday in December to highlight to students the importance of walking (taking into account COVID-19 protocols) for health and wellbeing now and over the Christmas period. For the information of new staff, this initiative arose when the school applied for its fifth Green School's Flag on 'Travel.'

It has begun and continued this tradition ever since for the first Wednesday every month.

We thank the Green School's committee and Ms Watts in particular who plans to re-energise the school community about this initiative.



Geography/Green-Schools Clean Air Creative Writing Competition

Well done to all the students who entered the Geography/Green-Schools Creative Writing competition. This competition involved students writing a creative piece about how they travel to school and the importance of clean air in our environment. Lorin Stephanie Bagayan (1 Harrington) entry is listed



Green Schools Update

This year has seen a lot of new students taking an interest in Green schools. We have been meeting within our separate year groups to work on different projects which would help secure our next flag.

We have year one under the belt so are working hard to meet the criteria needed to achieve the Global Citizenship Litter and Waste flag. Some of these projects include domestic, national and international litter surveys, interviews with Colin, our caretaker, litter picking, bin surveys (ongoing) and also projects about the effects our face masks and fast fashion are having on us and also poorer countries.

We have had a guest speaker chatting to our junior reps about the effects on plastic in the world and have had Politics and Society reps giving us a talk about their fast fashion projects.

All students are always welcome to help out in any way.

Creative Writing Geography related competition:

All details are contained in the following link: <https://greenschoolsireland.org/event/clean-air-week-2020>

What's Wrong Outside?

The sky was once blue, but now it's all grey
It's because of the smoke, who cares anyway?
The wind was so nice, it tickled my face
Now it's polluted, it's such a disgrace!

You cannot be late, so use a car,
It's hot outside, the school is so far,
Why is it so hot? The kids have all belted
It's because of the ice in the Arctic has melted!

So what can we do? How do we fix this mess?
You could walk to school and use cars less
So try it out, it could be fun
Take care of the earth, we only have one!

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 Thursday the 17th December the NFTE students took part in a Pop Up Christmas Fair in the open air on our Tennis courts. All stall socially distanced. 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 hair accessories, jewellery, designer frames, glass album covers, pandemic essentials, hand-warmers, wax melts, personalised tote bags and much more. Many groups sold a lot of their stock on the day! It was a fantastic event and plenty of profit was made!

The students also had the opportunity to enter into a Business Bootcamp competition online. They pre-recorded presentations detailing their business plan and showed off their computer skills typing up feasibility reports for their amazing business ideas. The results of the first stage will be announced. Well done to all the students involved. Ms Dowling. Ms Merrey.



St. Mary's
Pop-up Christmas Fair

- Christmas gift ideas
- Presents for friends and family
- Treat yourself.

Date: Thursday, 17th December
Time: 1:10pm – 1:40pm
Where: Tennis Courts



GLASS ALBUM COVERS
asteria products
(TY nifty company)

Follow us on Instagram for prices and for further information: asteria.products

INTRODUCING OUR NEW!
Dazzling Snowflake Necklace
VERY LIMITED
€4.00

Prices
Glasses: With glitter diamonds and your name - small glasses €5 big glasses - €10
Frames: Customised the way you want ranging from €10-€15 depends on how much detail you want

Instagram = @zasglizand glam

TY Mini Company
Check out our Instagram page for new products
Till boxes are €4
Hairbands are €5

Religion Department

Opening Year Mass - via Zoom

This year our opening school mass was definite unique. Not only was it our first mass in the beautiful new prayer room, this was the first time we gathered as a whole school community on 'Zoom'. All the classes tuned into the mass from their base rooms. Although we couldn't all gather in person the occasion was still joyful and memorable. The theme for this years mass was 'Hope'. Fr Richard Sheehy was our celebrate and in his homily he reminded us to not spend this year wishing and waiting for the Covid restrictions to be different. "We should live in the now, this can and should be a great year, whatever the circumstances. This year is an opportunity to be creative, to do things differently, to re-imagine."

Ellen Clusker 5th Year Ember Team



Ember Team Training

For the first time this year, our new Ember team officially got together for our training which, unfortunately due to Covid-19 was different to past years. Whilst in the past few years, students would go to Avoca in Wicklow for three days and mix with other schools to train this year our induction and training was done all in school. Through out the day we did various different team building exercises which helped us all get to know each other more and build us as a team. Towards the end of the day we inaugurated six important roles, our secretary, vice secretary, PRO and vice PRO as well as chairperson and vice chairperson. Between learning about each other, learning more about Ember, deciding what our role in the school as well as having tea and coffee we had a wonderful time.

We were joined by the Lilly Barry the Diocesan advisor at the end of the day for the commissioning ceremony when we received our certificates and badges.



Religion Department

November We Remember

Our Ember Team here in St Mary's Holy Faith Glasnevin organized and led our Annual Remembrance Services which took place in our prayer room on the week of the 9th of November. It is always a special time in our school year when we take time to remember our loved ones who have died. Due to Covid-19 restrictions and social distancing rules in the prayer room, we decided to hold three services over three lunch times, this way we could accommodate Staff, Juniors and Senior Students on separate days.

We led the prayers and reflections and others on the team helped by welcoming people at the door and seating the students according to their year group. At the services students and staff were invited to write the names of their loved ones on a leaf and add it to our remembrance tree. The tree remained in the prayer room for the rest of November.



Remembrance Tree



Music Department

RTE MASS

Merrella Karaan from 5 Davis represented us singing on RTE1 on Sunday 6th December.

This was a Society of St Vincent de Paul Ireland mass. She sang with three other students from Vincentian schools, Castleknock College, Caritas College, & St. Paul's.

There has been a long-established connection between Holy Faith and the Vincentians and we were delighted to continue this connection today.

Christmas Carol Service - Online

This year's Carol Service was streamed online on Monday 21st. It was streamed live from the Prayer Room with pre-recorded musical performances from members of the school choir. The Ember Team led the service, with reflections from Mr. Clarke and Fr Richard Sheehy.

All classes were able to tune in to the service from their base class. Normally this time of year we would be gathering in the Convent Chapel for our Carols by Candlelight and our school carol services, however this online celebration did not lack any of the usual Christmas spirit and it was lovely to hear the familiar carols sung so beautifully by members of the school choir.

The service ended with a virtual performance from the school choir of Hark the Herald.



Guidance & Counselling Department



Sixth Year College Talks

It's been a busy term for our Sixth year students. They have had a number of Virtual College talks, these include; DCU, Maynooth University, TCD, UCD, National College of Ireland, Technical University Dublin and a talk on the HEAR and DARE access routes to Education.

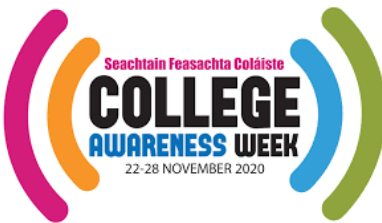
Throughout the first term students have had the opportunity to meet with the Guidance team for one to one careers appointments to explore their options for after the leaving cert.

Ufirst Programme

Congratulations to the following 5th year students, Aoife Hyland, Alyiah Lennox, Kate Connolly and Madeson Devereaux who have been accepted onto the DCU UFirst programme.

The aim of the UFirst programme is to encourage students to find out more about College life and preparing for University. I

t covers study skills, career investigations as well as the opportunity to shadow DCU students. Students also have the opportunity to take part in careers workshops, get involved in events and activities throughout 5th year and sixth year.

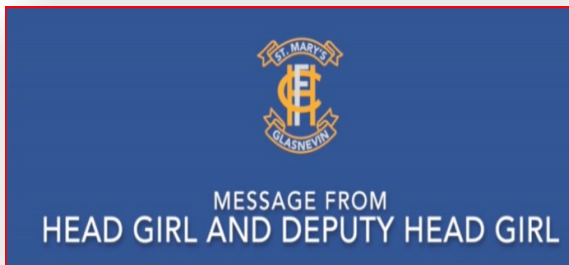


College Awareness week was celebrated this year in St. Marys in a virtual way! All fifth year students had a virtual college talk from Technical University Dublin (TUD). This proved to be very informative and students had a virtual tour of the new Grangegorman campus which we are lucky enough to have on our doorstep.

Transition year students attended the National College of Ireland virtual open day. They also participated in a careers afternoon where they investigated various careers and college courses. DCU student ambassadors facilitated a virtual tour of the college and had a Q&A session where students had the opportunity to ask any questions about college life and courses on offer.

Sixth year students had a virtual HEAR & DARE information talk given by DCU student ambassadors and this was followed by a Q&A session. Students also had a motivational talk from current students in DCU. The aim of these talks is to motivate and encourage students through ambassadors sharing their experiences transitioning to DCU as Access students.

St Mary's Prefects



As prefects, we are so honoured to be given this great role here in St Mary's. We are all so excited to have the opportunity to work with the students, staff and parents. Our role is to represent the school and be a student voice, which is something that's valued and celebrated here in St Mary's.

In a year like this, it's crucial that we all work together to overcome these challenging times. As prefects, we look forward to working with all members of the school community in making this year a successful one for all of us. Thank you, Aoife Grace.

Message From Sarah: As we all know this year is different than any other year so we want to be a support and help to all students and have even more of a positive influence on the school community. There have been so many changes already and as prefects we want everyone to know we are so proud of staff, students and parents for how we have adapted together. Thank you, Sarah Pollard.

Search on the following link to play the message <https://www.stmaryshfcglasnevin.com/message-from-head-girl-aofie-grace-and-deputy-head-girl-sarah-pollard/>

Wishing You Well

Winter Solstice Blessings to our retired
Principal Ms. Bernie Bourke

21st December 2020.

At The End Of The Year

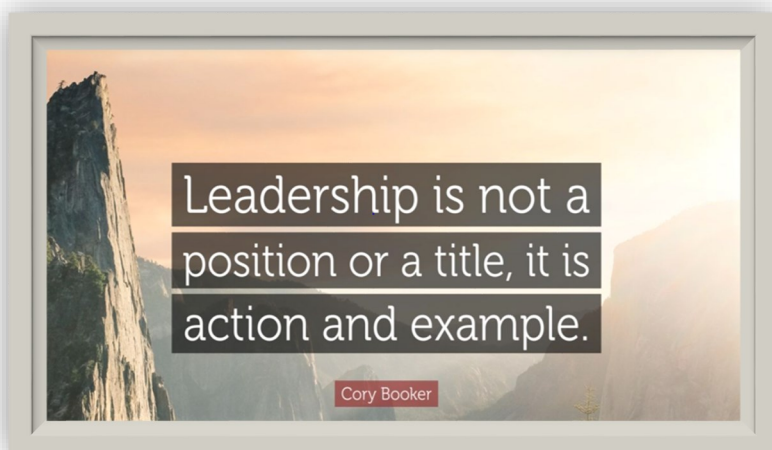
As this year draws to its end,
We give thanks for the gifts it brought
And how they became inlaid within
Where neither time nor tide can touch them.
The days when the veil lifted
And the soul could see delight;
When a quiver caressed the heart
In the sheer exuberance of being here.
Surprises that came awake
In forgotten corners of old fields
Where expectation seemed to have quenched.
The slow, brooding times
When all was awkward
And the wave in the mind
Pierced every sore with salt.
The darkened days that stopped
The confidence of the dawn.
Days when beloved faces shone brighter
With light from beyond themselves;
And from the granite of some secret sorrow
A stream of buried tears loosened.
We bless this year for all we learned,
For all we loved and lost
And for the quiet way it brought us
Nearer to our invisible destination.

John O' Donohue *To Bless The Space Between*



A huge congratulations to Bernie Bourke who retired this year. During my brief time working with Bernie, her leadership, kindness, creativity and care are clearly evident in everything she does and how she does it. She leads people, placing them at the centre of all decisions. She has developed the school to the nurturing, diverse and inclusive school it is today.

We wish her every success and enjoyment as she moves on. We look forward to celebrating your time in school soon. P Clarke



Happy Retirement

A Tribute to Brendan McGill

On Friday 2nd October, we bid a fond farewell to a magnificent talented Maths teacher, Mr Brendan McGill, who gave forty years of unstinting dedicated service to St Mary's. He was without question a great Maths teacher, and it was an honour to work with him in the Maths department.

Mr McGill loved to sing, and at the online Graduation in May, he sang a Cat Stevens song for his sixth year cohort of students, which includes the lines *"Well if you want to sing out, sing out, And if you want to be free, be free, 'Cause there's a million things to be, You know that there are."* Mr McGill was a million things to the students and staff of St Mary's: an outstanding Maths teacher and Year Head; the first male Principal of the school; a fluent French speaker; a Hockey referee; a Green School's advocate. He shared his many skills, including his musical talents! Brendan is a notable musician and singer. He is also a playwright and has been responsible for having written school productions, performed in school productions and directed school productions!

Brendan, you are much loved by all members of the school community. You have added much love, wisdom and understanding to the staff. You alleviated or subtracted many problems (mathematical ones!) for the school community, and you made the teacher-based classrooms a reality for staff and students. When you multiply two scores of dedication and all of the above talents and skills, this equates to you, Brendan. For me, you are of the utmost integrity and epitomise the characteristics of a true gentleman.

If I were to compare you to a mathematical sign, I would pick the 'equal to' sign! You are so humble in that you never see yourself as 'greater than' or 'less than' anybody else. The school wishes you every good health and happiness into the future. Ní bheidh a leithéid arís ann. Thank You, Brendan!

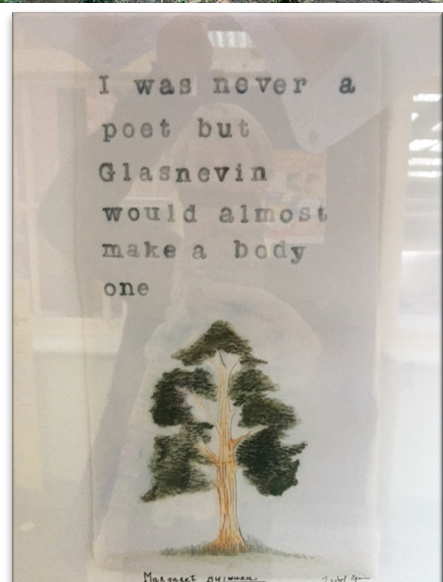
Tribute by Mary O'Donnell
Deputy Principal of St Mary's



A School with a View!



9TH DECEMBER 2020. SUNRISE OVER ST MARY'S.
PHOTO COURTESY OF COLIN TIERNEY.



Thanks!

***Special thanks to all the staff and students
who contributed to this online edition of
our December Newsletter.***



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