



Summer 2021

A Message from the Principal

Welcome to the June edition of St Mary's Newsletter. This published edition can also be accessed through our Website and our School App. If you haven't already done so, please download our App and link in to our Twitter account, both of which are packed with daily notifications and news items that are of interest to the whole school community and which will keep you up to date, as does this newsletter, with the many academic, sporting, cultural, religious, musical, artistic and dramatic highlights of our school year.

This year has been unique in its challenges but we have shown our resilience in continuing to overcome it. We have gathered safely together and continued with the school's rich tradition of high expectation with holistic development and excellence.

The newsletter illustrates how we have continued to develop every aspect of the school since Christmas. These are typical to St Mary's... STEAM initiatives like SciFest / BT Young Scientist, our sixth Green Flag, European Union Debates, Gael Linn, Art exhibitions, Virtual showcase, numerous sporting activities and, of course, our wellbeing programme. You will also see how our Transition Year programme has adapted to this unique time.

We continue to develop the school inside and out, with refurbishments to one of our Home Ec Kitchens, our ICT facilities / Computer Room, the 5th floor classrooms as well as the development of irrigation and biodiversity in the sensory garden. We look forward to the completion of our fitness studio in time for the return to school at the end of August.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the school community – Board of Management, staff, students and parents – for the continued care, support and commitment to St Mary's that develops our community. On behalf of myself, Ms O'Donnell, Ms Devaney and all the staff, we hope you have a restful summer and we wish all our sixth years the very best of luck as they embark on their State Examinations.

Le gach dea-ghuíf,

With thanks and good wishes,

Paul Clarke
(Principal)

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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Arts & Literary Week

English Department

This year we celebrated Arts and Literacy Week in the school, May 5th-7th. During this celebratory week in St Mary's, we aimed to provide opportunities for both creative expression and highlight career links and opportunities in the area of the arts. Below you can see some examples of what the students got up to and chose to share.

Six-word Stories from Mr Anderson's Students

Incoming message – why won't you respond?
Her mask hides what isn't seen.
Bells ring, white dress, all alone.
Fighting for happiness, overwhelmed in mind.
Proceed to checkout; gloves, binbag, knife.
Shadow sweeps streets, taking helpless souls.

Six-word Stories from Ms Donohoe's Students

I'm in love. Not with you.
The lesser evil of two evils.
When I dream, there you are.
Oh look, a bird. How free.
Jennifer Ta (5 Taylor)

Six Line Poem—Mr Anderson's Student

She told me to close my eyes
and ignore the innocent cries
and to look-out for sirens to come
and that's when you know you should run
If they catch you, tell them this conversation never
happened
that you closed your eyes and everything blackened.

Everybody jumped. Unfortunately, Bill's dog didn't.
Raghad Achour (5 Hepburn)

A disturbing cry. Very simply, why?
Christine Daly (5 Hepburn)

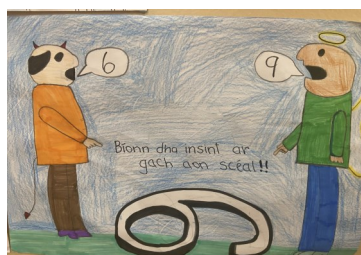
Roinn na Gaeilge

For Arts and Literacy week, the First Year Irish classes learned some new Seanfhocail and participated in a competition where they were asked to illustrate their meanings in a poster. Here are some examples from class Mageean.



The winner of the competition was Caitlin Ng

"Ní mar a shíltear a bhítear"
which means everything is not
always as it seems.



Subject Awards

Sixth Year Subject Awards and the prestigious Margaret Aylward Award announced at the Graduation Ceremony!

Mr Coll announced 'The Marie Glackin Music Award.'

The Music Department was delighted to present the Marie Glackin award for excellence in Music to Mirelle Patricio. Marie was a former music teacher in St Mary's, and the Music Department dedicated this award after her untimely death in 2010. This award was given to a sixth year Music student who has encapsulated the spirit of Marie Glackin. Mr Coll stated that the sixth year cohort had been an excellent group in terms of involvement in Music, so this was a tough decision for the Music department. However, Mirelle took part in all musical events from first year to sixth year, including musicals, concerts, concerts at the Helix, and even singing for the Pope! Congrats, Mirelle!



Mr Anderson announced 'The Mary McCarthy Creative Writing English Award.'

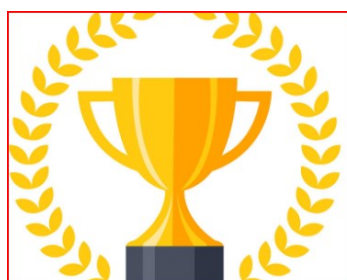
Mary was a former English teacher in St Mary's for thirty-four years, until 2007. She was a provocative writer and published five novels that were all successful here in Ireland and abroad. After her untimely passing in 2013, St Mary's English department created the Mary McCarthy award. This year this award recognised the sixth year student Neha Joshy for her outstanding creative writing. Mr Anderson complemented Neha's writing by stating that "while we acknowledge academic achievement and discipline, the truer qualification is an individual's ability to write creatively, prose, poetry and drama. Neha can tell interesting stories interestingly, creatively melding elements of the fantasy and horror genres with the short story form." One of Neha's captivating short stories in TY was so impressive that it was read anonymously to a sixth year higher level class as a standard short storytelling form that we could all aspire to when writing! Well done, Neha!



Ms O'Mahoney announced 'The Claire Bogan Gaeilge Award.'

The Claire Bogan 'Children of Lír' award for Gaeilge is presented in honour of Claire Bogan, an Irish teacher and much-loved member of staff who sadly passed away in 2014. Ms Bogan fostered a 'grá' (love) and an appreciation of Gaeilge. This was both inside and outside her classroom and in the wider school community. She was a kind and gentle teacher. The student receiving this award embodies these qualities, and she uses her 'líofacht' (fluency) both in class and in her work with Cumann na bhFiann (An Irish Language Club).

She hopes to go forward and become a teacher and inspire her students to take up the mantle of 'líofacht trí Ghaeilge'. Bhí an áthas ar Roinn na Gaeilge an ghradam seo a bhronnadh ar Tara McCabe. Comhghairdeas leat, Tara!



Subject Awards

Ms O'Donnell announced the Margaret Aylward Award.

The recipient of this beautiful Margaret Aylward Award for the class of 2021 was presented to the fabulous student Sarah Pollard! The graduation ceremony is punctuated every year with this unique award. Margaret Aylward is the foundress of the Holy Faith Order, and we remember her every year on her birthday on the 23rd November and also on the Le Chéile Schools Day. She was more than just the foundress of the Holy Faith Order – she had values that she demonstrated she had by her actions. Margaret showed kindness, had compassion, had integrity, was truthful, was fair and had respect. She also had a lifelong concern (this being the 1800's) that all children would be educated, so it wasn't just the students from wealthy families. Margaret Aylward wanted to ensure that those from poor families were also educated. Many students were nominated for the award, but one student stood out for the year group. In summary, her peers wrote the following about her: "She is someone you can rely on and easy to talk to any time; she always has a smile on her face and is always willing to help others; she really deserves the award because she's so good to everyone around her – she is kind, considerate and friendly to all of our year; she has been the most hard-working girl I've known in our year; she is always kind and polite to everybody regardless of, if they are friends or not; she would always say hello to other students and teachers; she's very kind, polite, caring, considerate, helpful, smart and had great innovative ways of thinking and looks out for everyone." Well done, Sarah - huge congratulations and extremely well deserved!



Ms Considine announced the Sports Awards.

Ms Considine opened her address using George F. Will's quote stating that "Sports serve society by providing vivid examples of excellence." The following students have undoubtedly shown examples of excellence in St Mary's sports over the last few years. Sport has always been a key part of life in St Mary's, not just the skills, competitions, the winning and the losing but friendships, the bus trips and the memories made along the way. Ms Considine praised each one of the students mentioned below, as they have donned the St Mary's jersey proudly over the years. For some, it is only the beginning of a successful sports career! The following students were commended and recognised for their dedication to Sport in St Mary's over the years: Dedication to Hockey (Amy Alcock, Katelyn McGill, Tara McCabe, Bethina Santos, Jennifer Brunton, Ellen Daly, Mai Perkins, Sarah Pollard, Athlea Faye Cabusas, Sarah Hanlon, Ciara Collins and Rosie Larkin); Dedication to Camogie (Anna Farrell); Dedication to Basketball (Bethina Santos, Rosie Larkin, Mai Perkins and Sarah Hanlon); Dedication to Gaelic Football (Jade Gallery, Anna Farrell, Karla Tyrrell, Aoife Grace and Amy Alcock). Congratulations to you all!



Watch out for "St Mary's eTwinning " with Poland in 2021/2022.



Awards

Well Done Wednesday May 2021

May 19th saw all St Mary's students have a well-deserved treat with their form tutors during their first class. Whether playing charades, Kahoot or watching a short film, students had a chance to connect and enjoy some chocolate, a token to acknowledge their resilience and hard work in what has been a challenging year for all.

Fifth year students also received their subject awards and there were Gaisce certificates and medals for those who completed this venture in 2020.



6th Year Awards



5th Year Awards



Transition Year



Gaisce Recipients 2020



2nd Years



1st Year

Well Done Wednesday
Treat Time with Form Tutors

Transition Year News



The Goddess 'Athena'. Layla Mc Veigh, Jodie O'Keffe and Chloe Lynch.
'We wanted to show the power of natural beauty that we each possess.'

'Siofra Croi' Julia Gutierrez
'I was inspired by elf mythology and the materials I used were taken directly from nature'.



'Books of Creation'
Leian Vista and Mariam Arabuli

'Our dress is made from the pages of the novels 'Wonder', 'The Fault in our Stars' and 'Twilight'.
We were inspired by the costumes we saw in the animation 'Alice in Wonderland'.



'La Reine du Sang'
'The Queen of Blood'

Darcey Walker, Aine Foy and Skye Peel Flood.
We were inspired by the gowns of the monarch Marie Antoinette and the words 'Off with her head !' spoken by the Queen of Hearts from Alice in Wonder-



'An T-lasc Ildathach'

Sorcha Kelly and Ciara Doran
'We were inspired by the children's book 'The Rainbow Fish'. It is a story about a fish that feels it is different to all the other fish. We wanted to create a colourful master-piece!'



'Mechanical Madame'

Emer Kelly , Isabella Mc Keever Scully and Jayne de Guzman.
'We were inspired by Steam Punk and Victorian dresses. We used bottle caps, insulation foam, gold paper, Christmas ornaments, nuts and bolts for our necklace. It is heavily influenced by found object art. We wanted to create a dark, widowed sombre atmosphere'.

Transition Year News

TY Oscar Ceremony 2021



Huge congratulations to the TY's on their short film productions, which were premiered in the TY base classrooms on Friday 30th April. The TY students viewed their TY production and those of their peers.



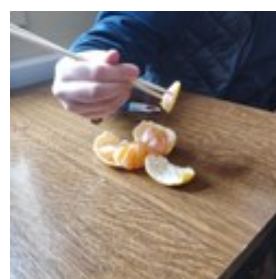
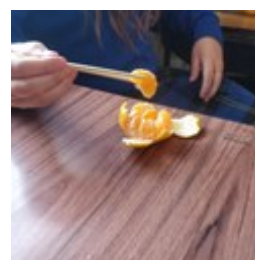
This was followed by a virtual awards Oscar ceremony with Ms Griffin as master of ceremonies.

TY Chinese Language and Culture Class



As part of the TY Chinese Language and Culture Module students, TY Juno had a chance to do all student's favourite activity, eat in class! This time there was a twist, learning how to eat with chopsticks. After a presentation on what is and isn't traditional Chinese food the class were very disappointed to learn that you would be hard pressed to find "Spice Bag" or a "3 in 1" in China.

They also learned why chopsticks are used in China and other Asian countries. Are you wondering now too? The answer is traditional Chinese food is prepared in such a way you would not need a knife to cut it up when it reaches the table. This removes the need for a knife. As for the fork they are a relatively new invention even in Western Europe, their first recorded use is in 1004 AD in Venice which caused quite a stir at the time, "God in his wisdom has provided man with natural forks- his fingers". Whereas the use of chopsticks has been dated back to 1200 BC. While the class struggled at first by the end of class everyone was able to confidently pick up their snacks.



Transition Year News



ST. MARY'S HOLY FAITH, GLASNEVIN

LIFT OFF WEEK

On Monday 19th April, 'LIFT OFF WEEK' was launched in the school.

LIFT OFF WEEK was aimed at promoting and increasing the level of student leadership in the school, by informing the school community about LIFT's eight core leadership values: *Listening, Positive Attitude, Respect, Competence, Determination, Empathy & Understanding, Accountability, and Honesty & Integrity.*

Students created a LIFT OFF display at the school reception to highlight the importance of LIFT Ireland and the key leadership values it endorses.

TY students chose one core value each day and using the school's intercom, encouraged the school community to pause and reflect on these core leadership values.

In addition, Valerie O'Gorman from LIFT Ireland hosted a zoom talk with the TY students to discuss the importance of resilience and informed us of the steps we can take to become more resilient in our own lives. **LIFT OFF WEEK** was a great success in promoting the key leadership values of LIFT to the school community!



TY Global Citizenship Presentations

Well done to all the TY students who presented their Global Citizenship projects this year.

Topics researched and presented included: racism, sectarianism, domestic violence, digitalization and animal welfare to name but a few!

The students presented their projects in an articulate, eloquent and informative manner. Well done girls!
Ms. C.Salmon



Transition Year News

TY Creative Arts- Design with Ms Cunningham

In our creative arts module we learned how to make origami boxes. We found out that we can use paper in many different and unique ways! We also researched the design thinking process empathise, define, ideate, prototype, and test.

What we also did was we researched a designer called Katie Davenport. She is an Irish set and costume designer. We got to ask her loads of questions and she made a video for us (Supported by Irish National Opera and Creative Engagement) answering all of our questions, which was amazing and we really enjoyed hearing what she does behind the scenes in theatre! Skye Peel (4 Juno)



In this creative class module we learned some really important keywords and how we could use them when thinking about and creating designs.

For example, while making these beautiful origami boxes we:

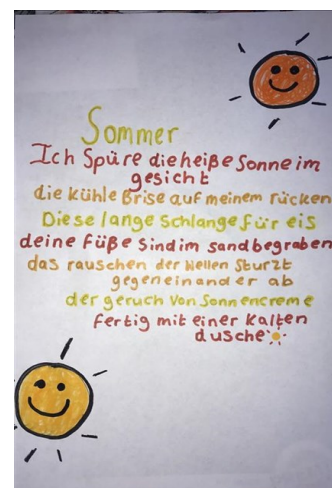
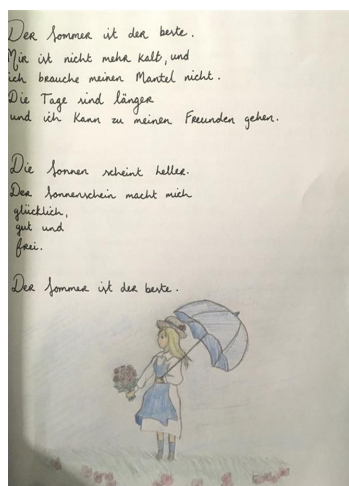
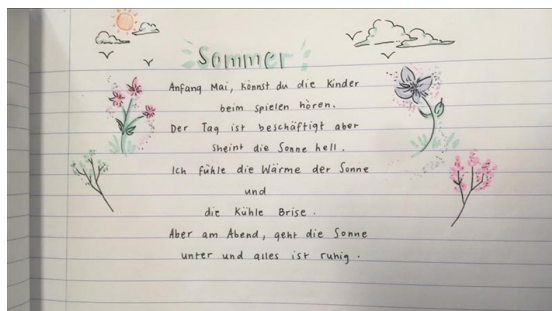
- Empathise, that we will be making boxes out of paper with many folds which would be a little difficult.
- Define, that we may be folding our paper wrong so we might not be getting the results we want.
- Ideate, we were able to come up with different ideas on how the boxes could be made in many unique and different types of paper.
- Prototype, we made smaller boxes with different types of paper to test our learning. Test, we then got to modify the design to make a lid in colourful paper that we could use to give people a present in if we wanted to.



Modern Foreign Languages

Poets in the Making!

As part of Arts and Literacy week in St. Mary's our TY German class took part in this year's poetry competition organised by the German Teacher's Association. Inspired by the theme of 'Summer', the students awoke their creative sides to play with language and words.



CSPE Department

Our CSPE students have not let Covid-19 restrictions hold them back this year!

Though they had to think outside of the box to achieve their aims, they came up with some novel action projects to undertake safely under the current health guidelines.

To name but a few of the projects our classes undertook this year:

- Digital Waste Initiative by Green Schools Committee.
- Investigating current global activism and the laws that allow/restrict current movements including BLM.
- Fridays for Future/climate change strikes, looking at historical and recent changes in law related to the LGBTQIAP+ community.
- Helping the Homeless: raising funds and awareness for Focus Ireland.
- Raising environmental awareness in our school: making an educational video, creating a school wide survey and hosting a Zoom with an environmental speaker, sanitary products shoebox appeal for the homeless.



Exploring the issue of internet safety: cyberbullying and fake news in our community & many, many more!

Well done to all students involved in these projects & initiatives.

Debating News

Model Council of the European Union Debates 2021

Fifth- and Sixth-Year students Diana Butuc, Ellen Clusker, Lana Bagayan & Sofia Balog made St. Mary's proud as they competed in this year's prestigious Model Council of the European Union Debates. It was a year to remember, not only due to the team's excellent virtual performance – but also due to the nature of the debate topic. The students had to research and present their representative country's point of view in relation to the proposed motion:

To provide increased responsibilities to the Health Security Committee in order to enforce a coordinated response at EU level to serious cross-border threats to health.

St. Mary's proudly represented Latvia. After researching this topic in depth, and making contact with the Latvian Embassy here in Ireland to get their real perspective on this proposal, the girls dedicated themselves to honing their speaking and debating skills. All their hard-work paid off on the day, everyone agreed they did truly excellently!



As well as the other 26 schools competing in this year's debate, students were joined by Minister of State for European Affairs, Thomas Byrne TD, Martina Fitzgerald, former RTÉ political correspondent and Green Party MEP, Grace O'Sullivan.

Science Department

SciFest - A National
STEM Fair Programme
for Schools



SciFest's main object is: To promote Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) education through the provision of a forum for students at local/regional/national level to present and display their scientific investigations.

Mony Aramalla's Project

If a person wanted to be happy, then the selection of the right career is imperative. When students pick the wrong job, they'll waste half their energy in hating the job and they'd be stuck in the wrong place doing something boring.

This will affect a student's professional and personal life. The main problem is that many secondary school students don't have the appropriate resources to find out about careers and which suits them best. Some students tend to pick career paths that are of no interest to them. This is a trend that continuously occurs.

Mony Aramalla from third year has participated several times and has won prizes at both the BTYS and Scifest. Here she gives some advice for any students interested in the competition.

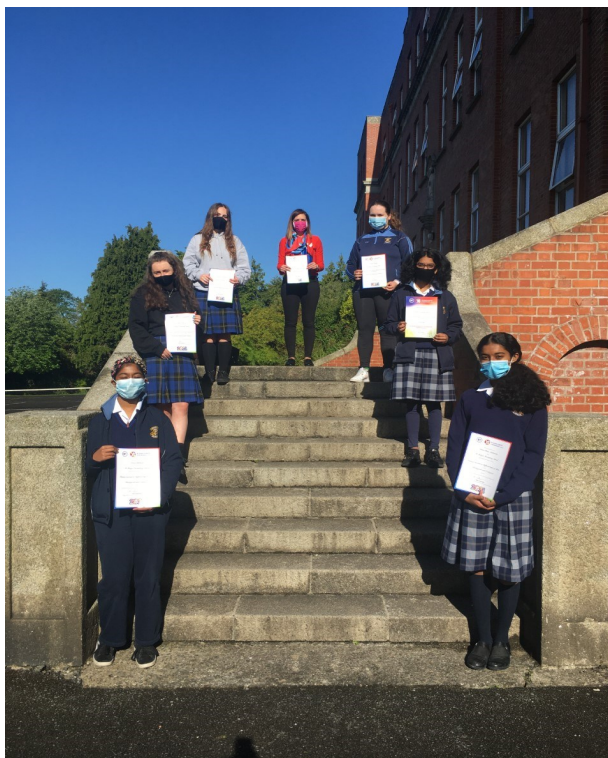
- *"Start the project as soon as you can: Some projects will take more time depending on the type of project it is.*
- *Plan what you need to do: Like a Gantt Chart or a checklist.*
- *Make sure to do background research based on your topic to get a better understanding of your project: Use Google Scholar, it is a very useful sources of research papers and articles.*
- *Check if something like what you are doing already exists: You could find ways to make your project better.*
- *Make sure you know what you are actually trying to do: otherwise you'll get carried away talking about something unrelated to your project.*
- *Always have future goals for your project: This way the judges can see that you really want to develop your idea further.*
- *Don't worry about learning off everything in your project book: It is your project so you know what you did inside out".*
- *Judging is not too intimidating: They just want to know about your project and will ask you questions that you already investigated anyway".*

Best wishes to Mony Aramalla (3rd Year) and Viya Aramalla (1st Year) with their entries to the Scifest regional final in DCU later this month. Both projects are entered as Individual project types in the Technology category. Details of their respective projects are described below:

Viya Aramalla's Project

In order to maintain an effective remote study group for revising wisely during the pandemic, it is vital that you have a good online study atmosphere.

Students are unable to concentrate during online sessions and this leads to poor performance. To add to learning pressure, the current pandemic caused students to study online until Covid-19 cases ease. In most situations, students are struggling to cope as the workload has rapidly increased and the student community is required to complete both homework and classwork remotely. It is highly recommended that students overcome study pressure to improve quality learning and mindfulness.



Getting started

If you're wondering why you should get involved, here are just some of the benefits:



Getting the chance to represent your school/town at BTYS is a real privilege and an experience you will never forget.

Plus, if you're lucky enough to win, you'll go on to represent the competition at the European Union Contest for Young Scientists.



Although a love for science and technology lies at the heart of all the entries, we're sure everyone also has an eye on the prizes!

There are over 200 prizes to be won, including the prestigious BT Young Scientist & Technologist of the Year Award which comes with a cash prize of €2,500 / £5750.



It's a brilliant extra-curricular activity to put on your CV or university application.

It shows a real passion for science, maths, an ability to think for yourself along with time management and communication skills.

Tips from the judges

The following advice and tips from our panel of judges might make your job a little easier when writing your project.

- 1** Start to work on your project as soon as you can. Some projects take a lot longer to complete than you thought when you started.
- 2** For you to succeed, you have to be interested and involved from the word 'go'.
- 3** Don't leave things to chance or guesswork. Research your project well. That way you'll be able to deal comfortably with any queries that come your way, whether from the judges or members of the public.
- 4** Keep a detailed Project Diary of your work. We all forget things and this may help you answer judging queries at a later date.
- 5** Accurate use of scientific methods counts for a lot when judging begins, so take your time and make sure that all your facts and figures are correct. Don't be afraid to ask your teacher if you are unsure about something.
- 6** The project title should accurately reflect the aims of the project.
- 7** Be original. Make your project stand out from the crowd by giving good solid reasons for your choice of subject.

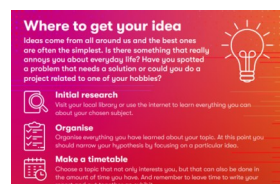
Science Department

BT Young Scientist 2021



The 2021 school year started off early for Science Students completing in the BT Young Scientist Competition.

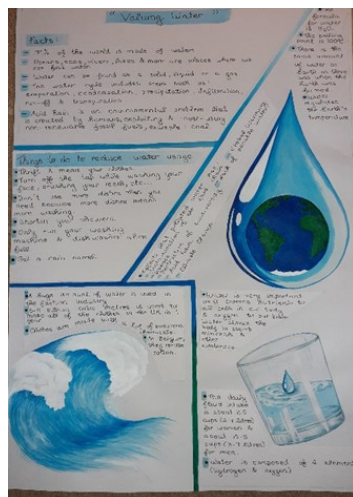
Over the Christmas holidays they were busy making the final touches to their presentations and practicing their interview skills. Eight students represented the school; Erica Chettier, Hannah Moroney and Anna Binu Anthinattu (2nd year), Mony Aramalla (3rd Year), Lana Nolan, Paige Vance & Catherine O'Brien Cox (TY) and Emma Murphy (5th Year).



Here Catherine O'Brien Cox tells us about her experience.

2nd Year Science

As part of Green Schools Week, the environmentally friendly second year science students brought our attention to Water Conservation and entered the Irish Water Green Schools Poster and Film Competition. Well done to Kamile Uogelaite and Sophie O Reilly Franzoni.

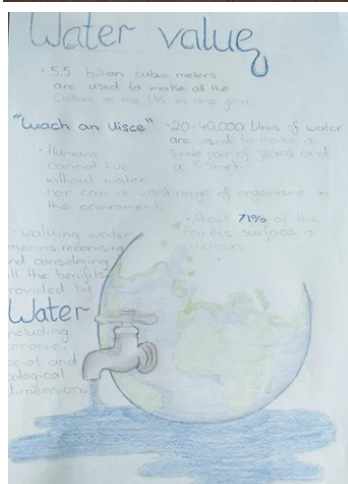


"Lana Nolan, Paige Vance and I (Catherine O'Brien Cox) were involved in the 2021 BT young Scientist exhibition. We decided with the year that was in it, it would be a wonderful experience and achievement. During Lock-down we were faced with multiple judges on zoom who asked us about our project and how we conducted our experiment."

Our project was 'A Systematic Investigation into the affects that genres and characteristics of musical styles have on the habits and techniques of drivers'. This was a very interesting topic to research and learn about. Although we were unable to experience it fully as the exhibition could not go ahead in the RDS, we still had a lot of fun at the virtual exhibition and I believe we all gained a lot of knowledge and understanding on topics regarding road safety and music".

3rd Year Science

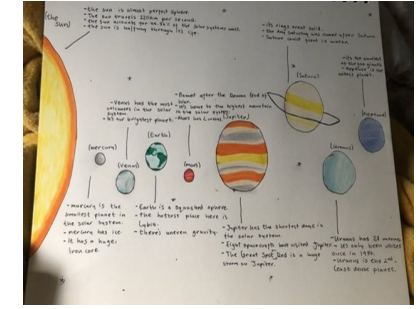
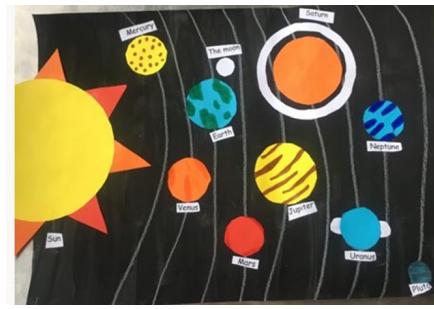
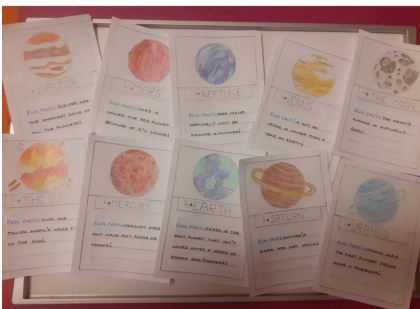
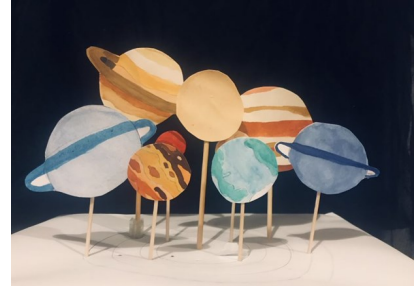
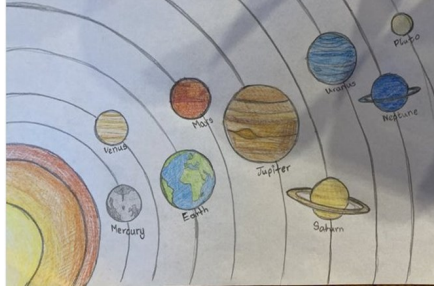
As part of International Women's Day on Monday 8th March, third year students carried out research on inspiring female scientists including Irish Astronaut Norah Patten among others.



Science Department

First Year Science

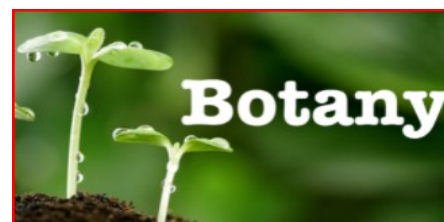
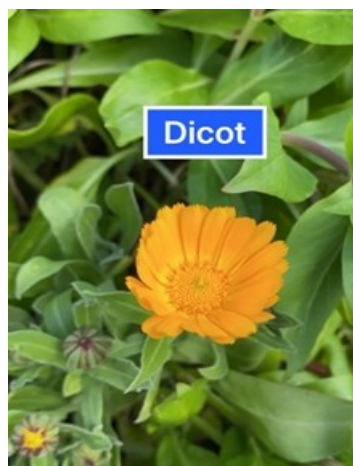
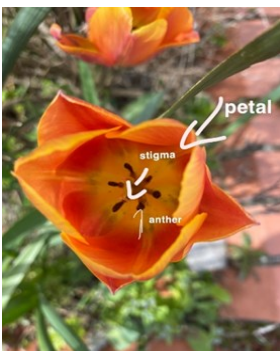
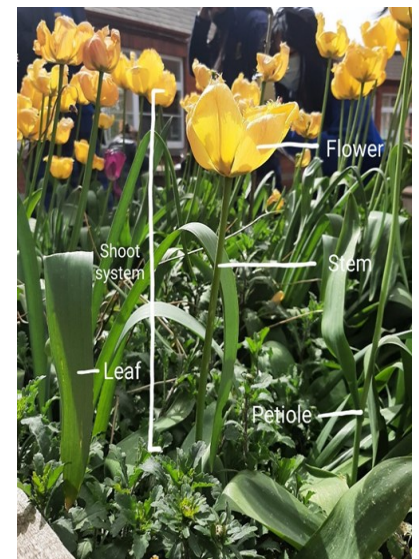
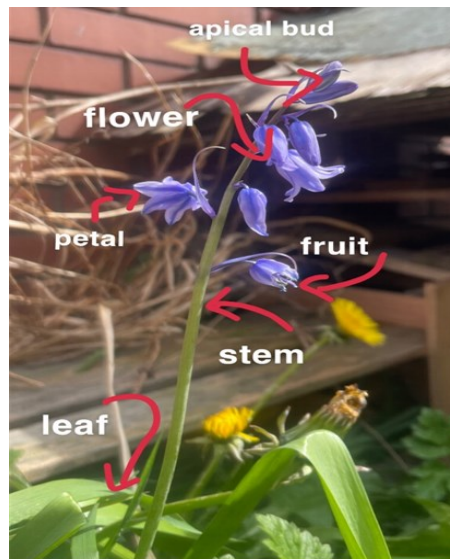
First Year students kept very busy during remote learning observing the night skies and completing creative projects on celestial bodies and the solar system. These included 3D models, presentations, posters, solar system top trumps. Work below by Sian Heary, Oktavia Maliszewska, Rachel Vodo, Katie Bedford, Alexia Savin and Ashley Dime.



TY Science

Spring time brought the TY students back into the school sensory gardens allowing them to study botany.

They learned about the structure, function and categories of flowering plants. They used their photographer skills to document the plants in the garden and identify their structures and categorise the plants.



Botany, also called plant science(s), plant biology or phytology, is the science of plant life and a branch of biology. A botanist, plant scientist or phytologist is a scientist who specialises in this field. The term "botany" comes from the Ancient Greek word (botanē) meaning "pasture", "grass", or "fodder".

PE & Sports Department



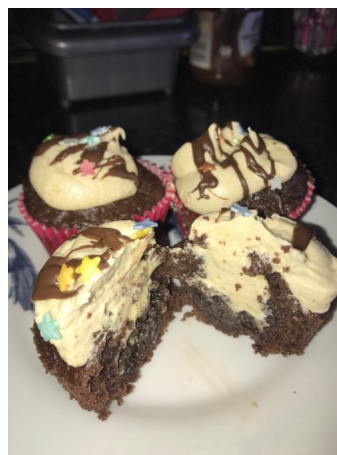
PE Gear Review

The Amber Flag team undertook a review of the current PE uniform and, along with LCPE students, helped design some possible options for a renewal of the current PE kit (which has remained the same for many years!). The proposals were taken to staff, the board of management and a representative group of students in order to get their feedback and a final design was put together. This is now going through the process of being approved but we are aiming for this to be available for our incoming first year students in September. We hope that the students are proud of their new design and recognise that their input has helped create the design and options that will be introduced. For the first time, students will have the option of wearing leggings or track-suit bottoms as part of the PE uniform, which we hope will increase wellbeing and student choice. Senior students will also wear the tracksuit in PE lessons which will encourage a sense of cohesiveness and allow representation at school sports events in both junior and senior level.

Home Economics

To mark the last Home Economics class with Sixth Year students, Ms Martin and the students had fun and made salted caramel cupcakes!

The students are wished the best of luck in their exams and will be missed greatly.



PE Xpo

Earlier this month the 7th annual PE Xpo was held, and for the first time ever it took place online. We had two projects entered this year, both by our current TYs. Faith Riordan entered her project "The Correlation Between Sporting Opportunities and Mental Wellbeing in Teenage Girls" into the senior wellbeing category, whilst Lauren Quinn and Shauna Brannigan entered "A Comparison of the Genders in GAA: Is there a Difference in the Retention Rates of Men and Women?" into the power of sport category. This year the entry process required them to submit a video presentation in advance, and to then elaborate further in a video interview on the day. Both projects were fantastic and a huge amount of work went into them in terms of research, preparation and presentation. Shauna and Lauren's project won its category, and was one of only two projects noted by the judges as being exceptional and very close to winning overall. Congratulations to all three entrants on two fantastic projects and being so flexible in adapting to the virtual nature of the event this year.

Ms Shipley

Sports Award

We were delighted to recognize the contribution of a number of our 6th year students to sport in St Mary's, over the years. Until the pandemic these students had shown commitment and dedication often to more than one sport. They trained, represented our school and made us proud over the years.

PE & Sports Department

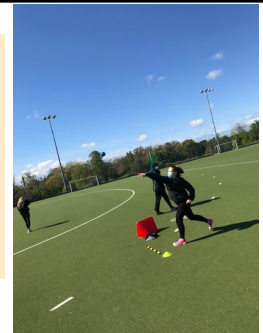


Senior Top 5

5th - Bacall 5th year
4th - Price 6th year
3rd - Davis 5th year
2nd - TY Danu
1st - Hepburn 5th year

Junior Top 5

5th - Fern 2nd year
4th - Bluebell 3rd year
3rd - Clover 2nd year
2nd - Mullen 1st year
1st - Peat 1st year



Sports Day—Glasnevin Olympics

2021 Even the pandemic couldn't stop us celebrating a sports day, be it a sports day with a difference! The Glasnevin Olympics -

Unlike previous years where we celebrated this as a whole school this year we completed it in our PE classes during the weeks of May 10th- 20th. Each class represented a country and each student competed in three out of five events. The events were Shot Put, Javelin, 50m Sprint, High jump and standing long jump. Each student's performance earned points based on their distance thrown, height jumped or speed.

Congratulations to all students especially the 6th years – a different sports day for their last year.



TY Sports Squad

1st Year Social 'Dis Dance' Project

All 1st year students were involved in a PE project with choreographer Robyn Byrne. The project involved Robyn choreographing a contemporary dance piece which was then taught by PE teachers in classes and online over Zoom by Robyn.

This dance was performed outside on the astro and was captured by drones which recorded the event. The music for the performance was performed and recorded by Mr Coll and the school choir. This was truly a collaborative project.

Thanks to Ms Shipley and the PE Department for co-ordinating the project.



PE & Sports Department



Students learning about skill acquisition using juggling

LCPE

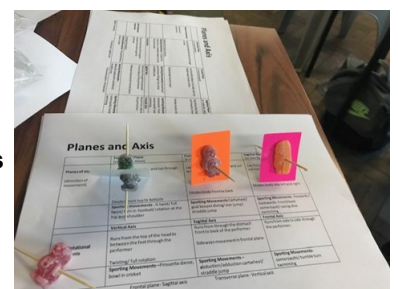
Well what else would you do in a global pandemic but introduce a new exciting subject to Senior cycle and that's exactly what the PE Department in St Marys did!

We are delighted to have completed our first year of Leaving certificate PE with 5th years. It has been wonderful getting to grips with exciting elements of the course including the practical elements, coursework requirements and the theory behind PE.

The students have been outstanding, engaging fully in all aspects of the course.



Students using jelly babies to learn biomechanics in PE



LCPE Trip

The LCPE students accompanied by their teachers Ms Considine and Ms Bunnett experienced kayaking on the River Liffey on Tuesday 18th May. It was a wonderful experience seeing the city from a different viewpoint, learning some history, developing our physical skills and putting our theory of levers, safety in sport and muscle movements into practice.

The students were a credit to their school and should be proud of their efforts today. Well done everyone!



Roinn na Gaeilge



Comórtas Oráide an Phiarsaigh 2020/2021

Bhí dea-scéala againn maidir leis an gComórtas Díospóireachta a bhí ar siúl le Gael Linn i mbliana. Bhí na cailíní seo a leanas ag díospóireacht ar son na scoile sa chéad babhta: Khushi Saif Ferguson (2 Clover), Beau Doherty Doyle (2 Clover) agus Lexi Doherty Doyle (2 Clover). Déanaimid comhghairdeas leis na cailíní go léir! Is léir gur chainteoirí ghaelacha den scoth iad!

Comhghairdeas le Khushi Ferguson (2 Clover) a shroich an Craobh Reigiúnach i gcomórtas díospóireachta/oráide an Phiarsaigh 2020/2021. Is é an rún a bhí á phlé aici sa chraobh ná 'Tá cuma ar an scéal go bhfuil Monarcacht Shasana ag titim as a chéile' agus bhí Khushi ag argóint i bhfabhar an rúin. Den chéad uair, craoladh an comórtas beo ar Facebook agus YouTube. Cé nár éirigh Khushi sa Chraobh Reigiúnach, molaim go hard na spéire í. D'oibrigh sí go díograiseach, go háirithe le linn an ghlasála. Tá a cuid cainte ar fáil anseo (nóim 27:05):



Ba mhaith linn ár mbuíochas a ghabháil leis na cailíní go léir a ghlac páirt sa chomórtas i mbliana, chomh maith leis an bpríomhoide agus na leas-phríomhoidí, a thug go leor tacaíochta dúinn le linn na ndíospóireachtaí.

Táimid ag tnúth go mór leis an gcomórtas arís an bhliain seo chugainn!
Ms Condon agus Ms Salmon.

Comhghairdeas le daltaí na hArdteiste a rinne béaltrialacha na hArdteiste i rith na paidéime Covid-19 i mbliana. Tá Roinn na Gaeilge an –bhródúil astu go léir!

Leaving Certificate Irish Orals

Well done to all the students who undertook their Leaving Certificate Irish orals during the difficult Covid-19 circumstances this year. Roinn na Gaeilge is very proud of them all! Ms C. Salmon

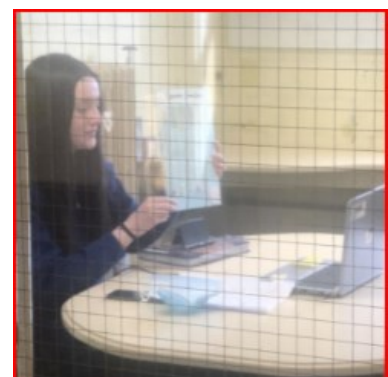
Business Department

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. The students also had the opportunity to enter into a Business Bootcamp competition online.

Huge Congrats to our two TY students, Erica and Sanusha, who represented St Mary's so well at the All-Ireland NIFTE semi-final in April. Their efforts in entrepreneurship for their costume jewellery business 'Essence' wowed the judges!

In creating and promoting their business, they took sustainable materials and packaging into consideration, conducted a SWOT analysis while also developing their own Instagram page for their Business Account. Most impressive was that this company was able to maintain a high-profit margin on items sold! Well done, Sanusha and Erica, and congrats to their mentor Ms Dowling.



Wellbeing in St Mary's

Amber Flag Award May 2021

The school has held the Amber Flag award for several years, which recognises a commitment to promoting positive mental health within the school community. In order to maintain this award, it must be re-applied for yearly and a number of criteria met. This year, the Amber Flag Team identified and completed the following initiatives in order to meet the criteria for renewal of the award:



Amber Flag Team

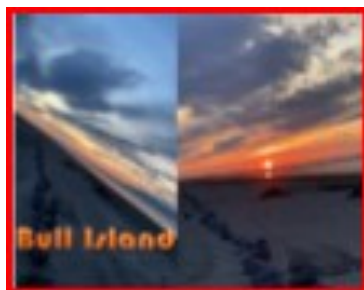
Congratulations to the members of the Amber Flag Team on achieving the Amber Flag Award for the school. This is our second Amber Flag and this year it was achieved through promoting wellbeing initiatives,

Feel Good Friday- As part of Feel Good Friday (which occurred during school closures in February), the team helped put together a powerpoint presentation with the theme "love yourself".

Sunrise Challenge

As part of the award, each year schools complete a fundraising activity for Pieta House. This was made more challenging this year due to COVID-related restrictions and closures, but we are so grateful to our many members of the school community who took part in the Sunrise Challenge event over the Easter holidays. Both students and staff donated and submitted sunrise pictures as part of the challenge, which aimed to honour the Darkness Into Light walk which takes place annually in May. Overall, we raised €577 for Pieta House, which will go towards its vital work in supporting mental health.

Next year, we will be looking for new members to be a part of the team and carry on the brilliant work done this year. Information about how to apply will be available at the start of next academic year. On behalf of this year's Amber Flag team, thank you to everyone for your contributions over the year and we hope our initiatives have been beneficial in promoting positive mental wellbeing in St Mary's.



First Year Wellbeing and Time-Out Treat

The first year students enjoyed some class bonding and Wellbeing. They had some time-out in our beautiful grounds and tennis courts. They enjoyed a socially distanced trip to the local shop for some Ice creams and then spent some time with their class groups on the Tennis Courts.

Tea Tuesdays/Treat Thursdays and Fridays

The senior students identified that they would like to have the opportunity to have a hot drink and a chance to relax in the morning before school to offset the pressure of their exams. As such, we trialled Tea Tuesday before Christmas for three weeks, where tea, coffee and hot chocolate was available for senior students before school.

The event was very well-attended and we hope to run it again in the future. Following the success of this event, we also ran a Treat Thursday/Friday for fifth and sixth years when they returned to school before Easter. This was run at lunchtime and each student could have a hot drink and a treat each week to welcome them back to school.

Our surveys found that many of our fifth and sixth years felt that these initiatives had a positive impact on their mental wellbeing and their connectedness with others.

Jodie Moore Amber Flag Team

presenting Sinead from Pieta House with a cheque for €577 from the sunrise challenge.



Art Department

Students in the art department had the opportunity to submit an work in any medium under the heading of 'Visual Story Telling'. Some created characters, others a sense of place or a moment in time. The fantastic results show amazing skills in new and traditional technology, through their use of their chosen medium, be it digital drawing or acrylic paint. As well as this, their powers of observation express an acute ability to visually communicate their ideas, which are poignant and arresting.



Siobhan Emery Coll 5th Year 'Solitude'



Ana Ciulei 5th Year 'A Vase of Memories'



Meagan Pabualan, 5th year, 'Dreamy'



Marielle Mateo 5th Year 'Warped'



A Harrington 5th Yr
'Snake of the Frozen Blood Alchemist'



Zoe Ryan 5th Year 'Angel'



Katy Balfe 5th Year 'Eric'



Klara Sych TY 'Embers'



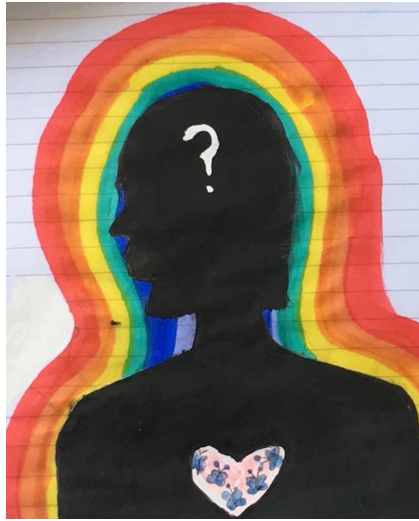
Alana Carpenter TY 'Untitled'

Art Department

Visual Story Telling



Joicy John 1st Year 'Masked by Colour'



Cara Darcy 1st Year
'Butterflies'

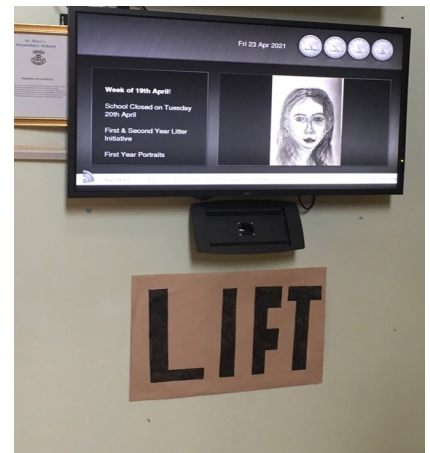


Chloe Keeson 1st Year 'Untitled'



Iris Tambis 1st Year 'Untitled'

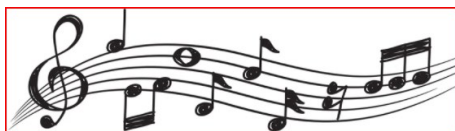
First years have learned the skills of portraiture and have shared their final works with the school community on the electronic noticeboard by the school office.



Music

Due to the Covid restrictions the Music Department were unable to go ahead with their Annual Musical Showcase. However, they didn't let that stop them and were delighted instead to share a link to their first ever 'Virtual Showcase' this year. This will be a virtual covid compliant version of the Showcase, which was streamed live on YouTube at 7pm, Tuesday, 1st June. This free online event was a celebration of the musical talent in our school.

Well done to Mr Coll and all the performers for a fabulous night of music.



Green Schools

Green Schools Update

Dear school,

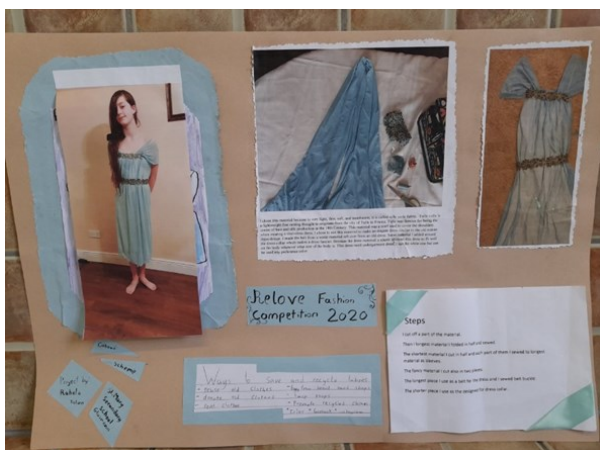
Green Schools are trying to make this planet a better place and asking for your help. This year we have been working towards our Global Citizenship Litter and Waste Flag.

Easy ways the school community could help by reducing waste is by using re-usable face masks, available to buy cheaply in most shops, these can also be made at home by using old t-shirts (these were highlighted in the school during Arts and Literacy Week in May), using re-usable lunch wrappers, bringing your rubbish home (first and second years have been starting to do this), etc.

Waste really negatively affects the planet which can even be seen by The Great Pacific Garbage Patch, which is 3 times the size of France!!

We as a school have done amazing with our past Green Schools flag themes and we know that we can do it again!

The Green Schools team have had a tremendous year working on multiple projects through 2020-2021. The team started out strong at the beginning of the year preparing for their next green flag. We worked on an action plan which was dedicated to improving and educating our school community, educating the wider community and actively increasing awareness on all topics we focused on. Both students and teachers alike agreed all activities would focus on the flag we wished to achieve Global Citizenship-Litter and Waste and also on previous flags to ensure standards did not slip. Sixth year students from Politics and Society class worked on a PowerPoint about the effects Fast Fashion have on women in industry in 3rd World countries and gave a super presentation to our committee, some 2nd years also did their Action projects for CSPE on the same topic. Other 2nd year students decided to enter the Relove Fashion Competition and created wonderful garments from their own unused clothing. Behind the scenes Science and Irish teams also worked on the Water Poster Competition for North County Dublin and we even had some posters sent in as Gaeilge.



Our super team came up with innovative ways to accomplish all our tasks for the Green Flag and worked both online and in mini teams when we returned to school to tick every box we could. Our WOW campaign continued along with our recycling campaign and litter pickers were purchased to help keep our grounds clean. Our first year students even conducted a super interview with the main man himself, Colin, to get a clear view of the amount of waste produced by our school. Our findings helped us form where to go from there and how to improve. Since then we have introduced a new campaign whereby 1st and 2nd year students bring their own food. For Green Schools Week we ran multiple campaigns over the course of the week, from Digi Campaigns to reduce our carbon footprint by deleting old emails, blurry photos and delete unnecessary subscriptions to Global Awareness Surveys which were so interesting. Our results indicated we have students in the building from at least 25 countries Worldwide! This is incredible! Our emphasis this year was on Global Citizenship-Litter and Waste as that is the flag we are aiming to achieve. As always our team went above and beyond. During the month of April our 4th year team put together an outstanding PowerPoint which was used by both them and our amazing 6th year reps to talk to Audrey Doyle, live on zoom and aim to achieve our next Green Flag.



Sensory Garden

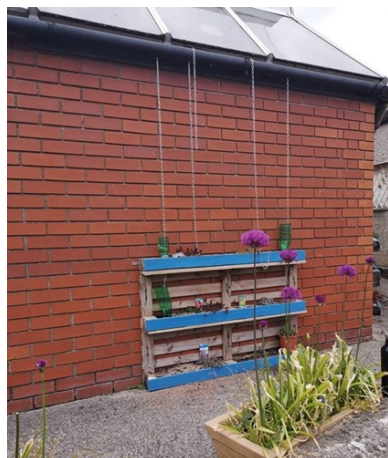
Sensory Garden and Garden Team

Pre the installation of the irrigation systems this spring, the vertical garden was showing some signs of difficulty. The marjoram, a thyme plant, a fern, a pelargonium and the hellebores did not make it through the cold and wet of winter. However, the rosemary, lavender, parsley, chives, sedum, mint and lemon balm are doing well and we are busy propagating them. In the meantime, we have added more of the plants that survived, that Ms Cunningham had propagated at home.

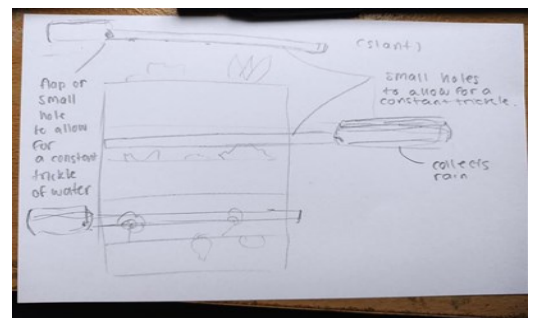
Work on the irrigation system for the vertical garden has been begun by Mr Carr, Ms Watts and Ms Cunningham, based on the designs and discussions with our team of students. The emphasis has been to reuse materials where possible. The remaining materials were funded by GCE. The vertical garden project has been supported and funded by DCC Community Environment Action. Huge thanks to our committed students from 1st to 6th year; Lana Bagayan, Neha Joshy, Deanna Cabalo, Faith Riordan, Leian Vista, Klara Sych, Danya Trimble, Sanusha Sojan, Lorin Bagayan and Laya Lockhart Kane for all your suggestions and especially for keeping this project going during school closure.



Students irrigation design thinking on paper. This system using gutter and hose pipe will be put in place above the vertical herb bed before the end of term.



Chains and cut plastic bottles are used here with the sedums to direct water from the gutter to each level of the vertical beds.



Milk carton water collectors attached to the wall above the beds are to be connected to direct water to the beds.

Wellbeing

The importance of nature to our wellbeing has gained much attention recently in the media and in St Mary's we are acutely aware of the importance of ensuring green moments in our students day. We continue to incorporate it into our students learning and extra-curricular opportunities through Wellbeing modules at Junior Cycle, Education For Living at Senior Cycle and gardening team activities at lunch.

Students continued to add to the schools biodiversity through the sowing of seeds as part of Grow it Forward. Here are 1st year Mullen's sunflower seeds thriving in the protection of the glass passage. These will be both planted out throughout the school grounds and go home with the students and staff to improve biodiversity and our community's wellbeing.



Sensory Garden

Sensory Garden and Garden Team

1st year student Oktavia Maliszewska, a member of our gardening team, has shared some fantastic photos that she has taken since our return to school after Easter. The images from both the Sensory Garden and greater school grounds (during a Wellbeing Module nature walk) capture the wealth of biodiversity that our students and staff are so lucky to be able to appreciate in St Mary's.



Sage and Snail



Squirrel in Ivy



Trailing Rosemary with Ladybird



Cowslip

Make a wish for biodiversity—Dandelion seed head, Wishy, Jenny Jo...



Iris



Apple Blossom

Pumpkin and sunflower seeds sown by Students



Religion Department

EMBER TEAM

The Ember Team Graduation took place on Monday 24th May.

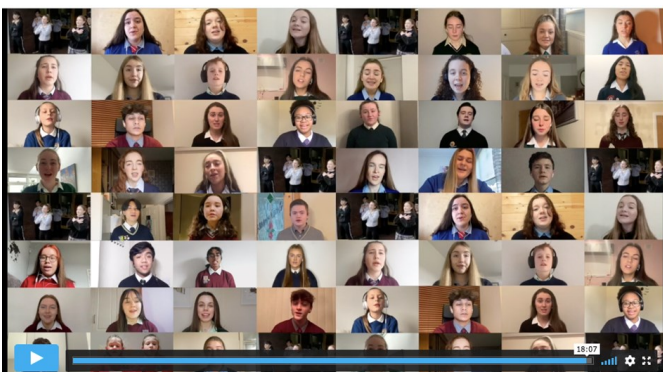
This was a celebration of what the Team has achieved both personally and for the community in the past year. It has been an unusual year for the team with the Covid restrictions, but they found creative ways to engage with the community. For example, when the 1st year came back to school after the Easter Break, as a way of welcoming back to school for what was a long period of online teaching, the Embers gave a personalized card with a message and a treat to every student.

At the Ember Graduation the Team were thanked for their commitment to the school in their leadership role, and the efforts they went to. They were each presented with a certificate from the Dublin Diocese in recognition of their work as faith leaders in the school. Many of these students will now be entering the role of prefect next week. The Team congratulated Emily Dixon and Eabha Ball who are on the team, on becoming Head and Deputy Head girl.

Le Chéile Day - 26th March.
Launch of Virtual Choir performance of "Together, we are Called" (The Le Chéile Song)

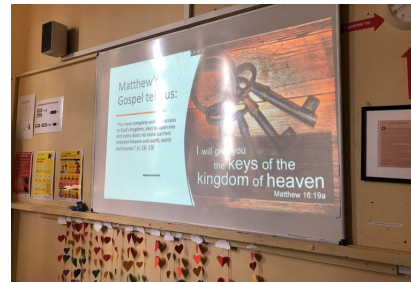
We were delighted to be part of Le Chéile Day celebrations joining 75 schools, 35,000+ students, 3,167 staff and 15 congregations. This annual event marks everything that is special about our Le Chéile schools. **Welcome, Witness, & Wisdom.**

This year Le Chéile launched the virtual performance of "Together, we are called" which was composed by Mr Coll and Sr. Marie Dunne CHF, and which was sung by students from all the Le Chéile school around the country. The whole school took 15mins to join with all Le Chéile schools in reflection, music and prayer. We were delighted to be a part of this special day.



The Novena of Grace

We had the Novena of Grace in school for staff and 6th year students from 4th to the 12th March this year. It was also in our News of the Day so that students could participate from home during lockdown. It was good to continue such a long-standing tradition in St Mary's. Lynda Bohan



Ember Graduation

On Monday afternoon, Mr Coll and Ms Róisín Byrne celebrated a lovely meaningful graduation ceremony with the Ember Team in the Prayer Room. All the elements of the ceremony, including the red candle-holders lit symbolising the 'Ember' flame; the anointing with oil, readings and presentations to the students added to the great sense of occasion as did the presence and support of Róisín, who was on the first Student Ember Team in the school! Such an uplifting engaging event!



Religion Department

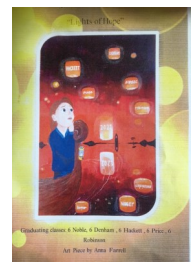
6th Year Graduation Ceremony 2021

The 6th Year Graduation took place on Friday 21st May this year. Due to the current government guidelines on Covid-19, it was a combination of a socially distanced live event and an online Youtube link for parents and families to watch from home on a later occasion.

The theme chosen for this year's graduation was "Lights of Hope". This theme drew on the symbolism of Margaret Aylward's Lamp and focused on the students themselves, as lights of hope for their own future lives and careers.



The day began at 11am with a tea/coffee event for the 6th Year students and staff in their rooms. Each 6th Year class was allocated a room on the bottom corridor into which a live liturgy was streamed from the Prayer Room. It began with a Welcome Address from Ms Devaney followed by the liturgy which was presided over by Fr Richard, who led the ceremony in his own inspiring and spiritual way. The ceremony consisted of readings, prayers and reflections read by staff, students and parents. It also included a candle ceremony which symbolised the passing on of the light from the Sisters of the Holy Faith and former Principal Ms Bernie Bourke to Mr Clarke, Parents and staff on to the students.



After the liturgy concluded their Year Head Ms Griffin spoke to the students about their six years together. The students then made their way out to the Gym, one class at a time to receive their certificates and awards from Ms Griffin. En route they received a Guard of Honour and a round of applause from staff. The Gym was decorated with balloons and banners to celebrate the occasion. The ceremony was streamed live to each of the 6th Year classes, so they could all see each of their fellow students receiving their certificates.

When all certificates and awards had been handed out, the 6th Year students returned to their classrooms to listen to Mr Clarke speak to them about their time at St Mary's and how it has guided them towards their futures. This was followed by Awards and Ms O'Donnell then introduced the Margaret Aylward Award, before naming its well-deserved recipient, Sarah Pollard. Next, the Head Girl, Aoife Grace and Deputy Head Girl, Sarah Pollard delivered their speeches to their fellow students, which as always was met with cheers, laughter and applause. The ceremony then concluded with the graduation song, "Wherever I Go" by Miley Cyrus, delivered with great enthusiasm by a selection of students under the direction of Mr Coll.

We in the Religion Department would like to thank the staff, students, parents and Sisters of the Holy Faith for their hard work in facilitating the graduation ceremony this year. In particular, we would like to express our sincere thanks to Fr Richard for his heartfelt words and constant spiritual support in all of our liturgical services, Colin for helping us set everything up and Liz, Denise and the admin team for all of their help. We would especially like to thank Mr Clarke, Ms O'Donnell and Ms Devaney without whose support we could not run an event like this. Ms L Bohan and the Religion Department

Thanks!

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

