

The Kintullagh Voice

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The Newsletter of St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena



N.I. Top Grammar School



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JUNK KOUTURE FINAL 2023

Massive congratulations to two of our Year 11 Art & Design entrants who were successful in getting through to the All-Ireland finals in this year's Junk Kouture competition.

Our two teams, 'Hectic Hessian' and 'Beautiful Disaster' performed on the 5th of May in a spectacular showcase in the 5 Arena, Dublin. This is an exceptional achievement and well-deserved after the endless hours of endeavour and commitment put into the design and completion of each of their creations.

St Louis has been involved in this competition for the past 11 years. It has provided us with a unique platform for pupils to gain industry skills by expressing themselves through fashion and performance. Junk Kouture has been a forerunner in promoting sustainability and environmental awareness, which have since become even more prevalent headline news.

We are so proud of all our Junk Kouture pupils as they are a credit and such wonderful ambassadors for the school.

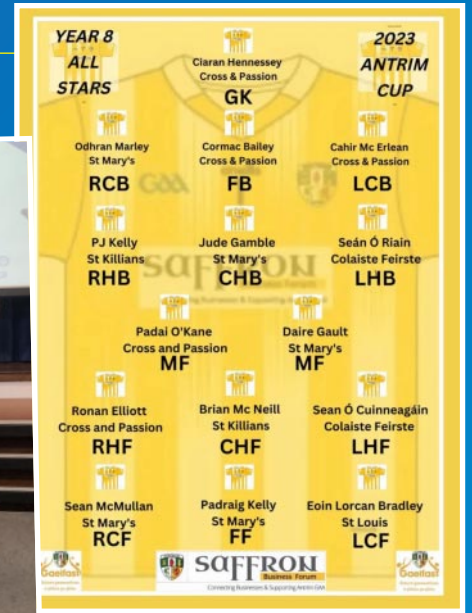




EOIN LORCAN BRADLEY – ALL-STAR

Congratulations to Year 8 student, Eoin Lorcan Bradley who, after picking up a Gaelfast and Antrim GAA Hurling All-Star in June, becomes a double winner, adding to his football award achieved in Term 1.

Well done to a very talented young man!



FAMILIES FIRST NI POST-PRIMARY EDUCATION AWARDS

The Post-Primary Education Awards celebrate the achievements of teachers and schools across Northern Ireland.

Each year, teachers and support staff from Secondary Schools, Grammar Schools, Special Schools, Integrated Colleges and Gaelscoil attend a glittering ceremony at the landmark Titanic Belfast building where they come together to celebrate the best in education in Northern Ireland.

We are delighted that St Louis were recipients of the following at the Families First NI Awards which took place on Saturday 20th May:

- Highly Commended for Best School in Co. Antrim
- Best Sporting Achievement (Camogie All Ireland)
- Special Recognition award for Teacher of the Year in Co. Antrim (Mrs McGreevy).

Thank you to everyone who contacted Families First to nominate us. It is greatly appreciated!



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LITERACY AND NUMERACY FUN DAYS 2023

From Thursday 8th to Monday 12th of June, Year 8, 9 and 10 students took part in our annual Literacy and Numeracy Fun Days.

Year 8 took part in a 24 Game competition during periods 1 and 2, with two students from each class progressing to the final during period 8. The top two scorers from each class competed to be crowned the Year 8 Champion. In the end it was Jude Dalrymple 8 Lir who dominated the final to come top of Year 8. Second and third places went to Eoin Lorcan-Bradley 8 Lisbreen and Aidan Killough 8 Lir. While the finals took place, Year 8 also completed a Codebreaking Task and a Detective Mystery in which they had to use their numeracy and teamwork skills to decode the secret messages and solve the clues.

After lunch, our Year 8 students were tasked with creating their own desert islands as part of their Literacy Fun Day. It was inspiring to see students' ideas and how creative they got with the challenge. After this, pupils got to demonstrate both their creative writing and speaking and listening skills as they penned a message in a bottle and provided the rest of their class with a dramatic reading of how they came to be on their desert island. The afternoon rounded off with a Literacy Quiz, challenging our pupils' knowledge, understanding and Literacy skills.

On Friday morning, Year 9 began their fun day with Literacy. Pupils needed teamwork, critical thinking skills and good Literacy knowledge to solve the clues and identify the murderer of Muchley Manor in a dramatic detective monologue. A bumper Literacy Quiz concluded the morning before students collected their most sought-after prizes and prepared for another afternoon of competition in Numeracy.

Year 9 were fantastic in their Numeracy afternoon on Friday periods 6-8. They started by completing an 'Escape Room' in which they had to work together to find the 5 keys to the doors and escape! Year 9 had to race against the clock to find the keys, as the previous key number was required in the calculations for the next key. In periods 7 and 8, Year 9 had a budgeting and building STEM challenge. Students were given a tight budget for materials and had to build the tallest tower they could within the budget. It was amazing to see the decision making, collaborative and construction skills on display. The range of techniques and different uses of the materials made for a very exciting afternoon. A special mention to Katy Laverty, Lola Storrie and Lucy McGilligan from 9 Lyndon. The girls built the tallest freestanding tower in the year group which reached the roof of Mr Boyd's classroom!

Year 10 completed a Holiday planning challenge during their Numeracy morning just in time for summer! In groups, the students worked together to create an informative poster about their enticing holiday. Each group planned a holiday including flights, accommodation, and exciting activities. Within their budget students also had to account for tax and luggage charges, calculate taxi fares and convert their left-over spending money into the appropriate currency. Each group presented their posters and the class voted for their favourite. To see how our Year 10 students expertly used their numeracy, teamwork, and creative skills, call by room 16 where Miss Ferris has displayed some of the outstanding posters created by 10 Lismoyle!

Year 10 were the last to take part in their Literacy Fun Day on Monday afternoon. The first challenge was for students to crack the code and escape the school in a Literacy-based escape room challenge. It was an active afternoon as pupils raced to collect a series of keys and solve Literacy riddles before their peers for the opportunity to win prizes. Our celebrations concluded with a creative sales pitch with students designing and promoting their own Literacy-based board games. With twists on Wordle, Monopoly and original designs, pupils really engaged with the creative nature of the tasks and produced some remarkable ideas that we could only hope to see on shelves in the future!

Well done to all of Year 8, 9 and 10 and their teachers for getting involved and making the Numeracy and Literacy Fun Days 2023 a success!

"After lunch, my class 8 Lir and I went to room 4 for our Literacy Day. We were so excited! We had Ms Wallace (our Form Teacher and English teacher) for the day. The next thing we did was pair up with our friends and create a map of our own island in 30 minutes! My friends, Fionn and Conor and I made a hilarious island named 'Big Man Island'! Everything on there was named 'Big' something, to go with the theme of our island. We came second in that challenge and we were so proud. The next objective was to write a message in a bottle from the perspective of how we came to be on our island. We decided to write an emotional letter on the topic, and...we won! We happily ran upstairs to collect our prizes which were sweets! Once we came back, we participated in a Literacy Quiz and our team achieved 18/20! Overall, we had a great time." Niall Fisher, 8 Lir





"The school morning began and we were eagerly awaiting our teacher so that our Numeracy Day could begin. When Mrs McToal came to begin the workshop, we started with an enjoyable game of 24, which was a mental maths activity and the stakes were high. Eventually after multiple rounds we had two well deserved winners, Aidan Killough and Jude Darymple. They went on to be the winners of the 24 championships! After that, a new game was introduced and it was a code exercise, which included navigating our way out of a pigpen using morse code – it was an excellent challenge! When that was over the final activity commenced, it was a murder mystery challenge. It was tough indeed but in the end my group was crowned the winners and we got to collect our sweets! It was a very enjoyable day overall." **Caitlin Ong, 8 Lir**

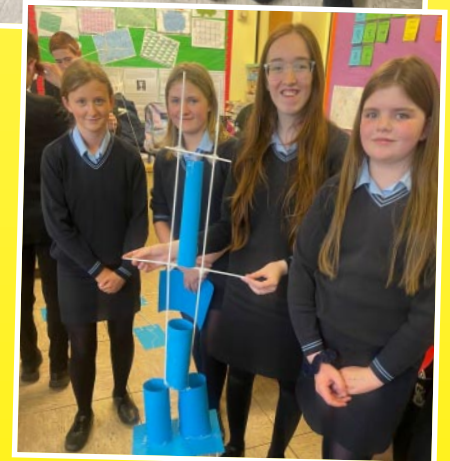
Year 9

"We came to our class with our teacher, Mrs Scott, and were ready to begin our Year 9 Literacy Day and we were so excited to get started! Our first activity was murder mystery themed, and we got into groups of four to participate in this. It was very challenging as we had to apply our Literacy skills to solve the clues. We were competing against other teams in our class, so everyone was getting competitive and tensions were high, however we were delighted as we finally worked out who the murderer was thanks to our good teamwork and application of Literacy knowledge, and got to win sweets for all our hard work. We had a very fun day!" **Niamh McCloskey, 9 Lurig**

"We walked into 6th period to our teacher, Mr McLernon's class. We were excited because we got to work in teams of four, and it was fun to work with our friends! We participated in two activities – one of which we had to find the keys for a code, and that was good fun as we had to use our mental maths skills. Then, we had to build a tower using equipment that we had to 'buy' from a shop. We were given money and had to calculate how to pay for each item, how to measure our tower and how to effectively use our equipment to build. Overall, the biggest tower won the day, and we had so much fun participating in these activities and using our Numeracy skills in practical, useful ways." **Ronan Devenny, 9 Lurig**

"After lunch, our Literacy day started and we couldn't wait to get going! The first activity we did was a challenge to escape the school. There were seven rooms with various challenges like translating hieroglyphs and shift codes to answer riddles. This was enjoyable because it allowed us to practise our Literacy skills whilst also having fun! In the second activity we had to complete a task whereby we created our own Literacy game. My team and I created a game called 'Word Quest', where users have to go on a journey around the board game to find the correct words for each scenario. At the end, each team had to present their game to the class which was really interesting, as we got to see each team's creations. Although we did not win on this occasion, we still had a fantastic day participating in fun challenges and bonding with our classmates and increasing both our creative and literary skills." **Tadhg Gilpin, 10 Lyndon**

"We had our Numeracy Day for the first few periods, and our class couldn't wait to get started! We got to participate in a fantastic range of games – our first included getting given a certain amount of money and we had to budget correctly as we were given the opportunity to buy activities/products, but we couldn't exceed our budget. We also completed a crossword. Within this activity, we found the answers by finding out the answers to various maths questions. This was tricky; however as we were working in a team we could play to each team member's strengths and we managed to work out each of the answers. We managed to come 2nd in our Numeracy activities, which we were very proud of and the team who came first kindly shared their sweets with us! We had an amazing day and are thankful to our teachers for arranging this experience!" **Jaydon Blythman, 10 Lyndon**





COMMUNITY OF LIFESAVERS PROGRAMME

Over the past number of weeks, every Year 10 class has had the opportunity to complete the Community of Lifesavers Programme with Mrs McVey and Mr Quinn. Pupils were taught practical skills in lifesaving covering areas such as the recovery position, choking, CPR and using an AED.

"We learnt many useful lifesaving procedures, such as how to use EpiPens and confidently do CPR. Altogether I really enjoyed this course and am glad we had the opportunity to complete it. I feel much more prepared in case a situation that requires these skills arises" Lauren May Ong



LEVEL THREE ACCREDITATION AS A TAKE 5 SCHOOL

We are delighted to have received Level 3 Take 5 status. This is the highest accreditation a school can receive.

The 'Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing' is an evidence-based public health message aimed at improving wellbeing which aims to assist good mental health and wellbeing, through engaging in a range of activities. At St Louis we believe the 'Take Five' approach is important, to highlight the mental health and wellbeing of our students and staff.

The 5 Steps to Wellbeing in this context are:

1. Connect – Spend time with people
2. Keep Learning – Don't be afraid to try something new
3. Be Active – Exercising makes you feel good
4. Take Notice – of your thoughts and feelings and of others around you
5. Give – Do something nice for someone else

Mrs O'Neill, Mrs McGreevy and Mrs McVey attended a celebration event at the Tullyglass Hotel on Wednesday 7th June. They received the Take 5 Level 3 Award at this event.



In order to achieve this award, the school completed the following initiatives:

- Created and updated pastoral policies
- Created a Take 5 steps to wellbeing pledge
- Recruited pupil champions
- The creation of a Take 5 noticeboard and dedicated Take 5 steps to wellbeing area
- Take 5 focus in PD lessons

U14 LADIES FOOTBALL

Well done to our U14 Ladies Football team who reached the semi-final of the Ulster Schools 'C' Competition this year against Ballieborough Community School, Cavan.

The girls put in an outstanding performance and should be highly commended for their dedication and determination this year. A huge thank you also goes to their coaches, Miss Lavery and Miss McKeown.





NI SCHOOLS TEAM MATHEMATICS EVENT

Well done to Conor McIlhatton, Grace McGarry, Sara Thompson and Taisija Sestakova who represented the school at the NI Schools Team Mathematics Event in St. Malachy's College, Belfast on 28th March.

"When I went to compete in the School Maths Team Event, me and three other students from my school had to work together to complete several different challenges and activities. Some required us to solve word problems and one was a relay where we had to pair up and we needed each other's answers to continue with our own questions. The event was a great experience which I learnt a lot from. It taught me how to work as a team as well as improving my maths and numeracy skills. The day was really fun and I was able to interact with people from my school and other schools too." Grace McGarry, 10 Lismoyle



FEAST OF FOOTBALL AT ST LOUIS

On Monday 12th June, St Louis hosted a festival of football with 18 teams from all over Ulster competing for the Year 8 Connor Marron Cup and Aidan Walsh Shield. Up for grabs was also the Conall Gould Player of the Tournament. All trophies were named in memory of 3 former pupils of St Louis and great Gaels within Antrim.

The shield final was a showdown between Colaiste Feirste and Donaghmore. It was a brilliant game of skill and determination with the Gaeilgeoiri taking the silverware.

The cup final was an exciting battle between St Marys CBS and St Joseph's Donaghmore. The Belfast boys showed great grit, but it was the Tyrone side that would lift the cup.

There were a lot of players who were exceptional throughout the day. Siannan Norney from Colaiste Feirste certainly showed the boys how to play the game with skill and pace but it was Eamonn Jordon of Donaghmore who consistently performed to win the Conall Gould Player of the Tournament.

A	B
SLG 1	SLG 2
Aquinas	Coláiste Feirste 1
SJ Donaghmore 1	SJ Donaghmore 2
St Pauls Bessbrook 1	St Patrick's Keady
St Malachy's 1	St Mary's CBS 1
C	D
Rathmore 1	Rathmore 2
St Malachy's 2	St Patrick's Ballymena
St Pauls Bessbrook 2	St Mary's CBS 2
St Ciaran's Ballygawley	Colaiste Feirste 2



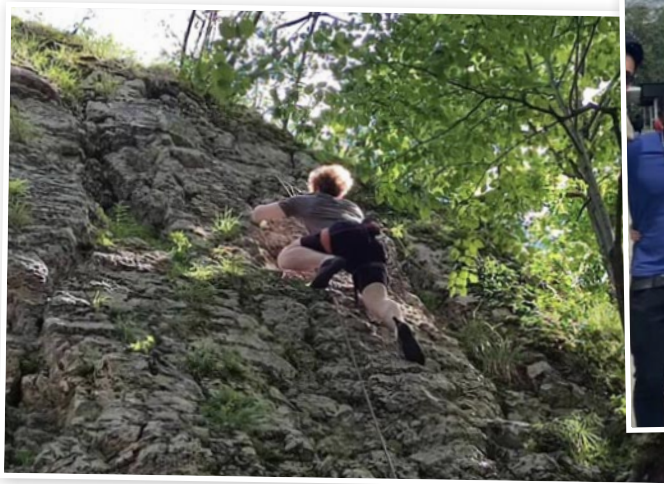


PAST-PUPIL FOCUS: JUDE DOBBIN

"My name is Jude Dobbin, and I started my journey with languages in St Louis back in 2015. In junior school I studied French, Spanish and Irish. I continued with French and Spanish for GCSE and took French at A-level alongside Drama and Moving Image Arts.

With the help of the amazing French and Spanish Department in St Louis, I fell in love with languages and wouldn't be where I am now without them.

I will be heading into my 4th and final year of university in September in UCC where I study World Languages. This degree offers a wide variety of languages, and each student picks the 5 they would like to study. In the 5rd year of this course, students get to go and work or study in one or two of the countries of the languages they study. I study French, Spanish and Japanese so I spent the last year at university in Grenoble in France, and without a doubt, it has been the greatest year of my life so far. It goes without saying that learning Spanish and Japanese through the medium of French was challenging but essential for improving and I gradually got the hang of it. One of the best things about being in such a multicultural environment is that I was learning parts of languages I wasn't even studying. This year I have improved on my Italian, my German and even learnt some very basic Arabic. The residence we lived in had 50 people on every floor, 5 floors per building and 6 buildings so it was non-stop fun while getting to try so much food from different countries with the shared kitchen. The best food I discovered this year must be French tacos, which originate from Grenoble. They may not be that healthy, but they are so delicious! In my free-time, I started rock climbing as it's one of the big sports with Grenoble being in the Alps - what a wonderful experience that I will never forget!



A study year abroad, discovering such a wealth of opportunities and diverse cultures that you never even knew existed, is an experience like no other and one that I would recommend to everyone. It is the perfect way to discover yourself, become more independent and meet an incredible amount of new people whilst learning and improving maybe even multiple languages. This year I travelled to so many different cities and countries for a fraction of what it would cost from Ireland. I tried so many new sports and activities, climbed mountains, lived my everyday life without English and met people from all over the world from Bosnia to Lebanon to Colombia. These are just some of the examples of how languages have opened doors for me so far.

As for the future, after I finish my degree in UCC next year, I plan to move to Valencia, Spain to work and learn more Spanish. I will also be working to achieve my TEFL qualification (Teaching English as a Foreign Language) and intend to participate in the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) programme to take me to Japan."

It was wonderful to welcome back past-pupil Jude to talk to our Year 11s about his year abroad in Grenoble and the opportunities available to them in the future. We look forward to hearing about his future adventures with languages. Merci Jude!





PAST-PUPIL FOCUS: LEAH BARKER

Hi, my name is Leah, and I am a past-pupil of St Louis Grammar. I first came to St Louis in September 2015, and spent 7 enjoyable years here as a pupil, with many lovely memories from school.

In particular, Sixth Form was a real highlight for me as I got the opportunity to study English, Politics and Health and Social Care for A-Level. I loved getting the chance to explore new subjects, and always fondly remember the Politics classes and our discussions around the NI political situation, led by Mrs Johnston, which were always interesting! My favourite subject throughout my school years has always been English, and I was lucky to have two great teachers during my A-Levels – Miss Murray and Mrs Fullerton. It was great to be guided within the subject and they really brought out my full potential.

I made the decision in Year 13 to apply to study English at university, and I was delighted to receive an offer for Queen's University Belfast. I come from a large extended family that did not get the chance to participate in A-Levels or further study, so I felt immensely privileged to not only secure a university place, but also study something that I truly loved.

It was nerve-wracking on that first day, heading into university on my own and the addition of face masks certainly didn't make it any easier. I was grateful that I made the decision to stay at home for university too, as we were soon moved to online classes and lectures a few weeks later! It was disappointing to miss out on so many exciting freshers' opportunities with the closure of the university, however we knew it was necessary to keep people safe and I am thankful for all my school friends who were in the same boat with their courses as well.

I didn't have to wait too long for my introduction to school and education again though, because in October 2020 I received a call from St Louis, asking if I would help them out with Literacy Support that academic year. And of course, I jumped at the chance!

I don't think I have ever been so nervous as I was on the first day on 'the other side of the desk' at St Louis. I was still just 18 and had rarely spoken in front of a group! However, after much support and guidance on the best ways to engage with young people and a refresh of the KS5 and GCSE curriculum, I soon found my feet. I really enjoyed chatting and working alongside the pupils, especially as within Literacy Support the groups consist of only a handful of pupils. Students who perhaps detested English and were struggling at the beginning of the year, were becoming more open and confident in their reading and writing abilities by the end of it.

I have continued working in St Louis and completing my degree ever since, and now in 2025 life is fully back to normal with (thankfully) no more masks! I have had the most wonderful time at university and have met some of my best friends there. Getting to have in-person class discussions about a plethora of novels, plays and poems each week and analyse them with lecturers – who are experts in their field – has been a total privilege.

I have also since been able to participate in Belfast's bustling social life, with plenty of outings to the Student Union bar, the Queen's Film Theatre, far too many Starbucks trips for post-class chinwags and not forgetting the all-nighters spent in the McClay library at exam time! There are also lots of societies to get involved in within Queen's, and I am a member of the English society (of course!) and the Taylor Swift society, which is essential for all Swifties. However, there is something for everyone, including sports clubs, drama clubs and even a cross-stitching society!



This year we also had our formal which was a fabulous evening spent in the Europa hotel and a chance to get dressed up with the girls. Furthermore, I was asked at the beginning of this academic year to work on undergraduate open days in Queen's. I was able to represent the English stand and promote the subject to prospective students! These have been some of my favourite days of the year as I love getting the chance to speak to people who have travelled locally, from across the water and even sometimes internationally, about the subject.

Last November, I applied to the PGCE course at Queen's in order to qualify as a teacher. After a long application and interview process, I was delighted to receive a letter of acceptance onto the 2025/24 course. I could not have achieved this without the invaluable experience I have of being in a classroom environment, teaching amazing pupils and working alongside fabulous staff.

When I look back at myself three years ago, I see how much I have grown in confidence and this wouldn't have been possible without the mentoring of so many fabulous teachers, and I cannot wait to hopefully act as this mentor for my own pupils someday. Whilst I am sentimental about this next change, I am also very excited to get going and put all my experience to the test.

I would like to end with a note to St Louis pupils and say that you should absolutely follow your dreams and passions. Do not let yourself be influenced by the opinions of others and trust your own instincts – they're usually right. Try your best in exams but also remember that exams aren't the be all and end all, there are so many opportunities nowadays and if academia is not for you, there will be something out there that will be suited to you. Make sure to ask teachers and friends for advice and help if you need it – a problem shared is truly a problem halved! And if you are interested in university, definitely make use of open days – there will always be someone willing to help you and chat about the course you're interested in, as I can attest. It can feel really scary to leave school, but it is really the time that you will flourish and meet so many new people and garner so many new life experiences, no matter what you do and where you go! Work hard, travel whenever you can, remain humble, help others and take it one day at a time. I wish you all the very best for the future and I will leave you with one of my favourite quotes.

"Run the risk, if it works out, happiness. If not, wisdom."





YEAR 10 GAELTACHT TRIP

Year 10 students thoroughly enjoyed a 'Turas Gaeltachta' trip to the Gaeltacht in June 2025.

Miss O'Brien, Mrs Mc Kenna, Mr Trainor and Miss Warnock joined Year 10 Irish students as they fully immersed themselves in the Irish language environment. Pupils took part in water sports activities through the medium of Irish with Trek & Paddle Donegal, stayed in Teach Jack's and visited Glenveagh National Park. Joined by local residents, pupils participated in céili dancing after dinner ... and even Mr Trainor enjoyed a turn on the dancefloor!

Eunan Curry (10 Lurig) and Ciara Connon (10 Lyndon) won our 'Spi-orád na Gaeltachta' (Spirit of the Gaeltacht) awards for showing great enthusiasm for all activities and making the best effort to speak Irish at all times. Comhghairdeas leo! Thank you to Mrs O'Neill and St Louis who very kindly sponsored the Gaoth Dobhair jerseys.

Pupils gained great confidence in speaking Irish while in the Gaeltacht and many hope to return for a Summer course next year while they continue with their study of Irish at GCSE.

Labhair í agus mairfidh sí!
Speak it and it will last!





SLG CAMOGIE ALL-STARS

Ulster Schools' Camogie held their celebration night on Thursday 20th April at the Elk Toomebridge, where they handed out their All-Star awards for 2025.

All-Ireland Mary Moran Cup winners St Louis Ballymena accounted for five of the 24 All-Star Awards.

We were absolutely delighted to watch our Senior Camogs Eimear Johnston, Eimear McGivern, Erin Coulter, Katie Molloy and Sarah Fyfe collect their awards during the presentation.

These girls have been such positive role-models on and off the pitch for our younger students and we are so proud of every one of them. Well done girls!



ECO CLUB

This year, the Eco Club was set up by two student teachers, Miss Doherty and Miss Mulholland with Mr Quinn's supervision. We meet every Tuesday from 5:50 to 4:50 in Room 25.

We hope to be able to secure the Green Flag Status for St Louis which is awarded by Eco-Schools for Northern Ireland. We began by downloading their booklet and identifying some areas where we thought it was possible to make small changes within St Louis.

Recently, we started to plant seedlings to begin further developing bio-diversity around the school grounds. We have been helped through the expertise of Anna and Conan in our planting endeavours. Through the 'Live Here Love Here Pollinator Scheme', we obtained a grant that has enabled us to plant new species and nurture our existing vegetation. Everyone is now talking about how beautiful the outdoor spaces look!

We have also started to tackle the garden area outside Mr Quinn's room where several beautiful shrubs are growing such as Ceanothus and Ribes sanguineum (flowering currant) and a wildflower section has been started. With the help of our school caretaker, Steven, we added some picnic tables. The area is now used daily by both staff and students.

Another area that we have begun to develop is the Centenary Walled Garden. This was once a burial ground but had become derelict once all graves were removed. Our first job was to clear the weeds and begin the process of creating a new walled garden.

We have been recycling around the school and have put up 'anti-litter' and 'switch off lights' posters to help our school environment and wider community.

We have also been told by Mr Quinn that some Year 13 girls had voiced an interest in joining after their exams, so we look forward to the Eco Club growing in the next term.

By Emily Crooks, Amelia Mosoczy and Isabela Cooper





ST LOUIS SPORTS DAY DELIVERS THRILLING COMPETITIONS AND GLORIOUS WEATHER

St Louis Sports Day, held on Monday 5th June for Year 8 students and Tuesday 6th June for Year 9 and 10 students, proved to be an exhilarating event filled with intense competition and outstanding performances. With the sun shining brightly, the atmosphere was electric as participants showcased their sporting prowess.

Some notable results in Year 8 saw Lorcan Martin and Ava Carroll emerge as winners, while Tom Convery and Caitlin Graffin triumphed in Year 9, and Dara Dickson and Hannah Tohill claimed victory in Year 10.

St Louis Sports Day provides an opportunity for students to display their sporting talents and foster healthy competition. The athletes showcased their dedication and hard work. The event celebrated individual achievements and emphasised teamwork and fair play. Sports Day will be remembered as a remarkable occasion where students united in their love for sports and left a lasting impression on the school community.







SPRING CONCERT

It was a standing ovation for our Music Department during our Easter concert which took place on 4th April.

An absolutely astonishing display of talent was showcased by our choirs, orchestra, bands, dancers and much more!

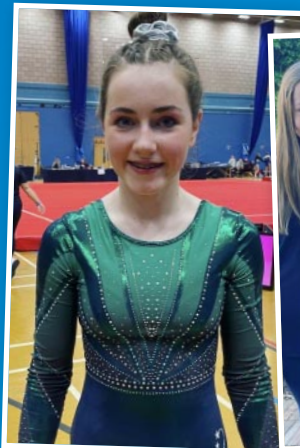


GYMNASTICS NATIONAL FINALS

Congratulations to Year 9 student, Mia Orr who represented Northern Ireland at the Gymnastics National Finals in Stoke-On-Trent on 20th May.

Mia competed in four different events, performing routines on vault, bars, beam, and the floor.

Well done, Mia!



WOMEN'S AID WORKSHOPS

In March and April, Women's Aid visited St Louis, working with all Year 15 pupils to complete their Healthy Relationships Programme.

The focus of these workshops was on promoting discussion around healthy and unhealthy relationships, domestic abuse and consent. Both sessions were very informative and pupils were excellent at immersing themselves in discussions around these important topics.





SLG RECEIVE AUSTISM IMPACT AWARD

We were delighted to receive our Autism NI Impact Award in May.

By achieving this Impact Award, St Louis demonstrates that we offer an accredited autism accessible environment. Well done to everyone who was involved in securing this incredible achievement for our school and wonderful pupils.



ANTI-BULLYING POSTER COMPETITION

Here is a selection of entries created by pupils from Year 8-10 who took part in a Northern Ireland poster design competition to combat cyber-bullying. These posters are on display in the Creative and Expressive Arts building to ensure we get a strong anti-bullying message across to the whole school community.

All pupils displayed a high level of creativity and clear understanding of the threat that cyber-bullying poses to young people. They showed tremendous insight into the importance of raising awareness to help young people protect themselves and their peers.



GCSE COOKERY

As part of their Home Economics GCSE, students complete a cookery practical to cater for individuals with specific dietary requirements.

Here are some of the delicious creations that our current GCSE cohort presented for their practical exam.

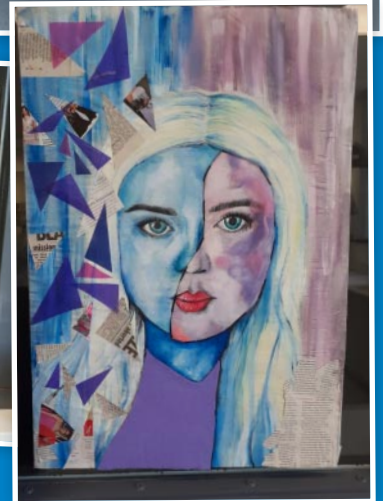
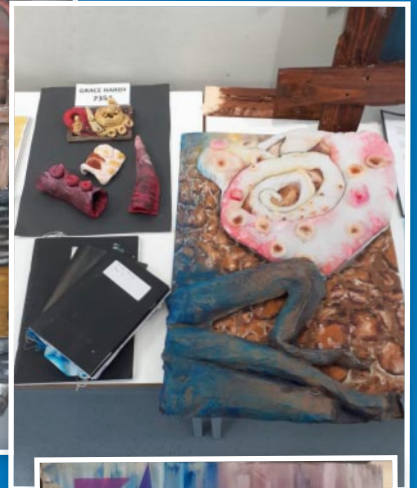
Well done everyone!

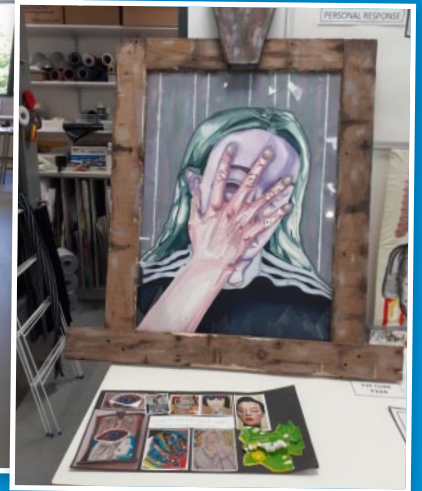
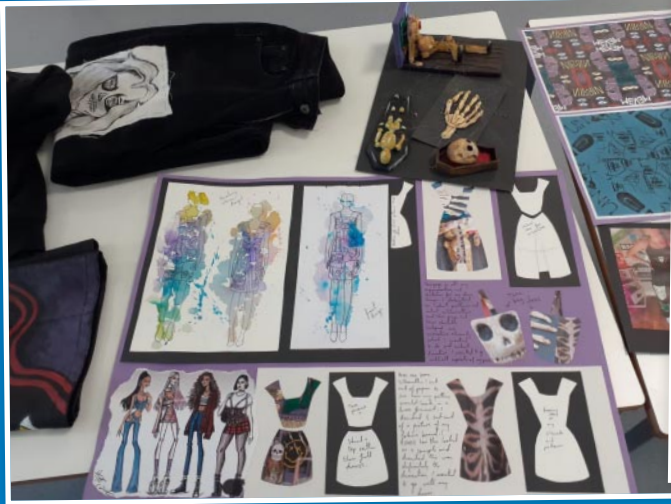




ART EXHIBITION 2023

Our annual GCSE and A-Level Art exhibition took place on Friday 26th May and, as always, was a most special occasion as we welcomed parents, staff and students to showcase the exceptional artistic talents of our KS4 and 5 students.







COLUMBAN PRIZE-WINNERS

We were delighted to welcome Father Pat Colgan to the school in June to present Maria Rosa Black and Katie Bonnes with their Columban prizes. Maria Rosa won 2nd place in the image category of the competition and Katie was placed first in the essay writing contest. Well done girls!

Read Katie's essay below:

"For he himself is our peace, who has made us both one and has broken down in his flesh the dividing wall of hostility." **Ephesians 2:14**

Conflict has plagued humanity from our beginnings; it was here before Jesus and has remained long after his resurrection. It is our flawed human nature to find difference and division within our species despite our converging paths and purposes.

The inevitability of conflict is clear; our kind is too colourful, too diverse, too full of unique ideas and perceptions to assure us of an alternative, but why must it be resolved through the bloodshed of innocent men, women and children? On earth, death is our only guarantee, so why has it become commonplace to indifferently inflict death on those whose lives are just as rich and valuable as our own?

This hatred that has embedded itself within our cultures as sectarianism, racism, sexism is futile. The attributes that segregate us are inconsequential in comparison to those that unite us, even fundamentally, we all bleed the same hue of crimson red.

Still felt today in Ireland are the echoes of grief and loss experienced during the Troubles. Yet, peace is on our horizon due to the brave efforts of our own peacebuilders.

Father Alec Reid and Reverend Dr Roy Magee were pivotal in peacebuilding in Northern Ireland. Both were called by God to initiate peace in their country, and it is these men who broke down the barricades between Catholics and Protestants here, brick by brick, in an attempt to grant God's wish for peace.

We as a nation have them to thank for our Good Friday agreement, they were united not only in Creed but in the faith that violence and sectarianism would only deteriorate this society that had such immense potential for prosperity. As Good Friday marks Jesus' death for the sins of humankind, it holds for the people of Ireland the symbolic death of the most turbulent years of our Troubles also. Our conflict may have been born from disagreements between faiths, but it was through faith that ceasefire was reached, and faith continues to navigate us toward the harmonious world to which we strive.

Although physical violence is no longer rife in the North, sectarianism can still be seen in communities, housing estates and even in the existence of our segregated education system. Groups like the Corrymela community have been paramount in diffusing this blatant apartheid that is still so unnecessarily prevalent. Many have the opportunity to interact with people from faith backgrounds they are not exposed to regularly and are given the opportunity to relate to them without confining identity to faith alone.

I am an avid believer that the future of our peace and the future of the faith in Ireland is in the hands of our youth. Young people did not experience the raging wildfire that came before, merely the glowing embers of loss left in its wake. We have no reason to hate one another, except the ones given bitterly to us from those who lived in a different world, a hard, hurtful world that still tortures those who inhabited it. This is this reason that peacebuilding is so imperative in schools, if half of our society is alienated and isolated, we estrange



prospective peers, friends and partners. John Hume told us that 'difference is an accident of birth, and it should therefore never be the source of hatred or conflict. The answer to difference is to respect it. Therein lies a most fundamental principle of peace: respect for diversity.'

'Love thy neighbour', is the message that is permeated throughout all of Jesus' miracles and parables. It transcends the idea of love in its modern interpretation. The love Jesus spoke of was the appreciation of life and beauty in the complexity of it. His message was unrelenting and unconditional, Jesus' words were not 'Love thy neighbour if they are white or black or man or woman', we are to appreciate our differences and respect the background from which they came.

In many instances our strengths lie within our differences. St Paul compares the church to a body and references that the many parts of the body are stronger together, not able to function optimally if components are missing. We as a people, regardless of discrepancies in physical, emotional or spiritual being, serve better each other and ourselves when we not only tolerate but honour the wonder and diversity of God's Creation as it is so easily lost, there lies the proof of why we must love our neighbours.

Peacebuilding will never lose its importance in the wider world. The need for peace today is as stark as it has ever been with the raging war in Ukraine, civil wars in Myanmar and Ethiopia and ongoing religious persecution throughout the globe. Courageous people, with the help of organisations like Christian Aid, visit these war-torn areas to help affected people, through practical, medical or spiritual means. Pax Christi is another organisation that works globally to build peace through education, informing people of the importance of human rights and promoting reconciliation and justice, armed only with the Word as their weapon.

Organisations are able to work on massive scales to build peace, but it must be recognised that peacebuilding does not have to move mountains, it can be as elementary as a simple gesture that acknowledges our common human experience.

When we really know a person, their history and their struggles, we cannot hate them, or perhaps we cannot really know them until we stop hating them. Peacebuilding starts within ourselves, seeking out the good in those around us and taking small meaningful steps to better our world each day. These actions may seem insignificant, but a series of inconsequential actions will soon build to a tidal wave of change.

Matthew's Beatitudes declares 'Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall be called the children of God' and my hope is that we all may lay claim to being God's children."

Katie Bonnes, Year 14



BIOLOGY CHALLENGE

Just after Easter some of our Year 11 students took part in the annual Biology Challenge competition. This competition is run each year for gifted and talented Biologists aged 15-15 and is the junior version of the Biology Olympiad.

The competition consisted of two 25-minute online exam papers which tested skill, knowledge and application in Biology. The questions were set on the school curriculum, but also rewarded students who had shown enthusiasm for the subject by watching natural history programmes or were aware of our natural flora and fauna. Over 60,000 students from all over the UK took part.

Just after Easter I was delighted to discover that I was the only medal winner from the school, winning silver, and placed in the top 10% of competitors. Many of the other entrants received either a Commended or Highly Commended certificate. I am delighted with my achievement and hope to continue my success by winning a medal in the Olympiad in 2 years' time.

We would all like to thank our teachers for their help and support during the competition.

Thomas Oakes



SIX SLG STUDENTS NAMED QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY FUTURE STARS

Congratulations to the six pupils who were named Queen's University Future Stars for 2025.

Four players from St Louis were named on the hurling team; goalkeeper, Caolán McFerran, full-back, Seán óg Blaney, midfielder, Paudie Martin, and Ryan O'Boyle in corner-forward.

Padraic McKeever Managing Director of McKeever Sports who sponsored the awards said:

"We are delighted to be involved with the Queen's Future Stars Programme and are always proud to be involved in showcasing the talent, pride, and passion of the students around the country.

We are committed to continuously finding new ways of improving the performance of our products and, in turn, the athletes who wear them. Our goal is to bring freshness, innovation, and excellent service to each of our customers.

We look forward to the success of all the Queens Future Stars' athletes in 2025 and beyond."

Congratulations also go to Year 12 students Kate McGilligan and Enya Neeson, who were named on the half-back line of the Camogie Future Stars team.

This is the second year camogie has been included in the Queen's scheme and Ulster Schools' Chairperson Catherine McGourty feels it is a great addition to the camogie calendar.

"The trials this year were of a very high standard and it is great to see emerging talent get the recognition they deserve," she said.

"Some come from schools that are strong in camogie while others are playing at a much lower level in our competitions.

These awards will hopefully give all players the boost they need to push on into senior schools' teams and at minor level and ultimately have a long and successful career at senior level."

As a school, we are delighted to see our students recognised for their talents and dedication to their respective sports. A great accolade for fantastic ambassadors of SLG.





LIVESTOCK AND MEAT COMMISSION PRESENTATION

This term, our Year 11 Home Economics students enjoyed a presentation by the Livestock and Meat Commission.

“On the day, our HE class was greeted by a lady from the Livestock and Meat Commission, and she came to teach our class how to cook lamb curry. While cooking, she gave us a lot of great tips on staying safe while cooking with raw meat. I feel that we learned a lot from this experience, and I now feel much more equipped to cook without the danger of cross-contamination! At the end of the demonstration, we got the opportunity to taste the lamb curry and it was amazing! We also got provided with a lovely cookbook full of good recipes to try.” Emer Kelly, 11 Lurig



CHESS CLUB TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Congratulations to our Chess Club Tournament winners for 2025!

Junior Winner: John McNeill, 8 Lismoyle
Intermediate Winner, Luke Cooper, 9 Layde
Senior & Overall Winner: Yannick Mulot, Year 14

A huge thank you to Michael McPeake, Year 15 for facilitating Chess Club this year. It has been a huge success!



PERIOD DIGNITY PROJECT: MENSTRUATION MATTERS WORKSHOP

On Thursday 22nd June, Menstruation Matters visited St Louis to work with pupils who are part of the Period Dignity Project.

These pupils have been working tirelessly over the past year to implement legislation which issues free period products for all menstruating learners. They have also been using this as an opportunity to educate their peers on equality and period dignity.

Menstruation Matters are a local charity who played a key role in getting this legislation passed in Stormont. Their workshop allowed pupils to discuss the biology of periods, the stigma that can be attached to menstruation and how we can work to empower ourselves and others with this project.





YEAR 8 & 9 IN-HOUSE CAMOGIE BLITZ!

On Tuesday 20th June, our Year 8 and 9 camogs took part in an in-house camogie blitz organised by Mrs McCloskey.

The blitz was broken up into provinces in which Leinster (green & white) battled hard to gain the victory over Ulster (black & gold) with a score line of 6:2 to 4:4.

Individual awards for performance went to Aedin Vallely, Lucy McGilligan and Aoife Neeson. Highest scorer on the day was recognised with Clíodhna McKeever coming out on top!

Well done to all the girls for their participation in this event and over the course of the year. Thank you to the coaches and students who helped officiate on the day.



SLG HURLING ALL-STARS 2023

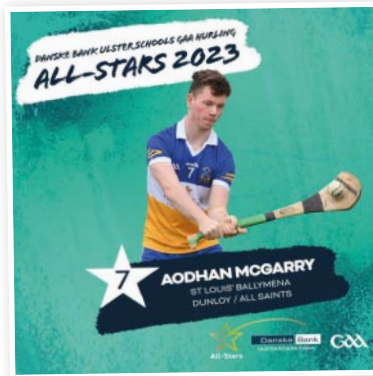
The 2023 Ulster Schools' Hurling All-Star team was announced in April. To our delight, St Louis students gained four spots on the panel.

Kevin O'Boyle picked up a corner-back spot, with Mageean Cup captain and player of the final, Aodhán McGarry included in the half-back line where his older brother and current Antrim senior defender, Ryan also won an All-Star award six years ago. Outgoing Head Boy, Darragh Patterson was awarded at midfield, and Year 15 student, Jack McCloskey was positioned as left corner-forward on the All-Star team for 2023.

Chairman of Ulster Schools' GAA Jimmy Smyth congratulated the players on their awards: "Ulster Schools would like to congratulate all these young men who have now joined a long list of previous winners. The hope is that they will emulate the many former winners who have gone on to have a long and successful career with their club and county."

Our 2023 All-Stars were honoured at a Gala Banquet in the Crowne Plaza Belfast on 28th April, where guests were also treated to an outstanding performance from our very own traditional group, led by Mr. Convery. Another strand of extra-curricular excellence that we were delighted to showcase.

What a year for hurling at SLG. We are so proud of our All-Stars for 2023!





FOSL SPONSORED WALK 5 APRIL 2023

Friends of St Louis Ballymena (FOSL) is an association of past-pupils and friends providing a supporting network to the school.

FOSL is trying to promote this charity in the school community and are working in partnership with Mrs O'Neill to support her in ensuring that the students in St Louis Grammar have the best possible educational experience.

Our target this year is to secure a new minibus which will be used to transport the students to and from a wide range of extra-curricular activities, including sporting activities, debating competitions, STEM competitions, school trips and much more.

To raise funds towards the minibus a sponsored walk was organised in the school grounds on Wednesday 5th April. Sponsor sheets were distributed, and each year group had the opportunity to take part in the sponsored walk during one period throughout the school day. There were four prizes for the pupils who raised the most money.

This was a very successful event with a total of **£6979.49** being raised.

The prizes were won by the following pupils:

- 1st prize - Air Buds to Katey McLernon, 8 Laragh
- 2nd prize - Team Kit Voucher (£100) to Conall Morgan, 10 Lir
- 3rd and 4th prizes - Sports Direct vouchers (£50 each) to Sean Duffin, 12 Lyndon and Niall Duffin, 8 Lismoyle.

FOSL along with Mrs O'Neill are delighted with the money raised and the effort the pupils put into reaching such a target. We wish to thank all those who contributed to the day.



COME DINE WITH ME

Pictured are some of our amazing Year 10s with their winning entries for our 'Come Dine with Me' competition!





ALL-IRELAND CAMOGS - AGAIN!

Well done to our Senior Camogs, Aisling O'Donnell, Erin Coulter, Dearbhail Dobbin, Eimear McGivern, Anna McKillop and Casey Crawford, who won the All-Ireland A Minor Shield Final with Antrim Camogie in May.

This is the second All-Ireland medal of 2025 for these girls and we are so proud to have these students represent our school and their clubs at county level.

ALL-IRELAND SCÓR NA NÓG QUIZ TEAM FINAL

“Our team had previously competed in 2022 but were unfortunately put out in the Ulster final. This year we were determined to make it to the All-Ireland, especially since some of the team wouldn't be eligible to compete next year.

A couple of months before the County final, we met up each week at someone's house to go over key topics and likely questions in preparation for the quiz.

After our success in the Antrim and Ulster finals, we reached our goal and were proud of ourselves. Our club, Con Magees Glenravel, was also extremely proud of us, and the encouragement was more than we could have imagined.

Everyone's support was made evident by a fund-raising quiz and special video filled with kind messages from club community members, as well as a surprise message from our Irish teacher, Miss O'Brien, and our principal, Mrs O'Neill.

We received funding from the Antrim Councils and our club which went towards the trip and a commemorative jumper which I will treasure.

On the day of the final in Killarney, we gave it our all. Although we were disappointed not to win, we were honoured to be the only Antrim representatives in the All-Ireland Scór Na Óg final 2025”

Kate McClintock, 12 Laragh



U16 GOLF CHAMPIONSHIPS

Well done to Lauren May Ong, Rachel McSorley and Aimee Watt who represented the school at the U16 Golf Championships at the Spa Resort in Ballynahinch.





JUNIOR PRIZE DAY 2023

On Monday 19th June, the achievements of our KS5 students in the 2022-23 academic year were celebrated during our annual prize day.

As well as celebrating with their teachers, students were delighted to receive their awards from Tyrone Gaelic Superstar, Kieran McGeary, who was hailed All-Star Footballer of the Year in 2021 following Tyrone's All-Ireland win.

As our guest speaker for the afternoon, Kieran reiterated the importance of friendships, hard work and effort to our students.

With awards for academic achievement, endeavour, behaviour, kindness, Music, Drama, Art, Junior Maths Challenge, Accelerated Reader and sports, the talents, skills, and qualities of our students are abundant, and we are very proud of all their successes to date.

YEAR 8 PRIZE-WINNERS



Year 8 students who were recognised for exemplary behaviour in the 2022-23 academic year



100% Attendance awards



8 Laragh Top Achievers: Anna Rea (absent), Therese McAuley and Meabh McCann



8 Layde Top Achievers: Annie Convery, Saorla Mallon and Emily Boyd



8 Lisbreen Top Achievers: Amy McGilligan, Gracie Burke and Aine Robb



8 Lismoyle Top Achievers: Lauren McDonald, Ronan Mulholland, Olivia Mitchell



8 Lurig Top Achievers:
Lila Nowak, Maia Caliman,
Chloe McNicholl



8 Lyndon Top Achievers:
Ciara O'Shea, Ben McIlhatton,
Oliwia Czubinska



8 Lir Top Achievers:
Erin Ilardi, Amber Anderson,
Rose McVeigh



Annie Convery, who was recognised as the overall top-performing pupil in Year 8 based on academic performance.



8 Laragh Endeavour Award-Winners: Erin McNaughton and Tiernan McKay



8 Layde Endeavour Award-Winners: Ronan Maguire and Cara Neeson



8 Lisbreen Endeavour Award-Winners: Lughan Hardy and Carrie Grant



8 Lismoyle Endeavour Award-Winners: Sorcha Delargy and Odhran Higgins



8 Lurig Endeavour Award-Winners: Eoin McPeake and Orlaith McKay



8 Lyndon Endeavour Award-Winners: Fergus Maguire and Lucia Cunning



8 Lir Endeavour Award-Winners: Daniel Belton and Caitlin Amy Ong



8 Laragh Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners: Ana Boyle and Cathair Casey





8 Layde Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners: Callum O'Neill and Maisie Kelly



8 Lisbreen Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners: Aoife Quigg and Kashi Aneesh



8 Lismoyle Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners: Alexander Tsang and Olivia Mitchell



8 Lurig Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners: Evie Fusco and Stephen Reid



8 Lyndon Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners: Daniel White and Ciara O'Shea



8 Lir Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners: Charlie Stewart and Amber Anderson



Some of our students who received Bronze certificates in the Junior Maths Challenge



Some of our students who received Silver certificates in the Junior Maths Challenge



Lughan Hardy and Daniel Martin, who received Gold certificates in the Junior Maths Challenge



Term 5 Accelerated Reader Top Word Count Winners: Anna Rea, Emily Boyd, Norbert Kubulus, Olivia Mitchell, Phoebe Preston, Ella Fitzpatrick, Caitlin Amy Ong



Year 8 Word Millionaires: Therese McAuley, Meabh McCann, James Mullan, Caoimhe Kelly, Carla O'Brien, Erin Illardi and Ella Fitzpatrick



Year 8 Word Multi-Millionaires: Eimear McDaid, Erin McNaughton, Anna Rea, Emily Boyd, Ryan Brolly, Lauren Davis, Caitlin Amy Ong and Olivia Mitchell



**Junior Chess Club Champion,
John McNeill**



Year 8 Art Club Winner, Conn Hamill



**Year 8 Orchestra/ Choir
Award-Winners: Therese McAuley
and Annie Convery**



**Year 8 Drama Club Award:
Ellie Mestrusty**



**Year 8 Female Soccer Award:
Ava Carroll**



**Year 8 Male Soccer Award:
Oisín O'Brien**



**Year 8 Ladies Gaelic Football Award:
Annie Convery**



**Year 8 Camogie Award:
Amy McGilligan**



**Year 8 Hurling Award:
Joe Casey**



**Year 8 Sports Day Overall Athletes:
Ava Carroll and Lorcan Martin**



**Students awarded for Sporting Achievements: Jude Dalrymple
NI Billiards and Snooker Association U14 Championship (absent)
and Eoin Lorcan Bradley who received an All-Star in both
Gaelic Football and Hurling this year**



YEAR 9 PRIZE-WINNERS



Some of the Year 9 students who were recognised for exemplary behaviour in the 2022-23 academic year



100% Attendance Awards

9 Layde Top Achievers:
Isla McGarry, Caoimhe Kelly,
and Katie McGale (absent)



9 Lisbreen Top Achievers:
Maddie Shannon, Eoghan Smith
and Conor Burns

9 Lismoyle Top Achievers:
Freya McGreevy, Sofia Viltrake
and Taisija Sestakova

9 Lurig Top Achievers:
Aoife MacRory, Peter Laverty
and Clíodhna Devlin



9 Lyndon Top Achievers:
Sarah Thompson, Emmie Clegg
and Eiveta Jaceviciute

9 Laragh Endeavour
Award-Winners: Izabela Kosciolk
and Louis McMurray

9 Layde Endeavour Award-Winners:
Evie McGarry and Noah Bradley



9 Lisbreen Endeavour Award-Winners:
Ruairi Doherty and Clodagh McAllister



9 Lismoyle Endeavour Award-Winners:
Liam Donnelly and Emily Crooks



9 Lurig Endeavour Award-Winners:
Clodagh Devlin and Jack Crossan



9 Lyndon Endeavour Award-Winners:
Joseph Kerr and Sophie Mark



9 Laragh Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners: Isabella Cooper and Jacob Patterson



9 Layde Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners: Clara McNeill and Cillian McCoy



9 Lisbreen Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners: Ciara McMullan and Phelim McCloskey



9 Lismoyle Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners: Abigail Quinn and Oisín McFadden



9 Lurig Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners: Niall Mulvenna and Caitlin Hanna



9 Lyndon Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners: Sean Harkin and Matilda Barbu



Some of our students who received Bronze certificates in the Junior Maths Challenge



Some of our students who received Silver certificates in the Junior Maths Challenge



Term 5 Accelerated Reader Top Word Count Winners: Izabela Kosciolek, Katie McGale (absent), Clodagh McAllister, Freya McGreevy, Mya Carroll, Sean Harkin (absent from photo)



Year 9 Word Millionaires: Izabela Kosciolek and Sean Harkin (absent from photo)



Year 9 Word Multi-Millionaire: Clodagh McAllister



Intermediate Chess Club Champion: Luke Cooper



Year 9 Art Club Winner: Maddie Shannon



Year 9 Orchestra/Choir Award-Winners: Nicole Murray, Caoimhe Kelly, Katie McGale (absent) and Sofia Viltrake



Year 9 Drama Club: Abigail Quinn



Year 9 Gaelic Football: Conor McKeever



Year 9 Camogie: Caitlin Graffin



Year 9 Hurling: Ollie McClements



Year 9 Soccer: Conor Burns



Year 9 Sports Day Overall Athletes: Caitlin Graffin and Tom Convery



Year 9 Sporting Achievement Award-Winners, Clíodhna McKeever and Aoife Neeson who were selected for the U14 Antrim Football Team



YEAR 10 PRIZE-WINNERS



Some of the Year 10 students who received awards for exemplary behaviour



100% Attendance awards



10 Laragh Top Achievers: Lauren Burns, Conor McIlhatton and Tomas Conlon



10 Layde Top Achievers: Grace McGrenaghan, Niamh Cassidy and Luca Alexander



10 Lisbreen Top Achievers: Phoebe Johnson, Cara Moore and Abigail McLarnon



10 Lismoyle: Grace McGarry, Susan O'Neill and Ciara Walker



10 Lurig: Chloe Guidote, Caoimhe McAteer and Vanessa Sige



10 Lyndon: Kara Dillon, Ciara Connon and Reena Mahon



10 Lir: Moya Mulholland, Roisin Maguire and Lauren May Ong



Grace McGarry, who was recognised as the overall top-performing pupil in Year 10 based on academic performance.



10 Laragh Endeavour Award-Winners:
Hannah Tohill and Joe McFadden



10 Layde Endeavour Award-Winners:
Erin McCloskey and Raul Voinescu



10 Lisbreen Endeavour Award-Winners:
Carraig McLarnon



10 Lismoyle Endeavour Award-Winners:
Dara Dickson and Ciara Walker



10 Lurig Endeavour Award-Winners:
Madeleine McCaffrey and Anthony Beattie



10 Lyndon Endeavour Award-Winners:
Joe B McGarry and Anna McMullan



10 Lir Endeavour Award-Winners:
Erin White and Samuel Bajorek



10 Laragh Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners:
Anraoi McGrath and Lauren Burns



10 Layde Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners:
Emma Waide and Kelan Workman



10 Lisbreen Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners:
Maria Killough and David Licau



10 Lismoyle Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners:
Damien Mulholland and Aoiheann Neeson



10 Lurig Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners:
Ethan Tsang and Victoria Letters



10 Lyndon Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners: Liam McErlane and Grace Mullan



10 Lir Kindness and Cooperation Award-Winners: James McGarry and Diana Yelchenko



Some of our students who received Bronze certificates in the Intermediate Maths Challenge



Students who received Silver certificates in the Intermediate Maths Challenge



The McClean Memorial Trophy was awarded to Sean Brolly as the top-performing student in the Year 10 KS5 Maths exam



The English cup was presented to Grace Mullan as the top-achieving student in KS5 English



Reena Mahon was recognised at the top-achiever in Year 10 Spanish



Kara Dillon was awarded as the top-achieving Year 10 Irish student



The McKelvey Cup was awarded to Maria Mitchell for the highest performance in Art across KS5



Luca Alexander received a special award for dedication and assistance in establishing War Hammer Club



Grace McGarry, Ciara Connon, Grace Mullan and Olivia Mullan were all presented with the extra-curricular Music award for commitment and dedication to extra-curricular Music through involvement with choir and orchestra



Grace McGarry received the Junior Music Cup for showing the most commitment and promise at KS5





The Junior Science Cup was presented to Sean Brolly



Kara Dillon and Dara Dixon who were the overall top athletes at Sports Day



Sporting Achievement Certificates were awarded to Olivia Marron and Ruby McErlain who were selected for the U14 Antrim Football squad this year and to Hannah Tohill who achieved a bronze medal in the 50m breaststroke at the World Schools Championships



Sports Endeavour Awards were presented to Roisin Maguire and Samuel Bajorek for attitude, effort and commitment to PE and sport



Alistair Breslin Hurling Trophy, presented to Year 10 Hurler of the Year, Domhnall McKay



Alistair Breslin Football Trophy, presented to Year 10 Footballer of the Year, Eunan Curry



Best Junior Camogie Player was awarded to Eimhear McCloskey



Best Junior Ladies Football Player, Ruby McErlain



The Bridgeen O'Neill Memorial Trophy is presented to the Year 10 pupil who has promoted a positive image of the school and this year the award was presented to Vanessa Sige



Year 10 student, Grace McGarry, presenting Tyrone Footballing Star, Kieran McGeary with a token of our appreciation.

We have so many wonderful pupils and we hope to recognise more students in the new academic year.



LLW, PD AND CITIZENSHIP ACROSTIC POEMS

Year 10 students put their cross-curricular skills into action as they worked in groups to create illustrated acrostic poems to demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of LLW, PD and Local & Global Citizenship.

The results are amazing and certainly showcase how much pupils gained from studying these subject areas to help them develop as mature and responsible members of society.



ST. LOUIS CLAIM THE CORN COLMCILLE SHIELD

Eoghan Smith was the SLG hero, and his two penalty saves were instrumental as our Year 9 footballers won the Corn Colmcille shield final after a penalty shoot-out against St Ciaran's Ballygawley.

The two teams met nearly a month before the March final in the group stages of the competition with St Ciaran's running out comfortable winners. Facing strong opposition in their group against Donaghmore and Carrickmacross, the two teams found themselves in the shield section of the competition. St Louis put on a strong display again St Pius Magherafelt in the semi-final to look for redemption against the skilled Tyrone side.

Both teams played brilliant football, despite the tricky conditions underfoot. There was little between the sides during the opening half with St Ciaran's up by a point at the break.

St Louis came out strong in the second half and used the long ball to great effect. Conor McKeever pulled the strings at 11, playing some great kick passes into the full forward line and it would be those long balls that caused the danger, two resulting in penalties that Jack McQuillan calmly slotted home.

The game looked like it was swinging in favour of St Louis as they went 2 up with 2 minutes to play but Ballygawley kept their cool to hit a brace of points which sent the game into extra-time.

Conor Burns re-started the game in lively fashion by beating his man but narrowly sliding his effort past the post. With no score in the first period of extra-time, Leo Wright set PJ Molloy up, resulting in a score. Again, the Tyrone side were not giving up and after a trade of scores, St Ciaran's had the last shot and with that came penalties!

St Louis keeper, Eoghan Smith showed great composure to save two penalties and the squad were delighted to win 3-1 on penalties. A special mention must go to the players on both sides who had the courage to step up to the spot.

There is no doubt that these two teams will meet in the future in Ulster Colleges competitions and they are sure to be classics!

Well done boys!

St Louis Ballymena 2-12 St Ciarans Ballygawley 1-15 A.E.T.
St Louis won 3-1 on penalties





FAREWELL TO THE CLASS OF 2023!

On Tuesday 2nd May we said goodbye to the class of 2023. We thank their parents for joining us for a day of celebration.

A special thank you goes to Father McGinnity for celebrating such a beautiful Mass for our Year 14s on the day, and especially for his inspirational and kind words in his homily for the Class of 2023:

"For you sixth formers, this is the season for heads down in the books, revision, past papers, extra classes and much besides. It's a time when nothing else seems to matter more than getting through the next six weeks and crossing the finishing line on the day of your last exam. I, and many people here today, have been through what you are going through, and we would never want to go through it again! So, we feel for you and want you to know that each day we pray here at Mass for you and for all the students who are preparing for important exams in the weeks ahead. As I say it's time for heads down and staying focused. But it's also a good time to lift your heads up and take time. I would suggest, to do three things-

First thing to do is to give thanks - every time we come to the celebration of the eucharist, it is a time to give thanks - eucharist means thanksgiving - This morning is a special moment to look back over your time in school and name for yourself what it is that you are truly grateful for. You are all aware that you haven't reached this point in your life on your own. You haven't become the gifted and talented young people you are on your own. So, I encourage you, take the time today to give thanks to God for those people who have made all the difference and who have been there for you when you needed them most.

You might be thinking this morning of particular teachers who inspired you or believed in you when you doubted yourself. It could be a parent or a family member who has encouraged you, especially when life at school has been challenging. A friend who stuck by you and was there for you to lean on. Other people whose generosity and goodness has reminded you about what really matters in life. And this brings me to second thing I encourage you to do - and that is remember that your worth as a human being can never be measured by the world's standards.

The world we live in tries to tell you that your worth is measured in terms of exam grades, securing a place at a university, getting the best jobs for the best salary, creating a lifestyle that you're told will make you happy.

The truth is your worth can never be measured in terms of so-called success and failure. No matter what happens in the months and years ahead, you are God's precious sons and daughters. He has always loved you as you are. He always will love you for who you are. And his dream for you is that you become who you were born to be - to be someone who lives to make the world wherever go a better place, a warmer kinder place, a more loving and compassionate place because you are there. This is God's plan for the rest of your precious life.

We are sent by God to take forward his revolution of love in a world that needs it more than ever! And he invites you as young people to be part of that revolution whose only power is love - the love revealed to us in Jesus Christ. He is the way, the truth and the life as he says in today's gospel. He is the source of our love. He is the way to love - he is the truth about love and he is the life that comes from loving others as he loves us. Nothing in this world matters more than sharing Christ's love with everyone you meet. It is the secret of true happiness.

And so, the third thing I encourage you to do - is stay close to Christ in the eucharist and in your personal prayer. Stay open to learning from him how to be the best version of yourself in every situation. He will also be there for you in the people who love you and care about the kind of person you are becoming. I want to finish with a reflection written by St. John Henry Newman - In it he speaks about the meaning and purpose of our lives - I invite you as young people to make his words your own today -

God has created me to do him some definite service. He has committed some work to me which he has not committed to someone else. I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. I have my mission. I may never know it in this life but will be told it in the next. God has not created me for nothing. I shall do good. I will be his messenger of peace in the world."

We wish our students all the best for their future endeavours and thank them for representing the school so well over the years. We will miss you.





YEAR 8 LADIES FOOTBALL

On 14th June, our Year 8 girls, along with their coaches Miss McKeown and Miss McKendry, enjoyed a trip to St Mary's, Burren to compete in the Year 8 Ulster Ladies Schools tournament.

Both teams progressed to the semi-final of their respective competitions and played some outstanding football throughout the day.

We were delighted to enter 2 teams to compete in the cup and shield competitions on the day.

The girls have very bright futures ahead!



JUDE DALRYMPLE: SNOOKER CHAMPION!

Congratulations to Jude Dalrymple, Year 8, who won the Northern Ireland Billiards & Snooker Association (NIBSA) Under 14 Championships.

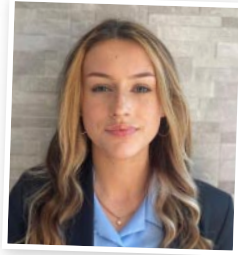
The game was streamed live from St Patrick's Snooker Club in Magherafelt. We are delighted for Jude!





YEAR 10 PUPIL PROFILES

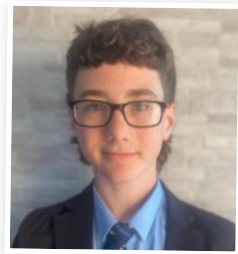
Hi, my name is **Louisa Doherty** and I am a member of 10 Laragh. My Form Teacher is Miss McKendry. I am from Randalstown. My favourite subject would have to be Art because I love being creative and trying new art styles, it is also relaxing to paint and draw. I hope to take on Art, Business Studies and Drama for GCSE, as these are all subjects that I am passionate about and wish to explore further. In my spare time, I enjoy researching fashion and illustrating fashion designs in particular. I love learning about the history of fashion houses like Dior and Chanel. My favourite thing about school is hanging out with my friends at lunch and break, and discussing what has gone on in our day!



Hello, my name is **Rory Blaney** and I am a part of 10 Lurig. I live just outside of Dunloy, and my Form Teacher is Mrs McCollum. It is hard to choose just one favourite subject, so I had to choose three! They are Maths, Physics and PE. At GCSE level, I am hoping to take on Further Maths, Technology, Business Studies and PE and I am really excited for this next step. My hobbies include playing Hurling and Gaelic for Dunloy, and I also play Hurling for the St Louis team. I love coming to school because I enjoy spending time with my friends and having banter with them!



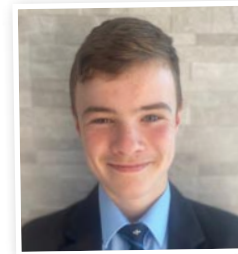
Hi, I am **Alex Crawford** and I am a member of 10 Layde. Mrs Fleming is my Form Teacher and I am from Ballymena. My favourite subject is PE because I love sport, and I enjoy getting to participate in physical activity on the pitch and gym. For GCSE, I hope to take on Technology, PE and Geography as these are all subjects that I enjoy and feel would be useful in everyday life. Furthermore, I enjoy playing Gaelic in my spare time and play for my club, All Saints, in Ballymena. My favourite thing about school is getting to play football at lunchtime with my friends!



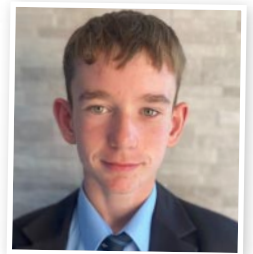
Hi, my name is **Olivia Mullan** and I am a member of 10 Lyndon. My Form Teacher this year is Miss Murray and I come from Antrim. My favourite subject in school is Spanish, because it is a great subject to learn for use in real life, and I hope that I can put my practice of this language into use! For GCSE, I hope to take on Spanish, Music and Business Studies which I am really excited about. In my spare time, I play Gaelic football for Creggan and I play in the half forward position. I like St Louis because there are so many opportunities to fulfil at the school, such as afterschool sports and music clubs, and I love getting the chance to participate in these.



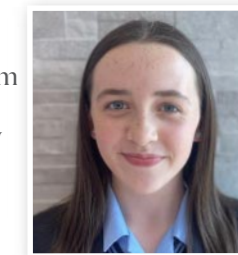
Hello, my name is **Carraig McLarnon** and I am in 10 Lisbreen. I come from Ballymena, and my Form Teacher is Miss McGuckin. My favourite subject is PE because we get to be active and take part in sports, I particularly enjoy running and doing the high jump! Next year, I hope to do Business Studies, History and PE for GCSE as these are all subject areas that I am keen to explore more. My main hobby is horse-riding, as my family have 6 horses at home which I ride and show jump with! I like coming to St Louis every day to see my friends and meet new friends too.



Hi, I am **James McGarry** and I am from Ballymena. The best subject in school for me is PE, as I love taking part in sports and enjoy being active on both the pitch and the gym. I am hoping to take on PE, Geography and Construction to GCSE level because I feel that these are useful subjects for real life. In my free time, I play Gaelic and Hurling for Dunloy, which I enjoy because I get to practice alongside my friends and teammates. I also live on a farm and like working with animals and machinery. The best thing about school is playing football at lunchtime with my friends!



Hello, I am **Grace McGarry** and I am a member of 10 Lismoyle, with Mrs Johnston as my Form Teacher. I am from Ahoghill. My favourite subjects are Maths and Biology because I enjoy problem-solving and working on practical tasks. My favourite subjects are HE, Spanish and Music. I play Camogie for St Mary's Ahoghill, and I also enjoy listening to and playing music. I really enjoy my hobbies as it allows me to not only practice my skills but also work in a team with others. I enjoy lunchtime at school because it gives us a nice break from class, and it is a chance to catch up with friends about the day so far!





SWIMMING SUCCESS FOR HANNAH!

Hannah Tohill from 10 Laragh was delighted to represent Ballymena Swimming Club at the World School Games in London in May.

“My flight was on Friday morning at 9am from Belfast International Airport, and I got to travel with a couple of my teammates from Ballymena Swimming Club, who were also chosen to compete in the championships. I felt so excited as the competition was taking place where the London Olympic Games were held in 2012!

In my swimming club, I am part of the Division 1 Standard, which means that I excelled in my swimming abilities within the club. This was my first time competing internationally too, which was a great honour.

There was no competition on Friday, so we decided to go shopping in Westfield. This was a great way to relax before competition day. We also went to see what the pool was like that I would be competing in and ate a lovely dinner before heading back to the hotel for an early night.

I woke up feeling very excited on competition day, and we walked around to the pool with Riley, my teammate and met our other friend Cody there. Both of these friends compete in different swimming teams, but we are always very encouraging of each other's successes!

We each warmed up and competed in the heats to find out who would be going through to the final. I was delighted to find out that I got through to 3 finals on the Saturday, and on the Sunday got through to 2!

On Saturday, I competed in the 50m breaststroke, 50m backstroke, 50m freestyle, 50m butterfly swim and 200 IM. And on Sunday, I participated in the 100m butterfly and 100m backstroke, and 200m freestyle swim. The competition was intense, but I was also excited to get this opportunity to partake in the competition!

I was delighted to be awarded 3rd place in the 50m breaststroke, and I was presented with a beautiful bronze medal for my achievement. I didn't think I would ever get that far, and I was surprisingly calm despite the high stakes of the competition. Afterwards, when I had time to celebrate my win, I was over the moon at this achievement. However, we were very excited to get to sleep after an exhausting few days!

My next goal is to try and enter the Irish Regional Pathway competition and try to improve both my swimming and performance skills. I am also attending the Irish Nationals in Limerick this July and I am excited to compete in this! Hopefully my good luck streak continues.”

Hannah Tohill, 10 Laragh



KEY DATES

AS/A2 Results: Thursday 17th August

GCSE Results: Thursday 24th August

New Year 8 Bonding Days: 14th & 15th August

Year 8 and Year 13 Induction: Friday 1st September

Year 12 and 14 Induction: Monday 4th September

Year 9, 10 and 11 Induction: Tuesday 5th September

Whole School Attends: Wednesday 6th September

Senior Prize Day: 22nd September



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