

2024/2025

# Annual Report of the Board of Governors



**St Louis Grammar School**

**Ballymena**

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## MEMBERSHIP OF THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

The Board of Governors is comprised of nominees of the Trustees and the Department of Education, as well as an elected Parent Representative and an elected Teacher Representative.

Mary Black (Chair)  
Declan Wright (Vice-Chair)  
Alan Law  
Stephen McCann  
Siobhan McCarry  
Gerald McGarry  
Fr Michael McGinnity  
Carol Wilson  
Jacqui O'Neill (Secretary)

The Board of Governors has overall responsibility for the effective management of the school. As well as the nominees of the Trustees (Sisters of St Louis) and the Department of Education, its membership includes an elected parent governor and a teacher elected by the teaching staff. The principal Mrs J O'Neill is also a non-voting member. The Board therefore represents all the main interests concerned with the school.

The Governors have particular responsibilities in relation to the curriculum, the appointment and dismissal of staff, admissions to the school, discipline, school finances and buildings. An important function for the Governors is to consider the needs of the school in terms of staff, buildings and other resources and to advise the various other authorities if they believe that these needs are not being met. An equally important function is to ensure that the resources available to the school are being used effectively. The post of governor is voluntary and the school is grateful for the time and expertise they contribute to the development of the school.

Responsibilities of the Board of Governors includes: management of the school to ensure that the best possible education and opportunities are provided for all pupils, monitoring and evaluating school performance, promoting self-evaluation across all areas of school life, fostering links with the local community, maintaining school buildings and personnel responsibilities.

## AIMS OF ST LOUIS GRAMMAR SCHOOL:

- To be a community inspired by the Catholic faith, living out Gospel Values and reflecting all traditions of our Irish Cultural Heritage.
- To enable pupils to acquire a sense of purpose and have a good opinion of themselves by giving all access to a religious, academic, moral, social and physical education with appropriate provision for pupils with special needs, in an attractive school environment.
- To provide teachers with the necessary accommodation, equipment and training to achieve the above aims.
- To involve Parents, Educational Bodies and Industry in the work of the school and benefit the greater Ballymena Community.
- To foster a spirit of cheerful co-operation and provide a caring environment which promotes high achievement and self-esteem among staff and pupils.

The Board of Governors believe that the five general aims above provide a framework which indicates what the school believes in, what it aims to do for your children and what values we want to give them. The whole curriculum, taught in the classroom and outside, is designed to achieve these aims.

## KEY STATISTICAL INFORMATION

### ENROLMENT

The total enrolment for 2024-2025 was 1119.

	<b>Year 8</b>	<b>Year 9</b>	<b>Year 10</b>	<b>Year 11</b>	<b>Year 12</b>	<b>Year 13</b>	<b>Year 14</b>
Males	92	78	86	81	89	86	82
Females	90	82	95	88	80	91	79
<b>TOTAL</b>	182	160	181	169	169	177	161

### INFORMATION ABOUT APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

Currently, our Year 8 admission figure is determined by the Department of Education as 139.

### YEAR 8 APPLICATIONS AND ADMISSIONS

Year	Admissions No	Total Applications (All Preferences)	Total Admissions
2024-2025	139	219	182*

*\*This table includes pupils who were admitted to the school with a statement of special educational needs/on Appeal/ via Exceptional Circumstances Body/via Temporary Variation*

### SIXTH FORM ADMISSIONS

Year	Combined Intake
2024-2025	338

### ATTENDANCE RATE

Year	Percentage
2024-2025	95.3%

## STAFFING

**Principal:** Mrs J O'Neill

**Vice Principal:** Mrs B McGreevy

**Assistant Principal:** Mr C Morgan

**Senior Teachers:** Mrs J Doherty, Mrs S McCarry, Mrs C McFadden, Mrs Morgan

### **Teaching staff**

Miss L Barker	Mrs D Johnston	Mr G McNeill
Mrs A Blacker	Miss C Kelly	Miss Y McNeill
Miss A Boal	Mrs J Kernohan	Mrs A McNicholl
Mr D Boyd	Mr R Llewelyn-Evans	Mr N McNicholl
Mr E Bradley	Mrs D Loughlin	Mrs M McPhilomey
Mr R Browne	Mr C Lynch	Mrs C McShane
Mrs D Burns	Mrs C Marron	Mrs H McToal
Mr D Campbell	Mr P McAleer	Miss K McVey
Mrs M Campbell	Mrs F McAuley	Mrs C Morgan
Mrs E Carey	Mrs L McCann	Mr C Morgan
Mrs E Casey	Ms S McCann	Dr N Mulholland
Mr S Cassidy	Mrs S McCarry	Miss K Mullan
Mr K Convery	Miss S McCaw	Miss B Mullan-Young
Mrs S Devlin	Mrs J McClintock	Miss P Murray
Mrs M Dillon	Mrs C McCloskey	Miss C O'Boyle
Mrs E Doherty	Mrs C McCollum	Miss E O'Boyle
Mrs J Doherty	Mr G McCorley	Miss A O'Brien
Mrs R Dumbleton	Mrs L McCrory	Mr C O'Driscoll
Mrs J Fleming	Mrs E McDonald	Mrs A O'Hara
Mrs S Fullerton	Mrs C McDonnell	Miss S Pickering
Mrs L Gildea	Mrs C McFadden	Mr A Quinn
Mr C Gillan	Mrs B McGreevy	Mrs E Scott
Miss C Glavin	Mrs P McIntosh	Miss J Scullion
Mrs M Grant	Miss N McKendry	Mrs R Stevenson
Mr M Gregg	Mr M McLernon	Mrs K Toner
Mr D Guiney	Mr T McMenamin	Mr P Trainor
		Miss S Warnock
		Mrs A Webb

## TEACHING SUPPORT STAFF

Mrs A Allen	Mrs S Keenan	Mrs A McWilliams
Mrs R Allen	Mrs K Kennedy	Mrs L Meeke-Cunning
Miss S Baird	Mrs A Killough	Miss A Mosoczy
Mrs C Boyd	Miss N Kinney	Ms C Mulvenna
Mrs S Campbell	Ms M Kiszko	Mr S Myszka
Miss P Cardwell	Mrs A Kusnierek	Mrs N Neeson
Mr C Clepea	Miss C Laverty	Mrs Ni Chnaimshi
Mr R Close	Miss G Lennon	Ms M O'Loan
Mr M Cooper	Mrs A Letters	Ms M Olteanu
Mrs C Donnelly	Mr C Lindsay	Mrs A O'Neill
Mr S Doran	Miss K Little	Miss E O'Neill
Mr S Dougan	Mrs B Logan	Mrs L O'Neill
Mrs C Fagan	Mrs L Loughran	Mrs T O'Neill
Ms J Glenholmes	Mrs S Martin	Mr S O'Reilly
Miss M Hamilton	Mrs A McAlister	Mrs K Preston
Miss A Haponenko	Mrs E McCann	Mrs H Rea
Mrs R Hazzard	Miss KA McCloskey	Miss H Scott
Mr P Heffron	Mrs S McCluskey	Mrs C Scullion
Mrs M Henry	Mrs J McCorley	Miss E Smyth
Mrs E Herald	Miss K McCrory	Mrs T Stewart
Mr M Herald	Mrs D McHugh	Mrs R Tudor
Mrs R Irwin	Miss W McIlhatton	Miss V Venot
Mrs R Johnston	Miss E McKeever	Mrs C Wallace
Miss E Junkin	Mrs L McKeever	Sr L Walsh
Miss A Karacova	Mrs S McLarnon	Mrs T Weir
Mrs A Kearney	Miss L McLaughlin	Miss N Willams
	Mr M McLaughlin	Mrs A Wilson
	Mrs J McMullan	Mrs E Worthington
	Mrs S McNeill	Mrs A Wright

This year, teachers Mrs McGinn and Mrs McGillan said farewell to St Louis. Non-teaching staff members Mrs Hazzard, Mrs Robb and Mrs Logan also left the school. We thank these members of staff for their dedication and commitment to the school and wish them lots of happiness in the years ahead.

## THE CURRICULUM

The curriculum at St Louis Grammar School is much wider than just formal lessons during the school day. It includes all the opportunities for learning encouraged by the school, including Drama, Sport, Music and cultural activities. The curriculum offered at St Louis provides pupils with a broad and balanced learning experience which not only fulfils all the statutory requirements of the Northern Ireland Curriculum but also encompasses opportunities for pupils to enhance their spiritual, cultural, personal and physical development in the context of a living faith.

The curriculum offered is built on established good practice. Pupil need/choice is accommodated where possible. Personal development is enhanced by the inclusion of a range of extra-curricular pursuits, Enrichment provision in Sixth form and Learning for Life and Work (LLW) as part of the Key Stage 3 and Key Stage 4 curriculum. The 'Cross-Curricular Skills' and 'Thinking Skills and Personal Capabilities' are embedded within programmes of study. The Governors and staff recognise the importance of a partnership involving themselves, the pupils and their parents.

### Key Stage 3

All Key Stage 3 pupils study the following subjects:

Art & Design, Biology, Chemistry, Design & Technology, Drama, English with library skills, French, Geography, History, Home Economics, Digital ICT, Irish, Learning for Life and Work (incorporating Careers), Mathematics, Music, Physical Education, Physics, Religious Education and Spanish.

### Key Stage 4

The school offered 24 subjects at GCSE in 2024/25.

The vast majority of Key Stage 4 pupils studied nine GCSEs, with some opting to study ten. Compulsory subjects were English, English Literature, Mathematics and Religious Education. Pupils then choose five other subjects out of the following: Art and Design, Biology, Business Studies, Computer Science, Digital Technology, Drama, French, Geography, History, Home Economics, Hospitality, Irish, LLW, Music, Moving Image Arts, Physical Education, Science (Double Award / Single Award), Spanish, Technology and Design. Both Hospitality and Moving Image Arts were offered to Year 11 pupils for the first time in September 2024.

### Key Stage 5

Sixth Form pupils (Years 13 and 14) were able to select from 27 options at A Level.

Pupils in Year 13 studied for Advanced Subsidiary Level (AS Level) examinations. AS module examinations are normally taken at the end of Year 13. Year 14 pupils pursued Advanced Level (A2) courses and were entered for A2 module examinations in June. Throughout the year, Careers education was compulsory for all Sixth Form pupils.

Any combination of AS/A Level subjects could be taken from the following: Art and Design, French Mathematics, Biology, Further Mathematics, Music, Business Studies, Geography, Physical Education, Chemistry, Physics, Government and Politics, Religious Education, History, Drama, Nutrition and Food Science, Spanish, Economics, Digital Technology, English Literature, Irish, Health and Social Care and Moving Image Arts. The following BTEC options are also offered: Business, ICT, Sport Studies, Engineering, Construction and the Built Environment.

## PASTORAL CARE & DISCIPLINE

Pastoral principles are based on a commitment to Catholic values. A climate is fostered in which each pupil becomes aware of being a cherished individual. Interaction between pupils and staff at St Louis takes place in an atmosphere of mutual respect and tolerance.

In order to promote effective learning matched to pupil needs and aptitudes, courses of study skills, a programme of Learning for Life and Work and individual counselling are provided. Pupils at KS3 also study Personal Development as a stand-alone subject which covers R.S.E. The R.S.E course and the preventative curriculum is also enriched through collaboration with external agencies.

The School's Code of Discipline informs pupils, parents and teachers of the standards of behaviour expected. It provides a framework which enables pupils to develop their own self-discipline.

The school has carefully co-ordinated an Anti-Bullying Policy designed to ensure the well-being of all pupils.

In accordance with DENI guidelines the school operates a Child Protection Policy, copies of which may be obtained from the school.

### Complaints in Connection with Child Protection

If a parent/guardian has a concern about a child's safety, Mrs McGreevy, the designated teacher with responsibility for Child Protection should be contacted. In her absence, Mrs Toner deputy designated teacher for child protection should be contacted. If there is still a concern, then Mrs O'Neill should be contacted. If concerns remain then the parent should write to the Chairperson of the Board of Governors.

## ASSESSMENT AND REPORTING

Knowing what your child is doing at school is important. Monitoring progress has always been a key responsibility of teachers. Parents received two reports last year and were invited to attend parent teacher meetings to keep them updated on their son/daughter's progress.

This year the tracking of each pupil's progress through Continuous Monitoring (CM) tasks was continued for each key stage. Personalised target setting for each pupil also continued. Underachievement and low achievement continued to be identified and intervention strategies were implemented. The mentoring programme, for example was implemented for those pupils who struggled to achieve their targets. Pupils continued to be motivated through the House System with House rewards given half-termly and termly. These included cinema trips. Any assessment arrangements will be suitably flexible to adapt to the changing legislative requirements.

The CM tracking was linked to the reporting format also available in SIMS. On numerical reports at KS3, parents were provided with a visual summary in the form of a bar graph of their child's progress against the personal target for each subject as well results and Behaviour and Effort scores and summative comments from their form teachers. Written reports also include comments from subject teachers and summative comments from Heads of Year.

As all assessments should provide opportunities for every pupil to experience a sense of success, Assessment for Learning strategies remained firmly embedded in practice.

CM tasks were reviewed by the Quality Assurance Committee as part of the school's monitoring and evaluation processes.

The school will implement any modifications to our Assessment Policy which the legislators choose to make.

## CAREERS EDUCATION, INFORMATION & GUIDANCE

The Careers Department is responsible for all aspects of careers education, guidance and resources within the school. Our Careers Programme is delivered to ensure that pupils are sufficiently informed to make confident decisions about their education and career.

Employability is offered to all pupils in Key Stage 3 and 4 through Learning for Life and Work. In Employability lessons, pupils are provided with opportunities to help them develop those skills that are required for the world of work, such as communication, problem solving and collaboration.

Careers is provided as a discrete element and in a cross-curricular mode across a wide range of subjects. All classes in Years 10-14 have a timetabled careers education class. All Year 13 pupils spend a week on Work Experience. Year 13 and 14 pupils visit the local university open days, while admissions officers from a range of UK and Irish universities are only part of a group of speakers from higher and Further Education, professions and industry who address Sixth Form students. All Year 10, 12, 13 and 14 pupils are provided with the opportunity to have an interview with careers staff at specified times during the day.

Year 12 pupils engage in guidance interviews with careers advisors from the Department of Economy took place virtually. During the year, pupils also have access to the school's careers advisor who offered specialist advice at key transition stages. Pupils make extensive use of ICT and the careers library to access university prospectuses and careers software. Parents of pupils in Years 10 and 12 also have the opportunity to attend meetings with teachers whereby they could discuss decisions relating to subject options and career pathways. In the completion of their Higher Education application forms, Year 14 pupils are offered a wide range of group and individual support.

## EXTERNAL RELATIONSHIPS / EDUCATION FOR MUTUAL UNDERSTANDING

The development of the Learning Community, Ballymena Learning Together, is an important step in terms of community relations in Ballymena but also for curriculum collaboration. The nine post primary schools are working closely together on a range of joint programmes. St Louis invites pupils from local schools to study various subjects.

The school is fully committed to involvement in community activity and cultural awareness. Integral to the educational process and central to the Christian message is the fostering of caring relationships. Throughout the school year, fund-raising is organized regularly with many local and national charities receiving significant donations. Links have been established with Friends of Romania and Lower Sixth pupils travel to Romania, bringing medical supplies and support to poor families and children in that region. The school has strong links with missionary groups in Ghana through our links with the St Louis Order who are heavily involved in missionary work in Africa. The school also works with voluntary/community groups in the greater Ballymena area and further afield. This year our pupils were involved in community programmes in association with St Vincent De Paul Society and Ballymena District Council, raising awareness of local and global social and citizenship issues.

The school strives for a strong partnership with parents. It continues to play an active and constructive role in the local community. The help of outside agencies has been enlisted as and when it is necessary.

The school also feels that it is an extremely valuable exercise to improve the links with the primary schools within the catchment area of the school. Mr McAleer facilitated Sport and Health and Well-being programmes in our feeder primary schools throughout the year. Our pupils also attended local primary schools to promote European Day of Languages and Maths week.

The Year 8 pupils were also able to attend the summer induction event in August 2024. The school continues to believe that these links with our feeder primary schools are very important to the effective delivery of pastoral care for our new pupils.

There are several links between school and the world of work - including work experience, mock-interviews, visiting speakers, Careers Conferences.

The link with the Education Authority has been strengthened through the expertise and support given by the Board Officers who seek to help departments and individual teachers in the implementation of various aspects of the Northern Ireland Curriculum.

## LINKS WITH PARENTS / GUARDIANS

During 2024-2025, St Louis endeavoured to maintain strong communication links with parents. Parent teacher meeting and twice annually reports provided opportunities for teacher to update parents on pupil progress. Parent information events were also held for Year 8 and 11-14 to distribute key information such as exam/coursework dates and career pathways to parents. The information evenings also included a Revision Techniques workshop with Paul Gray from LearnSpark. A parents guide to Retrieval practice was also distributed to groups of parents throughout the year.

Various mediums were used by the school to communicate with parents – these included the school app and website, social media, the school’s text messaging service and the termly newsletter, Kintullagh Voice. Frequent communication between teachers and parents was facilitated by the school’s pastoral care structure and parents are always welcome to contact the school if they needed to discuss any relevant issues.

This year, the school conducted surveys with parents and pupils about a range of issues including Pastoral, Learning and Teaching, Curriculum and Assessment to better inform the school’s planning for next year.

## EXTERNAL EXAMINATION RESULTS

### GCSE

Number of pupils in Year 12: 165

% Entered for 7 or more subjects	% Entered for 5 or more subjects	% Achieving 7+ at Grades A* - C (incl. English & Maths)	% Achieving 5+ at Grades A* - C (incl. English & Maths)
100	100	98.8	99.4

### A Level

Number of pupils in Year 14: 154

% Entered for 3+ A Levels 100%	% of those pupils achieving		
	3+ at Grades A* - C	2+ at Grades A* – E	1 or more passes at Grades A* - E
100	98.1	100	100

## TREND DATA FOR EXTERNAL EXAMINATION RESULTS

### A-Level Trend Data

	2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025	
	School	NI average	School	NI average	School	NI average
% achieving 3+ A Levels A*-C	97.5	83.8	97.6	79.9	98.1	80.4
% achieving 2+ A Levels A*-E	100	97.8	100	97.6	100	97.5

### GCSE Trend Data

	2022-2023		2023-2024		2024-2025	
	School	NI average	School	NI average	School	NI average
% achieving 7+ GCSE A*-C	100	94.4	98.7	91.4	98.8	91.1
% achieving 7+ GCSE A*-C (incl. English & Maths)	100	93.6	98.7	90.5	98.8	90.0
	100	FSME NI average 84.8	100	FSME NI average 75.8	100	FSME NI average 76.0
% achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C	100	97.6	100	96.6	99.4	96.8
% achieving 5+ GCSE A*-C (incl. English & Maths)	100	95.9	100	94.2	99.4	94.0

## SPORT

How the curricular aims of the school have been met in relation to Sport:

- The P.E. Department has attempted to provide a range of sporting activities which represents a balanced programme of individual and team games.
- A range of selected games is provided that will maximise enjoyment and satisfaction through participation.
- Activities and teaching methods are encouraged which will encourage the inclusion, as opposed to the exclusion, of the majority of pupils in continued participation in physical activities, both in school and later in adult life.
- All sporting and P.E. activities will be developed as an aid to greater fitness in the whole school population
- Encouragement will be given to those games which result in opportunities for cross-community contact to enable pupils to experience the complex pluralistic nature of our society

However, the following sports were available to pupils at the school during timetable physical education classes, enrichment and as extra-curricular activities:

Association football (boys and girls), athletics, badminton, baseball, basketball, camogie, cross country, Gaelic football (boys and girls), golf, spin cycle, TRX training, weight training, boxercise, exercise to music, ladies football, gymnastics, hill walking, hurling, netball, rounders, rugby, Hyrox, swimming, handball, Olympic handball, boot camp, table tennis, tennis and volleyball.

## SPECIAL NEEDS PROVISION

The main categories of Special Needs pupils are:

- (i) those with physical problems/disability,
- (ii) those with learning difficulties,
- (iii) those with severe emotional or domestic difficulties.
- (iv) those with sensory conditions - visual/hearing impairments

We recognise that pupils with exceptional academic gifts require special consideration to maximise their potential. We were delighted to receive our Autism NI Impact Award in May 2023. By achieving this Impact Award, St Louis demonstrates that we offer an accredited autism accessible environment.

## PROCESS OF SPECIAL NEEDS PROVISION:

- (i) Initial assessment of pupil needs. When this arises, it takes the form of consultation with Primary Schools, parents and information from EA
- (ii) Special induction for pupils as required. Review of resource provision by S.L.T.
- (iii) Communication of Special Needs information to appropriate staff by Pastoral Co-ordinator e.g. Statement/specific academic challenge.
- (iv) Creation of an individual education plan for pupils which is reviewed twice per year by SENCO of Special Needs cases and identification of emerging Special Needs pupils.
- (v) Referral and consultation with EA specialist services as required within schools/EA resources - psychologist, Autism Advisory Agency and Rathmore Behaviour Support.
- (vi) Establishment of links between school and parents

## DEPARTMENT ACTIVITIES 2024-25

<p>Art &amp; Design/ MIA</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Key Stage 3 Art Clubs:</b> Our pupils participated in the St. Louis Network Art Competition, focusing on the theme of deforestation.</li> <li>• MIA Students Q&amp;A Session with Declan Lawn in October.</li> <li>• <b>Reimagining the Future of Fashion:</b> On Wednesday, 19 February, St. Louis hosted a wonderful presentation on Reimagining the Future of Fashion – Prevention of Fashion Clothing Waste by Nuala Browne-Treacy, a sustainable textiles and fashion consultant and founder of CLÂN (Circular Lifestyle Awareness Network), based in Waterford.</li> <li>• Yr 11 MIA Workshop- Braid Arts centre in February 2025.</li> <li>• <b>Mosaic Mural:</b> 30 talented Year 10 pupils are working alongside visiting artist Anna O’Kane to create a stunning legacy mosaic mural, which will go on permanent display in our Creative Arts Building. The mural will celebrate the rich creativity across Art, MIA, Drama, and Music.</li> </ul>
<p>Business Studies / Economics</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>NI Business Challenge:</b> On 19<sup>th</sup> February twelve year 13 pupils participated NI Schools Business Challenge at Queens Management school.</li> <li>• Yr 13 Young Enterprise Economics Workshop in April 2025.</li> </ul>
<p>Careers</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In September Year 14 pupil’s attended Ulster University, Queen’s University and St Mary’s University College Open days.</li> <li>• Year 12 pupils participated in Careers Interviews by the Careers Service throughout the year.</li> <li>• Yr10/ 11 Wrights Bus Presentation Careers and Year 14 Actuarial Science Talk in September</li> <li>• Medical applicants sat the BMAT in November.</li> <li>• <b>Mock Interviews:</b> An event led by Dr Carol Wilson, along with a dedicated team, offering Year 14 students a valuable opportunity to gain practical experience and guidance on interviewing skills for the Medical Sector.</li> <li>• Year 14 Scottish University Presentation in February 2025.</li> <li>• <b>Lower Sixth Work Placement Success:</b> In June, our Lower Sixth pupils embraced the world of work with enthusiasm and professionalism, making this year’s work placement scheme one of the most successful to date.</li> <li>• <b>SistersIN:</b> This year, some of our Year 13 girls had the incredible opportunity to take part in the SistersIN Leadership Programme 2025.</li> <li>• Year 13 UCAS Preparation Days in June 2025.</li> </ul>
<p>Drama</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drama Students Q&amp;A Session with Declan Lawn in October.</li> <li>• Year 14 Drama trip to London in November in collaboration with the Politics department.</li> <li>• Yr11-14 Working with Drama Theatre Company in November.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 8 Drama Club took place after school on Thursdays.</li> <li>• Year 9 Drama classes took inspiration from Roald Dahl’s ‘Revolting Rhymes’, pupils rewrote nursery rhymes and fairy-tales featuring surprise endings in place of traditional happily ever after conclusions. They also created their own masks to reflect characters in their rhymes.</li> <li>• Drama practical preparation sessions held throughout the year.</li> <li>• Auditions for the School of Rock musical in June 2025.</li> </ul>
English	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Lyric Theatre – Christmas Carol:</b> A group of 65 Year 9 pupils enjoyed a great day out at The Lyric, in Belfast on Friday 13th December seeing a production of the novel they are currently studying in English.</li> <li>• <b>The Adventures of Red Riding Hood:</b> 180 Year 8 students visited the MAC Belfast on 11<sup>th</sup> December to see the Adventures of Red Riding Hood.</li> <li>• <b>GCSE English Blitz:</b> In Novemebr, Year 11/12 pupils took part in the English GCSE Revision Blitzes.</li> <li>• <b>Literacy Fun Days Spark Creativity and Critical Thinking for Years 8 and 9!:</b> At the beginning of June, our school hosted its annual Literacy Fun Days.</li> <li>• <b>Book Week NI:</b> A variety of events marked the week. 21st–27th October 2024.</li> <li>• <b>Year 10 Film Club:</b> We were gifted free entry into the film as one of our members, Caitlin-Amy Ong, won a competition with them.</li> <li>• <b>World Book Day 2025</b> – to celebrate world book day numerous events were held such as the book fair, design a bookmark competition, ‘Drop everything and Read’, Year 8 Kahoot Book Quiz and a ‘Book Wrap’ game.</li> </ul>
Geography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• GCSE Geography Field Trip to Glendun in September 2024</li> <li>• Year 11/12/14 Geography trip to Titanic Quarter in December 2024</li> <li>• <b>ECO Council – COP 29:</b> In November, Year 14 students Caoimhe and Cobhlaith proudly represented St Louis Grammar at the COP29 Schools Climate Negotiations held in Belfast City Hall.</li> <li>• <b>Tree Planting Initiative:</b> On Thursday November 28<sup>th</sup> with Chris Wood leading the activities alongside Eco-Council members.</li> <li>• <b>Centenary Garden:</b> A big well done to Emily, Taisija, Isabella, and Emily, who have been hard at work weeding and tidying the Centenary Garden. A new Greenhouse is a great addition, funded by ‘Live Here Love Here’, a community based organisation.</li> <li>• <b>Uniform Exchange:</b> The Eco Council is delighted to announce the launch of our Uniform Exchange Shop, opening just before the end of term.</li> </ul>
History/ Politics	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yr13/Yr14 Govt &amp; Politics Trip to Stormont in October.</li> <li>• Year 14 Politics trip to London in November in collaboration with the Drama department.</li> <li>• Yr 10 History Workshop in October.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• On Wednesday 26th March, every Year 8 classes attended a History Workshop about the Normans and the Middle Ages.</li> <li>• Year 11 History Pupils attended a trip to Stormont.</li> </ul>
ICT	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Year 10 PSNI Talk on cyberbullying and the dangers of social media.</li> <li>• As part of their ICT curriculum, Year 8 pupils learnt about the importance of online safety. Pupils created colourful and informative leaflets for their peers highlighting the risks involved in having an online presence – information which was more important this year than ever before.</li> <li>• Pupils created anti-bullying posters</li> <li>• Weekly Robotics club ran by Mr Lynch.</li> </ul>
Maths	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Senior Maths Challenge took place in October.</li> <li>• St. Louis Grammar, Ballymena, celebrated Maths Week Ireland 2024 with an exciting programme of events designed to spark enthusiasm for Mathematics across all year groups in October 2024.</li> <li>• <b>SLG 1% Club:</b> a form class competition where pupils tackled challenging questions, testing their logic, reasoning, and common sense with a mathematical twist. 12 Form Classes have earned the prestigious title of SLG 1% club winners.</li> <li>• <b>CIVILisation Belfast Day:</b> In October, St. Louis students Andrzej Smolinski, Oisín Doherty, and Hugo Quinn Visited Queen’s University, with Mrs McClintock to attend the CIVILisation Belfast Day.</li> <li>• Yr 13/Yr 14 Queens University Belfast Annual Maths Competition in Decmeber.</li> <li>• <b>Maths Week Olympiad:</b> Students from Years 8 to 11 competed to win certificates ranging from Bronze to Platinum, and the launch of the KS3 Maths Club.</li> <li>• <b>Maths Week Ireland Lecture:</b> A group of 20 Year 10 pupils were selected to attend the lecture hosted by Andrew Jeffrey.</li> <li>• <b>UKMT Maths Team Challenge:</b> Four of our students attended the Regional Final which was held at St Malachy’s college, Belfast.</li> <li>• <b>Mathematical Olympiad in Kosovo:</b> Siobhan McGale attended this event alongside 3 other Irish girls. Whilst Siobhan attained a bronze medal, it was a historic moment for Ireland, as it was the first time the team won an award, making it the second most successful Irish team ever and marking Ireland’s first medal in five years.</li> <li>• <b>Numeracy Days 2025:</b> On June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, St Louis Grammar Celebrates Numeracy Days with Puzzles, Prizes and Plenty of Fun.</li> </ul>
Modern Languages	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yr12-Yr14 Languages &amp; Carers Festival at QUB in November 2024</li> <li>• <b>Gaeilge 24:</b> On Tuesday, 12th November 2024, St Louis’ staff and pupils took part in the Gaeilge 24 challenge, organised annually by Conradh na Gaeilge.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>TURAS GAELTACHTA:</b> In September 2024, Miss O’Brien and Mrs Campbell were delighted to organise a trip to the Gaeltacht region of Donegal for the Senior Irish Students (Year 11 – Year 14).</li> <li>• <b>Spanish Trip:</b> This year, our GCSE Spanish students embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime journey to Spain, immersing themselves in the vibrant culture, rich history, and thrilling attractions of Catalonia.</li> <li>• <b>Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025:</b> The St. Louis’ school community had a week filled with ‘sult, spraoi agus spleodar’ (fun and enjoyment) during our annual Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Language Week) celebrations in the lead up to Lá Fhéile Pádraig (St. Patrick’s Day).</li> <li>• St. Louis Grammar School secures Gaelbhreach Award for the second consecutive year in June 2025.</li> <li>• Pupils in Year 9 have been attending French Club on Wednesday afternoons throughout the school year.</li> </ul>
Music	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chamber Choir performed at ST Mary’s Church Belfast for the veneration of St Bernadette’s relic.</li> <li>• Continued partnership with Castle Tower School including Christmas performances with our Chamber choir alongside pupils, parents and staff of Castle tower.</li> <li>• Annual Carol Service at All Saint’s Church on Tuesday 17<sup>th</sup> December.</li> <li>• Spring Concert took place on 15<sup>th</sup> April 2025.</li> <li>• Organisation of peripatetic lessons throughout the year.</li> <li>• Pupil participation the Ballymena Festival at the Braid Arts Centre.</li> <li>• Auditions for the School of Rock musical in June 2025.</li> </ul>
Nutrition & Food Science / Hospitality / Health & Social Care	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yr 11 Livestock &amp; Meat Commission Demo in November 2024.</li> <li>• Yr12/13/14 Visit to Forest side Cookery School/Christmas Markets in December 2024.<b>Year 10 Home Economics:</b> Our Year 10 Home Economics pupils took part in a fun and flavourful "Make Your Own Cheesecake" activity, showcasing both their creativity and culinary skills.</li> <li>• <b>Glenarm Castle Visit:</b> Our Year 11 Hospitality class had an exciting and inspiring day out at the Hospitality and Tourism Careers Event held at the beautiful Glenarm Castle on Wednesday 2nd April 2025.</li> <li>• <b>Visit to Greenmount College:</b> On Wednesday 18th June, Year 9 Home Economics students visited Greenmount College as part of a prize won by their class.</li> </ul>
Religious Studies	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Celebrating THE POPE JOHN PAUL II Award:</b> On 17 November 2024, six of our outstanding students were honoured with the Pope John Paul II Award at a special ceremony held in All Saints Church.</li> <li>• <b>Relic of St Bernadette of Lourdes:</b> On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October a group of Sixth Form students travelled to St Mary’s Chapel, Belfast to venerate the relic of St Bernadette of Lourdes as part of its inaugural pilgrimage to Ireland</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Columbanus Competition:</b> Our school is celebrating a remarkable achievement in this year's Columbanus Competition, with three of our talented students securing top awards. In the written section, Odhran McGowan claimed first place, whilst Eabha Delargy secured second place. In the image section, Maria Rosa Black also excelled, earning second place for her creative work.</li> <li>• <b>Diocesan Novena Cover Competition:</b> Caitlin Ong has been recognised as a runner-up in the diocesan competition to design the front cover of the annual Novena to the Sacred Heart booklet.</li> <li>• <b>Trip to Ghana:</b> In June, a group of 14 students and 5 staff from St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena, travelled to Ghana.</li> <li>• The Religious Studies department co-ordinated the annual Catholics Caring Christmas toy appeal.</li> <li>• The Religious Studies department were active in engaging pupils and staff through Lenten morning mass weekly throughout Lent.</li> </ul>
Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Yr 8 World of Owls Visit in December 2024.</li> <li>• Year 10 pupils participated in the Brian Cox Science School at the Braid Arts Centre in January 2025.</li> <li>• <b>2 New Science Rooms:</b> Planning now in place for 2 new rooms, estimated completion September 2025.</li> <li>• <b>Biology Olympiad:</b> In February students from years 13/14 took part in the annual Biology Olympiad. 9k students from around the world participated. 4 of our students achieved the following: Ben Marrs (silver) top 10% Aisling Smith, Cobhlaith Gormley and Caoihme McGroggan (bronze) top 15%</li> <li>• <b>Wolfson Funding:</b> We are delighted to have been awarded a grant of £125,000 by the Wolfson Foundation towards the development of two new Science rooms in 2025.</li> </ul>
Technology/ Construction/ Engineering	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Year 14 BTEC Engineering class enjoyed a visit to Ryobi Aluminium Casting UK Ltd accompanied by Mrs Dumbleton. The students got a chance to see the processes up close, understand the various roles and opportunities that exist in Engineering.</li> <li>• The "Open Doors" construction event, took place on March 19th, 2025, where it offers behind-the-scenes tours of construction sites, offices, and training centres to showcase the diverse careers within the UK construction industry.</li> </ul>

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

### August

Tues 27 <sup>th</sup>	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b>
Wed 28 <sup>th</sup>	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b>
Thurs 29 <sup>th</sup>	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b>
Fri 30 <sup>th</sup>	<b>STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY</b>

### September

02/09/2024	Induction for Year 8/13 only
03/09/2024	Induction for Year 12/14 only
04/09/2024	Induction for Year 9/10/11 only
05/09/2024	Whole School return
06/09/2024	Yr UU Open Day
09/09/2024	Yr 9 Ascertainment Presentation on Harms of Vaping
10/09/2024	Senior Gaeltacht Trip/ Yr 8 LearnSpark All Day
11/09/2024	Yr 14 QUB Presentation/ Class Captain Photos
12/09/2024	School Photographer
19/09/2024	Information evening for Barcelona Trip
20/09/2024	Senior Prize Day / GCSE Geography Field Trip to Glendun
24/09/2024	Yr 8 Mass
25/09/2024	Yr 13 Women's Aid/ Maths Olympiad for Girls
26/09/2024	Yr 13 Art & Design Trip Ulster Museum/ European Day of Languages
27/09/2024	Yr10/Yr 11 Wrights Bus Presentation/ Careers Actuarial Science Talk
30/09/2024	Yr 12 Barcelona Trip

### October

01/10/2024	Yr 11/Yr 14 PSNI Presentation/Yr 8/Yr 11 PASS/Senior Maths Challenge Yr 13 Business Studies visit Creagh Concrete
02/10/2024	Yr 9 PASS/ Yr 13 New Driver NI Presentation
03/10/2024	Yr 10 PASS/ Yr 14 HE Presentation by UU
04/10/2024	Yr 14 Formal – Galgorm Resort & Spa
08/10/2024	Yr 11/Yr 12 Learn Spark Workshop/Parent Information Evening
09/10/2024	Yr 13 Women's Aid Workshop
10/10/2024	Yr 8 Mind wise Workshop/Yr 9/Yr10 NI Crime Advocacy Presentation Yr 13/Yr 14 Learn Spark Parent information evening
11/10/2024	MIA/Drama Students Q&A Session with Declan Lawn
14/10/2024	GCSE Home Economics Practical's
15/10/2024	Yr13/Yr14 Govt & Politics Trip to Stormont
16/10/2024	Yr13/Yr14 Visit to The Relics of St Bernadette, St Mary's Chapel & Finnis Souterrain
17/10/2024	Yr 13 Maths trip to QUB
18/10/2024	Yr 11 English Mock exam/Yr 13 MIA trip to Cinemagic Odeon/Yr 10 Maths Trip to QUB
21/10/2024	Yr 12 English Mock exam

22/10/2024 Yr 10 History Workshop/Yr 9/Yr 11 Game Changer workshop/Yr 12 Parent Teacher Meeting  
Yr 14 Road safe Roadshow Cambridge House

23/10/2024 KS4 Level up Transition workshop/SEAG Familiarisation

24/10/2024 Yr 13 Fundraiser/SEAG Familiarisation/Yr 13 Eng Lit trip

25/10/2024 STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY

28/10/2024- HALF TERM HOLIDAY

31/10/2024

### **November**

05/11/2024 Yr11 Inspire On your marks Workshop/Yr 14 Parent Teacher Meeting

06/11/2024 Yr 14 Inspire Maximise Workshop

07/11/2024 Yr12-Yr14 Languages & Carers Festival at QUB

09/11/2024 CENTENARY GALA BALL

12/11/2024 Yr 11 Livestock & Meat Commission Demo

13/11/2024 Yr 14 Engineering visit to Ryobi/Yr 11 English Blitz/MMI Mock Interviews

14/11/2024 Yr 12 English Blitz

16/11/2024 SEAG Entrance Assessment

18/11/2024 Yr14 Govt & Pol/Drama Trip to London/Yr 8-12 Flu Vaccine

20/11/2024 Maths Olympiad Round 1

21/11/2024 Yr9/Yr10 HPV Vaccine

23/11/2024 SEAG Entrance Assessment

26/11/2024 Yr11 Livestock & Meat Commission Demo

27/11/2024 Yr11-14 Working with Drama Theatre Company

28/11/2024 Yr 13-14 Christmas Exams /Yr 8-Yr 12 Study Day

### **December**

02/12/2024 Yr 13/Yr 14 Queens University Belfast Annual Maths Competition

07/12/2024 CENTENARY Book Launch & Coffee Morning

09/12/2024 Eco Council Workshop

10/12/2024 Christmas Dinner for Pupils

11/12/2024 Yr 8 Visit to The Mac /Yr 9-12 Flu Vaccine

12/12/2024 Yr 10 NI Chest Heart & Stroke Presentation/Yr 8 World of Owls Visit

13/12/2024 Yr 9 Visit to Lyric Theatre/Y11/12/14 Geography trip to Titanic Quarter

16/12/2024 Yr12/13/14 Visit to Forest side Cookery School/Christmas Markets

17/12/2024 Carol Service – All Saints Church

18/12/2024 House Trip IMC Cinema

20/12/2024 Staff Development Day

23/12/2024- Christmas Holidays

06/01/2025

## January

- 04/01/2025 Yr 10 SKI Trip
- 06/01/2025 Staff Development Day
- 09/01/2025 Yr 8 BMI public Health Agency
- 10/01/2025 Yr 8 BMI public Health Agency
- 13/01/2025 Yr 12 NICHS Smoking/Vaping Talk
- 16/01/2025 Yr 9 Grief Ally Workshop
- 21/01/2025 Yr 10 Brian Cox Science School – Braid Arts
- 22/01/2025 Open Night
- 23/01/2025 Open Night
- 24/01/2025 Staff Development Day
- 28/01/2025 Yr 13 Parent Teacher Meeting
- 29/01/2025 Intermediate Maths Challenge/ Yr 14 Start 360 presentation/  
Yr 11 Abair Public speaking competition
- 31/01/2025 Yr 8/9/10 PSNI presentation on Bullying Behaviours

## February

- 03/02/2025 Yr 10 Options Assembly
- 04/02/2025 Yr 13 Romania Trip/ Yr 10 Careers Fair
- 05/02/2025 Yr 14 Scottish University presentation
- 06/02/2025 Yr 14 Scottish University presentation
- 10/02/2025- HALF TERM HOLIDAY
- 14/02/2025
- 18/02/2025 DRAMA practical's
- 19/02/2025 Yr 11 -14 Art Pupils /Yr 10 Eco Council/Geog – CLÁN Presentation  
Yr 12 Drama Practical's
- 20/02/2025 Yr 11 MIA Workshop- Braid Arts centre
- 21/02/2025 Yr 10 Aware Mood Matters
- 24/02/2025 Yr 12 Options Assembly
- 25/02/2025 Yr 11 /Yr 12 SLB Vaccine / Yr 12 Careers Fair
- 26/02/2025 Yr 10 Young Enterprise Workshop
- 27/02/2025 KS3 Exams
- 28/02/2025 KS3 Exams

## March

- 03/03/2025 KS3 Exams/ Yr 10 Pupil Career Interviews
- 04/03/2025 KS3 Exams /BOOK FAIR /Yr 10 Pupil Career interviews
- 05/03/2025 BOOK FAIR/ Yr 12 CCEA Speaking and Listening Moderation  
Yr 10 Career Interviews
- 06/03/2025 BOOK FAIR / WORLD BOOK DAY/Yr 9 Love for Life presentation  
Yr 10 Career Interviews
- 07/03/2025 BOOK FAIR /Yr 10 Career Interviews/ Yr 12-14 English Event
- 11/03/2025 Yr 10 Film Club trip to IMC Cinema
- 13/03/2025 Yr 12-14 DRAMA visit to Grand Opera House  
Yr 14 A Level PE Moderation/ SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE/ CÉILÍ

14/03/2025 Yr 10 Parent Information Morning /Parent Teacher Meeting  
17/03/2025 ST PATRICKS DAY – HOLIDAY  
18/03/2025 Yr 8 & Yr 11 Parent Teacher Meeting  
19/03/2025 Yr 8 Health Assessment  
20/03/2025 Maths Challenge  
21/03/2025 Yr 9 History Workshop  
26/03/2025 Yr 8 History Workshop/Sixth form Enrichment /Joe Diver Talk on Addiction  
27/03/2025 Yr 9 Nexus Workshop/Yr 13 SistersINsoire Event -QUB

#### **APRIL**

02/04/2025 Yr Hospitality Students – Careers Event Glenarm Castle  
07/04/2025 Yr 13 Sisters IN Celebration Event -Waterfront Hall  
08/04/2025 Yr 11 & Yr 12 SLB Vaccine /GCSE PE Moderation  
09/04/2025 Yr 13 English Lit Visit Heaney Home Place  
11/04/2025 Yr 8 Self Esteem/ Body Image Workshop  
15/04/2025 Spring Concert /Yr 11 &12 Irish Speaking Orals  
16/04/2025 GCSE Music Practicals  
17/04/2025 Yr 9 Parent/Teacher Meeting  
18/04/2025 EASTER HOLIDAYS  
22/04/2025 Centenary Golf Classic Galgorm Golf Club  
30/04/2025 Yr 13 Young Enterprise Economics Workshop

#### **May**

01/05/2025 Junior Maths Challenge /Yr 13 Study Leave  
02/05/2025 Yr 10 PASS (2<sup>ND</sup> Test) Yr 14 Leavers Mass/Lunch  
Yr 12 Progress files presentation  
06/05/2025 Yr 11 Study Leave  
07/05/2025 Yr 8 PASS (2<sup>ND</sup> Test)/GCSE June Exam Series  
08/05/2025 GCE June Exam Series  
20/05/2025 SEAG Information Evening  
27/05/2025 STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAY  
29/05/2025 Junior Exams  
Incoming Yr 8 pupils Registration evening

#### **June**

03/06/2025 Yr 8/Yr 9 Literacy/Numeracy Day  
05/06/2025 Yr 8 RSE presentation/ Yr 8 /Yr 9 Literacy/Numeracy Day  
06/06/2025 Yr 10 RSE presentation Yr8/Yr 9 Literacy/Numeracy Day  
09/06/2025 Yr 13 Work Experience / Yr10 Community of Lifesavers  
10/06/2025 Yr 8 - Sports Day / Junior Maths Olympiad /Yr 9/Yr 10 HPV Vaccine  
11/06/2025 Yr 9 Sports Day  
12/06/2025 Yr 10 Sports Day  
13/06/2025 P7/New Yr 8 Induction Day  
16/06/2025 UCAS Preparation Day / Yr 8 RSE Presentations  
17/06/2025 Yr 11 PASS /Yr 10 RSE preparation Day

18/06/2025 UCAS Preparation Day  
19/06/2025 Yr 10 Community of Lifesavers  
20/06/2025 House Trip We are Vertigo  
21/06/2025 Yr 13 Ghana Trip  
24/06/2025 Junior Prize Day  
25/06/2025 Contingency Day GCSE/GCE  
26/06/2025 Yr 13 Romania Trip

14/08/2025 AS/A2 Results Issued

21/08/2025 GCSE Results issued

## Extra-Curricular Highlights and School Achievements

- **Superb results alongside our Centenary year:** At A Level, 97.6% of students achieved 3 or more A\*-C grades. For GCSE 99% of Year 12 pupils attaining 7 or more A\*-C grades including English and Maths.
- **Prize day:** Nathan Hanna, past pupil, journalist and news presenter was our Guest Speaker at our annual Prize Day, celebrating pupils academic, artistic and sporting achievements.
- **Year 14 Formal:** On the evening of 4<sup>th</sup> October, staff and students arrived at the glamorous Galgorm Resort for a night of celebration and excitement.
- **NAPCE Pastoral Awards:** St Louis was shortlisted as a finalist in recognition of our commitment to raising awareness and driving meaningful changes in Pastoral Care. Mrs McGreevey attended the awards ceremony on 11<sup>th</sup> October.
- **PHA Work Well Live Well:** Our seven Health Champions attended the awards ceremony at the Titanic Building in November, to receive the award for our ongoing commitment to improving the health and wellbeing of their employees.
- **Gaeilge 24:** On Tuesday, 12<sup>th</sup> November 2024, St Louis' staff and pupils took part in the Gaeilge 24 challenge, organised annually by Conradh na Gaeilge.
- **TURAS GAELTACHTA:** In September 2024, Miss O'Brien and Mrs Campbell were delighted to organise a trip to the Gaeltacht region of Donegal for the Senior Irish Students (Year 11 – Year 14).
- **YEAR 13 Enrichment Order of Malta First Aid:** Lower Sixth students completed a first aid course that certifies them for three years.
- **ECO Council – COP 29:** In November, Year 14 students Caoimhe and Cobhlaith proudly represented St Louis Grammar at the COP29 Schools Climate Negotiations held in Belfast City Hall.
- **Tree Planting Initiative:** On Thursday November 28<sup>th</sup> with Chris Wood leading the activities alongside Eco-Council members.
- **Celebrating the Pope John Paul II Award:** On 17 November 2024, six of our outstanding students were honoured with the Pope John Paul II Award at a special ceremony held in All Saints Church.
- **Cultivating and creating the St Louis Centenary Garden:** A bespoke space and place celebrating the interconnectedness between faith, ecology, and education.
- **Relic of St Bernadette of Lourdes:** On Wednesday 16<sup>th</sup> October a group of Sixth Form students travelled to St Mary's Chapel, Belfast to venerate the relic of St Bernadette of Lourdes as part of its inaugural pilgrimage to Ireland.
- **SLG 1% Club:** a form class competition where pupils tackled challenging questions, testing their logic, reasoning, and common sense with a mathematical twist. 12 Form Classes have earned the prestigious title of SLG 1% club winners.
- **Maths Week Olympiad:** Students from Years 8 to 11 competed to win certificates ranging from Bronze to Platinum, and the launch of the KS3 Maths Club.
- **Maths Week Ireland Lecture:** A group of 20 Year 10 pupils were selected to attend the lecture hosted by Andrew Jeffrey.
- **Lyric Theatre – Christmas Carol:** A group of 65 Year 9 pupils enjoyed a great day out at The Lyric, in Belfast on Friday 13<sup>th</sup> December seeing a production of the novel they are currently studying in English.

- **The Adventures of Red Riding Hood:** 180 Year 8 students visited the MAC , Belfast on 11<sup>th</sup> December to see the Adventures of Red Riding Hood.
- **Mock Interviews:** An event led by Dr Carol Wilson, along with a dedicated team, offering Year 14 students a valuable opportunity to gain practical experience and guidance on interviewing skills for the Medical Sector.
- **Year 11 English Blitz:** On Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> of November, Year 11 pupils took part in the English GCSE Revision Blitz.
- **Book Week NI:** A variety of events marked the week. 21<sup>st</sup>–27<sup>th</sup> October 2024.
- **Spanish Trip:** This year, our GCSE Spanish students embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime journey to Spain, immersing themselves in the vibrant culture, rich history, and thrilling attractions of Catalonia.
- **President's / DofE Award – Dordogne:** 13 students, all members of 7<sup>th</sup> Ballymena All Saints scout group completed their Gold and Silver canoe expeditions on the Dordogne river in France.
- **RYOBI visit:** Year 14 BTEC Engineering students got a chance to see the processes up close, understand the various roles and opportunities that exist in Engineering.
- **Promotion to address Bullying:** 4 of our senior Year 14 Anti-Bullying prefects gave an insight into their role and offering advise to all pupils within our School.
- **CIVILisation Belfast Day:** In October, St. Louis students Andrzej Smolinski, Oisín Doherty, and Hugo Quinn Visited Queen's University, with Mrs McClintock to attend the CIVILisation Belfast Day.
- **Centenary Gala Ball:** 500 guests enjoyed a wonderful evening celebrating the Centenary of St Louis Grammar on Saturday 9<sup>th</sup> November at Tullyglass House Hotel. International star of 'Celtic Woman', Tara McNeill, and her husband, concert pianist, Alexander Bernstein, performed a special medley of songs. Jason Donnelly and his Ta Da Dance Company kept the audience entertained with an energetic set of Irish dance favourites and screenwriter, Declan Lawn, reminisced about his own school days on the Hill of Kintullagh and the special influence that his St Louis education continues to have on him to this day.
- **The St Louis Centenary Book:** The launch of 'Our First Century at Kintullagh' took place in December. We were delighted to be joined by the author of the book, Derval Fitzsimons, as well as contributors and past pupils, Olivia Nash (1953-1960), Kate McCann (1969-1976), Marianne O'Kane (1980-1987) and Seán O'Boyle (1980-1987).
- **SLG ALUMNI – John Shannon:** John Shannon was in St Louis recently to present Mr Gillan and Mrs O'Neill with some new sports kit. John runs his own construction and facilities management company, Sx3 (Shannon Site Solutions), and has generously agreed to sponsor the jerseys for the junior teams this year.
- **2 New Science Rooms:** Planning now in place for 2 new rooms, estimated completion September 2025.
- **Launch of new St Louis One fund:** With this support has enabled the school to purchase 18 laptops for classes which need them.
- **Trip to Romania:** 23 students and 4 staff travelled to Romania on 4<sup>th</sup> February, building connections with people a world apart from us.
- **Biology Olympiad:** In February students from years 13/14 took part in the annual Biology Olympiad. 9k students from around the world participated. 4 of our students achieved the

following: Ben Marrs (silver) top 10% Aisling Smith, Cobhlaith Gormley and Caoihme McGroggan (bronze) top 15%

- **NI Business Challenge:** On 19<sup>th</sup> February twelve year 13 pupils participated NI Schools Business Challenge at Queens Management school.
- **UKMT Maths Team Challenge:** Four of our students attended the Regional Final, which was held at St Malachy's college, Belfast.
- **Columbanus Competition:** Our school is celebrating a remarkable achievement in this year's Columbanus Competition, with three of our talented students securing top awards. In the written section, Odhran McGowan claimed first place, whilst Eabha Delargy secured second place. In the image section, Maria Rosa Black also excelled, earning second place for her creative work.
- **Open Doors Careers in Construction Event:** This event took place on March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2025, where it offers behind-the-scenes tours of construction sites, offices, and training centres to showcase the diverse careers within the UK construction industry.
- **Year 10 Home Economics:** Our Year 10 Home Economics pupils recently took part in a fun and flavourful "Make Your Own Cheesecake" activity, showcasing both their creativity and culinary skills.
- **Key Stage 3 Art Clubs:** Our pupils participated in the St. Louis Network Art Competition, focusing on the theme of deforestation.
- **Reimagining the Future of Fashion:** On Wednesday, 19 February, St. Louis hosted a wonderful presentation on Reimagining the Future of Fashion – Prevention of Fashion Clothing Waste by Nuala Browne-Treacy, a sustainable textiles and fashion consultant and founder of CLÂN (Circular Lifestyle Awareness Network), based in Waterford.
- **Year 10 Film Club:** We were gifted free entry into the film as one of our members, Caitlin-Amy Ong, won a competition with them.
- **Glenarm Castle Visit:** Our Year 11 Hospitality class had an exciting and inspiring day out at the Hospitality and Tourism Careers Event held at the beautiful Glenarm Castle on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> April 2025.
- **SistersIN:** This year, some of our Year 13 girls had the incredible opportunity to take part in the SistersIN Leadership Programme 2025.
- **Buy a Brick:** Launch of 'Buy a Brick', allowing our School community the opportunity to leave a permanent legacy and reminder of their time at St Louis.
- **PSNI Talk:** The session was led by two PSNI officers, covering a range of topics such as bullying, cyberbullying, and the dangers of social media - all of which are very relevant in today's world.
- **Seachtain na Gaeilge 2025:** The St. Louis' school community had a week filled with 'sult, spraoi agus spleodar' (fun and enjoyment) during our annual Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish Language Week) celebrations in the lead up to Lá Fhéile Pádraig (St. Patrick's Day).
- **Year 8 History Workshop:** On Wednesday 26<sup>th</sup> March, every Year 8 class was taken out of normal lessons for a History Workshop about the Normans and the Middle Ages.
- **Wolfson Funding:** We are delighted to have been awarded a grant of £125,000 by the Wolfson Foundation towards the development of two new Science rooms in 2025.
- **Farewell to Class of 2025:** In June, we bid a heartfelt farewell to the Class of 2025 – a year group of 160 students who have left a lasting impression on the St. Louis community.

- **Mathematical Olympiad in Kosovo:** Siobhan McGale attended this event alongside 3 other Irish girls. Whilst Siobhan attained a bronze medal, it was a historic moment for Ireland, as it was the first time the team won an award, making it the second most successful Irish team ever and marking Ireland's first medal in five years.
- **Junior Prize Day:** On Tuesday 24th of June, we celebrated the success of our Junior school pupils, at our annual prize day. We were joined by former pupil and Miss NI Finalist, Daniella Timperley.
- **Literacy Fun Days Spark Creativity and Critical Thinking for Years 8 and 9!:** At the beginning of June, our school hosted its annual Literacy Fun Days.
- **Numeracy Days 2025:** On June 3<sup>rd</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup>, St Louis Grammar Celebrates Numeracy Days with Puzzles, Prizes and Plenty of Fun.
- **For Every Child...Every Right' Event:** Members of our Student Council attended this event in Ballymena Library. Mr Chris Quinn, the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People, and focused on raising awareness of children's rights.
- **Raising Funds for the Brain Tumour Charity:** The HE Department and the U6-5 class organised a Big Breakfast in support of The Brain Tumour Charity. The event attracted staff and pupils and raised an impressive total of £453.53. This fundraiser was especially meaningful as it was held in support of their classmate, Caolan McFerran, demonstrating solidarity and care within the school community.
- **Diocesan Novena Cover Competition:** Caitlin Ong has been recognised as a runner-up in the diocesan competition to design the front cover of the annual Novena to the Sacred Heart booklet.
- **Community of Lifesavers:** In June, Year 10 participated in the Community of Lifesavers Programme learning about how to respond to different medical emergencies people may encounter.
- **Gaelbhatach June 2025:** St. Louis Grammar School Secures Gaelbhatach Award for Second Consecutive Year.
- **French Club:** Pupils in Year 9 have been attending French Club on Wednesday afternoons throughout the school year.
- **Trip to Ghana:** In June, a group of 14 students and 5 staff from St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena, travelled to Ghana.
- **Learning and Teaching at St Louis:** This year at St Louis has been a rewarding one for Learning and Teaching, driven by a shared commitment to professional development, collaboration and new ideas.
- **Mosaic Mural:** 30 talented Year 10 pupils are working alongside visiting artist Anna O'Kane to create a stunning legacy mosaic mural, which will go on permanent display in our Creative Arts Building. The mural will celebrate the rich creativity across Art, MIA, Drama, and Music.
- **Visit to Greenmount College:** On Wednesday 18th June, Year 9 Home Economics students visited Greenmount College as part of a prize won by their class.
- **Centenary Garden:** A big well done to Emily, Taisija, Isabella, and Emily, who have been hard at work weeding and tidying the Centenary Garden. A new Greenhouse is a great addition, funded by 'Live Here Love Here', a community based organisation.
- **Uniform Exchange:** The Eco Council is delighted to announce the launch of our Uniform Exchange Shop, opening just before the end of term.

- **Games Development Coordinator:** In partnership with Antrim GAA we appoint a full-time Schools Games Development Coordinator for September 2025.
- **Lower Sixth Work Placement Success:** In June, our Lower Sixth pupils embraced the world of work with enthusiasm and professionalism, making this year's work placement scheme one of the most successful to date.

### Pupil Achievements:

- **Molly McKenna** became the first athlete from Northern Ireland to be crowned Senior British Champion in Double Mini Trampolines in October 2024.
- **Rose McVeigh:** Irish Dancing Under 14 World Champion
- **Eimear Smith :** Irish Dancing Under 19 World Champion (for the 6<sup>th</sup> time)
- **Sarah Hasson:** Irish Dancing 2<sup>nd</sup> place World Championships
- **Elle Brown:** Irish Dancing 3<sup>rd</sup> place Under 18 Championships
- **Cliodhna Crawley:** Irish Dancing 4<sup>th</sup> place Under 18 Championships
- **Cody Loughran:** Irish Dancing 4<sup>th</sup> place Under 17 Championships
- **Katie Hasson:** Irish Dancing 11<sup>th</sup> place Under 14 Championships
- **Cayla Murray:** Irish Dancing 2<sup>nd</sup> place Under 13 Championships
- **Conor McDonnell:** Irish Dancing 4<sup>th</sup> place Under 14 team Championships
- **Charlie O'Brien:** Irish Dancing 5<sup>th</sup> place U13 Championships
- **Niamh Smith:** Irish Dancing 17<sup>th</sup> place Under 13 Championship
- **Ben Marrs:** Biology Olympiad Achieved Silver medal (Top 10%)
- **Aishling Smith:** Biology Olympiad Achieved Bronze medal (Top 15%)
- **Cobhlaith Gormley:** Biology Olympiad Achieved Bronze medal iad (Top 15%)
- **Caoimhe McGroggan:** A Biology Olympiad chieved Bronze medal (Top 15%)
- **Siobhan McGale:** Mathematical Olympiad Bronze medal
- **Connor McDonnell:** Co. Antrim Fleadh 1<sup>st</sup> place Under 12 Men's Singing
- **Aoife Kelly:** Co. Antrim Fleadh 1<sup>st</sup> place 12-15 Ladies' Singing.
- **Caoimhe Kelly:** Co. Antrim Fleadh 2<sup>nd</sup> place 15-18 Ladies' Singing
- **Faolan McTague:** Co. Antrim Fleadh 1<sup>st</sup> place 12-15 Miscell. & Accomp.
- **Eibhleann Ardifff:** Co. Antrim Fleadh 1<sup>st</sup> place 15-18 Fiddle & Singing
- **Carla O'Brien:** Co. Antrim Fleadh 2<sup>nd</sup> place 12-15 Concertina
- **Ursula O'Loan:** Co. Antrim Fleadh 2<sup>nd</sup> place 15-18 Fiddle
- **Erin McCloskey** Co. Antrim Fleadh 1<sup>st</sup> place 15-18 Tin whistle & tin whistle
- **Erin McAleese, Mikey O'Brien & Eibhleann Ardifff:** Co. Antrim Fleadh winning group
- **Paul McAuley:** 1<sup>st</sup> place Chess Club
- **Cavan Thomson:** 2nd place Chess Club
- **Cristiano De Niro:** 3rd place Chess Club

## Sporting Highlights

- **All Star Award:** Representing All Saints GAC, our PE Teacher, Mr Patrick McAleer was awarded a Devenish All Star.
- **Gaelfast Year 8 Football Cup final:** The Year 8 Gaelic Football final between St. Louis and St. Mary's, resulted in victory for our team, with the scoreline finishing St Louis Ballymena 6-6 St Mary's CBGS 6-04.
- **Danske Bank Ulster Girls Schools' Rugby Cup Final :** Despite the final scoreline of 47-12 in Enniskillen fRoyal Grammar Schools favour, St Louis demonstrated determination, grit, and flashes of brilliance throughout the game, earning the respect of spectators and opponents alike.
- **St Louis Golf Classic:** St Louis was proud to host our first Golf Classic at the wonderful Galgorm Castle Golf Club on Tuesday 22nd April. Postponed from last August due to weather conditions, this was the last of our Centenary events to take place and we couldn't have asked for a better day.
- **Athletics Success:** At the Ulster Athletics Championships, Aisling Smith delivered a remarkable run in the Senior Girls 1500m, securing 3rd place and, more importantly, qualifying for the All-Ireland Championships in Tullamore on 31st May. Meanwhile, at the NEBSSA Finals held at the Antrim Forum, we had more reason to celebrate. Both Lughan and Ewan earned 3rd place finishes in their respective events: • Lughan Hardy – 3rd in the Under 15 Boys 800m • Ewan McLoughney – 3rd in the Under 16 Boys 800m.
- **Sports Day 2025:** The St. Louis Sports Days 2025 were once again a tremendous success, offering two action-packed days of athletics
- **Year 13 HYROX:** What began as an enrichment opportunity in September turned into a journey of determination, perserverance, and achievement for our Year 13 HYROX squad. Men's Doubles Results: 1st Place – Dylan McLarnon & Jude Storrie 2nd Place – James McVeigh & Matthew Watt 3rd Place – Sean O'Brien & Bobby Kennedy Women's Doubles Results: 1st Place – Kate McGilligan & Sarah Hasson 2nd Place – Maria Higgins & Carragh Boyle
- **Caoimhe Scullion:** 2024 LGFA Captain
- **Kate McGilligan:** 2024 LGFA Vice Captain
- **Orlaith Gould:** 2024 Camogie Captain
- **Casey Crawford:** 2024 Camogie Vice Captain
- **Ryan McKeever and Patrick O'Neill** 2024 McLarnon Cup Captain(s)
- **Caleb Smith:** 2024 McLarnon Cup Vice Captain
- **Sean Og Blaney:** 2024 Hurling Captain
- **Fiontan Bradley:** 2024 Hurling Vice Captain
- **Jack Martin:** 2025 Danske Bank Hurling All Star
- **Fiontan Bradley:** 2025 Danske Bank Hurling All Star
- **Jack Martin:** 2025 Danske Bank UK Ulster Schools GAA All Star
- **Fiontan Bradley:** 2025 Danske Bank UK Ulster Schools GAA All Star
- **Eimear McCloskey:** McKeever Sports QUB Future Stars Gala - Camogie
- **Mary Rose McDonnell:** Danske Bank Girls' School Rugby Player of the Year.
- **Cayden McGuckian:** Gaelfast All Stars Hurling – St Mary's University
- **Tomas Matthews:** Gaelfast All Stars Hurling – St Mary's University

- **P J Marron:** Gaelfast All Stars Football – St Mary’s University
- **Lir Hammill:** Gaelfast All Stars Football – St Mary’s University
- **Ronan Laverty:** Gaelfast All Stars Football – St Mary’s University
- **Oisín Anyalechi:** Gaelfast All Stars Football – St Mary’s University
- **Nicholas McCrory:** Gaelfast All Stars Football – St Mary’s University
- **Eireann Johnston:** Gaelfast All Stars Camogie – St Mary’s University
- **Aoife Kelly:** Gaelfast All Stars Camogie – St Mary’s University
- **Molly Watson:** Gaelfast All Stars Camogie – St Mary’s University
- **Grace O’Boyle:** Gaelfast All Stars Football – St Mary’s University
- **Harry McKay:** Gaelfast All Stars Hurling – St Mary’s University
- **Dylan McMullan:** Gaelfast All Stars Hurling – St Mary’s University
- **Cody McGarry:** Gaelfast All Stars Hurling – St Mary’s University
- **Joe Casey:** Gaelfast All Stars Hurling – St Mary’s University
- **Patrick O Boyle:** Gaelfast All Stars Football – St Mary’s University

## Charities

- The Sixth Form raised £250.10 for the Simon Community in December 2024 organised by Mrs J Doherty.
- Mrs Grant alongside her form class 14 5 raised £463 for Caolan McFerran’s half marathon fundraiser for the Brain Tumour Charity in April 2025.
- M Copper and M Henry organised a sponsored walk in June 2025 raising £3701 for Friends of St Louis.
- Year 13 pupils participated in trips to Romania in the Spring and Summer terms and raised £34,000 to support Friends of Romania.
- Year 13 pupils also embarked on a life changing trip to Ghana in June raising over £44,000 for our sister school allowing them to build a whole new science block at their school.

## STAFF DEVELOPMENT DAYS 2024/25

Date	Course / Meeting
27 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	Overview of GCSE/AS/A2 results, School Development Plan Update, Being Well Doing Well Programme, Learning & Teaching TEEP Focus
28 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	Pastoral/Safeguarding/Child Protection Update, Learning Support Co-Ordinator Update, New Year 8 Update, Health & Safety Training, Departmental Planning and Preparation, EA Positive Behaviour, GDPR Training, Dyslexia Training
29 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	Departmental Planning and Preparation, Vaping, Pastoral, Head of Departments, HoY with Form Teachers, Behaviour Management and Procedures, Uniform Procedures, Positive Behaviour, Literacy Update, Numeracy Update, Digital Skills/eLearning Update, More Able Gifted and Talented Update, Homework Update
30 <sup>th</sup> August 2024	Vital Nutrition Good Mood Foods/Vital Nutrition for Stress and Anxiety, Data Assessment Schedule Value Added, Departmental Planning and Preparation
25 <sup>th</sup> October 2024	HOD meeting, Co-ordinators meetings, TEEP Level 1 training, Departmental Planning, Form teacher Pass Information, Induction/EPD meetings
20 <sup>th</sup> December 2024	Marking and Reporting
6 <sup>th</sup> January 2025	Vital Nutrition Immune Support, MAGT Update, Bereavement training, Retrieval Practice TPL, Departmental Planning
17 <sup>th</sup> April 2025	Year 9 Parent/ Teacher Meetings
27 <sup>th</sup> May 2025	Departmental SDP Evaluations, Annual Departmental Review, HOY Evaluations, RSE Meeting

## SCHOOL FINANCES

The School Budget is calculated by the Department of Education using a formula which applies to all Voluntary Grammar Schools. The major element in the formula is the number of the pupils attending the school and their learning key stage. Other factors include the proportion of pupils who are entitled to free school meals, the area of the school buildings and grounds, maintenance and administration costs.

For the year 2024-25, the School Budget Allocation was calculated as £6,826,758 . This budget was expanded to cover all staffing, cleaning and maintenance, pupil materials, heating, lighting and insurance costs. Teaching staff costs amounted to 86% of the resource available.

The school is funded 100% by the Department of Education and a Capital Fee is not charged to the pupils.

# APPENDICES

## GCSE SUBJECT GRADE ANALYSIS 2025

Cumulative % of pupils achieving each grade level

Subject	Entries	A* - A	A* - B	A* - C
Art & Design	30	40	73.3	100
Business Studies	102	52	81.4	94.2
Computer Science	31	51.6	74.2	93.5
Construction Studies	48	66.7	95.9	100
Design and Technology	9	55.6	88.9	100
Digital Technology	34	29.4	76.5	97.1
Drama	18	44.5	94.5	100
English Language	167	60.5	90.4	99.4
English Literature	168	54.8	85.8	98.9
Geography	24	54.2	66.7	100
History	56	50	78.6	94.7
H.E. Food & Nutrition	31	45.1	70.9	96.7
Irish	12	50	91.7	100
Mathematics Further	73	68.5	89	100
Mathematics	166	58.4	92.1	99.3
Music	12	83.4	100	100
P.E.	77	48.1	75.4	98.8
Religious Studies	169	50.8	73.9	94.6
Science Single Award	8	50	62.5	100
Spanish	17	11.8	58.9	100

Subject	Entries	** - AA	** - BB	** - CC
Science Double Award	152	55.3	77	96.7

## GCE SUBJECT GRADE ANALYSIS 2025

Cumulative % of pupils achieving each grade level

Subject	Entries	A* - A	A* - B	A* - C
Art & Design	6	50	100	100
Biology	40	32.5	77.5	97.5
Business Studies	35	60	85.7	94.3
Chemistry	33	72.7	93.9	100
Computer Studies	13	69.2	100	100
Drama	4	100	100	100
Economics	10	70	100	100
English Literature	14	28.6	92.9	100
Further Mathematics	4	50	100	100
Geography	4	50	75	100
Health & Social Care	37	35.1	86.5	100
History	10	40	90	100
Home Economics	7	42.9	71.5	100
Digital Technology	8	50	75	100
Mathematics	51	52.9	84.3	92.1
Moving Image Arts	17	5.9	88.3	100
Music	4	75	100	100
P.E.	14	78.6	92.9	100
Psychology	1	0	0	100
Physics	17	41.2	82.4	100
Polish	4	50	75	100
Politics	15	33.3	80	100
Religious Studies	12	33.3	75	100

Subject	Entries	A*A* - AA	A*A*-BB	A*A*-CC
Health & Social Care (DA)	13	30.8	69.3	100

Subject	Entries	D*	D	M
BTEC Business	19	42.1	100	0
BTEC Construction	3	0	33.3	100
BTEC Engineering	24	62.5	100	0
BTEC ICT	6	0	33.3	100
BTEC Sport SA	7	42.9	85.8	100

Subject	Entries	D*D*	D*D	DD
BTEC Sport DA	28	10.7	39.3	50.0
BTEC Construction DA	19	0.0	42.1	100