

THE KINTULLAGH VOICE



The newsletter of
St Louis Grammar School
Ballymena

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 9

DECEMBER 2014

EXAM SUCCESS!

Yet again the class of 2013-2014 has achieved outstanding results! The school achieved an impressive 96.4% A*-C grades in 7 or more GCSEs and 85.2% A*-C grades in 3 or more subjects at A-Level. It is yet another show of excellence from our students as their hard work and dedication pays off.

A special congratulations must go to Cathan Gormley who was joint first in NI in GCSE Further Maths and Emma Devlin who achieved joint first in NI in GCSE Irish. Aisling Laverty deserves special mention also as she was awarded joint third in NI in GCSE Drama. These are just a few examples of the amazing results that the students at GCSE Level achieved and we couldn't be prouder! We further congratulate the year group, as 54 students achieved 7 or more A/A* grades in their GCSEs.

At A Level congratulations must go to Hannah McCormick who was first in NI in A Level Applied Business Studies. Also well done to Michael Casey who not only achieved 4 A*s at A Level but was also awarded 4 trophies at prize giving as top achiever in each of his subjects. In addition to Michael an amazing 22 students achieved 3 or more A/A* grades at A Level.

We wish all of last year's GCSE students every success at AS Level and to last year's Upper Sixth students every success at university!

ST LOUIS PUPILS TOP ONCE AGAIN

This year St Louis pupils have once again achieved outstanding results at both GCSE and GCE level.

Recent past pupils Hannah McCormick and Cora McKernan have excelled in Applied Business at A Level. Hannah was recognised as the top student in NI this year in Applied Business Studies while Cora came joint third place in the subject. Cora and Hannah are now both students at QUB, and we wish them all the best of luck for the future.

Meanwhile in GCSE results, Cathan Gormley who is currently studying his A Levels, came joint first place in NI Further Mathematics at GCSE, an outstanding result! Emma Devlin who is also studying her A levels this year, came joint first in Irish in NI. What an achievement for Emma to win this award against students from the Irish Medium Sector.

In addition to this, Aisling Laverty who played a lead role in the school's production of Thoroughly Modern Millie also excelled in her results, coming joint third in Northern Ireland for Drama. Aisling is continuing her study of Drama & Theatre Studies at A Level.

Well done to all of the students and their teachers for their determination and hard work which resulted in these outstanding exam results. We wish each and every one of them the best of luck in the future.



AUTHOR VISIT FOR YEAR 8s



On 6th & 7th October our Year 8 pupils got the opportunity to meet local author Ashley McCook.

Through a creative writing workshop Ashley talked to the pupils about her love of reading and writing and helped them to prepare for their first CM task, a creative writing assignment entitled 'My First Day at School'.

All pupils thoroughly enjoyed the workshop:

'I found everything about the workshop enjoyable. I'm obsessed with books and meeting authors makes my heart and brain do somersaults! Ashley was really fun and interesting.' (Lana 8 Lismoyle)

'I thought Ashley McCook made the workshop really enjoyable, especially through the games she played with us. Her personality made it so much fun!' (Cora 8 Laragh)

'I found the story game really funny and enjoyable. From this workshop I also learned that I should always do a first draft when I am writing a story for my CM task!' (Meabh 8 Laragh)

'The games we played were so enjoyable. They were with story blocks and Ashley was very nice.' (Clodagh 8 Lismoyle)

'The creative writing workshop really helped me prepare for my CM task as Ashley McCook gave us lots of pointers on how to improve creative writing and told us how enjoyable reading can be.' (Neve 8 Laragh)

8 LARAGH ULTIMATE DODGEBALL



8 Laragh held their Ultimate Dodgeball tournament on Monday 17th November in an attempt to raise funds for the British Heart Foundation.

Dressed in everything from onesies to chicken outfits, green uniforms to pyjamas, they dodged their way into a three way tie for first place. Miss Mulligan has promised prizes for all teams so after the December exams, pupils will receive their rewards and we will send away the sponsorship money to the very deserving British Heart Foundation.

MEET SOME YEAR 8s!



Hello, my name is Emma Duffy.
I live in Ballymena. I am in 8 Layde. I enjoy playing the violin and I currently take lessons in school. My favourite subject at St Louis is Irish.



Hi, I'm Ben Friel.
I'm from Portglenone and I am in 8 Lismoyle. My favourite school subject is Art. I play both hurling and football as a corner forward.



Hello, my name is Brigid Delargy.
I am in 8 Lyndon and I live in Cushendall. I enjoy PE and outside of school I play camogie.



Hello, I'm Calum Buchan.
I come from Larne and I am in 8 Laragh. My two favourite subjects at St Louis are PE and maths. I play football for Larne Youth and play as a striker.



Hi, my name is Caoimhe Grimley.
I'm from Antrim. I am in 8 Lisbreen. My favourite subject in school is Maths. I play the violin and take lessons in school.



Hello, I'm Sonny Brady.
I'm in 8 Lurig and I live in Randalstown. My favourite subjects are ICT and PE. I take violin lessons and I play gaelic football for the school.

YEAR 8 BOOKBUZZ

During October all Year 8 pupils were involved in Bookbuzz!

Bookbuzz is a reading programme from Booktrust, which supports schools to encourage reading for pleasure, independent choice and to develop a whole school reading culture. Students selected their own free book to keep from a wide range of titles and genres which were chosen by a panel of experts.

In St Louis we work hard to develop a love of books and reading throughout the school community. We know the huge impact that reading has on your child's communication skills, general knowledge and success across the curriculum. We hope that the pupils enjoyed taking part and we are confident that Bookbuzz has encouraged a life-long love of reading!



ST LOUIS BECOMES IQM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



In October, St Louis were guests of honour at a prestigious Awards Ceremony at Stormont Castle hosted by IQM and an array of local MLAs.

IQM, the Inclusion Quality Mark, is a recognition of our school's commitment to inclusive practices and a determination to break down any barriers that inhibit learning. The ceremony was held to honour and recognise St. Louis as one of the only schools in Northern Ireland to have been accredited as a Centre of Excellence for Inclusion.

David Ryan of IQM described St Louis as delivering cutting-edge education, world-class practice and being inclusive in every sense.

Mr Morgan, IQM Coordinator, said 'We are delighted with this acknowledgement of the outstanding educational provision within our school and the strong emphasis on pastoral care and inclusive practices, highlighted in the IQM Inspection Report'.

YEAR 8 GAELIC



Shown above is the year 8 boys Gaelic squad who have been in training, twice a week, from the second week in September and are eagerly anticipating their first series of upcoming matches. Their development as a team is down to their commitment to the group, several of whom are new to Gaelic football.

ROTARY LEADERSHIP SUCCESS

Congratulations to Ciara Dobbin who has won the regional final of the Rotary Youth Leadership Competition.

After several intensive interviews with Rotary members and members of the local business community Ciara's leadership qualities shone and she was selected as a deserving winner.

Ciara will now participate in a week long Leadership Development Programme (LDP) with twenty three other students from across Ireland.

LDP Week consists of three days in Belfast and Dublin before setting off for **the European Parliament in Strasbourg** to play a part in the Euroscola Programme early next year. The winners debate major EU issues in the European Parliament Building with 600 other students from countries across the European Union.



INTERVIEW SKILLS EVENT 2014

On the evening of the 13th of November our Year 14s put on their professional clothes to attend an interview with professionals in their chosen field.

The pupils previously had filled out an application form which had been sent to the interviewers in advance.

The pupils were put through their paces by a panel of interviewers, giving them a taste of what a real interview might be like. All pupils received invaluable feedback which will be useful for interviews for university, placement and beyond.



JUNIOR PRIZE-GIVING

Our annual Junior Prize Day took place on Monday 23rd June 2014 with many of our younger pupils attaining excellence in their academic subjects and sporting fields.

Academic Achievements included the award for top mark in the Year 10 Key Stage 3 Maths Exam which was attained by Alana McDonnell, receiving the McClean Memorial Trophy. Catriona McCrory was awarded the Friends of St Louis English Cup for being the Top Performer in Year 10 Key Stage 3 English last year. Both girls have went on to be Year 10's Top Achievers for 2014 sharing the McCrea Cup for this fantastic achievement and all of their hard work leading up to this.

The McKelvey Cup was awarded to the Highest Performance in Art during Key Stage 3 which was Orla Casey. The Most Commitment and Promise in Music was shown by Key Stage 3 pupil Aoife McAllister who secured the Junior Music Cup. Year 10 Language Plaques were also awarded to David Byrne and Gaby Lau for their outstanding performances in French and Irish.

The spot of Top Year 9 Student has been attained by Martyn Doherty, first presented to students in 2004. Also, Year 8 pupil, Evanna Woodside was presented with the U6th 1990 Award and a certificate for outstanding achievement in her studies last year.

St Louis is a school that encourages, nurtures and helps each of our pupils to excel in every aspect. The Year 10 pupil who has Best Promoted a Positive Image of our St Louis School, Charlie Henry, has been awarded the Bridgeen O'Neill Memorial Trophy to commend his positive attitude and dedication to school life.

In the sporting world of St Louis, our budding young athletes achieved recognition for their efforts. The Alastair Breslin Trophies, in memory of the young man who passed away after suffering a brain haemorrhage in 2004, were presented to Ruairi Griffin for his commitment to school Gaelic and to Ryan McGarry for his commitment to Hurling.

We congratulate all our Junior Top Achievers of last term and encourage them to continue this standard throughout their years at St Louis!



Congratulations to our junior prize winners!





UPPER SIXTH FORMAL

On 25th September, St Louis held their annual Upper Sixth Formal in Galgorm manor.

Students, staff, past pupils and partners gathered together on this occasion to celebrate the Upper Sixth's 7 years at St Louis. Taking place amongst the school's 90th Anniversary celebrations, it was a special night for all involved.

On arrival guests were served with fruit punch and soon after were seated in the dining area for a divine 3 course meal. After dinner was served, heartfelt speeches were given by head boy James McClintock and head girl Eimear Higgins. Following the speeches was an awards ceremony which had guests laughing and smiling as individuals in the year were awarded in light-hearted humour. Soon the tables were cleared and the dance floor was filled to the end of the night.

On behalf of all the Upper 6th we would like to thank Mrs O'Neill and the formal committee for all of the hard work, dedication and preparation they put in for a night that everyone who attended will never forget.



WRIGHTBUS VISIT

On Friday 10th and Friday 17th October, the Year 13 and 14 Applied Business students went on a trip to Wrightbus Ballymena.

The students received a presentation outlining the history of Wrightbus, its current position within the market place, how it maintains this position and where they plan to be in the future. This information has helped a lot with the coursework that has been completed since being at Wrightbus.

Following the presentation the students were given a tour. Throughout this tour they observed the detailed production line showing how buses are manufactured. They were then given the opportunity to ask questions to specialised Wrightbus staff. This truly was a brilliant trip as the employees from Wrightbus delivered the information with great passion and enthusiasm which helped in making the trip enjoyable.

Students were engaged by all aspects of the business; for example: the amount of workers within the factory, all their quality control measures and all the different types of buses they produce to all around the world. The students thoroughly enjoyed this trip and before leaving they received a unique gift from Wrightbus.



HOME ECONOMICS VISIT INTO INDUSTRY

On Tuesday September 30th Year 13 and 14 Home Economics students visited McKee's Butchers, Maghera.

Only the best quality ingredients and fillings are used by the company to produce a full range of products to suit all tastes.

The products are all produced in a state of the art facility to extremely high standards. Students had the opportunity to tour this facility under the expert guidance of its proud owner, Mr George McKee.

This visit provided students with an interesting and informative look at the manufacture, processing and production of the diverse range of products McKee's produce. Students had the opportunity to observe and participate in a range of demonstrations illustrating the various scientific techniques and technologies used to manufacture the range of products. An enjoyable morning was had by all - despite having to wear the disposable hair nets and coats!



ULSTER CHAMPIONS!

It is thirty years since St Louis won an Ulster College's Senior hurling title and while the last one was a Mageean Cup, the senior hurlers ensured that the school will compete in the top tier of College's hurling in 2015/16 after defeating St Mary's Magherafelt in the Danske Bank Casement Cup hurling final on 7th November.

The game was originally fixed for the Dub in Belfast but due to the locality of both schools and the clubs they represented; it was a positive step by Ulster Colleges to play the final under lights at the magnificent Fr McGuigan Park in Ahoghill.

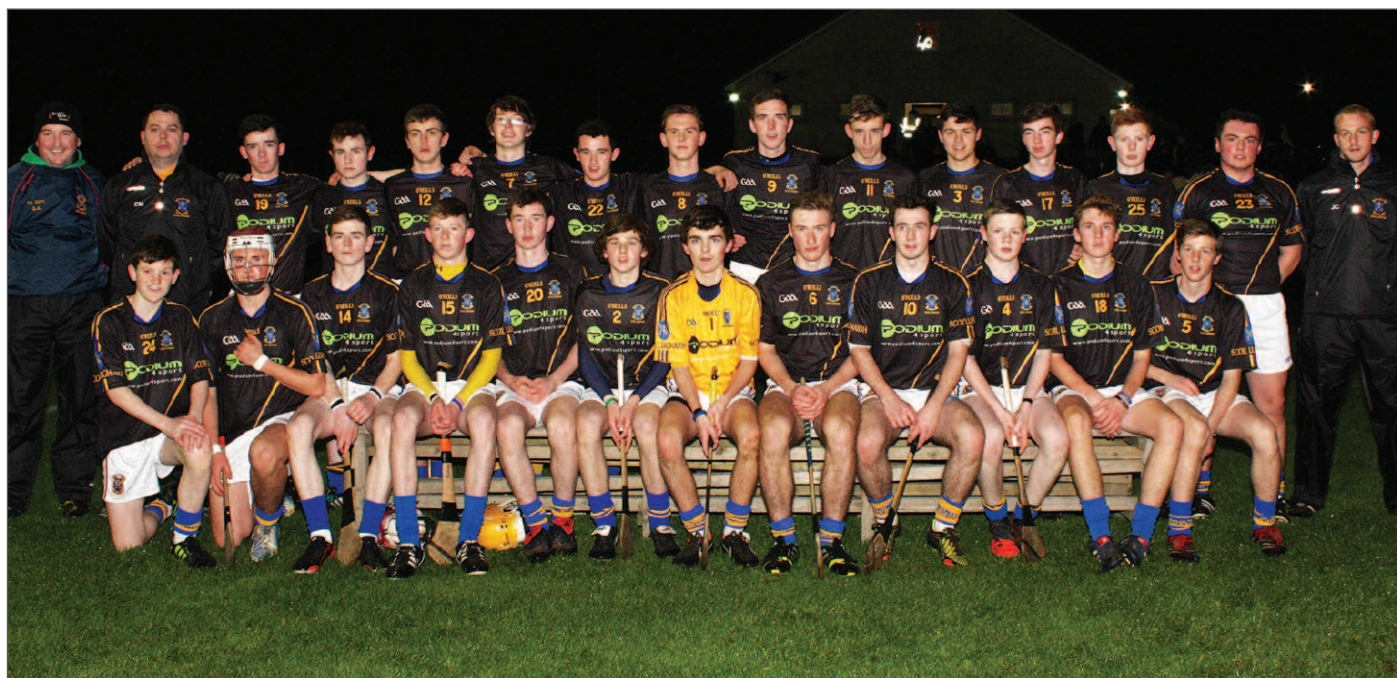
The majority of the Casement Cup squad were involved in the Kirk Cup victory back in May and with the addition of new pupils into sixth form in September, this meant St Louis were favourites to reach the final in 2014. After comprehensive victories over reigning champions, St Patrick's Downpatrick in their opening league game and then La Salle and Rathmore Grammar, the Kintullagh boys comfortably reached the knock out stages of the competition. In the semi final, a hat trick from Ciaran Elliott helped St Louis ease to a 8-13 to 0-7 victory over St Patrick's Armagh and secured their place in the school's first Casement Final.

Despite their relatively comfortable passage to the final, St Louis were underdogs in the decider as they faced St Mary's Magherafelt. The Derry side had been a thorn in the St Louis sides over the last few years until last April when St Louis defeated them in the group stages of the Kirk Cup. Like their Antrim opposition, St Mary's also had a comfortable passage to the final so the scene was set for a great game of hurling.

When James McNaughton had the sliotar in the back of the St Mary's net in the opening minute, St Louis soon renounced the 'underdogs' tag and put in an incredible display of hurling to win the Casement Cup in front of a large crowd of supporters in Ahoghill.

While James McNaughton's impressive 2-6 (1-3 frees) earned him the 'man of the match' award, St Louis were simply the better team and dominated all areas of the pitch to claim an emphatic win on a score line of 2-12 to 1-4. Credit to St Mary's who are also a very good side; they were tenacious in everything they did and didn't give their opponents much room or time on the sliotar, but they lacked the sharpness up front that the Antrim school displayed.

Well done to the St Louis team and their mentors Mr Morgan, Mr Campbell and Mr Birt on their Casement success. We wish them every success in the coming months as they prepare for the All Ireland series in March.



YEAR 12 TRIP TO SEE 'BLOOD BROTHERS'

On Thursday 25th September all of Year 12 along with the English Department attended a West End Production of 'Blood Brothers' in The Grand Opera House, Belfast.

Year 12 are studying 'Blood Brothers' as part of their GCSE English Literature course and this enthralling, mesmerising production allowed the play to come to life for the pupils. It gave students a new and vibrant perspective on the characters, the themes, the songs of the show and this will ensure that their engagement with the text and their exam responses are even better than before.



SIXTH YEARS GET INVOLVED

Pupils from the Upper and Lower Sixth Government and Politics class had a rare opportunity to become involved in a project which is currently documenting the issues faced by people on all sides of the sectarian divide during the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

The project concentrates on the families involved and facilitates story-telling in order for us to engage in dialogue and understand the emotional impact of this dark time in our history. The pupils were treated to two guest speakers: Anne Broolly and Ken Bamford. They spoke about their own personal experiences of the Troubles and answered challenging questions from our pupils. The overall experience was incredibly positive and resulted in very interesting and meaningful discussions. It was rewarding to see such bright young, political minds coming to the fore and we hope that these fresh ideas can contribute to the shared future of Northern Ireland as a whole.



PUBLIC SPEAKING SUCCESS!

Two of our Year 13 pupils achieved great success at the regional Heat of the Soroptomist Public Speaking Competition.

Eimer McAuley and Sophie McLaughlin were placed 1st and 3rd respectively. The Soroptomist aim is 'Educating to Lead'; with 5 local schools taking part and 15 competitors there was a very high standard of public speaking.

Both girls chose to base their speeches on the title – 'Cyber World: Friend or Foe?' They each put a huge amount of time and effort into the writing and preparation of their speeches; both girls did themselves and St Louis proud on the night of the competition.

Eimer will now go through to the Northern Ireland Final in February.



UNIVERSITY VISITS

On Thursday 11th September our Year 14 students attended an open day at the University of Ulster Jordanstown.

Students were given the opportunity to move around the campus and listen to the university talks about the courses available to 2015 applicants. It provided pupils with the chance to speak to current and past students of the courses, as well as the lecturers themselves, and learn about their experiences so far. This experience has helped our Year 14 students to make more informed choices in preparation for their UCAS applications. The day was truly worthwhile and a positive experience for all those who attended.

Queens University, Belfast also had open days on both Friday 12th and Saturday 13th September. Year 13 students had the opportunity to explore the campus and the facilities that Queen's had to offer. Lecturers and student guides were on hand to help with any queries. The course talks were very informative and brilliantly put together for students, teachers and parents to understand. It was a brilliant day for all who attended both the student and family open day at Queen's University and definitely an insightful experience.



MMI EVENT 2014



Every year the careers department set up mock Multi Mini Interviews (MMI) in school for our potential Medical, Dentistry and Veterinary Science applicants.

This year the same event was conducted with a slight twist - the school was invited up to Altnagelvin teaching hospital. The third year medical students, along with Dr Ronan Kehoe (a QUB teaching fellow) set up two MMI circuits for our sixth form applicants. This event was very realistic and the pupils received some invaluable feedback which they can use to self-improve for the real MMI event - which is just around the corner.

After the MMI circuits the pupils were able to practise some basic medical procedures including taking blood and inserting cannulas into a prosthetic, yet life like arm. This was truly inspiring and excited our sixth formers about the prospect of studying a medical degree. The pupils have promised to return to help the third year medical students by being pretend patients in their mock OSCE exams later in the year. We look forward to working with Dr Kehoe and his students in the future.

STUDENTS IN MOCK EU COUNCIL

On the 10th October Stormont hosted the mock EU council which was organised by the British Council and the European Commission Office in Northern Ireland.

The mock council consisted of 29 schools across the country and saw the participants debate relevant key issues, such as foreign policy and youth unemployment, which are currently being discussed in Brussels.

One of the pupils who participated was Tiernan Mulvenagh who said: *'The mock EU council was an interesting experience with the atmosphere of enthusiastic young pupils all ready to flaunt their knowledge and understanding of the respected country they had the pleasure to stand for. As one of a trio of pupils that represented Poland in this event, a country with a huge say in the EU, it was a delight to take part in this once-in-a-lifetime opportunity. I would recommend this task to all those who have any desire to pursue a career in public speaking or even a want to engage in such an event that can broaden horizons on how the EU works on a larger political scale and the effect it has on our everyday life.'*



SIXTH FORM TRIP TO LONDON

On Tuesday 4th November a group of 26 Year 13 and 14 students travelled to London for a joint educational trip that included students from Geography, Government and Politics, and Music.

The trip began with a tiring 5am start but it improved quickly; including a trip to Westminster to see how the decisions that affect everyday life are made and a boat trip that passed some of London's most famous landmarks including the Tower of London and Tower Bridge. The boat docked at Greenwich where students visited the Maritime Museum and the renowned Greenwich Market.

Arguably the best part of the trip was seeing two world-class West End plays, *Wicked* and *Les Miserables*.

Year 14 student Kristin McAuley says *"It was a very fun trip that was really insightful for my geography course."*

It was a busy three days for the students but ones they will never forget.



LMC DEMONSTRATION



Wendy Bristow, a representative from Northern Ireland's Livestock and Meat Commission (LMC) recently showed Year 11 Home Economics students how to put together simple but nutritious meals.

Wendy focused her demonstration on quick dishes that appeal to teenagers.

LMC promote the use of Northern Ireland Farm Quality Assured beef and lamb and the event involved an in-depth discussion into the nutritional benefits of locally sourced ingredients being used in recipes. Students thoroughly enjoyed the demonstration participating fully in all questions asked and best of all had the opportunity to taste Wendy's beautiful creations at the end.



MICHELIN INSPIRING FEMALES EVENT

In October, 8 of our Year 12 girls attended the "Michelin Inspiring Females Event" in Galgorm.

The girls were entertained by actress and comedian Nuala McKeever.

Our students met a variety of inspiring women, including the Mayor of Ballymena, Audrey Wales MBE, Detective Chief Inspector of the PSNI, Catherine Magee and physiotherapist Liz McGarry. The pupils met each guest and were given the opportunity to question them on their career, who inspired them and their views on women in the workplace.

Our pupils were really inspired by these women and they gained a valuable insight into the world of work and the career opportunities open to them.

YEAR 14 BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

As part of the Year 14 Applied Business Studies coursework the two A2 classes were required to set up their own enterprising business.

Shauna Hughes, Managing Director of 'Business Bandits', and her team have created the 'Winter Warmers Kit' - a much needed winter survival pack which includes a stylish travel mug, touch screen gloves, candy canes, hot chocolate and marshmallows. Shauna and her team have been spreading Christmas cheer in their Christmas Jumpers and Santa hats, filling the St. Louis foyer with all our favourite Christmas songs as they sell their kit, the proceeds of which are all donated to the suicide awareness charity 'PIPS'.

The 'Business Bandits' rival business 'KT Enterprise', managed by Jack McCann are selling USB wristbands - an innovative way to make sure you never lose your USB again, as well as offering a free stylus pen with every purchase. 'KT Enterprise' are donating all profits to the 'Multiple Sclerosis Society'.

We wish both business groups the best of luck and look forward to using and enjoying both products!



YEAR 8 HISTORY WORKSHOP



Year 8 pupils enjoyed an interactive workshop in the Assembly Hall run by the Armagh and City District Council.

Performers brought Norman shields, swords, axes, bows and other assorted examples of dangerous weapons. Pupils had the chance to try on chainmail (heavy!), helmets and even got to form a shield wall and stand firm against the enemy. The workshop finished with a live debate about which one of four men had the best claim to the throne of England in 1066. Depending on the classes involved, the answer was different every time!

It was an educational, fun-filled and engaging experience which brought History to life for our Year 8 pupils at St Louis.

CREATE 2014

Ten lucky students studying Business and Economics travelled to Create 2014 on 17th September at An Culturilann in Derry.

Create 2014 is an amazing creative conference designed, curated and produced by six young people from Northern Ireland. The aim is to inspire the next generation of creative minds through thinking, talking and doing.

The Create 2014 day featured speakers including Michael Sayman, a US entrepreneur and the founder of 4Snaps. Now, he interns for Facebook after receiving a phonecall from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg. Another speaker was Diarmuid Murphy, a marketer and gamer. He works for Microsoft and helps app creators build apps and games for Windows Phone.

Kate O'Donnell (Lower Sixth) was one of the lucky ten:

'Getting the opportunity to be part of Create 2014 was a truly life changing experience. The speakers gave us their advice about business and how they made their money. In my head entrepreneurs were people who created unique products, people who were incredibly outgoing and always knew what they wanted in life. Create 2014 proved to me that it can be even more than that.'



YEAR 8 "ReadOn"

In October Year 8 were given the opportunity to raise money for Northern Ireland Fund for Children by participating in 'ReadOn'.

Each child had 1 week to read at least 1 book and then collect sponsorship money for doing so. This year our Year 8s raised a massive £1,513.79! This huge amount will help hundreds of local children and families who are coming to terms with a childhood cancer diagnosis.

Well done to everyone involved!



DEFIBRILLATOR TRAINING

St Louis Grammar was selected to receive a life-saving defibrillator as part of the 2013 World Police and Fire Games legacy.

Using a defibrillator in the first few minutes after a cardiac arrest could be the difference between a life lost and a life saved and this is this reason that St Louis deemed it important and necessary for pupils to be trained in the use of the machine.

Dr Ronan Kehoe was responsible for saving the life of Kevin McCloy, previous Derry GAA captain, when he collapsed at Owenbeg playing pitches last month. The onsite defibrillator was an invaluable device, and helped save Kevin's life. Dr Ronan Kehoe promotes the awareness of the device and he and Dr Kitty Forgie gave up their time to train pupils at St Louis on the use of it. The pupils selected for the training are applying to Medicine, Nursing or Paramedic Science and have picked up a skill which will be useful for their future career pathways.

The pupils involved found the training invaluable with Eimear Higgins (Head Girl) commenting that she now felt more confident in CPR and would feel a lot happier about using the device if needed. Ciaran Elliot, a Year 13 pupil from Dunloy, said that he found the training important, particularly being from a sporting background.

It is hoped that these pupils, if ever put in the situation, will have the knowledge and confidence in the use of the equipment, not only in school but within their sporting clubs and communities.



'A MIDSUMMER NIGHT'S DREAM'



On the 13th of October, Drama students from Years 11-14 were lucky enough to visit The Braid Arts Centre for a production of Shakespeare's comedy 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'.

The adaptation, directed by Arthur Webb and specially edited for schools, was performed by a small but hugely talented cast of six. The students were enthralled by a production which captured all the essence of love, intrigue and humour and they were smiling and giggling from start to finish as C21 Theatre Company delighted with slapstick comedy bringing Shakespeare's classic alive with the help of skateboards, punk fairies and a pink Mohawk!

SEVENS CAMOGIE



St Louis claimed their second Ulster 7s title in four years when they defeated St Catherine's Armagh and St Patrick's Keady in the Ulster competition in September.

This meant our girls progressed to the All Ireland 7s finals which were held in St Peregrine's Dublin on Saturday 11th October 2014.

In their first game the girls met St Joseph's, Tulla Co. Clare who unfortunately got off to a better start and beat St Louis. In their second game they met St Killian's New Inn, Co. Galway and after a slow start St Louis battled on to come out on top and progressed to the final. This meant the girls met St Joseph's Tulla once more and following their previous defeat, battled their way back with a superb second half performance but unfortunately time ran out and St Louis lost out by just 3 points in the end. A few more minutes and St Louis possibly could have claimed the school's first All Ireland title.

This was a major achievement for this group of girls and an excellent experience to play at this level.

IFS STUDENT INVESTOR CHALLENGE

48 sixth form students in St Louis who study Business Studies, Applied Business Studies and Economics are participating in the IFS Student Investor Challenge this year.

The IFS Student Investor Challenge is a game which consists of online trading – students work in teams to invest a virtual £100,000 on the Stock Exchange between 13th October 2014 and 30th January 2015. The challenge gives students the opportunity to develop their knowledge of trading shares and the Stock Exchange as well as various companies and the current economic climate.

Using virtual cash means that students are gaining the experience of trading shares, making profits and losses without real life stress. Students have the opportunity to win a top prize which is a trip to New York! Monthly prizes are also available for the most improved team.

Teams comprise of four members. At present, St Louis have twelve teams participating in the Challenge. Currently, the winning team within St Louis by a considerable amount is The Wolves of Church Street. Time is of the essence however, and team positions are constantly changing, as is the Stock Market!

We would like to wish all of our teams good luck for the challenge. If any students are interested and have not yet registered, they still have the opportunity to do so. See Miss P. McCann if you are a student who may be interested in participating.



CAREERS RESOURCE AREA OPENS



Last year Charlie Henry and James Logan competed and won the Invest Northern Ireland's 2013 Step 'N' Zones Competition, with a business idea for football boots with deployable studs.

The competition was held during Global Entrepreneurship Week (18-22 November 2013) and attracted over 1,300 pupils from 40 schools across Northern Ireland. Charlie and James won £1000 for the school and were asked what they would like to spend it on.

Both pupils asked for the money to be put into the Careers department, creating a facility for pupils to independently research at their leisure.

Work started over the summer months and the Careers Resource Area is now a fully functional, bookable room, complete with ICT access. Mrs McAllister welcomes and encourages pupils from all year groups to use the facility in order to assist with their personal career plan.

POETRY IN MOTION

Since September one lucky Year 8 class has been working with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland in a programme called Poetry in Motion.

Over the course of the first term, pupils have participated in four poetry workshops with local poet Raquel McKee. Raquel is original from Jamaica and is an accomplished dub poet and experienced storyteller. 8 Lisbreen thrived in the workshops; working in groups to produce original and creative poetry which reveals the huge amount of talent in the class.

Poems were written on inspirational role models in our society such as Barack Obama and Martin Luther King. The class work was then performed and recorded by the Arts Council, some of which will appear on the programme's final CD and in their Poetry Anthology.

Pupils will attend the Waterfront Hall in the New Year to perform their work - an event which we are all looking forward to.



MOUNTED GAMES

This summer 3 pupils from our school community have made extraordinary endeavours in the field of sport.

The 3 pupils, Brigid Delargy (8 Lyndon), Orla O'Kane (9 Lismoyle) and Patrick Doherty (10 Lismoyle) are all frequent competitors in the equestrian sport that is mounted games. Mounted Games is a sport where horse and rider take part in many different relay races, e.g. jousting and sword races, which require a huge amount of agility and dexterity.

In July they represented Northern Ireland at the European Championships in Belgium. All of Northern Ireland's teams got on well in Belgium with all involved having a great time.

In August, Brigid and Patrick also had the opportunity to play again in Brockenhurst, England, at the Home International Championship, this time representing All Ireland.

These achievements will have provided them with great memories as well as experience which will benefit them in their future sporting endeavours.



90th ANNIVERSARY MASS

In order to celebrate 90 years of St Louis education in Ballymena an Anniversary Mass was held in All Saints Church on Friday 26th September.

The Mass was organised by The Friends of St Louis and was celebrated by past pupil Fr. Gerard Fox. In attendance there were Sisters from the St Louis Order, members of the Board of Governors, past and present teaching staff and pupils. Led by Mrs Donnelly and Mr Guiney, the wonderful St Louis senior choir provided the music for the service. The 90th Anniversary Mass was a great success and gave the St Louis community an opportunity to recognise and celebrate 90 years of outstanding education in Ballymena.



CAMOGIE ROUNDUP

The school camogie teams have been busy in the A grades of the College's competitions.

The Senior camogs have had a mixed campaign with a convincing win over St Killian's in their first league game but then fell short to St Mary's Magherafelt and Cross and Passion despite two good performances. Their final league game against St Patrick's Maghera ended in a one point defeat which meant Miss Donaghy's side narrowly missed out on a semi final spot.

After last year's Ulster success, the Junior camogs have adjusted well to playing in the top tier of the competition. Yet despite some fine performances, they came up short in their fixtures against St Mary's Magherafelt, St Patrick's Maghera, Cross and Passion. They then got their campaign back on track with a impressive win over St Killian's in their fourth game which meant that victory against St Patrick's Keady in their last game would ensure they clinched fourth place in the group and a semi final spot.

The Year 8 camogs took part in the Sport agus Spraoi competition organised by Ulster Camogie and hosted by QUB. St Louis were able to enter two teams in the blitz day and both teams won all their games in each section. Congratulations to Eimear McCormick (8 Lismoyle) who was recognised as one of Players of the Tournament.



Everyone please donate for FREE!

At Friends of St Louis we are actively developing new programmes to support the education of pupils at the school.

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Simply register and then go to your online retailers via www.thegivingmachine.co.uk. Every time you purchase something, the online retailer pays a small donation as a commission for sending you to their site.

STEM DESIGN CHALLENGE

Last year as part of the Science Club, pupils in Years 8 and 9 took part in the Sentinus Go4Set – Stem Design Challenge.

The pupils were teamed with an engineer and were given 10 weeks to create a project focusing on sustainable development using the themes of water conservation, energy conservation or stadium development. Two teams produced models of a sports stadium and another produced a model of their vision for a new sustainable school canteen. The teams then attended a Celebration Day in the Braid Arts Centre in April where they had the opportunity to show off their work and talk to visitors and Sentinus Ambassadors about their project.

Through successful completion of the project the pupils gained their CREST Silver Award. The CREST award is a UK award scheme recognising success, building skills and demonstrating personal achievement in STEM.

Due to the high standard of work produced by our students Sentinus then invited team FUSE and team N.R.L.C. to showcase their work for the Education Committee at a 'STEM in Action' Event in Stormont, on Wednesday 1st October 2014.



UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

JANUARY

Christmas Holidays Mon 22nd Dec until Fri 2nd Jan 2015 inclusive.

Staff Development Day Mon 5th Jan. (Pupils should not attend)

Ski Trip Sat 17th Jan – Sat 24th Jan.

Open Night Thurs 29th Jan.

Staff Development Day Fri 30th Jan. (Pupils should not attend)

FEBRUARY

Pope John Paul II Awards Ceremony in St. Mary's Church, Belfast Thurs 5th Feb, 7pm.

Year 8 Parent Teacher Meeting Thurs 12th Feb.

Mid Term Holidays Mon 16th Feb until Fri 20th Feb inclusive.

MARCH

Language Trip to Nice Years 13 & 14 Mon 2nd March – Thurs 5th March.

Year 10 Parent Teacher Meeting Wed 4th March.

Year 11 Parent Teacher Meeting Tues 10th March.

Staff Development Day Mon 16th March. (Pupils should not attend)

St Patricks Day Holiday Tues 17th March.

Year 9 Parent Teacher Meeting Tues 24th March.

Easter Concert Tues 31st March.

APRIL

Staff Development Day Wed 1st April. (Pupils should not attend)

Lourdes Trip Sun 5th April – Sat 11th April.