

THE KINTULLAGH VOICE



The newsletter of
St Louis Grammar School
Ballymena

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 12

DECEMBER 2015

ANOTHER YEAR OF EXAM SUCCESS

Congratulations to the class of 2015 on their impressive performance in this year's public examinations. Students achieved 92.9% A* - C grades across 7 GCSE subjects or more and 92.7% A* - C grades in 3 or more subjects at A-Level. The Northern Ireland average for achieving 3 A*-C grades at A-Level is 78% which shows that we have continued our trend of being well above the NI average and are firmly established as one of the leading schools in the province.

Kirsty Laverty deserves special recognition for achieving 10A*/A grades at GCSE level. A further 18 students received 9A*/A grades. Mr Rafferty praised the students' efforts, *"In our 90th year it is reassuring to know that our students are benefiting from a top class educational provision in St Louis Grammar. We are in a position to deliver a consistent series of excellent results each year without fail. This year's cohort of students are a real credit to their families and local communities. Our results are impressive in that almost 50% of our students achieved at least 7 GCSE A*/A grades. Students should be extremely proud of their achievements."*

At A-Level, congratulations must go to Bronagh Hardy, Sian McGarel and Alex Meyer who attained 4A*/A grades. Also well done to Jack McCann and Natasha McDonnell who received an amazing 3A*s. In addition, 23 students were awarded 3A*/A grades in their A-Levels. Overall, as highlighted by Mr Rafferty, the results are founded on the dedication and hard work of the students and the staff, supported by parents and guardians. We are delighted for our sixth form students who are moving on to courses and careers at the next level. With each new exam cohort, we will continue to provide every student with the opportunity to achieve their best outcome.



TOP CANDIDATES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

We are delighted that our students were among the 'Best in Northern Ireland' for Applied Business at A-Level.

Naythan Rafferty was recognised as the top student in the subject while Dervla McLaughlin achieved third place. They have both moved on to university, Naythan is studying Computer Science at the University of Ulster's Magee campus and Dervla McLaughlin is studying Business IT at Queen's University, Belfast.

Congratulations to both students and their teacher, Mrs McGreevy. This is the third consecutive year that Mrs McGreevy has had students placed in the top three in Northern Ireland!



MEET SOME YEAR 8s!



Hello, my name is Grace McQuade.

I live just outside Randalstown. I am in 8 Layde. My favourite subject is Maths. I enjoy the Art Enterprise Club in St Louis.



Hi, I'm Daniel McCoy from Ballymena.

I'm in 8 Lismoyle. I enjoy Maths lessons in St Louis. I play for the school's Gaelic team.



Hello, my name is Annie O'Kane and I'm from Portglenone.

I am in 8 Laragh. My favourite subjects are Technology, Maths and Art. I am part of the Junior Choir.



Hi, my name is Shane Kennedy.

I come from Antrim. My two favourite subjects are English and Science. I take part in Chess Club and go to Homework Club.



Hi, I'm Beibhinn McCann.

I am from Ahoghill and in 8 Lurig. My favourite subject is Art. I like going to the Year 8 Club in the Library during lunchtime every Friday.



Hello, my name is Ryan Mort.

I live in Dunloy. I am in 8 Lyndon. My favourite subject is PE and I play Gaelic and hurling for St Louis.

THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Each year the staff of St Louis select Year 14 students to lead and represent the school community.

These students are formally interviewed and selected for their leadership qualities, school spirit, responsible attitude and excellent communication skills. This year's eight successful candidates are shown below:



Kate O'Donnell
Head Girl



Rian Patterson
Head Boy



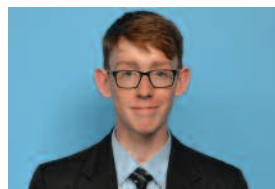
Una Doherty
Deputy Head Girl



Joseph McCann
Deputy Head Boy



Aisling Lavery
Deputy Head Girl



Peter McClintock
Deputy Head Boy



Lucy Stuart
Deputy Head Girl



Cathal McMullan
Deputy Head Boy

SIXTH FORM STUDENT PROFILES

My name is Owen Best, I moved to St Louis from St. Patrick's College, Ballymena in September for Sixth Form.

The subjects I study at AS Level are: Biology, PE, ICT and Business Studies. At present, I am considering studying Biomedicine at University but my subjects allow me to keep my options open. I have had a very positive experience in St Louis so far. Staff and pupils have made it easy for me to integrate and I look forward to spending the next couple of years here.

Twins, Kathryn Ann and Amy Louise McCombe joined St. Louis from Cullybackey College.

They came to St Louis because of A-Level choices as their previous school did not offer the subjects that they wanted to continue to study. Both girls are studying Chemistry, Maths and Biology. Amy Louise is also studying English whereas Kathryn Ann has chosen Sports Studies to make up her four AS-Level subjects. Their choice of subjects may be similar, but they hope to pursue very different career paths. Kathryn Ann would like to apply for Pathology at university while Amy Louise is considering paediatrics or teaching.

Obviously, it helps to have company when starting a new school but the girls have found it easy to make new friends along the way. Amy Louise enthused that *"everyone is so friendly; we have made great friends within our subject area."*



SENIOR PRIZE-GIVING

On Friday 18th September, Mr Rafferty welcomed a large crowd of parents, friends and students to this year's Senior Prize-Giving. This event is always a special occasion at St Louis Grammar as it offers the chance to reflect on the highlights of the year and also to look forward to new opportunities and adventures awaiting all of our students, especially those students who are about to embark on the next phase of their lives.

Mr Rafferty paid tribute to the recent outstanding results which, yet again, places St Louis Grammar in the top cohort of schools in Northern Ireland.

Prizes were given for overall achievement, as well as for excellence in specific subjects. There were many success stories, but recognition must be given to Roisin Ferris and Sarah Connon who each received a remarkable four awards for their performance at GCSE. Furthermore, Joseph Harper received two awards for his achievements at A Level and also the Gertrude Laverty trophy which recognises exceptional service to the school.

This year we were delighted that Dr Norman Apsley, Chief Executive of the Northern Ireland Science Park, was able to join us as guest speaker. Dr Apsley's speech to the assembled St Louis community was truly inspiring as he made reference to the wealth of scientific knowledge and expertise within Northern Ireland. His insightful comments struck a chord with the audience and it was the perfect note on which to begin the academic year and to wish last year's Year 14 students every success for the future - it might not be long before one of them returns to give their own speech to a new generation of St Louis Grammar students!



Congratulations to our senior prize winners!



JUNIOR PRIZE-GIVING

Our annual Junior Prize-Giving was held on Monday 21st September, to celebrate the accomplishments of Key Stage 3 students.

Mr Mussen provided an overview of the many curricular and extra-curricular achievements of students in the junior school in the last academic year. Their success was evident by the vast range of trophies, medals and certificates which were awarded for sporting triumphs, academic attainment and commitment to school life.

Kilkenny hurling legends, Denis 'Rackard' Coady and James McGarry presented the sports awards. They brought along the coveted Liam McCarthy Cup which provided pupils with ample photo opportunities! Mr Coady also captivated students with a speech that emphasised the importance of self-respect and respect for others if you are to succeed in all areas of life.

Past pupil and Antrim Camogie star, Dr Louise McAleese was the guest speaker for the academic section of the event. Dr McAleese shared the range of opportunities that she had in St Louis, which contributed to her life and career so far. She encouraged students to work hard and to ensure that whatever their chosen profession, they must feel happy and fulfilled.

Well done to every student who received an award – you thoroughly deserve the success and recognition!





ALL IRELAND CAMOGIE 7s

Eleven girls from our Junior Camogie team represented both the school and the province on Saturday 10th October at an All-Ireland Camogie 7s competition.

The girls won the Ulster section a few weeks ago and so progressed to the All-Ireland series in Dublin. They played each of the other provinces and our girls came out on top against a Kilkenny team but fell just short in the final against a team from Limerick.

This was a huge occasion for these girls to play at All-Ireland level and a massive achievement to do so well. They did both their school and province very proud through their performances.

PILGRIMAGE TO LOUGH DERG

Mrs O'Neill, Miss Bigmore and a group of 6th Form pupils embarked on a three day Pilgrimage to Lough Derg, on Friday 26th June.

Lough Derg, the sacred Sanctuary of St Patrick, is very much a living part of Irish Christian Heritage. It is a unique island, rich in prayer and faith, an island which has been calling pilgrims for over a thousand years and an island which St Patrick himself was called to.

It allowed our Sixth Form pupils to step back from their lives, to take stock and examine the direction which their lives are taking. Pupils thoroughly enjoyed the time to rest and reflect after the stress of recent exams.



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Congratulations to our Kindle Fire winners who completed their Summer Reading Challenge to an exceptional standard.

The winners were:

| | |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 8 Lyndon – Caoimhe McErlain | 8 Lisbreen – Lucy Donaldson |
| 8 Laragh – Orlagh Convery | 8 Lismoyle – Ciaran McDonnell |
| 8 Lurig – Amy McDonald | 8 Layde – Sian Zensque |



TOP TEACHER AWARD

Congratulations to Miss Pickering who was awarded the prestigious accolade of 'Teacher of the Year' by the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative (YPI).

YPI is an inclusive, multi-award-winning secondary school programme that strengthens the social sector by engaging youth in social issues and local charities.

Miss Pickering created outstanding resources to deliver the programme in St Louis. YPI were so impressed by the learning pack that they issued it to all participating schools in Northern Ireland. It is no coincidence that the number of schools involved in YPI rose by 50% after the resources were made available. Furthermore, the organisation has used the running order of St Louis' YPI Final as the benchmark for other schools to replicate when arranging their own final event.

This recognition is much deserved by Miss Pickering and the impact of the teaching resources is evident in the enthusiasm the Year 10 students exude during the YPI experience!

BIO-BODIES BAKE OFF

Lily Cassidy, a Year 11 student, baked a spectacular science-themed cake which could rival the creations on the 'Great British Bake-Off'.

The masterpiece was entered into the 'Bio-Bodies Bake Off', which is a competition run by The Physiological Society to celebrate Biology Week 2015.

The news of the competition only reached St Louis one day before the deadline. Many would consider it too great a challenge to complete in less than 24 hours, but not Lily! Inspiringly, she stated that she didn't like to think anything is 'impossible' and that spurred her on to accomplish the task.

Unfortunately, Lily did not win the competition but it certainly looked fantastic and teachers confirmed that it passed the taste test with flying colours!



HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE

The Year 8 choir had their first official public appearance when they were invited to sing at a mission mass in All Saints Chapel on Tuesday 13th October.

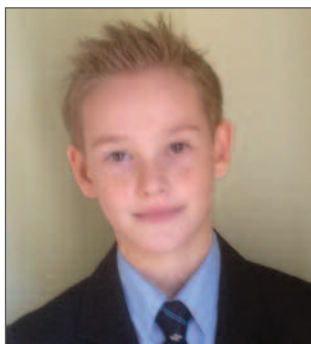
Their accompanist on the organ was Mrs Donnelly. The congregation commented on how beautifully they sang which reflects their dedication as they are just a newly formed choir.



STUDENT SHINES IN KARATE COMPETITION

Well done to Mark McCambridge in 8 Lismoyle who came 2nd in the Northern Ireland Karate Championships! The competition took place at the Sports' Centre of Queen's University, Belfast on Sunday 15th November.

Mark has now been selected to train with the Northern Ireland Karate team. This is a fantastic achievement and it is possible that this will take him to many exciting places and events!



BOOKBUZZ

This year 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 were given the chance to choose 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 for communication skills, general knowledge and success across the curriculum. We are confident that Bookbuzz will begin, encourage and nurture a life-long love of reading!



BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION

Our practice expedition for the Bronze Duke of Edinburgh Award took place on Wednesday 17th June.

We went to Tollymore Forest Park in County Down for two days of tiresome trekking. It was very warm which made walking with heavy rucksacks even harder, so we thought that it was justifiable to allow ourselves plenty of breaks! We completed our 12km trek through the forest, encountering obstacles such as steep hills and rocky terrain. When we arrived back at the camp, we set up our tents and cooked our dinner using Trangias. The next morning we packed away all our tents and equipment, making sure to leave no trace of our temporary settlement. Exhaustingly, we had to suffer a 12km walk before we could get back on the bus and begin our journey home.

Our qualifying expedition took place on Friday 10th October. We had planned everything exactly to ensure that we completed the expedition as expertly as we possibly could. Thankfully, it was much easier the second time as we knew what to expect and we completed our route quicker than we had anticipated – down to the fact we took less breaks!

We got a fantastic sense of achievement after completing our qualifying expedition because we had greatly improved on our last expedition: we completed it faster, set up our tents with ease and felt closer as a group. Furthermore, we developed our communication and teamwork skills as we had to work effectively as a group to survive our expedition. We all became better friends after spending so much time together and learned how to be independent and think for ourselves. Also we fulfilled one of the key goals of the experience: to respect nature and enjoy outdoor pursuits.

Aislinn, Niamh, Eva, Shakira, Catherine and Catriona



CIVILISATION BELFAST TRIP

Civilisation Belfast Open Day on Friday 9th October, was a great experience. I will be applying to study Civil Engineering at Queen's University very soon and I hoped to expand my knowledge about building structures by visiting this open day.

I am studying maths, physics and technology. I have always had a flair for these subjects and I chose them mainly for the reason that I enjoy them. However, I also knew they would be the best route to a career in Civil Engineering.

Participants were given the opportunity to travel around Belfast learning about famous structures in the area and about how Civil Engineering was involved in their construction. My personal highlight of the tour was visiting Windsor Park. It was under construction at the time but we had VIP passes which gave us access to the whole stadium.

Over the years I have become very interested in structures and how they are designed and built. This was instigated when my father began to expand his farm by building new sheds and turkey houses. I spent my summers helping to construct these buildings and truly enjoyed learning about different structures. I would recommend this open day for anyone interested in Civil Engineering as it was inspiring and is beneficial to put on your UCAS applications. **Tiarnan Carey**



THE ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP AWARD

The Rotary Youth Leadership Award is a leadership programme that is co-ordinated by Rotary Clubs across the globe. Each year, thousands of young people participate in this programme and are sponsored by Rotary Clubs to attend the event run by the club's district committee.

This year, I had the opportunity to take part in this competition. With Mrs McGreevy's guidance I filled in an application form and was interviewed at school level. The two Rotarians who represented the Ballymena Rotary Club were very easy to talk to and made the situation feel very informal. The interview only lasted 15 minutes and within this space of time they asked me several questions regarding what experience I had in a leadership role, what leadership qualities I possess and which leaders I admire.

The Rotary does amazing work not only within our community but also on a national scale. The Rotary International has worked to achieve 'a year without Polio' in Nigeria – the only Polio-endemic country left in Africa, which is a huge advancement in public health. After my initial interview, I was selected to represent the school at the next stage. Unfortunately, I did not progress beyond this point but I would encourage anyone who is interested in applying next year to do so. Visiting the European Union in Strasbourg would be a remarkable experience and this is extremely topical at the moment with the discussion amongst the British Parliament concerning whether or not the UK should leave the EU. **Nicole Traynor**



TWIN-CREDIBLE YEAR 8s



Teachers have been seeing double in their classrooms this year as we have five sets of twins in Year 8 - a new record for St Louis!

There are two sets of identical twins: Alyx and Danielle Walsh and Amy and Jessica McIlhatton. The three sets of non-identical twins are: Rioghnach and Maitiu Cairns, Ryan and Aimee McCartney and Carlina and Ella Sullivan.

To ease confusion for teachers, there is only one set of twins in any class. Each set of twins said they get on brilliantly with each other and luckily there have been no identity tricks on teachers...so far! However, some have admitted to confusing their poor parents!

They have provided a great talking point for the new school year and we wish them all the very best here at St Louis!

GIFTED AND TALENTED TRIP TO OXFORD

At the end of last year, my teachers nominated me to go on a trip to Oxford University. This involved a two night stay in Oxford's student resident halls to experience what it would be like to study there.

Before I went to Oxford, I assumed that in order to get into the university, students had to consistently achieve 100% in all of their tests and that it would be a different calibre of people who studied there. However, I learned that it is quite the opposite – the students who study there are those who are eager, work hard and are passionate about their subject.

My advice to you is that if you are ever offered the opportunity to go to Oxford city or the university itself, do not pass it up. What I have gained from it is the knowledge that nothing is impossible. Oxford is within our potential – we just have to realise it. **Rian Patterson**



'CHEMISTRY AT WORK' TRIP



Thirty Year 12 pupils attended a 'Chemistry at Work' programme at Queen's University, Belfast. Over 25 of Northern Ireland's leading pharmaceutical, engineering and food industries, including Almac, Seagate and Coca Cola, were represented.

Each company provided an interactive presentation in which they highlighted the important role chemistry plays within their industry and the wide variety of highly paid careers that a degree in chemistry can offer.

WRIGHT BUS VISIT

On Friday 2nd and Friday 9th October, Year 13 Applied Business Studies students went on a trip to Wright Bus, Ballymena.

Students have been researching Wright Bus in school for their coursework and therefore had some prior knowledge about the business. The students received a presentation outlining the history of Wright Bus, its current position within the market place, how it maintains this position and where they plan to be in the future. This information has provided students with a significant insight into Wright Bus and has proved to be a massive help with their coursework.



ROINN NA GAELILGE

Once again the Irish Department participated in a wide range of activities at the start of the new school year. The year 11 pupils enjoyed a visit to Ionad Cois Locha in the heart of the Donegal Gaeltacht where they were treated to a tour of this famous homestead and of course, the adventure play area.

Pupils from years 12, 13 and 14 thoroughly enjoyed an overnight trip to Gaoth Dobhair and they visited Raidió na Gaeltachta as well as the local pobalscoil where they had the chance to interact with other pupils in the Irish language.

The year 10 pupils participated in a Gael Linn quiz and céilí in the Glenavon House hotel in Cookstown and one of our teams won 1st prize!



YEAR 14 FORMAL

Galgorm Resort and Spa was once again the luxurious setting for St Louis Grammar's formal on Friday 25th September.

The range of spectacular gowns and dapper suits would have rivaled the style at the Oscars!

The formal committee, along with Mrs McGreevy did a wonderful job of organising and hosting the event. Many awards were distributed to celebrate the contributions that Year 14 students have made throughout their time at St Louis.

The biggest social event on St. Louis' social calendar was a massive success! Congratulations to everyone involved!



MAGEEAN CUP VICTORY

The Mageean Cup arrived back to the hill of Kintullagh after the St Louis senior hurlers bridged a twenty seven year gap to have our school's name engraved on the trophy for the second time.

The competition is the pinnacle of Ulster hurling at underage level and on Friday 23rd October, the final was played under lights at the magnificent QUB complex. The extended St Louis community came en masse to support the team and their coaches, Mr Morgan and Mr Gillan as they enjoyed a resounding 2-16 to 1-9 victory over the acknowledged masters of the tournament, St Mary's CBS, Belfast.

Conal Cunning had the sizable St Louis support in raptures as he fired home the opening goal in the fifth minute. St. Mary's responded and were trailing by 1-2 to 0-3 in the twelfth minute when referee, Dickie Murphy handed their full-back Chris Gallagher his second yellow card for a reckless challenge on the edge of his own goal area. St Louis remained dominant in many areas of the pitch for the rest of the opening half.

St Mary's worked hard in defence to cope with the pace and movement of the St Louis forwards in the second half but their forwards couldn't make a dent in our ever increasing lead. As the game was coming to a close, St Mary's added on three late points but it was too little too late. St Louis effectively had the game wrapped up in the eighth minute of the second half!

James McNaughton emerged as Player of the Match with his accuracy from frees combined with strong running particularly during the second half. However, the victory was very much the result of an overall team effort, enhanced by excellent leadership from Captain, Cathal McMullan.

Significantly, the 2015 St Louis squad created a new record - they won the Casement Cup in 2014 and have now added the much coveted Mageean Cup to their trophy cabinet! This is a feat which has not been achieved by any other school in the province. The Mageean Cup will take pride of place in our school over the next year and is symbolic of St Louis having firmly established itself as a formidable contender in Gaelic games. The McGreevy Cup, Kirk Cup, Casement Cup and now Mageean hurling titles have all been won by the school since 2012, which is testament to the work that is being done both within the school and at club and county level. While the players, mentors and whole school community will languish on this victory for the next few weeks, Mr Morgan and Mr Gillan will have the boys well prepared and ready for their All Ireland campaign which will take place in March 2016.

We would like to thank the team and their coaches for providing us with the opportunity to experience such an occasion. It could be considered as one of the school's most defining moments as there was a tangible sense of camaraderie amongst the school community who attended the match. We would like to express our appreciation to everyone who sent kind messages of support before and after the final. Let's hope we have even more reason to celebrate in the Spring!





ST LOUIS GRAM

MAGEEAN CUP

20



MMAR SCHOOL

P CHAMPIONS

15

ST LOUIS - 25 YEARS IN ROMANIA



ST. LOUIS GRAMMAR SCHOOL
Romania Project

Supporting
friends for
ROMANIA

In the autumn of 1990, an intrepid group of Sixth Form pupils and teachers from St Louis planned a step into the unknown as they organised an expedition to the orphanages of Romania. This expedition, which departed in January 1991, was a response to the harrowing images and news reports which emerged from the orphanages of Romania in the aftermath of the 1989 Revolution. In spite of many difficulties, the expedition was a success and it spawned a sequence of St Louis Romania trips which have continued every year since. There have been two St Louis trips to Romania every year since 1998 and hundreds of our students have participated. As a cross-community venture, we have been accompanied by students from Cambridge House Grammar School every year.

Fast forward 25 years to 2015 and a total of 58 St. Louis students travelled to Romania this year. Total fundraising for the 2015 trips exceeded £34,000 so our students were able to purchase very large quantities of materials and equipment when they arrived in Romania. This was then delivered to several children's homes, disabled centres, an elderly community and an impoverished village. Funds were also directed to commence the refurbishment of several toilet and shower blocks in a large children's home at Bradet. It is anticipated that fundraising income for 2016 will permit the completion of this refurbishment.

Our Romania Project continues to transform the lives of the most vulnerable people in Romania. It has also been a transforming experience for all pupils and teachers who have participated. We look forward to continued success in our 2016 trips!

YEAR 10 MICHELIN TRIP

We visited the Michelin factory in Ballymena on 19th October. We learned about many different aspects of the process of tyre production. These ranged from viewing statistics of tyre production, to tyre quality control. An interesting piece of trivia was that the company's iconic mascot, Bibendum was named mascot of the century in 2000.

In the tyre workshop, we were given an insight into the process of making a tyre and the various materials they used. We saw how the machines heated and stretched the rubber, before moulding it into the desired tyre. I was in complete awe of how the machines carried out their jobs.

Once the tour was finished we returned to the visitors' room to meet employees from various aspects of the Michelin company. We were given the opportunity to engage in conversation and ask them about their jobs. My friends and I then went head-to-head in a competition to see who could build the largest spaghetti tower. Unfortunately my team did not succeed in this task. I really enjoyed this day out and I am very grateful to our teacher, Miss O'Neill and the Michelin employees for their time. **JB Higgins**



POLITICS AND GEOGRAPHY TRIP TO LONDON

On 3rd November, 2015 seventeen Sixth Form students embarked on a trip to London along with Mrs Johnston and Ms Gildea. During the two night trip, they went on a tour of the Houses of Parliament and were treated to a workshop on the evolution of women's voting rights. They also enjoyed seeing the famous West End show, Les Misérables. Some of the group even managed to snatch a photo opportunity with stars of the show! Unfortunately, due to strikes on the Docklands Light Railway, the Geography side of the trip to Canary Wharf could no longer take place. However, this opened up the opportunity to visit the Natural History Museum. Overall, it was an educationally rewarding trip!



PHYSICS HORIZONS TRIP



On Thursday 17th September, Year 13 Physics students went on a Physics Horizon trip to Queen's University of Belfast which was facilitated by their Department of Physics and Astronomy. On this trip, we got to listen to three different Physicists speak about 'The Power of Light'.

The first Physicist who spoke was Professor Alan Fitzsimmons and he talked about light and colour. He explained how a rainbow works and wave particle duality. Professor Fitzsimmons also carried out some fascinating experiments.

The second person to talk to us was Dr. Brendan Dromey who further explained the nature of light and managed to pop a balloon using a laser! Finally, Dr. Heather Cogla clarified how to use light to find alien worlds. She informed us how they have found lots of planets and are getting closer to finding planets similar to Earth!

This was a very successful and enjoyable trip which encouraged us to think about the various career opportunities Physics can offer! **Anita McKeown**

SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE SUCCESS

The Senior Challenge is aimed at all 16-19 year olds studying Mathematics in Northern Ireland. The challenge involves answering twenty five multiple choice questions in ninety minutes and is sat in school under normal exam conditions. This year the challenge took place on Tuesday 8th November and we have had a very successful year with the following awards.

Year 14

| | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------|----------------------|
| Cathan Gormley Gold | Ruairi Casey Silver | Mark Crawford Silver |
| Peter McClintock Silver | Brenda Laverty Bronze | Robert Clarke Bronze |
| Niall Shannon Bronze | | |

Year 13

| | | | |
|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| Declan Mallon Silver | Roisin Ferris Silver | Aaron McLean Silver | Sean O'Rawe Bronze |
| Keelan Faith Silver | Mark McGarry Bronze | Kirsty McHenry Bronze | |

On top of these individual awards, Cathan Gormley has also qualified for the first round of the British Mathematics Olympiad. Cathan is the first student from St Louis to progress to this stage. BMO Round 1 (BMO1) lasts three and a half hours and contains six complex and involved mathematical problems for which full written solutions are required. Cathan completed this challenge on Friday 17th November and we wish him well as he awaits the results.



SPANISH CLUB

A new club has arrived in St Louis for language enthusiasts - Club San Luis! It takes place every Thursday during break time in room 15.

Each week has a different theme! So far, students have learned about Day of the Dead (día de los muertos) in Mexico, the importance of the Spanish lotto (El Gordo) and its ad, which is a talking point during the Christmas period in Spain, and learned a new song by Enrique Iglesias.

Keep up to date with all things Spanish on our Twitter account: @SLGspanish.



THE BIG FLUTE CHALLENGE

Four pupils from St Louis joined fellow flautists to take part in 'The Big Flute Challenge 2015' which was held in the Whitla Hall, Belfast on 27th September.

Patrick McAuley, Adam O'Neill, Kaitlin McAllister and Kathryn Kelly enjoyed performing alongside one of the greatest flautists of all time, Sir James Galway.

They all came together as a mass flute orchestra and, for some added fun, even had the opportunity to break the Guinness World Record for the largest Tin Whistle performance! More importantly, valuable funds were raised for Marie Curie Hospice NI and The Northern Ireland Children's Hospice.

Patrick said that, "Saturday was an amazing experience. It was great craic joining with the Ballycastle Comhaltas and it was an even better and motivational experience meeting Sir James and Lady Galway."



VISIT TO PwC



In September, four Year 12 students had the opportunity to participate in the 'Your Life' event organised at PwC in Belfast.

A mixture of students who have been identified as Gifted and Talented and those who are particularly interested in pursuing a STEM related career, took advantage of this amazing opportunity.

David Byrne, a Year 12 student, wrote about his experience: On Tuesday 15th September, three other students and I had the opportunity to visit the multinational professional services network, PricewaterhouseCoopers in Belfast. The trip was organised in conjunction with 'My Kinda Crowd', and 'Your Life'. The aim of the trip was to gain a better understanding of the advantages that studying Maths and Physics at A-Level can provide.

Personally, I found the experience eye-opening. After receiving a warm welcome, we were split into groups and completed four challenging activities focused around the services provided by PwC. Taxes, Forensics, Assurance and Consulting were explained to us by PwC employees in a unique and engaging way that helped me to realise the importance of STEM subjects. After a delicious lunch and tour of the company, we completed a product development and manufacture task, before presenting our findings to the other schools present.

I thoroughly enjoyed the trip, and realised the window of opportunity that studying STEM subjects opens. Preference from top employers, higher pay scales and development of a number of invaluable skills were just some of the plethora of things mentioned during the Q and A session. I learned the importance of communication and teamwork as well as developing new skills to maximise my efficiency and productivity. I now realise the significance STEM subjects really have!

MCNAMEE SEMI FINAL

St Killian's Garron Tower 8-5 St Louis GS Ballymena 0-4

Unfortunately the St Louis team was defeated in the McNamee semi final encounter against St Killian's on Friday 16th October in Glenravel.

St Killian's registered their first goal of the game in the third minute. This was the score that settled the opposition. St Killian's proceeded to score five goals and three points before the half time whistle blew. Nevertheless, Pdraig McGilligan secured two long range frees in the ninth and twenty third minutes.

Some great goal keeping by Callum Mullan in the second half denied St Killian's on numerous occasions from adding to their score line. In similar fashion to the first half, St Louis scored two points from frees, this time from the hurl of Colla McDonnell but it was little consolation for his side as St Killian's progressed to the final on 23rd October in which they were crowned champions.

Well done to our players for beating off stiff competition to reach the semi final, this was certainly no mean feat!



NATIONAL POETRY DAY

The English Department ran a series of events to mark National Poetry Day, which took place on Thursday 8th October.

The theme this year was light. To mark the occasion, Mr. O'Hare and a number of pupils from all year groups gave a poetry reading at lunchtime in the Library. They read eight poems, specified by the National Poetry Foundation, as well as a few expertly chosen poems by Mr. O'Hare – all based on the theme of light. Inspired by National Poetry Day, the department also ran an internal competition entitled 'First Line Films' in which entrants had to choose from one of eight specified poems and film a visual interpretation of the poem. J.B. Higgins (10 Laragh) was the deserving winner of the top prize for this competition – a gift card for the local cinema. Furthermore, pupils were invited to take part in the external poetry writing competition entitled 'The Poetry Trials'.



SHOE BOX APPEAL

The Shoebox Appeal continues to grow each year. Miss Pickering and her team of Year 13 pupils worked tirelessly to promote the appeal in aid of the 'Road to Hope' charity which sends the gift filled boxes to the less fortunate in Eastern Europe.

This year an amazing 265 shoeboxes were collected. The response from pupils, staff and the local community resulted in a visible mountain of generosity!



POETRY ALOUD

On Thursday 15th October 2015, I was chosen by my English teacher, Miss Wallace, to attend a poetry competition called 'Poetry Aloud'. This competition took place in Belfast at the Linen Hall Library.

Miss Wallace had very kindly allowed me to choose one friend to accompany me on this trip. I chose Eimear Mc Cormack who is also in my class. We travelled to Belfast on a train; it was very exciting!

Once we arrived at our venue, there were lots of other schools already there. There were three categories at the competition, junior, intermediate and senior. As I am only in Year 9, I took part in the junior section of the competition. We had to perform two poems at 'Poetry Aloud', the necessary poem called 'The Fiddler of Dooney' and also our own chosen piece. Together Miss Wallace and I decided on 'Iniskeen Road: July Evening'. The running order was alphabetical and luckily I was in the middle. The competition was really tough and the standard was extremely high. After each competitor had said their two poems, it was time for the results.

Unfortunately, I didn't progress through to the following round but I was very happy for the two pupils from other schools who got through because they were excellent. I really enjoyed our day out at 'Poetry Aloud' and I hope that I will get another chance to take part in other similar competitions soon. **Aoibhinn McCloskey**



GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS DAY

Year 12 pupils had the pleasure of visiting Queen's University, Belfast on Thursday 19th November in order to grasp a better understanding of Government and Politics. This trip was beneficial to those who wished to study the subject at A-Level.

On this trip, we spoke to a range of influential and motivational people such as Cool FM's radio presenter, Pete Snodden and past pupil, Fergal McFerran. Fergal is now a member of the National Union of Students (NUS-USI).

Being involved in the trip to Queen's highlighted the importance of the voices of young people. We are the future generation; visiting Queens helped us embrace the fact that we have innovative, fruitful and powerful minds and we should not be afraid to speak them. The talks were engaging and thought provoking as they helped us explore our opinions and our concerns about current issues within today's society. Each pupil had the choice to experience a range of seminars including Philosophy and the migrant crisis. The lecturers conveyed passion and dedication with every word they spoke.

Government and Politics possesses great importance because it helps us to expand on ideas and gives us an insight into the society we are a part of. We now understand that we have a right to freedom of speech, especially in the political sector. Studying this subject at A-Level will help motivate us to not be afraid to voice our opinions and to sculpt our society into something better. **Catherine Kerr**



IFS STUDENT INVESTOR CHALLENGE



Many Sixth Form students in St Louis who study Business Studies / Economics, are participating in the IFS Student Investor Challenge this year. The IFS Student Investor Challenge is a game which consists of online trading, where students work in teams to invest a virtual £100,000 on the Stock Exchange between 17th October 2015 and 30th January 2016.

The challenge gives students the opportunity to develop their knowledge of trading shares on the Stock Exchange as well as awareness of various companies and the current economic climate. Teams are encouraged to discuss which companies they would like to invest in and why. Participating in the challenge means that students have access to information about various companies to help them make the best investment decisions. 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 has thirteen teams participating in the Challenge. Currently, the winning team within St Louis by a considerable amount is The MARK Initiative. In second place is Team Spark, who are followed closely by The High Commissioners. Time is of the essence however, and team positions are constantly changing, as is the Stock Market. To remain competitive and to make a profitable portfolio, teams must ensure that they are attentive at all times.

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.

REFUGEE APPEAL

As the biggest refugee crisis in recent times grips Europe, the St Louis community offered overwhelming support.

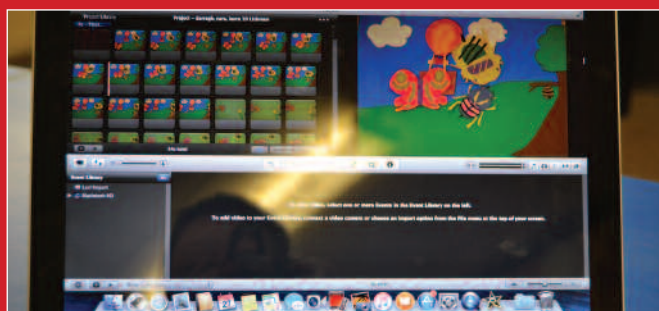
Staff and pupils brought in an abundance of toiletries which Miss Scullion then donated to the Glenravel Parish Appeal. The majority of goods were transported to those in need in the Greek Island of Kos. Pope Francis called upon the Catholic Community to demonstrate "generosity and solidarity to recognise and act upon our common humanity" in the wake of the crisis. This was certainly exemplified in our school and we are proud of the strong ethos that is always at the heart of St Louis.



YEAR 10 ANIMATION WORKSHOPS

Aspiring animators and film makers in Year 10 created comedy animations based on, 'A Day in The Life of a Bug'.

Pupils worked in groups to plan, film and edit their animations. Hopefully, they caught the bug for Moving Image Arts A-Level!



A BUDDING FILM MAKER IN YEAR 10!

J.B. Higgins (10 Laragh) is the winner of our school's internal film making competition – 'First Line Films'. The competition was run by the English Department as part of a range of activities to mark National Poetry Day. The theme of National Poetry Day 2015 was light. For our competition, pupils were asked to choose one poem from a specified list all exploring the theme of light and film a visual interpretation of their chosen poem. J.B. chose to present the poem 'My Shadow' by Robert Louis Stevenson. Well done to J.B. on the effort he put into making his highly original film!



EMPOWER EDUCATION WITH MICROSOFT SURFACE

On Wednesday 14th of October Mrs McFadden and Mr Trainor attended a Microsoft Surface event at the Think Tank in Birmingham organised by Microsoft and Academia for Education.

This allowed them the opportunity to gain an insight into how Windows devices and Office 365 can be used in the classroom to support teaching and learning. This event demonstrated how current practice within the school could potentially be developed to take us one step closer to achieving a paperless classroom. Mrs McFadden and Mr Trainor are currently in contact with Microsoft and C2k to allow their plans to come to fruition.



JUNK KOUTURE

This year's Junk Kouture group are already busy putting together their designs for this year's competition. Pupils have to create couture fashion pieces with recycled materials, hence promoting a sustainable world.



LEONARD CUP

ST LOUIS 3-7 ST PATRICK'S MAGHERA 1-9

Our Year 11 hurling team booked their place in the final of the Leonard cup on Monday 23rd November after a hard fought contest against St. Patrick's College, Maghera!

St. Louis, captained by Seann Elliot, led the way early on when the captain himself scored the first goal of the match. In a real physical encounter, St. Patrick's battled hard to claw back the goal deficit but Eoghan Daly was an insurmountable wall in midfield, breaking down every attack coming his way.

Sean O'Neill made things worse for the opposition when he flicked the ball past Maghera's goal keeper! Another goal mouth scramble saw Eoin McCusker usher the ball over the line from midfield! St Patrick's responded with a handful of frees and missed an important goal chance to equalise before the break. The score at half time was 3-1 to 0-7.

As the second half commenced, St Louis stretched their lead to 4 points with excellent team work! Both teams traded scores from frees in the following 10 minutes with St Louis edging the battle for possession by winning the ball in the ruck! With 5 minutes to go, St. Patrick's broke through and converted a controversial goal which narrowed the gap to 4 points yet again to make for a dramatic finish! With sheer determination, the St Louis side clenched the lead to set up a mouth-watering clash with Cross and Passion College, Ballycastle in Armoyn on Friday 4th December. The final had not been played at the time of going to print but we wish them well.



STUDENT OF THE YEAR

Past pupil, **Laura Graham** is the winner of the annual First Trust Bank Queen's Student of the Year Award. Dental student Laura Graham from Portglenone, was chosen for international academic achievement.

The award is presented by the Queen's Graduates' Association (QGA) with generous backing from First Trust Bank and is one of the highlights of Graduation Week. The award recognises exceptional students for excellence, achievement or service either to the University or to the wider community. Mark McKeown, Manager of First Trust Bank, University Road, said: "This year's Student of the Year – Laura Graham – is an inspirational role model for all students."

We were proud to report in last term's newsletter that Laura won the Junior Researcher Hatton Award in May, the most prestigious student research prize in world dentistry. Congratulations to Laura on her latest achievement, 2015 has been a truly remarkable year for her!



BALLYMENA COMMUNITY CLUSTER AWARDS

Year 14 pupil, Erin Casey, attended the Ballymena Community Cluster Awards on Friday 13th November at the Braid Arts Centre. Due to her success in art, she was a shortlisted nominee in the Educational Achievement category.

Although Erin was not the winner on the night, it was truly fitting that she was recognised for her remarkable artistic ability. Erin is on the Gifted and Talented list within school and is extremely dedicated, committed and passionate about her work. She scored 100% at GCSE and AS Level and is on course to complete the hat-trick at A-Level. She puts in extra time regularly at break and lunch and after school to further her work. She also works outside of the subject and was shortlisted in the Texaco Art and Design competition last year. Impressively, she has also been privately commissioned to illustrate a book of poems which is due for publication. Erin is hoping to pursue studies in Art and Design at University and no doubt she will go on to make a name for herself in the art world!



BRAID ART WORKSHOPS

In the build-up to the opening of the art exhibition 'North of Myth – North of Home', local artist Maurice Orr and international artist Joyce Majiski led a workshop on mono-printing.

A-Level pupils gained the opportunity to create their own prints and learn about the process of print making. They also gained the opportunity to develop knowledge on the inspiration behind the exhibition.



MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Mr Quinn and students from 10 Layde, polished the china and dug out their 'showstopper' recipes to hold a Coffee Morning as part of Macmillan Cancer Support's flagship fundraiser on Friday 25th September.

The event saw both teachers and students mingle in Mr Quinn's pop-up coffee shop! They tucked into sweet treats, enjoyed hot drinks made by the student baristas and took part in raffles.

Mr Quinn said: "It was a busy morning and we were thrilled to raise almost £250 in just twenty minutes."

Well done to Mr Quinn and his team of helpers – you have made an impressive contribution to a wonderful cause!



IRISH DANCING STAR

Congratulations to Conan Johnston in 8 Lisbreen who came 4th in the Ulster Irish Dancing Championships in Letterkenny over the Halloween holidays.

The competition spanned over six days and Conan performed three superb dances to earn a coveted position in the competition.

Conan is a member of the Allen School of Dancing which was founded by his grandmother almost seventy years ago! The love of dancing certainly runs in his family as his mother and aunt now teach alongside his Grandmother. Reflecting on his achievement, Conan said: "I was over the moon when I ended up getting 4th place. I have been dancing since I was 3 and I really enjoy it. Hopefully I'll be able to keep dancing for many more years."

No doubt Conan has accumulated many special memories since he started dancing at such a young age and we hope that he has many more to come!



MOCK MMI EVENT

On Thursday 12th November, our future doctors, dentists and veterinarians in Year 14 participated in a Mock Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI) event organised by Mrs McFadden to help them prepare for their upcoming university interviews.

Each candidate completed six different interviews at six different stations specific to their chosen field. The stations were assessed by practicing doctors, dentists and veterinarians who generously gave their time to assist the interview process. The candidates were allocated eight minutes at each station; this included two minutes outside the station to read the briefing card, a three minute response time for them to give their answer and three minute feedback from their interviewer. The skills assessed at the stations included ethical reasoning, self-evaluation, communication and problem solving skills. Our future dentist, Caitriona Nelson was even tested on her dexterity skills by playing the best game of 'Operation' St Louis has even seen.

Year 14 student, Roisin Connon summed up the success of the evening, "The MMI mock interviews were a great help as it provided feedback and improvement strategies at each of the six stations. Also, as the interviewers were qualified doctors, this provided the ideal time to ask any questions and discuss vital aspects of both the medical course and career." We are confident that all students involved will go on to achieve their goals.



ENTERPRISE ART CLUB

The Enterprise Art group have started work on creating crafts for this year's craft fair. Pupils from KS3 and KS4 have taken part in workshops led by A-Level art pupils and have created crafts for sale. These include ornaments, magnets, keyrings, Christmas decorations and much more. In doing this pupils are learning about how art and design can be enterprising and create employment opportunities.



LEARN SPARK COURSE

Outstanding teaching and learning is at the heart of each lesson in St Louis. To enhance Continual Professional Development, teachers participated in a 'Strengthening Teaching and Learning' course on Tuesday 3rd November.

This was facilitated by Learn Spark and led by Educational Advisor, Walker Ewart OBE.



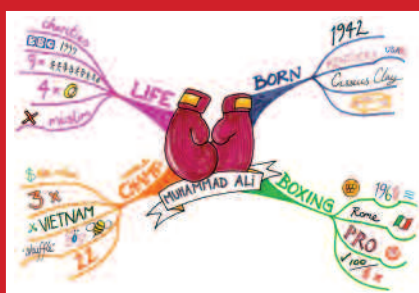
Mr Ewart has thirty seven years experience in education as a teacher of languages, a senior teacher and latterly as a member of the Education and Training Inspectorate. He was awarded an OBE 'for services to education' in the 2012 New Year's Honours list.

During this course, teachers explored the fundamentals of high quality lessons, according to Inspectorate criteria and guidelines. Staff took part in active learning by sharing ideas, experiences and approaches with colleagues. It was a most worthwhile course which provided creative strategies to further enrich the learning experiences of our pupils.

SUPER SPEED STUDY SKILLS

On 17th November an organisation called Positively Mad delivered a motivational and thought provoking talk to all Year 13 pupils.

It highlighted the importance of finding the revision technique that works best for them in order to make revision easier, more efficient and effective, thus helping them to cope with the greater demands of 6th form.



The talk was given by Steve who worked through different revision techniques with the attentive, engaged and open-minded pupils. The techniques were designed to promote independent learning and research which are important skills to have when studying for A-Levels. Steve, for example, discussed how colourful mind maps are an extremely effective revision technique as they enhance learning and recall skills. He used the example of Muhammad Ali's life story to showcase how summarising large amounts of information can make revision easier and less daunting. He also illustrated simple and practical ways to remember important dates and events by using our imaginations. Steve emphasised how there is a large range of information sources available other than the Internet such as videos, articles and leaflets for pupils to use to increase their knowledge on particular topics.

A fresh, uplifting and inspirational presentation was also delivered to Year 11 students on 18th November. They were introduced to a range of study skills that have been designed to significantly increase their rate of learning and their ability levels.

By combining humour and practical advice, the workshop taught students about the principles of memory and showed them how to use simple but effective learning to learn tools.

The workshop's timing was perfect as the students were in the midst of revision for their CM2 assessments. The facilitators, 'Positively Mad', encouraged pupils to "stay focused and believe" and commended the "brilliant pupils and staff."

LMC DEMONSTRATION

Wenda Bristow from the Livestock and Meat Commission recently visited our Home Economics Department. She informed Year 11 students about the health benefits of eating meat and in particular meat reared in Northern Ireland. One significant fact was that the lush green grass which the livestock feed on, results in meat which is lower in salt and higher in Omega 3 fats which are mostly associated with fish sources.

Wenda found time to cook up a 'Yummy Lamb Curry' and 'Mozzarella Meatballs' - both dishes were enjoyed by students and teachers!

Students were advised to look out for the 'Farm Quality Assured' symbol when purchasing meat to ensure that it is of excellent quality and to have the reassurance that they know where it comes from. The clear message was to support local produce!



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

On Friday 9th October, Miss Bigmore and nine students travelled to St. Joseph's Parish Centre, Antrim where they took part in the 'National Day of Prayer'. Primary Schools from all different areas attended the day and they were each allocated to a missionary country.

In their teams they learned about a missionary child and a Saint from that country. As well as that, they took part in an African drumming workshop and participated in dance routines from India, the South Pacific and Ireland.

The day ended with a special mass which was celebrated by Bishop Treanor and five concelebrating priests from all different countries. The missionary priest delivered the homily and spoke of his personal gratitude toward missionary work because without their work, he wouldn't have had an education. The experience enabled students to embrace other cultures and learn about missionary work.



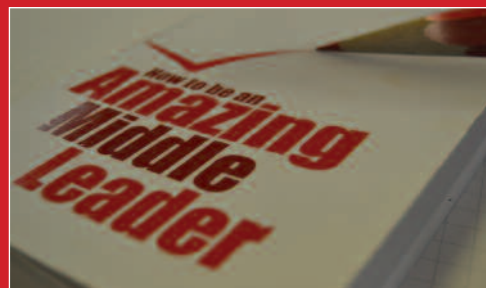
CONCERN DEBATE

This year, St. Louis' Grammar School have entered a team of students in the **Concern Debate Competition**. The team comprises of students from Year 11, Year 13 and Year 14. The Concern Debate Competition gives GCSE and A-Level pupils the skills to put together an argument, deliver a speech, stand up for their point of view and challenge their opponents' opinions. The debates provide pupils with an insight into the causes and effects of global humanitarian disasters, poverty and hunger and provide them with the opportunity to voice their opinions on how to tackle some of the tough challenges affecting the lives of millions of people in the developing world.



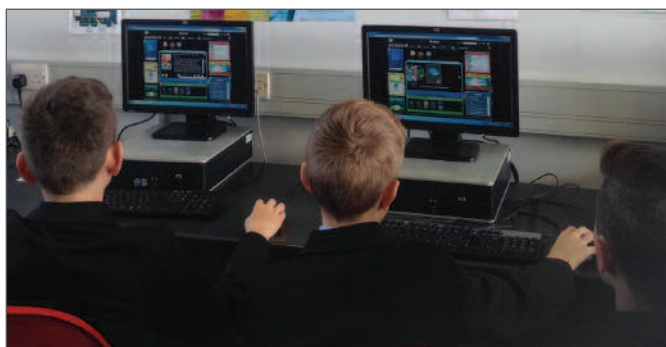
MIDDLE LEADERSHIP COURSE

On the morning of 20th November, two of our teaching staff, Mrs Eilish McDonald and Mrs Louise Donnelly travelled to London to take part in a Middle Leadership workshop. This workshop was led by author of 'How to be an Amazing Middle Leader', Caroline Bentley-Davies. During the course teachers from all over England, Scotland, Northern Ireland and Wales participated in tasks and discussions on leading a team. Teachers gained the opportunity to compare strategies used within schools and discussed best practice. Mrs McDonald and Mrs Donnelly were able to take away ideas for their own departments and will feed back to the rest of the staff during a future staff development day.



NEW LIBRARY SYSTEM

The new Eclipse library system now allows everyone to have access to our school library catalogue. At the click of a button, all staff and students can gain access to a personalised online learning resource, tailored to their individual research and reading preferences wherever and whenever they want. The approved multimedia content is easily accessible from any browser based location!

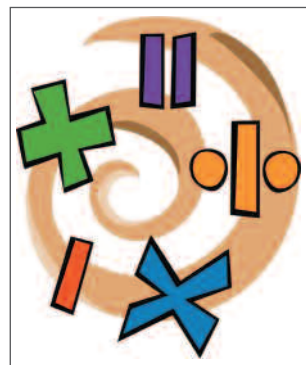


PRIMARY SCHOOL MATHS WEEK

The recent 'Maths Week' inspired and motivated children to see the benefits of maths skills in everyday life. Teachers from St Louis Grammar were asked to visit local Primary 7 classes to aid transition, share technology and also to build links within the community.

Mrs McToal, armed with 32 Surface RTs (and Mr Heffron's ICT skills) visited Mount St Michael's, Randalstown on Thursday 19th November. She showed both P7 classes how the Maths Department used the Surface RTs to facilitate learning in lessons. Pupils accessed Mymaths and used the Number Library to advance and practise their number skills in a fun and interactive way, and at a level suitable to each pupil. Pupils then took part in a Nearpod activity to further demonstrate how Surface RTs can be used in a classroom environment to aid on-going formative assessment.

Pupils loved using the new technology and had an exciting and enjoyable afternoon. Time certainly did fly when they were having fun and it is an experience that we hope to repeat in the future.



SECRET, LIES AND MATHEMATICS

On Wednesday 14th October, the top twenty Maths students in Year Ten were given the opportunity to go to a 'Secrets, Lies and Mathematics' lecture led by Steve Humble, otherwise known as 'Dr. Maths' at Queen's University, Belfast.

The lecture was made accessible and enjoyable for pupils. It included predictions for football games and also some card tricks with mathematical logics. One student who went on the trip said that, "everyone's mind was blown" about how you can apply Mathematical skills in different ways.

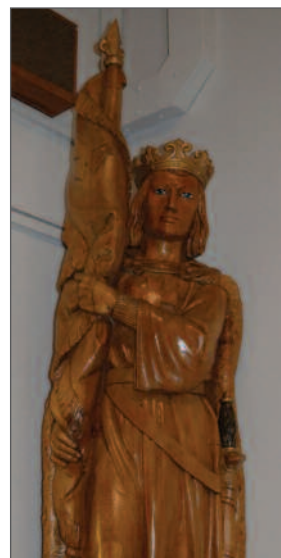


STATUE RESTORATION

While there have been many changing faces in St Louis over the years, there is 'someone' who has been part of the furniture, the wooden statue of our founder St Louis, 'Great King and Crusader of Old' which is situated in the foyer.

However, there was a brief period of absence as the statue was taken down from its home of over seventy years to be given a new lease of life.

The statue was treated to cosmetic restoration by means of a French polish. After the necessary cleaning, repairing and polishing it is now back to its prime position, providing a welcoming presence in the heart of our school's thoroughfare.



LOCAL LEGEND

The St. Louis community would like to extend our warmest congratulations to past pupil, Michael O'Neill, on leading Northern Ireland to their first major tournament since the 1986 World Cup in Mexico.

During his time at St. Louis Grammar, Michael was already making waves in the footballing world as he played a pivotal role in winning the Northern Ireland Schools FA Cup. Since then, he has gone from strength to strength and his historic achievement could just be the start of even bigger things to come!

Michael O'Neill is certainly an inspiration to all our students and the nature of his success fully embodies our school mantra: excellence, empowerment and endeavour.

We wish him all the best for the 2016 UEFA European Championship!



NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations to Mrs Grant on the birth of her twin boys in July and Mrs McAllister on the arrival of her baby girl in October. We hope you're all keeping well.

OUTDOOR GYM COMING SOON...

A range of fitness equipment will be installed on the school grounds which will offer students a fun approach to exercise during their break and lunch times whilst enjoying the benefits of the fresh air.

The outdoor gym will be situated outside the canteen and will be ready to use in the New Year!



NEW STAFF MEMBER

In October we were delighted to welcome a new member of staff to our administration team, Stacy Baird.

Welcome Stacy from all at St Louis!



ROY BONAR

The Board of Governors of St Louis Grammar School assembled to mark the retirement of Mr Roy Bonar.

Mr Bonar had been a Governor of St Louis for the past 18 years and had been a key figure in many aspects of school policy and procedures.

Speaking at the event, Mr Stuart (Chair of Governors) spoke of the many personal characteristics displayed by Mr Bonar over the time of his service as a Governor. Mr Stuart reflected upon his qualities of generosity of spirit, ability to work objectively, integrity and the skill of applying his business acumen to the work of education. *"Roy has been recognised for his contribution to community relations and community cohesion and he was a great ambassador for ecumenism. Our school would like to publically acknowledge Roy for the significant time and expertise he shared with our school. We wish him many years of good health in his retirement."*



ROBERT DORAN

Our longest serving member of staff, Robert Doran, retired this summer after a remarkable 39 years as caretaker at St Louis!

His kindness and dedication have left a lasting impression on everyone; he always greeted both staff and pupils with a smile. When the school posted a tweet on Robert's retirement, it was the most retweeted post we had at that point – this is testament to the impact that he has made on so many people throughout the years.

To say that he will be greatly missed is an understatement! We wish Robert many happy and healthy years of retirement!



UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

JANUARY

Monday 4th: Staff Development Day (Pupils should not attend)
Thursday 14th: Year 13 Parent Teacher Meeting
Thursday 28th: Open Night
Friday 29th: Staff Development Day (Pupils should not attend)

FEBRUARY

Wednesday 3rd- Wednesday 10th: Year 13 trip to Romania
Thursday 11th: Year 8 Parent Teacher Meeting
Monday 15th – Friday 19th inclusive: Mid Term Holidays
Saturday 28th & Sunday 29th: Language Visit to Nice (Years 13/14)

MARCH

Tuesday 1st – Friday 4th: Language Visit to Nice (Years 13/14)
Wednesday 2nd: Year 10 Parent Teacher Meeting
Tuesday 8th: Year 11 Parent Teacher Meeting
Tuesday 15th: Year 9 Parent Teacher Meeting
Thursday 17th & Friday 18th: St. Patrick's Day Holidays
Wednesday 23rd March: Easter Concert
Friday 25th – Friday 1st April inclusive: Easter Holidays
Sunday 27th – Saturday 2nd April: Lourdes Trip (Years 13/14)

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