

# THE KINTULLAGH VOICE



The newsletter of  
St Louis Grammar School  
Ballymena

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 17

DECEMBER 2017

## ST LOUIS' CONTINUE TO SET THE BENCHMARK FOR OUTSTANDING EXAM RESULTS

St Louis' Grammar celebrated another year of excellent GCSE and A Level exam results. An incredible 96% of all A level students attained A\* to C grades across three or more subjects. Furthermore, 100% of students achieved 7A\* to C GCSE grades including Maths and English. This outstanding performance marks yet another high point in personal and academic achievements for both staff and students and further consolidates St Louis' credentials as one of the top Grammar Schools in Northern Ireland.

While there are many individual success stories, special recognition must go to Niamh Gould and her remarkable 4A\* outcome at A Level. These fabulous results have enabled Niamh to read Medicine at Oxford University. As well as this, 15 students also achieved A\*-A Grades in 3 or more subjects!

There were also phenomenal achievements at GCSE. Notably for the Doherty twins: Martyn attained 11A\* and his brother Patrick not to be out done with 10A\* grades.

Neska Connon and Alisija Sestakova also received a staggering 10A\*. Alisija also gained an A grade in AS level Russian.

This is a very small sample of the wonderful accomplishments of such a talented senior cohort.

Principal, Mr Rafferty, congratulated students, "We are extremely proud of our students. Their immense success can be attributed to the hard work and perseverance of staff and students alike. Our GCSE and A Level cohorts rose to the challenges posed by their subject courses and have evidently reaped the rewards. To have achieved such a remarkable percentage of top grades denotes a consistent performance at the highest level. Supported by dedicated staff and families, these students have both the confidence and qualifications, to aspire to their chosen careers and futures."

As further recognition of our success and prestige, The Sunday Times Parent Power survey of secondary schools has placed St Louis' Grammar in the UK's top 100!



# PILGRIMAGE TO LOUGH DERG

At the end of June, following summer exams, a group of nine Year 14 students along with Mrs O'Neill and Mrs McGinn set off on a three day pilgrimage to Lough Derg, County Donegal.

Lough Derg is a religious pilgrimage site dating back to the sixth century and is a religious haven that believes self-sacrifice and removal from the everyday rush of life can bring you closer to God.

Following a two hour bus journey, and a short ferry ride, the group arrived on the island. Everyone made their way to their dormitories to remove socks and shoes before beginning silent prayer whilst walking barefoot around the rock beds outside.

Upon completion of the first three stations, the group was treated to a 'Lough Derg meal' of dry toast and black tea (having been fasting since mid-night, this proved to be more of a treat than it sounds)!

The 24 hour vigil began at 10pm on the first day. The group challenged themselves to stay awake while completing stations four to seven inside the basilica, this lasted to 6am mass.

Throughout the second day they were given the opportunity to take time to themselves to relax and enjoy the peacefulness of the island.



After 9pm prayer, sleep was finally permitted for the first time in two days!

On the third day, following 6am mass and the completion of one final station outside, pilgrims were reunited with their socks and shoes before returning to the mainland and the comparative chaos of everyday life.

Keelan Faith reflected on his experience "Despite the hardships we were faced with throughout our time on the island, Lough Derg provides us with the opportunity to get away from the stresses and worries of the everyday world, become closer with God and provided us with a sense of peace and tranquility like no other. We were all in agreement that it is an invaluable experience which we hope to do again next year."

## ROMANIA – SUMMER 2017

On Sunday, 9th July 2017, thirteen Lower Sixth and seven Upper Sixth students set out on the long journey to the Transylvania region of Romania.

On arrival they spent several hours buying thousands of pounds worth of food and materials. Then they spent the rest of the week delivering these goods to needy children's homes and disabled centres in and around the city of Brasov. The St Louis' team was led by Mr Marquess and Mr Herald and was also accompanied by students and a teacher from Cambridge House Grammar School.



## SUMMER CAMP 2017

Our annual Summer Camp took place from 17-21st July and over 130 Primary 5 and 6 pupils from feeder schools attended! It was a jam-packed, fun-filled week with a range of activities on offer for children to try out.

The activities included: badminton, basketball, dance, soccer, handball, volleyball, art, obstacles, tag rugby, wall climbing, drama and unihoc. Fortunately, the sun basked down upon St Louis' for the majority of the week to allow children to make the most of the outdoors! It also gave children the opportunity to mix with pupils from other schools and hopefully many will return as pupils of St Louis'!





# SPORTS DAY 2017

Our 41st annual Sports Day was held on Thursday 22nd June. There was an opportunity for every Junior student to participate in at least one event. The day climaxed with the 100m and 200m finals followed by the class relays. These proved to be very close contests but no class managed a male and female double victory!

Congratulations to Year 8 pupil, Ryan Thom, who set two new Year 8 records! In the 1500m final, Ryan knocked nine seconds off the existing record to complete the run in a time of 5 minutes 45 seconds. In the Javelin, he raised the standard yet again for future Year 8 pupils, as he reached a distance of 20.5 metres. The previous Year 8 record was 13.5 metres!

Once again the 2017 'SLG Sports Day' was a resounding success. Well done to all the students who took part in their various events and collected points for their 'house'. Sports Day is an excellent showcase of the talent of St Louis' students who participate whole heartedly and enthusiastically. This year, winning medals were presented on the day - congratulations to the individuals and relay winners. Well done to Mr Gillan for organising the Sports Day and thank you to all staff who looked after events and supervised the tuck shop and ice cream van queues! Special mention also to Mr Rugman and the Technology Department who made the podium for Sports Day which looked very impressive!

The class relay winners for 2017 were:

	GIRLS	BOYS
YEAR 8	Laragh	Lismoyle
YEAR 9	Lismoyle	Lisbreen
YEAR 10	Lyndon	Layde



## CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR SUMMER READING CHALLENGE WINNERS!

### Kindle Winners

Shauna Robinson – 8 Laragh  
Conor Bresnahan – 8 Layde  
Sarah Boyle – 8 Lisbreen

Orlaith Murray – 8 Lismoyle  
Oliver Doherty – 8 Lurig  
Annie McCrory – 8 Lyndon



## TOP CANDIDATES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

St Louis' Grammar is exceptionally proud of a number of students who have achieved the highly coveted accolade of being recognised as the top candidates in Northern Ireland for particular CCEA examination subjects.

Astoundingly, Bronwyn McAuley, Siofra Patterson, Shannon O'Kane, Natasha Selby and Caoimhinn Gormley all received first place in Northern Ireland in GCSE Art and Design. Caoimhinn Gormley secured yet another first place in GCSE Construction. Eoin McCusker has been awarded joint first place for GCSE PE.

Furthermore, a remarkable achievement for Patrick Doherty as he came first in both English Language and Literature. Erin Gould was also placed third for her excellent work in GCSE Business Studies.

This is wonderful acknowledgement of all the hard work and dedication of our students and teachers.



# GOLD PRESIDENT'S AWARD

**The President's Award is the world's leading youth achievement award and pupils of St Louis' have been given the opportunity to take part in this scheme. There are two progressive levels of programmes that our students can avail of: Silver and Gold.**

The award is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland to young people. By taking part in this award, pupils of St Louis' will experience exciting personal, physical and community challenges and develop new skills as well as friendships.

St Louis' Gold Award pupils completed a challenging but adrenaline charged hill walking expedition in the Wicklow Mountains National Park. The aim of this expedition is to develop initiative and a spirit of adventure by planning, training for and completing a journey as part of a team.

The participants departed for Wicklow Mountains National park on Wednesday 21st June, 2017. En route to Wicklow, the group stopped off at Tayto Park in Co. Meath. Here they enjoyed climbing wall activities, team building challenges and the experience of watching Mr Trainor stand on his tip toes to ensure that he was the correct height to ride on the rollercoaster! At this early stage, it was evident that each group had a strong team spirit and even though they were about to face a difficult challenge over the next four days, the enjoyment and excitement was palpable from every student.

On arrival in County Wicklow, pupils were based in Lough Dan Scout Camp. This allowed for final planning of routes, an equipment check and a chance to relax and cook some dinner. There was no evidence of nerves as pupils began to build fires, play music and avail of the outdoor scout swimming pool.

Day one of the expedition was set out to test pupils. This was the first experience since the practice hike of working as a team to navigate through an area of Ireland many pupils had never been before. Although there were some questionable navigation decisions at times, all pupils returned to the camp site safely.

Day two posed a significant challenge for the pupils. Battered by heavy rain and fog, pupils climbed along an old railway track to the top of Camaderry Mountain towards Turlough Hill Power Station. At this point, with the weather getting significantly worse, staff took the decision to follow the escape route off the mountain. Once pupils came off the mountain, they took shelter and began to make hot drinks.

As soon as the pupils were filled with hot chocolate and coffee, they followed the low level escape route that they had planned to camp. Having been weather beaten throughout the day, Mr Quinn had to work overtime on first aid duty!

The third day of this expedition was the most enjoyable for the pupils. Knowing that the President's Award assessor would be meeting them at different points along the route, each pupil had to take ownership of one navigation leg. Pupils climbed along the Spinc and dropped down into Glendalough. This was the most picturesque part of the trip and the enjoyment and sense of achievement on the pupils' faces was evident as they stopped for selfies along the route and took time to jump into the natural rock pools. With perfect conditions and fantastic scenery, pupils began to feel a sense of achievement that the tough test that they had put themselves through was beginning to appear worthwhile. To top this all off, they received excellent feedback from the assessor about their conduct, ability and knowledge so the morale at camp was very positive.

On completing the expedition on Sunday 25th June, pupils had time to reflect on what they had achieved over the past five days. From a leader's point of view, it was fantastic that all the training and preparation had led to a successful expedition. But from watching the pupils as they came off the mountains and completed their expedition, the sense of togetherness, community and friendship that had been strengthened from completing this award was evident throughout. The realisation that they had successfully planned, navigated, cooked and camped together as a group was sinking in.

The aim of this expedition is to develop initiative and a spirit of adventure by planning, training for and completing an adventurous journey as part of a team. Staff firmly believe that our pupils developed skills and a sense of achievement that will stand with them for many years to come.

Pupils now have to complete the remaining sections of this award. Once the volunteering, skill, residential and physical sections are signed off, pupils will have successfully completed the Gold level of this President's award and will receive their certificates.

Well done to all involved on this fantastic achievement!

**The President's Award team**





# SENIOR PRIZE GIVING

The annual St Louis' Grammar Senior Prize Giving Ceremony took place on Friday 15th September. Staff, family, friends and extended members of the St Louis' community gathered to formally recognise, celebrate and reward the outstanding achievements of students. Prizes were awarded to those who excelled in public examinations and also to students who made significant contributions to school life.

Principal, Mr Rafferty, paid tribute to not only those students who achieved remarkable success, but to all senior students as St Louis' celebrated its best ever results, "Only a token number of our student body is formally acknowledged for their excellence. In real terms, all of last year's GCSE and A Level students were winners. We wish to acknowledge those superb results and achievements of our young people who completed public examinations last year."

Mr Rafferty went on to acknowledge the efforts of students on their astounding accomplishments, "The results are testimony to hard work, pain, sacrifice and focus from students, teachers and parents. However, the reward will be everlasting in terms of preparation for careers and the euphoric feeling of high self-esteem and success.

Almost every Year 14 student has achieved a place in third level courses this year with an increasing number accessing internships as a career pathway."

This year's esteemed Guest Speaker was Jamie Delargy, a distinguished journalist who was Business Editor for UTV at the time of his retirement in 2016. In his address to the assembled audience, Mr Delargy spoke of his journey to becoming a multi award winning journalist. Mr Delargy drew attention to essential qualities which he found helped him to build such an impressive CV. These included self-belief, virtue and 'making time to understand what you do not know.' The sincere words of advice will no doubt have resonated with the young people in attendance who will be eager to grasp every opportunity to learn, enquire and reflect in school and beyond.

The evening concluded with a presentation to the new Head Boy and Head Girl, Padhraig Magill and Elise O'Neill, along with their team of Deputies.





# JUNIOR PRIZE GIVING

Junior Prize Giving Ceremony was held on Monday 18th September. The annual event recognises and celebrates the range of achievements of KeyStage 3 students.

Vice Principal, Mr Whiteford, praised students on the exemplary approach they demonstrated towards their studies over the previous academic year and also their contributions to the many extracurricular activities available at St Louis'.

St. Louis' had the honour of welcoming two very successful past pupils: Lynda Bonner OBE and Ryan McFadden. Ms Bonner was awarded an OBE for her services to the treatment of venous thromboembolism (formation of blood clots in the vein).

Mr McFadden has just completed his degree in Aeronautical Engineering and is about to embark on a Masters course. Both speakers expressed how their time at St Louis' enabled them to achieve their dreams and encouraged the student audience to utilise every opportunity that is given to them throughout their time at the school.

Congratulations to all students who received awards for full attendance, academic success, exceptional effort and sporting endeavours.





# OUR NEW YEAR 8 CLASSES



8 Laragh



8 Layde



8 Lisbreen



8 Lismoyle



8 Lurig



8 Lyndon



# 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.

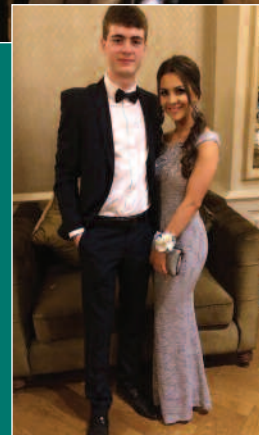
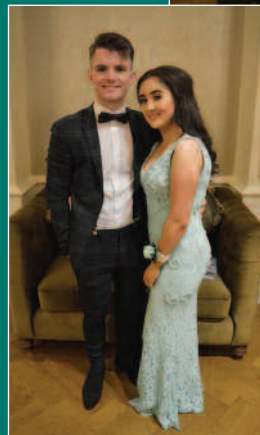
In St Louis' we work hard to develop a love of books and reading throughout the school community. We know the huge impact that reading has for communication skills, general knowledge and success across the curriculum. We are confident that Bookbuzz will begin, encourage and nurture a life-long love of reading.



## YEAR 14 FORMAL

The St Louis' Year 14 annual formal took place on Friday 29th September in Galgorm Resort and Spa.

It was an exceptionally stylish event and a great way for the class of 2018 to celebrate their final year together before the pressures of exams commenced. Well done to the formal committee for their meticulous planning which ensured that it was a truly memorable night for all!



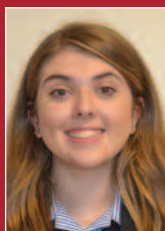
## THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

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:



Elise O'Neill  
Head Girl



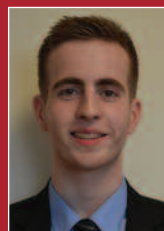
Cora Brady  
Deputy Head Girl



Fiona Hills  
Deputy Head Girl



Catriona McCrory  
Deputy Head Girl



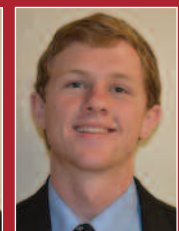
Padhraig Magill  
Head Boy



Owen Dempster  
Deputy Head Boy



Ryan McGarry  
Deputy Head Boy

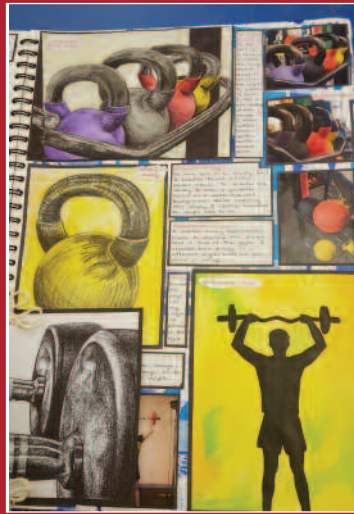


Tiarnan Quigg  
Deputy Head Boy



## GCSE AND A-LEVEL ARTWORK

A selection of work completed this term by KeyStage 3, GCSE and A-Level pupils.



## EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

To celebrate the European Day of Languages, there were displays and competitions in the foyer, where pupils could guess the country of origin of different foods and/or match the flags with the country.

The overall winner was Leon Convery, 8 Lurig. The canteen was decorated in a European theme and pupils were asked to order and pay for food in different languages. There were also buns with different European flags on them. Finally there is a competition to guess the identity of each teacher speaking in a different language.

A big thanks to all the staff and pupils who helped out and got into the spirit on the day.

Merci! Go raibh maith agaibh! Gracias!



## 'JINGLE ALL THE WAY' CAMPAIGN 2017

The St Louis' Senior Choir and Mrs Donnelly got the Christmas spirit underway with the first fundraiser of the 'Jingle all the way' campaign for 2017 hosted by Northern Ireland's Children Hospice. The event took place on Thursday 28th September at Montgomery's restaurant in Ballymena.

An array of people turned up to support the worthy cause from sports stars and journalists to the hospice nurses and families receiving care and support from the hospice. Castle Tower School Choir also helped to entertain the audience with upbeat songs.

Both choirs sang beautifully and it was an evening well spent helping such a worthy cause in the run up to Christmas.



## MACMILLAN COFFEE MORNING

Mr Quinn's annual Coffee Morning in aid of MacMillan Cancer was once again a great success. Judging by the crowd of students and teachers it attracted, it appeared to be one of the busiest to date! Tea, coffee and home baked treats were served from 8am until break time. The final amount raised was £551.28.





# MEET SOME YEAR 8s!



**Hello, my name is Kevin Bencze.** I live in Kiltrea. PE is my favourite subject as I love being active. I play gaelic for St Louis' and I am also part of Moyola soccer team.



**Hi, I'm Ellie Dickson.** I live in Loughgiel. I have two older brothers at St Louis': Christy in Year 13 and Connor in Year 10. I enjoy Technology as it's fun and practical. This term we carved our own Christmas trees. I also play camogie for St Louis'.



**Hi, my name is Hugh O'Donnell and I'm in 8 Lismoyle.** My favourite subjects are English and PE. I play hurling and gaelic for St Louis'. I am also part of the swimming club. Recently I took part in the Ulster Schools swimming gala and smashed my breaststroke personal best by five seconds!



**Hello, I'm Orlaith Murray.** I'm from Randalstown. I like French as I've found it easy to grasp so far. The extracurricular activities I'm involved in are Drama Club and Junior Choir.



**Hi, I'm Harry Connors and I live in Ballymena.** My strongest subject is Maths. I love playing different sports in PE and I enjoy creative writing in English. I play Gaelic for St Louis'.



**Hi, I'm Rebecca Fitzpatrick.** I live in Larne. I have two siblings at St. Louis': Caitriona in Year 13 and Jack in Year 11. My favourite subject is English because I enjoy personal writing.

# ART EXHIBITION

**On Thursday 12th October, Mrs McAuley and the Year 14 Art & Design class attended an exhibition at Antrim Castle Gardens.**

The exhibition was entitled 'Coastlines, Country and Creatures' and was created by Louise O'Donnell, a past pupil of St Louis'. The exhibition was in support of Action Mental Health and showcased work created by Louise during a period of time when she struggled with mental health issues. It was important to show our support for her exhibition as this is such an important topic which affects many young people.

During the visit, students also experienced the work of university students which was being exhibited in a neighbouring gallery. Aoife McAllister commented, "As A-Level students, we were able to take inspiration from both exhibitions and incorporate our findings into our own coursework. This was a very valuable trip on so many levels and we benefited greatly from it. Living in Northern Ireland it is not always possible to experience the work of artists first hand, so our thanks to Mrs McAuley for taking the time to take us on the trip."



# STAR OF THE STAGE

**My name is Miguel Quiruga and this summer I was in Rodgers and Hammerstein's 'Carousel' at the Theatre at the Mill in Newtownabbey.**

It all started in May when I had to audition for the role at the theatre and this included singing a song from the show in a group and then perform a solo to test our memory. This audition lasted about one hour. I found out the next week that I got a principal role of a sailor!

Rehearsals began near the end of July; we had just two weeks to prepare for the performances which took place from 1st -5th August. There were six performances in total!

Over the next two weeks I made many new friends, learned a range of skills and overall it was a wonderful experience... Even the Mayor came to see the first show!

'Carousel' is the fifth show I have participated in along with 'Alice in Wonderland' (Belvoir Theatre), 'World without men' (Lyric theatre), the 'Million Pound Banknote' (Belvoir theatre) and 'Annie' (All Saints Church, Antrim). I'm looking forward to having many more in the pipeline.





# ULSTER SCHOOLS' SWIMMING GALA

St Louis' students were in attendance at the Ulster Grammar Schools' Swimming Championship over two Saturdays in October and November.

Students who swam for the school included: Hugh O'Donnell, Ryan Addison, Gareth Lau, Maebh Connelly, Onagh Donaghy, Katie Logan, Jack Donnelly and James Logan.

There were a number of fantastic accomplishments from our students and some even managed to achieve personal bests in particular swimming styles.

Notably, Onagh Donaghy continued to enhance the swimming profile of the school in the competitive arena after being placed an amazing 1st place in the 50m Breast Stroke with a remarkable time of 38.52 seconds!

Overall, both days proved to be an amazing start to the new swim season for the school and a great opportunity to see St Louis' students' names up in lights!



## GAEL LINN QUIZ

St Louis' once again won at the Gael Linn Quiz held in the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown recently.

All year 10 pupils participated in this very enjoyable experience. The entire day, a quiz followed by a lively céilí, was conducted through Irish and pupils got the opportunity to interact with pupils from a range of other schools.



## PAST PUPILS RETURN TO ST LOUIS'

Past pupils Conn Gribben, Owen Marquess and Daire Wilson came back to St Louis' for a morning to talk to Sixth Form students about the PwC Higher Apprenticeship.

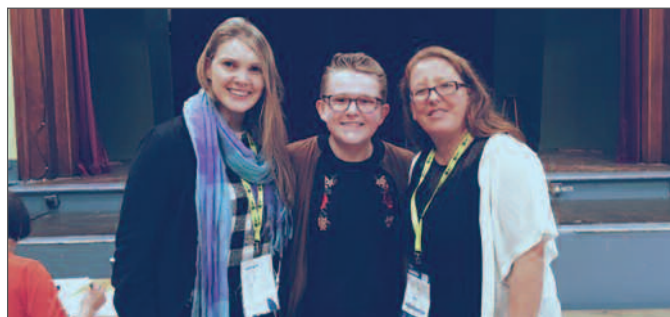
Students were inspired by their experience and found it most informative hearing about the scheme from first-hand experience and from those they know! We wish Conn, Owen and Daire every success for the future.



## HITTING THE RIGHT NOTE

Year 11 student, Adam O'Neill, came second this summer in the Fleadh Ceoil na hÉireann, the biggest event in a traditional musician's calendar.

The event was held in Ennis, Co. Clare and musicians come from all over Ireland, England, Scotland and America to compete. Prior to this, Adam had won the Harp Slow Air competition in Ulster. This is wonderful recognition for such a talented musician.



## FRENCH FILM WORKSHOP

On Thursday 19th October, Year 13 French students participated in an AS/A-Level workshop hosted by NICILT at QFT, Belfast.

The workshop focused on the film that they will be studying as part of their A-Level course, 'Manon des Sources'. Students answered questions in French and were a credit to the school. The experience will give them an invaluable advantage going forward into the exams over the AS/A-Level course.





# AUTHOR BERNIE MCGILL VISITS SCHOOL

On 18th October, Year 8 were given the opportunity to attend a creative writing workshop with local author, Bernie McGill, in our school library!

'The thing I found most enjoyable was getting to answer the questions about the picture we were given and getting to use my imagination.' **Eimear White – 8 Lurig**

'I learned that if you include more interesting words or phrases then you will keep the reader interested.'  
**Daniel Patterson – 8 Lurig**

'I enjoyed when we looked at the pictures and gave our own opinions on the characters. I also enjoyed when Bernie gave us the start of the sentence and we had to finish it!'  
**Conor Bresnahan – 8 Layde**

'I found the sentence structure task very enjoyable because it let my imagination run wild!' **Anton Doherty – 8 Layde**



'I found out that you have to get in to your characters' deepest darkest secrets to make them more relatable to the reader.' **Katie Cassidy – 8 Layde**

'The creative writing workshop definitely helped me with structuring my story for my CM1 for English.'  
**Noah Friel – 8 Layde**

## US:NI LEADERSHIP INITIATIVE EVENT

On September 28th, our Year 13 Government and Politics class attended a US:NI Leadership Initiative event at The Braid Town Hall Museum Arts Centre, Ballymena. Here we heard from a number of local politicians on why they entered politics and also why they require our help to shape their policies and make them really matter in today's and tomorrow's society.

Internationally renowned lobbyist, Quintin Oliver, spoke at the event. His work has taken him across the world, from the Middle East to South America and has succeeded in raising awareness for numerous public issues. He encouraged our generation to make a difference in our local communities.

We also had the pleasure of meeting members of 'Young Influencers NI' and also the US Embassy's Youth Council in Dublin. These young leaders told us about their truly inspiring work and the 'REAL' differences they made in their communities - despite several setbacks, ranging from exam stress to wheelchair-bounding paralysis. Their words were truly thought provoking.

Finally, we worked on developing our own personal brand! This entailed examining our confidence, attitude and appearance - vital necessities for the 'all eyes on' political world. This was led by Billy Dixon, one of the UK and Ireland's leading motivational speakers and personal development gurus, who in his career 'styled' some of the biggest names in modern media.

The event itself, along with the question and answer period, has allowed each of us to gain a much broader insight on not only the political perspective, but the greater perspective of today's society. It maintained focus on how significant we are, as today's youth, in improving society and making it the best it can be. Most importantly, it has allowed us to envision our goals and strive to be the best we can be.

**Connor Stephens**



## MOVING IMAGE ARTS CINEMAGIC TRIP

In October, almost fifty Year 13 and 14 Moving Image Arts pupils attended a Cinemagic event in Belfast. Pupils gained an excellent opportunity to hear and see what it would be like working in the film industry.

The first part of the day was a question and answer session with the well-known production designer, David Bowes. Bowes discussed his time working on the critically acclaimed film, 'The Selfish Giant', which was nominated for a BAFTA. He showed pupils his set designs and all the planning that goes on in the background of creating a film. The information he shared with pupils was invaluable, communicating in an open and honest way about the highs and lows of working in the film industry. Following numerous questions from pupils, we viewed the inspiring and emotional tale of two young boys growing up with challenging backgrounds. 'The Selfish Giant' is a truly captivating film, by the end there was barely a dry eye in the house!



## NEW HURLING KIT

Many thanks to Dixon Contracts for sponsoring our new Hurling kit. Current pupil Dan Dixon is pictured with his grandfather, Dan.





# CREDIT UNION COMPETITION

Congratulations to Eabha Scullion in Year 9 who came second place in this year's Credit Union competition, in the Ballymena area.

Eabha created a beautiful painting based on the Theme of 'Set Your Imagination Free'. Eabha was presented with her prize in November in the Adair Arms hotel.



# OUR LADY OF FATIMA

A statue of Our Lady of Fatima, which has been blessed by Pope Francis, visited Ballymena to mark the centenary of the final Marian Apparition. As well as this there were also statues of the three shepherd children: St Jacinta, St Francisco and Lucia, servant of God. The apparitions started on October 13th, 1917.

Parish Priest, Father Paddy Delargy, remarked on the occasion: "Thousands of people were inspired by the Apparition of Our Lady and responded enthusiastically to her call for prayers for peace. We will do what Pope Francis urges us to do. Our Lady wants us to pray for the conversion of heart of those who are far from their practice of the faith."

Year 8 pupils have also been studying the Marian Apparitions and attended a talk on the Fatima Apparitions. Following the talk, pupils were given roses which were blessed by Fr. Delargy. Pupils took the roses home to give to those who were sick or in need. Instructions were given to dry the petals as a keepsake of the centenary celebrations of the Fatima Apparitions.



# MAGEEAN SEMI FINAL

**St Patrick's Maghera 4-12 St Louis' Ballymena 1-10**

Forty-seven minutes into the Danske Bank Mageean Cup semi-final in the Loup, St Patrick's Maghera scored a point to level at 0-9, to St Louis' 1-6.

Up until that point, Maghera were struggling against St Louis' defence in which Aaron Crawford, Brian McNaughton, Eoghan McGrath and Ryan McGarry hurred superbly. In the opening half, St Louis hit just one wide but unfortunately couldn't replicate this performance in the second half. Eventually, St Patrick's managed to dominate the scoreboard, yet the score line doesn't reflect the skill of the St Louis' team.

The St Louis' team was happy after the first half, going in at the break 1-5 to 0-6 up, the goal coming from Sean O'Neill who picked up the sliotar in the clear and ran right in on goal in the 14th minute.

Liam McCann fired over four points, two from frees, as the team made the most of their openings, while frustrating their opponents. Indeed, Maghera went 16 minutes without a score in that period.

However, Maghera opened a gap by tapping home the first goal from close range after a mazy run from right half forward in the 48th minute. This gave Maghera the confidence to power ahead and earn their place in the final.

A disappointing result for such a talented team, yet they can be proud of how they managed to beat off strong competition to get to the semi final.





# MCNAMEE FINAL

## St Killian's College 6-5 St Louis' Ballymena 2-7

The McNamee final took place on Friday 27th October and unfortunately, our Year 8 and 9 hurlers were the runners up on this occasion.

It was an absorbing game of hurling, with skill being demonstrated in abundance by both teams. However, it was the scoring power of the St Killian's full-forward line that had a big influence on the outcome of this game.

There were many stars on the St Louis' team, notably Odhran McGarry who was most impressive in centre back position. The All Saints dynamo gave his all, and then some in an effort to get his team over the line, but had to settle for second in the end. Kevin O'Boyle, Jack McCloskey and the highly skillful Ronan McCollum were also stars in a great game of hurling.

St Killian's opened the score line at the beginning, but Ronan McCollum settled the nerves with his team's opening point on five minutes. When he added another a minute later, things were starting to look more promising for St Louis' until they were dealt a blow soon afterwards when St Killian's rattled the net at the other end.

McCollum settled things again with his third point of the game, Kevin O'Boyle also grabbed one from play. When full-forward Jack McCloskey hit the back of the St Killian's net, the gap was suddenly down to four. With just four minutes of the first half remaining the Tower's lead was stretched to five again with a well taken point, but yet another fine strike from St Louis' McCollum cut the deficit to four again by half time.

St Killian's held on to their lead in the second half. Despite this, St Louis' kept up the fight and nearing the end they gained some reward when Odhran McGarry sent over a point from a free. The lion hearted defender then added the goal that his performance deserved when he sent the ball through a wall of defenders high into the net from a twenty metre free.

However, St Killian's had the final say and they were the victors who seized the cup.

The St Louis' team were gracious in their defeat. The boys had shown so much passion and commitment throughout the competition and there is no doubt that they will go on to make more remarkable sporting achievements throughout their time at the school.



## SOROPTIMIST SUCCESS!

**Two St Louis pupils enjoyed great success in the regional heat of the Soroptimist Public Speaking Award.**

Caitriona Fitzpatrick and Lily Cassidy (both in Year 13) were placed 2nd and 1st respectively. The competition aims to encourage girls to play a more prominent role in public life. Caitriona's speech was entitled 'Immigration – how open should our doors be?' while Lily chose the title 'Every generation has had its problems – what's in store for me?'

Both girls put a huge amount of effort into preparing for the competition and delivered excellent performances on the night! They really did themselves, their parents and the school proud. Lily now goes on to compete in the Northern Ireland final. Well done girls!





# YEAR 13 TRIP TO STORMONT

**On Tuesday 14th November, Year 13 Government and Politics Students, along with our teacher, Mrs Johnson, visited the Parliament Buildings at Stormont to learn more about Northern Irish Politics -one of our AS courses- from the people themselves!**

Upon arrival, we were greeted by our host for the day, a bright and bubbly lady named Anne-Marie Fleming. Ms Fleming, a civil servant, gave us an introductory talk during which she explained to us her role and some background information about Stormont and what's been going on there both before and after the collapse of the NI Executive in January. She was also very helpful and encouraging throughout the day, quizzing us on both what she was telling us and what we learn in the classroom with Mrs Johnson.

Afterwards, Peter Hall, a Committee Clerk, came to visit us and spoke to us about Committees in Stormont. This section of the day was especially informative for us students as we are currently studying Committees in Government and Politics. It was very interesting and informative to hear about them from a first-hand perspective. We also had the opportunity to speak to 5 MLAs representing 4 Political Parties: Mr Steve Aiken and Mr Robin Swann of the UUP, Ms Claire Hanna of the SDLP, Mr Philip McGuigan of Sinn Fein and Mr Johnny Buckley of the DUP. We asked a range of questions about their own politics, their party policies and the work that they all continue to do despite the lack of an Assembly.

As it was Anti-Bullying Week when we visited, myself and four of my classmates delivered messages about bullying for the Assembly Education Service, while Ms Fleming took the rest of the class on a small tour through the Great Hall to the Assembly chamber.

There we learned a lot about the chamber itself and the role of the Assembly when it is functioning. We joined our class in the Chamber and I even got to sit in the Health Minister's seat for the duration of the workshop. Overall, the trip was a very worthwhile, interesting and informative one for us students, and hopefully for Mrs Johnson too!

We would like to thank the NI Assembly Education Service and Ms Anne Marie Fleming for hosting us, Peter Hall and the 5 MLAs for coming to speak to us, and especially thank you to Mrs Johnson for organising the wonderful day.

Eabha Lynn



# CREAGH CONCRETE VISIT

**On Wednesday 11th October, twenty-seven Year 13 BTEC Business Studies students visited Creagh Concrete in Toomebridge as part of their course. Prior to their visit, students spent some time researching Creagh Concrete for their coursework and therefore had some knowledge about the business. Visiting Creagh enabled students to see what they found from their research in real life and much more.**

On arrival, students were provided with tea, coffee and refreshments before they attended a presentation given by the HR director, Mrs Lorna McMullan. The presentation outlined the history of the firm, its organisational structure, how they communicate with stakeholders and the opportunities and challenges they face in the external environment. It was most informative and provided students with a significant insight into Creagh Concrete as well as proving to be a massive help with their coursework.

Following the presentation, students were given a tour of the Creagh Concrete factory. Throughout the tour, they observed the detailed production floors showing how precast concrete products are manufactured. Specialist staff from Creagh were more than happy to answer students' questions and to provide them with a wealth of information about the business.

Students were also given the opportunity to look closely at plans and designs of buildings which Creagh Concrete's employees are currently working on. They learnt about Creagh's CAD Academy where world class training is provided for those who would like to pursue a career in computer aided design (CAD). Needless to say, they were extremely interested in what this involved.

Before leaving, Creagh provided students with a lovely lunch at the Elk restaurant and a bag full of goodies to take home!

The generosity of staff at Creagh was second to none and students are highly grateful.

Year 13 Applied Business Studies students found the trip most useful. Students returned to St Louis' with a greater insight into the workings of Creagh and a tremendous amount of information which will help them complete their coursework to a high standard. One student commented, "The visit to Creagh was really interesting. The presentation we were given and the opportunity to ask questions while we were touring the factory means that we've got lots of information for our coursework. We learnt things that you definitely wouldn't have found out from secondary research".





# LMC VISIT

**On Wednesday, 15th November, Year 11 Home Economics classes were provided with a fun and educational demonstration on how to cook three Livestock and Meat Commission inspired dishes. The recipes were for creamy peppered beef, grilled lamb tabbouleh and meatballs with mozzarella.**

Throughout the demonstration, Elizabeth Brown provided us with information on food provenance and traceability, explaining how food can be traced from our plate back to the farm that it was reared on. She also highlighted the importance of food safety whilst handling raw meat, as well as the risk of contamination.

We, as students, were informed of the precautions to take whilst in the kitchen reinforcing what we have been taught in Home Economics since Year 8.

From the recipes that were cooked, the majority favoured the meatballs, but the creamy peppered beef came a close second. The least favourite was the lamb, as Ms Brown had predicted. We were also introduced to new ingredients in the form of bulgar wheat and feta cheese which could be used in our GCSE practicals.

She has inspired us to make healthy, delicious meals and we thank Ms Brown for an inspiring demonstration.



# SENIOR CAMOGS REACH THE ULSTER FINAL

**Congratulations to our Senior Camogs who have booked the school's first Ulster Camogie Senior Final since 1951!**

They had a comfortable semi-final win over last season's beaten finalists, St. Patrick's Maghera. The girls now face Cross and Passion, Ballycastle in the decider due to take place in mid-January.



# YOUNG PEOPLE'S AWARDS

Two Year 13 students were recognised for their tremendous volunteering efforts at the Credit Union's 'First Young People's Awards', which was held on Monday 13th November at the Adair Arms Hotel in Ballymena. Daniella Timperley won the 'Leadership' award and Ellie Barry was runner up in the same category. The aim of this event was to give recognition to teenagers in the local community who spend their free time volunteering for admirable causes and for those who excel in sports.

Daniella Timperley is involved in numerous charitable efforts. She works with Women's Aid, Cinemagic, Save the Children and Children in Need to name just a few!

Ellie received her nomination from Carniny Football Club for her enthusiasm and dedication towards coaching the girls' football team. Ellie also works with children with disabilities and takes part in numerous fundraising activities.

It's clear from their range of charitable ventures that both girls have made a massive difference to the lives of so many people and fully deserve to be given formal recognition. They are a credit to their community. They work tirelessly and selflessly for the benefit of others and are role models for the youth of today!





# MY ROTARY EXPERIENCE

In November, I represented St Louis' Grammar at the Rotary Youth Leadership Awards Club Final.

The competition gives young people like myself, the opportunity to develop their Leadership and Communication skills, while getting recognised for the contributions they've made in their own communities. It also tests knowledge of the history of the Rotary Club, the EU and leadership. The eventual winner receives a trip to Strasbourg!

The first stage was at the Adair Arms Hotel in Ballymena, and it involved a formal interview with three independent panellists. After winning this interview, I was given the opportunity to compete at the highest stage, at the zone final of the Competition at the Roe Park Hotel in Limavady. The topics covered included everything from environmental initiatives to Brexit, with some questions regarding my personal experiences thrown in too.

While I unfortunately didn't make it to Strasbourg, it was a very valuable, worthwhile and interesting experience, which I would recommend to anyone! I got to meet new friends, talk to experts in a variety of different fields, and I even got treated to lunch at the Roe Park Hotel!

Eabha Lynn



# NEBSSA CROSS COUNTRY SUCCESS

On Tuesday 21st November, 36 pupils competed in the NEBSSA Cross Country. There were 12 participants from Years 8 to 10.

Huge congratulations to Ryan Thom, who won the Year 9 race against over 100 athletes. Year 9 boys performed incredibly well as Tyrone Mitchell came 4th, Cormac McMullan - 19th, Conan McAuley - 21st, Tony McCann - 28th and Aodhan McGary 29th. This boys' team came second overall, narrowly beaten by Ballyclare High.

Other notable performances were:

Sophie Doherty 14th and Katie Molloy for Year 8 girls.  
Eimear Johnston 5th for Year 9 girls.  
Shaun O'Callaghan, Ryan McQuillan and Adam Campbell were all placed in the top 30 for the Year 10 boys' race.  
Well done to all involved!



# ULSTER JUNIOR SEVENS WINNERS

On Tuesday 25th September, our Junior Sevens team travelled to the Mid Ulster Sports Arena to compete in the Ulster A Junior sevens competition. The girls performed excellently and after winning all their matches, they met rivals Cross and Passion in the final.

The final was a tense affair with both teams giving it everything they had. St Louis' won this thrilling match by a goal and were crowned Ulster 'A' Champions, for the first time in the school's history!

The girls then travelled to Ashbourne Co. Meath on Wednesday 8th November to represent Ulster in the All-Ireland Sevens competition. The girls competed extremely well against top teams such as Presentation Athenry, Kilkenny and Clonakilty Cork. This was a fantastic achievement for the girls and a great experience to play at such a high level. The girls did themselves, their school and their province very proud.





## DECLAN MALLON – DELOITTE APPRENTICESHIP

**Declan Mallon left St Louis' in June 2017 and has provided current students with an account of his apprenticeship so far with Deloitte.**

Leaving school is a big change, no matter which path you take, you will be meeting different people and trying new things.

Throughout my time at school, I never really fancied the prospect of going to university, I always had my eye on the apprenticeship route. I feel many people were afraid of the apprenticeship route as it meant that they would have very little time outside of work, but one of the key benefits of doing the apprenticeship is that you don't have to get a part time job to get money, meaning you will have more time at weekends and in the evenings.

So far this year I have lived in Belfast with other students, so I haven't felt left out of the social side of university. I've met new friends through this and through work, and although I'm not able to go out as often as my friends who are at university, there are still enough opportunities for me to go on nights out around Belfast!

One of my worries about being on the apprenticeship is that it would be a massive jump from going to school to suddenly having a '9-5 job', whilst trying to study for my accountancy qualifications. However, working in an office with people who have completed these exams recently means that I am able to get help and guidance from them, whereas at university you may often be left on your own.

In my first week on the job, we were all flown over to London for our induction week. This consisted of mostly preparing us for life at Deloitte and giving us time to meet our new colleagues and get to know them.



After that, I completed a five-week training programme which was very tough as I was presented with lots of information in a short space of time, this meant I was often left exhausted at the end of the week. Nevertheless, after this we realised the benefit of the intense training as it ensured we had some background knowledge before being thrust into the office environment.

So far I have enjoyed my time on the apprenticeship route as the tasks we are given are challenging, but you always have someone to help guide you through the task so you're never left stuck.

If anyone is considering accountancy, I would definitely recommend doing an apprenticeship. Although it is demanding having a '9-5 job' whilst trying to maintain a social life and continue playing for sports teams or keeping up hobbies, I feel the benefits definitely outweigh the drawbacks!

## SHANNON QUINN - GRAPHIC DESIGNER

**Past pupil, Shannon Quinn, graduated from University of Ulster School of Art in Belfast in June 2017. Shannon studied Art and Design in St Louis' and achieved full marks in all elements of her A-Level course. She was successful in gaining entry to the degree course without studying a foundation, which was a huge achievement and a result of her talents as well as her hard work and commitment to her chosen pathway.**

Shannon is currently working as an intern for Selfbuild Ireland, who organise events for people renovating their homes. Shannon's job is to create all their print work and online promotional material. She also designs articles for their magazine which comes out four times a year. In addition, she is working on side-line projects for the company and is involved in branding for a summit that will be held in the Waterfront Hall in June. Whilst doing this Shannon is also completing a post graduate course.





## SUTTON TRUST US PROGRAMME

I applied to the Sutton Trust US programme in December 2016 and was lucky enough to be one of the 150 students selected to take part in the programme out of over 1500 applicants. The Sutton Trust US programme aims to make studying in the US accessible for low to middle income UK state school students, through providing admissions help and a week-long residential at an American university during the summer.

I attended an Introductory Residential in April 2017, which was hosted by London School of Economics. At this residential, we learned about all the work that will be required of us in the coming months in preparation for applying to the US, such as sitting ACT examinations, SAT subject tests, drafting Common App essays, filling out financial aid forms, teacher references and finally sending your Early Decision application on November 1st. I also met lots of wonderful people from all over the UK and made lots of new friends, which has been my favourite part of this experience.

The highlight of the programme so far was the week-long residential at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Boston during the summer. This trip was fully paid for by the Sutton Trust. We stayed in MIT dorms right beside the River Charles, which gave us the perfect view of the boats which sail up and down all day long. The aim of the trip was to give us an experience of American college life, so we visited lots of different types of colleges such as Bowdoin, Dartmouth and Brown, which are liberal arts institutions, and Wellesley and Smith, which are women's colleges. We were given tours of all the campuses and had information sessions with the international admissions tutors from each college.

Whilst in Boston, we also attended a Red Sox game, had an evening free at the mall, saw MIT's Media Lab, went to the Quincy Market and walked along the Freedom Trail. One of the Sutton Trust's sponsors, Bank of America Merrill Lynch, held an event on the very top floor of the Bank of America offices in Boston, where we had dinner and got to network with employees.

On our final day in America, we attended a private college fair for Sutton Trust students only at Harvard. Representatives from 50 different colleges attended, and we had 3 hours to visit each stand and network with as many of them as possible. It was the most amazing, life-changing week of my life.

Now, I'm busy finalising my applications for US institutions. I would recommend this programme to all students because it is an amazing (and also completely free) opportunity to apply to and experience American universities. It's also guaranteed to be the best summer of your life!

**Catriona McCrory**



## UU SUMMER PLACEMENT



Current Year 14 students David Byrne, Brigid Killough, Alanna McDonnell, Bronagh McCallan and Aislinn Stewart spent a week in August at the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Ulster Coleraine where they got to experience university life first hand.

As well as attending lectures applicable to their A-level Chemistry course, they worked in the University labs carrying out practicals. These included investigating polymorphic forms in hair gel nappies and chocolate, formulating their own aqueous creams and employing analytical techniques such as Infra red Spectroscopy to investigate the biochemical causes of death.

Aislinn Stewart reflected on her week, 'I highly recommend anyone studying A Level Chemistry to apply for this course. If successful, it allows you to further explore the practical side of chemistry and it's free! Also, I'm hoping to study medicine next year at university and the experience has been a great addition to my UCAS Application.'



# GENERATION INNOVATION

On Tuesday 14th November, ourselves and ten other AS Level Business Studies students attended an event called "Generation Innovation" which was organised by Catalyst Inc. in the Ecos Centre, Ballymena. The day consisted of various speakers and activities. It involved working with others and really made us think!

When we arrived we were provided with refreshments before going into the lecture hall where we listened to speeches and stories told by a variety of people from different businesses. The speakers were from innovative businesses which focus on upgrading technology for the future such as developing driverless cars and using drones for service transport. We were asked to make notes of the key points from the lecture which later proved useful when we completed our task of delivering a four-minute pitch, summarising our thoughts and ideas regarding what technology will be like in 2030.

All of us thoroughly enjoyed the event. Not only was it interesting and informative, but it also enabled us to gain and develop worthy thinking, analysis and communication skills as well as resilience. We would be delighted to attend another event like this and highly recommend it to anyone who gets the chance to participate.

By Siofra Patterson & Rachael O'Kane



# SEAMUS HEANEY HOMEPLACE TRIP

On Friday 12th of November 2017, my fellow Year 10s and I hopped on the bus to take a trip to the Seamus Heaney Homeplace in Bellaghy. For the first few months of this school year we have been studying the works of Seamus Heaney. We had analysed two of his poems ("Mid Term Break" and "Clearances-3") in an essay for our English CM1 task and so it was great to have the opportunity to go and obtain a further understanding of the events, people and places that inspired the great poet's work.

The brand-new centre, which opened in September 2016, is a very modern, spacious and clean building. Upon arrival we congregated in the 'Helicon' auditorium. We were split into five groups and my group's first activity was a creative writing workshop which was inspired by the poem "Alphabets". This will help us in our upcoming English CM2 exam which is a creative/personal writing task. We all attempted to compose our own piece of creative writing and I even tried to use a proper ink pen!

After lunch, our time was devoted to the actual Heaney exhibition. We were given walkie-talkie devices that played various Seamus Heaney poems when certain codes were typed into them. Then we had to find "letters" disguised in the many photographs on the wall to eventually spell the word "Homeplace" – we took pictures of the letters we found on our phones to later add into a collage. I was delighted with myself when I managed to find all the letters. We also visited the children's section in the exhibition which looked like great fun – there were dress-up costumes, a crafts table and books to name a few of the things that were available, and these would certainly keep younger visitors entertained.

Our final stop was a visit to a room which creates links between Heaney's poems and important people who were a part of his life. I observed many informative articles, a plethora of photographs and unbelievably the exhibition also included Heaney's first schoolbag and the actual desk he sat on when he attended Anahorish Primary School outside Bellaghy.

Our trip to the Seamus Heaney HomePlace was interesting and enlightening given that we have just been introduced to the poetry of Seamus Heaney. The experience helped to create a picture of the local area and the local people who were close to Heaney and influenced his life. I couldn't help but think that the cool, modern facilities in Bellaghy are different on many levels to Heaney's times and the Ireland in which he lived. Could he ever have imagined that such a tribute would be built in his memory? I can honestly say that I will revisit the Seamus Heaney HomePlace in the future because we have only opened the door slightly!

Cara Pirie





Kyra Doherty, 10 Lismoyle, wrote this poem in the creative writing workshop.

## HOMEPLACE

A home to me is somewhere you can stay, lie, rest and spend your day.

But everyone lives in different ways, and that's what I have learnt today.

Different sizes, big and small, some are short, and some are tall.

Some are made for quite a few, and some are made for only two.

Countryside, city, mountains or coast, depends which place you love the most.

But it's not about the view or watching the tides, it's all about what happens inside.

Your friends and family that you love and care, and all the great memories and moments you share.

And now I have come to the end of this poem, it shows you exactly what makes a home.

That it's not about the fancy style and different parts, but what really makes a home comes from the heart.



## WORLD MOUNTED GAMES CHAMPIONSHIP

Year 11 pupil, Brigid Delargy, had the opportunity to travel to New Zealand to represent Ireland in the World Mounted Games Championship in Auckland.

After the long journey, the team then had three days to familiarise themselves with five horses which they had never seen before! They had three rounds to get through in a bid to qualify into the 'A' final. Incredibly, Ireland qualified just behind the hosts, New Zealand, who had the advantage of riding their own horses!

The Irish team then rode against all the other countries in the final which included: America, Wales, England, Southern Hemisphere, New Zealand and Australia. Brigid and her teammates did their country proud and finished in 4th place.



## CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION

This year's Christmas Card Competition, run by the Art department was won by Anna Neeson in Year 9.

Anna's design will be this year's official St Louis' Christmas card. Well done to runners up Ciara McCormick in 10 Lisbreen and Aimee Kelly 10 Lisbreen, who all received prizes for their efforts.





# A CHRISTMAS MEMORY

All of the family gathered around  
the lovingly handmade oak table,  
six gas-masks hung close to hand,  
Father's uniform out to dry on the mantel,  
Mother, all curls and pinkened face,  
unveiling the goose to oohings and aahings,  
the bird thinner than previous years,  
a holly-sprig its only trimmings,

but there's jam roly-poly for afters  
with three weeks' sweets' rations in it  
and after dinner Father'll tell stories...  
...Smiling through soft, sad, silent tears  
the old man sees in the flickering grate  
Christmas Day, in the nineteen-forties.

Annie McCrory  
8 Lyndon



# ENTERPRISE ART: PREPARATIONS FOR THE ART DEPARTMENT'S ANNUAL CHRISTMAS FAIR

Key stage 3 pupils are busy with preparations for the Art department's annual Christmas Fair.

Pupils are currently involved in workshops led by A-Level and GCSE Art pupils to create crafts for sale. The Fair will be held in Room 8 in mid-December, all pupils and staff are welcome.



# SHOEBOX APPEAL 2017

Once again, the St Louis' community responded to the Christmas Shoebox Appeal with overwhelming generosity.

The school collected 251 shoeboxes filled with presents which were lovingly made up by pupils, parents and staff for the desperately underprivileged in Eastern Europe.

The 'Road of Hope' charity will deliver these shoeboxes to those trapped in poverty for various reasons. It was a wonderful sight to see the all the boxes displayed in our school foyer, waiting to be loaded into the lorry for delivery. Evidently, good will is always at the heart of the St Louis' ethos.





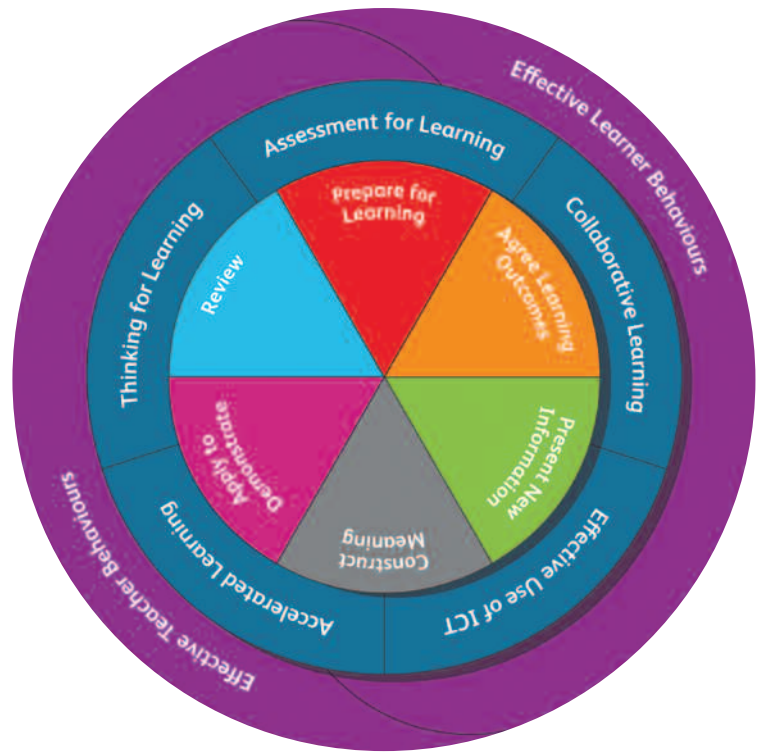
St Louis' Grammar School is the first School in Northern Ireland to lead the

# TEACHER EFFECTIVENESS ENHANCEMENT PROGRAMME (TEEP)

On Thursday 26th and Friday 27th of October, all teaching staff embarked on two days of innovative training, to further enhance Learning and Teaching across our school. TEEP is a comprehensive CPD programme which builds on and improves the effectiveness of teaching and learning.

The programme is delivered by SSAT (the School, Students and Teachers Network) and is designed to embrace current and recent initiatives in Learning and Teaching. This allows us to apply these initiatives and most recent research in Learning and Teaching to our school.

The TEEP programme will continue to be developed across our school over the next eighteen months and will further refine the high quality Learning and Teaching which already exists at St Louis' Grammar. As a self-evaluating school we are always striving to improve further. We believe that the Teacher Effectiveness Enhancement Programme allows us to do that!



## RETIREMENTS

It is with sadness that we as a school community said farewell to two of our long standing teachers in June of this year after a combined service to the school of 65 years.

Mrs Fionnuala McAteer (Irish) and Mrs Siobhan Bogues (I.C.T) have moved on to pastures new and we would all like to wish them a long and happy retirement.



## IMPORTANT DATES

Junior school (Years 8, 9 & 10) finishes for Christmas holidays on Tuesday 19th December

Senior school (Years 11, 12, 13 & 14) finishes for Christmas holidays on Wednesday 20th December

Whole school returns on Thursday 4th January

Year 10 Ski Trip Saturday 6th January – Saturday 13th January

Year 13 Romania Trip Friday 9th January – Friday 16th January

Open Nights Wednesday 24th January and Thursday 25th January

Staff Development Day Friday 26th January

See school website for full Diary of Events





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