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The Kintullagh Voice

The newsletter of
St Louis Grammar
School Ballymena

Winter
2018



ANOTHER YEAR OF EXCELLENCE FOR ST LOUIS

St Louis Grammar celebrated outstanding A Level and GCSE results. This marks yet another year of excellent academic and personal achievements for the top Grammar School in Northern Ireland.



A LEVEL RESULTS

Year 14 pupils continued to excel significantly above the Northern Ireland average with 96% of the 170 Upper Sixth students having attained three A* to C grades. Remarkably, 36 students were awarded 3 A*/A grades or more in traditional subjects. The top two achievers were David Byrne and Eimear Smyth, each with a phenomenal 4A* grades in Biology, Chemistry, English, Maths and Physics. These superb results have enabled both students to earn places on prestigious courses. David is now studying Molecular Engineering at Imperial College, London and Eimear has started Veterinary Science in UCD.

Many students secured first choice university places across the United Kingdom, this includes: Lancaster, Strathclyde, Liverpool, Stirling and Hull to name but a few. The excellent qualifications achieved by students have allowed them to embark on exciting and varied undergraduate courses such as Film Studies, Teaching and Computer Science. A number of students were awarded places on national degree apprenticeships, a pathway which has become increasingly popular in recent years.

Principal, Mr Rafferty, commented, "I am delighted by the way this cohort has risen to the challenges of new A Level specifications. It is a credit to our students and teachers that over 51% of A Levels were awarded A* - A grades and

over 82% were awarded A* - B grades. With such a large cohort of students studying such a wide range of A Level subjects, these results are simply superb.

Our school continues to send students on to high demand courses such as Dentistry, Medicine, Law and Veterinary as well as highly sought after positions in the business sector with PwC and Deloitte.

It is testament to their families and staff that the Class of 2018 will now go on to make significant contributions to society. We wish them all the very best in their future third level education, training or employment pathway."

GCSE RESULTS

At GCSE level, 99% of students achieved 7 or more A*-C grades including Maths and English!

This year's cohort once again saw a strong increase in students attaining straight A*/A grades across a range of subjects, outlining the high expectations and challenging targets for all students. Remarkably, over 52% of all entries achieved A*-A grades and over 87% were awarded A*-B grades. In addition, 45 students attained 8A grades or better.

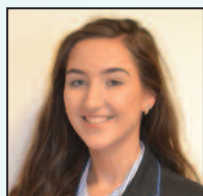
Every Year 12 student enjoyed their own success story on results day but special recognition must be given to the top achievers. Evanna Woodside received a phenomenal 11A*. Ruairi McAleese attained 10A* and his twin sister, Laura not to be outdone with 7A* and 3A. Furthermore, Dylan Magill also received an incredible 10A*, while John Higgins and Rebecca McDonald each earned 9A* and 1A.

Mr Rafferty, congratulated students, "This exceptional performance is the culmination of their hard work and commitment, along with the dedication and expertise of their teachers and support from their families. It is evident that students have grasped every opportunity our school has offered them and this has enabled them to achieve at the highest levels. We are immensely proud of Year 12, especially when the extraordinary breadth of their extra-curricular achievements is also taken into consideration. Students are inspired to continue to pursue their future aspirations following their wonderful individual performances at GCSE as the vast majority have returned to study A Levels at St Louis Grammar."

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 successful candidates are shown below:



Gabrielle Carland

Head Girl



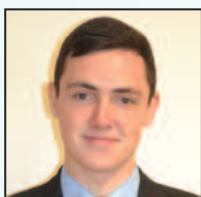
James McKeown

Head Boy



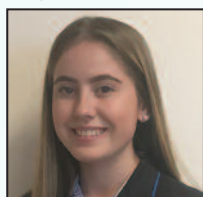
Alisija Sestakova

Deputy Head Girl



Conor Stewart

Deputy Head Boy



Daniella Timperley

Deputy Head Girl



Ellie Barry

Deputy Head Girl



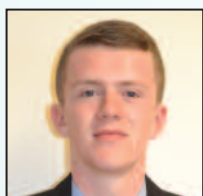
Eoghan Daly

Deputy Head Boy



Hannah Elliott

Deputy Head Girl



Kevin Brady

Deputy Head Boy



Paudie McKee

Deputy Head Boy

TOP CANDIDATES IN N. IRELAND

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

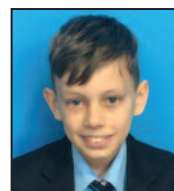


Evanna Woodside received joint first place in GCSE Spanish, Ruairi McAleese came first overall in GCSE Business Studies and Brenna Quinn achieved second place in AS Applied Business.

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

MEET SOME YEAR 8 PUPILS

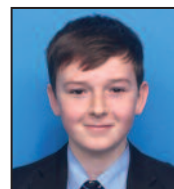
Hi, my name is Olivier Knap and I'm from Rasharkin. I have two dogs, a Chihuahua and a Yorkie that I enjoy looking after. I am in 8 Layde and my favourite subjects are Science and History. I love Cross Country and hope to represent St Louis in athletic competitions.



Hello, I'm Cora McGuckien and I'm from Randalstown. I came from Mount St Michael's Primary School. I'm the eldest child in my family. I love hip hop dancing and have a lovely Cockapoo puppy that is 11 months old. My favourite subject at St Louis is Technology and Design. I have made so many new friends in my class and also through being in the Junior Choir. I am looking forward to participating in the Christmas Carol Service.



Hi, my name is Sean Duffin and I live in Glenravel. My previous Primary School was Mary Queen of Peace. In my spare time I love to farm and play FIFA! I play hurling for Con Magee in full back position and hope to represent St Louis in the future. My favourite subjects are Technology and Design and Science. Popcorn chicken is my favourite lunch in the canteen!



Hello, I'm Ann Joseph and I went to St Colmcille's Primary School in Ballymena. I was the overall winner of a UK poetry competition and my poem was called, 'A Better World'. I have an older brother in Year 10 at St Louis, his name is Kurian. My favourite subjects are Science, Maths, Art and English. I have also started piano lessons in school which I really enjoy.



Hi, I'm Shay McGinley and I went to St Ciaran's Primary School in Cushendun. I support Man Utd and I recently visited old Trafford. My favourite player is Jesse Lingard. I love Art and PE in St Louis as I prefer practical subjects. In the future, I'd like to be part of St Louis' Cross Country and Hurling teams. I also go to the After School Art Club.



Hello, I'm Emily Flavin and I live in Loughguile. I went to St Patrick's Primary School. I play Camogie for Loughguile and St Louis. In September I started taking guitar lessons in school and I'm making good progress. My favourite subjects are HE and Art. I really enjoyed making the spicy apple crumble and clay cupcakes in these subjects!



Further congratulations must be given to Evanna as she has been selected as a finalist in the British Education Awards 2019 in the GCSE category.

Evanna and her family will attend a gala dinner in the Hilton Manchester on Thursday 31st January when the overall winner will be announced.

This is an excellent achievement for Evanna and well deserved! We wish Evanna all the very best for the ceremony in January.

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.

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

Our school was buzzing with events on Wednesday 26th September, to celebrate European Day of Languages.

Activities included:

- Rebus puzzle at break
- In Languages classes – General knowledge quiz about the languages we teach here and countries where they speak the language
- Ordering food in French/Irish/Spanish in the canteen
- Language taster sessions – pupils who speak a different language taught others a few words or phrases of that language at lunchtime.

Merci, gracias, go raibh maith agat to all involved!



SUMMER READING CHALLENGE WINNERS

Congratulations to our winners who completed their Summer Reading Challenge to an exceptional standard!

Winners from each class are:

Lurig 1st – Grainne McAuley,

2nd – Siobhan McGale and Roisin McGale

Lisbreen 1st – Rhea Waring, 2nd – Euan Pirie

Layde 1st – Grace McElholm, 2nd – Ruairi Robb

Laragh 1st – Ailbe McKeown, 2nd – Jessica Herald

Lismoyle 1st – Mia Guidote, 2nd – Orlaith Bradley

Lyndon 1st – Aoife Mulholland, 2nd – Kate McClintock



ALL IRELAND CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to ten St Louis pupils on Antrim's All Ireland winning U16 Camogie panel that brought home the cup in August!

Also, huge well done to the five St Louis girls who won the U14 Ladies Kilmacud 7s in October with Moneyglass!



YEAR 14 FORMAL

The annual Year 14 Formal took place on Friday 5th October in Galgorm Resort and Spa.

There was an array of elegant gowns and dapper suits as pupils pulled out all the stops for this memorable event. A fantastic time was had by all!



GAEL LINN QUIZ

Many Year 10 pupils participated in the popular Gael Linn quiz in the Glenavon Hotel, Cookstown recently.

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.

To top it all off, the winning team of the entire quiz was from St Louis! Well done to Katie Bonnes, Aoife McCloskey, Aoibh Vallely and Aoife Murray.



ST LOUIS' SENIOR PRIZE GIVING 2018

St Louis' Senior Prize Giving Ceremony was held on Friday 21st September, to celebrate the success of A Level and GCSE students. In attendance for this special event were parents, staff, past and present pupils, along with proud extended family members and friends.

Principal, Mr Rafferty, acknowledged what an important and memorable afternoon it was for everyone involved. Once again, the school celebrated tremendous results with 96% of students achieving three A*-C grades at A Level, and 99% of pupils attaining seven A*-C grades in their GCSEs including Maths and English. Mr Rafferty paid tribute to the many students who were presented with awards and certificates on the day but commented that every single student in these cohorts had reason to celebrate.

The top students at A Level were David Byrne and Eimear Smyth with an incredible 4A* grades each. David also won four more awards, achieving the highest scores in each of his subjects as well as receiving the Gertrude Laverty trophy which is awarded to the Year 14 student who has embodied the school ethos in their conduct throughout their seven years at the school. In total, a remarkable thirty six students achieved 3 A*/A grades or more in their A Levels.

At AS Level, the highest achieving students were Gabrielle Carland, Neska Connon, Peter McCormick and James McKeown who achieved 4A grades each.

St Louis' students also excelled in their GCSEs with forty five achieving 8A grades or better. Evanna Woodside attained a phenomenal 11A* grades and was the top achiever in five of her GCSE subjects.

This year's esteemed guest speaker was past pupil, Professor Gavin Andrews, Chair of Pharmaceutical Engineering at Queen's University, Belfast. Professor Andrews, spoke to his assembled audience of the risks, sacrifices and hard work involved to reach such a high level in academia. He urged students to learn through experience and to grasp every opportunity that comes their way. He attributed much of his success to his formative years in St Louis and the teachers who evidently loved their subjects and inspired him to pursue his passion.

Mr Rafferty then reflected on the huge range of activities which students were involved in throughout the past academic year in addition to classroom teaching.

The afternoon concluded with the inauguration of the new Head Boy and Head Girl, James McKeown and Gabrielle Carland, along with their team of Deputies.



4 A grades AS Level: Neska Connon, James McKeown, Gabrielle Carland, Peter McCormick.



10 A-Astar grades GCSE: Rionach Buckley, Odhran Devlin, Jack Donnelly, John Higgins.



10 Astar grades GCSE: Dylan Magill, Ruairi McAleese.



Just some of the pupils who achieved 3 grade As or more at A Level: Steven Esler, Erin Kelly, Clare Hurrell, Bronagh Graffin.

ST LOUIS' JUNIOR PRIZE GIVING 2018

The Junior Prize Giving Ceremony was held on 24th of September to recognise the accomplishments of Key Stage 3 students. This year's prize giving was one to remember with our excellent quest speaker Deirdre Lynch who inspired the students with her experiences and presented an array of academic and sporting awards.

Deirdre Lynch, past pupil of St Louis, created her own company alongside her brother, Pascal. She worked with Deloitte, a management consultancy firm in London for several years, honing her skills for business. Ms Lynch had some very insightful views on learning styles and broadening experiences. Her words of wisdom were to "learn how you learn".

Well done to all those students who achieved awards for academic success, sporting accomplishments, full attendance and tremendous effort. Conn Fyfe was awarded the top achiever in Year 8 and Laura Daniel was awarded the top achiever in Year 9. Lucy Donaldson, the top achiever in Year 10, received a total of four individual subject awards. There are many talented students in St Louis and although not everyone received prizes on the day, they were all commended for their wonderful academic and extra-curricular performances over the previous school year.



Top Performing Pupil in Year 10 Lucy Donaldson.



Best Junior Female Athlete, Kyra Kelly.



Best Junior Male Athlete, Adam Campbell.



Top Performing Pupil in Year 8 Conn Fyfe.



Top Performing Pupil in Year 9, Laura Daniel.

POETRY SLAM

On Thursday 4th October, St Louis Grammar celebrated National Poetry Day.

A 'Poetry Slam' was held in the Library for Year 8. Students read/performed their own poetry on this year's theme which was 'change'.



ST LOUIS SCHOOLS STUDENT LEADERSHIP EVENT

On Tuesday 2nd October, twenty-two students from Year 10 and Year 11 took part in the Student Leadership Programme held in Dublin's Crowne Plaza Hotel.

The day was organised for student leaders such as prefects and class captains to interact with other schools that hold St Louis patronage. There were about ten schools altogether coming from all over Ireland.

At midday we were entertained with various teambuilding exercises. It consisted of both mental and physical challenges that required communication to be done successfully. Next we were given a talk on how to live a sustainable life and how we as students can bring a positive change to our school. It was a very eye opening speech and it was centred on the global goals for sustainable development. We discussed how each of us can impact the environment and what we can substitute in our lives to help the earth.

It was a very interesting and exciting opportunity and I am glad that I was able to take part in it. It really made me think of what I can do to help make the 17 global goals a reality.

By Lucy Donaldson



YEAR 8 TWINS

In September we welcomed three sets of twins in Year 8: Enya and Orla Neeson; Siomha and Cobhlaith Gormley and Roisin and Siobhan McGale



SUMMER IN SOUTH AFRICA

During the summer, current Year 14 students, Aoife Donaghy and Erin Gould had the amazing opportunity of embarking on a journey to South Africa in order to take part in wildlife conservation to protect the African Big 5 on a private game reserve.

The game reserve was called Kwantu and was located an hour outside Port Elizabeth, in the African Bush. Erin spent four weeks there and Aoife was there for two weeks. Both Aoife and Erin have an avid interest in wildlife. Erin would like to study Veterinary next year and Aoife was interested in the conversation aspect of the project. After extensive research, they booked this experience through Oyster Worldwide Travel.

Their main aim when they went to South Africa was to do anything they could to help and prevent poaching, which they did through conservation methods that they learnt whilst there. The girls saw first-hand the heart-breaking effect of poaching when they visited the rehabilitation centre on the reserve. Upsetingly, there were rhinos without their horns and many lions recovering from animal trafficking and being held as pets and abused. Seeing this inspired them as they moved forward on their trip to work as hard as they could to prevent this from happening to more animals whilst they were there.

To conserve the animal's habitat, they removed alien vegetation that hindered the ecosystem and had the potential of creating unsustainable environments. They also landscaped areas of the reserve to prevent erosion and the destruction of habitats by planting trees.

Through continuous monitoring on game drives, Aoife and Erin were able to monitor the animals to check for any signs of injury or poachers. Furthermore, they built roads through the bush to assist the game rangers on their drives.

They worked on many programmes such as the buffalo reassignment and afforestation plan. But their time there was not limited only to the reserve. Each week they visited the local primary school where they gained insight into the devastating effects of poverty on education. They got to experience South African culture by seeing the children doing traditional singing and dancing. Aoife and Erin reflected on their time in South Africa, 'The trip was an unforgettable and eye-opening experience and we have made friends for life.'



HEANEY HOMEPLACE TRIP

On Monday 12th November, all of Year 10 visited the Seamus Heaney HomePlace in Bellaghy. During the first half term, Year 10 studied a range of Heaney's poems in English lessons. Therefore, this trip enabled students to put their knowledge and appreciation of his poetry into context.

Students participated in a creative writing workshop which involved engaging with a range of stimuli based on the poem 'Alphabets', and this in turn enhanced their creativity, curiosity and imagination. Furthermore, they used modern media to devise their own typography, as well as writing their own Heaney-inspired poetry!



YEAR 13 BTEC BUSINESS STUDIES VISIT TO CREAGH CONCRETE

On Thursday 18th 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 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. Specialist staff from Creagh were more than happy to answer students' questions and to provide them with a wealth of information about the business. They received first-hand information about the size of the workforce, their quality control measures and the different types of design services they offer to customers all over the UK. Students also 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). 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 BTEC Business Studies students found the trip most useful. One student commented, "The visit to Creagh was brilliant. The presentation was extremely informative and provided us with lots of information for our course-work. The tour meant that we could see production actually taking place – it brought it all to life. We were given lovely refreshments and had a great day out".



OUTSTANDING LEARNING AND TEACHING AT ST LOUIS!

One of our aims at St. Louis Grammar is to have outstanding Learning and Teaching. With this in mind, we embarked upon a teacher development programme in 2017-18 called TEEP (Teacher Effectiveness Enhancement Programme).

The programme was delivered by the Specialist Schools and Academies Trust and is designed to embrace current and recent initiatives in Learning and Teaching. TEEP is rooted in evidence based research on effective Learning and Teaching. It aims to support schools to provide the best possible learning experiences for our young people. Currently all members of our teaching staff are Level 1 accredited and 13 members of staff have completed Level 2 and form our Learning and Teaching Committee, who work to promote outstanding Learning and Teaching across the school.

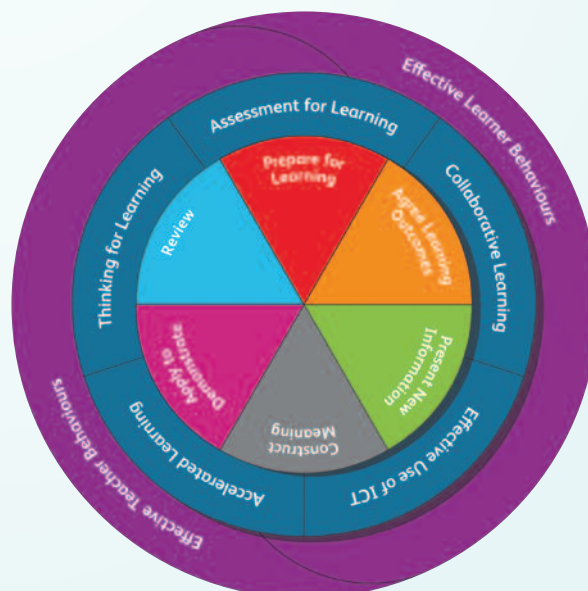


In 2017-18 we worked to ensure that all learning is structured around a series of six learning stages. These are entitled: Prepare to Learn; Agree Learning Outcomes; Present New Information; Construct Meaning; Apply to Demonstrate and Review. To this end, carefully guided and instructed student centred lessons are delivered using this learning cycle; all teacher and learner actions are encouraged to adhere and support this cycle of stages.

In 2018-19 the underpinning elements of TEEP will be developed, including the development of Thinking for Learning; Accelerated Learning; Collaborative Learning; Assessment for Learning and Effective use of ICT to further enhance the quality of Learning and Teaching across the school.

Our TEEP level 2 cohort are leading CPD, sharing of best practice, lesson drop ins and focused classroom observations.

We are proud to be the first and only post primary school in Northern Ireland to have all staff TEEP Level 1 accredited and to have a cohort of staff with Level 2 accreditation.



ALL IRELAND SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

David Byrne, who left St Louis in August with 4A* grades, is a recipient of the prestigious All Ireland Scholarship 3rd level education award. In recognition of this achievement, Mr. JP McManus, sponsor of the scheme, hosted an awards ceremony at the University of Limerick on Saturday 24th November.

The scholarship programme was established in 2008 to support many gifted young students across Ireland by providing them with financial support thus enabling them to participate in all aspects of university life. David will receive £5000 per annum for a total of five years towards his Molecular Engineering course at Imperial College, London.

We have no doubt that a very bright future lies ahead for David and this could be the first of many awards he receives in 3rd level education and beyond.

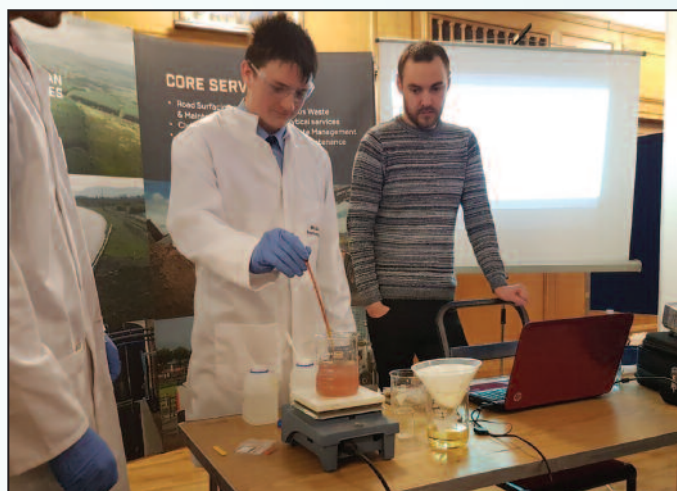


'CHEMISTRY AT WORK' TRIP

On Wednesday 21st November, a number of Year 12 students went to Queen's University, Belfast, to find out more about 'Chemistry in the Workplace'. There were lots of interesting and informative workshops from companies such as Almac, Norbrook, CAFRE, Bombardier and McQuillan.

Personally, the talk from 'Bombardier' was my favourite. I thought it was fascinating how airplanes are structured and made before they are approved for flight. We had a great time and it has strengthened my aim to study Chemistry for A-Level and to hopefully pursue a career pathway which involves Chemistry.

By Rebekah O'Neill



MOCK MMI EVENT 2018

On Wednesday 21st November, our future Doctors, Dentists and Veterinarians in Year 14 participated in mock Multiple Mini Interviews (MMI) event organised by the Careers Department 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.

Also, 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.



MISSION DISCOVERY

In mid-October, I was given the amazing opportunity to attend the Mission Discovery course in King's College, Guy's Campus, London. This course involved designing an experiment, working with NASA personnel and astronauts and giving a final presentation at the end of the week to persuade the judges that OUR experiment deserved to fly to the International Space Station.

Upon arrival at King's on the Monday morning, we were sorted into our teams and introduced to our "mentors" who would assist us through the week with our planning. Our mentor was Olatz, a Spanish PhD student at the university who was studying genetics. We were immediately thrust into teamwork activities, and I was appointed leader of our team. Our first major task of the course was to design and build a craft which would allow an egg to survive a drop of 6 stories. After 2 hours of designing and deliberating, our craft was complete.

Unfortunately, we were unsuccessful as our egg-stronaut had an unfortunate and messy encounter with the ground. We left the first day disappointed but ready to operate as a team for the tasks ahead.

The second day opened with another teamwork activity after a talk from former NASA astronaut Tony Antonelli. We had to write a headline and short article based on his speech and present it to the rest of the course participants. We came up with the tabloid title: "ISS? More like International Slip'n'Slide: Astronaut Antonelli admits to 'Goofing Off' on \$150 Billion Spacecraft". We won with a landslide victory in votes. Towards the end of the second day, we had to brainstorm for ideas which we would use to come up with our final experiment, and I am proud to say that ideas were not in short supply. We fired ideas back and forward and made a list to consult the following day.

Wednesday was dedicated to furthering on the previous day's work and developing a working experiment. Unfortunately, every single experiment we submitted to be approved for development at this point was rejected. At least 40 experiment ideas came and were struck down by the administration who decided what got presented as a final product.

Thursday was supposed to be the day on which we would develop our presentations to give to the judges, however come lunchtime on Thursday we were still without a working idea. Just before we broke up for lunch, a breakthrough occurred. An experiment was approved, which was to determine if mating influenced the lifespan of fruit flies zero-G. At the end of the day's events on Thursday, we had caught up with the other 10 teams and were finally back with a fighting chance of success.



Friday was judgement day. Our presentation went perfectly. We took questions at the end, which I answered to the best of my ability. Afterwards we were ecstatic, we believed that we really had a chance of winning. Nevertheless, when it came to the announcement of the winners, we were unsuccessful. I was told by the lead judge afterwards that it was between us and the winners, so I guess we had achieved an unofficial 2nd place.

Upon leaving the university for the last time, I will admit that I was annoyed. However, after a short reflection at the top of the Shard, I realised what an achievement this had been and how lucky I had been to even get an opportunity to take part. This is an adventure that I will take to the grave and I will never forget the people I met, the experience I had and what I achieved.

I would like to extend my greatest thanks to Friends of St Louis, who granted me a bursary which helped in funding my adventure and without whom it would not have been possible; to Team 9 who made my experience one to remember and who humbled me with their knowledge and finally I would like to thank Mrs McFadden and Mr Browne who helped me to initially come up with ideas and who inspired me to take part in something like this in the first place.

By Daragh Logue, Year 14

WORTH IT IN THE END

Transferring from A Levels to university is a bigger change than you can possibly imagine, especially when you're moving overseas. Personally, I loved the change! I moved over to Manchester for a new start and personal growth. I'm glad I made such a difficult choice as it turned my life around, gave me confidence and an opportunity to meet many amazing people whom I now call friends for life.

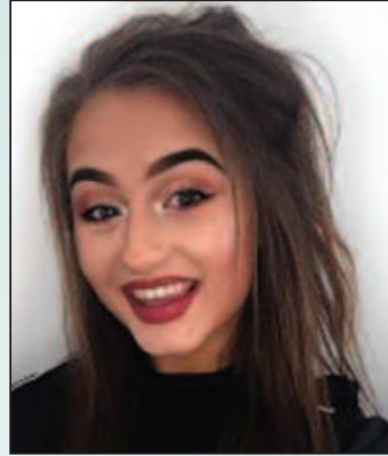
During the exam period, everyone gets to a point where they wonder, "Why am I actually doing this?". It is a combination of self-doubt, exhaustion and stress. However, there is nothing worse than quitting. If you fail your mock exams, don't be hard on yourself and give it a second shot. I labelled myself as a 'failure' but my teachers were able to persuade me that my grades were not indicative of what I was capable of. I went from grades E E D D in January to A* A* A A in August!

Start early. Employers and universities love to see you getting involved in the community through volunteering or charity work. My advice? Don't do it because you have to. Do something you like doing. Combine your passion for the certain field with charity work. For example, if you enjoy football, organise a charity football match. Some universities, like mine, offer rewards for people with exceptional achievements or input in the community. As an Alumni Scholarship prize winner, I promise you, you will not regret it.

In your first year, you mainly want to work on the foundations of your course and socialising, but the bills still have to be paid! The loan might seem like a lot at first, but you'll be surprised how everything adds up.

I received £1000 cash reward from the scholarship which was extremely beneficial for me. The scholarship gave me access to a global network community with professionals not only in the field of architecture but also in other fields which benefit my career. I get access to networking events which is a huge privilege for someone who has just finished their first year.

And why did I receive it? Volunteering in different local youth clubs, charity work, good deeds, involvement in projects outside my city and summer university courses in Psychology and Law.



**Sandra Janik
Alumni Scholarship Winner
Manchester School of Architecture
Past St Louis Grammar School Student**

One of my biggest achievements which the sponsors were very impressed by, was my Bank of Ireland Glamour prize which earned me a TV interview and a trip to Cannes Film Festival where my fashion design was displayed in one of the most prestigious festivals in the world. Although fashion is not related to my degree, it shows diversity. We're not robots wired to be good in only one field. So, if you're thinking of becoming a Doctor or a Lawyer, it does not mean you have to abandon your passion for music. Embrace what you enjoy and you'll become the person you want to be. You may love your job but it's important to pursue other hobbies.

Work hard and you'll be rewarded. One reward leads to another and you'll be surprised by what you can achieve. Many awards universities offer are not related to your course at all, but for the input to your community and external achievements. The greatest reward of all is personal satisfaction!

MAGEEAN SEMI FINAL

St Patrick's Maghera 3-13 St Louis Ballymena 2-7

St Louis lost out to Mageean Cup Holders of 2017, St Patrick's, Maghera in the semi final in Ahoghill on 6th November.

St Louis were hotly tipped going into the game but unfortunately the St Pat's team overpowered in the second half to secure their place in the final.

Despite St Louis getting off to the perfect start with a goal in the third minute from Colla McDonnell, it was Maghera's intensity, aggression and physical presence under the dropping ball that was the main feature of this game.

St Pat's began to quickly register points before a goal in the 17th minute of the game.

St Louis managed to keep in touch, however, mainly through frees from Seaan Elliott, and the teams turned over on level terms at 1-5 each.

Maghera's intent was clear in the opening few minutes of the second half with an early free. A minute later a long ball found its way to the back of St Louis' net.

Maghera now had their tails up and added three more points before Ciaran McQuillan grabbed a half-clearance and opened St Louis' account in the second half after 12 minutes.



The result was put to bed in the 52nd minute with Maghera's third goal! St Louis had created a few openings prior to that, but were wide from 3 frees and then had a 20 metres' free saved on the line. Elliott did hit the roof of the net from a close-in free on 58 minutes, but it was too late and Maghera had already set up a repeat of last year's final against An Dún.

SUCCESS IN PUBLIC SPEAKING!

Joradyna Magill, a Year 13 pupil, enjoyed great success at the regional heat of the Soroptmist Annual Public Speaking Award.

The aim of the competition is to encourage girls to play a more prominent role in public life. Jordayna chose the following title for her speech: 'Real wealth is never measured in money or possessions'. The effort and commitment she put into the preparation of her speech was clearly evident in her confident and polished delivery on the night of the competition. Jordayna will now take part in the Northern Ireland Final in February.



TENNIS ACE

Year 14 student, Pól McAleese, recently captained the Ballymena Lawn Tennis Cub (BLTC) Under 18 Division 2 team that won the Belfast and District Autumn League.

The team were undefeated in each of the ties that they participated in, and are now promoted to division one of the league (top division).

BLTC are very proud of the boys, who have shown excellent professionalism in training and superb sportsmanship in all their matches played. As Captain of the team, Pol was presented with a shield and trophy as recognition of his success.

Pól has been playing tennis from the age of five and is now a qualified tennis coach. It certainly looks like Pól is set for a very promising future in tennis!



THE PRESIDENT'S AWARD

Gaisce – The President's Award is a self-development programme that encourages you to find your passion, get active and make a difference in your community!

Gaisce is a direct challenge from the President of Ireland to young people to undertake a series of difficult but exciting challenges to step outside their comfort zone and realise their full potential. There are two levels offered in St Louis, Silver and Gold.

What happened in 2018?

Firstly, a big congratulations to all the students who completed their Silver and Gold Awards this year. For the first time, students from St Louis have been invited to St. Patrick's Hall in Dublin Castle on 10th December 2018 where President Michael D. Higgins will confer the Gold Award. This is in recognition of the Gold Award participants who completed their expedition in Wicklow in 2017.

St Louis also had two more groups who have completed their award throughout the 2017/2018 year. As well as undertaking various components of the Award outside of school, the President's Award students organised, planned and completed their respective expeditions. The Gold pupils travelled to the Mourne Mountains at Easter for a two night practice hike with the qualifying expedition taking place over four nights in Wicklow in June 2018. Our Silver pupils have recently completed their Silver Qualifying Expedition in the Mourne Mountains.

The President's Award was started in St Louis to try to provide pupils with the opportunity to set themselves a challenge that they may never have the opportunity to complete with friends again. The award has allowed teachers to see the wealth of activities that pupils are involved in outside of school and the President's Award provides a platform for that talent to get recognised. However, the greatest skills are displayed in the mountains during the expeditions.



It is fantastic to see groups of young people planning a challenge, working as part of a group through difficult conditions and returning to camp with smiles on their faces. Witnessing how our pupils help their team mates in difficult times makes me very proud to be associated with the award.

It is hoped that the experiences of those who have completed the award can inspire the next group of students to undertake the challenge of this award.

Mr McAfee

THANK YOU

A massive thank you to the McAtamney family on behalf of St Louis for providing Sponsorship for the President's Award pupils and staff.

Their kind donation is represented on over 100 participants' tops who completed the President's Award in 2018. Please show your support for this local business who have supported the pupils of St Louis at 14-16 Greenvale Street, Ballymena BT43 6AR



BALLYMENA SWIMMING CLUB

Year 9 student, Ryan Addison, is a member of Ballymena Swimming Club.

It is an amateur club which competes in Aqua sprints (11 years old and younger) and PTL (12 years old and older). It starts with a development club. This is where you will progress towards the times needed to become a core-squad member which is someone who meets the mandatory times to race.

The swimming club trains often and with high intensity in each session but to great effect. Ryan's swimming team was in Division C in both aqua sprints and PTL but progressed very rapidly and are now in Division A in aqua sprints and PTL!



Ryan recommends that anyone who has an interest in swimming should visit the Ballymena Swimming Club website for more information. It is a great way to socialise, take part in healthy competition and keep fit.

ROADSAFE ROADSHOW

Upper Sixth students were invited to attend a RoadSafe Roadshow in November presented by the PSNI and Pete Snodden.

The Roadshow dealt with the reality of a road traffic collision. It discussed real trauma, real pain and the real consequences of making the wrong decision behind the wheel of a car. The Roadshow showed the impact on health, careers now or in the future, insurance, family, friends and the community. The advice provided at the Roadshow should support them in making better, informed decisions in all driver and passenger situations. It was a very hard hitting presentation and one that certainly made Upper Sixth think twice.



STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOP

During the month of November, Year 10, 12 and Sixth Form students took part in Study Skills Workshops facilitated by LearnSpark.

The course provided students with the attitudes and confidence to study. It set out tried-and-tested techniques, strategies and approaches to support revision, and detailed the key steps required to effectively plan and manage learning and revision time.



PETER MCVERRY TRUST

Peter McVerry Trust is a charity organisation based in Dublin and for the last thirty-five years, Peter McVerry Trust has been offering services to the homeless across Ireland such as rehousing, career support and addiction services. Their aim is to move people out of hostels into accommodation, and help them to re-attain their place within society.

On 10th October, twenty Lower and Upper Sixth pupils, alongside Mrs Fullerton and Mr Heffron, were given the opportunity to visit the Lighthouse Cinema in Dublin to attend inaugural PMVT event to commemorate World Homeless Day. This also provided the representatives from the St Louis Student Outreach Group – Action for the Homeless – to develop links with the trust and become enlightened upon their aims and objectives with their School Engagement and Education programme. We participated in activities, listened to talks and watched testimonials from those who have/ still are receiving support from Peter McVerry Trust.

The trip has provided us with lots of knowledge on the current statistics of homeless people across Ireland and what we as a school can do in order to help our local community.

By Ellie Barry, Year 14



OUR 'SLEEP OUT' EXPERIENCE

On Friday 26th of October, twenty-five St Louis students braved the elements along with five courageous members of staff!

We gathered at the school gates at 7:30pm well prepared for the typical Irish weather! At this point we were unaware of the harsh reality of sleeping rough.

At the beginning of the night it was all fun and games – singing and playing cards until the clock struck 12, then we decided it was time to prepare for the night ahead. We picked our 'beds' for the night, distributing the cardboard between one another (which was quite difficult due to the substantial amount of clothing we were wearing!).

After an hour or so of lying still listening to the whistle of the wind, we finally began to doze off, until we were rudely awakened by the dreaded sound of rain hitting our sleeping bags. We finally decided it was time to go inside the school as our sleeping bags were sticking to the ground due to the frost. We dragged our soaking sleeping bags through the dark empty corridors and once again set up camp for the night. Lying on the freezing cold, hard floors of the school we eventually drifted to sleep with the background noise of people walking the corridor, chattering and certain teachers snoring!

We woke up at 5:30am cold, tired, hungry and longing for the comforts of our homes. We began to gather our belongings and assembled in the quadrangle preparing for the moment we dreamt about all night... home!

After doing our final head count and documenting the experience with one last picture, we went our separate ways. This experience has truly opened our eyes to the bitter reality of homelessness, which is a growing problem around the world. This experience made us appreciate what we have and this is why we decided to join the student outreach programme, to raise money for the less fortunate, who unlike us, don't have homes to go to. In total we raised £2000.48 for a very worthy cause which will go to help the homeless through the cold winter months.

By Sinead Devine and Sinead McGarry



ABP ANGUS YOUTH CHALLENGE

ABP Agriculture ambassadors Thomas O'Kane, Conall McCafferty and Peter Graham recently enjoyed a trip to Ellsemere, England as finalists of ABP Angus Youth Challenge.

The boys, along with Ms. Gildea, began their excursion with a visit to Loughry College before they made their journey to the airport. At Loughry, they presented their progress thus far in the competition along with other finalists, to representatives from LMC, Cafre, ABP and Angus Producer Group NI. Afterwards, they were given a tour of the sophisticated factory operations.

That afternoon, they boarded a plane from Belfast International Airport to Birmingham and from there, made a two hour journey to their hotel. Following a busy day, an early night was called for to prepare for a busy day ahead!

The next day, the group visited a nearby farm that supplies beef to ABP. The boys were shocked by the size of the farm in comparison to those they had seen in Northern Ireland. It had 700 acres of arable land and 400 acres of grassland. They were given a guided tour of the main aspects of the farm and were told all about animal nutrition and the welfare of livestock.

Later that morning, they visited ABP, Ellsemere. The boys were taken to a boardroom where they delivered



their presentation to a new audience. The most senior figure in the company took time to explain to Thomas, Conall and Peter all about the factory and how it operates on a daily basis. Then, the boys were supplied with white over suits to explore the factory.

It was then time for them to make their way back to the airport for their journey home. A jam packed itinerary over two days meant that the boys came back equipped with lots of great advice and inspiration on how to continue to do their best in the competition.

CROPSAFE

Year 14 student, Rory McMullan has been enjoying huge success in the technological world with the app he set up with two of his friends.

The app, called 'CropSafe', uses satellite imagery to detect diseases in crops and land and recommends specialist mitigation solutions to users.

The boys began to promote their app by entering local business competitions. They won first prize two years in a row at BelTech 2017 and 2018, receiving £1000 in total as prize money.

They then entered a European Union funded event to present Enterprise Ideas in line with the future economic objectives of the EU where they won another £1000 in funding! Through this they met a lot of influential people within EU enterprise sector.

Full of entrepreneurial motivation, they entered a global competition in Dublin which would result in businesses from over 50 countries to be shortlisted to enter an accelerator programme in exchange for 3% equity. Yet again, the boys were successful and secured a place in the programme.



Towards the end of the programme, 15 out of 50 businesses were selected to pitch to Angel Investors in San Francisco! Rory and his fellow entrepreneurs were one of the lucky finalists. Their winning streak continued in San Francisco where they won partnership with a large Angel Investment business as well as meeting a number of other investors who are interested in marketing their app.

Congratulations to Rory and his business partners on their global success to date. Their initiative, hard work and drive has reaped great rewards so far and it looks like there is more to come their way!

CAMOGIE ALL STARS

Recently our school received three Camogie All-stars: Aine Graham, Kimberley Burke and Maura Downey.

The girls attended a number of trials, in which only twenty-two were selected as All-stars from over one hundred girls from all over Ulster. A tremendous achievement for our three Camogs!

On Saturday 24th November, Aine, Kimberley and Maura travelled to Dublin to represent Ulster in the Interprovincial All-Star Tournament. Ulster got to the All-Ireland final and were victorious against Connacht. This means they are now All-Ireland champions as well as All-stars!

Aine, Kimberley and Maura are exceptional girls with excellent attitudes. They are extremely talented but also hardworking, dedicated and motivated! These girls thoroughly deserve the success they have achieved to date!



DIANA AWARDS

Congratulations to Daniella Timperley Year 14 who was publicly honoured with a Diana Award for going above and beyond to create and sustain positive change in her daily life.

The Diana Award is designed to recognize 'outstanding young people selflessly creating and sustaining positive social change'. The Diana Awards Northern Ireland believe young people have the power to change the world for the better. Awards were presented at a reception in Stormont by Actor Gerard McCarthy and the Lord Lieutenant of County Down.



ALISIJA AND OLIVIA - INSPIRING PEOPLE!

Alisija Sestakova and Olivia Grzeszczak were selected to produce a short EA TV video to illustrate the theme "Inspiring People" which will be used during the launch

of the next Chief Inspector's Report and in subsequent professional learning events. Both girls did a spectacular job!



SHOEBOX APPEAL 2018

Miss Pickering and her team of helpers once again worked tirelessly to promote the Shoebox Appeal in aid of the 'Road of Hope' charity which sends the gift filled boxes to the less fortunate in Eastern Europe.

This year over 200 shoeboxes were collected! The response from pupils, staff and the local community resulted in a visible mountain of generosity!



SAILING SUCCESS

About four years ago, my cousin Charlie McGarry and I began sailing by attending a summer school in Cushendall Sailing Club. Never did I imagine that we would go from sailing for fun in the summer, to intensive winter training to prepare for high stake racing events.

Currently, Charlie and I are members of Cushendall Sailing Club, but every Sunday morning, we race in the East Antrim Boat Club in Larne.

Back in October, Charlie and I decided that as we had been sailing Toppers for a while, we would attend a sailing weekend in Carrick, where the Royal Yacht Association would select the top 20 Topper sailors in Northern Ireland to represent the NI Topper Squad. We both went with low expectations, as there was tough competition between the best Topper sailors in NI, fighting to claim their position on the squad. Fortunately, Charlie and I both finished the weekend with a secured place as part of the NI Topper Squad. We were thrilled as this is such a great achievement and feel honoured as being a member of the squad will give us so many different opportunities.

We will take part in the Youth Performance Programme to prepare us for the big upcoming events in the summer, such as the Irish Nationals. We will have six full weekends of intensive training, one of which has already taken place. The training weekends are tough- physically and mentally. But, this achievement has to come with lots of hard work, dedication and commitment.

Aoife Devlin, Year 11



ARTS AND HUMANITIES TRIP TO LONDON

On Monday 12th November, students from Year 14 Government and Politics, Geography and Economics and Year 13 Music went on a three day trip to London. This trip was jam-packed with activities, talks and workshops for us to attend over the three days, alongside some free time for us to explore London.

It was an early start on the day of departure. After arriving in London, we boarded the Stansted Express that took us to Liverpool Street Station, made our way to our accommodation and thankfully were on time for our busy schedule!

Our first talk took place at Accenture London with the managing director, Paul Dillion, who is a past pupil of St. Louis. He explained what the company Accenture does; how it employs a wide range of graduates from different backgrounds and the fantastic opportunities it presents to recently graduated students. This talk was very useful as it gave us information on possible career pathways we had not considered, and widened our knowledge and appreciation for companies like Accenture.

Following our time at Accenture, we got the tube to Covent Garden to have dinner and then went to watch 'School of Rock' at the West End. The show was fantastic and we ended the day on a high.

After a restful sleep at the hostel, we walked to Westminster for our next activity. Between 9am and 11am we were given an exciting tour of the House of Commons and the House of Lords with an interactive workshop about debating and topical discussion. This was an enjoyable and interesting activity that allowed us to experience the daily lives of MPs first hand, and understand how the process of debating works in Westminster.

Then it was time for our own leisurely pursuits! We got a tube to Oxford Street, to shop and have lunch.

In the afternoon, we split into two groups. Year 14 went to the Verde Building to attend a talk with TP ICAP about trading and interdealer brokers, while Year 13 went to South Kensington to go ice-skating at the National History Museum's ice-rink. We all met up again at Covent Garden for dinner at 5:30pm, followed by a trip to see 'Les Miserables' at the West End.

The next day began with a walking tour around Greenwich district. We explored the area and learnt about the significance of its location, while also visiting the Maritime Museum.

We made the journey to our next stop, a Brexit Workshop at Europe House, by boat down the River Thames. This was an extremely interesting workshop because as well as learning about the history of the EU, we were allowed to discuss how our lives are currently affected by the EU, and debate how Brexit may impact us in the future. I learnt a lot during this talk and it helped me understand Brexit better and realise how much it could affect our lives.

Overall, this trip was a huge success. I learnt so much in my short time away and I had lots of fun from beginning to end.

By Kimberley McCallum



BALLYMENA LEARNING TOGETHER EVENT

On Thursday 25th October, all Year 10 students took part in a 'Ballymena Learning Together' event.

The presentation took place in the assembly hall with St Patrick's Year 10 also participating. The event was to raise awareness on topical issues for teenagers focussing on: drug and alcohol abuse, cyber bullying, anti-social behaviour, smoking and vaping. These topics were discussed in a carousel of five speakers, three of which were from organisations based in the Ballymena area and the other two were a policeman who discussed anti-social behaviour and a mother who described in depth her son's fatal overdose.

The first speaker was a man who delivered a presentation on drugs and alcohol, teaching us about the four main groups: depressants, stimulants, opioids and hallucinogens. He also explained their effects and dangers if taken experimentally, recreationally or socially and how these could lead to dependency on the drug in question. He then talked about alcohol and what it does to your brain, also explaining what happens when alcohol and drugs are mixed.

The second speaker was a lady who talked about bullying, mainly of the cyber nature. She also informed us of the many services we could avail of if necessary one of which was ChildLine. She told us of the different forms of bullying and explained what a 'trusted adult' was and that they could be anyone that you know and trust.

The next speaker warned us of the dangers of smoking and those of an ever-growing trend, vaping. She showed us pictures of the damage that smoking cigarettes and vaping leave in your lungs. She also described a condition known as 'popcorn lung', it damages your smallest airways making it harder to breathe and have a persistent cough.

A policeman was the next to discuss a topic, his was anti-social behaviour. He defined being anti-social as anything that does not take into consideration the people around you such as crowding a shop door when other people are trying to access it. He also talked about a child in the area who was assaulted by



two older boys with weapons and how the police force is trying to prevent any incidents like this from ever happening again.

The fifth and final speaker was a lady named Theresa Burke, who opened with the words 'Now, I've no fancy training, I can only tell you what I know and hope that you'll take my advice and not make the same mistake my Kealan did.' She told us of her son who we later discovered overdosed on a bottle of Methadone he purchased from a drug dealer. She explained how his life was completely destroyed by drugs. Throughout her PowerPoint there were pictures showing Kealan before his overdose and videos showing his shocking state after the overdose. She explained that his brain was starved from oxygen for so long that he could never function the same way again. Heartbreakingly, he died eighteen months after the initial overdose at the age of twenty-two.

I thought the event was very informative, and at times extremely emotive. I learned things on serious issues which are extremely relevant to my age group. I also feel the style of delivery was extremely effective as the speakers were not dictatorial, instead they armed us with the facts but ultimately acknowledged that only we can control our future. Education is the key to changing mindsets and early intervention can yield great results. I now know that in the end the choice is ours and I feel we all are better equipped if we find ourselves in these situations.

By Katie Bonnes

RIISING STAR

Year 9 student, Luke Walford, is making a name for himself in showbiz! Luke has starred in various TV shows and theatre productions, with a most impressive CV at the age of 12.

The short film he most recently had a role in, 'The Invention', was considered in the Oscars nominations! He received rave reviews for his role, to quote one member of his film crew, "For all Luke's age... he is an accomplished wee actor. He is intelligent and insightful. He gets things. He can read subtext. He's easy to communicate and work with in that respect. Even very complex things he understands, so he was no harder to work with than many adults I've worked with. He's focused and diligent and professional and he cares about creating good work."

Luke is now looking forward to the prospect of one of his short films, 'The Ash' becoming a feature film in the near future.



With all his success to date, no doubt we can look forward to Luke appearing in our local cinemas sooner rather than later!

MILLENNIUM VOLUNTEERS

Recently Leighanca Delaney and Cara McCloskey received Millennium Volunteers Ultimate Awards at an award ceremony in Belfast Castle.

The programme is a youth volunteering initiative supported by the Department of Education in Northern Ireland, is run by VolunteerNow and is available to apply for from ages 14-24. It aims to engage young people in a variety of volunteering opportunities, providing recognition through certificates and awards up to 200 hours. Both Leighanca and Cara were nominated by Mrs McGreevy to receive the Ultimate award as they each have dedicated over 250 hours to volunteering in the past year. The awards were presented by MLA Colin McGrath, who was a volunteer in his local youth club from the age of fourteen.

Leighanca has been a volunteer at her local youth club in Randalstown for over a year. Her role involves organising activities and games for the children and she has also completed Child Safety training. As well as this she is also part of the student action group for homelessness.

Cara has been volunteering with her local scout group in Antrim for over a year and previous to this, had been involved in the Scouting Community from the age of six. Like Leighanca, Cara's responsibilities as a young leader include running the games and activities as well as acting as a bridge between the adults and children.



Both Leighanca and Cara travelled to Romania for a week with Friends for Romania with St Louis and fundraised through movie days within school and also church collections.

The girls reflected on their experience, "We were honored to be invited to the award ceremony especially as we do not take part in our organisations for recognition but to help our communities and develop a deeper connection with the people in our local area. We will both continue to give up our time to our organisations in the hope that we can inspire others to do the same."

YOUNG PEOPLE'S AWARD

Áine McAllister and Nicole Mullan were nominated as two of the few finalists in the Young People's Award 2018 facilitated by the Credit Union.

Both individuals were recognised for their hard work and commitment to the community. Hence, they were given the opportunity to attend an award ceremony in the Adair Arms Hotel on 5th November. During the evening, a fantastic buffet was served and the event was hosted by Ryan Hog.

Áine McAllister was finalist in two categories, 'Contribution to Sport' and 'Volunteering'. Áine was nominated for these categories due to her extensive achievements in boxing and contribution to volunteering, in particular for Action Cancer. There was stiff competition in both categories, Áine didn't win the overall awards but thoroughly deserved the recognition for her efforts.

Nicole Mullan not only was nominated as finalist in two categories, 'Caring' and 'Volunteering' but won the Caring Award for her extensive dedication to



volunteering on a local level and for giving so much back to the community. Nicole has been a volunteer in a Down and Connor special religious education group for the past four years as part of the charity SPRED. She has also taken on a job as a care assistant in a local nursing home as she aspires to be a nurse.

We are very proud of both girls!

ART ENTERPRISE 2018

Pupils have been gathering after school in the Art Department to work with Mrs McAuley and Ms Johnston on a range of extra-curricular activities.

These include the Year 8 Poster Competition which was run by the Mid-Eastern Borough Council to promote recycling, particularly at Christmas when there is so much waste. Pupils worked with Mrs McAuley to design and create A1 posters which displayed a joint recycling and Christmas theme. They worked really hard over several weeks and have managed to produce a stunning variety of posters which demonstrate really creative and clever use of materials which would otherwise be confined to landfill sites. The finished entries were submitted to Council on Thursday 22nd of November and the winning entry will be used on display around the Borough. Very well done to all involved and we wish all participants the best of luck.

Ms Johnston has been working with a group of enthusiastic Year 9 pupils on the theme of 'Abstract Sculptures', inspired by the work of artist Frank Stella. This project is still on-going and we are looking forward to seeing the finished sculptures.

Pupils are also busy preparing products for the Art Enterprise Craft Fair scheduled for December 14th. Mrs F McAuley and Ms A Johnston are leading the project as an extra-curricular activity after school and a wonderful medley of creations are underway. Pupils are thoroughly enjoying using their skills to create pieces which are suitable for re-sale. The Art Department also want to acknowledge and thank benefactor, Mrs Moira Kinney, for her generous donation of her hand-knit 'Spencer the Artist' Doll and 'Bud' the Snowman which are being raffled as part of the Art Enterprise scheme. Mrs Kinney is Mrs McAuley's mum and grandmother of Gráinne and Patrick McAuley and she very kindly wanted to use her tremendous talent and show her support for the Art Enterprise Craft Fair.



COMPUTING TECHNOLOGIES CLUB

St Louis have launched an initiative to try to encourage more pupils into computer programming and engineering at KS3.

In Year 9, students are introduced to the Lego Mindstormers robotics club. This allows the school to enter a team to compete against other schools across the country. In this club, the students will learn how to build, program and control autonomous LEGO robots to complete a series of short, exciting aviation missions using LEGO MINDSTORMS Education EV3 sets. From speed racing to controlled timing tasks, they'll demonstrate their programming skills to problem solve how to gather as much points as possible using their robots.

Within Year 9, the focus is on programming the robots. St Louis have a ten-week extra-curricular programming club running in IT1 with Mr McAfee. This is held after school where students learn how to design and control their robots to complete the aviation challenges. It is hoped that this club will provide a flavour of the challenges faced in Computer Science such as problem solving and testing.

In Year 10, the focus moves from the programming to an engineering mind set, with the challenges that little bit more difficult. The club is based in the Technology department with Mr McNaughton, where a group of students will compete in the FIRST LEGO League competition in December. This is a competition which is held worldwide across 98 countries. FIRST LEGO League challenges our pupils to think like scientists and engineers. This year's competition is based on the theme of INTO ORBIT.

During the INTO ORBIT season, teams will choose and solve real-world problems in the project. They will also build, test, and program an autonomous robot using LEGO MINDSTORMS technology to solve a set of missions in the Robot Game. Throughout this experience, teams will operate under the FIRST signature set of core values which celebrates discovery, teamwork, and gracious professionalism.

These extra-curricular programs that run across Year 9 and 10 provide an excellent platform for students with an interest in Computer Science, Technology and Engineering.



DAWN TIL DUSK EVENT

St Louis Grammar A Level Geography students, Claire Delargey, Lewis Bond and I, along with Ms Gildea, were invited to a 'Dawn til Dusk' event in October at Queen's University, Belfast.

We set off at 6am and upon arrival at the David Keir building we were greeted by students and tutors of the University. We were not only provided with a folder of documents to guide us through the day but we were also treated to a breakfast feast.

After meeting and getting to know other pupils from the wide range of schools across the province, we then had an orientation session with Professor Geraint Ellis who outlined the day ahead and shared the ethos and aims of the School of Planning, Architecture and Civil Engineering at Queen's.

Our first stop on the journey around the city was Ligoniel, where we learned about the evolution of Belfast.

Our second stop was in relation to the issues and ethnic diversity. We travelled to the Suffolk area in the west of the city. We visited the peace line and witnessed first-hand the very evident divide between Protestants and Catholics. Dr Brendan Murtagh talked us through the environment of these segregated areas and explained that based on the index of dissimilarity, this area was very much segregated, despite an increase in integration from 2001 to 2011.

Following this, we made our way to the Chinese welfare Association in South Belfast where we took part in talks and discussions on the impact of population change and migration in Belfast. We heard first-hand about the challenges faced by the Roma community in Belfast.

After a short lunch break, we met with Dr Laura Michael who explained how the tourism in Belfast could be classed as "dark tourism" as it is mostly based on the Titanic, George Best and the Troubles, all of which are known to be tragic events.



In the Cathedral Quarter, we then began the walking tour of the city with Dr Philip Boland and Professor Garrett Ellis. We discussed the challenges Belfast faced in relation to traffic and transport measures in the 21st century. As we walked, we could see the Belfast Council attempts to make the transport system more efficient by the creation of bus lanes, pedestrian streets and parking zone restrictions. After visiting the UK's National Cycle Network and Belfast Central Station, we made our way across the River Lagan to the Titanic Quarter.

Finally, at the end of a long day and a lot of information, we arrived back at the David Keir building to a stack of pizza and quizzes. On reflection, the "Dawn til Dusk" event was a very enjoyable and informative day. We all agreed that it was extremely interesting and very educational as lots of the information gave us a great insight to the Geography A-level specification and a potential career in that field of study.

By Mollie McCaw

FAREWELL WISHES

At the end of June we said farewell to five wonderful teachers. Best wishes to Mr Heffron and Mr Whiteford on their retirement. Good luck to Mr O'Hare and Mrs O'Kane on their future endeavours and we wish Mrs Monaghan all the very best with her move to Fermanagh.



GOOD LUCK MR ADAMS

Many thanks to Mr Adams for seven years as Head of PE at St Louis. During his tenure, the school achieved Ulster titles across all codes which is a magnificent achievement! We wish him all the very best for his new post in Belfast.



PAT RETIRES

Best wishes to our Crossing Patrol Man, Pat Kerr on his retirement.

Many thanks for eight years of great service to St Louis!



NEW STAFF



Miss Drain - PE



Miss Mallon - Music



Miss Murray - English



Mr McCorley - Maths and Science

IN REMEMBRANCE

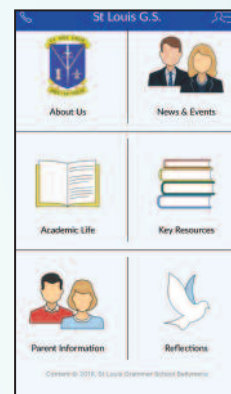
We would like to extend our heartfelt condolences to the family of Laura Baird, RIP. Laura was a canteen lady in St Louis for four years.

She passed away on 4th August 2018 after a short illness. Even though Laura worked in St Louis for a relatively short period of time, she made a significant contribution to our school community and is greatly missed.



ST LOUIS APP

Calling all parents and students who have yet to download the school app to please do so as it is now one of the main forms of whole school correspondence.



KINTULLAGH HOUSE RENOVATION

Continuous progress is being made on the Centre of Excellence for Expressive and Creative Arts in the Kintullagh House building. Estimated completion date is September 2019



IMPORTANT DATES

Term 2 begins

Thursday 3rd January

Open Nights

Wednesday 23rd January
and Thursday 24th January

Year 8/12/14 Parent Teacher Meeting

Thursday 24th January (times to be confirmed)

Staff Development Day

Friday 25th January

Year 13 Romania Trip

Wednesday 13th February –
Wednesday 20th February

Year 9/11/13 Parent Teacher Meeting

Friday 15th February (times to be confirmed)

Mid Term Break

Monday 18th February – Friday 22nd February

Year 10 Parent Teacher Meeting

(time to be confirmed)

Easter Concert

Tuesday 16th April

See school website for full Diary of Events

www.stlouisgrammar.com