



THE

KINTULLAGH VOICE

December 2019

The Newsletter of St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena



RECORD BREAKERS!

Pages 2 & 5



SUCCESS WITH HAIRSPRAY!

Pages 8 & 9



**Northern Ireland
Top Grammar
School 2019**

A Level Grades
x 5 Subjects
A* - C 100%
(NI Average 78%)



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TOP GCSE RESULTS FOR ST LOUIS GRAMMAR

The students and staff of St Louis Grammar followed the phenomenal success of the A-level results by celebrating an outstanding set of GCSE results – an incredible 99.5% of students achieved 7 or more A*- C grades (including Maths and English). These exceptional results help cement St Louis' esteemed position of top Grammar school in Northern Ireland.

Remarkably, 61% of all entries achieved A*- A grades and over 85% were awarded A*- B grades. In addition, 61 students attained 7A*- A grades or more. These statistics are all the more impressive considering the new GCSE specifications which have brought many changes and challenges to the curriculum.

Each Year 12 student enjoyed their own success story on results day but special recognition must be given to the top achievers. Both Maeve Henry and Niamh Melvor achieved an incredible 9 A* and 1 A.



Mr Rafferty said "I would like to congratulate our Year 12 students and their teachers for their hard work over the last five years which has culminated in this exceptional performance at GCSE Level. These results illustrate the outstanding teaching and meticulous individual support that our teachers provide to ensure each student achieves their personal targets. Credit must also be given to their families for their unwavering support and encouragement. The majority of our students will remain in St Louis to complete their A Levels but regardless of the pathway they choose, we are delighted that each student has achieved a strong academic profile which will open the door to many exciting opportunities in the future."



RECORD-BREAKING EXAM RESULTS FOR ST LOUIS!

In August we celebrated another year of outstanding A Level results with a staggering 100% of the 162 Upper Sixth students attaining A* to C grades in 3 or more subjects. This distinguishes yet another landmark year of excellent academic and personal achievements for the top Grammar School in Northern Ireland!

Remarkably, 89% of students were awarded 3 A* - B grades across all subjects. The top two achievers were Caoimhinn Gormley with 4 A* grades (in Art, Chemistry, Maths and Physics) and Caitriona Fitzpatrick with 3 A* grades (in English Literature, French and Moving Image Art and an A grade in Sociology). These superb results have enabled both students to earn places on high-demand courses across the UK.

Many students have secured first choice university places across the United Kingdom and Ireland, including UCD, Strathclyde, Liverpool and Manchester to name but a few. The excellent qualifications achieved by our students have allowed them to embark on exciting and varied undergraduate courses. A significant number of students will be starting higher national degree apprenticeships, a pathway which has become increasingly popular in recent years.

"We are delighted by the way this year's cohort have risen to the challenges of new A Level specifications. It is a credit to our students and teachers that over 57% of A Levels were awarded A - A grades and over 89% were awarded A* - B grades. With such a large number of students studying such a broad range of A Level subjects, these results are simply superb.*

This year's results reflect all that our school mantra, 'Excellence, Empowerment and Endeavour' stands for. It is evident that our students have acquired the knowledge and passion for learning, which has allowed them to pursue career paths according to their individual interests and strengths. Our school continues to send students on to high-demand courses such as Dentistry, Medicine, Law and Veterinary Medicine as well as highly sought after positions in the business sector with PwC and Deloitte.

It is testament to their families and excellent teaching staff that the Class of 2019 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 pathways. We are so proud of these students and their achievements."

Mr Rafferty





THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM

Each year the staff of St Louis selects 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 here:



Head Boy:
Ruairi McAleese



Head Girl:
Rionach Buckley



Deputy Head Boy:
Ciaran McQuillan



Deputy Head Boy:
Dylan Magill



Deputy Head Boy:
Odhran Devlin



Deputy Head Girl:
Evanna Woodside



Deputy Head Girl:
Jordayna Magill



Deputy Head Girl:
Maura Downey

Excellence, Endeavour and Empowerment...

TOP CANDIDATES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

St Louis Grammar is exceptionally proud of 8 students who have achieved the highly coveted accolade of being recognized as the top candidates in N.I. for CCEA examination subjects.

Siannah McKeown, Adam O'Neill and Aoife McCloy all received joint first place in GCSE Art & Design. Jack Galloway achieved second place in GCSE Double Award Science and Sophie Elliott achieved third place in GCSE Business Studies.

At A-level, Catriona Fitzpatrick was second in GCE Moving Image Arts and Nicole Reid was third in the same subject. Daniel O'Boyle was third overall in GCE Business Studies.

These phenomenal achievements are a wonderful acknowledgement of all the hard work and dedication of our students and teachers.





ANNUAL PRIZE GIVING

We at St Louis Grammar School recognised the achievements of our students at the annual Prize Giving Ceremony on Friday, 13th September. This event is always a special occasion for us, as it not only rewards the students' successes, but also inspires them, and others, to continually strive and achieve their best.

We were delighted to welcome Mr Joe Wilson, as Guest Speaker for our Senior event and Mr Peter Dunlop spoke at our Junior Prize Giving. Mr Wilson is a Director of Strategic Finance at Wayfair, which is the leading e-commerce business for home furnishings and décor in the United States. Mr Dunlop is the Managing Director of Bathshack, Ireland's leading bathroom supplier. Both men are past pupils of St Louis.

Those in attendance were captivated and inspired with details of how hard work, ambition and determination have enabled them to scale impressive professional heights. Many words of wisdom and encouragement were offered to our pupils by both Mr Wilson and Mr Dunlop, and we have no doubt their words will have resonated strongly with those present at both ceremonies.

Mr Rafferty concluded the ceremony by reflecting on the exciting range of events and activities encompassed by a diverse pupil cohort; reflecting, as always, the dynamic pace of life at St Louis.

Our warmest congratulations to the students who achieved awards but ultimately all students were winners after such a successful year. We embrace another academic year with continued commitment to help fulfil the potential of each and every pupil in our close-knit school community.





BRITISH EDUCATION AWARDS FINALISTS

St. Louis are extremely proud to have two finalists in the British Education Awards, 2020. The British Education Awards identify and celebrate individuals who have excelled within the British education system; acknowledging that this award comes down to personal endeavour and application. Finalists are selected for displaying academic excellence, something which Caoimhinn Gormley and Meave Henry do inherently.

Maeve Henry, the finalist in the GCSE category, attained a magnificent 9A* and 1 A Grade in her GCSEs – an outstanding academic achievement. This academic success is made all the more admirable as Maeve combines her studies with playing camogie for school, club and county and playing the piano. Maeve is also a member of Friends of Romania and is currently fundraising for her trip to distribute aid with the school in February.



Our finalist in the A Level category is Caoimhinn Gormley, an equally driven and talented young lady who achieved 4A* at A Level. Caoimhinn also combined her studies with volunteering work and playing no less than five musical instruments.

Both girls will attend the British Education Awards Gala Ceremony in the Hilton Hotel, Manchester on Thursday 30th January. They follow in the footsteps of previous finalists and indeed overall winners from St. Louis – David Byrne and Niamh Gould. We are immensely proud of both and wish them the best of luck.

ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP WINNER

On 21st November, 2019 one of our Year 15 pupils, Maeve Henry, took part in the Zonal Final of the Rotary Youth Leadership Competition and was selected as one of three zonal winners.

To get to this stage of the competition, Maeve had to get through a school and a regional heat. The three sets of interviews were rigorous; testing Maeve's knowledge on leadership, Rotary and the EU.

As one of the overall winners, Maeve will now spend five days in Strasbourg with the 21 other winners from around Ireland. During this time, she will visit the European Parliament, take part in political and leadership workshops and lead presentations. We wish her all the best for her week away and know that the future is bright with leaders like Maeve on the horizon!





SUMMER READING CHALLENGE

Well done to the impressive number of Year 8s who took part in the Summer Reading Challenge and produced some thoroughly detailed and engaging book reviews. This is very encouraging to see and we hope that all the pupils maintain their passion for reading, because (as the saying goes), "today's readers are tomorrow's leaders!"

The improved literacy standards that are undisputedly fostered by reading will continue to serve pupils not just in their English lessons, but also across learning areas. Special congratulations go to the following class winners:

Alex Warren – 8 Laragh
Iseult O'Loan – 8 Lisbreen
Ashley Anderson – 8 Lurig

Lowry Collins – 8 Layde
Roisin Quinn – 8 Lismoyle
Rebecca McGrath – 8 Lyndon



YEAR 11 MINI-ENTERPRISE

Just in time for this year's series of "The Apprentice," the Business Studies department have started their annual Mini-Enterprise Club. The club allows Year 11 pupils to explore and develop their entrepreneurial skills by working as a team and setting up their own business.

This year's Year 11 group have been working hard on their business venture - "Sweets 'N Treats". The Year 11 'elves' hope products are ready just in time for the Christmas holidays. The pupils have been encouraged to personally add value to resources in a creative way and the products will be the perfect accompaniment for a Christmas movie marathon.

The students involved have chosen to sell the items in order to raise money for a charity of their choice.



SENIOR MATHS CHALLENGE

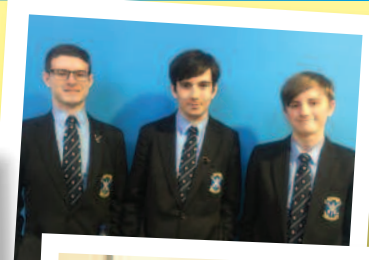
A big congratulations to all of our Senior Maths Challenge Certificate winners!

Silver Certificates

Adam Dempsey U6, Dylan Magill U6, Jack Fitzpatrick L6

Bronze Certificates

Matthew Loughran U6, Connor McCrory U6,
Nathan Totten U6, Gerard Mclean U6, Eamon McKenna U6,
Hannah Carey L6, Ciara O'Neill L6, Katie Logan L6,
Maeve O'Connell L6, Patrick Ferris L6, Jack Galloway L6





ST LOUIS HAIRSPRAY PRODUCTION

In October, the Drama and Music departments at St Louis dazzled audiences at The Braid Arts Centre with their spectacular production of the feel-good musical Hairspray.

Consecutive standing ovations in the sold-out theatre proved that the show was a huge success; with teachers and pupils alike collaborating fantastically to showcase the rich talent boasted by our school. Three cast members reflect on their memorable experiences below.



My name is Kerri Hegarty and I played the lead role of Tracy Turnblad in our school's production of Hairspray.

This show was my first musical, and it certainly set the bar high. I remember deciding that I was going to audition for a principle role and being so nervous because I had never sung in front of anyone before. I was just happy to be in the show, regardless what part I was given, so as you can imagine I genuinely couldn't believe that I had been cast in the role of Tracy.

Performing as Tracy gave me confidence that I never would have imagined I had; I went from being nervous every time

I had to sing in front of the cast at rehearsals, to singing in front of 400 people each night. The whole experience was one I will never forget, from frantic on-stage quick changes to fat suits; sketch calls to quoting iconic lines from the show, random bursts of songs during class, and creating bonds that will never be broken. To the entire cast and teachers, thank you for making Hairspray so amazing.



My name is Jude Dobbin and I played the role of Edna in our school production of Hairspray. I have played many roles in the past, such as Henry Higgins in My Fair Lady and Doc in West Side Story.

Playing the part of Edna was certainly a first for me as I have never played a woman before, but I have also never had so much fun!

I hope to go to drama school to study either musical theatre or acting, so by playing a woman I believe "Hairspray" has helped to diversify me as an actor and increase my role repertoire.

Being a lead role always comes with its stresses, including lines, lyrics and dreaded mid-scene on-stage quick changes! But the amazing support from teachers and the cast made it all possible and doable.

From pizza parties to lunchtime 'boogies' it was an endless amount of fun. The entirety of rehearsals and show week was an experience I will never forget.



I was extremely fortunate to have the opportunity to take part in the St Louis production of Hairspray, the timing worked well in my favour as I was able to star in this performance during my second and last year in this school.

I previously attended St Benedict's college in Randalstown where I also pursued drama and was able to portray main roles in two of the school's musical performances.

Having an amazing class of students at St Louis that eventually became friends is what convinced me to join the school show. While I was not able to audition for a main role, I joined the chorus of the show and I'm incredibly grateful that I was accepted.

I immediately clicked with the entire cast and was welcomed with open arms; this meant it was much easier to learn dances and songs as I was now working with friends.

I'm overall extremely happy with how the show turned out and I hope that all of our hard work has created a performance that the audiences will never forget, much like the memories I created during this show.





@SLGBallymena



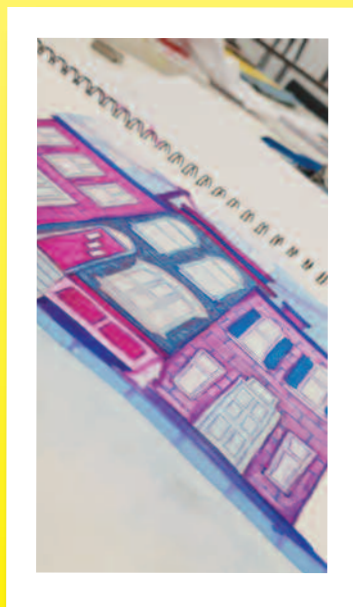
www.stlouisgrammar.com



THE ARTS FIRMLY IN SITU

It wasn't long before every corner of Kintullagh House, our newly-opened Centre of Excellence for Creative Arts, was occupied with busy preparations for the school musical.

From rehearsals, to set design, wardrobe to make-up, the freshly-housed departments demonstrated wonderful collaboration and passion for the Performing Arts. Hairspray has undoubtedly set the bar high for future productions!



KINTULLAGH HOUSE SNEAK PREVIEW!

New Centre of Excellence for Creative and Expressive Arts

After 40 years, the Art and Moving Image Art Department vacated rooms 7 and 8.

A new chapter began as we took up home in our specialist facilities in Kintullagh House Centre of Excellence for Creative and Expressive Arts with our new neighbours Music and Drama. The vision of our pupils and staff became a reality after 5 years in the planning. Pupils are taking advantage of the inspiring space that houses an Applied Arts suite for textiles and ceramics; a green screen room for filming and photography; a creativity hub that provides a professional setting for learning; A-Level Art studio and Applemac Study as well as 2 spacious classrooms..





LEARN SPARK

WORKSHOP

On Friday 8th November, Year 14 pupils were invited to the assembly hall where we engaged in a Learn Spark workshop to learn a variety of useful study tips.

We began with some team building skills which also served as energizers to get our brains working this early in the morning! In addition, we were informed of effective ways to revise, rather than simply highlighting everything or writing notes. These included being given helpful revision tools, like the fishbone diagram, the Cornell note-taking method, mind maps, Venn diagrams etc, and taught us how to use them efficiently. We learned that these methods are much more effective for retaining information, as we are actively learning rather than just passively learning. Furthermore, we were told how to adopt healthy study habits like getting enough sleep before an exam, and eating a healthy snack before a revision session to give us extra brainpower and boost concentration. Paul also taught us the importance of leaving distractions behind when we are studying, such as turning off our phones before we begin studying so we can't procrastinate by scrolling through social media (which is something a lot of us admitted we were guilty of!)



We also took part in memory games which helped build up our memory strength - this will undoubtedly help us in our A-Level exams at the end of the year.

This programme provided us with a myriad of effective learning techniques, strategies and approaches that will allow us to reach the depth of understanding required for A Levels. It highlighted the importance of finding the revision technique that works best for each individual person in order to make revision easier and more effective, therefore helping us to cope with the added pressures of sixth form. The techniques were designed to promote independent learning and research which are important skills to have when studying for A-Levels. It was a fantastic day full of useful study techniques, enabling us to study effectively with lots of fun included too!

Leah Barker

YEAR 14 FORMAL

Our annual Year 14 formal took place on Friday 4th October in Galgorm Resort and Spa.

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





LIVESTOCK AND MEAT COMMISSION

Mrs Elizabeth Brown from the LMC visited ST. Louis Grammar School to demonstrate to the Year 11 Home Economic Students how to cook recipes with meat and talk about Farm Quality Assurance.

Mrs Brown started the demonstration by explaining about the Livestock and Meat Commission and the role it plays in our meat supply. She said it was developed to give consumers assurances about the meat products they were eating. They only work with the beef and lamb farmers who have to comply with 85 standards covering all aspects of farming before they can become Farm Quality Assured. This shocked us, as 85 standards is a lot to meet; however it assures that the quality of this food is going to be very high, not to mention safe to eat.

Mrs Brown then cooked two dishes, one with lamb and one with beef which were both farm quality assured. The lamb recipe included lamb, baby boiled potatoes, some herbs, vegetable and crème fraiche as a sauce at the end. This dish was nice but personally I preferred the beef dish which was a stir fry. The ingredients for this included beef strips, grated carrot, courgettes, some pak choi and herbs. Chilli was added to provide some heat, honey for sweetness, soy sauce and rice wine vinegar which gave the stir fry a lovely flavour. This was then served with boiled rice.

I really enjoyed tasting these dishes and watching an amazing cook like Mrs Brown demonstrate to us how to prepare these recipes. I would definitely like for them to come back and show us more recipes using Farm Quality Assured food.

Shannon Bryson



SCÓR NA NÓG 2019

We would like to congratulate Catherine, Ríoghnach and Maria on their success, and we wish the girls all the best for the forthcoming Ulster competition!

Scór na Nóg is a competition between GAA clubs that happens every year. This year Scór na Nóg was held in Randalstown and many clubs travelled from all over Antrim to compete. I took part in the ballad group competition for Creggan along with 2 other St Louis students, Maria Gately and Ríoghnach Murray. The standard of talent was amazing from all competitors and I'm sure the judges had a very hard time choosing the winners. Ríoghnach, Maria and I were all part of the winning ballad group and we are really looking forward to representing Antrim in the Ulster semi-finals.

Catherine McKay, 8 Laragh





JUNIOR APPRENTICE CHALLENGE!

On the day of the junior apprentice challenge Maitiu, Matthew, Aimee and I attended the Junior Apprentice Braid Arts Centre. We were greeted by our mentor John Lorimer from FCS, Ballymena who helped us plan our strategies for the best negotiation strategies.

We were given a map of Ballymena to help us with our first task which was to buy as many things as possible from the list with the £150 we were given. However, we had to negotiate with the business owners to help us stay within this budget.

At first, we were very nervous as none of us had done anything like this before, however this soon changed as we went to our first shop 'The Music Rooms'. We bought two music stands for our music department that will soon be moving up to the new creative arts centre in the new building. These stands were priced at £54.99 each, although this soon changed as we came to an agreement that in return for promoting The Music Rooms on our twitter by taking a picture outside, we would get £10 the combined price for 2 stands. We then went to Woodsides Pharmacy to purchase 2 flash-drives for our Moving Image Department. These flash-drives were priced at £12 each, but we managed to get them for £16 altogether.

We visited Outdoor Adventures where we bought 4 gel blister packs to give to Mr McAfee for the President's Award taking place in the Mourne Mountains.

Our final stop was Teamkit. Here we bought a pack of 10 training bibs which came to the total of £50, however, with some negotiation we brought the price down to £25. We also purchased a hurling ball and hurl which came to the total price of £25 but we got these two things for the price of £15.

Finally, we presented our purchases to 3 judges and the other 8 schools who were taking part. Overall, it was a really good experience and helped boost all of our confidence's. We were delighted to scoop a prize for our negotiating ability! We would like to thank the organisers of this event for such a great learning experience.

Kendra Leitch, 12 Layde



YEAR 8 GAELFAST FOOTBALL BLITZ

Well done to the Year 8 Gaelic Football squad who participated in the Gaelfast Football Blitz on 21st November, at Woodlands playing fields in Belfast.

The boys played excellently despite difficult weather conditions and were victorious in their games against St Malachy's, Rathmore and Our Lady & St Patrick's Knock.





EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES

The Modern Languages Department celebrated the European Day of Languages on 26th September by running a range of activities throughout the school day.

10 Lurig presented a special assembly, at break time students went on a treasure hunt around the school to discover different ways to say hello in numerous languages and at lunchtime some of our students hosted taster lessons on Malayalam, Korean and Cantonese.

Year 8 students participated in a Languages quiz and enjoyed a céili. Some sixth form students also taught a little French to pupils in St.Colmcille's Primary School. Students embraced the day with enthusiasm and lots of fun was had by all!



POETRY IN MOTION

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

Over the course of the first term, pupils have participated in four poetry workshops with local poet Yvonne Boyle. 8 Lismoyle thrived in the workshops; working in groups to produce original and creative poetry which reveals a huge amount of talent in the class.





PWC COMES TO SLG!

The CEIAG department was delighted to welcome back our past pupils Daire, Adam and Conn from PwC to talk to our students about the alternatives to university. All three young men are successfully carving out a career for themselves with this global company and were very willing to announce the benefits of choosing such a route to our sixth form.

A position on the Head Start School and college leaver programme is one of the best ways of jumping into a career with PwC early. Students learn and develop the specialist skills clients look for and value the most whilst study towards a professional qualification.

St. Louis students have been very successful in securing places on this programme over the last number of years and we are so delighted to have the support of our past pupils in assisting students with their applications.



FIRST LEGO LEAGUE TEAM



The first Lego League 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 that is held worldwide across 98 countries. The league challenges our pupils to think like Scientists and Engineers. This year's competition is based on the theme of "City Shaper."

During the 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.

This extra-curricular program available to Years 9-11, provides an excellent platform for students with an interest in Computer Science, Technology and Engineering.

SUCCESS FOR THE ART AND MOVING IMAGE ARTS DEPARTMENT

Congratulations to 5 of our pupils who gained top places in Northern Ireland in CCEA. Well done to Adam O'Neill, Siannah McKeown and Aoife McCloy who all received top marks in their Art and Design and therefore were placed joint first.

Additionally this year was the departments first time being placed in the top 5 for Moving Image Arts. Catriona Fitzpatrick was placed 2nd and Nicole Reid was third in Northern Ireland. A fantastic achievement for all involved.





FRIENDS FOR ROMANIA TRIP



On 12th February 2020 a team of volunteers from Year 15 will be departing to the Transylvania region of Romania to undertake essential relief work in children's homes, disabled centres, schools and communities.

This team will be the largest group that have volunteered for many years. Before departure all of the team will have completed several months of active fundraising for our charity 'Friends for Romania.' They will use these funds in Romania to purchase essential resources and will spend one week distributing the resources to various needy institutions. St. Louis Grammar School has been sending teams to Romania every year since 1991.

WATERSPORTS TRIP 2019

In the early hours of Saturday 15th June, 90 pupils from Year 10 accompanied by 9 members of staff departed Dublin to fly to Barcelona. The resort of Pineda de Mar was less than an hour from Barcelona airport and our accommodation was Hotel Checkin Pineda. After lunch, rooming arrangements were sorted and some time was given at the hotel pool before making our way down to the beach. Pupils enjoyed cooling off in the sea as well as playing games on the beach.

The pupils had three days of water activities at the beach which included banana boating, paddle boarding, kayaking, catamaran sailing, snorkelling and body boarding. Each session lasted two hours and pupils and pupils occasionally were able to relax and sunbathe or cool off in the Mediterranean! Pupils enjoyed the various water activities and the interaction with their instructors over the 5 days. Evening activities included pizza night, shopping in town, disco and beach games including Mr Gillan's highly competitive beach volleyball tournaments!

One of the day trips was a visit to the infamous Nou Camp stadium followed by free time at a very impressive shopping outlet just outside of the city- which to the delight of many had a McDonald's in the food court! On the second last day, we visited Water World in the neighbouring resort of Lloret de Mar. Everyone enjoyed the thrills and spills of many of the rides in the very impressive water park. We were able to enjoy some shopping and down time on Friday morning before we left the resort to return to the airport and make the journey back to Dublin and the school grounds.

All 90 pupils (49 girls and 42 boys) must be commended for their behaviour and enthusiasm throughout the week in Spain - they were great ambassadors for our school and staff agreed that it was a pleasure to accompany such a fantastic group of students. Sincere thanks to Mr Gillan for leading the trip and the other 8 members of staff who travelled; Mr Morgan, Mr McCorley, Mr McNaughton, Miss C Doherty, Mrs E Doherty, Miss Drain, Miss Ferris and Miss Glavin. Everyone will agree, it definitely was a trip to remember for all involved!





SMALLPIECE TRUST ENGINEERING EXPERIENCE

Over my summer I spent 5 days with two class mates (Luke and Enzo) in Queens University, Belfast. This experience allowed me to enjoy a two night stay in Queens halls of residence, allowing me to develop my independence. During the engineering experience I challenged to build planes and bridges out of a specific number of resources. Adding to the challenge, we had to buy our resources and manage our finances too. Much like real life engineers.

We also had to construct it using these resources which we purchased with imaginary money with a group of people whom we had never met. It was great being able to develop our team working skills and networking ability.

Several engineering companies hosted lots of our different challenges such as Network Rail and Thales; it was great getting face to face interaction with these huge engineering companies.



The Smallpiece trust is based in England and do these types of engineering courses all over the UK. This year was the first year which it had come to Northern Ireland and they said they would hopefully be back next year again to do the same course. We were also treated well throughout the course by the people from the Smallpiece trust as they cared for our every need. I would recommend this to anybody as it is an experience in engineering.

Michael McPeake (10 Lurig)

YEAR 13 HEANEY TRIP

On Wednesday, 2nd October, our cohort of AS-Level English Literature students embarked on a highly engaging and enlightening tour across Heaney Country. As part of their exam requires candidates to discuss the biographical contexts that inspired Heaney's works, our students spent the day retracing Heaney's footsteps around Mossbawn and learning more about his life and journey to becoming one of the most prolific poets of the 20th century.

The day began with a visit to the Heaney Centre where pupils were treated to a thoroughly informative tour of the exhibition. The display brought many Heaney's influences to life with images of his parents, siblings, wife and children allowing the pupils to humanise the muses they have read so much about.

After the tour, students were afforded some relaxation time in the creative space at the centre. Pupils were given the opportunity to read some of their favourite Heaney poems, and some even left their own artistic tribute to the Nobel Prize-winning poet.



A quick stop at 'The Taphouse' for lunch was an absolute necessity before we continued our journey to the Devlin's forge in Castledawson. As part of our celebrations for National Poetry Day, students recited Heaney's poem 'The Forge' in which the poet recalls walking past this 'door into the dark' on his way to school. This mysterious cornucopia of scrap metal and farm machinery became a symbol for his artistic development as a poet; the rural tradition once again inspiring Heaney to 'forge' his own creative tradition through poetry.

Pupils finished their tour with a visit to Heaney's grave, a bittersweet, but fitting end to a day that allowed the work of Heaney to come alive for our students.



NEBSSA CROSS COUNTRY

Well done to the St Louis pupils listed below, who participated in the NEBSSA Cross Country on Wednesday 27th November, at Six Mile Leisure Complex, Ballyclare. Particular commendation must go to Aisling Smith (Year 9) and Erin Coulter (Year 10), who won their respective races.

Position	Firstname	Lastname	Finish	Age
3	Joseph	McNeill	00:12:30	10B
6	Conn	Fyfe	00:12:48	10B
16	Oliver	Doherty	00:13:42	10B
17	Darach	Bradley	00:13:51	10B
1	Erin	Coulter	00:13:54	10G
22	Carragh	Cochrane	00:16:58	10G
29	Alicia	Boyd	00:17:37	10G
32	Blaithin	Herron	00:18:37	10G
4	Fintan	Bradley	00:06:02	8B
39	Daniel	Warring	00:07:08	8B
45	Cian	Higgins	00:07:15	8B
47	Pearse	McAuley	00:07:16	8B
49	Sean	O'Brian	00:07:19	8B
12	Ashley	Anderson	00:07:07	8G
14	Sarah	Hasson	00:07:12	8G
22	Casey	Crawford	00:07:26	8G
27	Elle	Brown	00:07:41	8G
44	Georgia	Kearney	00:08:18	8G
5	Charlie	Cunning	00:11:45	9B
28	Corey	Quinn	00:12:18	9B
29	Shay	McGinley	00:12:18	9B
34	Patrick	McCafferty	00:12:31	9B
46	Padraig	McColgan	00:12:58	9B
1	Aishling	Smith	00:05:56	9G
9	Kate	McGilligan	00:06:34	9G
15	Kate	Hasson	00:06:44	9G
22	Enya	Neeson	00:06:52	9G
36	Orlaith	Gould	00:07:51	9G
36	Enya	Neeson	00:12:52	9G
45	Rhea	Warring	00:08:36	9G
10	Ryan	Thom	00:12:18	SB
12	Esther	McBride	00:15:05	SG





CINEMAGIC

In October the Moving Image Arts A-Level pupils were fortunate to have the opportunity to attend the Cinemagic 50th anniversary celebrations, where pupils watched a screening of the film *Ladybird* and were able to participate in a question & answer session with the lead actress Saoirse Ronan.

Saoirse discussed different themes and aspects of the film as well as discuss her experiences working as an actor. It was an enlightening experience for pupils, many of whom wish to pursue a career in film. This was a highly motivating and beneficial event that marked Cinemagic's anniversary.



GAEL LINN QUIZ WINNERS!

Comhghairdeas to Conall Cassidy, Conor Bresnahan, Conn Fyfe and Rhianna Doherty who were awarded first place in Gael Linn's annual Irish language quiz which took place in Falls Leisure Centre, Belfast.

There was stiff competition from lots of other schools and the entire quiz was conducted through the medium of Irish. The Gael Linn quiz is a pinnacle event in the academic calendar for Irish Departments throughout Northern Ireland. It was a hugely educational opportunity for the pupils as they were totally immersed in the language for a full day. The language skills of all pupils were refined and enhanced, not to mention huge encouragement was given to their confidence in the spoken Irish word. The team has qualified to the Ulster Final, which will take place in Lurgan in January.



HURLING TRIUMPH FOR AODHAN

We are very proud to share the accomplishments of an impressive hurling talent, Aodhan McGarry (Year 11).

In June of this year, Aodhan not only won at the Antrim Hurling Feile, but went on to compete at national level, where he finished 4th in the All-Ireland competition. Well done on this remarkable achievement, Aodhan!





AFTER SCHOOL CLUBS IN ART

Junk Kouture

The Art Department are busy preparing for this year's Junk Kouture competition. Pupils are designing and making fashion garments from recycled materials to promote recycling and sustainability, a very current and important topic in our society. Pupils are gaining valuable knowledge, understanding and practical skills from our past pupil Gabrielle Lennon, who has recently graduated from University of Ulster in Fashion and textiles.

Ceramics Course

Art students participating in an after school course with ceramicist Tyrone from Ulster Ceramics. Pupils are learning about a number of techniques using clay and glazes.

Year 8 Textile Art Club

Year 8 pupils attended the first of a series of textiles workshop with Mrs McAuley on Tuesday 19th Nov. They were accompanied by two Year 10 mentors, Charlotte and Rhianna, who kindly gave up their time to support the Year 8 pupils. They produced textile cupcakes in the beautiful surroundings of our new building, and the creativity on display was amazing. It was positive to see such a great turnout of pupils and by all accounts they thoroughly enjoyed the event!



UNIVERSITY ROAD SHOW

Over recent years, we at St. Louis have noticed there is a growing amount of concern among pupils and parents with regards to the completion for places in Northern Ireland Universities and the increasing grade requirements.

The Careers department addressed this need by inviting in the University Roadshow (UR) with the idea of providing students in Year 15 & 14 and those with up to date information about the wide variety of third level opportunities available to them throughout the England, Scotland, Wales, ROI and Europe.

The UR gave a presentation on the application processes and then followed with a careers exhibition with university representatives present.

The presentation introduced the students to the university roadshow and covered key areas such as:

- Applying to university
- The UCAS Application system
- The CAO application system for entry into the Republic of Ireland's universities
- Applying to universities in Europe
- Key areas in finance such as fees, loans, grants and scholarships available when studying in UK & EU

The Careers department had a lot of positive feedback about the event and as a result we now have more informed decision makers in sixth form.





INVESTORS IN CAREERS

The careers department are working towards their Investors in Careers quality mark. We want to ensure that our stakeholders are aware of this endeavor and support us in our cause. We, as a school, are fully committed to gaining "The Quality in Careers Standard" by December 2020 and as such we have incorporated this goal into our School Development Plan.

Our aim is provide an outstanding programme of careers education, information, advice and guidance activities that go beyond satisfying national requirements and provide guidance which enables us to address the career development needs of all our students.

MATHS WEEK

Forty-four Year 11s escaped with Mrs McCarry and Mrs McClintock on Friday 18th October to take part in two hours of fun Maths puzzles, games and activities at Queen's University Belfast.

It was organised by Maths Week Ireland 2019 and we met Dr Mark Saul, who introduced the event by saying that the rules were: 'There were no rules! Try everything.'

We met Maths lecturers and students who helped us work together to solve challenging puzzles. We investigated topics like probability and game theory and used our problem solving skills to work our way out of the 'Numbers Maze'. It was AMAZING!

Senan O'Boyle, 11 Lisbreen



CHRISTMAS CARD COMPETITION WINNERS

Congratulations to Kate McGilligan in 9 Layde, who designed the winning entry for our annual Christmas Card.

Well done also to our two runners up; Caoimhe McPartland (8 Layde) and Kate McClintock (9 Lyndon).





FRIENDS OF ROMANIA TRIP

In June 2019 I had the opportunity to travel to Brasov, Romania with students and teachers from St Louis and Cambridge House Grammar School. This experience was part of my Year 15 Enrichment, taken by Mr Marquess. I had an option of travelling in Winter or in Summer and what drove me to choose Summer was the prospect of making new friends from a different school. We all had a fundraising target of £500 and after meeting with our Cambridge House peers, we set off for Brasov.

The trip was long and tiring but we made it to our accommodation, full of excitement for what lay ahead. The next day mainly consisted of taking the money we had raised and buying essential items in bulk that the homes had informed Mr Marquess and our translator, Lumi, that they needed. Armed with shopping lists and big trolleys, we went into the shop and bought each item that was needed. These supplies were then boxed up and taken to the homes on our visits.

Even this simple task of buying all the supplies opened our eyes to the poverty that had struck certain parts of Romania. Taking the supplies to each of the homes would be a massive eye opener for each and every pupil on the trip. What myself and other pupils found was that we were humbled by the gratitude of every home and care centre we visited. They were just happy to see new smiling faces coming to play games or to chat to.

What made this trip special was the fact we were able to share it with Cambridge House and I can safely say I have made an abundance of new friends from this trip. We shared happy memories together, playing with the children and sharing laughter, and sad moments in which we reflected on how lucky we are to have the opportunities and lifestyle we do.

I am very thankful to have taken part in this trip and to have been able to impact the lives of the people we met. This experience opened my eyes to the lives of others who aren't as fortunate and the amazing work charities such as 'Friends for Romania', do to help. I can say with confidence that Romania was a life-changing trip for all involved and we will all hold the memories very close to our hearts.

Alex Caldwell



YEAR 13 ANTI-BULLYING TEAM

The Anti-Bullying team is comprised of 7 dedicated and hard-working pupils who have enthusiastically taken the roles of anti-bullying prefects.

We are here to provide you with a place to go and someone to talk to if you feel that you can't go straight to a teacher. We, as the anti-bullying team, aim to create a safe and bully-free environment in St. Louis, and we are here to make sure that anyone and everyone is happy in school. If you feel that you or someone you know, have been affected by bullying, you can find us in the TEEP room, located in the maths corridor, every Wednesday at breaktime.





LEONARD CUP WINNERS!

It was a triumphant first-time win for St Louis in the Danske Bank Leonard Cup, fighting off stiff competition from St Patrick's College, Maghera. The final took place in Ahoghill, on Monday 2nd November. When the same teams met six months ago in the Gallagher Cup decider, the Derry school dominated from start to finish against a fancied St Louis side, but this time around the tables were turned. After getting off to a strong start they were in charge for much of the game, however in the end St Louis emerged victorious, accruing an impressive fourteen-point winning margin.

Having come up short against the same opponents last season it was important for St Louis to start well and they certainly rose to the challenge, with centre forward Ronan McCollum leading the charge. He rifled in a great goal early on and added two quick points to build a platform for the win, and when St Pat's failed to take full advantage of their two penalties the Kintullagh boys grabbed their second goal through Jack McCloskey, who scrambled the ball over the line from close range.

Two quick points from Ronan McCollum and Jack McCloskey soon after the restart, cemented their hold on the game. Adam McLaughlin, who started at centre back but was now playing on the 40, pulled a couple of points back for St Pat's. However, St Louis soon stemmed the tide and climbed back on top again. The side retained the upper hand and with man of the match McCollum keeping the scoreboard ticking over, and they sealed victory long before referee Darren McKeown sounded the final whistle. Congratulations boys - we are all immensely proud of your teamwork and achievement!



GCSE HOME ECONOMICS PRACTICALS SERVE UP MOUTH-WATERING MENUS!

On the week commencing 18th November, Mrs Blaney and Mrs Marron in the Home Economics department were very busy completing GCSE Home Economics practicals. This controlled assessment task makes up 50% of the overall GCSE marks and this year's live task title was to plan and prepare a three course meal for older adults (65+ years). The meals must include a range of nutrients specific to an older adult and the three courses along with two accompaniments must be completed in a three-hour period.

Pupils are marked on various aspect of the practical; from planning, use of equipment, hygiene and safety, to overall aesthetics and final presentation. Completing all of this in three hours was not an easy task and it did get quite stressful at times, but thankfully all pupils performed to the highest

degree of competency in all aspects of the practical assessment, and as you can see from the photographic evidence, produced excellent final outcomes. Well done to all.





DRAGON'S DEN AT W5 WITH RAPID7

The SLG Coders First outing to W5 was a great success. Each student received a CREST Discovery award and received a certificate for their contributions on the day.

The teams created a concept for a sustainable start-up business that would benefit their local community in the future. Students researched the effect of climate change and how it might affect their community in the future. They took note of the solutions that are already in operation in the fight against climate change, conducting research from books and the Internet, before developing their own solution.

The students produced a concept for a start-up business. The brief was an App, an Invention or a Communications Campaign to address climate change in their community or school. Rapid 7, who are an internet security company based in Belfast, helped to further develop the student start-up concept during the event at W5.

They prepared a 5-minute presentation with all team members being involved. Power Point was available but the students made a poster or used props to pitch their start-up business to the Rapid 7 Dragons, similar to the popular BBC TV programme.



TRIP TO STORMONT

On Monday 11th November our year 15 Politics class made the trip to Stormont. The purpose of our trip was to get some insight into the inner workings of the Northern Ireland Assembly (NIA).

Upon arrival I was struck by how impressive the building actually was. Patsy McGlone (MLA for Mid Ulster) met us in the very grand entrance and spoke to us for a while as we waited for our tour guide. Steve Aiken the newly appointed leader of the UUP stopped and chatted with us as well allowing us to get a great photo!

We went on the tour; firstly going to the Assembly Chamber where we took part in a role play. We then debated a bill and then voted on it; unfortunately it won't become law as we weren't elected! This gave us a real taster of what it would be like to be an MLA or a Minister. We were then taken into the Senate chamber. As there is no longer a Senate, it's now used for some of the committee meetings and more recently for the RHI Inquiry which we are all anxiously awaiting the outcome of! When we were there, Claire Hanna the SDLP MLA and Westminster candidate for South Belfast popped in to say hello to us; clearly the fame of St Louis has spread far and wide!

We then were taken to a room in order to have Q&A session with representatives of the largest political parties. First up was Patsy McGlone who give us some useful insight into the RHI Inquiry; he was Chair of the committee that was supposed to scrutinise the department. He pointed out that committees don't always receive the same information that ministers are privy to.

Next up was Paul Frew of the DUP who is MLA for North Antrim followed by Philip McGuigan of Sinn Fein also an MLA for North Antrim.

Both took questions and didn't always answer the question they were asked, a trait that many politicians seem to have! As you can guess we didn't let them off with that! Lastly was Steve Aiken MLA for South Antrim; a former submarine captain, it's not every day you meet one of those!

A special thanks is in order for Patsy McGlone, who took extra time with us and was very entertaining- he even took time to give us a music quiz of all things! Overall, it was a thoroughly enjoyable day and while we didn't solve the current impasse for the main parties, we as young people reminded them that we wanted Stormont to work for all of us, so if the Assembly does get up and running after Christmas, it's probably down to that important message we gave them!

Declan McMahon, Year 15





ST LOUIS IN BALLYMENA'S TIME CAPSULE

Sealed until 2044!

A time capsule, created by the Ballymena Area Chamber of Commerce, was officially sealed for 25 years at a special reception in November hosted by the Mayor. Congratulations to winners Aoife Devlin and Emily Higgins, who were allowed to place materials in the capsule including a Prospectus for St. Louis Grammar School and other literature on school life in 2019.

Mayor of Mid and East Antrim, Councillor Maureen Morrow, hosted a Mayor's reception to officially seal the capsule and present the prize to our school. The competition supported by Council ran during October and November as the finale of the Chamber's Centennial Year. The aim of the competition was to encourage the next generation to think about working life in Ballymena in twenty-five years time, when the time capsule will be opened. Emily and Aoife joined their teacher Mrs Devlin, at the reception hosted by the Mayor and Chamber President Robin Cherry.

Emily and Aoife outline below how they came up with their winning suggestions of what should be contained in the Chamber's time capsule.

"We thought very carefully of things that impact on our lives today and wondered whether they will still be relevant in 25 years from now - we certainly hope some of them will be issues of our time only and that the issues that face us a generation will have been resolved in 25 years.

The first item we chose to place in the capsule was a programme from our school musical - Hairspray. This is significant and important to us for a number of reasons. We were deeply involved in rehearsal for the production, both Emily and I had lead roles in the show and it has certainly developed us as people having taken part in it. Our rehearsals all took place in our new Creative and Expressive Arts building, Kintullagh House, which opened in September after a £4 million development. We are very proud of this building and indeed, it is part of the history of Ballymena having been the convent house for the St Louis sisters who founded our school and previous to that the home of one of the Adair family whose name is synonymous with many great aspects of the history of the area.

The Arts play such a big role in our school lives and bring us closer together as a student body but also prepare us for life, developing our talents and building our confidence. We would hope that in 25 years time the arts will still be as important in education as they are today.

Another reason for including the Hairspray programme was because of the themes of racism and prejudice prevalent within the show itself. Although the show deals with the racism rife in 1960s Baltimore unfortunately we all know too well that racism and prejudice still exist today. The lead character in the show faces prejudice due to being judged because her appearance doesn't fit with the perfect image - again something that is all too common today. It is our hope that in 25 years times such prejudices will be a thing of the past.

The second item we chose for the capsule is our school scarf. The scarf helps us identify as one unit as it combines all our school colours and gives us identity as a St Louis student in keeping with one of our mottos 'Ut Sint Unimi' - that we may be one. It is of great

importance in our school that we all work together as staff, parents, students and the wider community to achieve the best we can with all our talents and abilities.

The scarf also reminds us of the onset of climate change and with the harsher Winters we are beginning to experience we are more keenly aware of the threat of global warming. We hope that all generations are aware of these serious problems and will, like our school community, take action so that when the capsule is opened in 25 years global warming is under control and our worries did not come to fruition.

Our third item is the school prospectus and it ties in with our fourth item - an English lesson before TEEP and after TEEP. Our prospectus will tell future generations about the school life of a student in the year 2019. It demonstrates the wide variety of subjects, that students are given experience in and the huge choice students are afforded. We feel very privileged that we are given such a wide choice and that everyone's need are catered for. Our school has been the top Grammar in school in N. Ireland for the past three years running. This is a remarkable achievement but it comes as no surprise to us as we have such a range of subjects suited to all our needs.

We also credit our success to the manner in which we are taught and this is why we included a lesson that has been developed using the TEEP model. The TEEP model is a model which enhances the learning experience for the student through its 'teacher effectiveness enhancement programme.' This programme supports our teachers with new and refreshed strategies for maximum pupil engagement. We are very proud that we are the only school in N Ireland where every teacher on the staff is qualified in delivering their lessons using the TEEP system.

We would hope in 25 years time that education will be equal for all, we enjoy the privilege of outstanding education in N Ireland and it is our wish it will be a global right for everyone in the future.

As you can see we gave great consideration to all of our items. As we said it is our wish that future generations will continue to have such wonderful experiences and any issues that are negatives in our generation will be a fading memory to be talked about by us as parents of the next generation."

Aoife Devlin and Emily Higgins





GHANA TRIP

Myself and nine other pupils were fortunate enough to have participated in the 2019 Ghana Trip. On the 22nd June, we travelled from Belfast to London and then on another 4500km to Accra. Upon arriving in Accra, we were immediately greeted by the St. Louis Sisters (in particular, Sr. Mercy and Sr. Lucy). We spent another day with the Sisters in Accra to acclimatise to the punishing heat and to attend a local mass.

Following this, we travelled North to the city of Kumasi. Here we were met by Sr. Pat and left off our bags at the house in which we were staying and headed to the nearby St. Louis Novitiate headed by Sr. Dorothy. This is where the future Sisters of St. Louis are trained to become nuns. We spent some time here, being shown around the Novitiate and becoming better acquainted with the nuns. Sr. Dorothy was particularly impressed by James' performance on the piano. We were shown around the Sisters' garden where they grow a large portion of their food. After this, we (badly) demonstrated some Irish dancing for the Sisters and, in return, they demonstrated some traditional Ghanaian dancing for us. After that, we got back onto our minibus and returned to the house where we ate the delicious dinner that the Sisters had sent home with us.

The following morning we left for Oku, stopping briefly at the SMA House before continuing. The roads now became remarkably rough, even with the minibus swerving to avoid the worst of the potholes, the rocking produced by bump after bump made it feel like we were at sea. Arriving in Oku late in the afternoon, we proceeded to climb out of the minibus and were generously fed by the Sisters before being given a tour of the village. Additionally, we met the Sisters staying in Oku; Sr. Veronica, Sr. Jacqueline, Sr. Vincentia and Sr. Juliet. That evening we discovered the intoxicating beauty of the African night sky, which gave a clear view of a multitude of stars.

During our time in the village we had numerous fantastic experiences. We played a football match against the locals and (with assistance from Pope, Gabriel and Francis) we won 3-2! Additionally, we all helped out in the clinic led by the St. Louis Sisters. Child after child was brought to the clinic, all with the same problem - malaria. Fortunately, we also got to see the nurses saving them with treatment. Furthermore, we also got to work in the school. I was given the opportunity to teach an integrated science class, whilst others also taught various classes. We all bonded greatly with the various children who were our constant accompaniment. I bonded best with three boys called John, James and Adrian. Following our work in the school and clinic, we painted benches and classrooms for the sisters and did a large amount of gardening work (including planting pink roses around the newly constructed maternity ward). We also had a night of impressive performance from the school children and, on our last night, we had a party with the Sisters, teachers and clinic staff.

The love of the children completely overshadowed the lack of signal and running water. All in all, we adored our experience and were very sad to leave.

After our time in Oku, we briefly stayed at a hotel near Lake Bosomtwe. Here we were given a bit more freedom as we relaxed and enjoyed ourselves. We swam in the lake, tried out some traditional fishing and had a quiz (which myself, Dearbhaile and Emma won). Sr. Pat stayed with us here and gave some of us a tour of the local village which included an explanation of the lake and its history. Following our time at Lake Bosomtwe, we gradually made our way back to Accra, thanking both the Sisters in Kumasi and Accra (as well as Sr. Veronica) with dinner and St. Louis half-zips.

The money we have raised is mostly going towards equipment for the new lab at the clinic and toilets for the school (as well as other smaller projects within Oku). The St. Louis Sisters were very generous to us during our stay, ensuring we were always well-fed and looked after. Our endless gratitude goes to Nicola and Ms Finch for accompanying us on the fantastic journey, and to those who sponsored so generously all our fundraising endeavours. Furthermore, I would like to reiterate our thanks for this and emphasise our gratitude to Miss Pickering, Sr. Pat and Sr. Finola for organising this unforgettable, incredible, life-changing experience. We are all eagerly waiting for our intended return to Oku in 2021.

Dylan Magill, Year 14





COMMONWEALTH SUCCESS FOR CAITLIN!

Congratulations to Year 10 pupil Caitlin Henry, has won a Bronze Medal in the Commonwealth Judo Championships, winning 4 out of her 5 fights convincingly.

This is an excellent result for a talented pupil, and we look forward to further success in the future!



“MY FIRST DAY AT SCHOOL”

In October Year 8 pupils were invited to describe their experience of starting at St Louis, as part of a creative writing assignment for English. James McVeigh impressively employs a metaphor to describe the feeling of disorientation which can often accompany this sometimes daunting transition!

“Welcome to the Mother Ship”

Anxious and jumpy, pristine in my new uniform, I was like a new pin. I trudged up the hallway. Looking back at my mum in the distance, the burgundy bricks towering over me, swallowing me whole. Giants walked briskly by, brushing me aside in their confident swoosh. If only there was a friendly face...

My friend, Mikey! I'd almost forgotten he would be here too. The blonde-haired menace smiled anxiously back at me as the hall filled with a swarm of new SLGs (who looked exactly like me). In a neat line, we obediently followed our female leader; passing freshly painted rooms, with the aroma of new paper, pen ink and sweat making me feel nauseous. Why were they keeping children captive in tiny rooms? Was I living in some kind of experiment?

Eventually, we arrived - silent and out of breath at our destination; a clinical white room with a huge interactive screen on the wall (hopefully for watching movies on later). Inside there were more pale-faced captive children; they looked my age, some taller, some smaller than me but equally petrified. The alien leader finally spoke, introducing herself as Mrs McAuley, our form teacher.

The alien at the front suggested that we do some ice-breakers. She threw us some sledge-hammers and ordered us to the cellars downstairs. I was confused. Does this place have a cellar full of ice? Oh yes, and it was ice cold...no pun intended. The ice was heavy and with numb red hands, we dragged it back to our leader's desk. Hesitantly, I enquired "what now?" The alien responded reassuringly, "That's it! Welcome to St Louis!"

So, what do aliens have for lunch then? I don't know, what DO aliens have for lunch? Turns out, they eat just the same as us. The feeding frenzy in SLG canteen is a sight to behold. On that first day I learned that you take your life into your own hands, standing in the way of sixth formers and their chicken boxes. Ducking and diving, we got ourselves out of there unscathed!

The day went by in a blur. New faces, new rooms, new teachers. Three short rings startled me, but signalled the end of the day. The alien dismissed us; warning us to come back tomorrow for more of the same!

Eagerly, with a sigh of relief I raced to the bus. I had survived the first day...

"Earth calling James... Earth calling James... Time to get up... First day of SLG!!!

My mum's gentle voice and coaxing smile urged me out of bed. Anxious and pristine in my new uniform, shiny like a new pin. I trudged up the hallway. The family paparazzi snapped vigorously, before my departure for the Mother Ship...

James McVeigh, 8 Lismoyle



MEET SOME YEAR 8s!

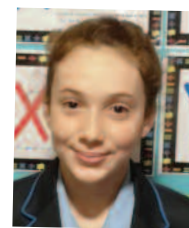
Niamh McAteer, 8 Lisbreen

Hello my name is Niamh McAteer and I am in 8 Lisbreen. I came from a primary school in Randalstown called Mount St Michael's. I went there for 8 years because there was a nursery too. All the teachers were very nice. My favourite things about St Louis Grammar School are that you make so many amazing friends; there are loads of places to hang out with your friends and I love the canteen food.



Sarah Hasson, 8 Laragh

Hi! My name is Sarah Hasson and I am in 8 Laragh. I came from St Patrick's Primary School in Rasharkin. Our house badge is yellow and our form teacher is Dr O'Reilly. My favourite thing about St Louis is the brand new Kintullagh House. I love it when we have Music, Art or Drama in there.



Aoife Conlon, 8 Lurig

Hi! my name is Aoife Conlon and I am in 8 Lurig. The primary school I came from was Mary Queen of Peace Primary School in Glenravel. My favourite subject is Irish because it is really interesting and fun to learn. I also love that I have made so many new friends in other classes, from other primary schools. All of the new subjects are really interesting and school is a lot more fun than before!



Luke McAllister, 8 Layde

Hello, my name is Luke McAllister and I used to go to St Columba's Primary school in Kilrea. I am in 8 Layde and our form teacher is Miss Scullion, she is really nice and looks after us very well. Our house colour is red. My favourite thing about St Louis is all the new subjects we get to do, especially PE. I enjoy spending time with my friends down at the Ball Wall.



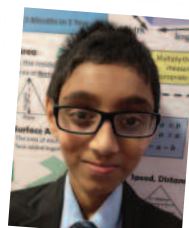
Seamus McMullan, 8 Lurig

Hello, my name is Seamus McMullan and I am in 8 Lurig. I came from St Joseph's primary School in Dunloy. I am in a class with some of my friends from Primary School which is great. My favourite thing about St Louis is the sport. I love Hurling and I spend most of my lunch times at the Ball Wall!



Albin Salu, 8 Layde

Hello, my name is Albin Salu. I am in 8 Layde. I came from St Comgall's Primary School in Antrim. My favourite thing about St Louis is all the new subjects we have started. I also love going to the library at lunch time to take part in the Year 8 club. There are always competitions and games which makes lunch time more fun!



NEW DRIVER SAFE DRIVING PRESENTATION for Sixth Form

On Monday 14th October, a representative from the Policing and Community Policing Partnership came in to talk to our Sixth form pupils about the logistics, practicalities and dangers of being a new driver.

It was an informative afternoon, which provided lots of invaluable tips on buying and insuring a car, the practical and theory tests, and what happens once you pass the test. Perhaps the most valuable information shared on the day was the potential outcomes of breaking driving laws; of using your phone, speeding and not wearing a seatbelt. It was hard-hitting but hopefully will have a lasting impact on all our Sixth form drivers to ensure we have safe, happy and confident drivers in our school community.





YEAR 8 POETRY SLAM

Our annual Year 8 Poetry Slam as part of our celebrations for National Poetry Day was once again a resounding success.

Pupils got their creative juices flowing and penned some fantastic verses on this year's theme of 'Truth'. From comical poems about forgetting homework and failed attempts to run away from home, to hard-hitting issues such as our heritage, struggles, and loss, our pupils used this opportunity as an outlet to express themselves and their truths. A great afternoon was had by all, and our pupils are to be commended for their honesty, bravery, and creativity. Utterly inspirational!

Read some of their fantastic efforts below:

There's a villain in every story...

There's a villain in every story,
The wicked witch of the west,
A witch of the east,
The evil stepmother
Or a monster, a beast.

"What does the villain look like?"
Some people may ask.
They don't always have a black cape,
Or a witch's broom,
Or a big scary mask.

I have a villain of my own,
But he's kind of hard to see
He has a really good disguise
Because he looks a lot like me.

Mirror, Mirror on the wall,
Who is the fairest of them all?
Or maybe it's
Monster, Monster inside of me,
Tell me what you see:

Rip me apart,
Tear me to shreds,
Make me a prisoner inside my own head.

Tell me what I need and tell me what I've got,
You bring out my scars, my sadness and fears
And leave me with depression,
Deprive me of my confidence,
Take away my self-esteem,
Cause me to fear judgement and make me yell and scream.

And I feel like a liar, I am the beauty and the beast
A statement that is true, yet makes me scream
But what if this poem is all just a dream.?

By Kevin McAleese, 8 Lyndon

My Great Adventure

This poem is based on true events,
But I may have to add a few little slants
Of which some are true and some are lies,
Read to the end, then you decide.

A few years ago when I was three years old,
I was a little bit cheeky and didn't do what I was told.
I got ready to set off on my adventure one morning-
No one saw me leave as I gave them no warning.

I emptied my piggy bank into my pockets,
I rigged up my scooter and strapped on the rockets.
When I fired them up, there was a flash and a spark,
In no time at all I was in the People's Park!

Oh what a day, I had such great fun,
But it wasn't the same for my dad and my mum.
When they noticed I wasn't there to be seen,
My dad started to panic and my mum began to scream.

While I played and had fun on the swings and slide,
Everyone was looking for me in places I would hide.
They searched and searched without any joy,
They were asking everyone if they had seen their little boy.

When I was done in the park, I fired up my rockets,
I headed into town to empty my pockets.
But my fun came to an end and my dream was over
When Superman found me and said, "You're going nowhere!"

When he brought me home to my mum and dad,
I knew they were happy and no longer sad.
The moral of the story is simple- don't mock it...
If you have a scooter, don't strap on four rockets!

By Noah Porter, 8 Lismoyle





YEAR 8 PARTICIPATE IN



Bookbuzz is a reading programme that promotes reading for pleasure. By participating in this programme, our Year 8 pupils were given the opportunity to choose their own free book to keep. Our pupils loved the range of books to choose from and were delighted that the rest of the books were available to read in our school library!

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 has encouraged and nurtured a life-long love of reading in our year 8s!



ULSTER COLLEGES CAMOGIE ALL STARS



Congratulations to Maura Downey and Caoimhe Molloy who have been recognised as Ulster Colleges Camogie All Stars this year.

Maura plays her club camogie with Ahoghill and this is her second All Star. Caoimhe plays for Dunloy and wins her first All Star award.

The girls will be part of the Ulster College's All Star team which will take part in the interprovincial tournament next month.

Well done girls!





POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD: COMPLETION DAY

The Pope John Paul II award is a volunteering award offered to pupils in Y15. This award encourages you to get involved and give back to your parish and the wider community. We have now been working towards the completion of our Pope John Paul II Award for the last 15 months and on Friday 8th November, a small group of students along with Miss Ferris (our award leader) travelled to the Living Youth Centre in Belfast for the final write up of the award. Here we met with over 100 pupils from other schools who were on the same Pope John Paul II Award journey. To complete the award, each of us had to volunteer within our local parish for 20 weeks, and volunteer in our school/local community for 20 weeks.

There were 7 students in our group including myself: Emer McAtamney, Rebecca McDonald, Brenda McGuigan, Tara Murphy, Marcella Kelly and Callum Grant. Each of us completed a variety of different activities within our parish, such as helping with the GIFT programme, Children's Liturgy and singing in the choir. As well as this, we were required to volunteer in our local communities/schools and this ranged from fundraising in aid of Friends for Romania, taking part in the annual shoebox appeal, helping with school events and going on pilgrimages to Lourdes. Living Youth also have programmes that young people can get involved in which count towards activities, such as their Summer pilgrimages and Youth Alpha programme. I would definitely recommend the Pope John Paul II Award to any Year 15s who are interested in strengthening their faith and taking part in volunteering this year too!



At the completion day on Friday 8th November we considered everything we have done and discussed how it has impacted and changed our lives in both big and small ways. This was a day of reflection and I feel like we all came away feeling very positive and encouraged. We finished the day with a group photo in the Grotto at St Mary's Church in Belfast.

We are all looking forward to the presentation and celebration event that takes place in the new year. Overall, it was an incredible day and the Pope John Paul II Award has been a great opportunity for us!

Leah Barker

YEAR 13 BTEC CREAGH TRIP

On October 24th the Business Studies BTEC department went on a trip to Creagh. We first arrived at The ELK, a building constructed by Creagh. We were then given an informative presentation by the Human Resources Director, during which we made extensive notes about Creagh - these would prove useful in our Task B. They also provided us with a variety of scones and offered tea and coffee. The presentation contained numerous important statistics that were relevant to our tasks.

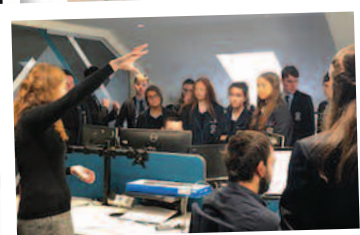
After the presentation we were taken to the technical offices where we were given a tour of the facilities utilised by the design team. There the employees explained what they did in Creagh and showed us their 5-D models of upcoming projects. They explained the process of constructing these models, also mentioning that it can take years to design a building's construction, in order to achieve to such a degree of detail. During this tour, we also met some of the founders of Creagh, who greeted us then spoke with their employees and the HR director.

We later left to go to Creagh's Toome yard for a tour of the factory. I found this to be incredibly interesting as we were separated into groups and were lead on a tour around the different manufacturing sectors they had on site. They explained to us about how their products are made, and showed us the precast stairs and how they record the quality and serial number of the product.

As we were given a tour, the employees explained their job and what it entails. One of the managers had spoken to my group about their 3D design models and illustrated how they were given 2D structure for a part of the build. He then went on to explain the dimensions of the product and the importance of constantly checking for accuracy with the size of the product in order for it to fit the build. This showed us the standards that Creagh maintains with their products, and also revealed how detailed their designs are.

After the tour we were taken back to the Elk, where they provided us with a delicious lunch. Overall, the experience at Creagh was great and it was an excellent opportunity to do primary research to enhance our learning.

Kaytlin Graham-Da Cruz





SIXTH FORM MILLENNIUM VOLUNTEERS

Over the Summer, I took part in a course called NCS (National Citizen Service) along with a few of my friends.

There are 4 phases to the experience, the first one being a 4-night activity-based residential. This week was great for developing friendships and encouraging people out of their comfort zones. My favourite activity was banana boating but we took part in a whole range of activities. The second phase involved another residential, this time to Ballintoy. This week was more about developing life skills and building upon the relationships formed in the first week. In the third phase, you plan and carry out a social action project. My team created posters for Belfast Pride and participated in the parade. For me, the whole day was an unforgettable experience. To finish off our summer, all the teams from all across Northern Ireland came together for a graduation event where we got presented with our NCS certificates and a Millennial Youth Volunteers certificate for 100 hours of volunteer work.

Anyone who takes part in NCS can sign up to join the Regional Youth Board. 15 people from each region across England and Northern Ireland are picked to join the youth board. I was delighted to be selected to represent NI and over

Halloween half term I went to the Kickstart residential as part of the Regional Youth Board. Through this I met incredible people who I will be working with throughout the year to carry out another social action project; this time at a regional level. I am so thankful that I am able to be part of this movement and I would encourage anyone to get involved and give the experience a go.

Ellie McLean



KEY DATES AND UPCOMING EVENTS

Year 10 Ski Trip Saturday 4th – Saturday 11th January

Open Nights Wednesday 22nd & Thursday 23rd January

Year 10 Sentinus Workshop Thursday 30th January (Assembly Hall, Period 7/8)

Intermediate Maths Challenge Thursday 6th February (entry deadline 1pm Mon 13th Jan)

Year 8 & 9 Nebssa Table Tennis Competition Tuesday 11th & Wednesday 12th February (Tues - Girls/Wed - Boys)

Year 15 Romania Trip Wednesday 12th – Wednesday 19th February

Year 10 & 15 Mental Health Workshop – Provoking Thought (Assembly Hall) Thursday 13th & Friday 14th February

Year 8/9 Parent Teacher Meeting (9am – 5.30pm) Friday 14th February

Year 14 visit to Northern Ireland Higher Education (UCAS) Exhibition Year 11 Study Leave Wednesday 26th February

Year 10 Careers Information Evening Wednesday 26th February

Year 11 DTPI Vaccine (some Year 12) Tuesday 3rd March

Book Fair (School Library) Wednesday 4th – Friday 6th March

Year 15 Presidents Award Gold Practice Hike Saturday 7th – Saturday 9th March

Year 10 Parent Teacher Meeting (date to be confirmed/ 9am–5.30pm) Saturday 7th – Saturday 9th March

Year 14 Pope John Paul II Award Ceremony (St Mary's Church - 7pm) Thursday 2nd April

Year 14 Pope John Paul II Award Ceremony (St Mary's Church - 7pm) Thursday 2nd April

Year 15 Presidents Award Gold Practice Hike Friday 5th – Sunday 5th April

Year 14 Mock Exams (CM4) Monday 6th – Wednesday 8th April

EASTER CONCERT to be confirmed Tuesday 7th April

Years 11 & 12 GCSE Modules 13th – 16th January 2020

English Lang/Maths Modules Results 5th March

Year 14 BTEC Business Exam Unit 5 14th January 2020

Year 14 BTEC IT Unit 2 16th/17th January 2020

Resits Results 18th March

Year 12 DAS Resits 26th Feb – 28th Feb 2020

Year 12 SAS Chemistry Resits Results 9th April 2020

See school website for full Diary of Events

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