



THE

KINTULLAGH VOICE

December 2021

The Newsletter of St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena



OUTSTANDING RESULTS

Pages 5 - 7



ANTRIM CAMOGIE SUCCESS

Page 4



**N.I. Top
Grammar School**

*A Level Grades
x5 Subjects A*-C 100%*



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ROAD SAFETY AWARDS 2021

St. Louis has been proactive in addressing road safety over recent years. We feel that is vitally important for educational settings to address road safety, therefore, Road Safety Presentations with New Driver NI have been introduced with Year 13 and 14 pupils. These presentations have provoked much thought into how we as a school can make a difference to keeping everyone in our school community safe.

On Friday 19th November, myself, Mrs McGreevy, and Head Girl Lucy Donaldson made the trip to Cultra Manor for the 7th Annual NI Road Safety Awards. The prestigious event was attended by many of the top members of the PSNI and Emergency Services, and was hosted by UIO5 presenter Frank Mitchell, with the award-winners spanning across several individuals and organisations who have tried to promote road safety in the past year. As a school, we were fortunate enough to win in the Secondary School category, with the Sixth-Form carpark with a closed barrier during school hours being particularly well received. We were also recognised for our efforts in:

- Pushing to have the yellow grid repainted outside the school gates and persuading the EA to have a school patrol person replaced when the last gentleman retired.
- The creation of a turning circle for school buses/parents at drop off and pick up to avoid congestion and decreasing the possibility of traffic near danger areas such as the main foyer and main access routes for pedestrians.

- Creation of speed ramps on the main school avenue since every 1mph reduction in average speeds causes, on average, a 5% reduction in collisions.
- The creation of a Sixth Form car park with barrier which remains locked until 3.45pm until most of the school traffic and buses have exited the school grounds.
- Main Avenue and access to staff car parking at main building entrance resurfaced.
- Footpaths repaved for pedestrians to avoid tripping and falling into traffic.
- Creation of pedestrian crossing on entrance to school grounds.
- All students are designated specific outdoor zones at break and lunch away from any traffic. Supervision from staff and support staff ensure all students are within their designated zones.

The event was closed by Minister of Infrastructure Nichola Mallon, before we got to hear a live, "Take care, be good, bye bye," from Frank to cap off a fantastic day.

By Sam Crawford (Head Boy)





WHAT A YEAR FOR ANTRIM CAMOGIE!

Huge congratulations go to the Antrim Camogie Minor and Senior County panels and their management teams on winning All-Ireland titles this season.

We would like to pay special recognition to the SLG students, both past and present, on each of the panels. Our current students, who were part of the minor squad: Niamh Neeson (Y14), Emily O'Neill (Y14), Emer Vallely (Y14) and Sarah Fyfe (Y15). And our past-pupils on the Senior panel: Catriona Graham; Maria Lynn; Caoimhe Conlon; Lucia McNaughton; Amy Boyle; Katie Carey; Shauna Devlin; Roisin Kelly; Ciara Dobbin; Elaine Dowds (part of the management team) and our very own Miss Chloe Drain.

How lucky our students are to be surrounded and taught by strong women who have shown such determination and reaped the rewards of hard-work and team-work. Simply inspirational!

All-Ireland Minor B Camogie Championship Final Result:
Antrim 3.14 Offaly 3.08

All-Ireland Intermediate Camogie Championship Final Result:
Antrim 2.21 Kilkenny 2.15





OUTSTANDING A-LEVEL OUTCOMES ONCE AGAIN FOR SLG

Once again, the A-Level students of St Louis Grammar School achieved tremendous outcomes.

In a year like no other for A-Level students and staff, with COVID bringing uncertainty and disruption to normal learning and teaching platforms, the 2021 cohort still managed to excel with their academic outcomes.

98% of students attained an amazing A*- B grade and 100% of all entrants left the school with three or more superb A-Level grades A*- C.

The resilience shown and the manner in which our students responded to the demands of each subject in the face of Centre Determined Grades was truly remarkable and, as a result, almost every student was able to obtain entry to their chosen course. A particular feature this year was the number of students who continue to be selected for admission to very high-demand courses with competitive entry requirements. Credit must also go to the 5 students who attained 4 A* grades across a range of subjects.

Mr Rafferty expressed his gratitude towards teaching staff who worked tirelessly to ensure all students were able to achieve these grades and reach their full potential, and to the parents who were so supportive of the school during the periods of home school and online learning which were experienced.

We wish all of our students the best of luck in their career choices and they can now, as young adults, become real contributors to society with such a solid educational base. We know they will be superb ambassadors for St Louis Grammar, their families and the community in future years.





GCSE SUCCESS CONTINUES FOR CLASS OF 2021

St Louis students beamed with pride as they collected their GCSE results in August, and for good reason!

This year the outcomes were a reflection of the hard work and dedicated study of all the students in the cohort. As in previous years, St Louis students excelled in the top-grade bands with many attaining 9/10 A* straight across a range of subjects.

Mr Rafferty was full of praise for the students who had to overcome months of uncertainty regarding the assessment process; periods of online learning and extended self-isolation periods where normal class routines were disrupted. Despite all these challenges, our students really engaged with their teachers and their results are proof of their quality and resilience.

The class of 2021 have now progressed to A-Level study with a fantastic academic profile and have enjoyed a return to normal high-quality learning and teaching experiences as the COVID measures in schools have been relaxed.

As ever, we are so proud of our students, staff and parents in the results achieved and with continued excellence in pastoral care and academic learning experiences, the future is bright for the class of 2021.



Overall top-achiever, Laura Daniel who received an outstanding 11A* grades.

Daniel Montgomery and Liam Young.



Niamh McKinley, Susan Shannon and Emma Gartside, all smiles as they collected their results.



Luke Dunne, Cate McCarte, Cara McAfee, Cliona Griffin and Anita McMahon.



Kevin O'Boyle, Diarmuid Casey and Ryan Thom.



Ryan O'Neill, Michael McGarry, Patrick McCann and Dan Dixon celebrate their results.



The hard work paid off for these boys, who were delighted with their results..



Straight A students: Katie Bonnes, Ava McAleese, Aoife McCloskey, Eimear O'Neill and Aoife Murray.



L-R: Front row: Rebekah Agnew, Shannon Bryson, Alyssa Bryson;
Second row: Aoife Carnevale, Conor Brolly, Helen Donaldson,
Joel Cushenan; Third row: Molly Donnelly, Sean Corr, Jamie Clarke,
Eva Doherty; Back row: Mary-Kate (Katie) Bonnes,
Erin Donnelly-McAuley, Lara Ball, Catherine Doherty,
Bronagh Dempster, Matilda Barwick.



L-R: Front row: Sarah Healy, Maeve McAuley, Aimee McBride;
Second row: Alicia Jaimon, Caoimhe Higgins, Conan McMullan,
Joseph Halloran, Conor Gusterson; Third row: Luke Dunne,
Cara McAfee, Naoishe McAleese, Rheana Kerr, Hannah Macartney;
Back row: Ava McAleese, Sarah Fyfe, Cliona Griffin,
Eibhlin Gould, Eimear O'Neill.



L-R: Front row: Susan Shannon, Darragh Patterson,
Dearbhail Murray; Second row: Anna Neeson, Eabha Scullion,
Sarah Smith, Aoife Zensque; Third Row: Grace McVeigh,
Pearce Patterson, Shannon Nelson, Aoibh Vallely;
Back row: Diarmaid Quinn, Ryan O'Neill, Katie Molly,
Ryan Thom, Aoife Murray.

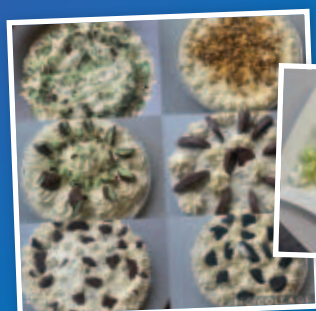


L-R: Front row: Aisling McKeown, Pearce Maguire, Cara McDowell;
Second row: Laura Daniel, Patrick, (PJ) McDonnell, Erin McAllister;
Third row: Esther McBride, Ronan Mc Collum, Aoife McCloskey;
Back row: Cliona McCann, Niall McIlhatton, Fauinene McErlane.

HOME ECONOMICS PRACTICALS

Our students have been cooking up a storm during practical HE lessons this term.

Tacos... Cheesecakes... Festive bakes. There's something for everyone, and don't they all look delicious!



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TRAMPOLINING SUCCESS

Congratulations to Katy Lavery, 8 Lyndon, who attended the Trampolining DMT League 2021 Competition in Cardiff last month.

This was Katy's first competition overseas. On 5th December, Katy then went on to compete in the Northern Ireland Trampolining Championships where she placed third.

Well-done Katy!



YEAR 10 WELL-BEING WORKSHOP

Y10 enjoyed truly valuable well-being workshops across two days in June.

The sessions, delivered by Orla from Ignite, allowed pupils to come together for an enjoyable experience, whilst also being able to learn and self-reflect!

“

What can I say, other than Orla was fantastic! The entire experience was easy, and as a Head of Year, working and organising with Orla is a pleasure. The Year 10's enjoyed every minute and they came away with lots to think about.

I'll never forget two unlikely pupils arriving at my classroom door to tell me they were going to 'pull their socks up' next year; Orla had inspired them to push for more and reach their full potential.

ignite



Orla created an environment that was fun, inspiring, and relevant to every pupil in some way or another. I certainly hope to work closely with Orla in the future! She has created something wonderful.

MISS EMER FERRIS

HEAD OF YEAR 10
2020/2021

ST. LOUIS GRAMMAR
SCHOOL, BALLYMENA

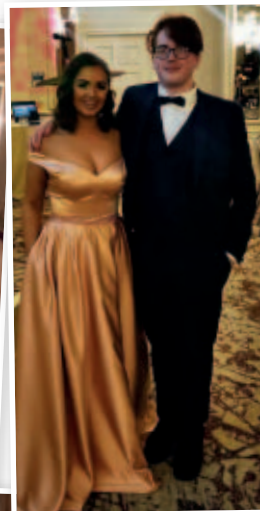




ST LOUIS FORMAL 2021

It was an absolute pleasure to see the return of our Year 14 formal on Friday 15th October.

Over the last couple of years, Covid has put a hold on so many milestone celebrations in the school calendar and so this year's formal was an evening filled with gratitude and joy as students finally got to experience their own special night socialising as a year group. Our students lit up the Galgorm with glitz and glamour and a fabulous evening was had by the Class of 2022.



ST LOUIS HOSTS THE 50th REUNION OF THE CLASS OF '71

We were delighted to host the celebrations for the 50th reunion of the St. Louis 'Class of '71' on Saturday 9th October. These celebrations were months in the planning, with Mrs Jo-Ann O'Neill (nee O'Hagan) from the '71 class contacting Mrs Margaret Henry, member of the Friends of St. Louis, in March time. From the plans developed and the excitement built, culminating in the reunion, held in the beautiful Creative and Expressive Arts Centre of St. Louis.

Mrs O'Neill and Mrs Henry were delighted to welcome these past pupils from all parts of Ireland, Scotland and England. Unfortunately, Covid restrictions halted the travel plans of those further afield. Tea and coffee was hosted by The Friends of St. Louis in the newest addition to the St. Louis campus. The school's senior string quartet and a pianist delighted the reunion group in these magnificent surroundings with their exquisite playing before the group. The first official visitors to the Creative and Expressive Arts Centre were guided around the school by current Senior Prefects.

The highlight of the tour for many was revisiting the famous 'blue seat' outside the principal's office and many stories were told about the exploits of classmates who found themselves poised uncomfortably there many years ago.

Although St. Louis admitted boys for the first time in 1970, the following year two out of three first year classes were co-educational. The Principal at the time was Sister Sheila and there was a staff of 23. Over the next two years, the numbers in the class of '71 increased to 95 of which 37 were boys, firmly establishing the school as co-educational.

A brilliant day was had by all and it was our pleasure to host our first 50th reunion and reveal the many changes and developments St. Louis has gone through in that time.





SOROPTIMIST PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

On Thursday 18th November, myself and Annie McCrory were given the opportunity to participate in the Soroptimist Public Speaking Competition that took place in the Braid Arts Centre; an event that encourages girls to gain confidence in their communication skills, for which I wrote a five-minute speech on a selected topic and presented it to a panel of adjudicators.

Each contestant was given several different topics to choose from, such as the significance of the Black Lives Matter movement and the regulation of social media, concerning areas involving human rights and the environment. And whilst all of the titles caught my interest in various ways, the title that had instantaneously grabbed my attention was based around the impact women empowerment has on our population, inspired by one of Kofi Annan's speeches:

"When women thrive, all society benefits."

I thoroughly enjoyed discussing this enlightening concept, as I was able to formulate an argument that was built on the foundations of a most paramount theme: equality. Through my research and statistics on women in power, women who have truly "thrived", I was also able to educate myself further on the topic and gain more insight on the issues surrounding gender discrimination. After having written my argument, I practised presenting it, learning the importance of tone, projection, and inflection, a few of the techniques that combine to create your overall address to the audience.

Not only did I benefit from writing the speech itself, but I was also fortunate enough to hear the other contestants' innovative ideas and thoughts which all proved to be powerful and well-written in each of their contrasting interpretations. Whether they addressed the subjects of rewilding or home-schooling, I learned something new about every topic discussed.



I am immensely grateful for the chance to present my speech in front of a crowd, as it abled me to share my opinions with others on a matter that truly captivated me, as well as improving my public speaking, which I will most certainly utilise in the future. I loved speaking on a topic I feel truly passionate about and writing about a topic that is both educational and captivating was a perfect combination. The event was a completely different experience than to anything I have done previously, requiring a new set of skills that I was most pleased to be introduced to. I am proud to have placed 3rd overall, and to have been given the chance to take part in the educational event.

Lara Ball, Year 15

CHRISTMAS CRAFTS

Every Wednesday in November the Art Department had over 50 pupils staying in after school to join Mrs McAuley in creating a wonderful array of Christmas Crafts.

Pupils were ably assisted by a number of volunteers from Year 13 and 14, who are endeavouring to use the crafts to help fundraise for more defibrillators for the school.





MAGEEAN CUP CAMPAIGN

McCloskey Hatrick Sinks CPC in Mageean Quarter Final

St Louis Ballymena 3-7 Cross & Passion Ballycastle 0-7

Three goals from man of the match Jack McCloskey guided St Louis to the semi-final of the Danske Bank Mageean Cup at Pairc MacUilin and in doing so, ended CPC's interest in this year's competition, despite the fact they won their first two games.

The Ballymena school had the better of things during the opening quarter and points from McCloskey (2), Callum Higgins and Oisín McCamphill helped the team to a 0-4 to 0-1 lead after seven minutes, the CPC point coming from Christy 'Bicky' McGarry.

After overcoming CPC in the Quarter final, the hurlers took on Red High Downpatrick in a nail-biting semi-final. Although it was not to be their day, we are incredibly proud of this group of young men who left their hearts on the pitch for SLG.

Team: Calum Mullan, Dara Martin, Kevin O'Boyle, Pearce Patterson, Daire McMullan, Conor Dickson, Conall McCloskey, Finn Henry, Aodhan McGarry, Darragh Patterson, Callum Higgins, Ryan McQuillan, Ronan McCollum, Jack McCloskey, Oisín McCamphill.



LEGO LEAGUE

This term, our Technology students took part in The Lego League Challenge.

FIRST LEGO League guides students through STEM learning and exploration at an early age. From Discover, to Explore, and then to Challenge, students will understand the basics of STEM and apply their skills in an exciting competition while building habits of learning, confidence, and teamwork skills along the way.





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*Careers, Education, Information,
Advice and Guidance*

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY PATHWAY PROGRAMME

On Saturday the 27th of November, Kelsie Doherty (Year 14) graduated from Microbiology through the Pathway Opportunity Programme at Queen's University, Belfast.

The Pathway Opportunity Programme has been supporting students since it began in 2017. Since then, it has seen over 800 students pass through its Pathways, receiving support in study and academic skills, university applications and confidence building activities. The Pathway Opportunity Programme gives students the chance to study a little of their chosen subject on campus at Queen's University Belfast in order to prepare them for the transition to university life.

Kelsie applied for the Pathway Programme with the help of the Careers Department in November 2020 and worked her way through the programme throughout the course of the year, including her summer holidays.

By successfully completing the programme, Kelsie has:

- Received a reduced grade conditional offer to her course at Queen's.
- Received a £1000 Kilwaughter Minerals Bursary to help with her studies.
- Met like-minded students and got to know a range of Academics and staff.
- Attended a completely free Summer School that gave her the chance to study as a Queen's student.
- Improved and built a range of skills such as study skills, confidence, and knowledge.
- Got support and help with applications and transitioning into university life.

Due to Kelsie's performance in the Pathway Programme, she was asked to be the keynote speaker at the graduation ceremony. She delivered an impeccable speech and impressed the audience with her confidence. Pro-Vice Chancellor of Queen's University, Professor David Jones, wrote to the school to commend Kelsie, noting that he could not emphasise enough how superb, inspiring, and passionate Kelsie was and wishing her all the best as she continues her pathway to becoming a Biological Sciences student at QUB.

Kelsie is a true ambassador and role model to the students of St. Louis and beyond. We are so proud of her endeavours and hope she has inspired many others to follow in her footsteps.





PWC CAREER INSIGHTS EVENT

On 9th November, PWC visited St Louis, holding a sixth-form event on higher apprenticeship opportunities and career insights.

Our Year 14 students found the event most valuable in informing them about other opportunities for higher-level education.



QUEEN'S MANAGEMENT SCHOOL PRIZE-GIVING

Congratulations to past-pupil, Brenda Lavery, who was awarded the Spence and Partners Prize for Best Placement Student in the BSc Actuarial Science and Risk Management Degree at Queen's University.

Brenda studied A-Levels in Business, Economics and Maths, leaving in 2016 with A*A*A grades. She has graduated from her Actuarial Science degree and is currently working for Liberty Insurance Ireland.

The award for Best Placement Student is a prestigious accolade and it is so rewarding to see our past-pupils flourish in their chosen pathways.



SPENCE

NORTHERN POWERHOUSE SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAMME

Congratulations to outgoing Year 14 student, Daniel McIlroy, who received the Northern Powerhouse Scholarship.

The scholarship will pay for all 5 years of his university tuition, as well as providing an £8000 bursary per year to help with living expenses. Daniel applied for the programme with the help of the Careers department, before being shortlisted for an interview which he had to complete online. What a super achievement for Daniel as he begins his University Degree in Automotive Performance Engineering (Motorsport) at the University of Bolton.



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PAST-PUPIL FOCUS: BRIAN WILSON

Brian studied at St. Louis from 2001-2008 before completing his undergraduate degree in Chemistry at Imperial College London. He continued research at the University of Oxford, where he completed a DPhil in 2016, before working in the pharmaceutical industry at Pfizer. Brian is currently discerning a vocation to the priesthood for the Diocese of Down and Connor at the seminary of the Royal English College of Valladolid, Spain. He also writes articles on science and faith in *The Irish News*.

Read one of Brian's insightful articles on the power of community; how it correlates with longer lifespan and is complemented by our Christian faith.

The Power of Community

"I'm out there in the sea and it's just me and the water. It's then that I begin to think of how small I am in this huge world. Yet, it's when out surfing in Portrush, with only the wind and water for company, that I seem connected to something bigger."

My cousin had invited me round for dinner and I was intrigued by his marine experiences which drew him to reflection. He had grown up in a Catholic family but had stopped going to Mass as he got older but becoming a father for the first time recently had changed his perspective.

We discussed several topics around life, faith, and religion. On the religious front, one thing we agreed on was the unique power of faith to bring people together.

"Even today," he said, "With all our gadgets, information and connectivity, in many ways it's a lonely world. I think the faith-based approach to community is one of its greatest strengths. It can unite people in ways which nothing else can."

A few weeks later I sat down to read a book by Pope Benedict XVI: *Jesus, the Apostles and the Early Church*.

The book makes it clear from the beginning that Jesus wanted to bring people together: "Even if his preaching is always an appeal for personal conversion, in reality he continually aims to build the People of God whom he came to bring together, purify, and save. He truly came to unite the People of God."

This is in direct conflict to what Pope Benedict calls an "individualism of liberal theology in recent years" which has led to a slogan he refers to, "Jesus yes, Church no".

He notes that in some parts of the Bible it says that members of the early Church community appointed leaders in every Church; elsewhere it says it is the Spirit who has made them guardians of the flock.

Clearly, for the early Church, the action of the Spirit and the action of its community are deeply interwoven. The correct interpretation, therefore, is, "Jesus yes, Church community yes".

In recent years, researchers have realised the huge benefits of community to human health. It has been known for some time that in every part of the developed world, women live an average of six to eight years longer than men.

But it was recently discovered that there is one place in the world where men live to the same age as women: Sardinia, an Italian island in the Mediterranean. Here there are also six times as many centenarians as on the Italian mainland, less than 200 miles away. Susan Pinker, a psychologist and author, set out to find why. It turned out that the answer lay in the power of community.

Pinker visited Villagrande, a town on the Italian island, and was struck by its tightly spaced houses, interwoven alleys, and streets: "It meant that the villagers' lives constantly intersect. Like all ancient villages, Villagrande could not have survived without its structure, without its Cathedral, without its village square. Defence and social cohesion defined its design."

She noticed that people there are always surrounded, by extended family, by friends, by neighbours, the priest, the grocer. People are never left to live solitary lives.

Returning to Pinker's initial question - Why do women live longer than men? - she refers to the work of Julianne Holt-Lunstad, a professor of psychology, who addressed this very question in a series of studies involving tens of thousands of middle-aged people, examining every aspect of their lifestyle.

After seven years, she collected and analysed the results, finding that the strongest predictor of a person's lifespan was their degree of social integration, far surpassing other aspects such as diet and exercise.

People who frequently interacted with others throughout their day were consistently found to live longer than those who did not. Pinker invites each of us to reflect: "Do you talk to the woman who walks by your house every day with her dog? Do you talk to the postman? Do you play bridge or are you in a book club? Those interactions are one of the strongest indicators of how long you'll live." She found that a key factor explaining the longer lifespan of women is their focus on prioritising face-to-face relationships over their lifespan.

In conclusion she says, "Fresh evidence shows that these in-person interactions create a biological forcefield against disease and decline. Face-to-face contact releases a whole cascade of chemicals in our brain.

"Like a vaccine, they protect us now in the present, and well into the future. It's one of the main reasons, for example, that there are the lowest rates of dementia among people who are socially engaged." In his recent encyclical Pope Francis stressed the value of face-to-face contact in the modern world: "No one can experience the true beauty of life without relating to others, without having real faces to love.



This is part of the mystery of authentic human existence."

Whilst there are clear benefits to emotional, physical, and mental health from community, Christians recognise a deeper connection to each other through the love of God which knows no limits and gives great meaning to communal bonds.

This connection is a "communion" between believers grounded in the Trinity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. The Apostle Paul was referring to this when he said: "The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all."

Therefore, Christian unity derives and grows from the unity of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. This unity inspires us to help others, because, as St Paul reminds us: "God encourages us in all our trials, so that we may encourage those in any trial, with the same comfort we receive from God. Just as the sufferings of Christ overflow to us, so through Christ our comfort overflows."

I agreed to join my cousin in the biting waters of the north coast the next time the waves are high. I pray that he and many others will have the grace and courage to dive more deeply into the depths of the Christian faith, which can wash away our insecurities and inspire us to pour out our lives for the good of others.

As Pope Francis said: "There is no life when we claim to be self-sufficient and live as islands."

May we come to a realisation that the Christian community of faith is an anchor which can strengthen and protect us all.

Dr Brian Wilson



PAST-PUPIL FOCUS: OWEN MCCLOSKEY ULSTER UNIVERSITY STUDENT UNION PRESIDENT

Congratulations to SLG past-pupil, Owen McCloskey, who has been selected as President of Ulster University Students' Union for the 2021/22 academic year.

Owen left SLG in 2016 to study International Travel and Tourism at University of Ulster, Coleraine where he immersed himself in student life, volunteering through the SU in marketing and PR roles as well as volunteering as treasurer for the STEW society.

Owen's current role as UUSU President is a huge accolade with many responsibilities, including overall leadership, coordinating the work of the SU on a day-to-day basis, acting as the principal spokesperson, improving and monitoring SU services, coordinating overall campaigns, and representing students on numerous committees within the university.

As part of his role, Owen was given the exciting responsibility of showing the Duke and Duchess of Cambridge around the new Magee campus in October, which was televised on BBC News.

We wish Owen continued success in both this fantastic role and with his studies.





JUNK KOUTURE CLUB

Here are some of the Year 11 and 12 pupils who regularly give up their time to stay after school to develop fashion designs from a range of recycled materials for this year's Junk Kouture Competition.

Thanks must go to Ms Gabrielle Lennon for leading pupils so professionally in learning new skills and attaining such high standards in their creations. Good luck for the competition and we can't wait to see the finished garments. Well done to all involved.

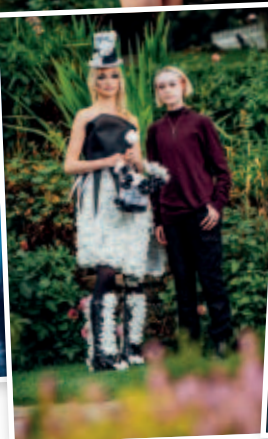


TELEVISION APPEARANCE FOR OUR JUNK KOUTURE GRAND FINALISTS

Four of our pupils appeared on RTE2 on Thursday 9th December as part of the Grand Final of Junk Kouture 2021.

Naoishe Gilpin, Aoife Duffin, Katie McCaw and Rhianna Heffron showcased their designs in Ballybeg House, Co Wicklow to a team of judges including Louis Walsh and Michelle Visage who were very taken with our pupils. Louis attempted to recruit two of them for his latest girl group and Michelle Visage (international star), proclaimed she 'LOVED BALLYMENA'. Who knew she was such a fan of this beautiful town, coming from sunny California herself!

We are so proud of the achievements of the girls and our fantastic Art Department who year-on-year provide the opportunity of Junk Kouture to our students. Naoise and Aoife won the Northern Region Award for their design and Katie and Rhianna came away with the prize for Most Unusual Material. To make it so far in the competition, overcoming the challenges of last year and to come away with two awards is a remarkable accomplishment. Congratulations everyone!





JUNIOR CAMOGIE ULSTER FINAL

After two years of no school sport, the first to wear the camogie jersey in 2021 were our junior camogs. They had a great campaign, overcoming CPC Ballycastle in the semi-final. The girls had a great run to the final with some outstanding performances and most certainly didn't let us down on final day! They gave it their all on the pitch and were very unfortunate to come up short. We have no doubt this is not the last we will see of this group of girls in an Ulster final!

Monday October 25:

With three minutes to go at a sun kissed Pairc Ui Chathain, it looked like SLG's long wait for a maiden Corn Eimhear victory was finally over. Ciara Boyle had just converted a '45 to edge the Ballymena girls into a four-point lead and were looking comfortable.

As the clock ticked into the last minute of the hour, SPC's Collins smashed a '45 into the back of the St Louis net and sparked a revival.

It was a heart-breaking end for our girls, who looked to have cooked up the perfect storm in the second half with Eimear McGivern outstanding between the posts. A double save before the second-half water break looked like the moment they had broken the St Pat's challenge.

The St Louis girls had taken the lead by the 12th minute of the game. McKillop's second point preceded a goal from Cara Burns. Ciara O'Boyle's initial effort blocked, and Burns controlled superbly before firing to the back of the net. A brace of frees from Collins was the response from St Pat's as they steadied the ship, but St Louis rocked them once more with their second goal of the game with five minutes of the first half remaining. Boyle was once again involved but it was a wonderful piece of ingenuity from Enya Neeson to finish at the back post.

St Louis moved Ciara O'Boyle further out the field in the second half and it paid dividends as they began to control the middle third. The St Pat's challenge was hurt with a couple of early wides after the restart and St Louis had reduced the St Pat's lead to the minimum eight minutes into the second half.

A brilliant score from an acute angle by McKillop was followed by brilliance from McGivern at the other end of the pitch, first of all denying Sinead Mellon before recovering and getting her hurl to a goal-bound effort from Collins moments later.

After the water break, St Louis took the lead with their third goal of the game. O'Boyle with the pick and drive before unleashing an unstoppable drive towards Rosheen Doherty's goal. McKillop's fifth point of the match followed before St Louis had another chance for goal. Enya Neeson with the chance but Rosheen Doherty saved superbly. O'Boyle converted the resulting '45 as St Louis opened a four-point lead.

St Pat's found another level in the time that remained, however, with Collins' outstanding drive from a '45 sparking the revival. With the clock ticking into injury time, Bryson levelled the scores before Collins took her tally to 2-8 with the winning score in the second minute of injury time. We are incredibly proud of our girls and their efforts.

TEAM

Eimear McGivern; Meabh McVeigh, Orla Kane, Carragh Boyle; Erin Coulterm Dearbhail Dobbin, Casey Crawford; Emily Sharpe, Alicia Boyd; Enya Neeson, Anna McKillop, Maria Gately; Aoife McKenna, Ciara O'Boyle, Cara Burns
Scorers: Anna McKillop 0-5 (1f); Ciara O'Boyle 1-2 (1 '45); Cara Burns 1-00; Enya Neeson 1-00



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SCI-FEST NATIONAL FINALISTS 2021

The HSO team won three awards at the regional Sci-Fest competition and went through to the National Final for the design of their Sensory Overload App.

The group have won:

- The Boston Scientific Medical Devices Award
- The Intel Technology Award
- The Fenargo Communication Award

In addition, a Boston Scientific panel of judges representing Clonmel, Galway and Cork have selected their project as one of the seven projects to compete for the Sci-Fest 2021 Boston Scientific Grand Award at the Sci-Fest 2021 National Final. This award was available only to winners of the regional Boston Scientific Medical Devices Award. From these winning projects a panel of judges selected the projects to compete for the Grand Award at the National Final, sponsored by Boston Scientific Galway.

"HSO – Helping Sensory Overload is an app and puck that is used to try and reduce the insecurity of those who have ASD or sensory issues.

In 2019, we had created an app to help show where building sites were so that people were less likely to damage their hearing. This app has developed into what it is today through research and development. The puck was developed in late 2020.

Our app, HSO monitors the ambient sound level and alerts the user/ carer of when the decibel level is above the level that you can tolerate. There is an added geotagging feature which will allow us to show where the noisiest areas are. For example: in a school, a certain classroom or room could be way too loud.

The HSO puck, which is a small device in a similar style to an Amazon Alexa, works the same as the app but it has more accuracy. The puck can sit in a classroom setting, undisturbed by any pockets, and alerts the user that is linked to the puck to remove the person who is likely to suffer from sensory issues or find a way to quieten the room down. One of our main purposes is to try and improve the life of at least one person even in a small way. Due to feedback from others with our working prototype, it is clear to see that our app and puck will be successful, and we will achieve our purpose."

Bronagh Dempster, Liam Young, Daniel Montgomery, Year 15



MATHS MENTORING CLUB

The Maths Mentoring Club kicked off in November. The club is run by our A-Level mentors, Caoimhe, Jack and Daniel, alongside Miss Warnock, who have been using the UK Maths Trust Mentoring Materials to aid any of our Year 9 and 10 students who would like some additional practice and help with Maths.

The club runs every Monday from 5:30 to 4:30 in Room 15 and new members are welcome.





NATIONAL POETRY DAY 2021

On Thursday 7th October, Year 8 pupils took part in a class Poetry Slam to celebrate National Poetry Day 2021. This year the theme was 'Choice' and pupils each created a poem of their own, based on the many choices we are faced with.

Our annual Poetry Slam is an excellent opportunity for our students to express themselves and their views, whilst also helping them to understand poetry and form their own opinions and interpretations on a range of poetry.

'I choose poetry because language (spoken, written, signed or gestured) will be forever relevant to our species. If it didn't matter, then poetry (as one of humankind's most ancient art forms) would have died a long time ago.' – Raymond Antrobus.

Read one of our superb entries from Year 8 student, Emmie Clegg:

Sitting in the middle of the pub
Feeling stranded,
Like I am inside of the
Ocean,
Waiting for something,
Anything,
To happen.
Not knowing what
Longing,
Like a lost soul
Not knowing where it is going.

The men sit beside me
Strangers are scattered
Most read the paper
Mobile phones are a waste.
I reach to my side,
And into one's pockets,
I feel coins. My fingers grasp them
Like they depend on it
I can't reel them out.
There's so much more to take
Why must I hinder?
A decision I will not hesitate to make.

I can feel the eyes
Resting their steely glares
On me.
I don't understand
Why they all look the same
All with tragic tales
Stories
That will never be told
Not ever again.



One lad started chatting
It immediately struck me
On how he could so easily break
The frosty silence
That we had all silently agreed on.
This bloke was a cop,
Who was out for a drink
A break from his job.
I didn't like cops
But he felt different,
Didn't feel like one. And he told us
That his son has a business
Getting lost causes like me
Back on our feet.
I denied within myself,
But as I left the pub,
I felt a longing to try,
Try go back to when I wasn't an empty shell.

And here I stand now,
Staring in the bathroom
Mirror.
I'm going to a job interview.
But as I look
I remember what I've done.
But I'm different now.
I've evolved.
And now,
I can move on.

By Emmie Clegg



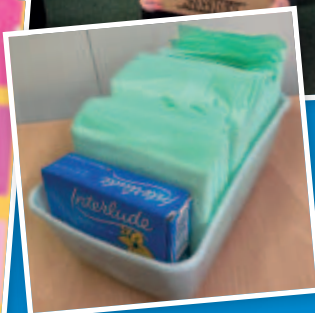


PERIOD DIGNITY PROJECT

We are very pleased and proud of our Year 13 and 14 pupils who in recent weeks have been working hard to promote period dignity in St Louis.

Miss McGuigan and her team have successfully applied for funding to provide essential sanitary products which will be placed in all toilets right across the school. They are working hard to ensure these products will be available to all learners where and when they need them.

We trust the St Louis community will support this wonderful initiative. Well done to all involved!



INTER-SCHOOLS SHOW JUMPING

Congratulations to Year 12 student, Rioghnach Murray and her horse Connie, who competed in the Northern Ireland Inter-Schools Show-Jumping Competition in September this year.

Out of around 100 competitors from across secondary schools in Northern Ireland, Rioghnach placed 11th and her team jumped clear on nearly every jump that day. Rioghnach has been horse-riding for around 10 years, and this is a well-deserved achievement. Well-done!



ANTI-BULLYING WEEK 2021

Anti-Bullying Week 2021 ran from the 15th-19th November and this year's theme was 'One Kind Word'.

The isolation of the last year has underlined how little acts of consideration can brighten the lives of the people around us and how one kind word can provide a moment of hope. It can be a turning point, it can change someone's perspective and it can break the cycle of bullying.

Our wonderful Anti-Bullying prefects helped to spread the message of kindness this Anti-Bullying Week by producing a fantastic assembly for our students and encouraging them to speak up and speak out against bullying. Well done everyone!





ANTI-BULLYING HEAD PREFECTS



Hello, my name is James Higgins and I am very pleased to be given the role of head prefect of Anti-Bullying for the 21/22 academic year. Bullying is an issue that some pupils experience and some choose to live with it instead of speaking out and seeking support. We are all privileged to learn at such a highly prestigious school but along with our education I feel enjoying your time at school is also very important and I want every pupil to feel included. Speaking to members of staff or even relatives may seem a bit daunting, however you can think of the Anti-Bullying prefects as fellow students you can resonate with and I am happy to offer any advice and answer any questions you may have.



My name is Cara Pirie and I am the Deputy Head Girl overseeing the Anti-Bullying prefects this year at St. Louis. We are committed to creating a safe, respectful and inclusive learning environment where everyone can achieve their full potential. The Anti-Bullying prefects are friendly, trustworthy and discreet. We endeavour to create a safe space for anyone experiencing bullying behaviours. If you are experiencing bullying behaviours or you see someone else experiencing this, do not hesitate to approach myself or another member of our team at any time.

Hi, my name is Hannah Gately and I am one of three Head Anti-Bullying prefects this year. We hope to help provide a safe and kind environment for all students at St. Louis. I hope I can be someone you feel comfortable to approach if you are upset in any way, you have been mistreated or witnessed the mistreatment of another pupil in and around school. Please speak to myself, the Anti-Bullying team or a teacher if you need to report bullying behaviours as no one should suffer in silence as there is always someone you can talk to.



Hi, I'm Ceothán Gormley and I was thrilled to be chosen as one of three Head Prefects of Anti-Bullying this year. I, along with the rest of the Anti-Bullying team, hope to promote and maintain a safe and comfortable atmosphere within the school where students in every year group feel their problems will be heard and addressed. As students ourselves, we understand that approaching a teacher or any adult in a school environment with our problems can feel intimidating. That's why we are here to bridge the gap between younger students and staff to create a space where pupils can receive support from their peers. Whether you have an issue that needs to be resolved, or simply need a friendly face to chat to, we are here to help you with any concern you have.



Prefects will be located in the creativity hub at break time every Thursday for any pupil to have a chat. Pupils can approach prefects in the corridor by looking out for their yellow Anti-Bullying badges.

Other Anti-Bullying Prefects include:

Clodagh McCusker
Sophie Byatt
Danielle Walsh
Naoise Gilpin
Katie Campbell
Helen McIlwee
Amber Burns
Hannah Murray
Emma McKeegan

Knowing what is right
Doesn't mean much



Unless you are doing what is right!



PUPIL HEALTH & WELLBEING HEAD PREFECTS



Cara Pirie

My name is Cara Pirie and I am the Deputy Head Girl overseeing Pupil Health and Wellbeing this year at St. Louis. In light of the COVID-19 pandemic, taking care of our mental health and wellbeing is even more of a priority. I am delighted to have been given this responsibility as I believe maintaining health and wellbeing is paramount as a student. Stress is a universal experience for all students - homework, revision, exams, university applications... it is very easy to feel overwhelmed. Taking even 15 minutes every day for yourself to relax, exercise, read, chat to a friend/relative or play an instrument is a step towards managing stress effectively. As a student at St. Louis, remember you are not alone! You can talk to your friends, teachers, members of pastoral care or the Pupil Health and Wellbeing Prefects who are friendly, understanding and approachable. I look forward to working with this year's Health and Wellbeing Prefects.



Della Sibi Thomas

Hello, my name is Della Sibi Thomas, and I am delighted to be one of the Head Prefects of Pupil Health and Wellbeing. Health and well-being is very important to me and I would like to make sure that the pupils feel as though they can talk to someone. I have often felt anxious and stressed especially during exams, although I found that by talking to someone you trust such as a family member, friend or a teacher can help take a big weight off your shoulders. Also, there are many ways to cope with stress like meditating, going on walks and listening to music. These strategies have allowed me to focus on schoolwork and to keep a positive mindset. The Pupil Health and Wellbeing Prefects are always here for you to listen to any problem you may be facing.



Lewis Harrison

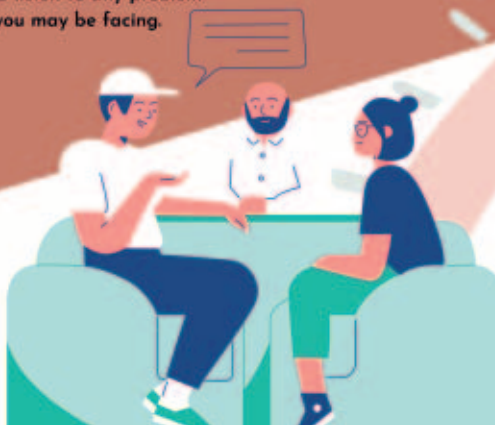
Hello, my name is Lewis Harrison and I am delighted to be given the responsibility of Pupil Health and Wellbeing as a Head Prefect. Positive health and wellbeing is vital to every single student in our school as it allows us to enjoy school both inside and outside the classroom. No-one in our school community should ever feel like they can't talk with someone, as suppressing your thoughts and feelings will only lead to a bigger problem. Sometimes schoolwork or life outside school may affect your wellbeing but a simple thing like going for a walk or taking time to relax can help de-stress and take some weight off your shoulders. I personally love to use football as my way to forget any problems and cope with stress. If you would like to talk to someone no matter the size of your problem, the Pupil Health and Wellbeing Prefects are always here to have a chat.



Aoife Devlin

Hello, my name is Aoife Devlin and I am delighted to have the privilege of being one of the Pupil Health and Wellbeing Prefects. Especially at our age, it's extremely important to look after our mental health and wellbeing. School can be very stressful, between the likes of exams and relationships with family and friends, and the worst thing to do is bottle up your emotions. It is important that we always remind ourselves that we are always doing the best we can. We also need to remind ourselves to not compare ourselves to others. Often we can be our own biggest critique, so speaking about your emotions to someone you trust can help to put things into perspective. I would be delighted to have a chat with anyone who needs to vent or needs some advice, or even just a chat in general.

Our Prefects can be recognised by the light blue Pupil Health and Wellbeing badge worn on their uniform.





YEAR 13 LITERATURE STUDENTS VISIT HEANEY HOMEPLACE

On 30th September, our Year 13 English students visited Heaney Homeplace as part of their study of Heaney and Frost poetry at AS-Level.

Pupils were treated to a tour of the exhibition and lunch, before visiting some of the local landmarks that famously inspired Heaney's writings.



SLG ALL STARS

Massive congratulations go to Orlagh Convery and Katie Molloy who received the Ulster Colleges All-Star award in 2021. Over 120 camogs attended the first trial in November, with only 45 being asked to attend the second trial. 45 girls from all over Ulster battled to impress the selectors and make the final 24.

We are so proud of our two sixth-form students who are very worthy winners of this award. Both girls hope to study medicine at university, highlighting how talented and conscientious they are, achieving so well in both sport and their studies so far.

Orlagh and Katie are incredibly gifted young ladies, and we have no doubt this is the first of many awards the girls will achieve in their playing careers. This is such a brilliant achievement, and such a special part of school camogie.

It is also a pleasure to note the nine Antrim Senior Camogs who have been nominated for an All-Star award, especially the five past-pupils of SLG: Catriona Graham; Maria Lynn; Caoimhe Conlan; Lucia McNaughton and of course, Chloe Drain. Wishing all these girls the best of luck!

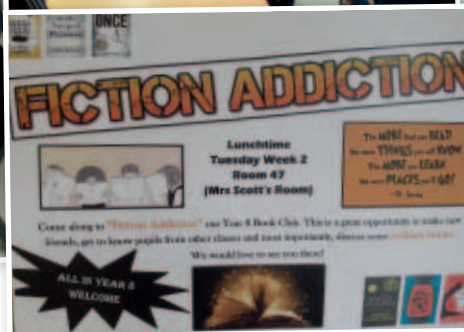




YEAR 8 FICTION ADDICTION BOOK CLUB

Year 8 'Fiction Addiction' Book Club got off to a great start this term. In an effort to foster a love of reading, Mrs Scott set up the book club which runs each Tuesday, week 2 lunchtime. There are games to be played, prizes to be won, and most importantly, discussions to be had as students reflect on a range of literature texts.

"The more that you read, the more things you will know.
The more you learn, the more places you'll go" – Dr Seuss

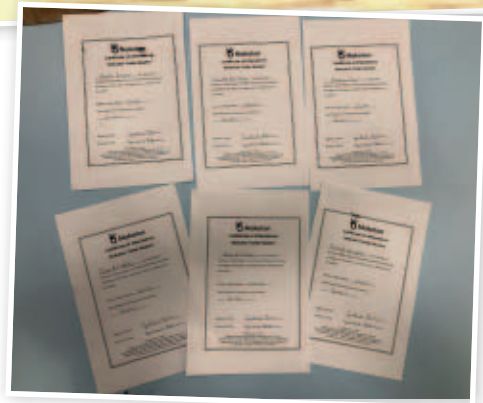


YEAR 13 MAKATON ENRICHMENT COURSE

In St Louis, Year 13 pupils have an opportunity to undertake different enrichment activities, which broaden their experiences in a range of subjects. This year, Makaton has been offered as an Enrichment class. Makaton is a language program that has been widely adopted throughout the UK, with over 100,000 users. Makaton aims to support speech development in children and adults with language difficulties using a multi-modal approach whereby signs, symbols and speech are used to support language development.

During Makaton enrichment sessions, Year 13 pupils have been learning to identify and perform over 40 signs from the recognised Makaton Core Vocabulary. Additionally, these pupils have undertaken a Makaton Taster course with Robinson's Makaton Training, in which they received official accreditation in Makaton. Furthermore, these pupils have also promoted Makaton within their own school community, by creating a Makaton display to pass on their knowledge to others.

Conall McIlroy, a Year 13 pupil, has emphasised the importance of promoting Makaton. He said: 'Makaton is extremely helpful as it allows people to communicate to those who have language difficulties in a way which is clear and easy to understand, making it a valuable skill in any workplace.' This statement by Conall encapsulates the importance of those without language difficulties learning and recognising Makaton signs to ensure that everyone's 'voice' is heard.





SLG ENVIRONMENTAL PREFECTS

In August, our Head Boys and Girls were directed by Mrs McGreevy to select Head Prefects for several leadership posts including a new group of Prefects for the Environment.

They selected Kelsie Doherty as Head Prefect of Environment. Her team of Environmental Prefects are listed below:

- Annie Martin
- Lucy Donaldson
- Bernard Heffron
- Ellie McDaid
- Niamh Burke
- Anna Douthart
- Brigid Delargy
- Caitlin McCloskey

Already this year the Environmental Prefects have been involved in:

- Attending a presentation by Rachel Conway (science officer for the butterfly trust) who spoke about biodiversity and the importance of landscapes/wildflowers.
- Litter picking every week.
- Successful application to receive orchard trees and hedgehog pack from the Orchard for School Programme.
- Planting of wildflowers.
- Introduction of bat and bird boxes.
- Future plans include introducing a sensory garden and a greenhouse.
- The introduction of an Eco Council.

We are delighted with this group and look forward to seeing what they get up to in the months ahead!

A special mention must go to Mr Steve Beagan, our caretaker, who has been instrumental in assisting the Environmental Prefects this term.



YEAR 13 NI WOMEN'S U17 SOCCER STAR

In September 2021, Year 13 student Erin McAllister represented Northern Ireland in the Women's Under 17 Euros Qualifiers.

Erin, alongside the rest of the Northern Ireland Panel, made the journey to Serbia where the team played against Spain. As goalkeeper, Erin was hailed for her series of excellent saves during a tough match, being referred to as the busiest player on the pitch in the Official Irish Football Association's match report. What a fantastic achievement and experience for one of our model students.

Well-done Erin!





ACT ONE WORLD POETRY COMPETITION WINNER

Congratulations to Annie McCrory (Year 12), who won the Act One World Poetry Competition, organised by Concern NI in October.

The theme of the competition was activism, prompting Annie to pen a poem about climate activism. Annie received a £100 book token and took part in a video recording of her poem, which can be found at oneworldfestivalni.com. Read Annie's outstanding entry below:

Hiraeth

By Annie McCrory

An amniotic darkness
Filled with the pianissimo
Of a tectonic lullaby;
The regal dirt our chrysalis
Petr
Ichor
Our empyrean perfume.

We follow the industrial labyrinth
Helplessly addicted to the rhythm
The ticking of a self-wound clock
Primed for alarm bells;
The golden thread
Now
Losing its lustre.

Blood sweat and tears
Perpetuating perfect photosynthesis
Rusting our chemical gears.
A 25.5° reshuffling of organs.
Our wings beat
To regain a balance
Clumsily reprogrammed.

Heartbeats now dissonant
Attuned to a new battery;
A familiar stranger on
A different rotation-
Outsiders
On our own original
Orbit.

We try in vain
To reclaim;
Realign
In time.
Attach our selves to the reflections
We no longer recognise
In a turbid pool.

Gravity our umbilical cord
We fall through the oily stars
Home, now a
Distant
Light
Flickering
Out.



UNVEILING OF QUILT AT THE BRAID

During the first lockdown, a number of teachers from St Louis, along with an army of volunteers from throughout the borough, worked tirelessly in liaison with the Salvation Army in Harryville to create scrubs for the NHS.

To commemorate the hard work and dedication of those involved, the group leaders arranged for each volunteer to produce a monogram piece to be incorporated into a quilt. This quilt was finally unveiled at a celebration ceremony at the Braid centre Ballymena on 25rd November, 2021. The event was attended by Mrs F McAuley who listened as Health Minister Robin Swan, the Head of the Health Service and the Mayor for Mid and East Antrim all eloquently thanked and congratulated the extended group for the wonderful contribution made. Following exhibition at the Braid, the quilt will journey to Antrim Area Hospital where it will be on show for all to witness the solidarity shown in helping front line staff face the gruelling challenges brought about by covid.





DANIELLE WALSH WINS 'TOUCH THE CAR' COMPETITION

Danielle Walsh wins New Driver NI's 'Touch The Car' Competition sponsored by CRASH Services and JMK Solicitors.

On Saturday 26th June 2021, current Year 14 student, Danielle Walsh competed with nine other participants from across Northern Ireland for a chance to take home the prize of a new car plus £1000 towards insurance.

New Driver is a community interest company that aims to educate all new drivers and passengers on making good motoring decisions. The company's representative visits over 100 sixth form students in schools each year to deliver a safe-motoring presentation and offer advice to anyone about to start driving.

To win the New Driver Safety Ambassador Limited 'Touch The Car' competition, participants simply had to keep their hand on the car with the last person still 'touching the car' taking home the prize of a new Dacia Sandero Access SCE 65* (worth £7995) sponsored by CRASH Services and JMK Solicitors and £1000 towards insurance part-sponsored by AB&C Insurance.

A surprising addition to the day was not one but TWO prizes were on hand to compete for thanks to the generosity of Jonathan McKeown. Danielle and one other student from Lagan College in Belfast were the last two standing and walked away with a brand-new car and £1000 each!

Stephen Savage, Project Manager at New Driver Safety Ambassadors commented, "It was a fantastic day with 10 worthy participants trying to win themselves the prize. We didn't make it easy on the participants though, we threw in some curveballs along the way by introducing some fun and challenging games throughout the day! The day challenged the participants both mentally and physically and saw most of the participants being knocked out through the day until there were only two remaining. I was extremely impressed by all the finalists' determination and stamina they showed throughout the day."

Winner, Danielle Walsh commented, "I feel absolutely amazing but tired and sore all over! I can't wait to celebrate with my family and go on a shopping spree in my new car"

Well-done to Danielle on winning this fantastic prize. Health to drive!



SLG ACTS OF KINDNESS

World Kindness Day took place on Saturday, 15th November 2021.

A whole school effort was made to promote random acts of kindness and in recent weeks, our students have made us very proud by demonstrating selfless acts to help others, be it with something as simple as schoolwork or some of the exceptional acts outlined below:

Catholics Caring: As always, our annual Catholics Caring appeal has been received with such generosity by our students, parents and teachers. Every class in the school has taken responsibility for providing gifts for a child whose family has fallen on hard times this Christmas. It is heart-warming to see the enthusiasm of our students, who really want to know about the child they are providing for so that they can give the most suitable gifts. During World Kindness Week, many of our students donated extra money to the appeal. Both Nicole Herald and Luca Alexander in 9 Lyndon donated additional funds to the campaign on top of their original donation.

Coffee Mornings: Numerous coffee mornings were organised by our sixth-form students to raise money for charity. Mrs Blaney's form class raised £67 to buy school supplies through Trocaire Christmas gifts.

Year 13 Donation: "Year 13 had decided from the beginning of our social being planned that if we had our security deposit returned, we would like to donate it to charity. We all agreed that we'd like to donate half of it to Catholics Caring, considering we were able to have a social and get dressed up, whilst some children our age have to worry about buying their younger siblings presents." - Aisling McKeown, Year 13.

The £500 was split, with half being donated to Catholics Caring and the other half to Friends for Romania.





THE DIANA AWARD ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADOR TRAINING SCHEME

On 22nd June 2021, pupils from Years 8 – 13 took part in a one-day interactive anti-bullying training session ran by The Diana Award. Pupils worked together and acquired vital skills to enable them to change the attitudes and behaviours of bullying by building their skills and confidence to address different situations, both online and off.

The Diana Award's Anti-Bullying Ambassador Programme sees trainers working with students and other young people to change the attitude surrounding bullying. The programme has a strong peer-to-peer focus, with trainers giving young people the skills and confidence to become Anti-Bullying Ambassadors to tackle bullying in their schools long after the training has finished.

The Diana Award's anti-bullying work is recognised as world-class thanks to this sustainable approach.

The training looked at bullying in different situations including face-to-face and online. At the end of the day, pupils made an action plan of how to approach bullying issues that may arise in their schools and committed to their roles as Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.



Pupils involved were:

Year 8 pupils: Lauren May Ong, Dylan Teague

Year 9 pupils: Jessica Halloran, Thomas Oakes

Year 10 pupils: Kiera Young, Patrick Murphy

Year 11 pupils: Orlaith Murray, Alexander Davies

Year 12 pupils: Sarah Fyfe, PJ McDonnell, Joe Halloran

Year 13 pupils: Emily Higgins, Kelsie Doherty, Hannah Gately, Ceothan Gormley, Della Sibi Thomas, James Higgins, Matthew Wray

We are excited about embarking upon future Anti-Bullying plans which include:

- Creating and wearing our own Anti-Bullying badges
- Anti-Bullying Prefects
- Establishing an Anti-Bullying safe space for pupils to go to every week if they would like to chat to one of our Anti-Bullying Ambassadors.

HALLOWEEN ART COMPETITION

These KS5 pupils were invited by the Art Department to post examples of arts and crafts they created voluntarily over the Halloween period and were presented with treats in recognition of their amazing effort and creativity.

Well-done everyone.

Overall Winners:

Year 8: Cillian McCoy, Year 9: Jonathon Massarella,

Year 10: Clementine Barwick





INVISIBLE

Ashley Tadefo, Year 13 English Student, impressed her teacher Ms Wallace with this remarkable, honest, and passionate poem.

Invisible, but to most I am visible—
So visible my skin almost acts as a shadow
A shadow of darkness, blackness even
BLACK
What is Black?
Dark skin and braids to my back, slick edges the waves of my brother's hair so slick back
Uneducated, immigrant, dumb, ghetto, hood-rat
As if my skin acts as a deterrent for them to all fall back
The anger in their face as I sit in their seat.
Anger, pain, whilst refuge is all I seek.

My blackness, my skin, my faith
Something not chosen but something unfadeable
My voice changes ever so lightly so I become somewhat approachable
My eager smile faint as they wilder away
As the reminder of my deep, dark skin puts things all into play.

Why?
All the whys I receive with no answer.
All the yeses they receive with almost every answer.
Every answer, but to the questions I ask
As my blackness, a shadow haunts my path
The skin chosen beautifully for me
Now used as a weapon in a world
Never built for me.

Features I owned used in a game
A game I'm not included in and nor I can participate.
A skin built my predecessor yet still to be fought for
I continuously wonder when my fight will end
As my intersectionality will forever leave me in a bend.

As I fight for two causes never to be won
A girl, a woman, so ever tall
My name hidden removed, never untouched
My blackness withered away like water all washed up
My smile, my intelligence all of them remaining unseen.

Unseen, as I am, and I will forever remain.
Invisible, so visible
In a white world that tells me what I am is a shadow
that should remain hidden and full of shame.

The Pyramids from 500 BC, as the history of Egypt
Is displayed through my hair with its beads
To the streets of Streatham to the Northern Lights of Leeds.
The working labour of my people
is dandered through its streets
From the flow and tenacity of my voice
Even its loud acclaims the beauty of my history will
forever be displayed.

Yet the ancestral line pours out to me
From inventive leaders from my culture not a shadow
But a leading light for me.
From Madam C.J Walker to the Michelle Obamas
of the world
My Blackness is not a darkening shadow
But a leading light in a huge white world.

Yet all they see is the caricatures displayed on TV—
Visible, so visible, but why can't you see me?

FRIENDS FOR ROMANIA – BACK IN ACTION

The St. Louis Friends for Romania Group have resumed activity this year after a long cessation due to the COVID crisis. A total of forty-six Year 13 students have volunteered to partake in the project. These students have been attending enrichment sessions every two weeks, learning about Romania in general and Romanian orphanages in particular.

Each member of the group has been assisting the English language department at Mesota College in Brasov, Transylvania by pairing with one of their students in an email pen pal exchange. We hope that this will help to improve the English language skills of their students. We also hope to create and exchange video presentations of our respective schools.

At the time of writing, a group trip to the orphanages in Romania is not possible due to the very high levels of COVID in their country. However, we have fingers crossed that trips can resume once conditions in Romania permit us to do so.





YEAR 8 PUPIL PROFILES

8 Lurig

Hi, my name is Thomas McSorley and I live in Aldergrove. I went to St Joseph's Primary School, Crumlin before coming to St Louis. In my spare time, I like to play guitar and hang out with my cousin Danny, who is also in 8 Lurig. We enjoy building Lego. My favourite thing about St Louis so far is all the new subjects like HE, Technology, Geography that I never did in primary school.



Hello, I am Grace Murray, and I am from Antrim. I went to St Comgall's Primary School in Antrim. I love playing the guitar and violin and like to spend time with my friends outside of school. I have really enjoyed learning new subjects and having lots of different teachers in St Louis. I also really enjoy moving from room to room between classes.



8 Layde

My name is Cillian McCoy, and I am from Randalstown. I went to Mount St Michael's Primary School. I like to do a lot of Art and I especially enjoy drawing. I recently won the Halloween Art competition at school. My favourite thing about St Louis is that you can always rely on the teachers to help you out. Something I am looking forward to in school is being able to take part in Junk Kouture when I am older as I think that it looks like a really exciting competition.



Hi, my name is Katie McGale and I am from Randalstown. I went to Mount St Michael's Primary school. My hobbies include playing the oboe and Netball for Antrim Ladies U14s. I am especially looking forward to playing matches with my team over the next few months. I have two dogs, Bella and Rolo and love to play with them when I'm at home. I have really enjoyed getting to know all the new people at St Louis since coming in September and I am really looking forward to all the new experiences of secondary school, especially school trips.



8 Laragh

I'm Brian Agnew and I went to St Brigid's Primary School, Ballymena. I am from Ahoghill and enjoy playing hurling and Gaelic football. One of my biggest hobbies is working on restoring vintage tractors with my daddy. We show our tractors each year at Shane's Castle May Day Rally. My favourite tractor would have to be a Massey Ferguson TE 20. The best thing about St Louis has to be the sport, and I can't wait to be part of the teams in school.



My name is Sarah Black, and I am from Glenariffe. I play Gaelic and Hurling for Glenariffe and went to St Patrick's Primary School. I love sport and enjoy attending gymnastics at Ballymena Academy and dance lessons at my local community centre. The Creative Arts building is the thing I like the most about St Louis and I would love to be involved in a school play at some point during my time at the school.



8 Lisbreen

I'm Francesca Corke and I live just outside Dunloy. I went to St Joseph's Primary School and play Gaelic football for Dunloy as well. I am a big fan of video games and have also taken an interest in digital animation. The thing I have enjoyed the most since coming to St Louis is the variety of food the canteen has to offer. As I get older, I hope to be involved in a school show.



Hi, my name is Patrick Carey, and I am from Rasharkin. I went to St Patrick's Primary School. My hobbies include playing Gaelic and X-Box. I have settled in well at St Louis and the teachers here have been helpful and kind. I played my first school football blitz up in Belfast in October and I am looking forward to being involved in more games and tournaments wearing the school jersey.



8 Lismoye

Hello, I'm Cormac Higgins and I am from Glenravel. Before coming to St Louis, I attended Mary Queen of Peace Primary school. I am currently working towards my Grade 2 in Violin, and I also play hurling and Gaelic for Con Magee's. When I am not playing GAA, I also enjoy taking part in Ulster and Northern Ireland cross country races. I can't wait to be part of the school hurling team.



Hi, my name is Clíodhna McKeever, and I went to St Mary's Primary School, Portglenone. I enjoy playing most sports, especially Gaelic and Camogie for Portglenone. I love the PE department at St Louis and the Wall Ball. I can't wait to play Camogie and Gaelic for the school teams.



8 Lyndon

My name is Clodagh McAllister. I was born in Belfast, and currently live between Ballymena and Randalstown. I attended St Colmcille's Primary School, Ballymena. I play guitar and have just started playing Netball. My favourite thing about St Louis so far has been spending time with my friends, both new and old. The subject I enjoy the most is English, as I like reading books and writing creatively.



Hi, I'm Rory McConnell and I am from Antrim. I went to St Comgall's Primary School before coming to SLG. My hobbies include playing Gaelic for St Comgall's, Antrim and soccer for Chimney Corner. We recently won the League Cup at U12s. The best thing about St Louis is PE and the amazing facilities we have. My time at St Louis so far has been great and I can't wait to continue my time at the school and maybe get to go on a few school trips.





ACCELERATED READER

This year, the English Department has introduced the Accelerated Reader programme for Year 8.

Students read a book, take an online quiz, and they get immediate feedback. It gives teachers the information they need to monitor students' reading practice. As well as this, the school offers amazing prizes such as kindles and vouchers to encourage students to read as much as possible. Our school library has almost 5000 books in the Accelerated Reader, making sure that students have the opportunity to reach their reading targets through books that they love!



GYMNASTICS SUCCESS FOR JESSICA HALLORAN

On 25th September 2021, Year 10 student, Jessica Halloran competed in a huge gymnastics competition.

Around 100 people between the ages of 7 and 14 competed in the Valdez Club Championship 2021. Jessica competed in the highest group against the best gymnasts in the gym and came away with some fantastic wins:

- 'Gymnasts Coaching Award';
- 'Gymnast of the Year' shield, which is the most important award in the gym. It is awarded to the person who displays enthusiasm and dedication to the gym, as well supporting their teammates, coaches, and those who they coach themselves.
- Jessica also won a gold and four bronze medals in the competition.



The competition was 6 hours long and what's even more remarkable is that Jessica had already coached for 6 hours that day before competing in the championships. After 12 hours straight in the gym there was only one way for Jessica and her teammates to celebrate: a late-night trip to McDonald's!

EUROPEAN DAY OF LANGUAGES 2021

European Day of Languages took place on 26th September this year.

The Languages department organised a week's worth of Languages-based competitions, including quizzes for each year group and a "Mystery Voice Competition" where students had to guess the teacher's voice and the language they were speaking. Our Junior students thoroughly enjoyed the festivities whilst also improving their understanding of languages.



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FIRST FEMALE WINNER OF ALLEN PARK JUNIOR CAPTAIN'S DAY TOURNAMENT

Congratulations to Lauren May Ong (9 Lir), who won the Allen Park Junior Captain's Day golf tournament on Saturday 11th September.

This is a landmark victory for Lauren as she is the first girl to be awarded the trophy. Lady Captain, and former St Louis teacher, Roisin McCann presented Lauren with her trophy, making the moment even more special.



YEAR 8s PARTICIPATE IN BOOKBUZZ!

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!



IRISH DANCING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS 2021

The 2021 Irish Dancing World Championships took place this year from 1st-7th November at INEC, Killarney, Co. Kerry. The event was postponed from earlier in the year due to Covid and so the event was much anticipated. Several of our students travelled to compete in the competition and we are so proud of their achievements. Mrs O'Neill congratulated all winners from Year 8 to Year 15 on their success.





GO-KARTING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Well-done to Garron Donnelly, 10 Lyndon, who recently came second in the NI Championships and 3rd in Ulster Competition in Go-Karting.

Definitely a skill that requires quick-thinking, fast reflexes and nerves of steel!



ST LOUIS SUMMER CAMP 2021

This summer saw the return of our St Louis' summer camp.

Students were involved in a range of fun team-building activities, organised by Pathway Adventure Activities. It was a great way for our pupils to end their summer, getting to socialise with their classmates after a year filled with isolations and remote learning.



YEAR 9 CREATIVE WRITING CLUB

Our Year 9 students have enjoyed participating in Creative Writing Club this term during Friday lunchtimes.

Pupils have engaged with developing their writing skills in a more relaxed environment, writing a range of festive fiction. Thank you to Miss McKendry for organising this club.



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FAREWELL WISHES

At the end of June, we said farewell to three wonderful teachers.

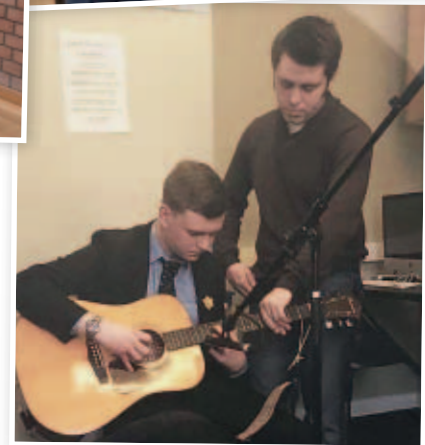
Mr Mussen was with us as a Maths teacher from September 1985 until December 2020. He took on many roles throughout his time at St Louis: Head of Year 12, Numeracy Coordinator and manager of school football teams to name a few.

Mrs Byrne has been a teacher of Chemistry with us from January 1989 and during her time at St Louis, she was also Head of Year 8, Coordinator of Pastoral Care, and Senior Teacher with responsibility for Pastoral Care.

Mrs Beattie has been part of the English department at St Louis since September 2009. Throughout her time at the school, she was Literacy Coordinator, temporary Head of English, and a leader in numerous extra-curricular activities within the department, most notably Soroptimist Public Speaking.

Furthermore, in October, we said goodbye to another fantastic teacher, Mr Guiney. Mr Guiney joined the staff in 2015 as a peripatetic teacher for Music and MIA for two days a week. The following year, he joined the Music and MIA department as a full time teacher. Throughout his time Mr Guiney promoted the Music Department through school shows, concerts, virtual concerts and Year 8 videos.

Best wishes to Mr Mussen and Mrs Byrne on their retirement and to Mrs Beattie and Mr Guiney with their future endeavours. Thank you all for everything you have given to St Louis during your time with us.





ST LOUIS GRAMMAR **HEAD GIRLS AND HEAD BOYS 2021 – 2022**



Lucy Donaldson
Head Girl



Samuel Crawford
Head Boy



Cara Brennan
Deputy Head Girl



Orlagh Convery
Deputy Head Girl



Jack Addison
Deputy Head Boy



Conan Johnston
Deputy Head Boy



Caoimhe McErlaine
Deputy Head Girl



Cara Pirie
Deputy Head Girl



Oran McMullan
Deputy Head Boy



Ryan McQuillan
Deputy Head Boy



KEY DATES FOR SPRING TERM

(Subject to Change)

Wednesday 5th January:

Whole school return after Christmas break.

Thursday 10th February:

November 2021 GCSE DAS/SAS/Eng/Maths Module Results

Monday 14th- Friday 18th February:

Mid-Term Break

23rd, 24th, 25th February:

Year 12 DAS and SAS re-sit examinations

Thursday 17th March:

St Patrick's Day Holiday

Thursday 14th- Friday 22nd April:

Easter Holidays



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