

# THE KINTULLAGH VOICE



The newsletter of  
St Louis Grammar School  
Ballymena

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 10

MARCH 2015

## NAACE ICT MARK

**St Louis are pleased to announce they have been awarded the NAACE ICT Mark.**

This award is for schools with good use of technology to support teaching, learning and school administration. Derservedly popular with schools wanting to demonstrate both effective and mature use of technology, schools use this award to drive change and many are, or go on to be, outstanding. ICT in education is the key to unlocking the skills and knowledge of our future generations of young people. It is the tool for learning for the 21st century and we are delighted to be at the forefront in the use of ICT within education. Many thanks to all involved.

The school would like to acknowledge all the staff and pupils who participated in the external verification of our successful bid and are once again proud to have achieved another significant national and UK educational award.



## PRAMERICA AWARDS

**Colm Devine from Portglenone, Co. Antrim has been recognised for the motivation, service and impact he has demonstrated for his local community as a 2015 Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards top 20 finalist.**

Colm who is a L6 student, has been volunteering at the Down's Syndrome Association of Northern Ireland for almost two years. Colm sees volunteering as a positive way to use his talents to give back to his community by helping those who may not have the same opportunities as him.

Working with the charity on a fortnightly basis for two hours, Colm also attends outings during which he has the responsibility of looking after some members of the organisation. In his time with the Down's Syndrome Association Colm has participated in a number of activities such as arts and crafts and dancing as well as organising an indoor football event. Colm also assisted a coach from the Irish Football Association who spent an evening teaching the members football skills.

Colm struggled with a speech impediment and as a result suffered from a lack of confidence and a hesitancy to get involved in activities with people he did not know. However since working with the Down's Syndrome Association Colm's confidence has grown significantly.

Colm and our Head of Sixth Form, Mrs O'Neill completed an application for the Pramerica Spirit of Community Awards hoping that his commitment and dedication to others would be recognised. Colm was one of twenty finalists selected from all of Ireland!

Colm along with 19 other post-primary students, who hail from all corners of Ireland, were presented with €500 and an engraved silver medallion at the gala awards ceremony on 12th March in the Slieve Donard Resort & Spa by special guest Brent Pope.

As a school we are extremely proud of Colm's achievements!



## STUDENTS MEET RUGBY INTERNATIONALS

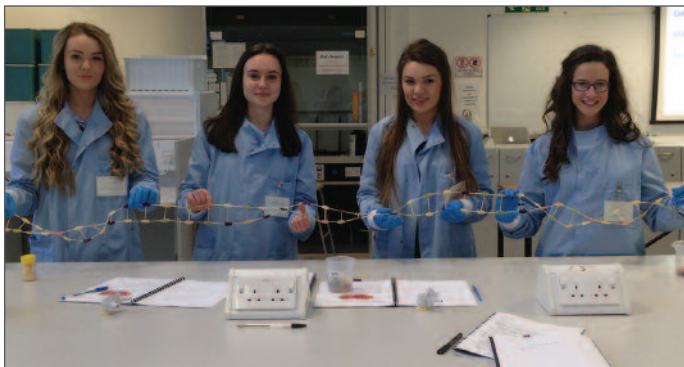
**St Louis students recently had an opportunity to meet Ulster and Ireland Rugby internationals Chris Henry and Stephen Ferris.**

The well-known rugby stars brought along the RBS Six Nations championship and Triple Crown trophies. The St Louis students all play rugby for local clubs and they were delighted to get the opportunity to meet their heroes and to be involved in a question and answer session along with students from the surrounding schools.

Included in the photograph are Johnny McCartney (Year 9), Ben Scullion (Year 10), Conor Carey (Year 12) and Patrick Mitchell (Year 12) along with Chris Henry & Stephen Ferris with the RBS Six Nations & Triple Crown trophies. Also in the photo is Mr Henry (PE teacher) and Adrian Logan, compere for the day.



# QUB CANCER RESEARCH COMPETITION



**The QUB/CRUK video competition was open to any AS biology students who possessed a keen interest in cancer research, the progress being made in this field, and the promotion of such work.**

When we initially agreed to enter the competition we had no idea how much work it entailed. We were asked to construct a 2 minute video, promoting the incredible work that the cancer research centre in Belfast does. The area of cancer research we selected to focus on was prostate cancer. This decision was made on the fact that we believe not enough attention is given to prostate cancer, being the most common form of cancer in men.

After weeks of hard work our entry was finally complete, perfected, and sent away.

In early January, we received an email informing us we had earned a place in the semi-finals. This gave us, and 5 other teams from schools across Northern Ireland, the amazing opportunity to visit the Centre for Cancer Research and Cell Biology on Wednesday 4th February - World Cancer Day.

The day began at 9am where we met our competition and the centre's Research Engagement Officer - Margret Carr. At 9.30am we attended an opening talk with Dr. Karen McCloskey who told us of her discoveries, and her role in the drive to cure cancer today. The CCRCB Director, David Haugh, then addressed us, giving an overview of both the centre, and the life-changing work happening within it. At 10.00am we began our 'Careers speed dating session'. We heard from many researchers on how they got to where they are today, and they each offered us advice on how to find our own worthwhile and fulfilling career. From this session we discovered that there are a wide variety of professions in cancer research; everyone from the lab scientists to the secretaries are contributing to curing cancer. After lunch we commenced our lab activity with Dr. Jules Gorski. This section of the day was extremely interesting as we got to conduct many experiments which included running a PCR and extracting DNA from a strawberry. Following this, each team was assigned a researcher who gave us tours of the labs where they work every day. Our researcher - Katie - showed us the work she was doing in her current project involving the BRCA1 gene, which if mutated is a cause of breast cancer. The day concluded with a ceremony at 4pm, where St Louis Ballymena were awarded 3rd place.

We were delighted that our hard work had been recognised and very thankful for the truly inspirational day we were involved in.

We would like to thank Mrs Monaghan, Terence, Anthony, and all our amazing actors for helping our video become a success.

As we discovered, the future lies in research - and each of us would profoundly recommend you experience the cancer research centre for yourself when they open their doors on May 9th. This date marks the first public open day of the centre, which is promised to be a highly enjoyable and highly informative insight into the field of research.

**Shannon Heffron, Laura McDonnell,  
Catriona Nelson, Emma Lagan**

## MEET SOME YEAR 9s!



**My name is Katie O' Hara and I'm from Antrim.** I am in 9 Lisbreen and my favourite subjects are English and P.E. I really love sports and I play Gaelic for the school and for my local team. I also love reading and music; I hope to complete my Grade 4 in Violin in June.



**My name is Rory McAllister.** I'm in 9 Layde and I'm from Ballymena. My favourite subjects are Physics, P.E. and Maths because I think they're all really fun! I play hurling for Randalstown and I play football for All Saints, Ballymena. I also really love music - I play piano, violin and guitar. In the future I would really love to be a Doctor.



**I'm Ciara McKittrick and my class is 9 Lurig.** I really love sports and I play for the Antrim and North Eastern Netball Squad. My favourite subjects at school are PE., Technology and H.E. because I really love practical learning. My dream job for the future would be a teacher.

## ...AND SOME YEAR 13s!



**My name is Mary O'Neill and I'm from Cargin.** I decided to come to St Louis to do my A-Levels because I thought that the subject choices here were really varied. I am really glad I chose this school because I've made lots of friends here really easily. This year I am studying Health and Social Care, R.E. and Applied Business Studies and I am hoping that these subjects will allow me to work in Accountancy in the future.



**My name is Ciara Elser and I'm in L.6.** My favourite subject at school this year is Applied Business Studies and I'm hoping that in studying it, it will help me to pursue a career in Event Management. I also study Health and Social Care and Art, where I have a strong interest in Fashion and Textiles. I am happy I chose to move to St Louis for Sixth Year as it's a really good school.



**My name is John Eddie Convery and I'm from Kilrea.** I am studying Applied Business, Applied ICT and Sports Studies for AS and I am hoping to find a career in something Business related in the future. I also really enjoy sports - I play both soccer and Gaelic for the McLarnon team.



# JUNIOR DEBATING TRIP TO STORMONT



**On Tuesday 15th January the Junior Debating Team paid a visit to Stormont; the home of some heated debates!**

As we first approached the building, we were amazed by the sheer size and impressive façade which we commented upon in the visitors' book on arrival. We were greeted by our tour guide, Marina, who gave us a presentation on the Good Friday Agreement and local and European laws.

Afterwards, we had the good fortune of gaining access to the Environmental Committee meeting. Anna Lo was the chairperson and she gave us a warm welcome. They were discussing a topic which could greatly affect us: changing the legal age to start driving. It was interesting to hear the results of surveys regarding this issue and how the MLAs communicated with one another. Each member had a large folder of paperwork just for that meeting (bigger than our schoolbags) and we were told they are provided with a new folder each week!

During our tour of the building, we were treated to lots of historical facts. Maths enthusiasts amongst us were in awe of the exact symmetry of its interior!

To end the tour it was only fitting that we participated in a debate. However, the surroundings could not have been any more different from our classroom – it took place in the Assembly Chamber. There we debated about making cycling helmets compulsory.

We thoroughly enjoyed our trip to Stormont and who knows, maybe some day one of us could be working there!

## YEAR 8 AT THE HELM OF LOUGHAN SCHOOL'S ASSEMBLY

**St Louis Traditional Group were delighted to have been invited again to Loughan School, Ballymena on 12th March 2015.**

The pupils and staff are always welcoming and join in the performance with clapping and cheers. This year, due to senior pupils being in 'lock-down' for their exam preparation, we encouraged our talented Year 8 pupils to take the lead in playing three sets of tunes for their special St Patrick's Day Assembly. Mr Convery even got to present certificates to pupils at the school who had achieved something special that week! From guitars and fiddles to whistles and accordions, the pupils acquitted themselves beautifully and made it a very enjoyable experience for all involved.



## POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD FOR STUDENTS & TEACHER

**On Thursday 5th February, 41 of our Year 14 students received the Pope John Paul II Award for the first time in a number of years since the award has been active in our school.**

The Pope John Paul II Award is dedicated to the memory of the late Pope John Paul II whose love of young people was so profound that it was set up as an opportunity for young people to work in their parish, to work in their community/school, to meet other young people, to have fun, to challenge themselves, to use their talents and to learn new skills. The Pope John Paul II Award will enable our pupils to become more actively involved in the life of their parish and community.

Commitment to the Award is for 16 months, during which time, each young person registers 20 sessions or activities in their parish and 20 sessions or activities in their community or with a charitable or social justice organization. If a young person completes their award card fully, then they will receive 'Gold' status at the end of the programme. The award is non-competitive, flexible and voluntary.

Our own facilitator and Religion teacher, Shauna Bigmore, also received this year's Leadership Award for all her work with the Pope John Paul students as well as her involvement with other Diocese initiatives. She has led the largest group in the Diocese this year to receive the Award. We congratulate her and thank her for all her hard work.

The ceremony was beautifully hosted in St Mary's Church, Belfast with several other young people from schools across the diocese receiving awards presented by Bishop Farquhar. We would like to thank Pauline Dowd (Director) and all at Living Youth for facilitating the ceremony and giving our young people the support and enabling them to reflect on their involvement in their faith.



# FRIENDS FOR ROMANIA

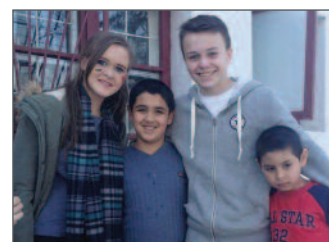
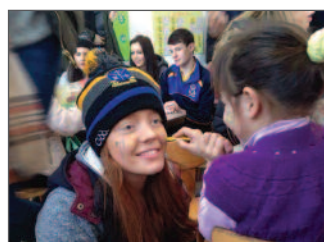
Friends for Romania is an interschool project which has been involved in the provision of much needed resources for orphanages, schools and hospitals in the Brasov area of central Romania since 1991.

This year's week long trip from 11th to 18th February took around 40 lower sixth pupils, accompanied by teachers Mr Marquess, Mr Heffron, Mrs Doherty and Miss Wallace to Bucharest via Dublin. The work of the pupils was once again centred on the Brasov area of Transylvania, with pupils being broken off into groups so as to visit a range of schools, orphanages, hospitals and care homes in morning and afternoon sessions. Before leaving on the trip, each pupil had to raise £500, with the group as a whole managing to raise over £25,000 with more money still coming in, to go out in the summer. The money went towards aid, food and cleaning equipment for all the places the groups visited.

Many pupils mentioned finding the trip 'shocking' to see the conditions that many of those who they visited were living in. Indeed, they noted that something as simple as bubbles and balloons brought large smiles and laughs from the children that they met, which made them appreciate everything that they had at home so much more.

One lucky Year 13 pupil to go on the trip was Chantelle Hayes who said, *'Romania was a once in a lifetime opportunity that I was fortunate to take part in! Every day, we visited a range of orphanages, homes and schools; you cannot believe how amazing the children were. Simple items to us, such as hats, gloves, toys and balloons meant so much more to them. To witness first hand the money we had raised being put to such good use and seeing how much of a difference it made to these children's life was such a touching experience. One which I would love to experience again!'*

Overall the students said that the trip was the most rewarding week of their lives for many reasons, from helping those that were less fortunate, but also for the friendships that they made while there. It is certainly an experience that they will remember and cherish for many years to come and that many of them will be sure to do again.



## CONGRATULATIONS MICHAEL!

**Well done to Michael McKenna who has been selected for the Northern Ireland U18 Schoolboys squad for 2015.**

Michael has played at international level since he was U15 and has moved up through the ranks which highlights his development, commitment and dedication to the sport. Michael and the rest of the squad will be involved in the upcoming Centenary Shield which involves matches against England, Scotland, Wales and Republic of Ireland. The U18 team mentors are Frankie Wilson and Conor Marlin.

Michael is from Larne and plays club soccer for Carrick Rangers who play in the Belfast Telegraph Championship League 1 and are currently sitting fifth in the league. He is in Upper Sixth and is studying PE, History and Applied IT for A Level.

All within the St Louis community wish Michael every success on his international selection and in the upcoming competition.



## ST LOUIS SPORTS AWARDS SUCCESS

**Following their hat trick of Ulster titles in 2014, St Louis was recognised for their fantastic achievements at the recent Ballymena Sports Awards as they won the School Sporting Performance of the Year Award.**

The 17th annual ceremony recognises the success and talents of athletes of all ages and sporting codes within the Ballymena Borough Council.

The judging panel could not differentiate between the three St Louis team's success in Gaelic games in 2014 so they opted to short list them as one nomination. Indeed when you read on paper about the efforts of the Junior camogs, the Kirk Cup team and the young Corn Colmcille footballers, it was a very impressive summary and without doubt St Louis were very worthy winners of the award.

Aimée McAtamney and Conor Gillan collected School Sporting Performance award from Ronan McCann of Black Advertising who sponsored the category. Aimée and Conor were involved with all three teams last year and when interviewed by Jackie they gave credit to all the players for their commitment and dedication to the school teams, their clubs for the development of the players over the years and also to their parents and families for bringing the pupils to and from training especially when it was outside of school hours. The experiences our students had in 2014 has helped prepare them for the top tier of Ulster College's competitions and playing at the top level will only help further develop our athletes as they continue to represent the school, their clubs and their county.

This is the fourth time St Louis won the 'School Sporting Performance Award' at the Sports Awards and we are sure it won't be our last.



Eoghan Daly & Séan Elliot (Corn Colmcille Captains), Eadaoin McGarry (Junior Camogie Captain), Cathal McMullan (Kirk Cup Captain) and Mr G Adams (Head of PE and Sport in St Louis).



# MASITA ALL IRELAND COLLEGES POST PRIMARY SCHOOLS MICHAEL CUSACK CUP SEMI FINAL

**St Louis Ballymena 2-12**  
**St Declan's Kilmacthomas 2-17 (AET)**

St Louis senior hurlers were only seconds away from the school's first ever appearance in an All Ireland Hurling Final only for their opponents St Declan's of Waterford taking the game to extra time and shattering the Kintullagh boys' dreams of glory.

Having won the Casement Cup in November, the senior hurlers had a long wait until their All Ireland semi final which was played on Saturday 7th March in Ashbourne, County Meath. Their opponents from Kilmacthomas had only played their Munster final two weeks previous and this was perhaps the only margin between St Louis qualifying for the All Ireland Final. While St Louis had maintained a structured training regime and included challenge games against Derry minors and Loughgiel U21's in their preparations, their longer lay off between the Ulster and All Ireland series was evident in comparison to their opponents.

St Louis captain James McNaughton won the toss and elected to play with the stiff, diagonal breeze in the first half. McNaughton was top scorer in the half as he scored 0-5 from play and frees and was a central figure for his side's brilliant first half performance. Ciaran Elliott raised the green flag for St Louis after 7 minutes and his Dunloy club mate Conal Cunning also contributed two points from play.

Kilmacthomas had the gap reduced to two points within ten minutes of the restart but two fine scores from Keelan Molloy appeared to settle St Louis. The game was nip and tuck until two minutes from time when St Declan's centre half back levelled the game. The large St Louis support had great reason to cheer as James McNaughton pointed a 59th minute free and as the game entered injury time it seemed that the St Louis side had created their own piece of history. But it was not to be. With ten seconds remaining on the clock, up stepped Billy Power to save the day for St Declan's as the corner back fired a long range shot high between the posts to force the game to extra time.

St Declan's were better set up for defending the first half of extra time against the breeze and limited St Louis to a single point in the opening ten minutes of the half – scored by Sean Duffin. Once again there was little to separate the teams in the second half until St Louis dreams were shattered when St Declan's centre half forward scored a goal three minutes from time and then they tagged on two late points to progress to the All Ireland final on a score line of 2-17 to 2-12.

When the hurt and disappointment of this semi final defeat has somewhat eased the players and mentors can reflect on their achievements in 2014/15. They can be proud of their performances during the Casement Cup campaign and their preparations in the build up to the St Declan's encounter. Ten of the Casement panel were also involved in the MacLarnon campaign this year so the boys are to be commended for their commitment to the senior teams. On the day, despite being under dogs, St Louis were on a par with their Munster counterparts and while the breeze did have an effect on the game, some of their scores were excellent. Every player who took to the pitch played their hearts out and were a credit to the badge and the jersey.



## MACLARNON CUP 2014/15

**St Louis' hopes of appearing in the St Patrick's Day MacLarnon Cup final were shattered on Saturday 28th February as they fell to a very powerful Our Lady's Castleblayney in the semi final of the competition. A serious injury to midfielder Connell Lemon early in the game was a huge loss to the St Louis challenge.**

Our Lady's had a strong wind advantage in the opening half and the St Louis defensive set up proved effective as the Monaghan side were forced to shoot from distance. Castleblayney were awarded a penalty in the opening twenty seconds of the game but St Louis' keeper Andrew Hasson saved brilliantly to push the ball out for a 45. Our Lady's registered the opening score of the game with a 4th minute point. From the kick out St Louis half back Conor Kinsella powered forward and linked up with Keelan Molloy whose low shot skimmed past the post. There was a lengthy delay then following the injury to Connell Lemon and when play resumed St Louis scored two points in quick succession from Eamon Fyfe and Sean Duffin. 'Blayney had the game level within a minute and pushed on from there as they pointed five more times before the break to lead 0-7 to 0-2 at half time.



In the second half, St Louis got off to a blistering start and points from Keelan Molloy and Conor McFerran reduced the gap to three points. However that was to be their only two scores of the half as Our Lady's packed their defence and St Louis despite giving it everything in the final twenty five minutes of play, could not find a way through the Monaghan rear guard. Our Lady's kicked four second half points and progressed to the MacLarnon Cup final (0-11 to 0-4) where they meet fellow Monaghan school, Patrician Carrickmacross.

Commiserations to Mr Adams, Mr Henry and the MacLarnon Cup squad. The semi final loss was their only defeat of the year as they topped their group before Christmas. The entire panel, many of whom are dual players must be commended for their commitment and dedication to the school senior teams. The majority of the panel will be available for next year's MacLarnon so the aim will be to build on the foundations laid during this year's campaign.



# BTEC AGRICULTURE FARM VISIT



On Monday 9th March we set off from Ballymena for the Gobbins Farm; a Dairy and Beef farm located on top of the Gobbins cliffs in Islandmagee, Co. Antrim. We were greeted by Mr Willie Woodside who told us he was born on this farm 86 years ago; it was great to see him so keen to be involved and help with day to day activities around the yard. His son, Stuart, who runs the farm, chatted to us and was keen to find out from Ciaran in our class how he likes the Lely Robotic Milker that he has on his farm (Lely should really pay Ciaran for marketing their product so well!!).

In class we have been learning about promoting and maintaining good health in animals and the purpose of this visit was to learn and be assessed on administering medication and carrying out treatment on animals. Michael Woodside, a vet with Clare Vet Group, spent the afternoon demonstrating a range of procedures for us and talking to us about a range of animal health issues. We all got involved in taking temperatures, disbudding, dosing and cauterising calves. It was definitely a hands-on day and a good opportunity to put the theory learned in class into practice.

# GENERATION INNOVATION 2015



**Generation Innovation believes Northern Ireland can and will become a leading entrepreneurial knowledge economy by 2030.**

To do this they need to nurture our biggest natural resource: our young people. They provide a platform for young people to be inspired by leading global innovators, meet local entrepreneurs and like-minded young people, and to identify work experience positions and future career paths.

The following students have been nominated for the next Generation Innovation Night of Ambition:

Karolina Dymek	Rian Patterson	Chantelle Hayes
Nicole Traynor	Brenda Laverty	

Rian Patterson was one of three students in Northern Ireland to be selected to promote the Night of Ambition. Rian was taken to Farset Labs in Belfast for a photo-shoot where he met the organizers of the event. Rian says: *'Generation innovation wanted future entrepreneurs, who would become part of the knowledge economy, and I feel like I have an entrepreneurial spirit. I love buying and selling, and generally the idea of making money. I hope to be one of the 'entrepreneurs of tomorrow', and so applying to generation innovation seemed like a 'no-brainer'. It's the perfect opportunity for someone like myself who wants to work in the business world.'*



## 'POETRY IN MOTION' LAUNCH DAY

On Monday 23rd March, 8 Lisbreen and their English teacher Mrs McCann travelled to the Ulster Hall in Belfast to celebrate the class' hard-work and creativity. Over the course of first term the class worked with a local poet, Raquel Mckee, to create and perform their own poems. This programme produced an outstanding array of creative and original poetry which was a testament to the talent in the class.

The event in the Ulster Hall allowed the class to hear the work of all participating schools and 5 of our pupils were given the opportunity to perform their work in front of the 800 plus audience; including teachers and pupils from across Northern Ireland, the Lord Mayor of Belfast and esteemed poet, Michael Longley. The pupils were outstanding and have no doubt grown in confidence as a result of this experience. Well done to all of 8 Lisbreen!

## SEACHTAIN NA GAELIGE

Once again, the Irish department organised a week of 'spraoi' and 'craic' during seachtain na Gaeilge.

Lynette Fay from Radio Ulster visited the school and gave a very informative talk on how the Irish language helped in her career. The pupils were treated to a 'céilí, tráth na gceist (quiz), rith (fun run) and numerous other activities. Our senior pupils enjoyed a 'bricfeasta mór' in the canteen. A great time was had by one and all!



# ST. LOUIS NOW A PARTNER SCHOOL WITH LIBERTY IT

The Careers department at St. Louis are actively seeking to partner up with major employers in order to fully enrich the curriculum for our young people. We identified Liberty IT as a prestigious company that we were keen to get involved with and therefore, we were delighted when they responded positively and suggested we develop a partnership.

For over 17 years, Liberty IT has worked on technically complex and responsive IT solutions exclusively for their U.S. parent company, Liberty Mutual Insurance, which employs over 50,000 people worldwide and is ranked on the Fortune 100 list. We are proud to become associated with this incredibly successful and forward-thinking organisation.

Between their Headquarters in Belfast and their branch in Blanchardstown, Dublin, they currently employ over 440 talented individuals across a wide variety of IT roles, and play a key part in Liberty Mutual's wider IT operations which employs 4500 IT professionals throughout the world.

We believe our students will benefit from being involved with the company as it will:

- Increase motivation resulting in better achievement and attendance
- Increase awareness of career options
- Improve preparation for the world of work
- Enrich curriculum and bringing the learning alive
- Identify successful role models
- Acquisition of new skills

In addition, Liberty IT will prioritise our students with regards to their Year 13 work experience and will come in to speak to our students regarding IT and the jobs within the sector.

We were delighted to be invited to the Liberty IT Belfast office recently, to consolidate the partnership and view the premises and employees in action.

We look forward to a long, fruitful and blossoming partnership with Liberty IT.



## SKI TRIP 2015

91 Year 10 pupils and 9 staff enjoyed a fun filled week on the slopes on the school's fifth bi-annual ski trip. The large group from St Louis departed Belfast on Saturday 17th January destined for Folgaria in Italy. Staying in Hotel Miramonti, we had to get a bus to the slopes each morning but everyone enjoyed six fantastic days skiing. We had two hours ski lessons in the morning and then had lunch beside the slopes before two more hours of lessons in the afternoon. The majority of pupils had never skied before but they made incredible progress and some had advanced up the mountain after only 2 ½ days of lessons.

On Thursday afternoon everyone took part in a slalom race and winners were announced on Friday evening back in the hotel. St Louis staff were delighted to see the ability and the confidence of the pupils develop as the week went on and more importantly how they had mastered the stopping technique! There were many falls and collisions over the course of the week but everyone got up laughing and carried on!

Despite the tired and weary bodies as the week went on, the pupils took part in fun après-ski activities including ice skating, cinema, shopping in Folgaria and a disco. We also attended mass on the Sunday evening and were given a warm welcome by the priest and congregation. Our flight home on the 24th was not until the evening so the group spent a lovely few hours in the busy but beautiful city of Verona on Saturday afternoon and enjoyed lunch in the sun and buying last minute presents for family and friends.

It was a tired but happy St Louis party who arrived back to the George Best City Airport on Saturday evening where parents and families were waiting patiently (and excitedly) on their children returning home. It was back to school on Monday morning as usual for all but the memories of a wonderful week in Folgaria will remain with the students for a long time!



## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY STEM DAY

On 5th and 6th March 2015, all Year 10 Pupils took part in a 'Big Bang Inspire Me' STEM Day, working in teams to solve practical challenges throughout the day.

The morning involved a number of practical activities and the afternoon then had a design task to get them thinking and solving problems. The theme for the day was Renewable Solutions. The Renewable Solutions had practical activities such as building wind propellers and a renewable energy solar powered wind turbine. This was followed by a cut and paste activity in the afternoon involving the conversion of a standard house to include many renewable sources of energy such as photovoltaic solar panels, wind generators, improving insulation and heating systems to make the house 'Carbon Neutral'. The standard of the work produced was excellent; our future does indeed look bright and green!





# WORLD BOOK DAY



**This year World Book Day took place on Thursday 5th March.**

It is an annual celebration of authors, illustrators, books and most importantly, reading. Each year the school library celebrates World Book Day with a variety of events and activities. From Wednesday 4th – Friday 6th March there was a book fair in the library with books, posters and stationery available to buy. On the day itself various events took place throughout the school to celebrate World Book Day. During registration students shared their love of reading by passing on a book they had read to someone they thought would enjoy it, and then during Period 1 they dropped everything to read! Also, the library ran a 'spotlight review' competition in which pupils compiled a mini review of the section of the book they read in Period 1, with prizes for the top 3. Prizes were awarded to: Tara Murphy (9 Lisbreen), JB Higgins and Caitlin Butler (9 Laragh). There was also a genre workshop for the first 30 year 8 pupils who came to the library at lunch with a chance to win a top prize! The stories produced by pupils who attended the workshop were fantastic, with a prize being awarded to Emma Murray (8 Lismoyle) for her story based on the mystery genre. Well done to everyone who took part in these activities – it really helped to make our World Book Day a success!

# SOROPTIMIST INTERNATIONAL ANNUAL YOUTH AWARD

Having been awarded 1st place in the Regional Final of the Soroptimist Annual Youth Award, Eimer McAuley (L6th) progressed to the Northern Ireland Final which was held in Hillsborough in February.

As well as delivering a prepared speech entitled, *'Cyber World: Friend or Foe?'* competitors had to give an impromptu speech based on the title *'And then I knew it was a golden opportunity'*. Needless to say, Eimer produced an excellent speech, and although she did not place, her efforts to prepare for the Final and the standard she upheld on the day, were most impressive.



# COCA-COLA TRIP

**On the 21st January 2015, two Year 13 Applied Business Studies classes visited the Coca-Cola Hellenic visitor experience in Lisburn.**

For our course we had to nominate and write about an enterprising manager; our class choose Julie-Ann McLean - Learning & Development Manager at Coca-Cola HBC.

On arrival we visited the Coca-Cola cinema; here we watched a short clip about the history of Coca-Cola. After the movie was over we had an engaging tour guide who taught us about the production of coke; for example: the blowing of the bottles, the manufacturing of cans, the piping on the ceilings that transport the secret ingredients and the hygiene regulations that every room has to follow. We could see products being made by the new modernist technologies such as computerised robots which drove around the production site controlling what was happening and transporting objects.

When we visited the activity room, we discussed more about the marketing behind Coca-Cola and this was something we really enjoyed. I loved looking at all the different marketing campaigns that Coca-Cola had developed throughout their history and how they are always striving to be innovative and creative!

Our tour then finished with an opportunity to explore the interactive activities room.

Our question and answer section then took place with Julie-Ann McLean and we were all excited to ask our prepared questions and to meet Julie-Ann to see what she was like. Julie-Ann was so informative and helpful and she was the perfect choice of enterprising manager.

Overall this experience helped us learn more about Julie-Ann and how an enterprising manager works within an enterprising business.

We all really enjoyed our time at Coca-Cola Hellenic.







## TASTY CAREERS IN FOOD AND DRINK

Over the past week food ambassadors from the tasty careers programme have visited the Home Economics department in St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena.

Their purpose was to promote the excellent job opportunities in the food and drink manufacturing industry to young people as potential careers, with both lucrative salaries and great long term prospects. Mr Geoff Lamb, Business Development Manager for NI Food and Drink Sector Skills, Gemma Turkington, Manager from Moy Park and Joanna Burns and Nicola Graham from the Human Resources Department, Dale Farm provided a thoroughly entertaining and informative profile of their educational path to their current positions, aspects of their day-to-day jobs, salary ranges and aspirations for the future. This programme proved extremely beneficial for students and provided an excellent insight to the wide range of career opportunities open to students within the food and drink manufacturing industry.

## BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

In January, 19 Year 14 students took part in the annual **Biology Olympiad**. This competition consisted of 2 one hour online exam papers which tested skill, knowledge and application in Biology. The questions were very complicated, many were of degree standard. Almost 6000 students from all over the UK took part, a record number of competitors. Four St Louis competitors were delighted to discover that they were bronze medal winners and placed in the top 15% of competitors. Ciara Dobbin, Danielle Baird, Claire McAleese, and Conor McFerran achieved Highly Commended and Roisin Magee, Sorcha Conlon, Emma Devlin and Mark Crawford were awarded Commended certificates.

The four bronze medal winners have now been invited to an Awards Ceremony in the Royal Society of Biology, London in June to recognise their achievements. All competitors would like to thank their teachers, Miss McCaw, Mrs Monaghan and Miss McIlrath for their help and support during the competition.

Eimear Higgins, Kathryn Magill, Sian McGarel and Megan Taggart.



## ROYAL SOCIETY OF CHEMISTRY SUCCESS



Four of our pupils competed in the prestigious Royal Society of Chemistry "Top of the Bench Chemistry Competition" at Queen's University this term. The team consisted of: Ruairi Carland, Year 12, Owen Dempster, Year 11, Sarah Dempster and Bromwyn McAuley, both Year 10.

In the three rounds, which included a Chemistry Quiz, a paper test and a practical Chemistry section, they came out on top, winning £25 worth of Apple/Android vouchers each for their efforts.

They now go forward to represent Northern Ireland in the UK competition on the 25th April in Loughborough University. We wish them every success!

## GAEL LINN QUIZ

Year 11 Irish pupils participated in a gael linn quiz in the Glenavon Hotel Cookstown on Thursday 5th February.

Schools from all over Northern Ireland and even a school from Monaghan took part in the quiz. Here is the winning St Louis team: Niamh Callan, Fiona Hills, Ryan McGarry and Brenna Quinn.



**Friends of St Louis NIC100223 continue to support and advance the education of the students of St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena, with their recent decision to donate to the school £2000 from funds raised.** This money will be used by the teaching staff within the school to set up and promote an awards system for students to avail of in order to support their development. The money will be divided between a range of awards which will be accessible across various departments and subject areas and open to all students within the school. With your continued support FOSL hope to be able to facilitate this award system annually.

FOSL would like to invite everyone to our next event, an FOSL Table Quiz, to be held on May 29th 2015 so keep the date free and look out for details of venue and time through the school website and text messaging service.

Our next major whole school event is currently being planned for the Autumn Term and we look forward to running an FOSL Fashion Show in the school on Friday 23rd October 2015 which will involve many of the students and staff and is kindly being supported by many local retailers.

We would also encourage you to keep using The Giving Machine with Friends of St Louis NIC100223 as your nominated charity in making online purchases of goods and holidays.

We would like to thank all the staff, parents and wider school community for their support for our fund raising efforts and look forward to seeing you all at our upcoming events.

## FRENCH DEBATE

On the 26th February, the A Level French class travelled to Queen's University, Belfast to compete in the annual A Level French Debate. The team competed against St Michael's, Lurgan in the final round of the day to argue that 'Sport is the best medication'. With convincing arguments from both sides and an array of heckling being done, there was a tense atmosphere present throughout the debate. The judges claimed that the final decision was a tough one to make, and unfortunately, the St Louis team ended the day in second place. Although the team didn't win, the disappointment was overshadowed when Emma Rutherford was presented with Best Speaker at the end of the debate.



## AN INSIGHT INTO INNOVATION 7

**Being offered the opportunity to start our own enterprise in Applied Business was an aspect that very much appealed to the team of, "Innovation 7" and myself.**

Like any typical business there was a recruitment process and therefore each of the individuals in our class applied for job roles which we thought were best suited to our skills and abilities. I became the managing director. With the help of my 5 teammates we combined our talents and innovation to become successful and as a result we are delighted with the positive response and the product itself. We raised an amazing £1077.30 profit and this will help our chosen charity, "The Alzheimer's Society".

We considered many products but eventually decided on our chosen product, "The Power Bank". A universal, external, portable charger that enables individuals to charge any phone at any time.

The experience of running our own enterprise is something I will carry and value when going on to university. I myself have applied to do Business Management at Queen's and have found this experience very beneficial in my next step in life. It has built upon my confidence that I have the ability to lead, transfer my passion of succeeding, motivate and learn additional skills from other individuals and deliver a successful business.

**Shannon McLernon**





# JUNK KOUTURE SUCCESS

Junk Kouture is an annual recycling competition where students are invited to create high-end wearable fashion from the 'junk' we would normally throw in the bin.

This year, St Louis had five entries demonstrating fantastic creativity and imagination. Three of the entries - from Gabrielle Lennon (Yr 14), Ciara McMullan (Yr 11) and Alisija Sestakova (Yr 10) - received a 'Silver Ticket' from Jan of The Bank of Ireland, sponsors of Junk Kouture. Jan visited the school on Friday 13th February to announce that these 3 girls had been selected to proceed to the Regional Final in Derry.

Ciara and Alisija also attended Q Radio Ballymena to be interviewed by Dennis O'Neill and Adelle McCann about their dresses for Junk Kouture. Last Thursday Alisija, Ciara and Gabrielle were invited to the 20th anniversary celebrations of Eco Schools Projects at Magherafelt. They had a fantastic day and took part in a professional fashion shoot and a mini catwalk experience. The models were treated like true professionals and were actually given fifty euros each to thank them for agreeing to model for the event.

On Monday 9th March Alisija, Ciara, Gabrielle and their teams attended the Junk Kouture Regional Finals in Derry. This event consisted of the 80 competitors who were selected from the North East Region so out of the hundreds of entrants our girls were delighted to make it to this stage. On the night Gabrielle Lennon's dress 'Berry Bliss', modelled beautifully by Olivia Foley, was selected to proceed to the Grand Finals in Dublin on April 24th. All the girls were absolutely amazing and put on a fabulous show, we are so proud of them all. The other members of the teams were Izabela Wosinek (Team Alisija), Emily Candlish and Sarah McGarry (Team Ciara) and Olivia Foley and Catherine Lennon (Team Gabrielle). These girls were equally amazing because they support with hair, make-up and dance routines and overall encouragement. They also put so much effort and commitment into making sure that everything was perfect for the event. Well done girls!

We wish Gabrielle, Olivia and Catherine all the best for Dublin and would encourage as many as possible to attend as the support gives the competitors such a boost.





# DEBATING SUCCESS AT LITERIFIC

On Wednesday 25th of February two teams from the Senior Debate club took part in the Literific and Alpha Newspapers Schools' Debating Competition.

Team 1 was Lisa Davies and Eimer McAuley.  
Team 2 was Jack Carland and Eimear Scullion.

The Literific & Scientific Society at Queen's University of Belfast is the oldest society in Queen's, founded in 1850. Today the society has around 35 events per year and attendance at weekly debates is around 60-100 members.

The competition for schools began last year with sixteen teams and flourished this year with over twenty from schools throughout Ulster. It was an excellent experience for our teams to foster their competitive debating skills.

The first motion was provided in advance; 'Social Media is creating an Anti-Social Nation.' Each team battled it out against three other schools. After lunch and a nail-biting wait the final four teams were announced... both St Louis teams successfully glided into the final!

The next motion to be announced was the significantly more challenging; 'This House would intervene in Foreign Conflict.' The St Louis teams were pitted against each other and were given 30 minutes to prepare their speeches. The other two teams were Ballymena Academy and Methodist College, Belfast. The schools were praised by the panel for their energy, advanced arguments and style. Afterwards, the esteemed judges convened briefly to deliberate over the overall winners and Team 1 St Louis were awarded overall runners up!

A most worthwhile trip; the teams look forward to pushing the debate even further next year!



## ST LOUIS AND THE ULSTER YOUTH CHOIR



On the 10th of February, our Senior Choir was visited by Dominic from the Ulster Youth Choir. Ulster Youth Choir was established in 1999 to provide the best of Northern Ireland's young singers aged 15-24 with the opportunity to sing together to the highest possible standards, receiving training from some of the best choral and vocal practitioners from throughout the UK and Ireland.

This was a workshop like no other. Dominic had us shaking, stamping, humming and clapping in order to unleash our inner rhythm. Personally, when I think 'Choir workshop', I immediately think of standing in rows singing tedious scales, but Dominic took us by surprise. For the first 20 minutes of the workshop no one spoke, instead we communicated through sounds. We repeated the movements and sounds made by Dominic and our once tentative and nervous choir had been given a new lease of life. We harmonised songs by Adele, Little Mix and the Black Eyed Peas in what curiously mimicked a real life Glee Project.

Dominic was impressed by the vocal abilities of our choir and offered ten places in the Ulster Youth Training Choir.

## UPCOMING DATES & EVENTS

### APRIL

Years 12, 13, 14 Only Should Attend Wed 1st April.

Easter Holiday Thurs 2nd April – Fri 10th April inclusive.

Lourdes Trip Sun 5th April – Sat 11th April.

Year 11 MMR/DTP Vaccine Mon 13th April.

### MAY

Holiday Mon 4th May.

External Exams Begin Mon 11th May.

Sports Day Wed 20th May.

Staff Development Day Mon 25th May. (Pupils should not attend)

Year 9 History Workshop Tues 26th May.

### JUNE

Year 9 HPV2 Vaccine Mon 15th June.

Interclass for Years 8 to 10 Tues 23rd June – Thurs 25th June.



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