



THE

KINTULLAGH VOICE



YEAR 10 HIT THE SLOPES!

Ski Trip page 20



SUCCESS AT BEA AWARDS! Page 2



Northern Ireland
Top Grammar
School 2019

A Level Grades x 3 Subjects
A*-C 100% (NI Average 78%)

April 2020

The Newsletter of St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena



Contents

Easter Edition | April 2020

The BEA Awards 2	Eabha's Award	Ballymena Festival
SLG: A Perfect Score! 3	Winning Artwork 14	Success 24 & 25
Top Candidates in N.I. 4	True Colours Ceremony 14	Art Department host Ulster
St Louis in Strasbourg 4	Aisling is Ulster Champion 15	University Event 25
Open Nights 2020 5	Scottish Universities Tour 15	Maths Challenge Winners 26
President's Award 6 & 7	Angus Youth Challenge	Mini Enterprise
Year 10 Options Season 8	Winners 15	Foodbank Donation 26
TEEP Open Day 8	Romania Trip 2020 16	Art Department
Holocaust Memorial Day 9	Apprenticeship Week N.I. 17	Gallery Tour 26
Dylan is Regional	Drama in Derry 17	Career Encode 27
Ambassador 9	Junk Kouture 18	QUB Opportunity
World Book Day 10 & 11	Tasty Careers 19	for Niamh 27
A Fond Farewell 11	The Quality in	Coronavirus: Living Through
Lights, Camera, Action	Careers Standard 19	Unprecedented Times 28
for Beth 12	Year 14 Mock Interviews 19	When This is Over 28
SLG Student Council 12	Ski Trip to Austria 20	
Biology Olympiad 15	Comhghairdeas! 21	
Gael Linn Champions! 15	Francofest 2020 21	
Award of Recognition	St Louis has the F Factor 22	
for Adam 14	Tanya Roberts Visit 23	

THE BEA AWARDS

On 30th January, the British Education Awards held their fourth annual awards ceremony in the Hilton Hotel, Manchester, to mark academic excellence in individual students.

As well as being the fourth year of the event, it was the fourth year that St. Louis have had a finalist in the A Level category and the second year we've had a finalist in the GCSE category. This was also the third year running where a St. Louis student won the overall A Level category. This in itself is a remarkable achievement, and we are immensely proud of all our pupils.

Maeve Henry, a current Year 13 student, was a finalist in the GCSE category and Caoimhinn Gormley, a recent past pupil, was the finalist and overall winner in the A Level category. Both girls are the epitome of academic excellence – achieving the top grades in their exams through industry, self-discipline and endeavour while committing fully to their sporting and musical lives and the school community. We know that both girls will continue to achieve academic excellence in their A Level and 3rd Level educational journeys.





SLG – A PERFECT SCORE!

For the first time EVER a Northern Irish school has achieved a 'perfect score'! We are proud to announce our first place in the Irish News League tables with a score of 100% A* - C grade at A level.

Congratulations to our wonderful staff and pupils on maintaining our position as the top grammar school in Northern Ireland! This is a true reflection of our school mantra, 'Excellence, Endeavour and Empowerment'. Well done everyone!

"To say we as a school are delighted with last year's public examination results would be an understatement! The whole St Louis Grammar School community is thrilled and the outstanding results really reflect both the positivity and the spirit of teamwork that we encourage at all times inside the classroom and beyond. As a school, we pride ourselves on ensuring our students gain successful outcomes at GCSE/GCE and this year once again we have surpassed those internal challenging targets with the 100 per cent figure. To have every student in sixth form leave St Louis with an exceptionally strong academic profile is a really huge advantage for them whether students decide to pursue high demand courses at university or follow the higher national apprenticeship route. While this year's results have been magnificent, we are also aware that over the last number of years SLG has been a top performing school in NI and that these results from our students merely consolidate our achievements of the past as well. Consistently outstanding academic outcomes such as these, over a number of years are the combination of engaged students, deep curriculum planning, high quality learning and teaching experiences for students, rigorous tracking of student progress, supportive parents and of course a superb teaching staff. As a school we are constantly monitoring and evaluating all aspects of curriculum delivery including engaging with our students regularly to ensure our students are not only achieving highly, but are both happy and enjoying their learning too."

Mr Rafferty

GRAMMAR SCHOOL EXAM PERFORMANCE (18/19)

SCHOOLS WITH THE HIGHEST % OF PUPILS ACHIEVING THREE OR MORE A-LEVELS AT GRADES A* TO C

SCHOOL	3+ A-LEVEL
1 St Louis, Ballymena	100.0
2 Regent House, Newtownards	93.4
3 Our Lady and St Patrick's, Belfast	91.6
4 Rainey Endowed, Magherafelt	90.2
5 St Mary's, Magherafelt	89.6
6 Lumen Christi, Derry	89.5
7 Rathmore, Belfast	89.4
8 Portadown College	89.3
9 St Dominic's, Belfast	88.8
10 Strathearn, Belfast	88.4
11 Wallace, Lisburn	87.7
12 Friends*, Lisburn	87.6
13 Cambridge House, Ballymena	87.2
14 Dalriada, Ballymoney	86.7
15 Our Lady's, Newry	86.1
16 Lurgan College	85.8
17 Banbridge Academy	85.1
18 Loreto, Coleraine	84.5
19 Aquinas, Belfast	84.3
20 St Patrick's, Downpatrick	84.1
21 Abbey Christian Brothers, Newry	84.0
22 Antrim Grammar	83.2
23 Larne Grammar	83.1
24 Christian Brothers', Omagh	83.0
25 St Colman's, Newry	82.7
26 Grosvenor, Belfast	82.5
27 Assumption, Ballynahinch	82.5
28 Dominican, Belfast	81.7
29 Ballyclare High	81.4
30 Ballyme...	81.3





TOP CANDIDATES IN NORTHERN IRELAND

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

Jack Galloway attained second place in GCSE Double Award Science and Sophie Elliott came third place in GCSE Business Studies. Congratulations to these two excellent students. This is well deserved recognition for all their hard work and dedication.



Excellence, Endeavour and Empowerment...

ST. LOUIS LEAD THE WAY IN STRASBOURG!

From 2nd – 7th February 2020 I was lucky enough to be involved in the Rotary Ireland Youth Development Award along with 25 other young people from across the island of Ireland. We spent the week exploring leadership and government in Belfast, Dublin and in Strasbourg.

We started our trip in Belfast, visiting the Titanic Centre and Stormont, where we received a tour and also had the opportunity to sit in the chamber while debates were happening. We then continued our trip to Dublin where we visited Dáil Éireann and the European Union Office in Dublin. We met one of the ambassadors, James TempleSmith, and were presented with our Youth Leader Awards.

Our Group then travelled to Strasbourg, where we had the opportunity to see some famous sights such as the Strasbourg Cathedral and to enjoy the town. On Thursday 6th February we spent a day in the European Parliament at the Euroscola Event. In the morning we had the opportunity to listen to various speakers from the EU and participate in the question and answer session. In the afternoon we were placed in groups, which comprised representatives from all 20 countries present that day, to discuss solutions and motions to a range of current subjects such as renewable energy.

Each group then had to appoint a spokesperson, who represented the group when in the parliament itself. For the first time ever, every representative from each of the six groups was Irish, creating a full Irish Panel. We then listened to each representative put forward a motion and we had the option to vote to pass or dismy the motion. It provided such an insight into the workings of parliament and the importance of compromise, communication and team work.

I thoroughly enjoyed my experience on the leadership trip and would recommend anyone to go forward for it if they receive the opportunity. I would like to thank both Rotary Ireland and Rotary Ballymena for allowing me to be involved in this experience.

Maeve Henry





OPEN NIGHTS 2020

The annual St Louis Open Nights are always integral events in the school calendar and 2020 certainly proved no exception! In late January we opened our doors to local P6 and P7 students as well as prospective 6th Form students as they sampled the experiences in a range of subject areas across two evenings.

Parents and pupils were welcomed by Mr. Rafferty who addressed many of the positive dynamics of the school, not least of which being superb academic achievements, high quality pastoral care, personalising the learning programmes and the holistic learning experiences which indeed sets St Louis Grammar School apart from most other schools.

Perhaps the most notable highlight on the tours was the addition of our stunning new Creative and Expressive Arts centre. It was a fabulous opportunity to showcase all that Kintullagh House, our lovingly restored and state of the art Convent Building, has to offer. The atmosphere throughout the school was one of energy, enthusiasm and a pride in learning and belonging, which we at St Louis strive to foster.

We received glowing feedback from prospective pupils and their parents, and we were glad to see they enjoyed the many interactive demonstrations being led by current students and teachers. As the photos illustrate, pupils were invited to sample everything from selfies in our green screen room, to sampling crepes in our French café!





A BRUSH WITH THE PRESIDENT!

St Louis were thrilled to receive a special recognition award from Michael D Higgins for promoting and facilitating the Gaisce President's Award.

Pictured here is our very own Mr McAfee with the man himself!



PRESIDENT'S AWARD DONATION

A massive thank you to all businesses who supported the President's Award pupils as they raised money for the charity Solving Kid's Cancer. Through a range of fundraising activities, they managed to raise £1000 for the chosen charity.

Well done to all President's Award pupils for their efforts.



SPECIAL DELIVERY TO ST LOUIS

Congratulations to the following lower sixth pupils who have successfully completed their Silver Award during Enrichment throughout this academic year:

Ciaran Agnew
Joseph Agnew
Calum Buchan
Patrick Dougan
Jack Fitzpatrick
Meabh Fyfe
Jack Galloway
Sean Haddon
Maeve Henry
Sean Higgins
Kathryn Kelly
Ryan Laverty
Katie Logan
Chloe Magjill
Orla Magjill
Cormac Mallon
Owen McAuley

Aoibhinn McCloskey
Rory McCloskey
Eimear McCormack
Colla McDonnell
Eoin McFerran
Cora McHugh
Mary McKillen
Kara McLaughlin
Niamh McMahon
Luke McToal
Maeve Mulholland
Jane O'Boyle
Ella O'Neill
Rebecca O'Neill
Maria O'Rawe
Ruxandra Ursan
Neve Wilkinson

This is a fantastic achievement by all and we look forward to making this presentation to the pupils once they return to school!





GAISCE PRESIDENT'S AWARD GOLD PUPILS

As a school community, it is an honour to facilitate the Gaisce President's Award in St Louis.

For those unaware, Gaisce or 'great achievement' is a self-development programme for young people between the ages of 15-25 and has been in existence since 1985. Through offering the Gaisce President's Award, our main aim is to ensure we have a programme which fits the needs of every young person who wishes to participate in the Gaisce programme and to give each participant the best possible opportunity to do so.

We believe in the ability and resilience of young people and through the Gaisce programme we want them to nurture that ability and to realise their full potential. We are committed to ensuring these core values are embedded across all areas of our work, and in our practice and processes.

Gaisce is focused on, and driven by, the following core values:

Empowerment

Making a difference, effecting change and enabling young people to shape their own path to self-discovery.

Inclusion & Equality

Every person has the opportunity to grow their potential through equality of access, participation and outcomes.

Respect

Valuing people equally, recognising diversity, and ensuring everyone is treated with dignity.

Excellence

Making an impact through pursuing the highest standards, operating with integrity and in a transparent manner.

This year, St Louis pupils completed the expedition Section of their Award in the Lake District National Park, England. The aim of this expedition is to develop initiative and a spirit of adventure by planning, training for and completing an adventurous journey as part of a team.

En route to the Lake District, the pupils stopped off at Go Ape High Ropes outdoor centre. Here they enjoyed climbing wall activities, team building challenges and the experience of watching Mrs Toner conquer her fear of heights. From these activities at the beginning of the trip, it was evident that each group had a strong team spirit and even though they were about to face a difficult challenge over the next four days, the enjoyment and excitement was evident in every child.

Pupils then travelled to Keswick and based themselves in the Denton House Hostel. This allowed for final planning of routes, an equipment check and a chance to relax and cook some dinner. There was no evidence of nerves as pupils began to assign each team member a role, but rather a sense of excitement and anticipation of what was to come.

Throughout the four days of the expedition, the St Louis pupils climbed through some of the most famous places to visit in the Lake District.

Day one of the expedition was set out to test pupils. This was the first experience since the practice hike of working as a team to navigate through an area of England that no pupils had been before. Upon meeting the different groups along the route, the enjoyment in the pupils faces was evident throughout. Although there were some 'questionable' navigation decisions at times, all pupils returned to the camp site safely!

Day two posed a significant challenge for the pupils. Battered by heavy rain and fog, pupils climbed along an old railway track to the top of Wasdale Head. At this point, with the weather getting significantly worse, pupils took the decision to follow the escape route off the mountain, and walk along the famous Wast Water Lake at the foot of Wasdale Head. Surprisingly, pupils were in great spirits, and once they reached camp, they took shelter and began to prepare hot drinks. From this point it was very pleasing from a leader's point of view to see the groups come together and put all training into practice.

The third day of this expedition was the most enjoyable day for the pupils. Knowing that the President's Award assessor would be meeting them at different points along the route, each pupil had to take ownership of one navigation leg. Pupils climbed across the mountain range from Wasdale Head to Buttermere, where they had the opportunity to observe RAF pilot training in full action. This was the most picturesque part of the trip and the enjoyment and sense of achievement on the pupils faces was evident, stopping for selfies along the route and taking time to jump into the natural rock pools. With perfect conditions and fantastic scenery, pupils began to feel a sense of achievement that the tough test that they had put themselves through was worthwhile. And with excellent feedback from the assessor about the conduct, ability and knowledge of our St Louis pupils, the morale at camp was very positive.

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

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

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

Well done to all involved on this fantastic achievement!

Mr McAfee





KICKING OFF YEAR 10 OPTIONS SEASON

The careers department organised a Sentinus Workshop for our Year 10 students, to help them understand and accept responsibility for their own learning and provide an insight into the world of work. The workshop covered a wide range of employability skills as well as an insight into personal study skills. The workshop formed part of their ongoing careers lessons on how best to choose their GCSE subjects and it was very well received by the pupils.

Importantly, the workshop also covered local and national Labour Market Information to help students identify suitable long-term career options, including the skills, qualities, job description, range of pay, and the educational requirements for a wide range of career choices.

The presentation was very motivational and hopefully provided a talking point at home for their up and coming GCSE subject choice decisions.



SLG HOSTS TEEP OPEN DAY

The SSAT Teacher Effectiveness Enhancement Programme (TEEP) is a teaching and learning framework that is proven to improve teaching and school outcomes. TEEP provides continuing professional development for teachers and develops community within a whole school context.

SLG have recently achieved TEEP Ambassador School status and on Friday 31st January, we were joined by over thirty school Principals and leading educationalists from across Northern Ireland, for our first ever TEEP Open Day.

This was a valuable opportunity to showcase the diverse pedagogical strategies our teaching staff have implemented to enhance learning outcomes in St Louis. As ever, our pupils impressed with their engaging participation and they also embraced the opportunity to outline to visitors the influence TEEP continues to have on their lessons. It was a pleasure to host and to share our TEEP journey, and we were pleased to hear it provided a positive snapshot of how profoundly the programme has promoted sharing best practice amongst staff, and united us in our common goal as educators.





YEAR 10 ATTEND HOLOCAUST EVENT IN CITY HALL

A poignant learning experience for Holocaust Memorial Day as some of our Year 10 pupils joined Cullybackey College to attend the memorial commemoration at City Hall Belfast. 2020 marks the 75th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz-Birkenau by the allies.

Below, our Year 14 pupil and Deputy Head Boy Dylan Magill, outlines his special affiliation with Holocaust Education in NI.



DYLAN IS REGIONAL AMBASSADOR

I was recently appointed as a Regional Ambassador for the Holocaust Educational Trust. As Regional Ambassador I represent the HET within Northern Ireland. I will hold this position for a three-year term, during which I am tasked with encouraging others to learn about and remember the Holocaust through events and projects within Northern Ireland, whilst also working to further my own knowledge.

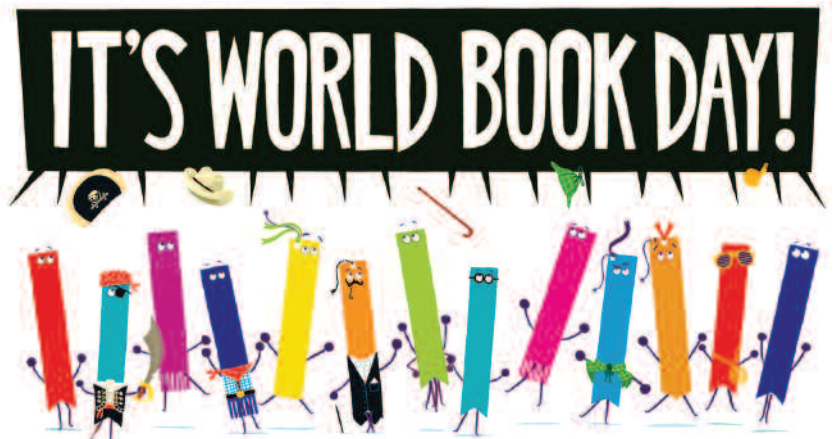
I intend to take full advantage of this marvellous opportunity to contribute as much as possible to Holocaust Education within Northern Ireland. As Regional Ambassador, I will help to organise the Lessons From Auschwitz Project, organise an event with a Holocaust survivor and a commemorative event for Holocaust Memorial Day. I also intend to create a series of teaching resources on the Holocaust and the dangers of discrimination to further spread the importance of inclusivity and acceptance. Additionally, this position provides the opportunity to attend study trips to places such as Jerusalem and Budapest to further my knowledge of the Holocaust and subsequent genocides.

Holocaust education is vitally important in ensuring that we learn from past atrocities to enable us to act to prevent future tragedies. We must learn from our history in order to take action against discrimination and injustice before it can build to a level that threatens the lives of innocent people. Holocaust survivor, Elie Wiesel, eloquently emphasises this when he states, "I swore never to be silent whenever and wherever humans endure suffering. We must always take sides. Neutrality helps the oppressor, never the victim. Silence encourages the tormentor, never the tormented."

Dylan Magill, Year 14

WORLD BOOK DAY

5 MARCH 2020



WORLD BOOK DAY

Key Stage 5 students celebrated World Book Day on Thursday 5th of March; a day packed with fun literary activities. Pupils began the morning with a special assembly, where the winners of our Year 8 Book Idol presentations were revealed on the big screen!

Period 2 saw every KS5 pupil in the school 'Drop Everything and Read'; and our avid readers in Year 8 took part in a special World Book Day quiz at lunchtime led by our Year 14 Literacy prefects, Leah Barker and Emer McAtamney.

Congratulations to all our winners and indeed, all of our students who showcased an inspiring passion for reading on the day!

BOOK IDOL 2020

Class Winners of Book Idol 2020:

- 8 Laragh: Dearbhla O'Neill and Aoife Johnston
- 8 Layde: Robert Crooks and Lowry Collins
- 8 Lisbreen: Fiontan Bradley (absent today) and Niall Kennedy
- 8 Lismoyle: Aaron Kerr and Ben Marrs
- 8 Lurig: Adam Donnelly (absent) and Clementine Barwick
- 8 Lyndon: Kevin McAleese and Diana Kertesz



WORLD BOOK DAY BOOKMARK COMPETITION

Congratulations to the winners of the World Book Day 'Design your own Bookmark' Competition, who all won Waterstones vouchers!

Their winning bookmarks are now available for everyone in the library!

- 8 Laragh: Blaithin McCann
- 8 Layde: Robert Crooks
- 8 Lisbreen: Luke Barro
- 8 Lismoyle: Isabelle Martin
- 8 Lurig: Laura Walls
- 8 Lyndon: Anna McNamee





WORLD BOOK DAY

5 MARCH 2020



Drop everything and read!



Lunch time quiz

A FOND FAREWELL

The Year 14 of 2020 were sorry to say goodbye to Ms Finch, their study supervisor.

Ms Finch has been with them since the start of their Sixth Form career, ensuring their commitment to their work during private study periods. She will be missed, and we at St. Louis, all wish her the best of luck as she moves on.





LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION FOR BETH!

My name is Beth Reilly and I am in Year 11. In May 2019 I had the very exciting experience of being an “extra” in a movie, called *The Windermere Children*, which was recently broadcast on the BBC as part of the commemoration of the liberation of the concentration camps during WW2, including Auschwitz and Bergen-Belsen. The plot centred around a coach load of Jewish children who had been rescued from Auschwitz and taken to Lake Windermere in the Lake District, for rehabilitation, in an attempt to assist their recovery from the horrors they had preciously witnessed.

Working on the set was so exciting; not only did I get to make lots of new friends from all over Ireland, I also got to meet several famous actors including Ian Glenn (who starred in *Game of Thrones*), Tim McInnerness (from *Notting Hill* and *Blackadder*), and Thomas Kretschmann (from *Avengers: Age of Ultron*). In addition, I had the opportunity to work with the BAFTA award-winning director, Michael Samuels. I gained so much from my experience, including valuable insight into how a film is made, and how painstakingly scenes are repeatedly filmed until perfection is achieved and the director is happy with the final product.

The *Windermere Children* was filmed in several different locations in Northern Ireland, including Millisle, Ballykelly, Glenarm and Downpatrick. Every day we were collected at a meeting point in Belfast and taken by coach on filming days. Often, due to the secrecy of the filming schedules we didn't even know our location until we arrived there!

Part of my role involved singing in Yiddish, which was very enlightening as I had barely heard of it, however within a week of working on the movie, I was able to sing a song in it. As well as the adventures of movie-making, the story of the film gave me a much greater awareness of the events of the second world war and the distressing horrors suffered by the Jewish community in Europe.



SLG STUDENT COUNCIL NEWS UPDATE

The student council have been busy helping develop our anti bullying policy and visiting Dublin to embark on training and team-building.

Mrs O'Neill left the meeting on anti bullying with the Student Council extremely pleased with the input from the group. When asked a series of situational questions, the Council came up with great ideas to further help students at SLG feel safe when they walk through the school gates. Ideas such as worry boxes and buddy systems are now implemented within the policy, all suggestions put forward by our student body representatives.

On Tuesday 3rd March, 14 Student Council members headed to Dublin for a joint workshop with other St. Louis Order Schools. Led by Council President Roxy Urgan and Vice President Callum Grant, the students had an excellent day.

The main purpose of the workshop was to highlight issues that schools and the environment face on a daily basis and how what we could do to improve levels of sustainability. During the question and answer section, both Patrick Murphy and Roxy Urgan spoke extremely well, getting their points across on the climate crisis.

The main activity challenged the students to design a game that would educate people on various global problems and create goals for change. The games designed were outstanding and we will now be entering them into the Trocaire competition in early April.





BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

In January several students from U6th and L6th took part in the annual Biology Olympiad. This competition consisted of a 2 hour online exam paper which tested skill, knowledge and application in Biology. The questions were very complicated, many being of degree standard. Over 5,000 students from all over the UK took part, a record number of competitors.

We were later delighted to discover that we were silver medal winners and placed in the top 10% of competitors. Jack Donnelly, Maeve Bell and Rionach Buckley received bronze medals. There were a further 12 students who achieved Highly Commended or Commended certificates. This is one of the best sets of results our school has ever achieved.



The medal winners have now been invited to the Royal Society of Biology in London in June to receive their medals in an awards ceremony. We would all like to thank our teachers, Miss McCaw, Mr McCorley and Mrs O'Hara for their help and support during the competition.

By Rachel Coulter, Evanna Woodside and Dylan Magill

GAEEL LINN QUIZ ULSTER CHAMPIONS!

On Friday 24th January 2020, a Year 10 team attended the Gael Linn Provincial final and were awarded 1st place, therefore becoming the reigning Ulster Champions!

The four pupils are Conn Fyfe (10 Lismoyle), Rhianna Doherty, Conall Cassidy and Conor Bresnahan (10 Layde).

The competition took place in the Ashburn Hotel, Lurgan and there were nearly forty teams in attendance from schools across the province.

The pupils displayed impressive knowledge in a wide array of subjects ranging from local and global geography, history, current affairs, sport, literature and film. On top of that, pupils managed to listen and respond to all questions through the medium of Irish! Pupils also reconnected with some Gaeltacht friends from other schools during the event. They all took great pride and pleasure in attending the event and were fantastic ambassadors for the Modern Languages Department.

Opportunities like this give Year 10 pupils great confidence in speaking the language – a very valuable skill for those who decide to continue learning Irish at GCSE.

Comhghairdeas ó chroi leis na buaiteoirí!





AWARD OF RECOGNITION FOR ADAM!

Congratulations to Adam O'Neill, who was awarded the "Most Promising GCSE Pupil in NI", by Orla Hughes on behalf of the AADE (Association of Art and Design Educators). This is a remarkable achievement for a pupil of exceptional artistic talent. Watch this space!



EABHA'S AWARD-WINNING ARTWORK!

We are so proud of Eabha Delargy, who was runner up in a Creative Arts Competition organised by the Northern Ireland Anti-Bullying Forum, in conjunction with Anti-Bullying Week. Eabha produced a fantastic poster in response to the set theme of this year's campaign, which was #ChangeStartsWithUs.

Pictured is Eabha with representatives from the NIABF, the National Children's Bureau and the Department of Education, at the official awards ceremony on Thursday 27th February, in the Lough Neagh Discovery Centre, Oxford Island National Nature Reserve. Congratulation Eabha and well done on promoting such an important message!



TRUE COLOURS CEREMONY

Huge congratulations to Ciara Fraser and Adam O'Neill, whose work was selected for this year's *True Colours* Exhibition in The Ulster Museum, Belfast.

This showcase of work highlights the very top work in GCSE and A-Level Art and Design in Northern Ireland. Pupils, families and teachers were invited to attend a prestigious opening night, also attended by guest speakers from the museum and University of Ulster.





AISLING IS ULSTER CHAMPION!

Congratulations to Aisling Smith who came first place in the Ulster Schools Cross Country Finals.

Aisling then went on to compete on the 7th of March in Dublin at the All Ireland Cross Country, where she was placed 6th out of 150 competitors in the Minor Girls event. The Ballymena and Antrim AC runner will now progress to compete in the London mini marathon, which has been postponed due to the coronavirus pandemic. We wish Aisling all the best in London.



THE SCOTTISH UNIVERSITIES TOUR

The CEIAG department at St. Louis were delighted to welcome The Scottish Universities Tour of Schools & Colleges in Northern Ireland 2020.

We participated in the annual Tour of schools and colleges in Northern Ireland by seven of Scotland's traditional universities (Aberdeen, Dundee, Edinburgh, Glasgow, Heriot Watt, Stirling and Strathclyde).

The tour consisted of a presentation delivered by representatives from two of the institutions, covering the benefits of studying in Scotland, as well as key points about each of the seven participating universities. This was followed by the opportunity to discuss any issues of interest.



The tour was greatly received by those sixth form students interested in Scottish Universities and students were most grateful to have this experience.

ANGUS YOUTH CHALLENGE WINNERS

Congratulations to Thomas O'Kane, Peter Graham and Conall McCafferty who have won the ABP Angus Youth Challenge!

The boys learned of their success via a YouTube bulletin commissioned by the meat processor ABP and the Northern Ireland Angus Producer Group. This is in response to the COVID-19 outbreak preventing them from holding a live event.

The boys entered the ABP Youth Challenge in 2017 and made it on to the finalists' skills development programme in April 2018. Since then they have been competing against three other finalist teams from Belfast Royal Academy, Enniskillen Royal Grammar and Rainey Endowed Magherafelt to become the overall winners and the recipient of a £1000 cheque for their school.

This has seen them rear five Aberdeen Angus calves, sell them to ABP for financial reward and complete a research assignment.

The boys' theme was to demonstrate the value of family farming to drive sustainability.

Congratulations to all three boys on this amazing achievement!





ROMANIA WINTER TRIP 2020

Our team of forty Year 15 students returned from a wonderfully successful trip to Romania. All team members achieved their fundraising target and set out for Brasov City on 12th February. They delivered large quantities of aid to children's homes, disabled centres and local communities.

I wish to publicly thank every member of the team, both students and staff, for their diligence, cooperation and kindness. All the students were a pleasure to work with. Families and local communities can be very proud of these boys and girls.

Mr. E. Marquess, Chairperson, *Friends for Romania*

Ciara O'Neill reflects on her experience:

On 12th February 2020, forty Year 15 students made the anticipated journey from Dublin to Bucharest. Prior to the trip, as a group we raised a total of £25759.66 through various fundraising events in our local parishes and clubs. This trip relied on the kind donations we received from local businesses and individuals. Our purpose was to deliver aid to orphanages, disability homes and young people's homes. During the week we visited a number of these residencies and supplied them with various forms of aid.

We began the week by purchasing bulk supplies for all the areas we would visit. A typical shopping list included everyday essential items such as detergents and sanitary essentials. It was in this warehouse where we spent thousands of pounds purchasing the aid for the week ahead. In total, we supplied 11 centres with aid, as well as setting up a food bank in a local village. The food bank was a huge success as we were able to see the impact this gesture had on the villagers and how appreciative they were of it.

For me, the most enjoyable element of the entire experience was the interaction we had with the young people in the homes. We each brought with us a small suitcase containing a vast array of party items ranging from games, table tennis bats, bubbles, balloons, colouring books and crayons to dominos, sweets, chalk boards, cross stitch, soft teddies and playing cards, all to suit the different ages and interests of children we would meet. The most difficult aspect of the trip was leaving the children and saying our goodbyes.

We had only shared a few short hours in their company but as we got to know them and learned about their personalities, we formed genuine friendships. A particular moment which has stuck with me from the trip, was playing cards around a table in Lizuca & Patrocle Home where teenage boys lived. Our translator, Levinia, managed to explain the rules of their card games to us and our card games to them. Although we were unable to communicate with each other verbally, the game united us, as our competitive sides were revealed when it came down to the final rounds! We soon came to realise that with the older children, the most important factor for them was company – they benefited more from the things that they don't get on a day-to-day basis; which isn't the material things, it was fun, games, a laugh and innocent fun.

Similarly, it was quite bittersweet visiting the disability centres because as much we enjoyed our time there, communicating through music and dance, it was definitely emotionally challenging. As much as each individual benefitted for our visit, there was much more for us to take home from the experience. As a reward for all our hard work and efforts, Mr Marquess, our trip co-ordinator, provided for us an evening of entertainment with ice-skating and a meal at the local ski resort! The trip was such a success that the majority of the students who took part in the experience have expressed an interest to return to Romania as part of the summer team in 2021.

Ciara O'Neill





APPRENTICESHIP WEEK NI

The Department for the Economy officially launched the first Northern Ireland Apprenticeship Week which took place from 5 to 7 February 2020.

Northern Ireland Apprenticeship Week 2020 is a new initiative in Northern Ireland and offered an opportunity through a dedicated week of events and promotional activity to demonstrate how apprenticeships work for individuals, businesses, communities and the wider economy.

Officially launching Northern Ireland Apprenticeship Week 2020, Deputy Secretary of DfE Heather Cousins said: *"I am delighted to launch the first ever Northern Ireland Apprenticeship Week which provides the opportunity for everyone involved in apprenticeships, or interested in finding out more about apprenticeships, to come together during a week-long programme of apprenticeship events and activity."*

As part of NI Apprenticeship week, Northern Regional College invited St. Louis students from year 10-12 to find out more about the apprenticeships they have on offer.

Pupils met with employers including Dowds Group, Sensata Technologies and Andor Technology in a series of workshops. The companies involved were particularly keen to work with our female students in a bid to address the shortage of females within the STEM sector.

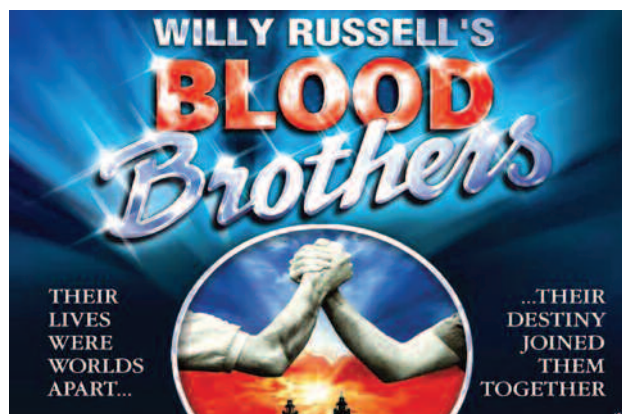
St. Louis students left feeling informed and inspired. We thank NRC and the companies involved for providing an inspirational event.



DRAMA IN DERRY!

In early March, the exam classes from the Drama Department enjoyed a trip to the Maiden City for a matinee performance of Willie Russell's *Blood Brothers* in the Millennium Forum.

It was an extremely valuable experience for the pupils to see one of their key texts brought to life on stage, and as you can see they also managed to take in some of the city's other popular tourist attractions!





JUNK KOUTURE

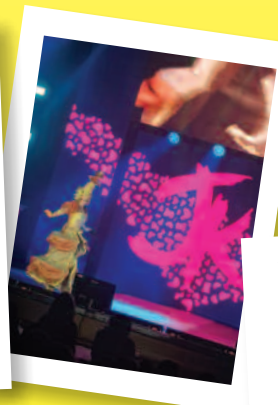
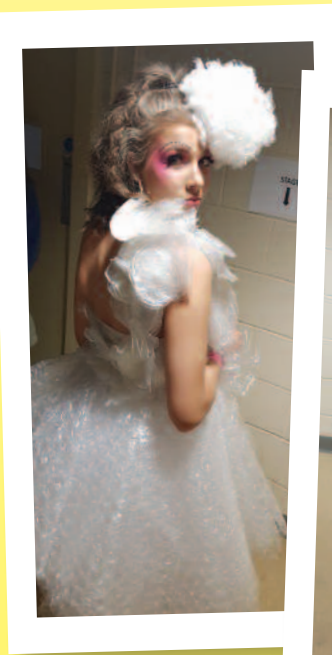
Junk Kouture is a fashion competition which challenges young people to design, create and model high end couture from everyday 'junk', to promote recycling.

This year Junk Kouture celebrates its 10 year anniversary. St Louis have been involved in this competition for the past 8 years. It has provided us with a unique platform for pupils to gain industry skills by expressing themselves through fashion and performance. Junk Kouture has been a forerunner in promoting sustainability and environmental awareness, which have since become even more prevalent headline news.

The competition takes elements of fashion, design, engineering and environmental sustainability and transforms them into a creative contest like no other! Junk Kouture has already captivated over 40,000 students, 8,000 teachers and 100,000 audience members.

Over the past 8 years St Louis has had over 30 creations make it to the Ulster Final and 7 to the All-Ireland Final. This year Ciara Fraser, Lauren McKendry, Rhianna Heffron, Eabha Scullion, Anna Neeson and Cate McCarte all created astonishing designs made from an array of materials that would otherwise have end up on a rubbish heap.

Materials used this year included old curtains, insulating pipes, cardboard, bin liners, bubble wrap, string, bags for life and old folders. These were transformed into couture dresses that would not look out of place on the catwalks in Paris Fashion Week! Huge congratulations to all our designers and models who did our school proud in Millennium Forum, Derry. And well done to Ciara and Rhianna, whose creations have made it to the All-Ireland final this year. Good luck for Dublin girls!





TASTY CAREERS

Year 10 attended a talk delivered by Geoff Lamb from the Food & Drink Federation. Here they were introduced to a range of career pathways associated with the Food and Drink Industry.



THE QUALITY IN CAREERS STANDARD

In the last issue of the Kintullagh Voice the Careers Department were pleased to announce that they were working towards the Quality in Careers Standard, awarded by Investor in Careers.

The department has been tirelessly working towards this award and are delighted to receive the news that St. Louis Grammar School has successfully completed the Commitment Stage of The Quality in Careers Standard awarded by Investor in Careers.

The feedback received from Investor in Careers was overwhelmingly positive: *“St. Louis Grammar School has provided excellent evidence to demonstrate a clear commitment to obtaining the Quality in Careers Standard through Investor in Careers. Evidence demonstrates that the Commitment has the backing of the Governing Body and has been communicated to key stakeholders.”*

This status allows the department to be able to continue working towards the organisation, delivery and evaluation of elements of the award of which they most look forward to.

We hope to update you on our progress in due course.



YEAR 14 MOCK INTERVIEWS

The Careers Department recognise the importance of preparing our pupils for the highly competitive world that lies ahead as much as possible.

Many of our Year 14s have applied to university with some opting for high demand courses. To give them a head start we paired each year 14 with a professional within the discipline they have applied to, and asked the interviewer to put them through their paces in an interview- typical of what they would face in reality.

Afterwards all pupils then received verbal and written feedback from their interviewer, allowing them to learn from their experience. The pupils applying for a course in Film had a particularly realistic experience as their portfolio of work was critiqued at the interview- a valuable learning experience for all of the pupils involved.

On the whole the evening was well received by all those taking part and hopefully gives our students the best chance of success in their upcoming university interviews for which we wish them all the best.

I would like to personally thank the parents, past pupils and friends of St. Louis who volunteered at this event. We are truly indebted.

If you feel you could help at such an event in the future, please do not hesitate to contact Mrs McAllister (CEIAG Co-ordinator).





SKI TRIP TO AUSTRIA

105 St Louis pupils travelled to Ehrwald in Austria for the annual Year 10 ski trip.

The first three days were spent on the slopes beside Hotel Sonnenberg where pupils learned the basics of control and turning. The final 3 days were spent over at the magnificent Ehrwald Alms resort where pupils further developed their skiing ability. They covered many miles of lovely blue and red runs, as well as completing the slalom race on Friday morning. On Friday evening, the instructors who the pupils had great rapport with throughout the week, came to the hotel to present them all with medals and certificates and the winners of the slalom races were announced.

The whole St Louis party had a fantastic week in Austria. The slopes, the food and the fun were all brilliant throughout! The pupils' conduct and enthusiasm throughout the week was incredible and they were all fine ambassadors for our school. It certainly was a week that will live in the memories of all involved and no doubt will remain one of the highlights from their time in school!

Well done to everyone and thanks to the staff who accompanied the pupils.





COMHGHAIRDEAS, COMHGHAIRDEAS, COMHGHAIRDEAS!

Cara Pirie, 2nd place in Abair, Gael Linn

On Tuesday 25th February, five pupils travelled to St. Mary's Grammar, Magherafelt to attend the Abair Public Speaking competition, organised annually by Gael Linn. Cara Pirie was awarded 2nd place in her category and will progress to the regional final on Wednesday 1st April 2020 in Aonach Mhacha, Armagh.

Méabh Fyfe, Ben Friel and Niamh Mc Ivor (Year 15) participated as well as Hannah Gately (Year 12). Pupils prepared speeches on a range of topics that impressed the judges including social problems, social media and the Irish Language Act. Hannah stated, "It was great to hear so many young passionate Irish language speakers. The older pupils inspired me to keep working hard on learning Irish." Cara commented that she "loved the opportunity to share my passionate opinions on the topical Irish Language Act – tír gan teanga, tír gan anam!" Well done to all pupils who took part and ádh mór to Cara on 1st April.

Labhair í agus mairfidh síl.



FRANCOFEST 2020!

At the start of February, 4 of our year 10 students participated in the "Francofest 2020" at Queen's University.

This is a competition where students get the opportunity to demonstrate their creativity and ability to work in a team as well as their French language skills. Caitlin Henry, Aisling Ardiff, Sofia Richmond and Eve Corr worked together to create their imaginary company "Amie" and design products that they would "sell" in an imaginary role-play setting. They then carried out a role-play in French with numerous judges. The competition was high, with over 50 schools attending and the girls excelled themselves in their preparation and performance on the day.

Caitlin said: "Although we didn't win overall, it was an amazing experience with my best friends and it was good to learn about how foreign language skills like French are very beneficial to have, not only in the working world, but also for future travel opportunities."

Sofia said: "Taking part in the Francofest was amazing and I'm so glad that I took part in something so enjoyable with my best friends and French teacher. I feel that I developed my team work skills and the experience really showed me the importance of studying a language at GCSE. I look forward to continuing my studies next year!"





ST LOUIS HAS THE F FACTOR!

On Monday 9th March, Bronagh Dempster, Daniel Montgomery and Liam Young from Year 11, pitched their app design at the Edinburgh Regional Final of 'The F Factor' - a youth entrepreneurship competition, developing solutions to tackle Sustainable Development Goals.

They created an App called HSO (Helping Sensory Overloads) which is aimed at individuals with Autistic Spectrum Disorder (ASD) who have Noise Sensitivity. HSO gives the user control, and helps to reduce anxiety, and therefore the severity of any overload. HSO will Monitor the ambient Sound Level in an area and will provide a warning when the level approaches a personalised value. The app will send a notification to the carer, alerting them so they can leave the area immediately; thereby improving the confidence and quality of life of those living with ASD.

The Sustainable Development Goals are the blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all. They address the global challenges we face, including those related to poverty, inequality, climate change, environmental degradation, peace and justice. The 17 Goals are all interconnected, and in order to leave no one behind, it is important that we achieve them all by 2030. The Sustainable Development Goals are a universal call to action to end poverty, protect the planet and improve the lives and prospects of everyone, everywhere. The 17 Goals were adopted by all UN Member States in 2015, as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development which set out an ambitious 15-year plan to achieve them.

The F Factor is a nationwide start-up competition in the UK underpinned with active entrepreneurship education for students and graduates to harness cutting-edge innovation and shape them into solutions for the world's most pressing problems. This competition is designed to provide young aspiring entrepreneurs with tools, skills-training and context to bring their ideas to life and present them to experts as well as opportunities to collaborate with like-minded peers, interact with mentors and gain access to work experience.

Bronagh Dempster describes her experience below:

"Getting the chance to go to the F Factor Regional Finals, was amazing. The whole experience of being in Edinburgh was extremely and thrilling. We had the chance to mingle with company CEOs and get our idea (HSO-Helping sensory overloads), out into the world. We may not have won the competition but we won in getting the chance to do what many others couldn't have dreamed of. If the chances arise, this is a competition worth taking part in. It was an experience I will never forget!"

Bronagh Dempster, Year 11





TANYA ROBERTS VISITS ST LOUIS LIBRARY!

Tanya Roberts is a comic artist from Edinburgh who has worked on high-profile comics such as Star Wars: The Clone Wars, Toy Story and How to Train Your Dragon, as well as her own fantastic series Plagued: The Miranda Chronicles from BHP Comics.

8 Layde were the lucky class who were given the opportunity to meet Tanya on the 27th of February! Her workshop focused on certain aspects of comics including page layout and character design.

There was excellent class participation which included drawing characters which pupils recognised as well as some of Tanya's own creations. Following the event Tanya signed copies of her books, which the pupils were very excited about! A great time was had by all in 8 Layde!





BALLYMENA FESTIVAL SUCCESS

Recently pupils completed in Ballymena festival under a number of categories including solo instrument, ensemble groups and vocal section.

Many pupils achieved first place, second place and were highly commended – St Louis was represented extremely impressively! Special mention must be given to Neve Wilkinson, who achieved first place in folk song, 1st place in sacred solo and 2nd place in song from any show. Neve then performed at the Gala night and won the category of Premier Youth Vocal Award: Montgomery Voice Award.

Congratulations, Neve!



Quartet for Strings (under 15)

1st Place: Odhran O'Kane, Tony O'Brien, Eva O'Neill, Gareth Lau

2nd Place: Ava McAleese, Matilda Barwick, Mollie O'Connell, Beth Wilson

Violin Solo (11 years)

1st Place: John Dougan 3rd Place: Isuelt O'Loan

Violin Solo (15 and 14 years)

2nd Place: Tony O'Brien Highly Commended: Odhran O'Kane

Cello Solo (14 years)

2nd Place: Sofia Richmond 3rd Place: Gareth Lau

Violin Solo (Open Category)

2nd Place: Rebecca McDonald

Violin Solo (12 years)

3rd Place: Kate McClintock

Highly Commended: Erin McAleese

School Instrumental Ensemble

2nd Place: Rebecca McDonald, Kimberley McCallum, Rionach Buckley,

Emer McAtamney, Rory McAllister

Trio for Strings

1st Place: Jude McCann, Lucy Donaldson, Emma McElroy

Woodwind Ensemble (Open Category)

1st Place: Patrick McAuley, Miriam McClintock, Isuelt O'Loan,

Caoimhe McAuley

Clarinet Solo (14 years and under)

1st Place: Aisling Ardiffe

Flute Solo (15 – 16 years)

2nd Place: Patrick McAuley

Piano Solo (16 and 17 years)

1st Place: Miriam McClintock

Folk Song (15 – 17 years)

1st Place: Neve Wilkinson

Song from any show (15 – 17 years)

2nd Place: Neve Wilkinson

Sacred Solo (12 – 14 years)

Joint 2nd Place: Riona McCann, Catherine Doherty

3rd Place: Kate McClintock

Boys Vocal Solo (12 – 14 years)

2nd Place: Ethan Allen

Girls Vocal Solo (12 – 14 years)

Highly Commended: Rose McGarry, Eva Scott

Sacred Solo (15 – 17 years)

1st Place: Neve Wilkinson

Highly Commended: Eibhleann Ardiffe

Folk Song (12 – 14 years)

3rd Place: Riona McCann

Highly Commended: Maria Gatley

Song from any show (12 – 14 years) (over 50 pupils in this category)

2nd Place: Kate McClintock

Joint 3rd Place: Eva Scott, Clementine Barwick,

Erin McAleese, Ethan Allen

Highly Commended: Eva Lee, Kiera Young, Aimee Corrigan,

Riona McCann

Song from any show (Under 12 years)

3rd Place: Aoife Johnston

Adult Vocal Solo

1st Place: Alex Caldwell

Adult Vocal Solo Open

1st Place: Alex Caldwell



ART DEPARTMENT HOST ULSTER UNIVERSITY EVENT

The Art Department welcomed pupils and teachers from across Ballymena to attend a talk on courses available in Ulster University's School of Art, Belfast.

Head of School Louise O'Boyle gave an inspirational presentation on a range of degrees on offer in the University, from Fine Art to Fashion and Textiles; Product Design to Animation. Important information pupils took away from the day was that industries in NI need people with creative minds in order for businesses to evolve, as well as a willingness to adapt and push ourselves outside of our comfort zones. These are all key attributes that form the foundations of a student of Art and Design, and which we are proud to say are carefully nurtured within all Key Stages of Art Education at St Louis.





MATHS CHALLENGE WINNERS



A big Congratulations to all of our Intermediate Maths Challenge Certificate winners!

Bronze Certificate

Aimee McDowell
Alyssa Bryson
Aimee McLaughlin
Aoibh Vallely
Archie McGreevey
Ava McAleese
Brian Magee
Conall McIlroy
Eimear O'Neill
Emily Higgins
Esther Mc Bride
Jack Addison
Joseph Halloran
Karleah Wilson

Katie Bonnes
Kurian Joseph
Laura Daniel
Lorcan Cooper
Luke Dunne
Naoishe McAleese
Pearce Maguire
Riognach Cairns
Ryan O'Neill
Siobhan McGale
Susan Shannon
Tom McElholm
Helen Donaldson

Silver Certificate

Aoife Zensque
Bronagh Dempster
Cara McAfee
Cara Pirie
Ceothan Gormley
Cliona Griffin
Grace McQuade
Hannah Macartney
Jamie Clarke
Jamie McMullan
Katie Molloy
Liam McAuley
Matilda Barwick
Niall McIlhatton

Peter McElroy
Harry Connon
Ruairi Duffin
Senan O'Boyle
Sian Zensque

Gold Certificate

Aodhan McGarry
Conor Brolly
Eibhlin Gould
Molly Donnelly
Patrick McDonnell

Our 5 Gold Certificate winners will be progressing to the Pink Kangaroo Challenge on Thursday 19th March!

MINI ENTERPRISE FOODBANK DONATION

Beth Reilly is the Managing Director of Sweets and Treats, St Louis' Mini Enterprise team.

In February they presented Ballymena Foodbank with a donation of £160, reflecting their awareness of the importance of giving back to the community and upholding their corporate social responsibility. They selected this local charity as it provides emergency food and support for local people who are locked in poverty - a worthwhile and admirable endeavour from the team.



ART DEPARTMENT'S GALLERY TOUR

Every year the Art department takes a visit to Belfast for a tour of renowned Galleries.

This trip always provides so much inspiration for pupils' art projects and this year proved no disappointment. Our first stop was the Ulster Museum, where pupils viewed the True Colours Exhibition, as well as the permanent exhibitions within the gallery. Next stop was the School of Art, then on to The Mac.

In the Mac we viewed the work of Mark Garry (Songs and the Soil). Songs and the Soil engages with the subjects of landscape and music/sound, looking at each element from historical, social and cultural perspectives. Pupils were captivated by his truly poetic work. Following The Mac we took a rainy walk around the Cathedral Quarters to see some of the magnificent graffiti that brightens the city on the dulllest of days. A brilliant day out for all our Art students to inspire many masterpieces to come!





CAREER ENCODE

The Careers and IT Departments collaborated to organise a Higher Apprenticeship event. Career Encode visited with representatives from Camden Group to speak to our sixth form about the value of a Career in IT and how this can be achieved through a higher apprenticeship. We welcomed Adam Hilis (past pupil) back to St. Louis for this event and it was a pleasure to have him.

Career Encode are a group of employers who are seeking the brightest talent to work with them. Those successful applicants will become an employee with a chosen company and receive a paid salary. They will be assigned a mentor to help and guide them to make sure they achieve their full potential.

During term-time, they will study for the Foundation Degree at their local college. The partnered company will also offer the successful applicant additional study leave to complete their academic assignments.



After three years, they will have achieved their Foundation Degree qualification and, subject to their performance, be ready to progress on the career ladder with their company. The companies that have signed up with Career Encode have pledged their support in moving those that achieve their foundation degree on to the degree and eventually masters programmes.

A salary, no debt and job security at the end- what's not to love?

QUB'S UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY FOR NIAMH!

This year I applied and was accepted onto a course that Queen's University in Belfast offer. It is called the Pathways Opportunity Programme (POP). I am the only pupil from my class who applied and thankfully got accepted. POP is a programme for Year 13 students who may sometimes require additional support or encouragement when it comes to reaching their full potential. Due to my unique circumstances, I was eligible to apply for the programme. The programme offers 7 different 'Pathways' on it, offering a wide range of possibilities for young people across Ireland. The pathway that I choose was Engineering.

Throughout this year, I have to complete several assignments which are assigned to us and marked by Queen's University Professors. I also have to take part in and attend several on-campus days at Queen's and in July I will attend a week long residential where I will stay in Elms Village like a university student. On this residential I will take part in academic lessons during the day and have some relaxing fun times with activities in the evenings. If I complete the programme and final assessment on the last day of the residential, I will receive a guaranteed conditional offer to my Pathway Engineering specifically for myself Civil Engineering at Queen's. I will also receive a £1,000 bursary and also up to a two grade reduction of my UCAS offer.



Up until this point, I have taken part in the induction day in Whitla Hall at Queen's where I met students I'll be working alongside from all over Northern Ireland. I have also completed my first assignment on different types of engineering, such as space, electrical, mechanical and more. This involved gaining knowledge on these topics and completing small quizzes on them. I am very excited to continue my assignments and on campus visits within my Pathway journey, and I look forward to the residential in Summer!

Niamh McMahon

If you'd like to find out any more information on the Widening Participation Unit, and the Pathway Opportunity Programme, visit their website:
<http://www.qub.ac.uk/directorates/sgc/wpu/PathwayOpportunityProgramme/>

CORONAVIRUS: Living through Unprecedented Times

During this sacred festival of Easter, we come together as a school community to reflect in faith and solemnity at the sudden challenges and uncertainty brought about by the current outbreak of COVID-19.

At St Louis the wellbeing of our pupils and their families has always been our central priority; and never before have our fundamental principles to educate, enrich and protect our children been so paradoxically placed in conflict with one another.

As each day unfolds, we continue to hold those who are vulnerable or facing difficulties at this time in our thoughts and prayers. We pray for everyone who may be suffering from the all-encompassing implications of coronavirus; be it physical illness, fear, anxiety, isolation, or financial difficulty.

Eagerly we anticipate the day we can open our doors to you once again, and the dynamic pace of life as we know it, is restored at St Louis. May we emerge from this crisis stronger, and never more assured of our core philosophy and motto, Ut Sint Unum: That all may be one.

As we adapt to the transition of remote learning, staff have been encouraged by the continued dedication of our student body in response to the tasks assigned to pupils, and we ask for your assistance in sustaining this enthusiasm until such times as we are all reinstalled safely and firmly where we belong.

We would like to express our deepest gratitude and admiration to all the key workers in our local community who are generously and selflessly putting themselves at risk to guarantee essential services in our society; many of whom are past pupils.

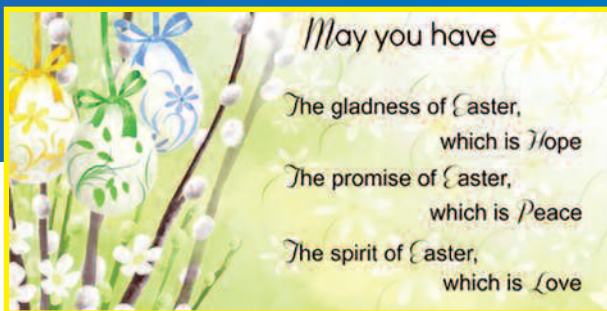
As we approach an Easter celebration like never before, we take comfort and inspiration from Pope Francis' Holy Week message:

"...Even if we are isolated, thought and spirit can go far with the creativity of love. This is what we need today.

This Paschal faith nourishes our hope. It is the hope of a better time, in which we can be better, finally freed from this pandemic. Hope does not disappoint; it is not an illusion, it is a hope. Beside each other, in love and patience, we can prepare a better time in these days..."

Stay safe and Best wishes this Easter,

Mr Rafferty



WHEN THIS IS OVER

When this is over,
 may we never again
 take for granted
 A handshake with a stranger
 Full shelves at the store
 Conversations with neighbours
 A crowded theatre
 Friday night out
 The taste of communion
 A routine checkup
 The school rush each morning
 Coffee with a friend
 The stadium roaring
 Each deep breath
 A boring Tuesday
 Life itself.

When this ends,
 may we find
 that we have become
 more like the people
 we wanted to be
 we were called to be
 we hoped to be
 and may we stay
 that way – better
 for each other
 because of the worst.

Laura Kelly Fanucci

Well-being tips for parents with teenagers at home during the Covid-19 outbreak



DON'T PUT TOO MUCH PRESSURE ON YOURSELF - You don't have to take on the teacher's role and enforce a rigid timetable. Encourage some structure and agree on this. You are there to help and support them with the work set by their teachers.



TRY NOT TO WORRY - about things you cannot control or change. Rather, focus on what you CAN do. Look to the future and set some goals together.



DON'T BE TOO HARD ON THEM - It is normal for your teenagers to feel upset, angry and unmotivated at this time. Try to be understanding of this encourage them to focus on the positives.



GIVE THEM A PURPOSE - Use this time to learn to live together as adults and prepare your teenager for the next stage of their life. Teach them a recipe and challenge them to cook for the family. Encourage them to get creative and stay active.



BE HONEST & HAVE FUN - You don't have all the answers. Face things together as a family. Stay up-to-date with what is happening but don't let it take over your thoughts. Make time for family fun!

AWARE
 OVERCOMING DEPRESSION.
 CHANGING LIVES.



5 Steps to looking after your mental health whilst staying home



CONNECT - Keep in touch with friends, family, & colleagues. Use phone calls, texts or video calling apps such as FaceTime or Whatsapp.



BE ACTIVE - Play games with the kids, join an online yoga class or take a walk outside (keep a 2m distance).



GIVE - Caring for others can help our own mental health. Offer support to a friend a neighbour in isolation.



KEEP LEARNING - Read up on something that interests you. Read books, watch documentaries or learn a new craft.



TAKE NOTICE - Notice the beauty around you. Feel the sun on your skin. Listen to the birds. Breathe...

Take5
 steps to wellbeing

AWARE
 OVERCOMING DEPRESSION.
 CHANGING LIVES.