



THE

KINTULLAGH VOICE



NI SCHOOLS' CUP

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MISS DRAIN SOARING STAR

Page 11



**N.I. Top
Grammar School**

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



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SLG NI SCHOOLS' CUP FINALISTS 2022

The Danske Bank Northern Ireland Schools' FA-run competition returned this year with 49 schools vying for the U18 trophy. With last year's competition cancelled due to Covid, the stakes were higher than ever and our SLG panel most certainly rose to the challenge.

Very much underdogs from the beginning, our boys and their manager Mr McNicholl defied the odds and embarked on a remarkable campaign with wins in the quarter and semi-finals against Enniskillen Royal Grammar School and Ashfield Boys respectively. The lead up to the final against St Columb's College Derry created a huge buzz and as over 400 SLG spectators filled the stands of Coleraine Showgrounds with a sea of blue and yellow, school spirit was at an all-time high.

Although the outcome was not in our favour, we are so proud of their achievement in getting to the final and the determination shown along the way.

Mr McNicholl reflects on what will always be a memorable day for the students and staff of SLG:

"We left school just around break time. All of the teachers and pupils came to send us off at the turning circle which I thought was a lovely gesture as the boys, in that moment, realised that the entire school was behind them on the day."

The lads were ready to go from the beginning. Effort and application could not have been faulted in our preparations but unfortunately, we just came up short on the day."

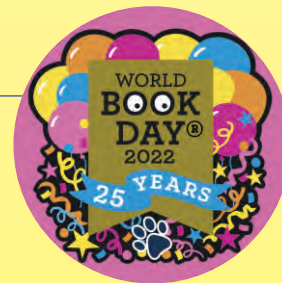
The boys were extremely disappointed in the result but they can be commended on everything that they have achieved. Nobody gave them a chance at the beginning of the year. They didn't have footballs or a kit and now they have put football on the map in the school and set a real example for the younger students who want to try and follow in their footsteps. You see kids walking around the school and whispering, "There's Shaun O'Callaghan," or, "There's Lewis Harrison," and that's what it is all about. Giving the lads that real feeling of being respected and viewed as role models by those in the school community who will follow them.

The school has definitely got the bug now. We will be fielding more football teams down the school in the NI Cup competitions for the respective years and it is fantastic, especially for the people who do not play GAA sports.

With regards to the match itself, St. Columb's were a very classy outfit and played real football that you would see from top teams. They have mountains of experience playing in finals and that is where our school and players will now aspire to be. We have created a real buzz around the school and I have no doubt that next year, we will be back."

Panel: Barry McCloskey, Conor McKenna, Bailey Brennan, Oran McMullan, Sam Crawford, Sean O'Callaghan (joint captain), Conan McAuley, Conor Hastings, Lewis Hector, Lewis Harrison (joint captain), Dara Martin, Paul O'Boyle, Cal O'Brien, TP McGurk, Oliwier Grzybowski, Kurian Joseph.





WORLD BOOK DAY 2022!

This year marked 25 years of World Book Day and, as always, celebrations were in full swing to continue promoting the importance of reading to our students.

Year 8 took part in a competition called 'Book Wrap' which called on their knowledge and detective skills as they had to guess the names and authors of a series of books based on a list of clues placed on a wrapped copy of the text.

On World Book Day itself, our entire KS5 took part in our annual 'Drop Everything and Read' event during period one. Pupils enjoyed having some quiet time set aside to read their favourite novel.

Our library had a variety of competitions ongoing to mark the day, including a bookmark design competition; 'Guess the Book Title' competition and our annual World Book Day lunch-time quiz.

Finally, this year saw the return of the ever-popular book fair. Our KS5 students visited the book fair throughout the week following World Book Day and came away with some beautiful books and a renewed zest for reading.

As always, our students' enthusiasm for the celebrations was outstanding and we are very proud of all their efforts in each event and competition.

Congratulations to all of our World Book Day Winners!

Year 8 Book Wrap Winners:

Design a Bookmark Competition winners:

1st Amelia Mosoczy - 8 Lismoyle (Kindle winner)

2nd Sara Thompson - 8 Lyndon (£20 voucher to be used at the Book Fair)

3rd Ruairi Doherty - 8 Lisbreen (£10 voucher to be used at the Book Fair)

World Book Day Book Quiz Winners

1st Jacob Patterson - 8 Laragh

2nd Luke Johnston - 8 Lisbreen

3rd Izabela Kosciolk - 8 Laragh

4th Addison O'Hagan - 8 Lurig

5th Ruairi Doherty - 8 Lisbreen

Book Fair Competition Winners

Year 8

1st Caoimhe Kelly - 8 Layde

2nd Orlaith Redmond - 8 Laragh

Year 9

1st Aoibheann Neeson - 9 Lismoyle

2nd Cara Moore - 9 Lisbreen

Year 10

1st Kayce McAuley - 10 Lyndon (absent)

2nd Adam Donnelly - 10 Lurig





BBC NI SCHOOL SOLOIST OF THE YEAR HEATS



Well done to Anna Neeson (Year 15), and Keira Young (Year 11) who both sang in the BBC Northern Ireland School Soloist of the Year heats back in the autumn term.

Keira reflects on her experience in the competition:

"I was recently invited to BBC Blackstaff studios to partake in the BBC NI Soloist of the Year competition. I auditioned for this competition via the school and got into the heats section.

When I arrived at the studios I was taken into my own personal dressing room to prepare for the competition. I watched the other competitors in my heat perform and then I was taken into a warm up room with the accompanist.

When I entered the set it was full of camera men and production staff who were all so friendly towards me.

I performed my songs in front of the judges and received my feedback which was all positive.

Unfortunately, I did not get through to the semi-finals but I was so grateful to have been picked as the top 15 out of hundreds of students. It was an amazing opportunity and has taught me many things about the TV and Music industry as a whole."

Anna Neeson
who sang
'Meadowlark'



Keira Young who
sang 'One Perfect
Moment'



READY STEADY STUDY

Learn Spark presented revision and study skills workshops to all Year 11 pupils through their 'Ready Steady Study' programme on Friday 11th March.

Pupils were given tips on how to revise and Learn Spark provided the pupils with smart study advice to help them with their upcoming examinations.





ST LOUIS ULSTER SCHOOLS CAMOGIE FINALISTS 2022

When Maria Gately flicked a Ciara O'Boyle cross into the Ballycastle net with time almost up and the sides level, St Louis looked to have bridged a 71-year gap to claim the Corn Uan Uladh title with a win over Cross & Passion at Quinn Park on 22nd January.

Referee, Mickey Quigg disallowed the score for a 'square-ball' infringement and the full time whistle sounded shortly after the decision, sending the game into extra time.

Unfortunately, CPC took control during the opening half of extra time to race into a three-point lead before a goal from Cassie McArthur early in the second period put the game beyond reach of our girls.

Our girls had a fantastic journey to the final under the watchful guidance of their coaches, Miss Drain, Mrs Loughlin and Mrs Doherty. Their semi-final against St Patrick's Maghera was a remarkable victory as they came back from being 12 points down at half-time to winning the game by one point, 4-8 to 4-7.

On the day, our girls played exceptionally well, leaving everything on the pitch during what was an epic clash between two tightly contested sides. Unfortunately, it was not their day but we are so proud of them for giving it everything.

Senior Camogie Captain, Kyra Doherty, reflects on her experience of school camogie over the years:

"My name is Kyra Doherty and I was proud to be appointed captain of the St. Louis senior camogie team this year. This year was my final year playing camogie for the school and was most definitely my favourite. I believe this is because it was the last time I would be playing with the other girls in my year who I have been playing with since I first joined the school in 2015. Throughout these seven years I have bonded with girls who play for different clubs by both training and playing alongside them and the friendships created within school camogie will stay with me for a very long time. And although it didn't feel like it when it came to the running drills, I have to admit I really will miss our coaches Mrs Doherty, Miss Drain and Mrs Loughlin who have taken me for school camogie since I was first year and have put a lot of time and effort into the team over the years.

Throughout the years, there have been a couple of times we made it to the Ulster final but fell short of taking home the title. It was disheartening at the time but as the years went on I soon realised that the memories and friendships that we were making along the way were much more valuable. We made it to the Ulster final again this year and for me this was the most important match I would play for St. Louis as it was the last time I would pull on an SLG jersey. Both the girls and management had worked so hard this year by starting as one of the underdogs in the group before making an unbelievable comeback in the semi-final against St. Pat's and then making it to the final against Cross and Passion College. This was an intense match and the girls gave it their all to the very last minute, including extra time. Despite not getting the win we so very deserved, I couldn't have been prouder of the girls playing alongside me that day and win, lose or draw, I wouldn't have changed a thing."





WORLD MATHS DAY 2022

Wednesday 23rd March was World Maths Day. We had several events and challenges running for Mathematicians young and old!

During Maths class on Wednesday, Year 8 and Year 9 competed in the 'World's Largest Online Maths Competition' against other students from around the world!

Students from all year groups were able to join in on Wednesday at breaktime by submitting their answers to some tricky Maths Challenge questions set by the Mathematics Department.

The challenge running throughout the week was the 'Step into Spring Counting Challenge'. It was open to everyone- students and staff! The question was: How many steps are there in St. Louis? While moving around the school entrants counted each stair (only indoor and accessible to students) and submitted their total online by Friday.



Thank you to everyone who took part in our competitions - it was brilliant to see everyone getting involved!

Congratulations to all of the prize-winners:

Step into Spring Challenge: Alana Etherson Cook, 9 Lurig, 521 Steps

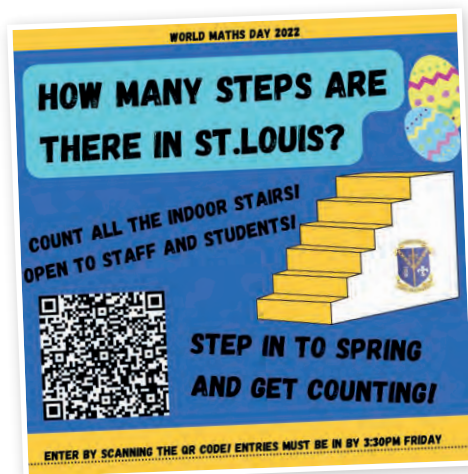
Mathletics Top of Year 8: Lucas Graham, 8 Lurig

Mathletics Top of Year 9: Sean Brolly, 9 Lurig

Gold Challenge: Lucy Donaldson, Year 14

Silver Challenge: Adam Donnelly, 10 Lurig

Bronze Challenge: Bronagh Doherty, 8 Layde



LUCIA QUINNEY MEE MEMORIAL CUP

Well done to our Year 8 camogs who took part in the inaugural Lucia Quinney Mee Memorial Cup which was hosted by Cross and Passion College on Wednesday 30th March.

Lucia Quinney-Mee BEM, a CPC past-pupil, died in May 2020 months after receiving the fourth liver transplant of her young life.

The 20-year-old received the British Empire Medal for her work, which included setting up the Live Loudly, Donate Proudly campaign.

Lucia received her first liver transplant in 2007 and set up the campaign while waiting for her third in 2015.

She carried the Olympic torch in 2012, competed as a swimmer in the 2016 Transplant Games, and received the BEM the following year.

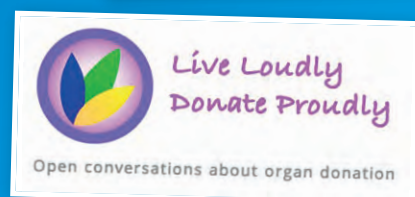
It was an honour for our students to compete in this tournament in memory of a remarkable young lady who made such an impact during her short life.

If you or someone you know has been affected by Organ Donation, support and information is available via:

Email: info@live-loudly-donate-proudly.org

Facebook: Live Loudly Donate Proudly

Twitter: @LiveDonate





SCRIPT-WRITING SUCCESS!

"Last October I applied for and was successful in receiving a place on a playwriting course which was hosted by Fighting Words NI and the Lyric Theatre Belfast. Myself and seven other people aged between 14-18 were chosen for this opportunity to develop our own short scripts over the course of 5 months while being mentored by professional scriptwriters. The plays were then performed by professional actors and directed by an actual director. Sound and light engineers also assisted us.

My play was a dark tale of mystery and murder called 'Vendetta.' My cast included Thomas Finnegan as the main character, Oswald Vendetta; a detective who had experienced a car crash and suffered brain damage, with his other family members dying in that same crash. The brain damage caused him to remember how the events went differently and he subconsciously planted evidence of a murder. His co-worker Veronica, played by Aoibheann McCann, helped him discover the truth throughout the course of the play.

This experience was wonderful, and I am very thankful for the opportunity I was given to let others experience what I made in a professional forum."

Ryan Harkin, 10 Lurig



YEAR 8 COOKERY CLUB

Cookery Club is in full swing for our Year 8 students.

Pupils come together during Friday lunchtimes to work on their cookery skills, whilst also developing their time management skills, organisation, and ability to follow instruction. As you can see, they have been making some delicious treats and having great fun!





CÉILIÚRADH LÁ FHÉILE PÁDRAIG SEACHTAIN NA GAEILGE FAOI LÁN SEOIL!

After celebrating virtually last year, the St. Louis' school community thoroughly enjoyed returning to Seachtain na Gaeilge (Irish language week) and Lá Fhéile Pádraig (St. Patrick's Day) celebrations together in school this year.

Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrations began with a reading in Irish at our school Lenten mass. Year 8-10 pupils participated in a quiz in Irish, followed by a céili. Quiz questions related to current affairs, popular songs, Irish language, culture, and history. Comhghairdeas ó chroí to all the quiz winners from each year group!

Staff got involved in a "Decorate your Door" competition and showed creativity in abundance as classroom doors were bursting with colour, catchphrases, and cultural spirit! Comhghairdeas to the winners: Mrs Mc Allister (2nd place) and Mrs Mc Toal (1st place).





RHEA WARING ULSTER UNIVERSITY SCHOLAR

"For the past few months, I have been using the resources provided by the Ulster University Schools Outreach Programme and learning about topics I have always wanted to research more, including some topics featured at A-Level in St Louis. These include poetry by Robert Frost, Seamus Heaney, Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes alongside other courses in Social Enterprise, History and Engineering.

Recently, I won an award for a 'social enterprise' competition where I had to design and create my own enterprise that would benefit the lives of others. My idea focused heavily on the development of creating a safe and inviting environment for people with autism to meet and engage, all while contributing to the prevention of global warming.

I was awarded a framed certificate and a gift voucher. I was also given an Ulster University Gold Award Pin, which is a symbol of success and recognition of the hard work put in outside of school, and I wear it proudly on my blazer lapel.

The Ulster University Outreach Programme has been a great way to extend my knowledge and enthusiasm for learning, and I am proud of what I have achieved."

Rhea Waring
11 Layde



ULSTER SCHOOLS SWIMMING GALA

The Ulster Schools Swimming Gala took place in February, and we had three KS5 competitors taking part in the event.

Congratulations to Year 9 students, Hannah Tohill and Samuel Bajorek, and to Year 8 student, Niall Mulvenna for taking part in the event and swimming a range of strokes, including back stroke, freestyle, and butterfly against up to 168 competitors.

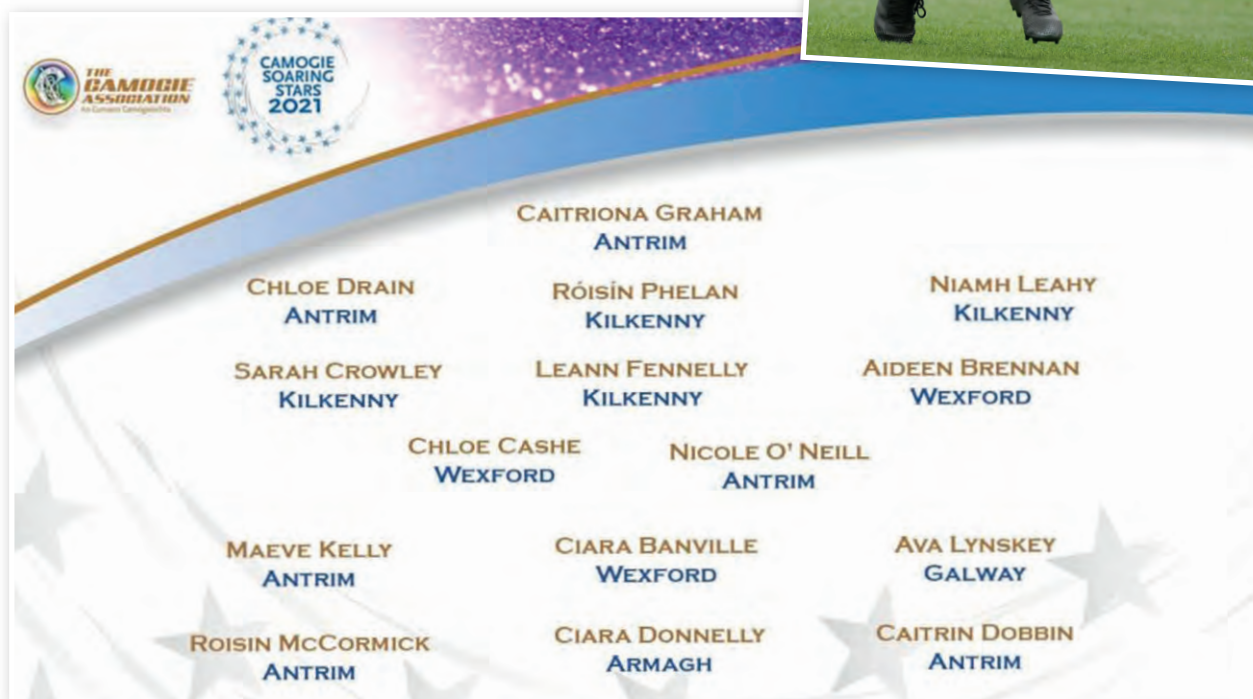




MISS DRAIN ONE OF SIX SOARING SAFFRONS

Antrim picked up six Camogie Soaring Stars awards at the All Stars dinner held in March in Dublin. Ten of the side who played in the All-Ireland final win over Kilkenny last season were nominated with six taking home an award. Past-pupil Catriona Graham (Ahoghill) got the goalkeeper award, while our inspirational Miss Drain was selected at corner back.

Miss Drain's Dunloy club-mate Nicole O'Neill won one of the two midfield slots while three of the six forward positions were filled by Ballycastle's Maeve Kelly, and the Loughgiel duo of Roisin McCormick and Caitrin Dobbin. It is the second Soaring Stars award for Miss Drain, having also been named on last year's team. Once again, we are so proud of Miss Drain and the example she is setting to our young sportspeople within the school.



ANTRIM CAMOGIE VICE CAPTAIN

Miss Drain has also been announced as Antrim Camogie's Vice-Captain for the upcoming season.

She will take her role alongside 2022 captain, Lucia McNaughton.





ACCELERATED READER PRIZE WINNERS

As part of our pilot year of Accelerated Reading, we have been running half-termly incentives with our Year 8 students.

For our first competition, we looked at the word count of individual students across each class and then within the year group.

Congratulations to our top word count winners from each class:

Louis McMurray 8 Laragh
Katie McGale 8 Layde
Aioibhinn Kelly 8 Lisbreen
Sofia Viltrake 8 Lismoyle
Addison O'Hagan 8 Lurig
Noah Alexander 8 Lyndon

Each student received a £20 All-4-One voucher.

Our overall word-count winner for incentive one was Noah Alexander who read an incredible 2,379,674 words during the first term. Noah won a fantastic prize of an Amazon Kindle.

Congratulations also go to 8 Lisbreen, who were the incentive winners for this term. As a class, they worked together to read an impressive 5,409,378 words and, as their reward, attended a virtual question and answer session with popular author, Taran Matharu!

Keep reading everyone!



YEAR 13 ULSTER UNIVERSITY SCHOLARS

Well done to Year 13 students, Dagmara Milas and Alicia Jaimon, pictured receiving their Ulster University Scholar Silver Pins from Mrs McCann in March.

The girls have received these badges upon independent completion of courses offered by the UU School's Outreach Programme.

It is great to see our students taking the initiative to broaden their knowledge and skills outside of their A-Level study.





YEAR 13 STUDENT SET FOR THE EUROS!

Mrs McCann presented Year 13 student, Erin McAllister with an SLG coat to recognise her fantastic achievements as goal keeper for the NU U17 Ladies' Soccer team who have qualified for the Euros League 2022.

Well done Erin!



JUNK KOUTURE 2022

Massive congratulations to all four of our Year 11 Art & Design entrants who were successful in getting through to the Regional Finals in this year's Junk Kouture competition. This is an exceptional achievement and really well-deserved after the endless hours of endeavour and commitment put into the design and completion of each of their creations.

Further success has been achieved by two entrants 'Packaging Punk Princess' and 'Fashion Flu' who have secured places in the All Ireland Final in Dublin on May 5th, 2022. Watch this space as we wish them well for the final. Such an incredible achievement against strong competition.

We are so proud of all our Junk Kouture pupils as they are a credit and such wonderful ambassadors for the school.

Year 11 student, Aoife Hay discusses her experience of the competition so far:

"The process started back in September during after school club, where I was able to develop my idea with the help of teachers to design my dress, taking inspiration from the latest runway shows and the met gala."

I chose facemasks as my material as I wanted to reuse something we've been reliant on but also want to quickly discard and forget.

I began to experiment with my material, figuring out the ways I could best utilise it. I came up with my design of structured frilly shoulders and a ruffled skirt and long train. My dress design symbolises how the extensive pain inflicted on us by Covid can be transformed into something powerful, unique and beautiful.

So far my experience of Junk Kouture has been surreal, entering the competition without an expectation of actually getting through or any recognition, to now reaching the grand final in Dublin. For something that I started as some fun and as a way to develop skills that I had never had the opportunity prior, I have managed to create something that I am truly proud of and excited to show off!"



Aoife Haye modelling her own creation 'Fashion Flu'



Kate McClintock modelling her own creation 'Beautiful Princess'



Niamh Gusterson modelling 'Packaging Punk Princess' for Designers Mia Guidote and Ann Joseph



Rhea Waring modelling 'Circle of Fire' for Caoimhe McGroggan and Cliona McKay





EIMEAR CRAWFORD COLUMBAN SCHOOLS MEDIA WINNER

Congratulations to Year 14 student, Eimear Crawford, who won the Columban Schools Media Competition for 2022. Eimear was awarded 1st place in the All-Ireland competition for her piece on a '21st Century Changemaker'. She will receive a €300 prize and a plaque for her achievement. Eimear is pictured with Miss Pickering and Mrs Johnston who supported her creation of a piece that is the perfect blend of Politics and Religion.

Eimear wrote the winning article on Fr Alec Reid, who was pivotal to the peace process in Northern Ireland.

William Scholes, Features Editor of the Irish News, described the article: *"Fluently written, thoroughly researched, and inspired by the Beatitudes, this entry was a welcome assessment of Fr Alec Reid, a towering figure who was not only a true changemaker but also a peacemaker."*



"It's encouraging that a new generation is aware of his contribution to the peace process, and that they might be inspired by his example to build the peace in the future."

Eimear discusses her inspiration for the article: *"I chose Fr Alec Reid because I think it's so important to recognise the changemakers who have inspired peace and reconciliation within our own country. Fr Reid is especially inspirational to me because he was able to look past division and work for every life endangered by the Troubles."*

Read Eimear's winning essay below:

IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL

"Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called children of God." - Matthew 5:9

Northern Ireland in the 21st century is a blessedly different place than it was in the century that preceded it. I think of my own childhood, devoid of the bomb and the bullet, and the shocking stories told by my relatives, growing up during the 70s and 80s, stories about shootings, burning cars and harassment. The Good Friday Agreement heralded a new dawn for Northern Ireland, leading us towards the path of peace, bringing an end to the Troubles. There were many key people involved in the creation of the Agreement, but one figure that particularly stands out to me is Father Alec Reid, a Redemptorist priest from Clonard in Belfast.

Father Reid did not claim allegiance to any political party or ideology. Instead, he explained what motivated him, "I used to say that I don't belong to any political party, but I represent the next person who is going to be killed in the troubles. The church has a moral obligation to get stuck in when people are suffering and to try and stop it." Not only was this a viewpoint that was all too rare during the bloody days of the Troubles, but it also exemplifies the teachings of the Catholic church: we are all part of one human family, regardless of our racial, ethnic, economic, or ideological differences. Perhaps one of the most haunting images of the conflict depicts Father Reid, knelt over the body of a British soldier. In what became known as the corporal killings, two British soldiers who accidentally drove into a republican funeral were beaten and shot by the IRA. Father Reid was warned to stay away by the assailants, and even threatened with death, but courageously went to help the soldiers. When nothing could be done for them, he performed the last rites. This simple act of human decency evokes another teaching of the Catholic church, everyone has a fundamental right to life, and we each have a responsibility to do what we can to uphold that.

What was not known at the time Father Reid's picture was taken is that he was carrying with him a bloodstained envelope from Gerry Adams, to be given to John Hume, leader of the SDLP. Father Reid was instrumental in bringing Sinn Féin into the political dialogue, a process that would eventually culminate in the 1994 IRA ceasefire. These talks helped to change Sinn Féin's policy, moving away from armed struggle against Britain towards a focus on self-determination and achieving their aims through non-violent, political means. Following the success of the talks, Gerry Adams acknowledged that peace would not have been possible without the efforts of Father Reid, "there would not be a peace process at this time without [Father Reid's] diligent doggedness and his refusal to give up."

The negotiations set up by Father Reid paved the way for the Good Friday Agreement, and he acted as Sinn Féin's contact person with the Irish government from 1987 to the signing of the Agreement in 1998.

The conversations between Hume and Adams were held secretly in rooms in Clonard Monastery. It was a fitting location for the negotiations to take place, the monastery had been a centre of peace-making and reconciliation and had strong links with the local Presbyterian church. The Humes-Adams talks were not the only important discussions to take place at Clonard, other interfaith talks held at the monastery also played a vital role in brokering the 1994 ceasefire. Pope Paul IV taught "if you want peace, work for justice." Father Reid worked for both, creating an atmosphere where people of all religions and beliefs could come together and try to build a better future.

Father Reid's contribution to the peace process in Northern Ireland did not end with the signing of the Good Friday Agreement. In 2005, he was one of the witnesses to the decommissioning of IRA weapons, a critical hurdle in the peace process. Everyone recognised how difficult the struggle for peace had been, and it was essential to preserve it, however fragile it was. 2 Corinthians 5:17 reads, "Therefore, if anyone is in Christ, the new creation has come: the old has gone, the new is here." The bad old days of the Troubles had gone, but the new, peaceful creation birthed by the Agreement would have to be nurtured. Father Reid's presence, along with Methodist minister Harold Good, was vital, as he was a trusted figure and a known peacemaker and helped to assuage the fears of those sceptical about the republicans' intentions.

Father Reid was far from the only person involved in bringing peace to Northern Ireland. What stands out to me about him is that unlike some of the other architects of peace, he was wholly unmotivated by a desire for constitutional change or his own political beliefs. Instead, he simply valued the sanctity of human life, and wished to see an end to the atrocities that stole so many innocent lives. Journalist Brian Rowan summed up the impact that Father Reid had on the Northern Ireland peace process in the BBC documentary, 14 Days, "I think when the journalists look back on the 50 years of conflict here, and on the journey of war to peace, the story will not be told without the name of Alec Reid right in the middle of it all."

The school were delighted to receive a hand-written letter from Fr Paul Turley C Ss R of Clonard Monastery congratulating Eimear and her teachers on their achievements. This was a particularly special recognition for Eimear as Fr Turley is a Redemptorist priest who was also a colleague of Fr Alec Reid.



EMPOWERED POETRY COMPETITION

As part of National Poetry Day celebrations, students were encouraged to write a poem on the theme of 'Empowered' for the Young Writers poetry competition. It inspired students to empower themselves, and others, through their words. We are delighted that a number of students' entries were chosen for publication!

Each student has received a certificate and most excitingly, their work has been published in a poetry anthology! What a fantastic achievement!



NORTHERN IRELAND SCHOOL BUSINESS CHALLENGE

"I was part of a group of Year 15 Business Studies students who took part in the NI School Business Challenge in partnership with Queen's University Belfast this year. Our main goal was to analyse a case study about the partnership of Spar with Henderson Group, while putting ourselves in the role of a Junior Accountant for BDO NI.

We explored and researched very current issues in the world of business; the impacts of Brexit, COVID 19 and the supply chain, as well as food waste and ways to incorporate eco-friendly practices into the Spar franchise.

We spent a few months working alongside our teacher Miss McKendry and used afterschool sessions to put together a detailed presentation. We then travelled to Queen's University to present our findings to lecturers from the Business Management School as well as Directors from both Henderson Group and BDO NI. It gave us a fantastic insight into the world of business in Northern Ireland.

Although we didn't win, we were very happy with our performance, and we even got a special mention from the judges!

Overall, it was a great opportunity to develop our analytical thinking and to foster connections with Queen's University and various companies in attendance. I can't recommend the experience enough; it has given me the confidence I need to attend interviews for higher education courses and scholarships."

By Laura Daniel, Year 15

Business Challenge Participants:

Laura Daniel, Fauinene McErlane, Conall McKendry, Charley Herron and Beth Reilly.





A-LEVEL PRIZE-GIVING

In January our 2020-2021 Top A-Level achievers in each subject were invited back into school to receive their trophies. We are very proud of them and were delighted to hear how they are enjoying their university courses.

Prize Winners:

Meabh Fyfe: Government and Politics
Maria O'Rawe: Maths and Economics (not pictured)
Niall McFadden: Nutrition and Food Science (not pictured)
Marcella Kelly: Cassidy Cup for Traditional Music and Joint BTEC Business Studies
Alisha McLarnon: Joint BTEC Business Studies
Rory Campbell: BTEC Construction
Ella O'Neill: BTEC ICT
Conall McCafferty: BTEC Agriculture Top Achiever
Sean Higgins: Digital Technology
Neve Wilkinson: Drama and History
Jack Galloway: Chemistry
Orlagh Stewart: Business Studies
Rory McCloskey: Physical Education
Charlie Mestrusty: DA Sport
Maeve Mulholland: SA Sport and SA Health and Social Care
Daniel McNicholl: DA Health and Social Care (not pictured)
Miriam McClintock: Music
Aoife McCloy: Moving Image Arts
Adam O'Neill: Art and Religious Studies
Daniel McAleese: Physics and Computer Science
Siún Cummings: French and Spanish
Niamh McIvor: Irish (not pictured)
Patrick Ferris: BTEC Engineering
Maeve Henry: Geography and Biology



Meabh Fyfe Government and Politics Top Achiever



Ella O'Neill BTEC ICT Top Achiever and
Rory Campbell BTEC Construction Top Achiever



Sean Higgins Digital Technology Top Achiever



Marcella Kelly
BTEC Business Studies Top achiever
pictured with her teacher Mrs McGreevy



Charlie Mestrusty
DA Sport Top
Achiever and
Rory McCloskey
Physical Education
Top Achiever

Patrick Ferris
BTEC Engineering
Top Achiever and
Maeve Henry
Geography and Biology
Top Achiever





Conall McCafferty BTEC Agriculture Top Achiever
Neve Wilkinson Drama and History Top Achiever
Orlagh Stewart Business Studies Top Achiever
Miriam McClintock Music Top Achiever



Daniel McAleese
Physics and Computer Science
Top Achiever pictured with
Mrs McFadden and Mrs McClintock



Siún Cummings
French and Spanish Top Achiever



Adam O'Neill
Religious Studies and Art Top Achiever
pictured with Miss Pickering



Dylan Galloway
Chemistry Top Achiever



Zuzanna Konieczkiewicz
English Literature Top Achiever



Aoife McCloy
Moving Image Arts Top Achiever



Alisha McLarnon
BTEC Business Studies Top Achiever



Maeve Mulholland
SA Sport and SA Health and Social Care
Top Achiever

NOT PICTURED

Maria O'Rawe Maths and Economics Top Achiever
Niall McFadden Nutrition and Food Science Top Achiever
Daniel McNicholl DA Health and Social Care Top Achiever
Niamh McIvor Irish Top Achiever





SPIRIT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARD

Congratulations to our Religious Studies department who have been awarded, with Distinction, in the Down and Connor Diocese Spirit of Catholic Education Awards.

This is in recognition of the school's outstanding commitment to partnership and community outreach as outlined in the quality indicators detailed in the Down and Connor Catholic Ethos: A Framework for Self-Reflection.

This is an excellent achievement for the school and we thank Miss Pickering for her completion of the application; the Religious Studies department, and all staff and students who continue to promote the Catholic ethos within our school.

Miss Pickering attended the awards ceremony in January on behalf of the school.



CATHOLIC SCHOOLS WEEK 2022

Catholic Schools Week took place between 25th and 30th January 2022 with the theme, 'Living Life to the Full'.

As part of the celebrations for Catholic Schools Week, our KS5 students took part in special RS lessons to explore this year's theme, whilst our KS4 students spent registration listening to our wonderful A-Level Religious Studies students and their reflection based on each daily theme.

Some of our A-Level students also visited St Colmcille's Primary School, meeting with their Faith Council to 'Celebrate Being Together Again'.

In a busy world and school environment, it was lovely for our students to have time allocated to simply reflect on their own faith and we thank our Religious Studies department for the work they put in to mark Catholic Schools Week 2022.





YEAR 14 PUPIL PROFILES

As our Year 14 students prepare to leave SLG, we caught up with some of them to hear some of their favourite memories of the school and their plans for the future...

My name is Hannah Gately and I am an upper sixth pupil here at St Louis. I am a passionate Irish speaker and hope to continue my studies in the language at St Mary's University next year as I aspire to join the teaching profession myself.

As an avid camogie player and Gaelic footballer for Kickham's Creggan, I am grateful for the many sporting opportunities and facilities our school has to offer. I have had many memorable moments at St Louis, including taking part in the school show 'Hairspray' and the 'Presidents Award'. Whilst I am excited for university life, I will miss school and the people here very much. Slán go foill St Louis and go raibh mile maith agat for everything.



My name is Sianeese Maybin and I am from Ballymena. The subjects I have chosen to do at A-Level are Double BTEC sport, Business and Health and Social Care.

I hope to study at St Mary's next year to do primary school teaching. During my time at St Louis I have made the most amazing memories, including the Ski Trip to Austria in 5rd year.



Hi my name is Lewis Harrison. I am currently in Upper Sixth and I study Computer Science, Physical Education and BTEC Business at A-Level.

I hope to go to University next year to study Computer Science or Software Engineering at Queen's as I've thoroughly enjoyed doing projects such as coding systems in Computer Science. This year at school I was joint captain of the U18 Football team and we managed to get to the final of the NI Cup, it created a tremendous buzz around the school and was great to be a part of.



Hello, my name is Anna Douthart. My time in St Louis has been something I will never forget, the friends I've made and the teachers that have helped me along the way.

They made changing to completely new school for A-Levels an easy and enjoyable transition. The HE department in particular was a great place where I made new friends and built positive rapports with my teachers, who made me feel so welcome. I especially will always remember having tea, coffee and cake in class and then all of the 18th birthdays!



My name is Oran McMullan, I am from Rasharkin and I am Deputy Head Boy. I am currently in Upper Sixth studying A-Level Digital Technology, BTEC Engineering and BTEC Construction. In my seven years of being at this school, I have made so many great memories and friends that I will carry with me for the rest of my life.

The most recent one was being a part of the NI Cup team this year and making it to the final. Through this experience I have many new friends and improved my enjoyment of the sport I have played from a very young age. Another opportunity I am grateful for was being able to participate in the Silver Presidents Award with my year group which took place in the Mourne Mountains. Due to Covid 19 we were unable to complete the rest of the award but I thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Although I am gutted to be leaving St Louis this year, it has greatly prepared me for my future in education.



YEAR 8 AND 13 READING PARTNERSHIP

This term, our students have been taking part in a peer mentoring programme for reading during break-time.

Each Year 8 pupil in attendance has been assigned a Sixth form mentor and the pairs have been working through a range of strategies to improve pupil-confidence when it comes to reading aloud. Already this has been a thoroughly enjoyable experience for both our Year 8 students and their mentors who have formed positive relationships throughout the process.





CEIAG

**Careers, Education, Information,
Advice and Guidance**

PAST-PUPIL FOCUS: DECLAN WHITEFORD

"Having left St. Louis in 2010 with A-Levels in Maths, Economics, Physics and IT, I studied BSc Actuarial Science & Risk Management at Queen's University Belfast.

During my placement year I worked in London for Capita Employee Benefits, assisting scheme actuaries in the provision of advice to a portfolio of corporate pension schemes.

Having won a scholarship from the Ireland U.S. Council, I then spent a summer working for Prudential Financial in the US which was a fantastic way to add an international flavour to my work experience whilst living in New York!

I went on to study MSc Risk Management & Financial Regulation (also at Queen's), with the aim of differentiating my CV when entering the graduate job market.

Since leaving university in 2015, I've been fortunate to have worked for some great employers (Milliman and Prudential Financial) in very interesting roles, spanning both consultancy and industry.

I qualified as a Fellow of the Institute of Actuaries (FIA) and became a Chartered Enterprise Risk Actuary (CERA) in 2018.



Now working for Aviva, I'm responsible for audits related to financial, insurance and model risks in their Irish life insurance business. This involves definition of audit scope and work program, technical and actuarial testing, report writing and communication with stakeholders such as the CFO, CRO and CEO.

Reflecting on my time at St. Louis, if I were to offer any advice to current students it would be that hard work does pay off – set yourself a goal and work towards it! If you have an ideal career and job in mind, do what you can to differentiate yourself. The sooner you look to broaden your horizons and experiences, the easier it will be to find the right opportunities. Once you open one door, others will follow!"



Institute
and Faculty
of Actuaries





SIXTH FORM STUDENT OUR VERY OWN DERRY GIRL

Sixth form drama student, Erin McCloskey has been pursuing some exciting acting opportunities and has landed herself a role as an extra on hit BBC drama, 'Derry Girls'.

"I had the amazing opportunity to take part in the filming process of Ireland's most popular TV show, 'Derry Girls', for their final season. I applied for a talent agency a couple of years ago but never heard anything and then one day, out of the blue, I got a casting call for schoolgirls needed in background scenes for Derry girls!"

I was delighted and jumped at the opportunity to be a part of this now iconic and world-famous series.

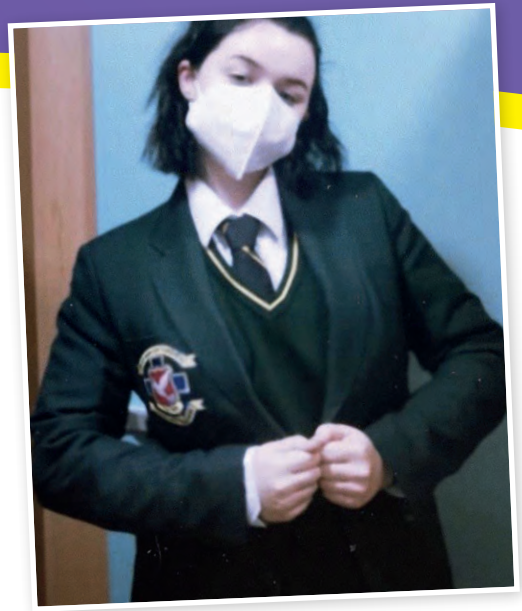
Arriving on set, I soon realised that it is a long process getting everyone through wardrobe and hair and makeup, but thankfully, they had bottomless tea and coffee to get us through the day. I got to meet lots of people who were taking part and even made a few friends. It was a great experience to see behind the scenes of such a professional setup.

I was able to meet the cast and chat away to them in-between takes. It was incredible to see the amount of preparation and dedication needed to pull off a production and the physical demand for actors to give the same energy shot after shot: some days it took hours! It really made me appreciate the time and effort it takes for the film industry to produce content from script to credits.

Most days there was a lot of waiting in the crowd base and during this time I got to meet people from all over the world who have acted in huge productions like "Game of Thrones", "Bridgerton" and "It's Always Sunny in Philadelphia".

The Hollywood life isn't for everyone; 12-hour days and calls to anywhere from 5am to 11pm! (Although you do get an all-inclusive lunch and endless card games to pass the time between scenes).

Thanks to this opportunity I was able to expand on my film career and even got another gig on a new crime series by the BBC. I am currently in the process of applying for a summer internship with Sony.



I can't thank the school enough for all their support to ensure I didn't miss out on this shot as the film industry is in high demand for new talent.

I really hope everyone is looking forward to the new series, the girls are really going out with a bang!"



DERRY GIRLS



@SLGBallymena



www.stlouisgrammar.com



ROTARY CLUB TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGE

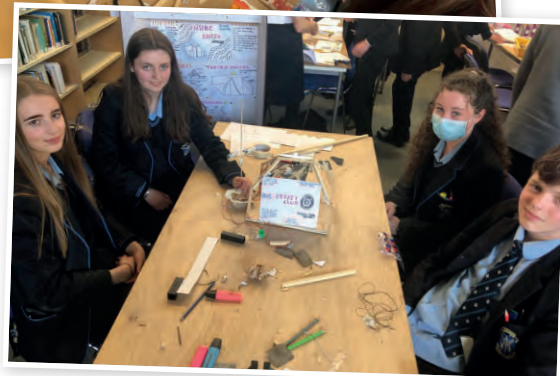
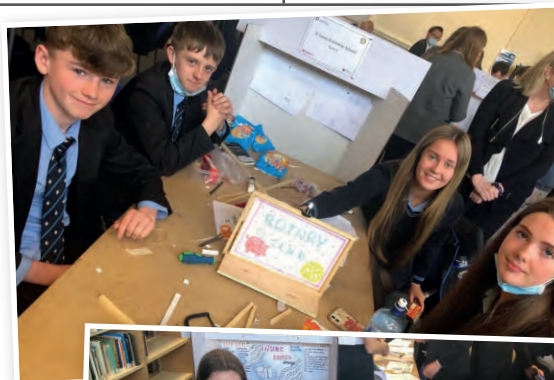
On 24th March, our Year 10 students took part in The Rotary Club Design Challenge. Students were tasked with designing and building a billboard advertising display to include a flashing beacon which should flash a minimum of 20 times.

"We all thoroughly enjoyed our trip out to the Rotary Project Technology Challenge. It was a great opportunity to show off all the skills and knowledge we developed during our Technology classes in school. It was also great fun to be able to participate in the competition along with the other schools as we haven't been able to do so due to Covid in the recent years. It was a great change to get out on a trip out of school to further our knowledge and interest in the subject. Through the day, we ran into many difficulties that we were able to overcome using our teamwork and thinking skills along with our classmates. The challenge and brief required lots of thinking and planning to overcome. Overall, we really valued this experience and would recommend to other students!"

Maria Higgins and Orlagh Donaghy

Well done to both of our SLG teams!

TEAM 1	TEAM 2
Orlagh Donaghy	Caolan McCollum
Alexandra Bowman	Eva Lee
Cadan Andrews	Niall Kennedy
Catherine McKay	Maria Higgins



HUMANITARIAN AID FOR UKRAINE

As news of the crisis in Ukraine broke, our school began to gather donations for a humanitarian shipment organised by West Belfast Foodstock.

In the space of a few days, our students donated winter clothes, non-perishable food, first aid supplies, toiletries, nappies and clothes, and a team of students, coordinated by Mrs Johnston and Miss Pickering, worked to organise the donations for delivery.

"I wish to thank all our wonderful pupils, friends and wider school community for both their generosity and their compassion for the Ukrainian people who just days ago were living ordinary lives just like ours. We are witnessing a crime against humanity and there is little we can do but what has been done is really quite remarkable in the space of a week. I am always very proud to be part of the St Louis community. Thank you from the bottom of my heart."

Mrs Johnston





ANTI-BULLYING AMBASSADORS RECEIVE DIANA AWARD BADGES

Congratulations to our Anti-Bullying ambassadors who have received two anti-bullying badges from The Diana Award this term.

In January, our ambassadors received their badges for Wellbeing. The Diana Award Anti-Bullying Aftercare Team wrote a congratulatory letter to our ambassadors, citing the criteria they had met to receive the pin: dedication to informing students on different types of bullying behaviour and raising awareness of the effect this can have on someone; commitment to supporting students, by setting up a safe space in school where students can discuss and report bullying behaviour; creativity by running a poster competition, reminding people of the impact of bullying behaviour; commitment to ensuring students know who they can access support from by appointing Pupil Health and Wellbeing Prefects and dedication to ensuring students have their voices heard by conducting a Wellbeing evaluation.

Additionally, in March, the ambassadors received news that they will now be awarded their second badge for Online Safety. Again, our team has worked to deliver internet safety presentations; organise an Internet safety poster competition; organise an external speaker for their peers and develop an online reporting tool.

The Diana Award wrote, *"We hope that this achievement will serve as a celebration of all the creative and compassionate actions that you have undertaken to decrease bullying and to promote a united, positive culture in your school."*

Our team now look forward to their next stage of their ambassador journey. We are very proud of their achievements to date.



YEAR 8 DRAMA CLUB

Every Thursday afternoon, over thirty Year 8 pupils meet to partake in a new extracurricular activity, Drama Club.

During Drama Club, pupils take part in various games and activities, helping them to develop new skills and bolstering their confidence in performance. After school activities allow year 8 pupils to forge friendships with others in their year group.

Brooke Lester (8 Lismoyle) has discussed how using improvisation tasks during Drama Club has helped her make new friends: *'I like improv as it always ends up being really fun. We get to work with our friends to try to think of new ideas.'* Brooke also stated that Drama Club *'boosts your confidence on stage and helps you learn new and useful skills.'*

Ronan McBride (8 Laragh), who joined Drama Club later in the year, added that *'in Drama Club, we play lots of games and it is a friendly environment for newcomers'*. Ronan goes on to state *'I believe drama club improves confidence and is enjoyable for all skill levels'*. Drama Club meets every Thursday from 3:30pm-4:20pm in D2.





SAFER INTERNET DAY 2022

As part of Safer Internet Day 2022, which took place on 8th February, our students took part in a number of events. Internet Safety has never been so important for our young people as more and more of our lives are tied to the virtual world.

Our Digital Leader Prefects created a virtual assembly outlining different ways we can stay safe online.

Additionally, all year groups received an Internet Safety presentation from the PSNI about staying safe online. Prevention is key in keeping our young people safe and this was an eye-opening event for our students.



YEAR 12 HEALTH AND LIFESTYLE TALK

In March, our Year 12 PE students attended a talk hosted by guest speaker, Oisín McConville.

A Gaelic footballing legend, the Armagh county alum and current manager of the U20 squad provided our students with an insightful discussion on mental health and addiction.





CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD SUCCESS FOR Y14 STUDENTS!

The Annual Irish Chemistry Olympiad was hosted by Trinity College Dublin over two Saturdays in March and involved hundreds of students from all over Ireland.

Year 14 students, Marie Kearney, Cara Pirie, Ciara McCormick, Caoimhe McErlaine, Lucy Donaldson and Ceothan Gormley formed the team from St Louis.

Every member of the team made it through the first round of the competition which was no mean feat in itself, but Caoimhe McErlaine, Lucy Donaldson and Ceothan Gormley went on to win gold, silver and bronze medals respectively!

The girls will now go forward for training in Trinity College Dublin over Easter with the possibility of representing Ireland in the International Chemistry Olympiad from 10th- 20th July in Tianjin, China.

The full sweep of medals resulted in St Louis Grammar school being recognised as the top school in the competition.

Congratulations to our SLG competitors and to the Chemistry Department on this superb achievement!



YEAR 10 AFTER SCHOOL ART CLUB

Our Year 10 after school club have worked to create marvellous street art inspired backgrounds to display our 3D insects completed in class.

We think you'll agree that the effect is very pleasing!





BALLYMENA U18 RUGBY ULSTER LEAGUE AND CUP CHAMPIONS

Congratulations to the U18 Ballymena Rugby squad who won the Ulster Youth League final on Saturday, 29th January against Belfast Met Rugby Academy, before making it a cup double at the Kingspan Stadium in March as they defeated Belfast Met once more in the Ulster Cup on a sunny day in Belfast.

The Youth Rugby League is facilitated by clubs across Ulster and the teams are made up of players who do not attend rugby playing schools. Ballymena compete in the top Provisional league and have played teams from all over Ulster, including Armagh, Monaghan and Virginia.

The Ulster Cup is played for by all clubs in Ulster and getting to the final is a fabulous achievement with teams getting the opportunity to showcase their skills at the home of Ulster Rugby.

We were delighted to hear of the 7 SLG students on the panel: Ryan McCartney, Jack Addison, Michael Read, Joseph O'Rawe, Richard McCann, Ryan Thom and Conor McQuillan.



YEAR 10 'COME DINE WITH ME'

This term, our Year 10 students took part in a 'Come Dine with Me' challenge during Home Economics lessons.

Pupils thoroughly enjoyed creating their own menus and trying each other's creations. Check out some of their fabulous dishes!





ANTRIM MINOR HURLING CAPTAINS

Well done to Year 13 students Aodhan McGarry and Darragh Patterson who were selected as Antrim Minor Hurling captains for this year!



CHRISTMAS FUNDRAISING

Thanks to Mrs McCloskey and our Year 14 Fundraising Committee who organised a Christmas Jumper Day and Fun Day for our KS5 students just before the Christmas holidays.

Our Year 8 and 9 students were treated to a festive movie whilst our Year 10s took part in a quiz.

All funds raised will go towards purchasing defibrillators for the school.



YEAR 14 'OTHELLO' LECTURE

The English Department was delighted to welcome Dr Kevin De Ornellas from Ulster University to St Louis on Tuesday 8th February to deliver a presentation on 'Othello' to Year 14 English Literature students.

Dr De Ornellas explained the benefits of studying English Literature at further education level and provided students with an overview of the undergraduate course at UU.

He then delivered an informative lecture on 'Othello', focusing specifically on areas of interest requested by our students and their teachers. This was followed by a question-and-answer session.

It was a highly beneficial morning for our A-Level students as it enriched their understanding of areas to explore for their upcoming examinations as well as inspiring many to study English Literature at university!





YOUNG ARTISTS' SUMMER EXHIBITION

Some of our KS5 artists have entered a competition facilitated by the Youth Royal Academy (RA) to celebrate the creativity of our young people. Pupils were given the opportunity to create any art piece in any media and accompany their piece with a written explanation. The quality of the artwork in these pieces is exceptional and their write-ups insightful and sensitive in their approach. Well done to these pupils. We wish them the best of luck in the competition.

"My piece was inspired by the famous music artist, Amy Winehouse who was one of many celebrities who struggled with fame along with many other problems which the public mostly fails to recognize. The piece is a snapshot into the reality of a public figure and exposes the very real dark side of fame which is hardly ever looked at. This is because the term 'Fame' is romanticised with the idea of glamour, money, not working for success, and doing whatever you want as these people "...tend to have it easy" The younger generations look up to these people and wish to have their lifestyle as they are described as the "Perfect Lifestyle". Sometimes, too late, it turns out to not be so perfect!" **Megan Dobbin, 10 Lismoyle**



"This is my watercolour painting of a view towards Ballycastle and Rathlin from Carey in County Antrim. It represents the experience of lockdown. Both Ballycastle and Rathlin are black to represent distance and 'void'. They are out of bounds. Just over the fence is lush green fields and the deep blue sea. This links the whole earth, but it is just out of reach. In this picture, Ballycastle is part of the land you are standing on and yet, it seems as inaccessible as Rathlin Island can only be accessed by boat. The fence and barbed wire interrupt the view, which is still there as it is not obscured completely. The barbed wire represents pain, slicing through the local landscape, looming over it. Farmers use barbed wire fencing as a barrier to keep livestock in, just as we were kept in during lockdown. Like sheep in a field, we reacted differently to lockdown; some stayed contentedly in place and others endeavoured to escape, sometimes exposing themselves to risk as a result. Red sky at night is a shepherd's delight. This is a prediction of good weather, but also can mean that good times are ahead. It is used in the sky for contrast with the vivid green and blue. Red is not yet reflected in the sea and landscape. It's a promise in the distance rather than beginning to encroach on reality."

Maria Rosa Black, 10 Lismoyle

"This piece is called 'Headphone Storm' and my inspiration was based on me listening to music, walking or on the bus home and how the music transports me to another world. When I put on my headphones I go from a dark day to a colourful world of rhythms and beats." **Eoin Davies, 8 Lisbreen**





2022 BALLYMENA FESTIVAL SUCCESS

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

Many pupils achieved first place, second place, third place and were highly commended. As always, our pupils did us proud and represented the school exceptionally. Well done to all of the participants and winners!

Category	Prize-winners
Traditional Fiddle (14 – 16 yrs.)	2nd Edward McKendry
Song from any show (12 – 14 yrs.)	2nd Adam Donnelly
Song from any show (15 – 17 yrs.)	1st Catherine Doherty
Cello Solo (14 and under)	2nd Tadhg Gilpin
Viola Solo	2nd Mikey O'Brien
Violin Solo (15/14 yrs.)	5rd Eibhleann Ardiffe / Erin McAleese / Kate McClintock / Iseult O'Loan
Violin Solo (12 yrs.)	2nd Olivia Mullan 5rd Nicole Murray Highly Commended Ursula O'Loan
Cello Solo (15/16 yrs.)	2nd Sofia Richmond
Quartet for Strings	2nd Place (Jointly awarded to 2 of our quartets) Eibhleann Ardiffe / Iseult O'Loan / John Dougan / Lauren May Ong Erin McAleese / Kate McClintock / Kate McGilligan / Sofia Richmond
Clarinet Solo (14 Yrs.)	5rd Grace McGarry
Flute Solo (14 yrs.)	1st Molly Doherty 2nd Luca Alexander
Woodwind Ensemble	1st Niamh O'Shea / Siobhan and Roisin McGale / Grace McGarry
Clarinet Solo (open)	5rd Aisling Ardiffe
Saxophone Solo (open)	1st Naoishe Gilpin





CONGRATULATIONS TO AISLING SMITH

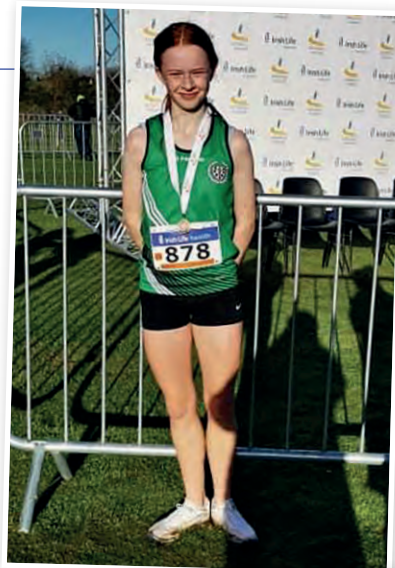
Congratulations to Aisling Smith who gained a place on the NI and Ulster Cross Country team.

Aisling competed at the World Athletics Northern Ireland International Cross Country race in January as part of the team who placed third overall.

ULSTER SCHOOLS CROSS COUNTRY 2022

Well done to our students who competed in the Ulster Schools Cross Country competition on 9th February 2022.

Year 11 student, Aisling Smith placed 7th and will now run in the All-Ireland competition. Year 8 student, Mya Carrol placed 19th overall in the Mini Girl's race. And Year 11 student, Shay McGinley also ran a very competitive race.



LEONARD SHIELD FINAL 2022

Commiserations to our Year 11 hurling panel who narrowly missed out on lifting the Leonard shield in a tight final against Our Lady and St Patrick's College, Knock on Friday 1st April.

During what was an entertaining sixty minutes of hurling, the boys battled well. It was an excellent team performance and a great goal from Caolan McFerran kept the game in suspense right until the final whistle.

Final Score: OLSPCK: 1-17 SLG: 1-12

SLG Panel: EDWARD MCKENDRY, CIARAN LOGAN, SEAN DUFFIN, SHAY MCGINLEY, PADRAIG MARTIN, LUKE MCFERRAN, RYAN O'BOYLE, CALEB SMITH, JACK MCKEEVER, GER MCFADDEN, CHARLIE CUNNING, SEAN DOUTHART, RONAN MCCORMICK, HARRY FYFE, PADDY MURPHY, CAOLAN MCFERRAN, DOMINYKAS BUDRIKAS, FIONTAN BRADLEY (Year 10), SEAN MCDERMOTT, CONNOR O'HARA, PATRICK O'NEILL, RYAN MCCLEMENTS, EDDIE SYMTH (Year 10), SEAN OG BLANEY, CAOLAN MCCOLLUM (Year 10), RYAN MCKEEVER, SHEA GRAFFIN, SEAMUS MCMULLAN (Year 10).





TRIBUTE TO CONNOR MARRON, RIP

As a school community, it was with great sadness that we heard of the death of one of our former students at the beginning of January. Connor Marron, RIP, left our school in 2020 with a bright future ahead. Connor was a very accomplished snooker player, winning the U16 NI Snooker Champion at age 12, and was an active member of Roger Casement's Club. He was an important and loved member of our St Louis community and will be remembered fondly by both staff and his peers.

Many of our staff, past and present pupils took part in the 5K walk/run, organised by Casement's GAC Portglenone, in memory of Connor. It was lovely to see such a turnout at the event in February which raised £13,260 in support of The Kevin Bell Repatriation Trust who provided support to the Marron family in the days following Connor's death.

Our thoughts and prayers remain with Connor's family and friends at this time. A Thiarna, dean trócaire air.



VIRTUAL SCHOOL TOUR

We were delighted to launch our virtual school tour in January.

Due to covid our normal open evenings were not possible this year and so a whole school effort was made to create a virtual open day to showcase our school. Filming for the event took place in November with both staff and students involved in the process. Our students, as always, did us so proud to convey so many aspects of school life, even if it was through a screen!

The virtual tour is still available on our website.



ALL-STARS!

Cliona Griffin (Year 13) has been selected in the Ulster Ladies' Schools All-Stars.

This is a great achievement for Cliona who fought hard in both trials amongst girls from all over Ulster.

Additionally, Dáire McMullan, (Year 14) has been selected for the 2022 Ulster Schools Hurling All-Stars Team at Number 7.

Well done to Dáire and Cliona, who are incredibly talented sportspeople. We have no doubt that this is one of many awards that they will receive in their playing careers.



ELMER PROJECT

A group of students, alongside Mrs McAuley, have spent the last few months working on 'The Elmer Project' to raise funds for the NI Hospice.

From kids' story books Elmer was the elephant who stood out from the pack so this is an educational project which we can use to share an important message.

As part of The Elmer Project, the team are provided with a 3D Elmer to visually express a message of their choosing... so far the students have initiated a wealth of amazing concepts in beautifully artistic ways.

These photos show the arrival of our Elmer to SLG... the pupils are delighted to be involved in this project and are so excited to be getting to place their images onto it. The finished Elmer will join a group of large and small 'Elmers' to be launched as an educational trail in Belfast early in June, which will then travel across the North, making a stop in Ballymena. Eventually, our Elmer will return to SLG to be used to inform further projects.



Elmer's arrival



The unveiling!

By being involved in the project the group pledged to fundraise £1000 for NI Hospice and are well on the way to raising this thanks to the ingenuity of the team and the wonderful generosity of our school community.

UPCOMING DATES

(Subject to Change)

Monday 2nd May:

Bank Holiday

Monday 9th May:

AS/A2 modules commence

Wednesday 11th May:

Year 14 Farewell Mass

Thursday 12th May:

Year 11/12 GCSE modules commence

Tuesday 17th May:

Year 8 Parent Teacher meeting

Thursday 2nd, Friday 3rd June:

Bank Holiday

Monday 6th June – Thursday 9th June:

KS5 CM4 examinations



The Newsletter of St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena
Easter Edition April 2022