

The Kintullagh Voice

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The Newsletter of St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena

100
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

1924-2024



N.I. Top Grammar School



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ST LOUIS CELEBRATES CENTENARY

St Louis Grammar School began its year of centenary celebrations. Founded in 1924, the school marked the occasion with a special centenary Mass and afternoon tea at the school with over 400 pupils, parents, and staff, past and present.

Beginning with the passing of the light from Isabelle Graham, one of the oldest past pupils, to 11-year-old Cayla Murray, the youngest pupil at the school, the day recognised and celebrated the strong bonds between St Louis and the local community.

One hundred years ago, on 8th January 1924, the first four of the Sisters of St Louis arrived in Ballymena. There was no education available for girls locally before this, and the local Parish Priest, Canon O'Donnell, who was instrumental in bringing the Sisters, had long been anxious to address this by establishing a convent that would provide for the education of the Catholic girls of Ballymena.

From an initial enrolment of only 35 pupils in September 1924, today St Louis is a thriving school, with 1,181 pupils. Regularly recognised as the top-performing school in Northern Ireland, St Louis is committed to providing excellent educational opportunities for each pupil to develop his/her unique talents to the full in a secure, caring environment.

It has been a wonderful first 100 years for St Louis Grammar School in Ballymena. We have several events planned during 2024 to celebrate with our local community, and we are looking forward to welcoming back many more past pupils, parents, and staff throughout the year. While the school building and grounds have developed tremendously over the years, our ethos remains the same: a St Louis family value system and a family-centred approach to education.

To find out more about the St Louis centenary events in 2024 and how you can be involved, please visit www.stlouisgrammar.com



1924-2024



@SLGBallymena



www.stlouisgrammar.com



SKI TRIP

In the picturesque landscape of Folgaria, Italy, 116 pupils and 11 teachers from our school embarked on an unforgettable trip in January.

For those new to the sport, the week proved transformative as they quickly mastered the basics and approached the slopes with more confidence each day. Meanwhile, advanced skiers honed their skills, carving through the Dolomite Mountains. Regardless of skill level, every pupil embraced the challenge of skiing.

Each evening, the fun continued off the slopes with a lineup of evening activities. From a cinema night to pizza nights which provided a taste of Italian culture, the pupils had a jam-packed week of activities.

The ski trip to Folgaria was more than just a school trip; it was an experience which encouraged our pupils to embrace challenges and their fears each day, assets that will stand by them as they progress in our school and added to the enriching experiences during their time at SLG.



LEARN SPARK STUDY SKILLS WORKSHOP

In February, we hosted Paul Gray from Learn Spark to deliver a Study Skills Information Evening to our parents. We are thrilled to say that our Parent Study Skills Information Evening was a resounding success!

Thank you to everyone who joined us. From managing study time effectively to creating a focused environment, the guidance provided will undoubtedly make a difference in our pupils' academic success. We are grateful for the overwhelming response and look forward to hosting similar events in the future.

Parent testimonials

An excellent session for parents delivered by Paul Gray.

Realistic approach and helpful advice about how to support, motivate and guide our children with their study skills. Paul suggested many tips to help improve effectiveness of study such as organising both the study space and study materials, having a clear plan using a timetable to manage time effectively, the importance of balance and routine, promoting a growth mindset especially in the challenging moments and listening/talking to each other always to help manage stress and promote resilience.

Learn Spark website links and templates were provided – the timetable and mind map templates are easily accessible there alongside additional study tool templates and much useful information.

Would highly recommend a Learn Spark session to all parents. Most informative and just the right amount of audience participation!

Dr Martina Pirie



'My husband and I attended a "Parents study skills" info evening hosted by Paul Gray from Learn Spark.

To begin with, it was a very welcoming, friendly relaxed atmosphere, in which the speaker was very enthusiastic and easy to listen to.

He made the workshop fun, learning valuable tips and advice on how to support my children through study, homework's, planning and prepping for exams, time management, schedule's and creating a good learning environment.

He provided great resources and links for further information.

Overall, an excellent workshop, and can't recommend enough to all parents as an essential guide to help your child through their studies at all levels.'

Mrs Karen McCaughern



SPIRIT OF CATHOLIC EDUCATION AWARD

"Ut Sint Unum" – 'that they may be one'

This sums up the core values underpinning this remarkable school in North Antrim and encapsulates and epitomises the sense of family and community which is part of everyday life in St Louis and the eyes through which St Louis sees itself, others and the world.

Introductory words by Dr Aidan Donaldson, from the Catholic Schools Support Service at an awards ceremony held in St Marys University College where we were delighted to be awarded the Spirit of Catholic Education Award 2024 from the Down and Connor Diocese. This award recognises the continued dedication of the school community to our Catholic Ethos.

Mrs O'Neill, Miss Pickering, Rioghnach and Michael were delighted to accept this award on behalf of the whole school community



INSPIRING THE NEXT GENERATION

Prof. Brian Cox's Science Summer School Experience

In late January, a group of our students had the incredible opportunity to participate in the second Science Summer School event held at the Braid Arts Centre.

Joined by over 400 other students, this event marked a significant milestone in their academic journey, with the renowned physicist, Prof. Brian Cox, setting high expectations for all attendees.

"Sometimes if you don't know anyone who has been to university, or who works in one of those industries, it's very difficult sometimes, as 13, 14, 15-year-olds, to have the confidence to say: 'That's what I want to do,'" said Prof. Cox. "So a lot of this really is aimed at building connections and bridges."

Moreover, in light of pressing global challenges such as climate change, the importance of nurturing the next generation of innovators and problem-solvers cannot be overstated. Prof. Cox emphasized the role of STEAM in addressing these challenges head-on, highlighting the emergence of greener industries as part of the solution.

Through engaging with topics at the intersection of science, technology, and sustainability, students not only gain valuable insights into the world around them but also cultivate the critical thinking skills necessary to effect positive change.

The impact of events like the Science Summer School extends far beyond the confines of a single day or venue. They serve as catalysts for inspiration, sparking curiosity and instilling a sense of purpose in young minds.

As our students return from this enriching experience, we eagerly anticipate the ripple effects it will have on their academic journeys and beyond.

In the words of Prof. Brian Cox, "The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams." It is through initiatives like the Science Summer School that we pave the way for a future brimming with innovation, discovery, and boundless possibility.





SOROPTOMIST PUBLIC SPEAKING COMPETITION

My name is Erin McAleese and I am in Year 15. I recently had the privilege of participating in the Soroptimist International 41st Annual Youth Award Public Speaking Competition. I delivered a speech focused on the proactive nature of Public Health.

On this journey I was supported by Mrs Morgan and Mrs McCrory and was fortunate to be awarded first place in the Ballymena cohort.

Six schools from the local area were represented by young women who addressed various contemporary global issues and collectively inspired the audience.

I progressed to the Northern Ireland competition in Hillsborough and was given the opportunity to deliver not only my prepared speech but also an extempore speech.

It was with pride I represented St Louis Grammar School, the opportunities and support afforded to us as pupils enrich our lives in a myriad of ways. This experience was undoubtedly one of the highlights from my six years as a pupil here.



BPW PUBLIC SPEAKING UK FINAL

Congratulations to Michael McPeake, Annie McCrory and Peter McElroy who competed in the BPW Public Speaking UK Final on Friday 15th March in Bristol.

Peter confidently chaired the meeting, Annie wowed the audience with her thought-provoking speech on 'Objectivity in Journalism' and Michael concluded the meeting with a perfectly balanced vote of thanks, combining wit and perceptive insight!

Michael won the award for the best overall 'Expresser of Thanks' in the competition - such an impressive feat!

We are proud of what Annie, Michael and Peter achieved - they were outstanding!



ROBOTICS CLUB

Our Robotics Club took part in the First Lego League Challenge in W5 on Tuesday, 6th February.

The boys had a great time, and each were presented with a certificate and medal for their participation in the competition.

Thanks to Miss Canavan for facilitating and well done to all involved.





FRIENDS FOR ROMANIA

In February, a group of 18 pupils and 5 staff traveled to Brasov, Romania.

During our week-long stay at Casa Elim in Romania, the group had access to amenities like a games room, outdoor basketball court, and football pitch, providing us with opportunities for recreation each evening.

Each morning began with a purposeful trip to a wholesale warehouse, where we stocked up on essential supplies for the places we were visiting, ranging from cleaning items to fruit, ensuring we could help support the poverty in the area.

Every day the group aimed to visit two different locations, totaling 10 throughout the trip. These varied from homes for young children to residential for the severely disabled. We engaged in activities like dancing, card games, and even karaoke, with the hope of adding some joy to each group we visited.

The group travelled to Brasov city center, where the free time allowed pupils and staff to take in the different cultural experiences of Romania, from the sights to the food. One afternoon everyone headed off in the cable car to the Brasov sign, overlooking the city below and taking in the breathtaking views. On the last day, pupils and staff went together to a local mass in Brasov, an opportunity to say thanks for a successful and enjoyable trip.

A highlight of the journey was the visit to Mesota College, one of Brasov's top schools. Here, everyone not only toured the campus but also immersed themselves in traditional Romanian dances, mixing with local students that gave another great cultural insight.

Though their trip lasted just a week, its impact was lasting. Pupils travelling to Romania in June 2024 are fundraising for the next visit, eager to continue their mission of supporting and relieving poverty.



YEAR 8 WIN ANTRIM SCHOOLS SHIELD

In an exciting match on Wednesday 28th February, St Louis emerged victorious in the Gealfast Year 8 Shield at Dunsilly, defeating St. Malachy's, Belfast with a final score of 2-2 to 0-1.

The game began with a stellar performance from St Louis, as full forward Harry McQuillan swiftly secured a goal just four minutes into the match, setting the tone for an impressive display. Center forward Conor O'Kane further extended St Louis's lead with a well-executed point seven minutes later, giving the team a 1-1 to 0-0 advantage by halftime.

Despite St Malachy's dominating possession, they struggled to find the target in challenging conditions. However, a successful free kick from Cillian Gillespie widened the gap to five points. St. Louis solidified their victory with a crucial goal from Rory Garrett. Even as St Malachy's continued to put up a fight, including a notable run from defense by Dylan Quinn resulting in a well-earned free kick converted by Dillon Foy, St Louis ultimately emerged triumphant.

Pictures thanks to Bert Trowlen & The Saffron Gael





TURAS GAELTACHTA *Senior Irish Students, December 2025*

In December 2025, Miss O'Brien and Mrs Campbell were delighted to organise a trip to the Gaeltacht region of Donegal for the Senior Irish Students (Year 11 – Year 14).

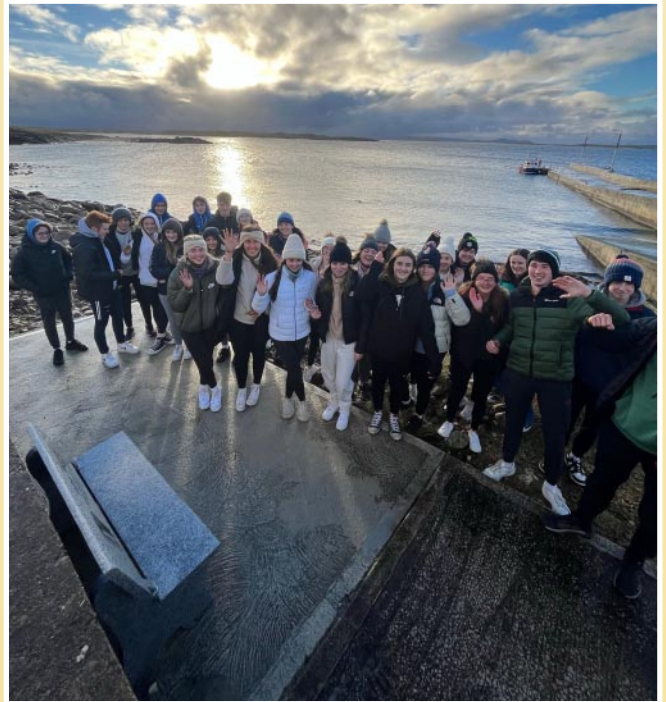
We took a risk going in December, however, the sun came out as we sailed out to Gola Island and staff and pupils enjoyed an historical talk from Colin, Trek & Paddle, as we walked around the island.

We were welcomed back by staff in Teach Jack who provided comfortable accommodation and a delicious two-course dinner. Pupils and staff then joined locals in a céilí and enjoyed a quiz through the medium of Irish, with the winners being presented with selection boxes.

On each school trip to the Gaeltacht, the pupil who best displays 'Spiorad na Gaeltachta' is presented with a Gaath Dobhair jersey sponsored by Mrs O'Neill & St. Louis. This year, our winner was Conn! Comhghairdeas mór ó chroí le Conn! Conn is an outstanding student in every way. He consistently speaks fluent accurate Irish, enters into all activities within the Department with grit and grace and always rises to the occasion. Conn is a leader among his peers and a true Gael! Miss O'Brien and Mrs Campbell were thrilled to present Conn with his jersey and we wish Conn every success as he leaves St. Louis at the end of this year.

Trips to the Gaeltacht region of Donegal provide pupils with an invaluable opportunity to practise their spoken Irish in a variety of contexts eg. in Teach Jack, at mealtimes, in local shops and when speaking to local businesses that operate through the medium of Irish. We hope this experience provided enhanced confidence and competence to pupils in preparation for their Speaking examinations in Summer 2024.

Thanks also to Mr Convery (Head of Technology & Design) and Mr Close (LSA) who accompanied the group and provided beautiful music throughout!



RAIDIÓ NA GAELTACHTA

During our 'Turas Gaeltachta' in the hills of Donegal in December, our most fabulous linguists and traditional musicians took to the airwaves to record a programme on 'Bladhaire'. This is a weekly programme on Raidió na Gaeltachta, which is presented by Áine Ni Bhreisleáin and draws listeners from all over the country.

Many of our students from Year 11-14 were able to speak enthusiastically in Irish about themselves and their study of Irish in St Louis and were interviewed alongside Miss O'Brien and Mrs Campbell, who were both bursting with pride listening to the quality of each interview. Students spoke fluently and confidently throughout and were a credit to the school.

Mr Convery and Mr Close led a group of highly talented musicians to play a number of beautiful tunes, including a traditional rendition of jingle bells at the end to get everyone into the festive spirit. Áine and her team were amazed by the fact that the entire programme was recorded in just one take, and the programme was aired on 14th December.





ABRSM AWARD

Congratulations to our amazing pupils who all passed their ABRSM exams in November.

Special congratulations to Aisling, Sofia and Lauren May, who achieved Grade 8, Grade 7 and 74/75 in Grade 5 Theory respectively. Thank you to the Music Department for providing a great opportunity.



FORESTERS CUP CAMPAIGN 2024

In a thrilling semi-final showdown at Quinn Park, Ballymena, our Foresters hurlers showcased their formidable skills on the pitch, securing a well-deserved victory over rivals St Killian's, Garron Tower, in the prestigious Foresters Cup campaign.

The standout performance of the match belonged to our own centre half forward, Fiontan Bradley. His exceptional prowess in front of goal proved to be the deciding factor, as he consistently found the target throughout the game. Bradley's early goal in the second half tilted the scales in St Louis' favor, ultimately clinching the win. Not to be outdone, Caolan McCollum also delivered a stellar performance in the pivotal role of right half forward.

Delighted with their semi-final triumph, St Louis entered the Foresters Cup final against St Patrick's, Maghera, with confidence and determination. The match began in impressive fashion for our hurlers, with two quick points scored within minutes, hinting at a potential upset against the formidable favourites, St Pat's Maghera. However, the Derry-based opponents swiftly asserted their dominance, showcasing their true credentials on the field. Despite our Foresters hurlers valiant efforts, St Pat's surged ahead, building a commanding lead by the time our hurlers secured their third point.

While the outcome may not have been in our favour, the journey to the Foresters Cup final was a testament to the skill, resilience, and hard work of our Foresters team. We extend our heartfelt congratulations to all players and management for their outstanding performance throughout the campaign. Your dedication and hard work have undoubtedly made us proud, and we eagerly anticipate future successes on the pitch.

As we reflect on this campaign, let us continue to support and celebrate the achievements of our talented athletes, knowing that they exemplify the true spirit of St Louis.





ROTARY YOUTH

Gráinne McAuley was one of the 24 winners of the Rotary Youth Leadership Development Competition! She embarked on an unforgettable journey, discussing politics with MLAs in Belfast, engaging with TDs in Dublin, and debating in the EU Parliament in Strasbourg! Her speech on the 'EU's Zero Pollution Ambition' captivated audiences, setting her apart as a leader of tomorrow. Well done Gráinne!

Grainne McAuley's Blog

The Rotary Youth Leadership Development Competition garnered approximately 5,000 entries from across Ireland. Only 24 individuals advanced after successfully navigating three stages of interviews. The coveted prize for this competition was an all-expenses-paid trip aimed at enhancing the participants' understanding of the political landscape while honing their leadership, public speaking, and interpersonal skills, alongside like-minded peers with shared aspirations for the future.

The journey commenced with a visit to the Stormont Parliament Building in Belfast, where the winners had the privilege of engaging in dialogue with various MLAs and Deputy First Minister for Northern Ireland, Emma Little-Pengelly. Immersed in real-time debates, the group had the opportunity to deepen their comprehension of Northern Ireland's history and contemporary politics before actively participating by posing questions and offering suggestions to the attending politicians.



Subsequently, the cohort travelled to Dublin, where they were warmly received by several TDs at Dáil Éireann. Here, they observed ongoing discussions and later engaged in personal conversations with the accommodating TDs, delving into diverse issues shaping the global landscape.

The final leg of the journey transported the winners to Strasbourg, France, where they attended a debate at the Euroscola event within the EU Parliament. Addressing an audience of 600 peers from 25 different schools across the EU, participants, including myself, seized the opportunity to deliver speeches, with topics assigned, such as the 'EU's Zero Pollution Ambition'.

In a simulated parliamentary setting, students proposed amendments and engaged in voting procedures, emulating the decision-making processes of the EU Parliament. Additionally, a visit to the EU Court of Human Rights provided insights into citizens' rights within the EU and beyond, offering invaluable guidance for aspiring leaders' future career paths.

Gratitude cannot adequately express my appreciation for the leaders and organizers who meticulously planned this transformative experience. Their dedication has left an indelible mark, and I am immensely grateful to Mrs. McCarry and St. Louis for their unwavering support and for illuminating this extraordinary opportunity back in October 2023. This journey has been nothing short of extraordinary, setting the foundation for a lifetime of growth and learning.



PUPILS SHINE IN JUNK KOUTURE REGIONAL FINAL

Year 11 Art pupils Susan O'Neill and her model, Eimear Kelly, have captured attention with their outstanding entry, 'Helirium,' in the highly acclaimed 2024 Junk Kouture Regional Final held at the Helix, Dublin on Tuesday, March 5th.

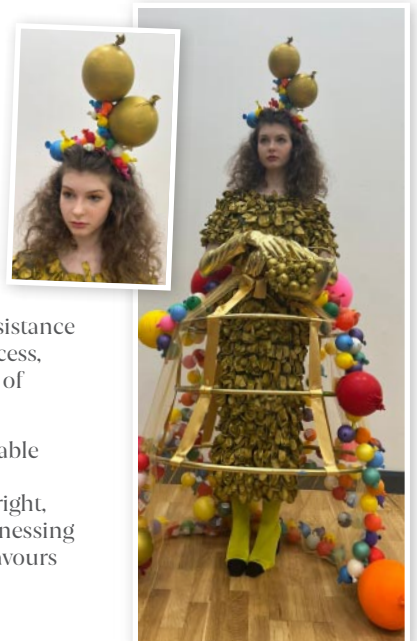
Susan's innovative design for 'Helirium' is more than just a fashion statement; it's a poignant commentary on the environmental challenges we face. Drawing inspiration from her genuine concerns about society's carelessness in releasing helium-filled balloons into the atmosphere, Susan's creation serves as a powerful reminder of the urgent need to protect our planet.

While the journey to the Regional Final was a testament to Susan and Eimear's creativity and dedication, their exceptional professionalism and maturity in handling the pressures of the competition shone through. Despite not progressing to the final round, their grace under pressure and unwavering commitment deserves special recognition.

We extend our appreciation to the Art Department who supported Susan and Eimear throughout their Junk Kouture journey.

Their encouragement and assistance played a vital role in their success, and we are immensely proud of their achievements.

Congratulations on a remarkable journey, Susan and Eimear. Your future is undoubtedly bright, and we eagerly anticipate witnessing your continued artistic endeavours and accomplishments.





BIOLOGY OLYMPIAD

In January, several students from Years 13 and 14 took part in the annual Biology Olympiad.

The Olympiad challenges and stimulates students interested in Biology to expand and extend their talents. It enables students to demonstrate their talent and receive publicly recognized certificates as a suitable reward. The competition consisted of two 45-minute online exam papers which tested skill, knowledge, and application in Biology. The questions were very complicated, with many being at degree standard!

Over 9000 students from all over the world took part, a record number of competitors. Both Aoife Walker in Year 14 and Aodhan Robb in Year 13 were delighted to discover that they were silver medal winners, placing in the top 10% of competitors. Emmett Healey, Erin Duffin, Michael McPeake, and Cesc Butler received Highly Commended certificates. This is the first time any student in Year 13 has been awarded a medal of any sort! Cobhlaith Gormley and Caoimhe McGroggan would like to thank our teachers for their help and support during the competition.



Aodhan, Aoife, Caoimhe and Cobhlaith

ULSTER MINOR PLAYER OF THE YEAR

Ulster Camogie awarded Upper Sixth student Dearbhail Dobbin the Minor Player of the Year award for her endeavors with Antrim Camogie.

We are delighted to see Dearbhail receiving the recognition she deserves for her commitment and dedication to Camogie. Dearbhail has been a key part of every Camogie team she has been part of during her time at St Louis, always striving for excellence and setting high standards on and off the pitch for her peers.

This is a lovely accolade, especially after already picking up an Ulster Colleges All-Star this year!



NI SCHOOLS BUSINESS CHALLENGE

A group of Year 13 Business and Economics students attended the NI Schools Business Challenge at QUB at the beginning of February. The competition is a partnership between Queen's Management School, BDO Northern Ireland, Henderson Group and supported by CCEA.

The students presented their findings on a case study about Henderson Group NI. They got a real-life insight into the world of business and had the opportunity to chat with head lecturers from a range of business-related courses at QUB. A great day all round!





BALLYMENA SCHOOLS PARTICIPATORY BUDGETING PROJECT

Castle Tower Visit

In a delightful collaboration that brought innovation and education together, the Business Studies class attended the Ballymena Schools Participatory Budgeting Project. The initiative not only showcased the practical application of business concepts but also fostered a sense of community involvement among the students.

A great day unfolded at Castle Tower, where students Charlotte, Zach, Conall, and Mrs L. McCann, represented our school, joined by peers from other Ballymena schools. The gathering provided a platform for students to engage in meaningful discussion on how allocated budgets could be spent to enhance pupil welfare within our school.

The event was not just about numbers and spreadsheets; it was a dynamic session where young minds brainstormed and collaborated, exploring innovative ideas to address the needs and aspirations of the school community. The interactive nature of the Participatory Budgeting Project allowed students to apply their business acumen to real-life scenarios, emphasising the importance of responsible decision-making.



Galgorm Resort and Spa Visit

We are delighted to share some exciting news from our Year 14 Business class, as they continue to excel beyond the classroom and make a positive impact on our school community. Our students have actively participated in the Ballymena Participatory Budget Group, and we are delighted to announce that they have successfully advanced to the next stage of this enriching initiative.

Recently, our students had the opportunity to gather at the picturesque Galgorm Resort and Spa, for a day filled with collaboration, creativity, and community spirit. The event served as a platform for our students to brainstorm and share ideas on how to allocate a budget towards enhancing the welfare of our school community.

The enthusiasm and dedication demonstrated by our Year 14 Business students were truly commendable. Through their collective efforts, they identified key areas where investments could significantly improve the overall school experience for everyone. From upgrading facilities, to implementing programs that promote well-being, the ideas generated reflect our students' genuine commitment to creating a positive and thriving school environment.

We look forward to supporting our Year 14 Business students as they progress to the next stage of this exciting endeavour.



ST LOUIS WIN ROTARY CLUB CHALLENGE

Northern Regional College hosted this year's Rotary Club Technology Challenge where St Louis came first!

Pupils also won £200 for the school. The winning team was Clíodhna, Mya, Sara and Eiveta. The second team, who were also fantastic but did not win a place, was Ruairi, Ronan, Keeva and Katie.





OPEN NIGHTS 2024

St Louis Grammar School was full of energy as P6 and P7 students, alongside prospective Sixth Formers, were guided around the corridors during our Open Nights held in January.

Mrs. O'Neill warmly greeted parents and pupils, highlighting the school's notable strengths, including outstanding academic achievements, top-tier pastoral care, tailored learning programs, and comprehensive educational experiences that distinguish St Louis Grammar School from its counterparts. Amidst the lively atmosphere, the school was occupied with activity as current students and teachers led engaging interactive demonstrations, fostering a sense of warmth and community.



PRIMARY SCHOOL VISITS

As part of our 'Seachtain na Gaeilge' celebrations, a number of our Year 14 students visited Creggan Primary School, Millquarter Primary School and St Colmcille's Primary School.

Various pupils from all age groups had the chance to partake in some lovely activities, games and songs in Irish, delivered by our very talented students.

The primary school pupils thoroughly enjoyed the chance to learn a 'cúpla focal' in Irish, as well as getting to meet Eva, Maria, Conn, Maria and Odhrán. We would like to thank these schools for the kind invitation to join them and we look forward to welcoming some of these boys and girls to Irish classes in St Louis in the years ahead.





A Century of St Louis

In the shadow of Kintullagh's crest,
Stands St. Louis Grammar, our school
at its best,
A century of learning, a journey
through time,
Guided by wisdom, our spirits to
climb.

On the Hill of Kintullagh, our beacon
of light,
Where knowledge and virtue forever
unite,
Through the years, generations pass,
Each leaving their mark, like grains
in an hourglass.

Every dawn, as the sun gently rises,
Happy faces grace our school's
horizons,
Children with dreams, hearts full of
cheer,
And staff who nurture, year after
year.

In this centenary year, we pause to
reflect,
On the memories shared, the paths
intersect,
From the halls of academia to fields
of play,
We strive for excellence, every
single day.

With each lesson learned and every
goal attained,
In unity and purpose, our spirits
remain,
For St. Louis Grammar, our beacon of
pride,
Forever we'll cherish, with love deep
inside.

By Alana Etherson Cook



WORLD BOOK DAY

The week 4th-8th March brought us many exciting events for World Book Day.

Across the week, Mrs Boyd hosted all KS5 classes for the Scholastic Book Fair, where students were offered the opportunity to buy the latest best-sellers. Running simultaneously to this, in the Year 8 Library lesson there was a 'Book Wrap' Competition; where the classes had to guess the book based on a few clues. Congratulations to our winners, 8 Lurig!

World Book Day itself brought us Drop Everything and Read, where the school spent Period I enjoying our favourite novel in blissful peace. That lunchtime, a quiz was hosted in Miss McNeill's room. This saw 50 eager Year 8 pupils competing to win Easter Eggs and books.

Congratulations to our winners, Laura McDonald (3rd), Sophie Loughran (2nd) and Katie Hasson (1st). Alongside the competitions and festivities, a Bookmark Design Competition was also hosted by Mrs Boyd. All the participants brought so much creativity to their designs, but a massive congratulations must be extended to our winners Jon Torres (3rd), Amelia Mosoczy (2nd), and Caitlin-Amy Ong (1st).

Finally, some of our sixth formers made a visit to our neighbouring school, St Colmcille's Primary, to deliver a World Book Day lesson on the works of Roald Dahl. The Primary Four children certainly enjoyed designing their own marvellous medicine! A huge thank you is extended to our Year 15s, Caoimhe Scullion, Eibhlinn McFadden and Emilie Arthur, and the staff and pupils of St Colmcille's.

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



World Book Day Bookmark Competition Winners



Drop everything and read!





YEAR 14 PUPIL PROFILES

My name is **Leah McGarry**. I am currently studying A Level Maths, PE, and Health and Social Care. I hope to attain a place at St Mary's University next year, specialising in primary school. My time at St Louis has boosted my enthusiasm for this career as I have had such positive experiences with the teachers. My best memory at St Louis was winning the All-Ireland Camogie Final in 2025; it is a memory and achievement I will cherish forever. The time I have had at St Louis has allowed me to create many unforgettable memories and friendships, making it sad but exciting to move on.



My name is **Maria Gately**, and I am a Deputy Head Girl. For A Level, I am studying Irish, Chemistry, Biology, and Maths. I hope to go on to study Biomedical Engineering at university. I have a love for traditional music, and have been in the school's traditional group since first year, where I have been given the chance to play music at numerous events. I also have a passion for sport, and have represented St Louis for seven years, playing Gaelic and Camogie. The highlight of my school sporting career definitely has to be winning the All-Ireland in 2025! I have had incredible opportunities, made lifelong friends, and made amazing memories throughout my time at St Louis, and I am so grateful for everything I have learned during my time here.



My name is **Dearbhail Dobbin**, and I am from Portglenone. I am an upper sixth student studying Chemistry, Business Studies, Health and Social Care, and Sport Studies. During my time at St Louis, a highlight for me has been the school camogie teams, in which I have achieved so much, including Ulster and All-Ireland success. Camogie gave me the opportunity to build friendships and has added so much value to my time at St Louis. I hope to study Radiography or Health Physiology at Ulster University next year. I have made many memories throughout my time at St Louis, and I am thankful for the many opportunities the school offered.



My name is **Conn Fyfe**, and I am Head Boy here at St Louis. Over the past seven years, I have created unforgettable memories and forged friendships that will last a lifetime. I am very grateful for the many opportunities presented to me during my time at school, from sporting endeavours to public speaking competitions. I have particularly been enriched by my experiences within the Irish Department who have provided me with numerous opportunities and a platform to achieve fluency in the language. I will always reflect fondly on the teachers who fostered my progress within school and were always there to help and support me. Whilst I will be sad to leave St Louis, I feel prepared for the next stage of my education and I am excited for whatever comes next! Next year, I hope to study Actuarial & Financial Studies at University College Dublin.



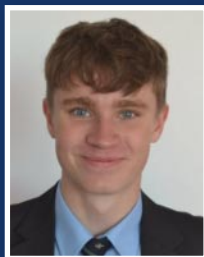
My name is **Maria Blaney**, and I am a Deputy Head Girl at St Louis. I currently study Irish, Chemistry, Biology, and Maths at A Level. I hope to study Medicine next year, and I'm grateful for all my experiences at St Louis, which I believe will help me on this journey! Looking back on my time at St Louis, I have to say that Irish, particularly, has brought me great memories through my years here, such as our annual Gaeltacht trips to Gweedore, our newly established Cumann Lughaidh, an Irish club for Year 8 students and of course, I know I'll definitely miss the Friday tea parties! Ádh mór ar Rang 2024!



My name is **Pearse McAuley**. I am studying Health and Social Studies, Business, and Double Award Sport at A Level standard. Looking ahead, I aspire to study Business Management at Queen's University next year. One of the highlights of my St Louis experience has undoubtedly been my involvement in both the soccer and Gaelic teams. These endeavors not only provided me with opportunities to better my athletic abilities but also form great relationships with teammates and coaches. The guidance from my teachers and peers have been instrumental in helping me reach my full potential. I am grateful for the nurturing environment that has allowed me to grow both academically and personally over the past 7 years.



Hi, my name is **Fergus Donaghy**, and I am from Glenravel. I am an upper sixth pupil studying A Level Maths, Digital Technology, and BTEC Engineering. I really enjoyed my 7 years at St Louis, especially these last 2 years, which were my favourite. I especially enjoyed playing for the Mageean and MaLarnon teams and being a part of the Mageean winning team last year.





YEAR 9 PROVOKING THOUGHT WORKSHOP

Carrie Grant 9LB:

Along with my form class 9 Lisbreen, I took part in an interactive workshop about Provoking Thought and Mental Health awareness. The workshop was very interesting and taught our class some useful strategies for how to improve our mental health. We looked at the important differences between mental and physical health. The most useful information I gained from the workshop was the special breathing exercises that can be used to reduce stress in the body. I will use these techniques in the lead up to my exams to help me feel calmer. I would recommend the workshop to other young people as it was very enjoyable and useful!

Kashi Aneesh 9LB:

On Monday 26th of February I attended the Provoking Thought workshop with my form class. I found the session extremely enjoyable, and it gave me a few great ideas on how to improve my mental health. I learnt that there are a lot of important discussions to have around mental health and young people. During the session we took part in fun activities and worked in pairs to better understand how our brains work. I was astonished to learn that we have between 20,000 and 32,000 thoughts every day! I will use the new skills and knowledge I gained from the workshop to try to promote positive conversations about mental health.



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBANUS

Riognnach, Annie, and Meabh Champion Environmental Advocacy in Public Speaking Competition

In a triumph that resonates far beyond the confines of our school, Riognnach, Annie, and Meabh have secured victory in the Knights of Columbanus Public Speaking Competition. Their winning speeches, centred around Pope Francis' poignant quote from Laudato Si, "the world sings of an infinite love, how can we fail to care for it?", earned them the title of Ulster champions. Furthermore, their compelling advocacy for environmental stewardship propelled them to a remarkable second-place finish in the All-Ireland segment of the competition.

Their victory in the Ulster final is a testament to the power of their message and their ability to ignite meaningful dialogue on critical issues. Through their words, they challenged audiences to reflect on their relationship with the natural world and inspired action towards positive change.

Advancing to the All-Ireland segment of the competition, Riognnach, Annie, and Meabh continued to captivate and inspire, securing a well-deserved second place on the national stage. Their success serves as a beacon of hope, reminding us all of the transformative power of advocacy and the importance of raising our voices in defence of the planet.

Congratulations to Riognnach, Annie, and Meabh for their outstanding accomplishment. May their advocacy continue to inspire positive change, and may their voices echo as a clarion call for environmental action for years to come.





SAFER INTERNET DAY 2024

On 6th February, we celebrated Safer Internet Day, 2024.

We celebrate this day globally every year to promote the safe and positive use of digital technology by young people. This year's theme is 'Inspiring change? Making a difference, managing influence and navigating change online'.

Our Digital Leader Prefects presented an Assembly on 'Inspiring Change' everyday throughout the week and all Key Stage 5 ICT classes participated in activities to highlight the day!



Student Voice

GENDER EQUALITY IN OUR SCHOOL

St Louis Grammar School is dedicated to fostering gender equality across various domains, including sports, STEM subjects, arts, music, and drama.

Miss Lavery, along with two female students enrolled in A-level Construction and BTEC Engineering, shared their perspectives on the importance of female representation in teaching roles. They expressed feeling more inspired and motivated by having a female teacher who encouraged them to pursue their subjects further. Miss Lavery herself discussed her journey towards becoming a Technology teacher, driven by a genuine passion for the subject and a desire to inspire more girls to embrace STEM subjects.

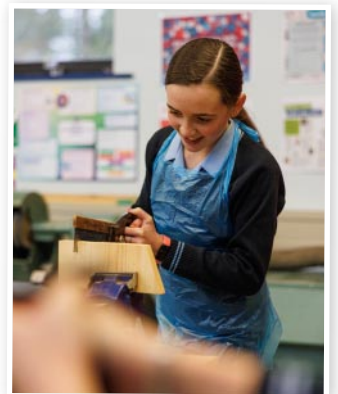
Additionally, we had the opportunity to speak with a male A-level student studying Health and Social Care. He viewed this subject as a steppingstone towards a potential career in teaching, highlighting the inclusive nature of educational pathways at St Louis.

In the realm of sports, both male and female students reported feeling equally empowered. The school community fosters an environment where both genders receive equal support and promotion in sports activities. Students also noted the availability of facilities and resources, with access to personal trainers provided to both sides to facilitate their athletic development.

Furthermore, we interviewed a male GCSE Art student who found inspiration in renowned artists like Banksy.

He emphasized the importance of breaking gender stereotypes in artistic pursuits, affirming that Art should be a field open to all genders without prejudice or limitation.

At St Louis Grammar School, gender equality is not just a principle but a lived reality. Through inclusive teaching practices, equal opportunities in sports, and a supportive environment in the arts, the school empowers all students to pursue their passions and aspirations regardless of gender. It is through such initiatives that St Louis continues to uphold its commitment to fostering an inclusive and equitable learning environment for all.



BLIAIN 10 - BRONNADH NA BHFÁINNÍ YEAR 10 - PRESENTATION OF FÁINNÍ

During the Spring term, Year 10 pupils enjoyed working towards achieving their Fáinne Airgid Award.

Pupils completed a speaking examination covering topics from Years 8 to 10, including oneself and family, home and area, hobbies and interests, and school. Pupils demonstrated excellent commitment, maturity, and proficiency in the Irish language and were recognized for their efforts in an awards ceremony held on Wednesday, 15th March 2024.

Irish teachers, Miss O'Brien and Mrs Campbell, were delighted to welcome local blogger, podcaster, columnist, and Amhrán na bhFiann singer, Kathryn Ní Mhaoláin, to present pupils with their awards.

Following the presentation, Kathryn spoke to pupils about her personal journey of learning Irish, the impact the language has had on her life personally and professionally, and the career opportunities available within and outside the Irish language sector. Kathryn then performed some songs in both Irish and English to conclude the occasion. Many Year 10 pupils look forward to continuing their Irish language studies next year with GCSE Irish.

Comhghairdeas ó chroí, do na daltaí ar fad a bhain Cúpla Focal, Fáinne Airgid, agus Fáinne Óir amach. Tá sé breá tuille agaih ar fad! Congratulations from the heart to all pupils who were awarded the Couple of Words, Fáinne Airgid, and Fáinne Óir. It is very well deserved!



EXPLORING RECOVERY TECHNIQUES

Year 13's Visit to Amy Warwick's Recovery Suite

Year 13 students recently visited Amy Warwick's Recovery Suite.

The recovery suite offered a variety of cutting-edge methods designed to support the recovery of tired muscles and aid performance. Among the techniques experienced by the students were infrared saunas, ice baths, and compression boots. Each method offers its unique benefits, catering to different aspects of the recovery process.

The visit to Amy Warwick's Recovery Suite was a helpful insight to the students' academic curriculum. Aligned with Unit 1 topic on Fatigue and the Recovery process, the experience provided a practical application of theoretical knowledge. As students prepare for their AS exams, understanding the importance of recovery strategies becomes paramount in optimising performance and maintaining well-being.



CÉILIÚRADH LÁ FHÉILE PÁDRAIG

St. Patrick's Day Celebrations in St Louis, 2024

Seachtain na Gaeilge faoi lán seoil!

The St. Louis' school community had a week filled with 'sult, spraoi agus spleodar' (fun and enjoyment) during our annual Seachtain Na Gaeilge (Irish language week) celebrations in the lead-up to Lá Fhéile Pádraig (St. Patrick's Day).

Staff participated in a "Dress your Doras" competition and showed creativity in abundance as classroom doors burst with colour, catchphrases, and cultural spirit! Congratulations to Mr Trainor.

A huge 'go raibh maith agaibh' to all teachers who took part in the competition.

On Thursday, 14th March, Year 8 & Year 9 pupils enjoyed a céili accompanied by our live céili band led by Mr Kieran Convery (Head of Technology & Design) and Mr Kieran Dempsey (Former Head of Technology & Design), and some St. Louis's pupils. Pupils really enjoyed the live musical accompaniment, and we were very grateful for their time and efforts today. Ár mbuíochas libh!

Year 8 & Year 9 pupils also enjoyed bingo and a quiz through the medium of Irish. Congratulations from the heart to the pupils who were presented with an award for displaying the 'spirit of the céili.'

As part of Seachtain Na Gaeilge celebrations, pupils and staff were also invited to attend a cultural hub hosted by Cumann Lughaidh, our student language leadership group. Attendees enjoyed some light refreshments, listened to some traditional music, and took the opportunity to practice their spoken Irish. A wonderful event enjoyed by all!

Beannachtaí na Féile oraibh go léir!

Lá Fhéile Pádraig shona daoibh!





ABAIR PUBLIC SPEAKING

Conn Fyfe, 2nd Place, Caitriona Fyfe, 2nd Place

On Tuesday 6th February, Conn Fyfe, Caitriona Fyfe and Clare O'Kane travelled to St. Dominic's Grammar School, Belfast to attend the Abair Public Speaking competition, organised annually by Gael Linn.

Sibling duo, Conn Fyfe and Caitriona Fyfe, were both awarded 2nd place in their respective categories and will progress to the regional final held in Aonach Mhacha, Armagh on Thursday 11th April, 2024.

Conn Fyfe, Caitriona Fyfe and Clare O'Kane wrote and presented very engaging and entertaining speeches through the medium of Irish and were highly commended by the judges for their efforts in preparation and performance. Pupils prepared speeches on a range of topics including Intleacht Shaorga (Artificial Intelligence), Dóigheanna le teacht slán ó mheánscoil (Ways to survive secondary school) and Amaidí ar líne (Online idiots).

Clare stated, "It was so enjoyable to hear so many young passionate Irish language speakers. The older pupils inspired me to keep working hard learning Irish."

Conn commented, "I loved the opportunity to share my passionate opinions on Artificial Intelligence and it felt empowering to discuss them in the Irish language – tír gan teanga, tír gan anam."



Conn & Caitriona are currently working hard to create a new speech for the next round of the competition in April. Congratulations to all three pupils for taking part in Abair Public Speaking Competition and we wish Conn & Caitriona good luck in the next round in April!

Labhair i agus mairfidh sí!
Speak it and it will prosper!



CHIEF SCOUT GOLD AWARDS

Congratulations to Amelia Mosoczy (10 Lismoyle), Isabella Cooper (10 Laragh) & Luke Cooper (10 Lisbreen) who were presented with their Chief Scout Gold Awards at a special ceremony in Belfast City Hall recently. They are all members of All Saints Scout Group in Ballymena.

The Chief Scout Gold Award is the highest award a Scout can earn and to complete it they had to complete all nine of the Challenge Awards, including Creative, Outdoors, Expedition, Teamwork, Team Leader and Personal Challenge plus six Activity or Staged Activity badges.

All three are now focused on completing the President's Award and are undertaking a canoe expedition in the Dordogne in July. Well done!





FINDING GUIDANCE IN UNCERTAIN TIMES

A Journey from St Louis Grammar School

In the heart of the early 1980s, amidst the bustling corridors of St Louis Grammar School, a young student found solace in the words of a prayer penned by their RE teacher, Mrs. Mary McCarthy. Little did they know, this prayer would become a guiding light through the labyrinth of life's uncertainties.

The prayer, meticulously handwritten by Mrs. McCarthy, became a cherished companion, offering comfort during pivotal moments of indecision and adversity. Mrs. Lynda Bonner was one of the students who whilst embarking on her journey, found the prayer whispered words of encouragement, nudging Lynda towards a path of purpose and fulfilment.

Lynda had a passion for nursing. Armed with determination and a handful of GCSEs, she set forth on a quest, navigating through academic challenges and forging ahead with unwavering resolve.

Guided by the faith of the prayer, from the hallowed halls of the Royal Victoria Hospital to the bustling streets of London, every career decision was meticulously aligned with the prayer's timeless wisdom.

Amidst the ebbs and flows of professional life, the prayer remained a steadfast companion, guiding the individual towards moments of triumph and resilience. A journey marked by academic accolades, including the attainment of an MSc in Nursing with Distinction and the prestigious honor of an OBE, bore testimony to the prayer's enduring influence.

Yet, life's journey took an unexpected turn when faced with the daunting reality of a loved one's illness. The prayer, once again, offered strength and clarity, prompting a selfless detour towards the noble path of caregiving.

As the years wove a tapestry of experiences, the echoes of the school song reverberated across time and distance, rekindling bonds of friendship and camaraderie. Encounters with fellow St Louis alumni served as poignant reminders of shared experiences and the unbreakable bond forged within the school's walls.

Today, as uncertainty looms on the horizon, the prayer remains a beacon of hope, guiding towards a future imbued with purpose and divine wisdom. From the halls of St Louis Grammar School to the myriad paths beyond, the journey continues, fueled by faith, resilience, and the enduring spirit of community.

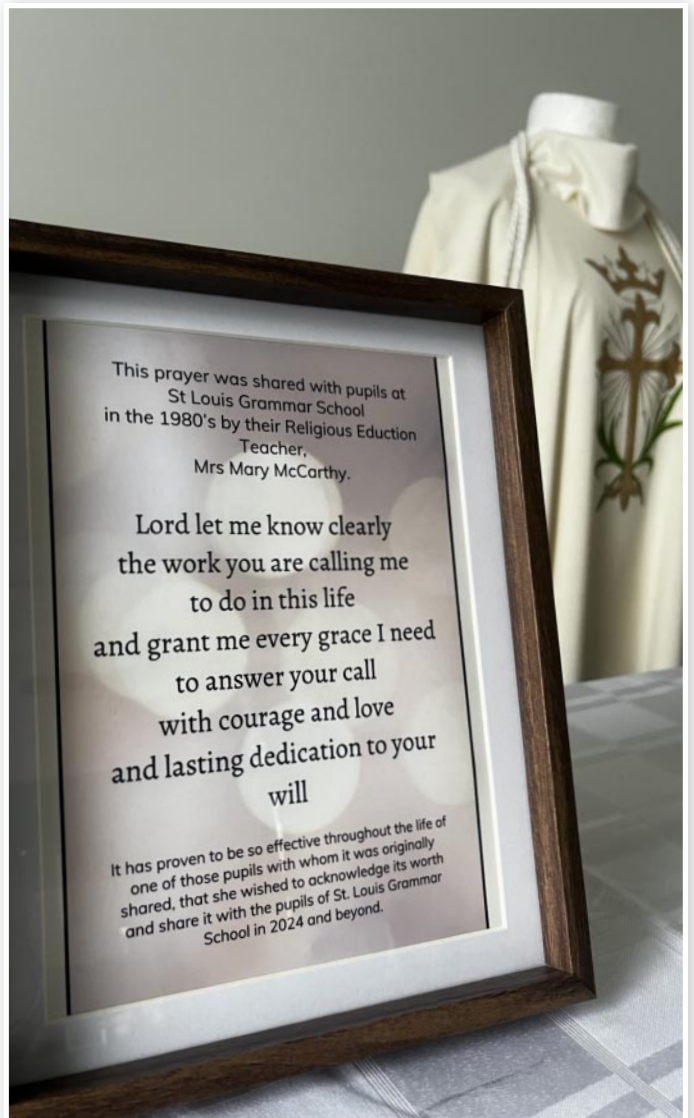
As we reflect on the profound impact of our alma mater, let us heed the timeless lessons embedded within its walls. Let kindness be our compass, guiding interactions with empathy and understanding. Let us cherish the bonds forged in the crucible of youth, for they transcend time and circumstance, anchoring us in a shared legacy of resilience and camaraderie.

In the tapestry of life, St Louis Grammar School remains a thread that binds us together, a testament to the enduring power of faith, friendship, and the indomitable human spirit.

Written by Mrs. Lynda Bonner OBE, reflecting on her journey from St Louis Grammar School to the present day.

Take-Home Messages:

1. **Faith in Uncertainty:** In moments of doubt, turn to the prayer with unwavering faith, trusting in its guidance towards a fulfilling and purposeful life journey.
2. **Kindness and Support:** Treat your school colleagues with kindness and empathy, fostering a supportive environment where everyone can thrive.
3. **Legacy of St Louis:** Your time at St Louis Grammar School leaves an indelible mark on your future endeavors. Embrace the community of past, present, and future pupils, standing united in resilience and camaraderie.





SLG ALUMNI

Where are they now?

A JOURNEY FROM SLG TO CEO OF FIBRUS

Dominic Kearns, a name synonymous with success, is not just the Founder and CEO of Fibrus but a testament to the power of determination and strategic career planning. His journey from St. Louis Grammar School to leading a thriving telecommunications company is nothing short of inspiring.

During his time at St Louis, Dominic pursued a diverse range of subjects, laying the groundwork for his future endeavors. From Mathematics to Technology and Design, he exhibited a keen interest in analytical thinking and problem-solving—a trait that would prove invaluable in his professional journey.

Upon leaving St Louis, Dominic opted to study Accountancy at university. It was a decision influenced by advice from his Careers teacher at St Louis, who recognised the potential in Dominic's entrepreneurial spirit. She astutely pointed out that many top CEOs hailed from accountancy backgrounds—a piece of wisdom that would shape Dominic's trajectory in unforeseen ways.

Graduating from university, Dominic ventured into the world of business, eventually founding Fibrus—a company that has grown to employ over 1000 individuals. Contrary to popular perception, Dominic's role as CEO isn't defined by micromanagement but rather by strategic oversight. His primary responsibility lies in ensuring the company's structure is optimised, empowering employees to make informed decisions and drive the business forward.

Reflecting on his journey, Dominic shares invaluable advice for current students passing through St Louis. He emphasises the importance of not succumbing to pressure if uncertain about future career paths. Instead, he advocates for pursuing broad educational opportunities that offer flexibility and a multitude of options.



For those considering alternatives to university, Dominic encourages exploration and experimentation. Drawing from his own experience, he underscores the value of putting yourself out there, trying different industries until finding the perfect fit—a lesson that led him to the telecommunications sector and ultimately to Fibrus.

In his parting words of wisdom, Dominic highlights the significance of hard work, smart decision-making, and risk-taking—particularly when young and when responsibilities are minimal. He urges young dreamers to seize opportunities, take calculated risks, and persevere in the pursuit of their aspirations.

Dominic Kearns' journey exemplifies the transformative power of education, resilience, and strategic planning. From his formative years at St Louis to the helm of Fibrus, his story serves as an inspiration to all aspiring entrepreneurs and future leaders.

SIOFRA O'MULLAN

A Journey of Dedication and Success in Physiotherapy

Siofra O'Mullan's journey into the world of physiotherapy is a testament to perseverance, and dedication. Despite facing initial setbacks, Siofra's determination propelled her towards a successful career in the field of Physiotherapy.

Leaving St. Louis in 2014 with A-levels in Maths, Biology, and English, Siofra encountered a hurdle when she didn't secure a university placement on her first attempt. Undeterred, she took a proactive approach by repeating a Maths module and utilising her gap year to gain valuable experience. Working for a Medical Equipment Company and Lab, alongside completing her Level 3 Sports Massage, provided her with a solid foundation and insight into the healthcare industry.

Siofra's persistence paid off when she gained admission to Ulster University and completed her studies in Physiotherapy.

Her post-university journey led her to the NHS, where she embraced a band 5 rotational post, gaining invaluable experience in various domains including MSK, inpatient stroke rehab, respiratory, and ICU during the challenging times of the Covid-19 pandemic. In 2020, Siofra transitioned to private practice, joining Elite Physiotherapy Cookstown. Here, she specialised in MSK and Sports Physiotherapy and Rehabilitation, collaborating with numerous clubs across Ulster, including Dunloy GAC, Cargin GAC, and the regional and international squad for NI women's U17.



Siofra's dedication to her profession is evident in her roles as Lead Physiotherapist for Derry Senior Football and Head Physio at Elite Physiotherapy Cookstown.

Specialising in sports rehab and female athlete training, she actively engages in seminars across Ulster, sharing her expertise and educating clubs on optimising female athlete performance.

Reflecting on her journey, Siofra attributes her success to her work ethic and willingness to embrace opportunities. She encourages others to follow suit, emphasising the importance of gaining diverse experiences and stepping outside one's comfort zone.

Siofra's story serves as an inspiration to our students, illustrating the transformative power of resilience, determination, and a proactive approach to personal and professional development. As she continues to make strides in her career, her journey exemplifies the rewards of embracing challenges and seizing opportunities along the way.



PAST HEAD BOY INSPIRES FUTURE ECONOMISTS!

Rian Patterson, former Head Boy, left St Louis in 2016 with outstanding A-Levels in Business Studies, Economics, French and Mathematics.

He went on to study Economics with French (BSc) at Queen's University and further completed a Masters in this area. Rian currently works for Northern Ireland Civil Service as an Economic Briefing and Policy Analyst, advising Ministers on policy action.

Rian, alongside colleague Andrew, gave Year 13 and Year 14 Economics students an insight into the world of Economics in both university life and in a fast-paced working environment.

Students were engaged by their stories of inspiration and words of advice.

Students were also given opportunity to discuss recent events in world markets, the biggest issues facing government today, as well as the possibility of Trump being reelected! Career opportunities were explored with students, with many students wishing to go down the path of Economics or other related courses at third-level education.

We are indebted to Rian and Andrew for giving up their time.





YEAR 8's FEAT TO LET THE POOR EAT!

Students in Year 8 in St. Louis helps combat poverty.

Year 8 have been reading, doing lots of reading! We are currently reading a book called Trash, by Andy Mulligan, that shines a light on people in poverty. It follows the story of Gardo and Raphael, two fourteen-year-old boys, who live on a huge dump site, in a fictional Latin American city. They find a bag containing money and other items that the police are looking for. The police believe it is linked to a crime. The boys hide the bag with help from an orphan called Rat. The Year 8 group love this exciting book, with its insight into the lives of children living in poverty, and can't wait to hear how Gardo and Raphael's adventures unfold.

As well as reading, Year 8 have been helping to assist those who are less fortunate in the local area. We collected non-perishable foods to give to the Ballymena Foodbank. Representatives from the Foodbank visited the school and were very thankful for all of the pupils' efforts. They told us how, even in the area that we live, there are many families who, at times, simply don't have enough money to buy even the most basic food. This was upsetting as many of us didn't appreciate that this was happening so close to our own homes and to people that we may see in the street or may even know! It opened our eyes to the privileged position that we are in, without the worry of poverty hanging over us.

We are grateful to our English teacher, Miss McNeill for giving us the opportunity to take part in this event and the valuable experience that we have gained from it. We will certainly be more thoughtful in the future!

By Thomas Cairns, Year 8.



NEW DEVELOPMENT OFFICE

As St Louis celebrates its centenary in 2024 we have also begun to look ahead to the next 100 years. To ensure that St Louis remains a thriving Centre of Excellence we have established a new Development & Engagement Office.

As a school we are committed to providing the very best resources and facilities that will enable all our young people to learn effectively and inspire them to make a positive contribution to society and the Development Office will play a key role in this.

In January, we were delighted to appoint Marcus Cooper as Director of Engagement and Fund Development. Marcus brings a wealth of experience in development locally having worked for the Children's Hospice, the Community Foundation for Northern Ireland and AWARE NI amongst others in his career.

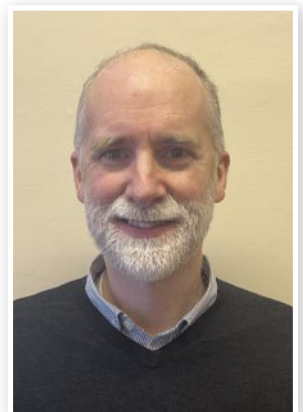
Marcus explained his role, "As a parent myself, with three children at St Louis, I know how important the school is in all our lives. These are challenging times, we have all seen the pressure that government funding is under.

However I also know that St Louis is a strong community and, as we celebrate the achievements of the last 100 years, we are looking forward to ensure that St Louis continues to provide outstanding opportunities for all pupils.

My role is about reconnecting past pupils with St Louis as well as enabling all of us, who are part of the St Louis family, to give back and support the school that has supported us.

The centenary is an exciting time and I would like to extend an invitation to past pupils to come back and visit St Louis in 2024, to see how it has changed, visit your old classroom and maybe even sit on the blue chair again!

If you would like to have a tour please get in touch with me on 028 2564 9554 (ext 217) or email: development@stlouisgrammar.com





CORPORATE PARTNERSHIPS

Excellence, Endeavour & Empowerment

Could your business help enrich the lives of our students?

As an innovative and enterprising school, St Louis wishes to develop relationships with corporate partners. By linking your company with St Louis Grammar School you can boost business opportunities by increasing your visibility in the community and supporting the young leaders of tomorrow.

Research by Business in the Community shows that 86% of consumers are more likely to buy a product associated with a cause they care about and 75% said they would switch brands for the same reason.

"Tullyglass House Hotel has been a proud partner of St Louis for the last 10 years. The partnership has helped us raise our profile with parents and alumni and expand our reach to other school communities across NI. More importantly it means we are giving much needed financial support to the school and benefiting all the pupils at St Louis"

**Gus McConville, Owner,
Tullyglass Hotel and Residences**

Some of the benefits that we can offer you include;

- Your company's brand / logo on the Corporate Sponsors section of the school website (with link to your website)
- Social media coverage of partnership - SLG has a vibrant social media presence across Facebook, LinkedIn, Instagram & X
- Your logo on pitch-side advertising banner at our new, state of the art 5G facilities - our community pitches are used every evening by sporting groups from across the community and over 12,000 players, parents and supporters will see your company's brand every year
- Free stall at annual Careers convention

"Larsen Building Products is delighted to be a partner of St Louis Grammar. As an international company we are committed to supporting our young people's education locally and equipping them with the skills for the future"

**Declan Wright, Managing Director,
Larsen Building Products**

Please contact Marcus on 028 2564 9554 (ext 217) or email development@stlouisgrammar.com for further details and to discuss the various levels of packages available.

Partner with St Louis Grammar School to expand your company's reach and support the next generation of business leaders.



CELEBRATING YOUNG VOICES

Hopes for the future

We are so proud of our Deputy Head Boy Michael who was asked to speak at the 4 Corners Festival Belfast event at the beginning of February: 'Celebrating Young Voices - Hopes For The Future'.

This event celebrated the creativity, passion and aspirations of young people. Michael was a wonderful addition to the panel as we knew he would be! Well done on another fantastic achievement Michael.



JUDE DALRYMPLE: A RISING STAR

At St Louis Grammar School, we take immense pride in celebrating the achievements of our students, both inside and outside the classroom. We shine the spotlight on Jude, a Year 9 pupil who embodies the spirit of dedication and excellence in all his endeavors.

For the last 2 years, Jude has been competing in pool and snooker competitions held by NIPA (Northern Ireland Pool Association) and NIBSA (Northern Ireland Billiards & Snooker Association).

Last year, Jude represented Northern Ireland U15s at both the Nations Cup (in Bridlington) and European Cup (in Malta). This year, on Sunday 24th - Wednesday 27th March 2024, Jude will represent Northern Ireland U15s A team at the Nations Cup in Bridlington, England. At this Nations Cup, Jude will play against other individuals from England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, and other Commonwealth countries.

In November 2024, Jude will represent Northern Ireland U15s A team at the World Cup in Malta, hosted by EBA (European Blackball Association). At this event, Jude will participate in Singles, Doubles, and Team events.

At a local county level, Jude has had a very successful year, with several wins and runners-up places at both U16 & U18 levels.

Regarding snooker, Jude is currently the U14 Northern Ireland Champion, which is hosted by NIBSA.

Jude is the youngest player to ever win at the U14 level, being only 12 years old at the time. Jude will have the opportunity to defend this title in April. This year, Jude will also compete in both the U16 & U18 events.

As Jude continues to soar to greater heights, we extend our heartfelt congratulations and unwavering support. With his talent, determination, and the steadfast backing of the St. Louis community, the sky is truly the limit for this exceptional young athlete. We eagerly anticipate witnessing his continued success and the bright future that lies ahead.





UPCOMING DATES

Easter Holidays Friday 29th March – Friday 5th April

GCSE March Exam Series Results issued Thursday 18th April

A Level Summer Exam Series begins Thursday 2nd May

May Day holiday Monday 6th May

GCSE Summer Exam Series begins Wednesday 8th May

Holiday Monday 27th May

Year 15 Romania Trip Monday 10th – Monday 17th June

Year 8 Sports Day Tuesday 11th June

Year 9 Sports Day Wednesday 12th June

Year 15 Work Experience Wednesday 12th – Friday 14th June

Year 10 Sports Day Thursday 15th June

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The Newsletter of St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena



1924-2024