

# THE KINTULLAGH VOICE



The newsletter of  
St Louis Grammar School  
Ballymena

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 11

JUNE 2015

## YPI SUCCESS

**This year St Louis students have been particularly successful in the Youth and Philanthropy Initiative which has become an annual event in the school.**

During Religious Studies lessons, Year 10 students researched social issues in their local community. Students then visited various charities and produced group presentations which outlined the work of a charity of their choice. A winning group was chosen from each class by the teachers of Year 10 and earlier this year, St Louis hosted the YPI finals in a bid to win £3000 for their chosen charity, sponsored by the YPI.

The judging panel for the final included the Lady Mayoress, Mr Rafferty, Rev Fr Brennan, Charlotte Hodkinson who is a representative of YPI, Ronan Hasson and Maggie McWilliams from the 'County Antrim Post'. Adjudicators commented on the exceptionally high standard of presentations but the overall winners were Anna McClintock, Ella McIlhatton, Emily Murray and Lauren Carey whose nominated charity was 'Woman's Aid'. These pupils were invited to join the other Northern Ireland regional winners at a celebration event in Belfast along with their class teacher, Mrs McAteer.

Aside from the winning group, James McKeown's charismatic presentational skills made a huge impression on Charlotte Hodkinson and she requested that James compete at the celebration event in Belfast. This is a remarkable achievement for James and we are extremely proud that James' talent is being showcased in the forum of a prestigious event.

Nicole Reid, Maria Buckland, Aine McAllister and Ciara Johnston also received recognition for the advanced use of ICT in their presentation. Out of all the schools that participated in YPI, these were the only students who were selected to create a promotional video for the organisation which will be premiered at the celebration event. Nicole Reid expressed her enthusiasm on the project, "YPI made me realise that not all charities are overseas; there are many great charities in our local community that are often overlooked. Our experience was all the more rewarding after being chosen to create the video for YPI. We enjoyed using equipment from the Moving Image Arts Department to produce a professional video."

We are delighted that our students have made such an impact and once again, St Louis students are at the forefront of a renowned educational project!



## IRISH NEWS AWARDS

**St Louis won the coveted Irish News School, Club and Volunteer Awards.**

The Awards initiative recognises and rewards GAA clubs, schools and volunteers throughout Ulster for their commitment to Gaelic games and their community, irrespective of their playing ability.

This was achieved as a result of our school's history of sporting excellence and the dedication of teachers, students and parents. In recent years, St Louis has firmly established itself as a forerunner in Gaelic games and it is no coincidence that all the school teams have qualified for the latter stages of their respective competitions and have claimed nine Ulster titles in the last five years.

Noel Doran, editor of the Irish News, congratulated all those who received awards stating that, "The awards are tangible proof that our clubs, our volunteers and our schools are indeed the foundation of the GAA."

The award will be of great benefit to the continued development of sport in our school.



**THE IRISH NEWS**  
**School, Club  
& Volunteer**  
AWARDS 2015  
**SCHOOL WINNER**

# HEAD BOY AND HEAD GIRL REFLECTIONS



**James McClintock and Eimear Higgins have just completed their roles as Head Boy and Head Girl. After a busy year with many duties and memorable events, they reflect on their experiences at St Louis Grammar.**

## Eimear Higgins

It is hard to believe that my time at St Louis has reached an end but time does fly when you are having fun! I can honestly say that I have had the most amazing and memorable experiences.

I have many fond memories of my junior years, yet the highlight for me has been 6th form. We have had incredible experiences over the last two years: the formal, sporting success in the Casement Cup and lunchtimes in the fabulous new reading room to name but a few. Betty, our study supervisor, deserves credit for all her patience and never forgetting to say a prayer for us.

St Louis has provided me with countless opportunities which I am very grateful for. I've travelled to many places on school trips, from France to Romania, Portrush to the Donegal Gaeltacht! I have taken part in numerous competitions such as the British Biology Olympiad, Pope John Paul II Award and camogie tournaments. However, the greatest opportunity St Louis provided me with was the chance to meet all the people I now call great friends.

It has been an honour to be Head Girl of this school and to be a leader of such a brilliant group of people. I have learnt a lot throughout my time in this role and I have thoroughly enjoyed working alongside James, our team of wonderful deputies and all the prefects. My position as Head Girl and my time in general at St Louis has instilled a wealth of confidence in me, something that I am very grateful for as I am sure I will need it when I go out into the big, bad world next year!

I would like to extend my good luck wishes to next year's Head Boy and Head Girl, enjoy the year because it's over in the blink of an eye! St Louis staff and pupils have afforded me an experience which can be summarised in one word: unforgettable.

## James McClintock

Seven years at a school is a long time, especially since the school is unrecognisable from when I started out. Teachers have changed, whiteboards have changed, tables and chairs have changed. There are even pictures of me up all around the school now, a very pleasant addition.

Despite how long I have been at this school, I can honestly say that I enjoyed each and every one of the 500,000 minutes I spent here. Trust a mathlete to calculate that exactly.

St Louis has given me many great opportunities in life. From the time I started a band, to playing Gaelic with the MacLarnon team, there has been no lack of extra-curricular enjoyment to be had. This was complemented by having access to the best education from the most caring teachers. I would like to pay a special thanks to Mrs O'Neill, Amanda and Betty for they have all worked tirelessly to help us through Year 14. But without doubt the best thing I was ever given by St Louis was the chance to make friends with so many brilliant people.

This last year has flown by. The pressure has certainly increased compared with other years, and the work has been hard. But a wise man once said, "Pressure is for tyres." Next month the world will be at our feet, and the time we have spent at St Louis has prepared us to go into the world and achieve our dreams.

# ANNUAL VISIT FROM TURA

**Once again the Irish department enjoyed a visit from Tura Arutura in April.**

All Year 10 classes participated in a lively workshop that involved Irish singing and dancing. Tura came from Zimbabwe to live in Northern Ireland and has become a fluent Irish speaker. He also happens to be an accomplished sean n6s dancer. His charisma has made him extremely popular and he travels the world promoting Irish culture; he is always well received at St Louis!



# WOMEN IN STEM EVENT



**It is a staggering fact that women are under-represented in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) jobs with only 7% of people working in engineering being female.**

59% of STEM employers have stated that they have found it difficult to fill job vacancies and in particular, have difficulty attracting women to their companies.

With this in mind, St Louis joined forces with Eye4Education on 31st March in delivering a 'Woman in STEM' event to promote STEM occupations in a positive and enjoyable way, ensuring that all students are aware that STEM is a very viable and financially sustainable career option for women. We hope to see many female leaders in STEM from St Louis in the future!

# EASTER CONCERT



This year's highly anticipated Easter Concert took place on Tuesday 31st March and the school's assembly hall was filled to capacity! The programme showcased the varied artistic talents of students from Year 8 to Year 14.

The gathering of proud family members, fellow students and the local community were thoroughly entertained by the vast array of musicians, dancers, catwalk stars and actors performing on the night. The event was confidently compered by Jack Carland and Calym Milligan. Judging by the audience's reaction to their jokes, they could rival Ant and Dec as a comedy duo!

The high calibre performances were testament to the hard work of the Music department under the direction of Mrs Donnelly and Mr Guiney along with outstanding contributions from the Music, Art and Drama departments.

The concert culminated with a rapturous rendition of a 'Mamma Mia Medley' by the choir accompanied by the orchestra.

Students received rave reviews for their performances which truly reflects the creativity and confidence at the heart of St Louis Grammar!

# INTERNATIONAL DENTISTRY PRIZE WINNER

**Laura Graham, former Deputy Head Girl of St Louis and now a fourth year student at Queen's University Belfast, has been awarded a prestigious international dental research prize.**

Laura won first place in the junior researcher category at the Unilever Hatton awards. This competition is organised by the International Association of Dental Research. Undergraduate dental students from all over the world participated in the annual competition which was held in Boston, Massachusetts.

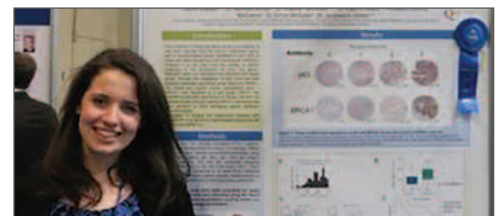
The Portlengone student based her presentation on research she had conducted on head and neck cancer to a panel of judges. Students were examined on the originality of their investigation, the suitability of their methods of analysis and the scientific value of their work. Laura's assured presentation and the validity of her research impressed the panel and she received the much sought after prize.

A conscientious student during her time at St Louis, Laura studied Maths, Chemistry, Biology and Physics at A Level. These subjects allowed her to keep her options open as she deliberated over two career paths: Engineering and Dentistry. Laura's own dentist explained to her that the industries shared many links and she eventually decided to pursue Dentistry as a career.

Reminiscing on her secondary school years, Laura said, "I have had many opportunities over the years at St Louis and the majority of which were through music. I played in the traditional group from the day I started in first year and was involved in choirs, orchestras and quartets! I visited Romania in Year 13 and enjoyed my role as Deputy Head Girl. I feel all these experiences were important for me in terms of character building and certainly my commitment to music helped me to get onto my Dentistry course."

Despite receiving worldwide acclaim for her advancements in the communication and application of cancer research, Laura remains modest in the midst of her accomplishment, "After I finish my course I will hopefully gain some practical experience as a dentist and would be keen to pursue my research in some form in the future...I have to concentrate on passing my exams first!"

We congratulate Laura on the notable progress she has made in the world of Dentistry and have no doubt that there will be many other wonderful opportunities in her career.



# TOP SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

**Last year's Deputy Head Boy, James Burns, who is now studying Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Queen's University, has been awarded a prestigious scholarship by Northern Ireland Electricity. The scholarship package, which is worth £25K, includes financial support as well as the opportunity to spend a year's placement and each summer working for the company.**

James left St Louis with an outstanding 3A\*s at A Level and 2As at AS Level. Determined to build on his success, James was one of eighty candidates who applied for the NIE scholarship. A grueling four stage process ensued with shortlisting at each stage. The first stage was a 15 minute interview, a daunting experience for many but certainly the easiest in the tough selection procedure. This was followed by the second stage's task which was to deliver a presentation on your 'Greatest achievement to date'. James focused his presentation on his award winning A Level project: the ping pong ball launcher. An impressive performance in this round enabled him to progress to the third stage which revolved around a group activity. Finally, eighty candidates were whittled down to thirty and for the last stage, James had to undergo a 45 minute technical interview.

After a challenging experience, James was delighted to learn that he had been awarded one of the six available scholarships. Commenting on his remarkable accomplishment, James said, "It is great to not only get financial support during my studies but also to have the opportunity to put the theory I learn in the degree into practice, through work placements with the company. Excellent teaching at St Louis prepared me for university and the skills I developed as Deputy Head Boy were invaluable for the interview process."

This appears to be just the beginning of a very bright future for James. Throughout his seven years as a pupil he embodied the school's mantra, 'Excellence, Endeavour and Empowerment' and continues to do so in further education. We wish James every success in his new venture.



# FR DAVIES CUP CAMPAIGN

St Killian's, Garron Tower 2-4  
St Louis, Ballymena 1-2

There was very little between the teams in what was a thrilling all-Antrim U14 Ulster Colleges final. St Louis were hoping to repeat the success of 2013 when they won the title while their opponents were intent on making up for a heart breaking final defeat last season. Both teams qualified for the semi-finals after winning all their games at the initial qualifying blitz day. St Louis eased past St Mark's Warrenpoint in their semi-final while St Killian's were pushed all the way by Loreto Coleraine so their previous form suggested the final was going to be a close affair.

Heavy rain made the conditions difficult at times for the young camogs but credit to both teams who worked hard despite the elements. The half time score was 0-2 to 0-0 in favour of St Killian's.

At one point in the second half, St Louis had a slender 1-2 to 0-3 advantage but the game was far from over. St Killian's then began to dominate possession again and the relentless pressure finally paid off for St Killian's four minutes from full time as they scored a goal and regained the lead. The game was then firmly decided in additional time. A further goal and a point deep in injury time ensured the Fr Davies cup was heading to St Killian's.

The St Louis girls must be commended for their efforts this year. They are a very committed panel who have worked extremely hard with Miss Donaghy and Miss Donnelly over the last number of months and it is unfortunate that their efforts were not rewarded on the day.



## 'TOUCH OF BALLYMENA' COMPETITION WINNERS

Fairhill Shopping Centre, Ballymena set local third year art students the challenge to create a new t-shirt design incorporating a touch of Ballymena.

More than sixty students from various schools entered the competition to showcase their vision of Ballymena to the local community. Two of the entries from St Louis Grammar were so outstanding that the organisers decided not to award any other prizes. Overall winner, Fionnuala Donaghy was awarded an iPad Mini and runner up, Caitlin Martin received £100 of Fairhill Gift Vouchers!

The girls were presented with their prizes by Peter Lamont, Store Manager of Dorothy Perkins and Burton.

## UK BIOLOGY CHALLENGE MEDALS

Year 11 students have excelled in a prestigious competition which is run for gifted and talented Biologists aged 13-15.

The UK Biology Challenge is considered to be the junior version of the Biology Olympiad and over 60,000 students in the United Kingdom took part.

Three students from St Louis were gold medal winners. The success of David Byrne, Owen Dempster and Catriona McCrory saw them placed in the top 3% of competitors. Connie Kelly was awarded a silver medal and was placed in the top 10%. Also, Donagh Carey, Gaby Lau and Patrick Magee received bronze medals and were placed in the top 15%.

Both students and their teachers, Miss McIlrath and Mrs Monaghan were delighted with their achievements and the students involved hope to continue their success by winning medals in the Olympiad in three years' time.



## YEAR 11 STEM TASTER EVENT

On Friday 27th March, a small group of Year 11 Technology and Design students were invited to attend a STEM taster event in the Northern Regional College, Ballymena.

The aim of the event was to introduce pupils to a vast array of STEM related technologies, courses and careers. Students were given the opportunity to experiment with the latest technologies related to areas such as pneumatics, virtual welding and robotics among many others. Those involved agreed that it was a great springboard for their future career paths.



# ALL STAR GLORY

## Camogie

Caitriona Graham was one of only six girls to attend the Ulster Colleges Camogie All Star trials this year. She attended her first trial in Mid Ulster Sports Arena, playing mainly as goal keeper and her solid performance allowed her to progress to the second trial. Yet again Caitriona displayed excellent goal keeping skills and was the choice for the number one jersey. From the panel of twenty two, Caitriona was the youngest player selected, with all others being 6th form students.

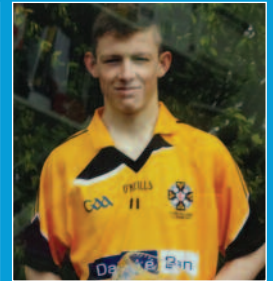
Delighted with the news, Caitriona has since gone on to represent Ulster as part of the All Star team in the Inter-Provincial competition in Dublin. Although the team were defeated, it was noted that Caitriona put on a fine display as net minder! Caitriona was presented with her All Star Award at a celebratory function with the team, families and friends. We are extremely proud of our 2015 Ulster Colleges Camogie All-Star and look forward to Caitriona's continued success in Camogie.



## Hurling

Keelan Molloy and Cathal McMullan have been selected for the Ulster Colleges 2015 Hurling All Star team at centre half forward and centre half back respectively.

Players were selected over the course of two trial games which began in the first term. This is an outstanding accolade for both Year 13 students and we are delighted to have two representatives on the elite panel. Keelan and Cathal have demonstrated excellence in skill and sportsmanship and we have no doubt that their impressive form will continue next year.



# FITNESS FREDDY PUTS PUPILS THROUGH THEIR PACES

On 16th April, Fitness Freddy visited St Louis for a fitness workout with Year 9 and taught them about the benefits of a healthier lifestyle.

Pupils had a great time doing exercises to lots of popular songs.



# N.I. DEBATING FINAL

Year 13 student, Eimer McAuley reached the final of the Northern Ireland Schools Debating competition.

Heats for the competition began in September with approximately seventy teams competing and Eimer's formidable rhetoric shone through to enable her to reach the final stage. It is undisputedly the pre-eminent debating competition for young people in the region. The final took place on Friday 24th April in the grandeur of the Senate Chamber of Parliament Buildings at Stormont.

The competition involves 16-18 year olds and motions take their cue from relevant social, political and economic issues. The challenging motion for this year's final was; 'This house would welcome back direct rule'. Indicative of the high level of the competition, Eimer was only notified on the day of the final as to whether she would propose or oppose the motion.

Unfortunately, Eimer did not win first place this year, but adjudicators commended Eimer for her "Skilful use of colourful language." We are exceptionally proud of Eimer's achievements to date and she is a wonderful ambassador of the confidence, passion and creativity which the school nourishes and promotes. We have high hopes for her success next year!



# A DAY IN THE LYRIC

On Tuesday 28th April, Miss Wallace and five lucky students visited the Lyric Theatre in Belfast to participate in a Drama workshop facilitated by expert in the field, Stephen Beggs.

Our students enjoyed mixing with students from other schools through fun ice breaker activities. The main focus of the workshop was to engage with novels which were shortlisted for the Northern Ireland Book Awards. Students were then given the opportunity to exercise their dramatic creativity by creating freeze frames and various other dramatic forms to explore the plots of the novels. An enjoyable day was had by all and the students looked forward to putting all that they had learnt into practice in their Drama lessons!



# TOP OF THE BENCH COMPETITION



On Saturday 25th April, a team of students from St Louis travelled to Loughborough University in the East Midlands, to take part in the Top of the Bench Chemistry Competition National Final.

The team consisted of Sarah Dempster and Bronwyn McAuley in Year 10, Owen Dempster in Year 11 and Ruairi Carland in Year 12. This was the first year St Louis had taken part in this event, so we had no

previous experience to rely on, but we were eager to accept the challenge. The team had previously travelled to Queen's University Belfast for the regional heat, which we went on to win, therefore establishing our place in the final. Dr Mulholland accompanied the team both to Queen's, and then to Loughborough.

The day started at 10:30, which meant that our team had to leave early to catch their flight from Belfast City Airport. The event started off with an introductory talk; we received name tags, t-shirts and stationery. There were approximately one hundred and fifty people there that day, with over thirty teams attending and plenty of Professors and Lecturers on hand throughout the day. The first stage of the competition began with a test. We were given an individual test paper to complete within half an hour. Afterwards, our team regrouped for lunch, and had a short break before beginning the next stage.

For the second stage, all the teams were taken to a Chemistry lab where we were tasked with successfully completing a two hour long practical, all the while being assessed on our accuracy, skill, neatness, teamwork and safety measures. Eventually, the two hours were up and we were all able to return to the hall. A short time later, everyone was invited into a lecture theatre for a talk on certain careers chemistry can lead to, and how you can achieve these goals. A selected group of PhD students were also on hand to give a talk about their respective areas of work and projects. The teams were then asked to vote on which idea they would have funded, had they been given a choice. St Louis was not placed during this event, but it was an enjoyable experience nonetheless. After a long but rewarding day, the St Louis team made their way back to the airport to catch their return flight to Belfast.

**Bronwyn McAuley**

# WINNING STREAK AT NEBSSA FINALS

On 13th April, students from St Louis Grammar travelled to the Antrim Forum to compete in the NEBSSA finals.

Our athletes enjoyed an abundance of wins in various events. Well done to all our students who represented St Louis with distinction and pride.

- Michael McAuley – U15 100m and 200m Champion
- Tyson McKeown – U15 Shot Put Champion & 5th in Discus
- Cormac Mooney – U14 Javelin Champion
- Beth Doherty U15 – High Jump Champion & 2nd in U15 800m
- Jane McErlain – 3rd in U14 High Jump
- Brenda McGuigan – 2nd in U13 High Jump
- Caitlin Ball – 3rd in Long Jump U15
- Ruairi Griffin – 4th in 800m U15
- U15 Girls Relay Team finished 4th (Beth Doherty, Caitlin Ball, Amy Boyle & Kristen Edgar)



# YOUNG PHILANTHROPISTS

This has been an incredible year in the school for fundraising for various charities. Students have used their break and lunch times to tirelessly promote causes which are close to their hearts.

Rachel McNeilly in Year 9, organised bun sales in aid of 'The Friends for the Cancer Centre' after they provided great care and support to a family member. Her efforts raised an impressive £200 for the charity.

Another example of students caring for others is the sixth form pupils who donated £1700 from the money they had raised for 'Friends for Romania' to 'Sunshine Foundation Romania'. This money paid for the transport costs for their recent lorry appeal.

The students who co-ordinate charitable events and those who support the appeals are a tremendous credit to our school and indeed their families.



# TEACHERS COMPLETE BELFAST MARATHON

The Bank Holiday on 4th May was not a day of rest for five teachers.

They took part in the team relay event at the Belfast Marathon 2015 and covered the 26 mile route in aid of Friends for Romania. The school has been working with Friends for Romania since 1991. The project aims to assist people in need within Romania whilst establishing links with different schools in Northern Ireland. The teachers received sponsorship of over £500 and were overwhelmed by the generosity of those who supported the event.



# DANSKE BANK GALLAGHER CUP HURLING SEMI FINAL

St Killian's 3-4  
St Louis 0-7

For the second week in a row, St Louis and St Killian's met each other in an Ulster Colleges competition at Glenravel on Friday 22nd May. This time it was the turn of the Year 10 hurlers but unfortunately it was not their day to claim victory.

Both teams took time to settle from the first whistle but it was St Killian's who registered the opening score after two minutes. Despite their best efforts, St Louis could not close the gap and a goal separated the teams at half time (1-2 to 0-2).

St Louis had the better start in the second half and the game was level by the 35th minute. However, St Louis' good work was soon undone as St Killian's blasted home another goal, regaining the lead. The remainder of the game belonged to St Killian's as they added another 1-2 from play to seal their place in the final.

Both teams played their part in providing a highly entertaining and skilful match. St Louis' hopes of appearing in another Ulster Colleges Final in 2015 were dashed but the team demonstrated great potential for silverware in the future!



# CONTEMPORARY JAZZ DANCE CLASS

This term, Kara McCartney of 'Ballymena Dance Academy', set up a fabulous new dance class for KS3 girls.

It takes place every Thursday after school in the sports hall. Each class begins with a gentle warm up before jumping into learning dance routines to popular and current songs. Members of the class have expressed the advantages of dancing as it helps to strengthen bones and improves balance and coordination, all whilst having fun!



# POETRY DAY IRELAND

Thursday 7th May 2015, marked Poetry Day Ireland which celebrated poetry's vital place in our culture.

Ireland is now considered as a hub for literature, with many eminent poets hailing from the island. Therefore it is a form of communication which should be appreciated and made accessible to all.

St Louis held a special lunchtime poetry session in the library, led by our very own resident poet, Mr O'Hare. During this session, students were given the opportunity to recite and discuss their understanding of poems.

Poetry is a core element of English which is studied at all Key Stages in our school, but reading poetry for leisure secures a future for Irish poetry that is as celebrated as its past. Perhaps St Louis students will be inspired to create a verse that will in turn inspire others!

# TRIP TO THE BRAID ARTS CENTRE



**A group of selected Year 10 pupils attended The Methodist Art Collection Exhibition at The Braid Arts Centre, Ballymena on Friday 22nd May, 2015.**

The trip was a cross-curricular visit by Art and Design and Religious Education; pupils were accompanied by Ms SR Pickering, Mrs F McAuley and Dr A O'Reilly.

Teachers and pupils were very fortunate to meet Maurice Orr, an artist of world renown who hails originally from Ballymena. Maurice was delighted to see a group of young people so enthusiastic about the exhibition. In turn he regaled the group with tales of his current projects in various parts of the world and he has agreed to come into school early next year to take a workshop with some of our exam pupils. He also invited the group to his own exhibition which takes place at the Braid Centre in November which they look forward to.

Two pupils share their thoughts on the exhibition.

**Maria Buckland, 10 Lyndon:**

"The pieces of artwork on display were really interesting as we were able to experience what real art looked like and see the variety of methods used to create art. Nine pieces from the exhibition are to be moved to different churches where they will be displayed for the community to see. This exhibition has opened my eyes and inspired me greatly to keep art as part of my life, to express myself and my feelings. It was an event I will remember and I hope it inspired others as much as it inspired me."

**Aine McAllister, 10 Lyndon:**

"The pieces in the exhibition had a Religious theme and I found it interesting to see how artists were inspired to record events of Jesus' life. My personal favourite was the painting showing Jesus 'Walking on Water'. There was no information about this particular painting but it was inspiring to think of how one of the miracles was brought to life on a canvas. I found it extremely enjoyable to view such art and would look forward to going on more trips in the future."

# VETERINARY SUMMER SCHOOL PLACEMENT



**Year 13 student, Terry Wilson, has been selected to take part in the 'Pre-Vet Summer School' at the very prestigious Royal Veterinary College, University of London.**

This exciting two week placement will allow Terry to develop her veterinary skills and knowledge both of which will be recognised by the RVC if she chooses to apply in Year 14.

Through this experience she will:

- ▶ Undertake one week of veterinary experience in their globally recognised animal hospitals and research facilities
- ▶ Get a taste of student life at the RVC and meet their student ambassadors and academic tutors
- ▶ Receive world-class teaching alongside her peers
- ▶ Explore London, one of the world's most exciting cities
- ▶ Make friends from around the world

We are delighted that Terry was successful in her application and we anticipate it to be a very valuable and worthwhile experience. We are looking forward to hearing all about her experiences.

# ORLA 'REINS' SUPREME



**Year 9 pupil, Orla O'Kane beat off stiff competition to represent Ireland in the Mounted Games at the Royal Bath and West Show in Somerset, England.**

Orla had to undergo trials to be one of the five lucky horse riders chosen to represent their country. The event took place from Monday 25th May to Friday 29th May. A wonderful performance resulted in the Irish team being placed second out of twelve teams...yet another equestrian medal to add to her large collection. The Dublin Horse Show in August is the next big event for Orla where she will represent Monaghan Pony Club.

Congratulations Orla and we wish you continued success in your upcoming competitions!



# SILVERSTONE STAR

**Adrian Hegarty, a Year 12 pupil, has built up a sensational track record in karting!**

The sixteen year old started racing in 2008 and just one year later he had won two All-Ireland titles as well as many other prestigious accolades. Winning obviously came naturally to the young driver and he was ready to take on the bigger challenge of the British Championship which led to a further three awards. Exclusive opportunities accompanied these awards, one of which was an 'access all areas' pass to the 'British Grand Prix' at Silverstone where he met many famous faces from the world of Formula 1. He also enjoyed an all-expenses paid trip to the Bahamas to compete in the well-known 'Bahamas Speed Week'.

Equipped with an assured racing style that belies his years, Adrian has now moved to the Senior Class and will be taking on the 'Formula Kart Stars' in the British Championship.

At the beginning of June, Adrian raced on the Silverstone circuit which is said to be the home of British motorsport. After three exhausting heats, Adrian obtained two second positions and one third position.

The consistency of outstanding results left him in pole position for the final. Adrian got off to a promising start in the final and led the strong and more experienced field of drivers into the first corner. Unfortunately, this lead didn't last long as he was involved in a collision and he swiftly went from first to last. However, Adrian's unwavering tenacity enabled him to catch up with other competitors and he finished in second position. Onlookers were stunned by his incredible comeback and he even managed to set the fastest lap of the race on his way to a medal finish!

Adrian attributes much of his success to finding a good balance between school work and his racing commitments. "School has given me constant support along the way. I always make sure to keep up to date with any work I miss. It's crucial to maintain good exam results if I'm serious about taking my racing career further as a professional driver or even in an engineering capacity."

After his impressive performance at Silverstone, Adrian has risen through the ranks and sits in third position in the Championship. It is looking like Adrian Hegarty could be the next household name in Formula 1!

Sponsorship is still required in order for Adrian to complete the racing season. He would greatly appreciate support at his upcoming fundraising events.





## BBC TOUR

Year 9 students who participated in the 'BBC School Report' project had the unique opportunity of stepping inside the exciting world of media at the BBC studios in Belfast.

Students were given a taster of what it is like to work in a dynamic live broadcasting hub.

During the tour, technical staff explained the challenges of their jobs and students also enjoyed a lively conversation with Radio Ulster host, Hugo Duncan. Students were amazed at the range of specialised staff required to keep us entertained on TV and radio!

## YEAR 8 CAMOGS CROWNED ULSTER CHAMPIONS

St Louis 9-2  
Assumption Ballynahinch 0-0

Five goals and one point from sharp shooter Aimée Traynor was the catalyst for St Louis' first ever Ulster Colleges Year 8 camogie title. While the Bridini Oga camog was in marvellous form for her school, St Louis were dominant in all areas of the pitch and a fantastic team performance ensured Assumption Ballynahinch had no answer for the Antrim girls.

The game started at a quick pace with both sides trying to gain an edge over the other but soon St Louis began to gain the upper hand and three goals and a point in the opening twenty minutes of the game was the foundation for their Ulster success.

There seemed no way back for Assumption as St Louis led 5-2 to 0-0 after eight minutes of play in the second half. Substitute Chloe Magill got in on the scoring act two minutes after being introduced. Jessica Blaney and Ciara O'Neill combined to set Chloe up for a goal mid-way through the half. But the remainder of the game belonged to Aimée Traynor. When referee, Paudie Mullan blew the final whistle, there was much jubilation and excitement among the large St Louis panel as they had secured the school's first ever Ulster Colleges title at Year 8.

St Louis team mentor Miss Donaghy praised the girls for their efforts and achievements this year. "We have a squad of over thirty players this year which is a considerable amount of camogs in one year group. The performance today was a reflection of all the hard work over the last few months in after school trainings and challenge matches as well as their Ulster qualifying blitz day. There is tremendous talent within the squad which is a credit to the clubs the girls are from. Hopefully today's win will be the foundation from which to build on as the players progress through future school and Ulster Colleges camogie competitions."



## RAISING THE BAR COMPETITION



Year 11 student, Naomi Rafferty recently performed a hip hop routine at the Birmingham Repertory Theatre after winning a national competition. The 'Raising the Bar' competition was developed by the National Deaf Children's Society (NDCS) to drive expectations of what the 45,000 deaf children and young people in the UK can achieve. After her performance, Naomi said, "It was an enjoyable experience and I hope that it can encourage other deaf children in the UK to get involved in music and dance."

## YEAR 9 COLONY AND PLANTATION WORKSHOP

Year 9 pupils had the chance to experience Colony and Plantation in Ireland on Tuesday 26th May.

A group from the Navan Centre, Armagh treated them to real-life costumes, weapons and equipment from the sixteenth century in Ireland. Pupils enjoyed the chance to experiment with the weapons themselves (safely, of course!) and experience life as a settler in Ireland.



# STUDENTS FOR SEA SHEPHERD

Students for Sea Shepherd is a popular club among students at St Louis Grammar which was founded and coordinated by Matthew McKeefry in Year 10. S4SS raises awareness of the direct action needed to protect marine wildlife as well as fundraising for the official conservation charity, Sea Shepherd.

Students for Sea Shepherd was established on 16th September 2014 and has since raised over £1000. Since then it has heightened its profile in many ways, such as being featured in the Ballymena Guardian; conducting presentations at assemblies; participating in the Belfast Marathon and a talk in school from Sea Shepherd UK has been organised for September 2015. However, our work for the year has not yet been completed. Before the end of the year we will be screening a film to Years 8 and 9. A vegan tuckshop will offer snacks as well as official Sea Shepherd merchandise.

Students for Sea Shepherd has achieved a lot this year but none of it would be possible without our very generous supporters, dedicated volunteers, both past and present and extremely helpful staff members. We would like to take this chance to announce that next year's target will be a massive £5000. Therefore, we would like to say a massive thank-you to everyone who has supported and volunteered for this amazing cause because as Sea Shepherd founder, Captain Paul Watson puts it, "If the oceans die, we die."

Anyone interested in joining Students for Sea Shepherd should email [students4seashepherd@gmail.com](mailto:students4seashepherd@gmail.com) or can talk to any of the volunteers at one of our events. Visit [seashepherdglobal.org](http://seashepherdglobal.org) for more information on Sea Shepherd.

Matthew McKeefry



## SALTERS' CHEMISTRY FESTIVAL

On Wednesday 27th May, a group of Year 9 students were privileged to attend the Salters' Chemistry Festival at the School of Chemistry in Queen's University Belfast.

Throughout the day we carried out a number of experiments and competed against other schools in Northern Ireland.

The first experiment we completed was named 'Salters' Challenge'. Our task was to investigate and solve the murder of a worker at a salt mine using a range of Chemistry skills such as chromatography, testing for unidentified metals and finding the pH value of liquids. We worked well as a team and completed our task with time to spare!

The second experiment we were asked to carry out was called the 'University Challenge'. This involved adding different chemicals in order to lower the temperature of water to exactly 10.5 degrees Celsius after one minute. We had forty minutes to experiment with different amounts of each substance and when we were tested at the end, our group managed to get the temperature to exactly 10.5 degrees Celsius!

We were then entertained by an interactive lecture called 'Chemical Magic' where an expert demonstrated some exciting experiments, teaching us more about the laws of Chemistry. Afterwards, he gave prizes for the previous competitions and we were awarded first place in the Salters' Challenge!

It was a great day during which we had the chance to put the skills we learn in Chemistry class into practice. We would like to thank our Chemistry teachers for teaching us so well and preparing us for events such as this. We would also like to thank Dr Mulholland for providing this opportunity for us.

Evanna Woodside



## P6 STEM TASTER DAYS

The beginning of June saw a large number of local Primary six students participate in the 'STEM based taster days' in St Louis Grammar.

The programme of events is designed to reach out to primary school students to make their eventual transition to secondary school easier and to enjoy practical elements of the STEM related subjects. It was rewarding to see students' confidence grow throughout their day at St Louis as they adapted to new surroundings. Activities included using Forensic Chemistry to solve the mystery on the hill of Kintullagh; making Vitamin C rockets in Physics; looking for mini beasts and dissecting rats in Biology; Wimbledon themed measuring tasks in Maths; smoothie making in Home Economics and making LED name badges in Technology. St Louis' STEM teachers put a lot of hard work into planning exciting itineraries for the students and they also had a team of enthusiastic Year 11s who offered their assistance to P6s. We look forward to seeing many familiar faces in September 2016!



# THE MAGIC OF BOOKS

'The Magic of Books' is an extra-curricular project being carried out by nine Year 8 pupils and assisted by Aimee Brett, Year 11 GCSE Art and Design pupil.

The project was initiated by Mrs Boyd, our Librarian, who has earmarked a prominent space on the wall at the back of the library. Stephen Doran, our invaluable Head Caretaker was called in to construct the book in 3D. He did a fabulous job and the book is generating a tremendous amount of interest and excitement in the Art and English departments.

They meet for one hour every Thursday after school and pupils created the design ideas for the project, following discussion with Mrs Boyd. They are a fantastic bunch who are doing a wonderful job so far. Watch this space for the completion and launch of 'The Book' at the end of June.



## YEAR 8 BOYS GAELIC TRIP

On Saturday 16th May, the Year 8 boys' Gaelic team played Eoghan Rua's Under 12 team at their home grounds.

Unfortunately, we were defeated but it was a great team effort and we enjoyed the novelty of playing together on a weekend. Any disappointment we experienced after the match soon faded when we were taken to Barry's for a team bonding activity. We were totally re-energised after an abundance of the usual amusement park sweet treats and ready to risk the rides! It was a fun-filled day and one that we'll remember for a long time. Thanks to Mr Quinn for organising the trip and to Miss Glavin who came along to supervise.

Sonny Brady



## YEAR 8 DRAMA FESTIVAL

Budding stars in Year 8 took to the stage at this year's Drama Festival on Wednesday 3rd June. Every student had a part to play and their sense of empowerment and enjoyment was clear to see on stage.

Every class and their Drama teachers worked hard on each production which was clearly evident in the impressive repertoire of acting skills, costumes and dramatic effects on show. Audiences were treated to a vast range of plays, including adaptations of Robin Hood, the Battle of Troy and Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat.



### YEAR 8 DRAMA FESTIVAL WINNERS

#### 8 LARAGH

Katie Fyfe  
Sophie Elliott  
Cormac Mallon  
Peter Graham

#### 8 LISBREEN

Adam O'Neill  
Caolan McGarry  
Cait McFall  
Aine Wright

#### 8 LURIG

Aidan Graffin  
Ciaran Agnew  
Joseph Agnew

#### 8 LAYDE

Conor Logue  
Ciaran Healy  
Jack McIlhatton  
Aine Wright

#### 8 LISMOYLE

Joel Dudley  
Eimear McCormack  
Eoin Kane  
Katie-Anne McCloskey

#### 8 LYNDON

Zuzanna Konieczkovicz  
Alisha McLaren  
Miguel Quiruga



During the Friends of St Louis AGM on Wednesday 13th May, the charity presented Mr Rafferty with £2000 which will be used to support and advance the education of the students.

Since the association's formation in March 2013, they have run several successful fundraising events for the school. Most recently, a table quiz was held in All Saints GAC, Ballymena. An enjoyable night was had by all who came out in support of the school and quiz master, Eugene Marquess posed suitably challenging questions. Over £500 was raised, which will be a fantastic boost for the development of students within the school.

The next major whole school event is currently being planned for the Autumn term. We look forward to running an FOSL Fashion Show in the school on Friday 16th October 2015 which will involve many of the students and staff and is kindly being supported by local retailers.

Friends of St Louis appreciate the continued support of the school community and look forward to generating even greater support for future events.



## ÁDH MÓR ORT!

'Bhuel, a thaisce?' Máirtín Birt, the Irish language assistant for the last four years is 'ag bogadh ar aghaidh', moving on to University life to train as an Irish teacher.

I first met Máirtín at the start of Year 13 when 'mo chairde agus mé féin' would escape the study, once or twice a week to have a little 'caint' about Gaelic football, the weekend's 'craic' or just life in general. Even though Máirtín couldn't make me like Irish grammar, he did inspire my love of Gaeilge and provided endless encouragement and help.

Above all, Máirtín is a gentleman, a 'fear uasal, amach is amach'. 'Go raibh míle maith agat Máirtín, agus ádh mór ort', next year.

**James McClintock**

St Louis echoes James' good wishes for Máirtín as he embarks on a teaching career. His contributions to the Irish department have been immeasurable and he will be greatly missed. Our loss is teaching's gain!

## STATE OF THE ART MOBILE CLASSROOMS

Four new mobile classrooms have been added to the school grounds.

After months of demolition, dust and paint students will soon enjoy being taught in modern surroundings. The luxurious mobiles contain the latest teaching technologies. The steel framed modular buildings are durable, spacious and equipped to a very high standard. An exciting development for St Louis...but just a taster for the REALLY BIG building plans to follow! Watch this space...



## NEW ARRIVALS

Congratulations to Mrs McCann, Mrs Ruddy and Mrs Fleming on the arrival of their new babies this term. We all send our best wishes.

## IMPORTANT DATES

### AUGUST

AS/A2 Results available Thursday 13th August.

GCSE Results available Thursday 20th August.

### SEPTEMBER

Induction for Years 8 & 13 only Tuesday 1st September.

Induction for Years 12 & 14 only Wednesday 2nd September.

Induction for Years 9, 10 & 11 only Thursday 3rd September.

Normal class begins Friday 4th September.



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