

THE KINTULLAGH VOICE



The newsletter of
St Louis Grammar School
Ballymena

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 14



JUNE 2016

ST LOUIS IS... "OUTSTANDING"

In a report published after our recent inspection by the Education and Training Inspectorate, St Louis was awarded the top outcome with *"a high level of capacity for sustained improvement in the interest of all learners."*

The school was praised for its *"broad range"* of learning and enrichment experiences and as a result is a *"showcase"* school.

The report commends the *"highly effective practice"* which ensures that pupils are very well educated in accordance with the school's aim to promote academic rigour and to cultivate each pupil's unique potential for achievement. The inspectors identified the outstanding achievements and standards, particularly at GCE LEVEL over a number of years.

An exemplary standard of behaviour was observed both inside and outside of the classroom and St Louis' pupils were hailed as *"highly articulate and motivated."*

Furthermore, the inspection report commented on the very effective pastoral support. The guidance for pupils underpins the school's aims to nurture them within a caring community.

St Louis received further recognition for its *"outstanding"* provision for Sixth Form whilst there were *"too many strengths in Careers and the curriculum to mention."*

This is a fantastic achievement for everyone involved with St Louis and one we are very proud of. We would like to take this opportunity to express our gratitude to the St Louis community for their continued support.



ST LOUIS HOST HUSTINGS EVENT

St Louis Grammar school was the venue for a hustings event on Friday 8th April. Candidates from the 4 largest parties, DUP, SF, UUP and SDLP from both north and south Antrim constituencies were represented at the event.

The audience was made up of upper sixth pupils many of whom would be voting for the first time. The event was hosted by Declan Lawn a past pupil of the school who has worked on Spotlight and Panorama.

The politicians were certainly kept on their toes as they were asked about the party positions on topical issues, especially the job losses in Ballymena and the petition of concern. The event was enjoyed by all and was evidence of a genuine engagement by young people in politics. The school would like to take the opportunity once more to thank all the party representatives who took part.

MID & EAST ANTRIM BOROUGH COUNCIL AWARDS



Congratulations to our Senior Hurling team who won the School Sporting Performance of the Year at the Mid-East Antrim Borough Council awards. This certainly was a fitting recognition for putting Antrim on the map at All Ireland level!

Also, St Louis past pupil, Michael O'Neill, was inaugurated into the Council's Sporting Hall of Fame! This was a night where St Louis' sporting talents were showcased!

SENTINUS ICT ROADSHOW



A successful and enlightening day was had by Year 8 pupils as the Sentinus ICT Roadshow arrived in St Louis on Wednesday 6th April.

Pupils were introduced to programming using Java software and they even used 'Makey Makey' boards to invent their own keyboard! Small but significant steps were made into a future in Computer Science!



MEET SOME YEAR 10s!



Hi, my name is Paul Doherty and I'm from Dunloy. I've enjoyed playing hurling for St Louis this year as we reached the quarter finals in the Gallagher Cup and the final in the Leonard Cup! I've chosen to study PE, Business Studies, ICT and Construction for GCSE next year.



Hello, I'm Rachel McNeilly from Cloughmills. I organised two bun sales in school this year for charity and raised over £200 for Friends of the Cancer Centre. I've chosen to study Art, ICT and French for GCSE next year.



Hi, I'm Michael McErlain and I'm from Antrim. I've picked ICT, Geography and Spanish for my optional GCSE subjects. I hope to pursue a career in Forensic Science.



Hi, my name is Maggie Dillon and I'm from Martinstown. I will be studying HE, ICT and Construction for GCSE as I really enjoy practical subjects.



Hello, I'm Jack Donnelly from Ballymena. I compete in swimming galas for St Louis and have recently gained first place in an Ulster swimming gala. Next year I will study PE, ICT and French for GCSE alongside compulsory subjects.



Hi, my name is Jordayna Magill and I live in Glenravel. I won the Under 14 Ulster Camogie Final with the school and I compete in Taekwondo competitions outside of school. In July I will travel to Bristol to take part in the World Championships. I'm studying Geography, PE and French next year.

SENIOR HURLING ALL IRELAND FINAL

St Louis Ballymena 2-13 Abbey CBS Tipperary 2-19 AET

Two refereeing decisions in the 73rd minute of an exciting Masita Paddy Buggy Cup All-Ireland Colleges' Senior Hurling final ultimately decided the outcome and edged Abbey CBS into a match-winning position.

St Louis edged an evenly-contested opening half with Ronan Graham's goal, kicked home after Ciaran Elliott had taken two players out of the action with a clever turn.

That put the Danske Bank Mageean Cup champions 1-3 to 0-3 ahead and they held that advantage at half-time, 1-6 to 0-6.

Both teams used sweepers for most of the game and played ball into the corners where the pace of the Elliott cousins and Conal Doherty-Cunning caused Abbey the most problems.

During the third quarter, St Louis hit two spells of five minutes each when they shot three successive wides, and, in hindsight, these were crucial as Abbey closed in to draw level at 0-13 to 1-10 in the 52nd minute.

Free-taker Rian Doody was the key player for the Tipperary team during that spell with five pressure scores, four of them from frees.

With no more scores for the rest of the second half, the game went into extra-time and again Doody took three more scores in the first period, two from open play, while Eoin O'Neill and James McNaughton kept St Louis in touch at 1-12 to 0-16 at the turnover.

Ciaran Elliott had once again slipped his marker on the wing and had a clear run on goal. Referee, Cork's Cathal McAllister, however called play back to award St Louis a free that James McNaughton sliced wide from the acute angle. That would have tied the teams once again on 1-14 to 0-17.

Instead from the poc out, Josh Ryan took possession and looked to have taken too many steps in getting his clearance to Kieran Breen who pointed from 60 metres. After Ryan, a towering presence at centre half-back, had added another point, the game finished in a flurry of three goals.

Daire Egan, who had just returned to the action after being substituted in the second half of ordinary time, fired in the first for Abbey.

But Keelan Molloy then engineered the opening for Ronan Graham to deflect home his second goal with 90 seconds remaining.

Egan then worked his way up the sideline to the right-hand corner flag and progressed along the end-line before placing Shane Power in the clear to shoot home.

There was a point for each side before the key decisions in the 73rd minute, but after that Abbey were in the strongest position to take their third title.

St Louis' manager, Colm Morgan was rightfully proud of his team as they played with great heart.

"I am really proud of the boys. They all put in such an effort. All we needed was the rub of the green, and we would have taken it. It was probably a cracking game to watch, but we are just so disappointed as we know it's one that got away on us. There certainly weren't six points between the teams, but that is what the score-board says."

Our senior hurlers have given staff, pupils, friends and families an exciting year and one for the history books as they reached the first All-Ireland Final in 28 years. We are exceptionally proud of their achievement and their efforts have certainly heightened St Louis' reputation as a formidable force in Gaelic games!



ST LOUIS IN TOP 3

It comes as no surprise that St Louis has once again earned a coveted place on the Irish News' Grammar School Exam Performance League Table for A Level Performance.

Congratulations to staff and pupils on this wonderful achievement... another year of excellence, another year of us being one of the leading schools in Northern Ireland!

GRAMMAR SCHOOL EXAM PERFORMANCE (14/15)		
SCHOOLS WITH THE HIGHEST % OF PUPILS ACHIEVING THREE OR MORE A-LEVELS AT GRADES A* TO C		
SCHOOL		3+ A-LEVEL
1	St Dominic's High School, Belfast	94.9
2	Rathmore Grammar School, Belfast	93.0
3	St Louis Grammar School, Ballymount	92.7
4	Lumen Christi College, Derry	92.0
5	Our Lady's Grammar School, Henry	89.1
6	St Mary's Grammar School, Magherafelt	89.0
7	Thornhill College, Derry	88.9

CORN COLMCILLE FINAL

St Louis' Year 9 squad reached the final of the Corn Colmcille on Thursday 5th May 2016. Their opponents were St Columb's Derry and unfortunately it was the opposition who claimed the cup as they played the decider in sunny Glen, Maghera.

St Louis defied all odds to reach the 2016 final as they were placed in a tough group in the early stages. However, two victories opening against St Malachy's Belfast and St Joseph's Crossmaglen and a draw against St Patrick's Keady in the final match saw the Kintullagh boys reach the top of the group!

In the quarter final, a strong second half performance saw St Louis edge past Holy Trinity Cookstown and in the semi-final, favourable conditions in the second half enabled St Louis to overcome Our Lady and St Patrick's Knock. There was little to separate the two schools in the opening minutes of the final but St Columb's ability to take their scores increased their confidence and despite never giving up, the Derry city school were convincing winners on a score line of 4-7 to 1-2.

Congratulations to Mr Henry and his team for reaching this stage of the competition. It looks like this team will go on to be a force to be reckoned with in the future!



SPURRED TO VICTORY

The Irish Pony Club mounted games took place at Punchestown in March and at that time, Brigid Delargy in Year 9 was selected to represent Ireland at the Bath and West Show in June.

The excitement also continues for Brigid in the summer. The Mounted Games Association (MGA) World Team Games are being hosted by Ireland at Mill Street in Cork this year. This is the most prestigious competition in the sport of mounted games where Under 17 and Open (17 to adult) riders compete for the title of World Champions. As there is no Under 14 class at the World Team Games, Brigid and her Under 14 partner entered the Under 17 Northern Ireland trials which took place on the 30th April. Brigid and her partner both aged 13, won places on the Under 17 World and European teams. They will travel to Cork in August to represent NI at the World Team Games. Unfortunately due to commitments at Dublin Horse Show, they are unable to travel to Germany to the European Championships.

This is shaping up to be an eventful summer for Brigid and we wish her every success as she participates in such prestigious competitions.



PRESTIGIOUS ROLE AT LFC

Congratulations to former pupil, Andy O'Boyle who was appointed as Liverpool's new Head of Fitness and Conditioning.

He was formerly Liverpool's Under-21s fitness coach but was promoted to first-team duties for the rest of last season. Liverpool has been on excellent form and we have no doubt that much of that can be attributed to Andy's hard work!



STUDENTS FOR SEA SHEPHERD CLEAN UP LOCAL BEACHES

For the past three months, Students for Sea Shepherd have been removing marine debris from local beaches so that it will not harm wildlife.

We have removed marine debris from East Strand in Portrush, with many more beach cleans scheduled. Marine biologists have said that when they do autopsies it is extremely common to find plastic in animals' guts. Plastic waste takes a long time to break down and when it does eventually break down, it releases oil and other toxins into the ocean. Another commonly found item on beaches and coast lines are cigarette butts and within one hour of contact with water they start leaking cadmium, arsenic and lead into the marine environment. This is why beach cleans are so important to helping wildlife around the coast and animals in the sea. Therefore the key message from Students for Sea Shepherd is: never discard rubbish, it ends up killing wildlife and you will be fined.

Matthew McKeefry



PUPILS ATTEND GOOD FRIDAY GENERATION BBC EVENT

On Wednesday 20th April, the following Government and Politics pupils Bobby Clarke, Nathan O'Kane, Jack Hampton, Ronan Hasson and Ernine Darragh were involved in the Good Friday Generation BBC Event hosted by Stephen Nolan.

While our pupils had prepared challenging questions for the candidates, the nature of live television meant that they did not get the opportunity to ask them. The experience was well worth the trip to Belfast and gave them an insight into how a live show is made.

BBC have said they would like to televise more of these political events to give young people a platform upon which to raise issues that are important to them! Perhaps next year it could be you!



1499 REASONS TO CELEBRATE READING

St Louis Grammar School raised £1499.75 for a local children's charity by taking part in ReadOn, a sponsored reading event. The aim of ReadOn is to encourage children to enjoy reading, whilst raising vital funds to support local children fighting cancer.

At the cheque presentation, Rebecca Oates, Schools Fundraiser for Cancer Fund for Children said; "I would like to thank St Louis Grammar School for their amazing support. By simply picking up a book and reading, pupils have helped Cancer Fund for Children provide practical, emotional and financial support to local families coming to terms with the devastating effects of a childhood cancer."

Well done Year 8 for raising such a huge amount!



STAFF RELAY TEAM RAISE OVER £1000 FOR CHARITY

On the 2nd of May 2016, five members of our teaching staff completed a relay in the Belfast City Marathon. Mrs McToal, Mr Trainor, Miss Glavin, Mr McLernon and Miss Wallace ran on behalf of PIPS Belfast; A Charity for the Prevention of Suicide and Self Harm.

What PIPS does:

- Offers support to individuals who are considering ending their own lives
- Provides support for families who have been touched by suicide
- Offers a 'no appointment' service to ensure there is always contact/therapy when a person might feel vulnerable



In the month leading up to the day each member of staff had been 'subtly' encouraging all of their classes and colleagues to donate, and to great success as the current total raised was £1,084.79!

A great day's fun, for a great cause; each member of staff would like to thank all those who donated and wished us well!



YEAR 8 'BRINGING THE NORMANS TO LIFE'

Making History come alive can be difficult in this modern age, especially with our dependency on tablets, smartphones and digital technology.

However, Year 8 pupils were delighted to get the chance to try on back-breaking chainmail and then to be attacked by arrows with only a shield for protection! Weapons, uniforms and a vote for the new King of England in 1066 helped them to enjoy an hour long workshop about the Norman Conquest of 1066.

Their experience of History in the classroom is complemented by this team who come from the Navan Centre in Armagh each year, in order to help our pupils gain a fuller understanding of what battle in the Norman Conquest would have been like.

STEM BUS

On Tuesday 7th June, the STEM bus arrived in St Louis. A number of pupils from each Year 9 class got to experience working with the V-Carve Aspire CAD package.

They followed complex instructions to produce a sign made with laminator MDF. It was a good insight to the practical element of STEM, in particular with the use of Computer Numerical Control Router.

It was a great experience for those present and was very informative. We look forward to the STEM bus returning to St Louis!

Clodagh Convery



U14 ULSTER CHAMPIONS

St Louis GS 3-12 Our Lady & St Patrick's Knock 1-2

Congratulations to Miss Donaghy and the U14 camogie squad who won the Ulster title on Wednesday 25th May in St John's Belfast.

The St Louis girls dominated all areas of the pitch and were emphatic 3-12 to 1-2 winners. Full forward Aimée Traynor opened the scoring with a well taken goal after six minutes of play and this was the catalyst for St Louis' victory! The Bridini Oga full forward followed up with three more points in quick succession and 1-1 from Erin Traynor along with a Niamh Martin point gave St Louis a 2-5 to 0-2 half time advantage. Our Lady's two points came from the hurl of Anna McKee.



Despite getting a goal back within a few seconds of the re-start, Our Lady and St Patrick's Knock were unable to cut back the St Louis lead and a second Aimée Traynor goal as well as further points for Maura Downey (three frees), Erin Traynor and Mary McKillen ensured St Louis made up for the heartbreak of losing the 2015 final. The Fr Davies Cup is now back on the hill of Kintullagh for the second time since 2013.



SPORTS DAY 2016

St Louis' 40th annual Sports Day was held on the gloriously sunny day of Wednesday 1st June. This year the track events and high jump were held on the grass pitch which has recently undergone development.

Years 8 to 10 girls took part in various track events in the morning while the boys competed in the field events and their other competitions after lunch. There were a number of fun events throughout the day including volleyball and parachute games.

A drone flying over the school grounds taking videos and photos of the pupils in action added to the occasion and the highlight was when almost 500 pupils and staff formed a massive 'SLG' which the drone captured on film!

The day climaxed with the 100m and 200m finals followed by the class relays. These proved to be very close contests but no class managed a male and female double victory!

There were a number of records broken on the new grass track among Year 9 and 10. In the 200m heats, Year 9 student Roisin Ward broke the overall record of 29.44 by winning in a time of 28.16 seconds. Bronagh Laverty set a new Year 9 1500m time of 6 minutes 12 seconds from the previous record of 6 minutes 13.27 seconds. Both the Year 9 and 10 1500m records were also broken on Wednesday afternoon as Ciaran Campbell (Year 9) won his race in a time of 5 minutes 39.06 seconds while Ruairi McAleese knocked twelve seconds off the Year 10 record and almost six seconds off the overall record to finish in an incredible time of 5 minutes 34.56 seconds. There were no new records set in any of the field events.

Once again the 2016 SLG Sports Day was a resounding success. Well done to all the students who took part in their various events and collected points for their 'house'. Sports Day is an excellent showcase of the talent of St Louis' students who participate whole heartedly and enthusiastically. Congratulations to the individual and relay winners who will receive their medals at Sports Prize Giving at a later date.

The class relay winners for 2016 were:

	GIRLS	BOYS
YEAR 8	Lismoyle	Lisbreen
YEAR 9	Laragh	Lurig
YEAR 10	Lyndon	Lismoyle





ANNUAL ART EXHIBITION

On the evening of Friday 3rd June, the Art department held their annual art exhibition.

Work was displayed from A-level, GCSE and Key Stage 3 pupils. Parents, siblings and extended families attended to celebrate pupils' masterpieces. Artwork included paintings, sculptures, photographs, film installations, fashion and much more. This event allows the extraordinary talent of St Louis pupils to be showcased.



ANTRIM LADIES GAA SUCCESS FOR PAST PUPIL ANNA MCCANN

Congratulations to past pupil Anna McCann who has been selected for the League of the Year team!

Anna is currently studying at St. Mary's teacher training college, Belfast. This is a fantastic accomplishment to represent her country on an All-Ireland Panel!



P6 STEM TASTER DAYS

The beginning of June saw a large number of local Primary six students participate in the annual '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 2017!



IRISH ATHLETICS MEDAL WINNER

Michael McAuley (Year 12) travelled to Tullamore on Saturday 4th June to compete in the GloHealth All-Ireland Schools Athletics. Having qualified from Ulster in both the 100m and 200m race, he had a busy day on the track.

In very hot conditions, Michael was placed 7th in his 100m race with a time of 11.26 seconds. However, his greatest moment of the day came in his 200m race where he pushed right to the finish to be placed 3rd with a time of 22.71 seconds, just a second behind the winner!

A huge congratulations to Michael, this is an amazing achievement. Hopefully it is only the start of his national success... Olympics 2020 could be beckoning!



MAKING STEPS INTO POLITICS

Year 13 student, Niamh Gould has been elected as the North Antrim representative on the North Ireland Youth Parliament.

This year's Youth Parliament elections in Northern Ireland saw 12,831 young people (up from 11,344 in 2015) cast their vote for the candidates they want to represent them in the UK Youth Parliament for the coming year, and campaign on the issues they feel are important. Niamh is now one of 18 Members of Youth Parliament who will champion the voices of young people across the UK.

UK Youth Parliament has previously campaigned on issues such as mental health, voting at 16, education and transport. This year's UK-wide campaign is #DontHateEducate which aims to address race and religious discrimination in the UK.

The elections are part of one of the educational projects organised by the British Youth Council charity with the support of the Northern Ireland Youth Forum and local schools. We have no doubt that Niamh will be an articulate and well respected ambassador not only for St Louis but for her peers nationwide.

PRIVATE PEACEFUL MURAL

Year 9 pupils study the award winning 'Private Peaceful' by Michael Murpurgo as their set text in English lessons.

Weronika Chylinska, Shauneen O'Boyle and Lana Kerr in 9 Lyndon were so inspired by the novel that they voluntarily created a mural on their teacher, Mrs Fullerton's display board. The girls dedicated many break and lunch times to painting the impressive mural which highlights key events in the story.



Weronika and Shauneen are pictured receiving their prizes as a reward for their time and effort, unfortunately Lana was not present at the time the photograph was taken. Well done girls on this fabulous cross-curricular effort!

DRAMA FESTIVAL 2016

St Louis' Drama Department brought stardom to the stage which could rival the West End when they showcased superb talent from Year 8 pupils during their annual Drama Festival on Tuesday 7th June.

This year was no different from any other as hours of rehearsals, costume preparations and nervous excitement culminated in a spectacular day of entertainment! Every pupil in Year 8 had a role to perform in their class play which resulted in a magnificent and memorable team effort. In each class a selection of pupils were recognised for their outstanding performances. The winners are listed below.

8 LISMOYLE *2 BE OR NOT 2 BE*

MARIE KEARNEY, AIMEE MCCARTNEY, SEAN MURPHY, TARA MCDONNELL.

8 LARAGH *FOUL PLAY AT SUNNY BAY*

CAITLIN COCHRANE, SOPHIE MCMULLAN, EMILY O'NEILL, MICHAEL READ, ANTAINE MCERLEAN.

8 LISBREEN *ALAS IN BLUNDERLAND*

LUCY DONALDSON, AOIFE DEVLIN, EMILY HIGGINS, JAMES HIGGINS, NIAMH NEESON, SHANE O' BOYLE, SHAUN O'CALLAGHAN, PETER HUNTER, ROISIN MULHOLLAND.

8 LYNDON *BEST IN THE BOOK*

CALLUM MCMURRAY, LAURA MCKILLEN, CAITLIN MCCLOSKEY, EOIN KANE, AMELIA ROGERS, RIOGHNACH CAIRNS, CARA BRENNAN, ROSLYN TURLEY

8 LURIG *THE CLASS STRUGGLE*

LIAM MCAULEY, EMMA MCILROY, SOPHIA AGNEW, EIMEAR CRAWFORD, FELIX CONVERY

8 LAYDE *CLASSJACK*

SAM CRAWFORD, GRACE MCQUAID, DANIEL MCQUILLAN, SIANESE MAYBIN, ELLIE O'NEILL, ETHAN MCNEILL, PATRICK MCAULEY



CLASS OF 2016

Our Year 14 Leavers' Day on Friday 6th May saw St Louis Grammar bidding a fond farewell to the Class of 2016!

The day began with a beautiful Mass attended by pupils and their families in Kintullagh House. Afterwards the congregation assembled in the Sports Hall, which had a makeover especially for the occasion! The key speakers at the event were Head Boy and Head Girl, Rian Patterson and Kate O'Donnell. They reflected on their unforgettable journey through St Louis and offered words of wisdom as they all braced themselves to embark in different directions. A buffet lunch was then served, followed by the presentation of Year Books and hoodies.

Once again, we would like to extend our best wishes to the Class of 2016 as they look forward to pastures new.



RTE VISIT ST LOUIS

St Louis recently welcomed a TV crew from RTE, as they were researching the rise to fame of Northern Ireland manager and former pupil, Michael O'Neill. The footage featured in a special edition 'Nationwide' programme narrated by Tommy Gorman in the buildup to the Euros 2016.

The programme delved into school archives which highlighted that whilst at St Louis, Michael was both an athlete and a scholar who showed signs of exceptional ability.

Michael reflected on his time at St Louis and the opportunities he received at our school. He was a sought after player on both gaelic and soccer pitches but professed that soccer was always his first preference.

It was evident that St Louis instilled a love for learning within Michael that never waned despite delaying his studies to further his soccer career.

Year 8 Geographers also had the privilege of starring in the programme as they plotted the permutations that might happen for Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland in the Euros.

The finishing note was that Michael O'Neill was a 'dream-maker' and we hope that his magnificent success continues in his Euros campaign.



IMPORTANT DATES

AUGUST

AS/A2 Results available Thursday 18th August.
GCSE Results available Thursday 25th August.

SEPTEMBER

Induction for Years 8 & 13 only Thursday 1st September.
Induction for Years 12 & 14 only Friday 2nd September.
Induction for Years 9, 10 & 11 only Monday 5th September.
Normal class begins Tuesday 6th September.



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