



THE

KINTULLAGH VOICE



FAREWELL TO THE CLASS OF 2021

Page 5

June 2021

The Newsletter of St. Louis Grammar School, Ballymena



SPORTS DAY 2021

Page 10



N.I. Top Grammar School

A Level Grades
x5 Subjects A*-C 100%



Contents

Summer Edition | June 2021

Page 2: Cara Pirie Ulster Scholar Pin

Page 3: Farewell to the Class of 2021; After School Sports Back with a Bang

Page 4: Comhghairdeas le Bliain 10! An Fáinne; Fresh Little Minds

Page 5: KS3 Literacy Days

Page 6: KS3 Numeracy days

Page 7: Clodagh Maguire selected for NI Women's Soccer Development Squad; Star pupils in PE

Page 8: Junior Maths Challenge; SLG Parkrunners; Running Club

Page 9: English Star Tweet; Year 14 Student's Leaving Gift to the Library;

Pages 10 and 11: Sports Day 2021

Page 12 and 13: CEIAG Past Pupil Spotlight: Ruairi McLarnon

Page 14: EIAG Soccer Star's Stateside Scholarship (Jake White); Balancing an Apprenticeship in Finance with Life as a Semi-Professional Football Player (Luke Harrison)

Page 15: GCSE Art Online Exhibition

Page 16: AS-Level Art Online Exhibition; A-Level Art Online Exhibition

Page 17: Year 9 Student Profiles

Page 18: 'One Minute With...' Interviews

Page 19: Junk Kouture Regional Finalists 2021; Gold Pope John Paul II Award; Year 8 Pupil runs 'Couch to 5K' in aid of 'Blue Cross for Pets' Charity

Page 20: Rotary Young Writer Competition 2021; The Year 8 Experience

Page 21: Virtual Starcamp 2021; Voiceworks

Page 22: GAA Future Leaders Transition Year Programme; Online Safety Advice

Page 23: Online Safety Workshops

Page 24: GL Registration 2021; September 2021 Return Dates; Uniform Exchange Scheme

ULSTER SCHOLAR, CARA PIRIE

Congratulations to Year 15 student, Cara Pirie, who was awarded an "Ulster University Scholar Pin" for successfully completing UU Schools Outreach's, 'Ulster Schools Academy Course'.

Cara will be presented her pin formally by Mrs McGreevy and has received a certificate from Ulster University. During what has been a challenging time for all, Cara's hard work and dedication is most commendable. Well done!





FAREWELL TO THE CLASS OF 2021

Our Year 14 students had their leavers event on Tuesday 18th May. Their time at St. Louis was celebrated with mass, breakfast, speeches, and the presentation of yearbooks, jumpers, and goodie bags. We wish a fond farewell to the class of 2021. We will miss you!

Head Girl, Maeve Henry, reflects on her final day at SLG:

On Tuesday 18th May, the upper sixth year group had their last day in St. Louis.

The day started when everyone was treated to a cooked breakfast from the canteen in the morning which was thoroughly enjoyed.

We also had an End of Year Mass for all pupils which was celebrated by Fr Conor. The Ceremony was a lovely celebration where a number of pupils completed readings and prayers of the faithful. Some of our talented musicians also provided music for the ceremony.

In the afternoon, we listened to speeches from Mrs O'Neill, Mrs McGreevy and the Head Boy and I delivered my own speech, before taking a walk down memory lane, watching a PowerPoint presentation of over 400 photos, from our time on the hill of Kintullagh. The photos may have resulted in a few tears being shed! Finally, we each received our Leavers Jumper, Yearbook, and a special goodie bag to remember our time here.

Everyone had a lovely day celebrating the past seven years with our peers and made memories which we will cherish in years to come. Although we were not able to have the usual celebrations with all of our families and friends, we made the best out of the current situation to ensure everybody enjoyed the day. The Class of 2021 will always be remembered as the year that finished St. Louis in the face of a global pandemic, but regardless, each pupil is leaving with friends and memories for life which is the most important thing, and something we can all be grateful for.



AFTER SCHOOL SPORTS BACK WITH A BANG!

For the past five weeks there have been a fantastic number of both Year 8 and Year 9 pupils attending Gaelic, Ladies Gaelic, Camogie and Hurling after school from Monday to Thursday.

At the extra-curricular activities, pupils have been practising their skills in very competitive matches, showing a real coming together as a team. Great to have them back!





COMHGHAIARDEAS LE BLIAIN 10! AN FÁINNE

Congratulations to Year 10 students who successfully participated in the annual awarding of Fáinní.

Pupils took part in a speaking examination to showcase their level of proficiency in Irish. Pupils were assessed on a range of topics including Mé Féin agus Mo Theaghlach, An Teach, An Scoil and Caithimh Aimsire. All pupils engaged in thorough preparation for a number of weeks prior to completing the exam. An Fáinne is worn as a symbol of your link to the Irish language and your willingness and proficiency to speak it. Year 10 students look forward to wearing it with pride on their school blazer.

Congratulations also to our four Year 14 pupils (Cillian McLarnon, Ben Friel, Méabh Fyfe, Niamh McIvor) who were awarded the Gold Fáinne. This award recognises proficiency and fluency in the Irish language.

*Beatha teanga í a labhairt!
The life of a language is to speak it.*



FRESH LITTLE MINDS

"It's Okay not to be Okay"

My name is Emma Quinn and over lockdown I wrote a letter that was sent out to 1000 teenagers.

It was part of an initiative organised by 'Fresh Little Minds' to support young people during lockdown. The letter had a focus on promoting positive mental health and explaining how 'It is okay, not to be okay'. My letter was selected to be sent out to struggling teenagers along with a goodie box. The main goal was to lift their spirits. Aine Wallace - a past pupil of St Louis - is the Director and Creative Health Practitioner of the programme. Aine spoke with me and asked for my letter to be included in the box. I am so glad that I could even leave a small positive impact on their lives. This initiative has taught me the importance of helping others in need. I want people to always remember that asking for help doesn't mean you are weak; it will be the first step in the right direction.

Emma Quinn, 10 Lisbreen





LITERACY FUN DAYS 2021

Year 8, 9 and 10 took part in literacy fun days in June. Year 8 pupils got their creative juices flowing, creating their own desert islands, before taking part in a quiz vital to their construction of a raft to get back home; Year 9 unleashed their inner Sherlock Holmes as they worked their way through a series of literacy-based clues to solve the Murder at Muchley Manor; and Year 10 had to think fast during their escape room event. A great time was had by all, whilst also consolidating basic literacy skills that had maybe gotten a little rusty! Well done to all of our winners.

"Literacy day 2021 was a very enjoyable. We had lots of great activities that built communication skills, our ability to work with others and most importantly, our confidence in our literacy work.

The main activity was desert island theme based. For the first 20 minutes, in groups, we had to design a map, come up with a name for our island, come up with place names using language techniques and make a 50 second backstory about our island. This helped us learn about time management and communication skills, as well as refreshing our knowledge of SMARTPEOPLES techniques.

Once the 20 minutes were up, each group presented their work to the class. Whilst presenting, we built confidence in our learning. I personally really enjoyed this task as it was really interesting and funny to see all the ideas that each group came up with.

After all the groups had finished the last lively activity, we moved on to our next task! We had to write a message in a bottle. While doing this task, it refreshed our memory on creative writing and each team nominated their most dramatic member to read out the message to the class.

The day ended with a quiz; we had to answer all the questions correctly to 'build a raft' and escape the island! This part was really competitive, and the questions focused on a wide range of literacy skills and topics, including spelling, punctuation and grammar.

Overall, I really liked the literacy day and can't wait to take part again next year!"

Sorcha McKeown, 8 Lyndon

"On Friday 18th June, Year 9 had a whole morning dedicated to literacy. During this time, we were split into groups to complete literacy games, and it was a fun way of learning new things, while still getting to enjoy the company of our peers.

We enjoyed completing a murder mystery which was based on a fictional family called 'the Muchleys.' There were different parts to the murder mystery and each part included a literacy task. One task which I enjoyed in particular was, identifying where there, their and they're should be used within different sentence structures. By the end of each section, we either had a word or phrase, but the tricky part was trying to decide who the murderer was!

We developed our grammar, teamwork, and time management skills. This was a fun day, set aside to develop our literacy skills. My classmates and I had been looking forward to the literacy day and it definitely lived up to all of our high expectations! I hope that we can have another fun day of learning again in the future!"

Dearbhla O'Neill, 9 Laragh

"The recent literacy day that myself and fellow year 10s took part in was a beneficial and genuine learning experience which balanced social interaction, teamwork, competition and learning while remaining upbeat and inclusive.

There were 2 main activities which were themed off challenges which required teamwork, logic and coaction in order to be successful in either of these tasks.

The first task was an escape room style event, in which our class was divided into teams which represented each colour, who would compete in hopes of completing their escape room first. Riddles, clues and challenges facilitated each level to allow groups to gather the required keys and passwords we needed to reach the end. I really enjoyed this activity as it was interactive, and a lot of consideration was put into the activity. While my team did not win, we came a close second and we took that with a smile on our face.

The second activity was quite different in the fact that we were given one simple task and after that, our creativity and imagination was all we had to attempt to present the best literacy game idea in the class. Again, in the same groups, we all thought up on things like what our game should be based on? What the rules should be (if there were any)? Who we would advertise it to? Then, we were put to the test of pitching it to the rest of our classmates. The game itself had to have some form of education involved in it, as this was relevant to the day and the task. Again, this task required collaboration, creativity and interaction so we could all share our ideas together. This was my favourite task, as it centred around the whole class and I really enjoyed watching everyone pitch their sales, sing their songs and satisfy their sale as they attempted to take the bestselling title."

Orlaith Gould, 10 Layde





NUMERACY FUN DAYS 2021

Three periods of fun Maths: some might say it's impossible, while for others it seems like something that only dreams are made of, but it was fair to say our Year 8, 9 and 10s made a fantastic contribution to our numeracy days. Well done to everyone for taking part.

From the mental challenges of making 24 in lots of different ways to the skill and speed required for the Maths relay, our students demonstrated great team work, the ability to communicate well and on just a few occasions that winning is the only option!

The prizes were well received by all year groups, we had eight semi-finalists in the year 8 '24' game, but only one winner. While the semi-final and final were ongoing the rest of the students tried to solve the murder mystery. Year 10 spent their morning on a team challenge, three rounds of hard sums finishing with a relay and the Year 9s were trying hard to escape from St Louis on Friday afternoon: something we can all relate to!

Hopefully everyone enjoyed some aspects of the days and no doubt we can look forward to more "fun" in the future!

"Year 8 took part in a Numeracy Day on June 16th, 2021. Miss Warnock started the day by inviting us to play a couple of games of 'The 24 Game.' The 24 Game is a game in which you take four numbers and use subtraction, addition, multiplication, and division to create the number 24. Andrew Li gained the most points after 5 rounds and went on to compete in the finals of the competition representing our class 8 Lurig. He came 6th. We then took part in a Numeracy Mystery group competition during our third period. Odhran Gillespie, Sean Brolly, Anthony Beattie, and Patryk Montewaka were the victors. We had a great day!"

Joel McClelland, 8 Lurig

"Maths might come across as a boring subject to some people, but it doesn't have to be. Our numeracy day proves that! We played games and turned it into a competition, so it was exciting for everyone. For those who would say "I'm not good at Maths", we were in groups so that you didn't have to work alone. All in all, it was a great day, and I would love to do it again."

Kate McClintock, 10 Lyndon





CLODAGH MAGUIRE SELECTED FOR NI WOMEN'S SOCCER DEVELOPMENT SQUAD

When I first started playing football, I was aged 7. I joined North End United and have been playing ever since. At u12 level, coached by Alex McDonald, we won the Lisburn shield. And sadly, our Foyle Cup 2019 came to an end as we were defeated in the shield final. I also enjoy playing Gaelic for my local GAA club Creggan which definitely helps me out on the soccer pitch.

As I progressed throughout the age groups in the boys' team, at age 9, I was invited to the NI Ladies Regionals where I still train every Tuesday night. Just a few years later, I was accepted into the NI Women's Development Squad.

I have been very lucky to have been chosen to play for Northern Ireland across the water. In 2019, while playing for the 2007 squad in Oakham, we played against Arsenal, Sunderland and Birmingham City but unfortunately lost in the final to Leicester City. In November that year, I was also chosen in the team to travel to the Etihad Training Centre in Manchester to play against Manchester City Girls Academy. Covid permitting, I hope to be selected in the 2007 team to go across to Wales this August.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without my mum and dad and all those who have coached me. I am very thankful for everything my parents do for me. With two other kids who also play for North End and Creggan and twin toddlers to look after, my mum and dad are kept very busy driving to training and matches every day of the week. We are very lucky to have such supportive parents who always encourage us to do our best.

My biggest ambition for the future is to be a professional footballer. When I finish my time here at St Louis, I would love to secure a soccer college scholarship in America. I hope to make my family, friends and coaches even prouder one day.

Clodagh Maguire, 10 Lyndon



STAR PUPILS IN PE

Congratulations to the following pupils who have been selected by their class teachers, out of the whole year group, as the star pupils within PE:

Eunan Curry – Year 8, Anna Smyth – Year 8, Fiontan Bradley – Year 9, Siobhan Magee – Year 9, Padraig Martin – Year 10, Caoimhe Scullion - Year 10



They have been chosen for their teamwork, determination, and effort within athletics. Therefore, they deserve all the recognition they get!





JUNIOR MATHS CHALLENGE APRIL 2021

Congratulations to all of the Year 8 and Year 9 pupils who participated in the 2021 Junior Maths Challenge.

Top of Year 9 was awarded to Robert Crooks, 9 Layde, who achieved a Gold Award.

Top of Year 8 was awarded to Sean Brolly, 8 Lurig, who achieved a Silver Award.

See below for the other top achievers in Year 8 and Year 9.

Well done to everyone who took part!

Year 8 Top Performers

Sean Brolly	Silver
Maria Killough	Silver
Patryk Dziadkowiec	Silver
Olivia Mullan	Silver
Odhran Gillespie	Silver
Anthony Beattie	Bronze
Conor McIlhatton	Bronze
Nicole Herald	Bronze
Jaydon Blythman	Bronze
Grace Mullan	Bronze
Jaydon McGarry	Bronze
Finn Arbuckle	Bronze

Year 9 Top Performers

Robert Crooks	Gold
Luke McAllister	Silver
Éibhleann Ardifff	Silver
Finn Cannon	Silver
Ashley Anderson	Bronze
John Dougan	Bronze
Abdul Rehman	Bronze
Aoife Conlon	Bronze
Caitriona Fyfe	Bronze
Cora Hill	Bronze



SLG PARKRUNNERS

On Saturday 29th May, a number of St Louis staff and friends of the school took part in a fundraising event to support a former work colleague, Mark McAlister, and his family on 'A Day for Lisa.'

The group set off from Carnlough at 8am on Saturday morning to run or walk 10 miles along the beautiful, scenic north coast, to finish at Cushendall Boat Club.

The McAlister family from Cushendall were raising funds in the hope of ensuring mental health support networks are more accessible to the people of the Glens. Their aim was to enhance understanding of mental health and provide funds to the charities and organisations who have supported the McAlister family since the tragic loss of their daughter and sister, Lisa last summer.

The St Louis group wish to sincerely thank all those who supported their fundraising efforts and appreciate every single donation received for PIPS Suicide Prevention, and The Niamh Louise Foundation. In June, they were delighted to present Mark with a cheque for £2492.15.

A number of staff members were unable to travel to Cushendall for the event but did the walk/run in their own locality.

Thank you to all!





STAR TWEET

AS English Literature students have been busy preparing for their A-Level Coursework which is based on a detailed study of two novels, one of which must be a twenty-first-century novel.

The English Department posted a tweet of students reading the novels they had chosen for this unit which included, 'The Shock of the Fall' by Nathan Filer. The author retweeted the post and commented that he was 'honoured and proud'. Students were delighted to receive such humble feedback from a writer whose novel has won several major literary awards, including the Costa Book of the Year, the Betty Trask Prize as well as being a Sunday Times Bestseller.

His retweet gave pupils an even greater insight into one of the best aspects of the literary world – the mutual appreciation that exists between writers and readers!



YEAR 14 STUDENT'S LEAVING GIFT TO THE LIBRARY

Anyone who knows St Louis is aware of what a beautiful space our library is.

Many past students have filled the walls with striking artwork, crafting a haven filled with creations inspired by literary works. Year 14 student, Lana Kerr has added her fair share of commissions to the library walls over her years at the school, and before her time at SLG came to an end, she wanted to leave behind one more stunning painting, which is pictured here. Lana has been an assistant to Mrs Boyd in the library for much of her time at St Louis and will be very much missed. Thank you so much for such a meaningful parting gift, Lana!



RUNNING CLUB

Mr Gillan and Mrs McToal have been regularly coordinating the Running Club on a Friday after school.

With brilliant numbers attending, it has created a real competitive edge amongst the pupils. Using the same route, half of the field complete a continual 5k, whilst the other half of the field complete 5k with a break after every kilometre. An excellent effort and determination has been put in by all runners.





SPORTS DAY 2021!

In light of current restrictions, our annual Sports Day took place over three days this year – a day for each year group. Year 10 Sports Day took place on Tuesday 15th, Year 9 on Wednesday 16th and Year 8 on Thursday 17th June. The weather held up across the three days to allow almost perfect conditions for the various competitions to take place.

As always, there was the usual competitive track and field events across each of the three days. Also included this year were fun events such as the sack race and egg and spoon race! Two very competitive events, namely the tug of war and obstacle course were also included with medals for the winning teams. Additionally, this year Teq Ball tables, an inflatable obstacle course and football target were on site for the pupils to enjoy and not forgetting the ever-popular tuck shop and visit from the ice cream van!!

There really was something for everyone in each of the Sports Days this year. Well done to all the pupils who took part and represented their class in various events.

A massive thank you to the PE Department and support staff who organised and facilitated three great days for all junior pupils! Thanks also to Teq Ball NI, King of Castles, Johnny Campbell and Patsy Mullin who also contributed to the three days of events.

Class Event Winners

Tug of War:
Year 8 – Laragh
Year 9 – Laragh
Year 10 – Lyndon

Obstacle Course:
Year 8 – Lyndon
Year 9 – Lisbreen
Year 10 – Layde



EVENT	YEAR 8 WINNERS		
		MALE	FEMALE
100m	1st	Sean Brolly	Patrycja Kusnierek
	2nd	Oisin Dunlop	Kara Dillon
	3rd	Shaun Scullion	Jayne McNeill
200m	1st	Odhran Duffin	Abigail McLarnon
	2nd	Conor O'Boyle	Molly McBride
	3rd	Sean Brolly	Maria Mitchell
400m	1st	Dara Dickson	Eimhear McCloskey
	2nd	Dara Higgins	Molly Doherty
	3rd	Sean McMullan	Lauren May Ong
800m	1st	Dara Higgins	Anna Smyth
	2nd	Emmet Smith	Ellen McAleer
	3rd	Eunan Curry	Roisin Maguire
High Jump	1st	Sean Brolly	Zara McCaughern
	2nd	Callum McClean	Lauren May Ong
	3rd	Daniel McNamee	Madeline McCaffrey
Triple Jump	1st	Jaydon Blythman	Kara Dillon
	2nd	Conal McFerran	Jayne McNeill
	3rd	Dylan Teague	Vanessa Sige
Shot Put	1st	Tiernan McWilliams	Hannah Tohill
	2nd	Domhnall McKay	Carly McNamee
	3rd	Samuel Bajorek	Eimhear McCloskey

EVENT	YEAR 9 WINNERS		
		MALE	FEMALE
100m	1st	John Dougan	Cara Burns
	2nd	Sean O'Brien	Maria Higgins
	3rd	Ryan McLaughlin	Katie O'Boyle
200m	1st	Robert Crooks	Ellie Mullan
	2nd	Fiontan Bradley	Isabelle Martin
	3rd	Martin Papuga	Saoirse Molloy
400m	1st	Andrezj Smolinski	Cara Burns
	2nd	Matthew Watt	Megan Dobbin
	3rd	James McVeigh	Erin McMullan
800m	1st	Robert Crooks	Anna Smyth
	2nd	Aaron Doherty	Ellen McAleer
	3rd	Sean O'Brien & James McVeigh	Casey Crawford
High Jump	1st	Finn Connon	Cara Burns
	2nd	John Dougan	Erin McMullan
	3rd	Cahir Doherty	Anna McNamee
Triple Jump	1st	Fiontan Bradley	Katie O'Boyle
	2nd	Jakub Wolanin	Diana Kertesz
	3rd	Andrezj Smolinski	Blaithin McCann
Shot Put	1st	Oisin Mulhern	Casey Crawford
	2nd	Odhran Heffron	Niamh McAteer
	3rd	Eddie Smyth	Aoife Johnston



EVENT		YEAR 10 WINNERS	
-------	--	-----------------	--

		MALE	FEMALE
100m	1st	Caelyn Clarke	Hannah Friel
	2nd	Louis Gaul	Sadhbh Cairns
	5rd	Paudraig McColgan	Clodagh Maguire
200m	1st	Ryan McKeever	Aoife McKenna
	2nd	Corey Quinn	Orlaith Gould
	5rd	Conor O'Hara	Kate McGilligan
400m	1st	Lorcan McQuitty	Aisling Smith
	2nd	Corey Quinn	Enya Neeson
	5rd	Antoin Martin	Kate Hasson
800m	1st	Sean Og Blaney	Aisling Smith
	2nd	Ger McFadden	Kate McGilligan
	5rd	Cesc Butler	Kate Hasson
High Jump	1st	Caleb Smith	Kate McGilligan
	2nd	Alan Nowak	Aimee Corrigan
	5rd	Alex Armstrong	Roisin McGale
Triple Jump	1st	Paudraig McColgan	Aoife Campbell
	2nd	Cesc Butler	Niamh Johnson
	5rd	Kailen Hughes	Emilie Arthur
Shot Put	1st	Charlie Cunning	Brianna Kinney
	2nd	Caelyn Clarke	Kate McGilligan
	5rd	Thomas McCann	Niamh O'Shea





CEIAG

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



PAST PUPIL SPOTLIGHT

SLG Creative Arts Past Pupil Brushing Shoulders with Hollywood Stars in Costume Breakdown Role!

Past pupil and recent QUB graduate, Ruairi McLarnon discusses his exciting role working on the top-secret sets of some huge Hollywood productions in the Titanic Studios Belfast, and offers his advice to any of our students wishing to pursue a career in the Creative Arts:

As a past pupil of St Louis Grammar School and a 2020 graduate of Queen's University Belfast, I was always focused on a career in the Arts, particularly in the area of Set Design. In March 2021, I began my first graduate job as a Costume Breakdown Artist on a film adaptation of 'Dungeons and Dragons' for Paramount Pictures, produced in Titanic Studios, Belfast and I can honestly say it was the last thing I expected considering I graduated in the middle of a pandemic!

I finished St Louis in 2017 after seven great years studying subjects that I loved and being taught by the most talented and passionate teachers. I studied Art, Drama and English A-Level at St Louis before gaining a place on the Drama course at QUB. While at Queen's, I found I regularly used the valuable skills gained in each of my A-Level subjects in modules in Drama, Design, Film and English. In addition to my studies at St Louis, I took part in the school show 'Thoroughly Modern Millie' in the Braid and in Upper Sixth, I was lucky enough to take part in the Junk Kouture competition with my Celtic King Costume piece made from Coke cans. Little did I know that I would be creating costumes very similar in years to come.

I loved my time as a Drama Student at Queen's, from the course to the experiences I had and the opportunities that were open to me outside of class. As a student, it was important for me to volunteer for as much as I could, and I said 'Yes!' to anything that came my way. By having this attitude, I gained practical experiences working with Set and Costume Designers in both the Lyric and MAC Theatres in Belfast for productions including Sweeney Todd. I also got to take part in a workshop with the South African Puppet Company who created the famous horse puppets for the touring production of 'War Horse'. By taking advantage of these opportunities and not being afraid to ask questions of my lecturers and professionals, I made very important contacts which eventually helped lead me to the job I have today.

Outside of my studies, I threw myself into university life, gaining roles as School Counsellor, Peer Mentor and Student Representative for the School of Arts, English and Languages. Importantly, I became a member of the Queen's Drama Society, QUPlayers, which gave me the chance to put into practice my course knowledge as a Set Designer for various plays performed in the Brian Friel Theatre at Queen's. I also joined other clubs such as QUB Rowing Club, which took a lot of dedication and many cold early mornings on the River Lagan!

Graduating amidst a global pandemic with an Arts Degree was a great but slightly worrying experience with numerous applications and interviews made over the following months. In February this year, I received a call from the Costume Department of a new 'Dungeons and Dragons' film produced by Paramount Pictures, offering me a month-long apprenticeship as a Costume Breakdown Artist. This was completely unexpected with the Arts industries being so badly hit during the Pandemic, so I jumped at the opportunity. I cannot describe the excitement (and nerves!) that I felt walking through the old Titanic Shipyard Gates into the Studios. The Costume Breakdown Department sits outside the main sound stage and is an Aladdin's cave of paints, brushes, varnishes, bleach, fabrics, nails, knives, sanders and we even have a cement mixer that we use to age costumes! In the role of Costume Breakdown Artist, the goal is to make the fabric costumes, armour and leather created by the costume makers look as authentic as possible using paints, dyes, fake mud, dust and a whole array of other materials. The costumes will be designed and then pass through various sub-departments like the cutting room, sewing room, leatherwork and armoury who all work together in the costume warehouse before it reaches our department where our aim is to highlight the character's status, personality and experiences within the film through various artistic techniques. In my opinion, it is probably the most creative part of the costume process and I often find myself adding a back story to the costume I am working on which helps guide me as I work on the piece. The job allows me to work whilst also being taught these skills and techniques in the creation of the costumes. Many of the techniques I use have been used in other productions such as 'Game of Thrones'.



I am also lucky enough to be working with people from a variety of artistic backgrounds who have experience working on productions including 'Pirates of the Caribbean', 'Vikings', 'Outlander', 'Game of Thrones' and the upcoming film 'The Northman'. All these people have studied various degrees such as Drama, Costume Design, Textiles, Art, Sculpture, Film and Production, to name a few.

Now that the actual filming has started, my experience of studio life has become even more surreal as I walk across a film set each morning, passing props, cameras and film crew, on the way to my department. To be working on a costume that will eventually end up on the 'Silver Screen', worn by actors such as Rege Jean Page, Hugh Grant and Michelle Rodriguez, is also a pretty unique experience! We even got to enjoy an unexpected glass of champagne with Chris Pine one Friday afternoon!

It is a very demanding job however, where I start at 8am every morning and regularly work until 6 or 7 in the evening, depending on how busy we are and the filming schedule. Working in film during a pandemic is also an unusual experience where bi-weekly testing, temperature checks and wearing PPE have all become part of my daily routine.

Over time my contract has been extended and I am due to finish at the beginning of July when I am going to take a well-deserved break! Over the next year, I plan to gain more experience working in Film and Theatre settings on both Costume and Set, particularly now as life seems to be returning to some level of normality. I also plan to study a Masters in the near future, though I am very glad I didn't jump into this first, choosing instead to experience working life and gain skills to help make informed decisions about what path I want to go down.

I am glad that I persevered and continued to look for opportunities in my field during lockdown and despite the few setbacks here and there, I ultimately found this role. Having studied at Queen's and now working on this film, I am further realising the opportunities that are available in the Arts and Music Industries, from Film and Theatre to Education and Art Therapies.

I would like to finish with some advice for any St Louis students who are interested in Film and Theatre Roles or indeed those of Music, Art and English who, like me, regularly get asked that same unimaginative question 'What can you do with an Arts degree?'

If you are interested in Film and Theatre, English, Music or Art, then go for it! Northern Ireland has become the Hollywood of Europe and you only have to walk down a Belfast Street, or Ballintoy, Ballycastle or Shanes Castle in Antrim, before you stumble across a film crew! The fact that there are currently two Film Studios here in Belfast and that four multinational films have been made during this pandemic shows how strong the Industry is and how attractive Ireland is to film makers. This past year has certainly highlighted the importance of the Arts in today's world, with many of us relying on films, television, online concerts, literature and other forms of Art to help us cope with the difficulties of lockdown.

Do as much as you can while studying, volunteer for things you are interested in and gain as much experience as possible during school

and university. I loved everything I was involved with at Queen's and I am now realising how beneficial being part of these societies and projects was in providing experiences and skills that are now invaluable for both interviews and the jobs themselves.

Be keen to talk to professionals who work in the field you are interested in. Even if you feel a bit silly or nervous in the moment, they will usually be very happy to answer questions and as I am now learning, my eagerness and willingness to volunteer for anything is truly paying off!

Walt Disney once said, 'if you can dream it... you can do it' which is something I often like to keep stored in the back of my mind.

Good Luck and keep believing in yourself!

Ruairi McLarnon



Ruairi's entry in Junk Kouture 2017

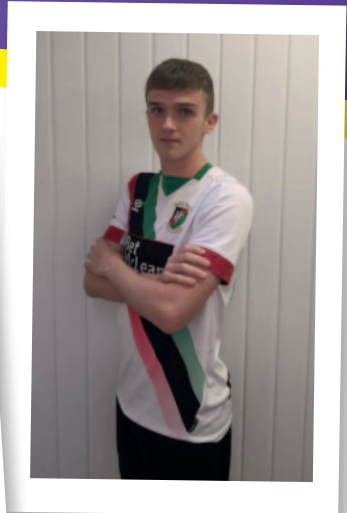




SOCCER STAR'S STATESIDE SCHOLARSHIP

Year 14 student, Jake White has committed to the 'National Collegiate Athletic Association' after receiving a SMUSA scholarship for Mars Hill University in North Carolina, USA.

This is a huge accolade for Jake, who is a talented central defender, currently playing for Glentoran F.C. Jake will make the trip stateside in August to take up his four-year scholarship, playing for MHU Men's Soccer. What an exciting opportunity! We wish Jake all the best with his travel, soccer and studies!



BALANCING AN APPRENTICESHIP IN FINANCE WITH LIFE AS A SEMI-PROFESSIONAL SOCCER PLAYER

SLG past pupil, Luke Harrison joined PwC's Operate Finance Solutions team in Belfast in 2019. Originally from Larne, Luke moved to Belfast with three flatmates to start at PwC with A-Levels in Economics, Digital Technology and Business. He took the opportunity to join PwC's School Leaver programme, combining a full-time job alongside exam study, with one of the main benefits being that it is an 'earn as you learn' programme. Earning a full-time salary has afforded Luke the opportunity to travel (pre-pandemic, of course) and have life experiences that normally wouldn't be possible on a student budget.

As part of the Operate Finance Solutions team, Luke predominantly works with one major client and delivers their monthly accounts and year-end financial statements. Since joining less than two years ago, Luke has completed a number of internal training opportunities and he credits his digital upskilling with having a big impact on his professional development and even during the covid pandemic, he continued to take the time to focus on his own personal growth.

Outside of his apprenticeship, Luke plays semi-professionally for Knockbreda F.C. and is participating in this year's Irish Cup. He also supports Liverpool and relishes every opportunity he has to go and watch them when he can.

Reflecting on his experience of a PwC apprenticeship, Luke says, "Going from school into full time work was always going to be a big change and it did take time for me to adjust, especially as I started to then study for my upcoming exams. It's important to recognise that it takes time to adapt and not to put pressure on yourself to get it right the first time or expect to be able to do everything right away. For me, I find it easier to map out my week and how I'll fit in my work requirements alongside study and my football training... (My) work involves the preparation of invoices, cashing receipts, paying creditor invoices, monthly and quarterly bank reconciliations.

Having studied these terms and processes whilst at school, it's really interesting to now be actually doing the work and putting into practice what I'd only read about before...I'm really grateful for the opportunity to build on my skills and talents as I know that not all workplaces put emphasis on continual training... One of the most interesting aspects for me joining a big company was the diversity of people who work here. Coming straight from school, I had grown up with the same people, from the same area. But in the Belfast office we have people who are from all over Ireland and the rest of the world. It's great to work with people with different perspectives and experiences and it's really helped me learn too."

What a pleasure it is to see past pupils' accomplishments. We wish Luke continued success in the future!



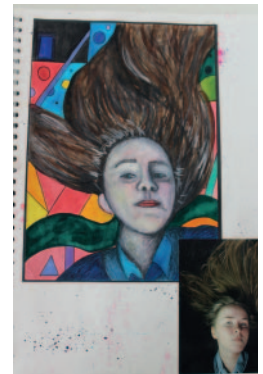
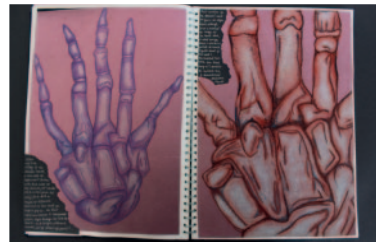
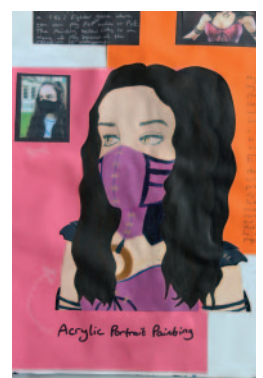
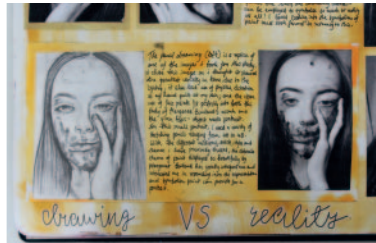
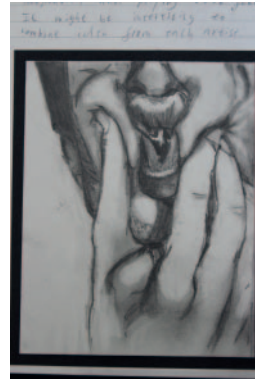
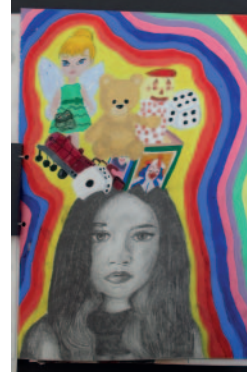
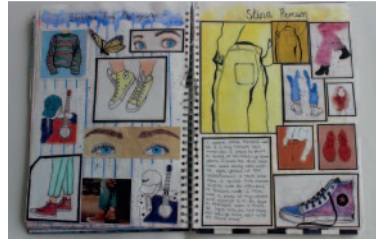
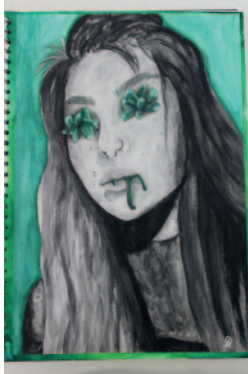


ART AND DESIGN SHOWCASE 2021

Although our Art and Design students missed out on a traditional exhibition of their work this year, these snippets of their portfolios are testament to their hard work and dedication to the subject over the last year.

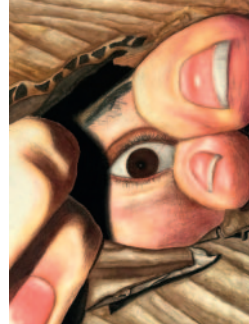
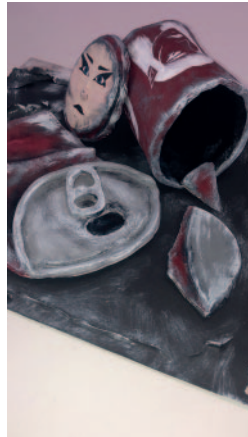
Well done to everyone. What talent we have here at SLG!

GCSE

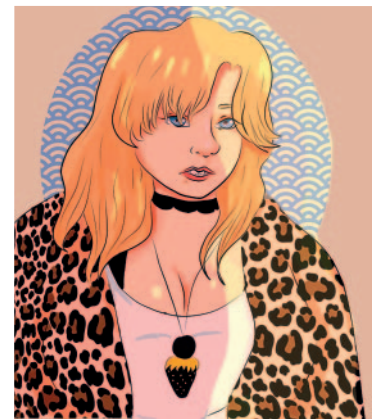
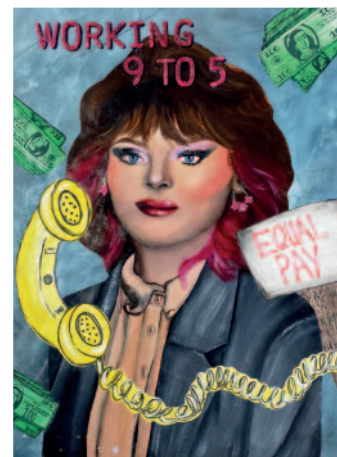
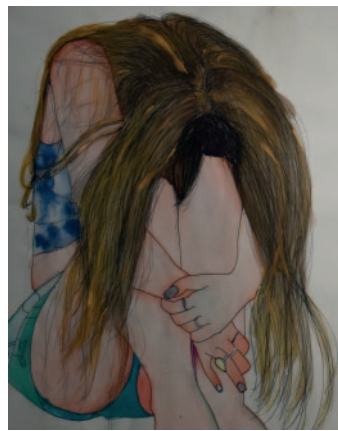




AS LEVEL



A LEVEL





YEAR 9 STUDENT PROFILES

Hi, my name is Callum Jameson and I am in 9 Laragh.

I am from Randalstown and I went to Mount St Michael's Primary School. In my spare time, I enjoy playing football and athletics. I really enjoy playing sports, getting to meet new people and making friends outside of school. Although it has been a strange year, I really like St Louis: our sports facilities are amazing, and the teachers always do whatever they can to help!



My name is Dona Noble and I am in 9 Lismoyle.

My hobbies include singing and dancing. In Year 8, I took part in singing lessons and now attend violin lessons at school. I love dancing and attend classes in Classical Dance at Antrim Forum and I am currently working towards Grade 4 now that we are allowed to train again. I am from Antrim and went St Colmcille's PS in Ballymena. My favourite thing about St Louis is getting to spend time with my friends, especially after lockdown and Covid.



I am Beth McQuillan and I am in 9 Layde.

I am from Glenravel and before coming to St Louis, I went to Mary Queen of Peace Primary School. In my spare time, I like to play Gaelic for Glenravel U14s and I also dance for Ballymena Dance Academy. Currently, I am working towards my Grade 4 in both Modern dance and Ballet. My favourite thing about dancing is the competitions and getting the opportunity to showcase my talents both in solo and duet performances. The thing I like about St Louis the most is getting to spend time with my friends which is something that we have all missed this year and no longer take for granted. Something I am looking forward to is hopefully having the opportunity to go on a residential trip at some point during my time at St Louis if Covid allows for it!



Hi, my name is Clementine Barwick and I am in 9 Lurig.

I am from Antrim and before coming to St Louis, I went to St Comgall's Primary School. My favourite thing about St Louis is how welcoming everyone is. I am looking forward to choosing my GCSEs next year as it will help me towards my future. At the minute, I hope to choose Drama, Art and Music as I love being creative and would like to pursue a creative pathway. My hobbies include singing (I am currently working towards grade 5) and drama. I am part of Youth Lyric Drama Club and I hope to have the opportunity to take part in some live performances again soon!



Hi, my name is Niall Kennedy and I am in 9 Lisbreen.

I am from Rasharkin and before coming to St Louis, I went to St Patrick's Primary School. Whenever I am free, I like to play guitar. I have been going to lessons for a few years and am currently working towards my grade 2. Another one of my interests is drawing. It helps me to feel relaxed and is a good way to chill out after a long day at school. One of my favourite subjects at school is PE, because it is nice to get out of the classroom and I know how important it is to stay fit and healthy. I am looking forward to getting my school report to see all of my CM results. This has been a tough year at school, but I know that I have worked hard and hope to have done well.



Hello, I am Jessica Halloran and I am in 9 Lyndon.

I was born in Yorkshire, England and lived there for 8 years before moving to Rasharkin. Before coming to St Louis, I went to St Colmcille's Primary School as my auntie and mummy both work there. I enjoy gymnastics and am part of Valdez Gymnastics Club in Broughshane. I train for 10 hours every week! I just started coaching P1-5 and P4-P7 gymnastics and I am really enjoying getting to know the children and teaching them to love gymnastics as much as I do. My favourite subjects at school are PE and Art; it is nice to have some craic in school and get to run around, especially when we are in bubble rooms for most of the day. Next year, I am looking forward to school being as much back to as normal as it can be!





ONE MINUTE WITH...

Name: Anna McKillop
Club: Loughgiel Shamrocks
Favourite position: Full forward
Hobbies: Full time shadow of Ciara O'Boyle
Childhood hero: Cait Devane
Best player you've ever played with: Katie Molloy
Best player you've ever played against: Eavanne Martin
Best game you've ever been involved in: St Clare Ulster Semi-Final v CPC
Best trainer within the squad: Eimear Johnston
Worst trainer within the squad: Ciara O'Boyle
Best motivator: Eibhlin Gould
Any superstitions: None
Best advice ever received: Don't stop until the final whistle
Area of game to improve: Speed
Biggest strength: Both sides
School you like to see do well: SLG!!
Advice for younger players in SLG: Commitment is key to success!



Name: Ciara O'Boyle
Club: St Mary's, Rasharkin
Favourite position: Corner forward
Hobbies: As you can see from the pic, I'm quite a baller!
Childhood hero: Dipsy- The Teletubbies
Best player you've ever played with: Eimear Johnston
Best player you've ever played against: Cliodhna Hickson
Best game you've ever been involved in: Ulster final 2019
Best trainer within the squad: Eimear McGivern
Worst trainer within the squad: Everyone else said me, and they're correct
Best motivator: Eibhlin Gould
Any superstitions: Put my shoes on the wrong feet, then right feet
Best advice ever received: Don't ever give up
Area of game to improve: Left side
Biggest strength: Long striking
School you like to see do well: Only us!
Advice for younger players in SLG: Always try your best and give everything when you have the SLG jersey on!

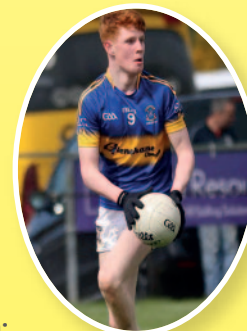


Name: Cara Pirie
Year: 15
Club: Ballymena Lawn Tennis Club
Role Model: Gráinne O'Neill - she is the Tennis Ireland Coordinator for Women in Tennis and a complete inspiration to girls in the sport!
Favourite Player: Serena Williams (no explanation needed)



Proudest Achievement: When I became the inaugural Junior Club Committee Chairperson and I was asked to speak at a national conference by Tennis Ireland, inspiring other clubs across Ireland to make their junior voices heard!
Strength: A deadly forehand
Weakness: Serving!

Name: Daniel McNicholl
Club: Roger Casements Portglenone
Favorite position: Full back/midfield
Hobbies: Eating Pappy's scones
Childhood hero: Kieran Donaghy
Best player you've ever played with: Connor Marron
Best player you've ever played against: John McGovern
Best game you've ever been involved in: McLarnon quarter final 2018/19
Best trainer within the squad: Gigsy- Eoin McFerran
Worst trainer within the squad: Big Paddy Dougan
Best motivator: Mr 'Tad' Cassidy
Any superstitions: Always break new boots in at training - never a match
Best advice ever received: 'Look well, play well' Rory McCloskey 2020
Area of game to improve: Score more/ score at all
Biggest strength: Passing range
School you like to see do well: St Eunan's Letterkenny
Advice for younger players in SLG: Enjoy it while it lasts!



Name: Rory McCloskey
Club: Loughgiel Shamrocks
Favorite position: Full back
Hobbies: Golfing
Childhood hero: Hurling- JJ Delaney, Golf- Mr Gillan
Best player you've ever played with: Declan McCloskey
Best player you've ever played against: Ronan McKillop - serious man with a hurl
Best game you've ever been involved in: 2019 Mageean Quarter Final vs. St Pat's, Maghera
Best trainer within the squad: Ronan McKillop
Worst trainer within the squad: Paddy Dougan
Best motivator: Miss Drain when she brings scones
Any superstitions: Never smile in a picture - it intimidates the opponent
Best advice ever received: Smile at the ball and it will come to you - Crow McNaughton
Area of game to improve: Speed
Biggest strength: Striking, I can put it over the bar from full back (with the wind)
School you like to see do well: My friends in CPC
Advice for younger players in SLG: Try to do something to improve every day!





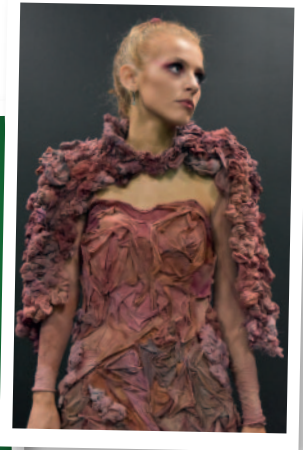
JUNK KOUTURE GRAND FINALISTS 2021

Congratulations to the SLG teams who have been chosen as 2 of the 7 Northern Finalists in the All-Ireland grand finale of Junk Kouture 2021.

Our first finalist is Rhianna Heffron, whose dress made out of tights can be seen modelled by Katie McCaw.

Our second entry is both made and modelled by Aoife Duffin. Aoife created her piece using table mats, a tablecloth, as well as sheets of foam.

Well done girls and good luck!
You have made us all very proud!



GOLD POPE JOHN PAUL II AWARD

We are exceptionally proud of the ten Year 14 students who obtained their Gold Pope John Paul II Award. The Pope John Paul II Award makes faith a 'lived experience' and recognises the outstanding contributions young people make to their parish and their communities.

Our Year 14 recipients:

- Hannah Carey
- Ceirseach Crawford
- Rhianna Heffron
- Meave Henry
- Kathryn Kelly
- Catherine McBride
- Niamh McIvor
- Declan McMahon
- Maeve O'Connell
- Ciara O'Neill (Missing from photo)



YEAR 8 PUPIL RUNS FOR PETS

As an animal lover, I find it difficult to understand why animal cruelty exists all across the world.

Each year, thousands of cats, dogs, small pets and large pets need help. But where do they turn to when they are left on the streets with no food, medicine or love? They are helpless and dependent on human care. A place that they can turn to is the 'Blue Cross for Pets' animal charity. They use the donations they receive to operate animal hospitals, clinics, rehoming services and to find animals the happy homes they deserve. This year, I have decided to run a 'Couch to 5K' in aid of the 'Blue Cross for Pets' charity. Every small donation can make an impact on the many animals in need, and just £5 a month helps to provide veterinary

care for sick and abandoned pets. I hope to raise enough money to make a positive impact on the many animals currently in the care of the 'Blue Cross' charity. I hope that my small step can help, because small steps in the right direction are still steps.

"Our prime purpose in life is to help other beings. And if you can't help them, at least don't hurt them."
"Be kind to every kind, not just mankind."

By Erin Brennan, 8 Laragh





ROTARY YOUNG WRITER COMPETITION 2021

Congratulations to Year 13 student Emily O'Neill who was presented with a certificate and prize at the Adair Arms Hotel in May for her entry in 'The Rotary Young Writer Competition 2021'.

Emily was inspired to pen her poem based on the beautiful sunrise pictured. Super work Emily!



Mother Daughter Sunrise Stroll

As we walked along the soft sand,
At 6:05 on a summers morning,
So fatigued, yet full of life
And excitement as we awaited the big lift.

The waves thrashed and bashed against our feet,
Each time the fresh cold sea water awoke us again.
The seagulls laughed at us as we made our way to the bridge,
Not a soul in sight to witness such beauty.

We stood together in awe of the heavenly,
When the orange ball of light arose from the sea.
The grandeur of the lift filled us with light,
And made a 4am wake up well worth the wait.

The daybreak brought glimmers of warmth,
To our dissolving world and awoke its planet
In urge to conquer yet another day
In the summer of 20.

As we stood on the edge of the pebble beach,
Scotland was almost within touching distance.
We each chose a pebble to mark
The most memorable and happiest day of our summer.

By Emily O'Neill

THE YEAR 8 EXPERIENCE!

Starting Year 8 had its challenges, considering the issue of Covid 19. Although, it was a great year to reflect upon and I am surprised to see how much I achieved and learned. We have all encountered a point in life when we experienced something new. Various people may have a range of authentic perspectives of their own about this topic, but I am excited to present you mine.

At the beginning of the journey, I felt a dash of exuberance- starting secondary school was a huge stepping-stone and I was buzzing with enthusiasm. I also felt a minor sense of nervousness as I feared making friends would be difficult, but I was glad to be proved wrong; it was delightful to find that St. Louis Grammar School was packed with pupils, teachers and staff who are such good, welcoming and friendly people. They made the adaptation from primary to secondary school much easier for me! New subjects were presented which triumphantly succeeded to arouse my interest. I came to discover that English, History and Art were my personal favourites.

With just a few months into the school year, we had to unfortunately go back to lockdown again. It was evident that I regretted this, as this meant I would have to be separated from my friends. In addition, this inferred that our learning could have been potentially delayed.

Nonetheless, on the positive side, I was able to master a new method of learning which is fundamentally useful, as I was able to enhance my I.T skills, which is a major applicable skill.

Year 8 is soon coming to an end though I have no sense of regret. Since we have come back to school with the easing of lockdown, it has been the best few months this year!

I have had wonderful moments with my friends, and I am relieved to be back with my classmates. The pressure of CMs is now non-existent, so I would have to say the perfect way to describe the current atmosphere is simply 'content.'

The most notable thing I have learned this year is: as a world of unique individuals, we may interpret unfamiliar situations in different ways. However, the most important aspect is what we learn from our doings and how we apply our experiences positively within our identities.

Yours Sincerely,
Vanessa Sige, 8 Lurig



VIRTUAL STARCAMP 2021

STARCAMP, IRELAND'S NO 1 SUMMER CAMP IS BACK and are delighted to announce that they are offering their BIGGEST, BEST & MOST MAGICAL CAMPS EVER! This year's theme is "#SPREADTHESUNSHINE".

STARCAMP wouldn't be STARCAMP if it didn't have the usual offering of DANCE, DRAMA, MUSIC, MAGIC, COMEDY, NEWS & WEATHER REPORTING, ART, GAMES, TIK-TOK's, MINDFULNESS, HOW TO MAKE A RADIO SHOW (older kids), ELVES, FAIRIES & V IPTEDDY BEAR PICNICS (younger kids) as well as it's renowned core ethos of building children's self-esteem and confidence, but this year you can add loads of new outdoor activities and SO MUCH MORE!

STARCAMP promises an atmosphere like never before with boundless positivity, excitement, laughter and fun for all!

- Open to Boys & Girls aged 4 -12.
- Instalment options available for a limited time.
- For full list of venues and dates go to www.starcamp.ie



VOICEWORKS

Voiceworks run performing art classes from St. Louis Grammar School termly on Saturday mornings.

We invite students from age 6-19 and have three age groups. The students take three classes and rotate between acting, dance and singing. The classes run from 10am to 1pm. We have openings for new students and if you would like to book a free trial class please do not hesitate to get in touch: lesley@voiceworksni.co.uk

We also have a full summer program which is open to non-class members. If you're interested in Performing, please get in touch or use the google links below to find out all the details you need to sign up.

Voiceworks - 'Curtain Up' Senior Project Info

Projects Dates 2nd- 8th August 2021 age 14 - 21
The news you have all been waiting for Voiceworks 2021 Summer Project!

We are excited to release a new and unique project for ages 14-22 in summer 2021. We have planned a Musical Concert with a huge twist.

We plan to record our show in the Braid Arts with the customary dazzling costumes and full choreography you've come to expect from one of our shows, but aside from that we will also be going out on location for some special moments and recordings onsite. We don't want to give too much away but certain sections will be filmed professionally in selected venues to mimic the real scenes from the shows. This will be a totally new and unique experience and add another level of experience being filmed.

Voiceworks - 'Curtain Up' Junior Project for age 6-14

So what's this year all about?

This will be a packed programme of songs, drama and dance drawing from a variety of wonderful shows giving your child the chance to shine and perform. We have put together a concert drawing from musicals such as 'The Wizard of Oz', 'Mary Poppins',

'The Sound of Music' and 'Hairspray'. The variety and opportunities will be endless and the cast will be busier than ever as they will be in full costumes and in multiple big numbers. We will have full week of rehearsals and a full day of recording in the theatre.

Your child will have the full experience of hair, makeup, costumes, choreography and theatre performance. The performance will be professionally recorded and then edited and released as a full concert combined with the senior project to give the home audience an evening not to be missed. This was also provide a treasured memory to look back on.

How do I get involved?

So if you'd simply like to be a part of the chorus and please remember this year because it is not a full show they will be in a bigger number than ever, please just complete the Google document and we will welcome you on board without an audition. Everyone will automatically get in without the added pressure of an audition!

What parts can I audition for?

Only Solo parts are auditioned for and the full list of roles are found on the google document you can select from there. You will be able to choose one or more roles. After we receive your information you will be sent a lyric document with the section of each song to prepare in adequate time.

What age is the project for?

The project is open for age 6-14 years.

What dates do I need to attend?

You must be available for all dates to sign up for the project
26th- 30th July- Rehearsal Days usually 10am start to 4/5pm (full days)

31st July - Theatre Recording



FUTURE LEADERS TRANSITION YEAR PROGRAMME

Miss Drain will be facilitating the 'Future Leaders Transition Year Programme' as an enrichment opportunity in the incoming academic year.

The aim of the programme is develop transferable skills and capacities in young people that they can use in all areas of their lives. Through modules and various events organised by the programme, students will learn about and develop responsibility, inclusivity, initiative, a sense of belonging, maturity and well-being. Students will partake in a range of modules, covering a huge scope of leadership roles within the GAA, including: Wellbeing, Nutrition, Performance Analysis, Refereeing, Coaching and Sports Journalism. As well as completing modules, students will organise a GAA event and complete a portfolio before completing the award. Senior students, keep an eye out for this super opportunity come September!



ONLINE SAFETY ADVICE

See below for some top tips and advice for keeping safe online!

Your Digital Footprint:

What is a Digital Footprint?

A Digital Footprint is any information that is available online about you (even information shared by others), for example, photos, posts, and comments that you have made. We need to support children in developing a positive footprint by encouraging them to think about what they share and that they have appropriate privacy settings in place.

Further reading: Childline provide further information as well as tips on how to protect your privacy and how to delete things online: <https://www.childline.org.uk/info-advice/bullying-abusesafety/online-mobile-safety/taking-care-your-digital-footprint/>

Screen Time

What is screen time?

It is the amount of time that we spend on a phone, computer, watching television or on a games console. Often, we worry about how much screen time our children are having and unfortunately, there is a lack of research to determine how much screen time our children should have. Following guidance released in 2019 by the Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health (RCPCH), Professor Russell Viner, President of RCPCH suggests:

“that parents make decisions about screen time based on their child’s development and health, and whether they are getting enough exercise and sleep. It remains a question of balance, as it is when screen use gets in the way or restricts other activities that a child’s well-being can be negatively impacted.”

Further information: <https://parentinfo.org/article/screen-time-should-i-be-worried>

<https://swgfl.org.uk/resources/young-people-and-screen-time-agood-start/>

<https://www.childrenscommissioner.gov.uk/digital/5-a-day/>

SEND Online Safety Hub

Net Aware have worked with Ambitious about Autism to create a hub featuring online safety tips, advice and activities for parents/carers of children with SEND. <https://www.net-aware.org.uk/sendonline-safety-hub/>

What age can my child start social networking?

All social networks have age restrictions, it’s important to review these to check what your child is using is appropriate for them. Internet Matters provide further guidance here as well as listing the minimum age for many of the platforms we see being used:

<https://www.internetmatters.org/resources/what-age-can-my-child-startsocial-networking/>



ONLINE SAFETY WORKSHOPS

In May, we ran an Online Safety Event for Year 8 and 9 pupils via Zoom. The pupils found the talk interesting and engaging!

This morning, myself and all other year 8 pupils experienced an educational session about online safety and the various dangers of the internet. This talk covered the multiple sides of the internet, from dark web to social media, from how incredible it could be when used to its full potential but also how dangerous it could be to the average web surfer. This motivational emotional rollercoaster shook sense into the oblivious internet user to stay away from strange sights and be careful what you post onto your web page. To the average child, it seems like on the internet you are living 'in the now', but how wrong they were as when we went into the background, we

learned about people who had posted things on social media which now affects the jobs they will be allowed to have in the modern-day world. This obviously shocked many people and surely woke up the people who were just online for a bit of fun with their friends but who now know their future relies on what they post in the now as opposed to what they post in the future. There was also this test known as 'The Granny Test' which is when you monitor what to post by seeing if you would show everything you post to your Grandmother. This speech was very educational and definitely informed many members of my class that not everything you see or do online is safe or legal. Overall, this was a great speech and was extremely informative I'm sure this is essential to any newcomers to the internet.

By Travis Corke Year 8



BE SMART ONLINE

S SAFE Keep your personal information safe. When chatting or posting online don't give away things like your full name, password or home address. Remember personal information can be seen in images and videos you share too. Keep them safe to keep yourself safe.

M MEET Meeting up with someone you only know online, even a friend of a friend, can be dangerous as this person is still a stranger. If someone you only know online ever asks you to meet up, for personal information or for photos/videos of you then tell an adult straight away and report them together on www.thinkuknow.co.uk

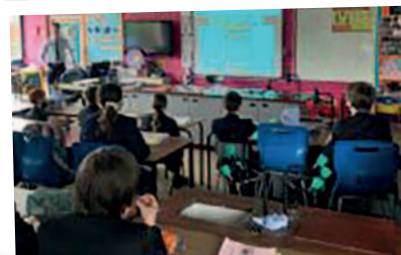
A ACCEPTING Think carefully before you click on or open something online (e.g. links, adverts, friend requests, photos) as you never know where they may lead to or they may contain viruses. Do not accept something if you are unsure of who the person is or what they've sent you.

R RELIABLE You cannot trust everything you see online as some things can be out of date, inaccurate or not entirely true. To find reliable information compare at least three different websites, check in books and talk to someone about what you have found.

T TELL Tell a trusted adult if something or someone ever makes you feel upset, worried or confused. This could be if you or someone you know is being bullied online. There are lots of people who will be able to help you like your teachers, parents, carers or contact Childline – 0800 11 11 or www.childline.org.uk

BE SMART WITH A HEART
Remember to always be smart with a heart by being kind and respectful to others online. Make the internet a better place by helping your friends if they are worried or upset by anything that happens online.

WWW.CHILDNET.COM





UNIFORM EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

The past year and a half has been extremely challenging for many families in our community.

With this in mind, we would like to promote the uniform exchange scheme in Mid and East Antrim. This may help in some way by cutting the cost of going back to school for those who need it. Mid and East Antrim Community Advice Services (MEACAS) can help to provide parents with good quality, clean and pre-worn uniforms.

If you have any good quality items of uniform that you no longer need please drop these items off at the MEACAS Office on Wellington Court (can be accessed from Wellington Street or Church Street).



If you are in need of any uniform items and require this service or if you would like to request/swap uniform items, you can contact Margaret from MEACAS on **028 9600 1555**.

GL REGISTRATION 2021



The GL registration period opens on Monday 1 June 2021 and closes at 2.00 p.m. on Friday 24 September 2021.

Please download the Registration Form from the school website, complete the form carefully by typing into the spaces provided, scan birth certificate and recent passport sized photo.

Please email the completed form and documents back to cdoherty285@c2kni.net. You will be sent a receipt by return email.

You are encouraged to download the other documents from the school website as they include important dates and FAQs, etc. If you have any queries, please feel free to contact the school on 028 25649554 - Option 1.

The GL Entrance Assessment will be held on Saturday 13th November 2021. In the event that it is not possible to hold the Assessment on 13th November, a contingency date of 11th December 2021 will be used.

SEPTEMBER 2021 RETURN DATES

Year groups will return to school on a phased basis from Wednesday 1st September:

- Wednesday 1st September: Year 8 and 15 only
- Thursday 2nd September: Years 12 and 14 only
- Friday 3rd September: Year 9, 10 and 11 only
- Monday 6th September: All pupils



The Newsletter of St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena
Summer Edition June 2021



@SLGBallymena



www.stlouisgrammar.com