

The Kintullagh Voice

S U M M E R 2 0 2 4



The Newsletter of St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena

100
YEAR
ANNIVERSARY

1924-2024



N.I. Top Grammar School



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A HEARTFELT FAREWELL TO THE CLASS OF 2024 AT ST LOUIS

In an emotional ceremony, the St Louis community bid farewell to the Class of 2024. Reflecting on a journey that began seven years ago, the school celebrated the achievements of 166 remarkable students who are now ready to embark on new adventures.

The event opened with a poignant quote: "The two hardest things in life are hello for the first time and goodbye for the last." This resonated deeply as students and teachers alike reminisced about their shared experiences and growth over the years. The Class of 2024 has been shaped by its diverse members, including the 50 students who joined in Lower Sixth in September 2022, enriching the year group with their unique contributions.

Special accolades were given to deputy head boys and girls- Charlotte, Dearbhail, Maria, Hugh, Joseph, Michael, and Zach for their exemplary representation. Head Girl Annie and Head Boy Conn received praise for their passionate leadership, which has left a lasting impact on the school community. Parents and guardians were also recognised for their unwavering support, which has been crucial in nurturing the students' success.

The dedicated staff of St Louis were commended for their behind-the-scenes efforts. A special thanks was extended to Mrs O'Neill, Mrs McGreevy, and Mrs McCarry for their constant support and kindness.

The Class of 2024 has faced and overcome numerous challenges, achieving a remarkable 100% A*-C grades at GCSE. Memorable experiences, such as ski trips, Gaeltacht visits, and the formal, have created lasting memories. As they depart, students were encouraged to remain brave, responsible, and optimistic, embodying the values of kindness and integrity learned at St Louis.

We wish them the best of luck as they take the next step in their journey, knowing they are always a part of the St. Louis community.

J. Doherty



@SLGBallymena



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SPORTS DAY 2024

The St. Louis 2024 Sports Days were a resounding success, providing two days filled with excitement, competition, and unforgettable memories for the students.

On Tuesday, 11th June, Year 8s took to the fields in a display of enthusiasm and sportsmanship. The day was meticulously organised, offering a range of athletics events that catered to various interests and abilities. From the 100m sprints to the 1500m long-distance races and the high jump, the Year 8 students participated wholeheartedly, showcasing their athletic skills and team spirit.

Wednesday, 12th June also saw both Year 9 and Year 10 students engage in a variety of athletics events, including the 100m, 1500m, and high jump, creating a vibrant and energetic atmosphere throughout the day.

The presence of an ice cream van became a popular attraction during breaks. Students eagerly lined up to enjoy a refreshing treat, adding an extra layer of enjoyment to the event. The ice cream van not only provided a delightful respite from the physical exertion but also became a gathering point for students to socialise and celebrate their achievements. This simple addition brought a festive feel to the proceedings, making the days even more memorable for everyone involved.

The successful execution of the Sports Days was a result of careful planning and coordination among the staff, volunteers, and students. The events ran smoothly, with each activity starting on time and being supervised efficiently. Teachers and organisers ensured that safety protocols were followed, and students were encouraged to support each other, fostering a positive and inclusive environment. The sense of unity and community was palpable, as students cheered for their peers and celebrated each other's successes.

In conclusion, the St. Louis 2024 Sports Days were a triumph, offering students an opportunity to engage in physical activity, build teamwork skills, and create lasting memories.

We congratulate all of our students for their determination and effort. We hope that our day will inspire students to continue to participate in sport.







JUNIOR PRIZE DAY

On Monday 24th of June, we celebrated the success of our Junior school pupils, at our annual prize day. We were so fortunate to be joined by Antrim Camogie captain and past pupil Lucia McNaughton. We would like to extend a huge thanks to Lucia for celebrating this occasion with us and for the inspirational words that she shared with our pupils.

On the day, we congratulated Year 8, 9 and 10 pupils for all their successes this year. Pupils were presented with awards to celebrate their academic and extracurricular achievements, with special awards also presented in recognition of hard work, kindness and good manners. Many congratulations to all our prize winners. We are very proud of you all.



Exemplary Behaviour Awards



Exemplary Behaviour Awards

100% Attendance Awards

Top Achievers



Top Achievers



Top Achievers

Overall Top Achiever

Endeavour Awards



Endeavour Awards



Kindness and Cooperation Awards



Kindness and Cooperation Awards

Junior Maths Challenge Bronze Award Winners



Junior Maths Challenge Silver Award Winners

Junior Maths Challenge Gold Award Winners

Term 5 Top Readers



Term 5 Top Readers





Term 3 Top Readers



Word Millionaires



Extracurricular Art Award



Warhammer Club Award



Extracurricular Music Award



Drama Award



Male Soccer Award



Ladies Football Award



Male Football Award



Camogie Award



Overall Sports Day Winners



Sporting Achievement Awards



Exemplary Behaviour Awards



Exemplary Behaviour Awards



100% Attendance Awards



Top Achievers



Top Achievers



Top Achievers



Overall Top Achiever



Endeavour Awards



Endeavour Awards



Kindness and Cooperation Awards





Kindness and Cooperation Awards

Junior Maths Challenge
Bronze Award Winners



Junior Maths Challenge Bronze Award Winners

Junior Maths Challenge
Silver Award Winners

Junior Maths Challenge
Gold Award Winners



Term 3 Top Readers



Term 3 Top Readers

Word Millionaires



Word Millionaires

Warhammer Award

Extracurricular Music Award

Eco Council Awards



Ladies Football Award



Male Football Award



Camogie Award



Ladies Soccer Award



Sports Day Overall Winners



Sporting Achievements



Exemplary Behaviour Awards



Exemplary Behaviour Awards



100% Attendance Awards



Top Achiever Awards



Top Achiever Awards



Overall Top Achiever



Endeavour Awards





Endeavour Awards

Kindness and Cooperation Award



Kindness and Cooperation Awards



Kindness and Cooperation Award

Maths Challenge Bronze Award

Top Performance in KS5 English

French Top Performers



Irish Top Performer

McKelvey Cup for KS5 Art

Classic English Literature
Club Awards

Extra Curricular Art
Award Winners



Warhammer Club Award



Intermediate Chess Champion



Eco Council Awards



Junior Music Cup



Junior Science Cup



Sporting Achievement Awards



Sports Endeavour Award



Alastair Breslin Hurling Trophy



Male Soccer Award



Ladies Football Award



Bridgeen O'Neill
Memorial Trophy



Caitlin Graffin

Congratulations to all our prize winners!





CAMOGIE COLLEGE ALL-STARS 2024

Erin Coulter

St Louis Ballymena is immensely proud to congratulate Erin Coulter on her 2024 College All-Star award.

Erin, a Year 14 student and key player for Bridini Óga Glenravel, has consistently demonstrated exceptional athleticism and determination throughout her camogie career.



Erin's journey in camogie has been remarkable, becoming an influential member of the school's camogie teams even from a young age. Last year was particularly outstanding for Erin, with victories in three All-Ireland championships—one with her club, one with Antrim county minors, and another with her school. Adding to her impressive achievements, Erin secured her first All-Star last year and now celebrates her second.

Erin's infectious attitude and high standards inspire her teammates, making her an invaluable asset to the St Louis camogie squad. As she moves forward, we eagerly anticipate the remarkable heights Erin will reach in her camogie career.

Congratulations, Erin!

Dearbhail Dobbin

Congratulations to Dearbhail Dobbin, our deputy head girl, on her 2024 College All-Star award. Known for her commitment both on and off the pitch, Dearbhail is a role model to all, seamlessly balancing her academic and athletic pursuits.



Dearbhail's leadership extends beyond her responsibilities as deputy head girl, influencing both school, club, and county teams. Her pleasant demeanor, unwavering commitment, and smile in every battle make her a standout player and an exemplary student. Despite her modesty, Dearbhail's hard work and dedication have rightfully earned her this prestigious accolade.

Her contributions to the SLG camogie team have been invaluable, and her sportsmanship and skill have set a high bar for future players. We are immensely proud of Dearbhail's achievements and look forward to her continued success.

Well done, Dearbhail!

Anna McKillop

We are thrilled to congratulate Anna McKillop on receiving her 2024 College All-Star award. A versatile forward from Loughgiel Shamrocks, Anna's calm and collected presence on the field has been instrumental for both her school and club teams.



Anna's camogie journey is adorned with numerous accolades, including wins in Féile skills, Ulster titles, and club championships.

She has joined her sister Clare as the second College All-Star in her family, a testament to her dedication and talent.

Anna's growth as a player has been remarkable since her time with us. We are incredibly proud of her achievements and are excited to see her continued success in the camogie arena.

Congratulations, Anna!

Aisling O'Donnell

Congratulations to Aisling O'Donnell on being honoured with the 2024 College All-Star award. Since joining our school in 2022, Aisling has been a cornerstone of the senior camogie team, contributing significantly both on and off the pitch.



Playing for St Mary's Ahoghill, Aisling's versatility and dominance shine through, whether she's positioned in full-back or midfield. Her leadership, dedication, and ability to foster camaraderie have left a lasting impact on her teammates and coaches.

Among her many accolades, Aisling's five Player of the Year awards at her club highlight her exceptional talent and commitment. We are delighted to celebrate her achievements and look forward to her continued contributions to camogie.

Well done, Aisling!

Ciara O'Boyle

St Louis Ballymena proudly congratulates Ciara O'Boyle on her 2024 College All-Star award. A dual player for Rasharkin and Moneyglass Ladies, Ciara's flair and finesse have made her a standout in both camogie and football.



Ciara's list of achievements is extensive, including victories in the U14 Ulster Championship, Ulster 7s, and a recent club championship in 2025. Her composure, game vision, and exceptional skills make her a deserving recipient of this award.

As Ciara's time at SLG comes to an end, her contributions to the school's camogie and football teams will be sorely missed. We eagerly anticipate her future successes with Rasharkin and Moneyglass.

Congratulations, Ciara!





GAELEAST ANTRIM CUP ALL STARS

We are delighted for all of our junior school pupils who were awarded for their talent and effort in the Antrim Schools Cup 2024.



Patrick McFadden
Year 8 Hurling



Eanna McAuley
Year 8 Hurling



Jack Orr
Year 8 Football



Annie Convery
Year 9 Camogie



Amy McGilligan
Year 9 Camogie



Saorla Mallon
Year 9 LGFA



Ollie McClements
Year 10 Hurling



Jack McQuillan
Year 10 Hurling



Eanna McGuckian
Year 10 Hurling



Eoghan Smith
Year 10 Football



Jack McQuillan
Year 10 Football



Leo Wright
Year 10 Football



Conor McKeever
Year 10 Football





SLG RISING STARS SHINE AT QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY FUTURE STARS AWARDS

At the fourth McKeever Sports Queen's University Future Stars gala, held on 25rd April in the Whitla Hall, Antrim's under-age players made a significant mark. Among the talented honorees were St Louis students Carragh Boyle (Dunloy), Fintan Bradley (Cushendall), and Eddie Smyth (Loughgiel), who are indispensable members of our school senior teams.

The evening celebrated the achievements of emerging hurling talents, with Antrim players prominently featured. Carragh Boyle, Fintan Bradley, and Eddie Smyth were recognised for their outstanding contributions to St Louis Ballymena's success. Their skills, dedication, and sportsmanship on the field have been exemplary, making them well-deserved recipients of this prestigious award.

Their accolades at the Queen's University Future Stars Awards underscore the bright future that lies ahead for these remarkable athletes. Congratulations to Carragh, Fintan, and Eddie for their exceptional accomplishments and contributions to the school's hurling and camogie teams!



DIVISION ONE TITLE WIN WITH ARMAGH LADIES FOOTBALL

We are elated to celebrate Miss Lavery's incredible achievement as she helped Armagh Ladies Football secure the Division One title. This victory stands as a testament to her exceptional talent, dedication, and leadership on and off the pitch.

In addition to her success with Armagh, Miss Lavery has made an impact at St Louis Ballymena. As the manager of our U14 team, she guided the girls to victory in the Ulster C championship. Her ability to lead, mentor, and inspire her team played a crucial role in their triumph.

Her success with Armagh Ladies and her leadership at St Louis Ballymena make her a role model for our students, demonstrating what can be accomplished with determination and hard work.





ULSTER C LADIES FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS 2024

SLG 5-11 ST PIUS X 3-7

Player of the Match: Caitlin Kelly

In a gripping encounter at Ballerin GAC on Tuesday, 28th May, our U14 Ladies' Gaelic Football team secured a well-deserved victory over St Pius X Magherafelt, with a final score of 5-11 to 3-7. The game was a showcase of skill, determination, and teamwork, leaving supporters on the edge of their seats until the final whistle.

From the outset, the St Louis girls demonstrated their intent, with Caitlin Kelly opening the scoring in the first few minutes with a well-placed point. The early lead set the tone for the first half, as our midfield duo, Aoife Leahy and Niamh McCloskey, dominated possession and effectively distributed the ball to our forwards.

The defensive line, held strongly by wing half-back Kym O'Boyle, was resolute, stopping numerous attacks from the opposition. A standout moment came in the 20th minute when Annie McLaughlin made a great save, denying a goal to maintain the Kintullagh girls' lead.

Despite a strong push from St Pius towards the end of the first half, the St Louis girls held firm and went into the break with a narrow lead of 5 points.

The St Pius X girls started the second half with a flurry of points, closing the gap and setting up a tense final quarter. However, the St Louis girls remained composed under pressure. Caitlin Kelly delivered a standout performance, scoring three consecutive points to extend the lead and provide some breathing room.

The final minutes saw St Pius X trying to claw back into the game, but the St Louis girls' defence held strong, with Lola Storrie, Lucy McGilligan, and Roma Martin making several key interceptions. A late point from Aoife Madden sealed the victory, and the final whistle was met with jubilant celebrations from the St Louis players and supporters alike.

We are delighted to see our ladies footballers collect some silverware and congratulate players and management on a fantastic achievement!





LEVEL THREE ACCREDITATION AS A TAKE 5 SCHOOL

We are delighted to have received Level 3 Take 5 status for the second year in a row! This is the highest accreditation a school can receive.

The Take 5 Steps to Wellbeing is an evidence-based public health message aimed at improving wellbeing and aims to assist good mental health and wellbeing, through engaging in a range of activities. At St. Louis we believe the Take Five Approach is important to highlight for the mental health and wellbeing of our students and staff.

The 5 Steps to Wellbeing in this context are:

- Connect – Spend time with people
- Keep Learning – Don't be afraid to try something new
- Be Active – Exercising makes you feel good
- Take Notice – of your thoughts and feelings and of others around you
- Give – Do something nice for someone else

Mrs McGreevy and Mrs Doherty attended a celebration event at the Tullyglass Hotel on Wednesday 12th June where they received the Take 5 Level 3 Award. The award recognises the range of Take 5 wellbeing initiatives offered and implemented at St. Louis Grammar School.

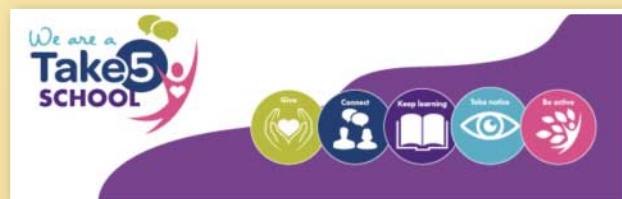
We are looking forward to training our next set of Take 5 Pupil Champions in June.



TAKE 5 CHAMPIONS

A Take 5 Pupil Champion is a young person who is passionate about promoting the Take 5 steps to wellbeing message. They can spread this by:

- Being a role model
- Looking out for others
- Promoting the Take 5 message
- Assembly Talks
- Designing Posters/ Leaflets



Our Take 5 Champions for 2024 are:

Year 8

Eoghan Kelly
Aoife Kelly
Blaithin Mallon
Odhran Hardy
Clodagh Cummings
Thomas Cairns
Lizzie Graham
Odhran Hardy
John Rea
Anne McAleese
Niamh Montgomery
Suzi Curry

Carla O'Brien
tella Brown
Erin Illardi
Eva McCann
Caitlin-Amy Ong
Caoimhe Kelly
Cara McCusker
Corey Heaney
Emily Boyd
Erin McNaughton
Kyra Watson
Isaac Davy
Grace Corrigan
Charlotte Doyle
Stella Brown

Year 10

Emmie Clegg
Noah Alexander
Ronan McBride
Noah McCamphill

Year 9

Corey Heaney
Katie McLaughlin
John Black
Roxanne Collins
Sadhbh McMullan
Olivia Mitchell

Caitlin Graffin
Niall Mulvenna
Ronan Devenie
Taisija Sestakova
Emily Crooks
Daniel Butler
Cathal Davies
Cillian McCoy
Lucas Graham

Year 11

Lauren Burns
Anna Smyth

Year 12

Claire McNeilly
Orlagh Donaghy
Lowry Collins
Jessica Halloran

Sixth Form

Kate McGilligan
Niamh O'Shea
Alex Armstrong
Sean Og Blaney
Oisin Hamill
Feargus McCormack
Ryan McKeever
Edward McKendry
Lorcan McQuitty
Caoimhe Scullion
Eimear Smith
Kate Hasson
Erin McAleese
Grainne McAuley
Eugene Mulholland
Kate McClintock
Mary-Rose McDonnell
Patrick O'Neill
Paddy Murphy
Siobhan McGale



CHESS CLUB: END OF YEAR TOURNAMENT WINNERS

Many congratulations to our Chess Club winners 2024

1st: Luke Cooper – 10 Lisbreen (absent from photo)

2nd: Oscar Cardy – 8 Lisbreen

5rd: Cavan Thomson – 8 Lurig

After another very successful year of Chess Club, a special thanks goes to Michael McPeake, Year 14, who facilitated the club over the last 2 years.

We wish Michael every success for the future!



ROTARY YOUTH LEADERSHIP WINNER!

Gráinne McAuley in Year 15 was a winner of the Rotary Youth Leadership Development Competition in February!

She embarked on an unforgettable journey, discussing politics with MLAs in Belfast, engaging with TDs in Dublin, and debating in the EU Parliament in Strasbourg!

Her speech on the 'EU's Zero Pollution Ambition' captivated audiences, setting her apart as a leader of tomorrow. She shared her story and recounted her experiences with Rotary club and district leaders and the District Governor.

Well done Gráinne!



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ST LOUIS ACHIEVES THE 'GAELBHRATACH' AWARD

Irish teachers, Miss O'Brien and Mrs Campbell, are delighted to announce that St Louis has achieved the prestigious 'Gaelbhratach' award, a symbol of excellence in Irish language promotion. We are honoured to be the first English medium school to have achieved this in County Antrim, especially during St Louis' Centenary year!

What makes this achievement even more extraordinary is that the activities leading to this award have been student-led, highlighting the passion and initiative of our young learners. Our students in 'Cumann Lughaidh' have spearheaded initiatives to increase the spoken language and organise events conducted entirely in Irish. By empowering them to take the lead in promoting the Irish language, we have fostered a sense of pride and ownership that will have a lasting impact on our school community. Next year's cohort of students have a lot to aspire to!

Dean Ó Sluagháin from Gael Linn was warmly welcomed back to St Louis in May, to present us with the Gaelbhratach flag and help us make some exciting plans for the next academic year. We thank the Gaelbhratach team, Dean and Kathryn in particular, for the wonderful opportunity this year and we look forward to another jam-packed year of events and activities!

Receiving this award reflects the hard work and dedication of our students, teachers and staff members who have embraced the Irish language as an integral part of our school's identity. Through various activities and events conducted in Irish, we have cultivated a supportive environment that encourages fluency and appreciation of our native language.

Our outgoing chairperson, Eva Scott, said of her experience: "I've loved every minute of my time in Cumann Lughaidh, and the opportunity to make our vision a reality with the help and support of Dean and Kathryn during the Gaelbhratach workshop. My confidence has grown as a result of my role as chairperson, particularly due to speaking on Raidió na Gaeltachta and delivering Irish lessons in some of our local primary schools, and I feel that I am better prepared for university life. I have enjoyed working with my teachers and outside organisations and am proud that we have contributed to bringing life and soul to the Irish Department!"

Congratulations to all members of the school community, Cumann Lughaidh in particular, on this well-deserved recognition of our efforts to promote Irish.

'Ar scáth a chéile a mhaireann na daoine'





ONCE UPON A TIME

St Louis students attended a special screening of the BAFTA award-winning series "Once Upon a Time in Northern Ireland" at Queen's Film Theatre, Belfast, on April 16th.

The event was hosted as part of an Education Authority pilot to explore how the acclaimed documentary series might be used as a resource in schools to help the next generation better understand Northern Ireland's past. Following an initial viewing for educationalists in October 2023, ten schools volunteered to participate in a new pilot to help co-construct a professional development module designed to aid schools in delivering sensitive topics in class. The screening was part of this process, inviting young people to share their views on the series and how it could support classroom practice.

The film was introduced by Clare Sillery, BBC Head of Documentaries, and Jayne Simms, a school improvement professional at the Education Authority. It was followed by a panel discussion hosted by Declan Lawn, one of the creators of the BBC drama "Blue Lights" and a past pupil of St Louis.

One of our students, Jude Osbourne, said, "I think through the use of personal stories rather than the broad historical narrative, it helps you humanize the conflict, making it easier to understand others' emotions and points of view. This, in my opinion, helps with future reconciliation and dialogue between the two communities. I think it should be a mandatory watch for everyone, regardless of whether they lived through it or not."

The students were very impressed with the program, although somewhat disturbed by the events many of us lived through. One hopes it instills in them a desire to ensure that Northern Ireland never returns to those very dark years.



UKMT MATHS TEAM CHALLENGE

This year, on the 29th April, our school competed in the UKMT Team Maths Challenge.

The competition took place in St. Malachy's College Belfast and the team consisted of two Year 9 and two Year 10 pupils. There were four rounds in the challenge but they were all very different. They are The Group, The Crossnumber, The Shuttle and The Relay. In total, there were 16 schools taking part and we placed in the top 50% of them. Overall we had a great day, thank you Miss Warnock for taking us.

Annie Convery 9LD

The UKMT Maths Team Challenge took place on the 29th of April this year. The team was made up of Annie, Ursula, Aoife and myself. There were 16 schools taking part in the event which was held in St. Malachy's College Belfast. The challenge took place over 4 rounds. My favourite round was the Relay. During this round Ursula and I had to solve a Maths problem and then run to check if it was correct, then run to give Aoife and Annie the next problem. It was lots of fun and something that we can write in our progress files and UCAS applications in the future.

Amber Anderson 9LR





SLG ALUMNI

Where are they now?

KATE DEVLIN, CLASS OF '98

The Kintullagh Voice was delighted to catch up with Kate Devlin recently. Kate left St Louis in 1998 to study English at Trinity and is now Politics and Whitehall Editor at The Independent in London. Having previously worked at The Times and The Sunday Express, in 2025 she was named 'one to watch' as one of the top 100 Women in Westminster.

Kate explained that journalism was always something she was passionate about and, after hearing another former St Louis pupil speak at a Careers Day at the school, that was confirmed.

"Conor Hanna, who worked at The Mirror and has since gone on to great success in America alongside his boss at the time, Piers Morgan, described journalism as 'the most fun you have not working for a living'. To keep my mum happy I did go and listen to the Bank of Ireland talk, but I couldn't see myself as a banker and it was journalism that had me hooked".

Work experience in Year 12 at the Ballymena Guardian settled it for Kate. With History and English as her favourite subjects at St Louis, political journalism was a natural fit.

"I would advise anyone thinking about journalism to go for it. It's a fast paced work environment, especially now. Digital means that stories can break at any time of the day or night and be around the world in an instant. In political journalism you are at the centre of everything that affects people's lives and you can influence perceptions through your writing and use of language.

"I broke a story last year, before the Labour Party Conference, that Marina Wheeler, Boris Johnson's ex-wife, was to be a special adviser for the Labour Party. It was picked up by every national media outlet in the UK within hours. It's an exciting world to be part of and I still enjoy it as much today as when I was writing pieces for the school magazine 25 years ago!"

Thinking back to her time at St Louis, Kate recalls, "Some of my fondest memories of St Louis include being part of the winning team, along with my twin sister, Claire, in the Irish News Schools Competition. A trip to Brussels was the prize, which was perfect for an aspiring political journalist.

I was also on the St Louis cross-country team and remember Mr Stuart going above and beyond to enthuse us and make sure that we made it to all the competitions, he was brilliant!"

Kate is back in Ballymena regularly to see family and has agreed to come speak to pupils about journalism next term.

We are looking forward to welcoming her back to St Louis again.



Kate Devlin during her time at St Louis (front right)



MOLLY'S OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT IN DOUBLE-MINI TRAMPOLINE

We are thrilled to share the exciting news that Molly McKenna has been selected for the 2024 Double-Mini Trampoline Senior program at British Gymnastics!

This remarkable achievement highlights Molly's dedication and talent in the sport.

Her commitment to both her gymnastics and her studies exemplifies her conscientious and hardworking nature. We are confident that Molly will continue to excel in her athletic and academic pursuits, and we eagerly anticipate her future successes.

Congratulations, Molly, on this fantastic accomplishment!



EXPLORING GEOGRAPHY: FIELD TRIP TO CUSHENDUN

On a Tuesday morning in April, the Year 12 and 13 Geography students embarked on an enriching field trip to Cushendun, particularly focusing on the Glendun River.

Pupils applied their theoretical knowledge gained from GCSE and A Level specifications to real-world observations. By using equipment to measure river characteristics to documenting findings accurately, students honed essential fieldwork skills crucial for their academic and professional development.





COMMUNITY OF LIFESAVERS

This program, aptly named the "Community of Lifesavers Award," empowers students with essential skills such as CPR and AED use, along with the knowledge to handle various emergency scenarios. This initiative not only enhances students' practical abilities but also instills a sense of responsibility and confidence in dealing with life-threatening situations.

The curriculum covers a wide range of scenarios that students may encounter, including how to respond to conscious or unconscious individuals, manage choking incidents, address cardiac arrests, and respond to anaphylactic reactions. By practicing these skills, students learn to assess and react promptly, which can significantly improve outcomes in real-life emergencies. By integrating these lifesaving skills into the school curriculum, the Community of Lifesavers Award program aims to create a generation equipped with the knowledge and confidence to act in various situations.

"I enjoyed the Community of Lifesavers as it taught me lots of new skills in a fun and interesting way. There was a good mix of theory, with videos which were very informative, and practical skills which give us the opportunity to test our knowledge and perfect our technique. Overall, it was a great experience. Mr Quinn and Mrs McVey made the day so enjoyable and I felt like I learnt so much from the day."

Lucas Graham



LUCIA QUINNEY MEE MEMORIAL CUP

Well done to our Year 8 camogie team who took part in the Lucia Quinney Mee Memorial Cup which was hosted by Cross and Passion College in May.

It was an honour for our students to compete in this tournament in memory of a remarkable young lady who made such an impact during her short life. If you or someone you know has been affected by Organ Donation, support and information is available via:

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

Facebook: Live Loudly Donate Proudly

Twitter: @LiveDonate L





SPRING CONCERT

The Spring Concert this year was an opportunity to celebrate the wealth of talent we are fortunate to have in the Music Department at St Louis. However, as it is our centenary year, we took the opportunity to celebrate the talents of pupils past and present.

The Braid Arts Theatre was booked, the pupils were rehearsed and on Monday 25th March, over 100 pupils from St Louis made their way over to the venue to get ready for their performance. What unfolded on the Tuesday night was a truly special experience. Past pupils of various ages returned to deliver magical performances, while present pupils wowed the audience with professional grade renditions of pieces spanning genres such as Classical, Jazz, Rock, Musical theatre and more.

The theme of the evening was certainly one of looking to the past, through the lens of the present. Each of the decades that St Louis has been opened was represented with a piece of music from that time. Whether it was Year 14 pupil Aisling Ardiffe showcasing the 1920s with a rousing performance of Gershwin's Rhapsody in Blue, the Staff Choir belting out 1990s feel-good hit Hold On by Wilson Phillips, or the folk vocal trio comprising Aoife Kelly, Caoimhe Kelly and Eibhleann Ardiffe bringing us into the 2020s with Noah Khan's Stick Season, a broad range of music was covered, demonstrating culturally just how long St Louis has been a source of education for young people.

A special thank you must go to the past pupils who were so generous with their time. Former Head Boy Rian Patterson acted as compere, while Mark McKavanagh performed an awe-inspiring medley of music for solo piano before accompanying Sofia Richmond in a beautiful version of The Swan. Staff member and past pupil Mr McNeill sang one of his own compositions, The Randalstown Rambler before bursting into an energetic take on Whiskey in the Jar. The McClintock siblings performed a haunting rendition of Fleetwood Mac's Little Lies, while Sean Og Graham, Mairead Graham, Aileen Weir and Sheenagh Weir performed Sharon's Set and Holy Ground. Clodagh McGurk performed Torn by Natalie Imbruglia and reprised her version of Dolly Parton's Jolene which she previously performed in 2017. We also for the first time put together a past pupil choir ranging in age from 19 - 73! They provided a very moving rendition of Lean On Me by Bill Withers.

The performers weren't the only familiar faces in The Braid however. Also in attendance were former Music teachers Ms Una Donnelly and Mr Mark Lavery, both of whom contributed so much to the provision of Music at St Louis. Although there was a notable nod to the past throughout the night, it was evident that the present and future of Music at St Louis is indeed bright, with the shining talent of all the young people who give up so much time to rehearse and perform.

The evening was a true embodiment of the school community we have at St Louis, as pupils, past pupils, staff and the wider community came together in celebration. It will truly be one we will never forget.





REFILL WATER BOTTLE SCHEME

This year, in collaboration with NI Water, we launched our new Reusable Water Bottle Scheme, marking a significant step forward in our ongoing commitment to sustainability and reducing plastic waste. This initiative aims to promote the use of reusable water bottles among our students and staff, thereby significantly decreasing the number of single-use plastic bottles on our school grounds.

Single-use plastic bottles are among the largest contributors to plastic pollution. By switching to reusable water bottles, we can make a substantial impact on our environment.

The launch of the Reusable Water Bottle Scheme is just one of the many initiatives we are implementing to create a greener school environment. Our recent achievement of the Eco-Schools Green Flag is a testament to our collective efforts, and this scheme will further strengthen our commitment to sustainability.

The Reusable Water Bottle Scheme represents an exciting step forward for our school. By working together, we can significantly reduce our plastic waste and make a positive impact on the environment. We look forward to seeing everyone with their new reusable water bottles and to the continued success of our sustainability initiatives.



IRISH CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

Over five hundred students from all over Ireland entered the first round of the Irish Chemistry Olympiad in February.

From St Louis, Connor Bresnahan, Harry Connon, Connor Hunter, Eoin McAuley, Brin Martin, Lorcan McQuitty, Emmet McCloskey, Noah McLroy, Michael McPeake and Oisín Kelly (absent in photo) entered and received certificates for participation in the online test.

Conn Fyfe, Oisín Kelly, Conor Hunter, Michael McPeake and Brian Martin were then selected, based on their first-round scores, to attend Dublin City University on the 4th April where Oisín and Conn received bronze medals and Michael, Conor and Brian received highly commended certificates.

They all then completed a gruelling, two-hour second round Chemistry exam based on questions set by university lecturers from Trinity College Dublin and Dublin City University on topics such as quantum chemistry, organometallics, integrated rate laws and electron domain geometry – all first year university level Chemistry!

From the second round Conn Fyfe was selected, as part of a team of four, to represent Ireland in the International Chemistry Olympiad in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia on 20th – 30th July. As part of his training Conn will go to Trinity College Dublin 27th – 28th June to work with the other three members of the team to complete both practical and theory training in preparation for the International Olympiad. We wish Conn every success in Riyadh!





ULSTER YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Congratulations to Kate McClintock (L6) and Aisling Ardiffe (U6), our talented young musicians, for earning places in the Ulster Youth Orchestra!

Catch their performances at the UYO's Summer Concerts in Derry and Belfast, where they will shine among the North's finest emerging talents.



SCHOOL TRIP TO BBC'S INTERACTIVE EXHIBITION

Our pupils went on a trip to Ballymena Library, where they attended the "BBC Comes To Town" interactive exhibition.

This unique event provided an invaluable opportunity for our pupils to step into the world of broadcasting and experience firsthand the role of presenting, reporting, and producing news.

The highlight of the exhibition was undoubtedly the chance for students to present a BBC weather forecast and a Newsline bulletin. With the help of professional equipment and guidance from BBC staff, our pupils experienced the pressure and excitement of being in front of the camera. This hands-on experience was great fun and it provided practical insights into the skills and confidence required for television broadcasting.

Beyond news and weather, the exhibition offered interactive sessions in sports commentary and radio drama. Students had the chance to become sports commentators, analysing and describing live-action sequences, learning how to engage an audience with enthusiasm and accuracy. They also got to experiment with sound effects and voice acting to create compelling audio stories.

A crucial aspect of the exhibition was the information provided about BBC apprenticeships and careers. Students learned about the various pathways into the media industry, from technical roles to creative positions, and the apprenticeship schemes available for those looking to start their careers with the BBC. This segment of the exhibition was particularly inspiring for students considering their future career options.

Special thanks to the BBC and Ballymena Library for their efforts in creating an engaging and educational exhibition.





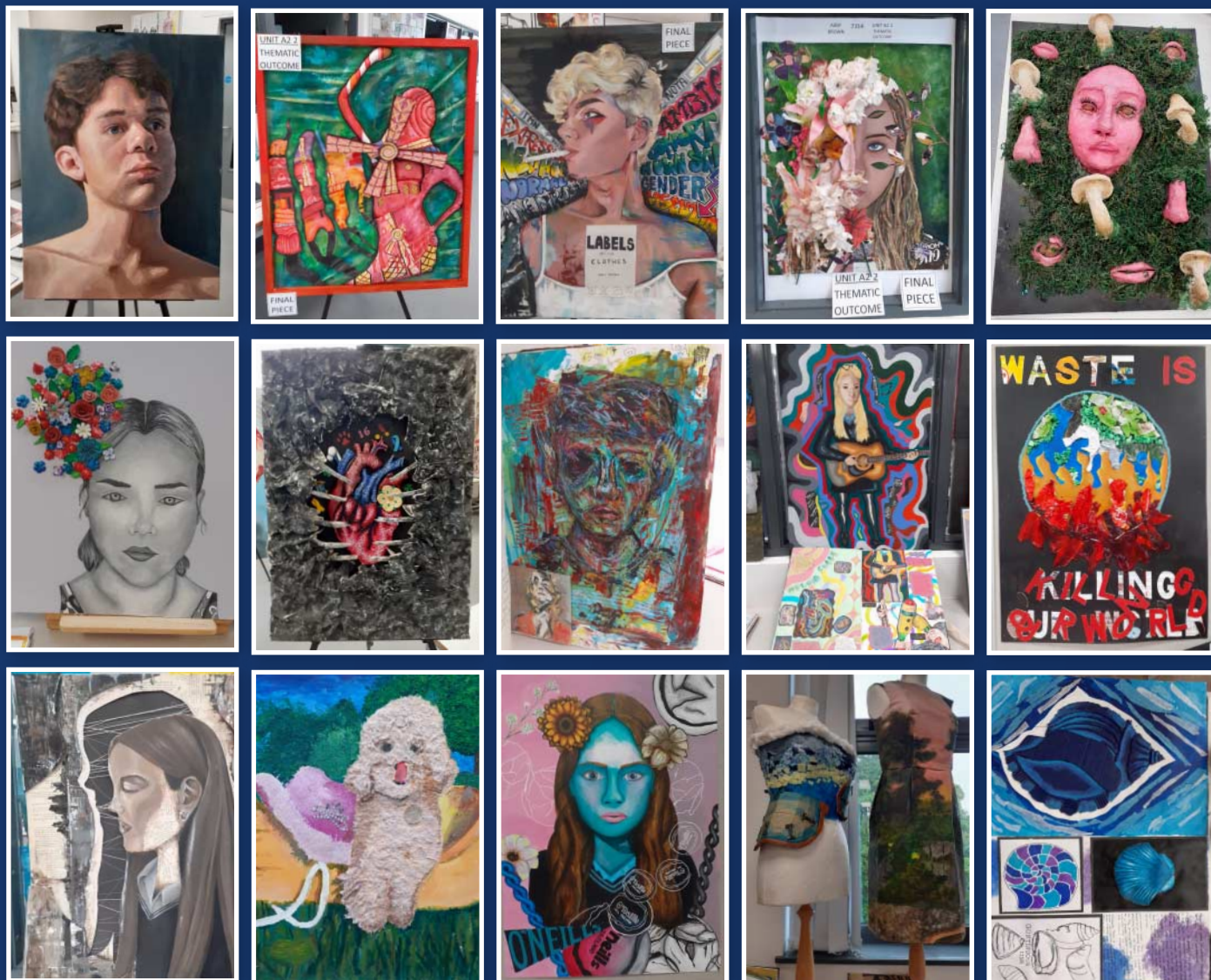
ART EXHIBITION

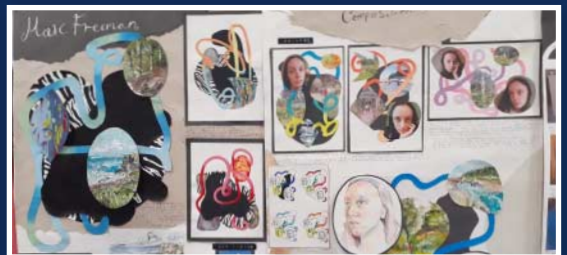
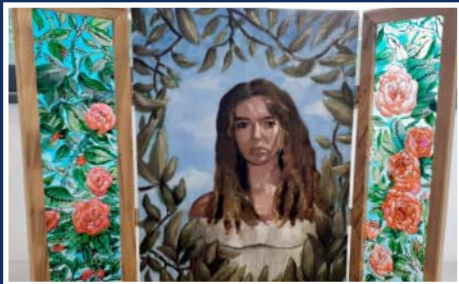
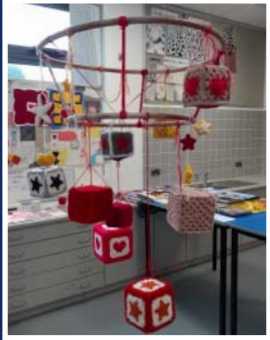
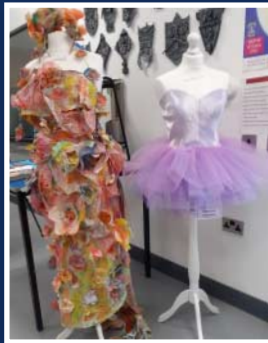
Art is something I have always been obsessed with, from designing my name in bubble writing at primary school to developing my skills in junior school. Taking on Art at GCSE and A-Level has been an opportunity I am so glad to have had, as with Art, I have always been able to express myself freely. With the encouragement of my influential teachers and peers around me, I have come further in my journey than I ever hoped and I am so proud of the work I have produced. I am now planning to take Art with me for the rest of my life as I am embarking on a university course in Costume Design, and I hope to make this my career path. I am so excited to see where my Art journey takes me next.

Caragh Cochrane: A-Level Art & Design, 2023-24

My piece was a crocheted self-portrait, which I created based on our GCSE topic of Identity. Crocheting is a hobby I have been developing over the last few years, so when choosing what to create, I decided to make something that reflected my creativity and hobbies. This project has helped me to better understand the extensive artistic options possible using crochet techniques, and I am delighted at how my simple hobby has been so beneficial to my art journey. The project was extremely challenging as I had to work out the mathematics involved in squaring off my portrait image and then reducing it to areas of black, white, and grey while still retaining the portrait's likeness. My piece expresses the idea that our identity is made up of many tiny particles, but each one is extremely important in contributing to what makes us who we are. It conveys a message to other young people that we should persevere when times are tough and try our best to work through our challenges.

Clementine Barwick, GCSE Art & Design, 2023-24





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YEAR 10 COME DINE WITH ME

For Come Dine With Me, we chose to make an Indian chicken curry with homemade flatbreads.

I really enjoyed the whole experience as I was able to cook with my friend and it was something we were able to choose together. We had a lot to do for the practical, and felt a little under pressure with time, but it was great fun and we really enjoyed learning to make something different. We felt so proud of ourselves as we made everything from scratch and it tasted really good!

Mya Carroll & Clíodhna Devlin



FRIENDS FOR ROMANIA

Our names are Erin McAleese, Eimear Smith, and Grainne McAuley, and we visited Romania in June 2024.

Through our enrichment lessons at school, provided by Mr Marquess, we were inspired to help those less fortunate than ourselves. Individually and as a team, we fundraised throughout our school, our parishes, and the wider community, raising money to provide aid for schools, orphanages, and centres for the disabled.

During our week in Romania, we visited multiple facilities, which gave us the opportunity to meet many wonderful people. From newborn babies to the elderly, everyone was so grateful for our visits. We provided a range of goods, including televisions, cleaning products, hygiene products, and food, ensuring that each facility was well catered for. Spending time in Romania brought so much joy to all and created an unforgettable experience that made us grateful for everything in our lives.

We would like to thank everyone who supported us in making this trip possible and encourage anyone in Year 15 to volunteer!





LOOK OUT FOR THE NEW ST LOUIS MINIBUS!

St Louis was delighted to take delivery of a new minibus this term. Thanks to the fundraising efforts of the Friends of St Louis, support from our parents, those who attended 'A Night With St Louis' and with a generous donation from Tullyglass Hotel and Residences we were able to purchase a much needed 17 seat Peugeot Boxer minibus. Since it arrived in May it has been busy taking pupils to GAA matches, to meet local MLAs at Stormont, to visit the oldest working mill in Ireland, Martry Mill in Co Meath, The Lake Kilrea and many other destinations.

Mrs O'Neill said, "It is wonderful to finally have a new minibus! We have always prided ourselves on giving every young person the opportunity to develop and thrive beyond the classroom. The range of extracurricular activities and outings we provide is outstanding, however they do come at a cost and unfortunately they are not covered by Government funding.

"Our expenditure on transport every year is substantial. The new minibus is an investment in our pupils that will soon pay for itself. Thank you again to Gus McConville at Tullyglass for his support, the past pupils who attended A Night with St Louis, the Friends of St Louis and all the parents who contribute every year to the school through the voluntary contribution, or One Fund as it is now known, it is hugely appreciated.

Gus McConville from Tullyglass said, "As a parent myself I know the benefits the pupils receive from being able to widen their horizons on educational and sporting outings. I have deeply appreciated the support my own son has received from St Louis over the last 7 years and was delighted to be able to help the new minibus become a reality. I hope the current pupils have many years of benefit from it!"



TRIUMPHS AT THE IRISH DANCING WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

During the last weekend of March, our talented Irish dancers made a spectacular showing at the World Championships in Killarney. We congratulate all who competed and express our pride in their achievements. A special mention goes to those who secured top positions, showcasing their incredible dedication and skill.

Eimear Smith emerged as the U18 World Champion.

In the U17 girls' category, Elle Brown achieved a remarkable 5th place, while Sarah Hasson delivered a wonderful performance to secure 8th place.

Clíodhna Crawley excelled in the U16 girls' category, earning an impressive 8th place.

Katie Hasson showcased her talent in the U11 girls' category, achieving a commendable 6th place.

Lastly, Cody Loughran was crowned the U15 World Champion.

We are incredibly proud of all our dancers for their hard work and dedication, and we celebrate their successes on the world stage!





We were delighted to launch the new St Louis 'One Fund' recently. Marcus Cooper, our Director of Engagement and Fund Development, explained some more about the fund.

The 'One Fund' is the new name for the Voluntary Contribution, which many parents already contribute towards and for which we are very grateful.

As I'm sure many of you reading this will be aware, while Government funding provides the school with the resources for day to day teaching and learning, there are many activities it doesn't cover.

For children that may need help and support the One Fund provides additional mentoring, counselling, literacy and numeracy support. It also helps fund the wide range of extracurricular activities that St Louis provides and that help make the school so special.

These include taking part in GAA matches across Ulster, enabling the fashion designers of the future to showcase their talents at Junk Couture in Dublin, Gaeltacht visits, after school clubs and public speaking competitions.

There are a wealth of opportunities for pupils to develop key life and career skills at St Louis and often it is these extracurricular activities that will be the most memorable of your child's school days.

Our motto, Ut Sint Unum, that they may be One, was the inspiration for the One Fund and giving every child the same opportunities is at the heart of our school values.



We need to raise at least £120 per pupil each year to continue to provide these vitally important opportunities, that is £10 per child per month. I do hope that, if you don't already, you will consider supporting the One Fund in this our Centenary year. We will be writing to everyone with more details on how to do this over the summer. Thank you for continuing to help make these opportunities available to all pupils.

SLG LGFA DAY

We are thrilled to have had the privilege of hosting our feeder primary schools at St. Louis for an exciting day of Gaelic Football!

A special thank you to Ms. McCann and Miss Lavery for their efforts in organising this event, which was a success with plenty of fun included.

It was a wonderful opportunity for all participants to engage in friendly competition and experience the vibrant spirit of our community. We look forward to many of these students joining our school in the future.





SMITH SIBLINGS SUCCESS

Having just completed our AS Levels and GCSE modules respectively, we have both learned how to balance school and academic life, including the additional pressure of exams, with being competitive runners.

As members of Ballymena and Antrim AC, we train two nights a week with the MD group, either at Antrim Castle Grounds or Ballymena Showgrounds, while the refurbishment of the track at Antrim Forum is ongoing. On Saturday mornings, we train either on the track at Meadowbank Sports Arena or on the hills of Antrim Technology Park. If no training is arranged, we venture to one of the many Parkruns that take place in Antrim or Belfast, and also complete a strength and conditioning session in the gym once a week. On the other nights, we go for a long, easy run around Antrim.

Running enables us to create a healthy balance between our academic workload and our physical and mental wellbeing. Going for a run in the evening when we come home from school gives us a break from schoolwork and an opportunity to clear our minds before a few more hours of revision. It takes determination and dedication to succeed at both and achieve our full potential, but seeing our times improve and being rewarded with good results in school is what keeps us motivated.

We have achieved success in both cross country and track, representing both our club and school. I am an Ulster Schools cross country champion and have represented Northern Ireland and Ulster at international meets, including Ulster Schools at the Tailteann Games, Northern Ireland at the London Mini Marathon, and Ireland at the SLAB Cross Country in Liverpool. During this track season, I have become Ulster Champion in both the 1500m and 3000m and achieved new personal bests across these distances.

Emmet prefers a longer distance, having qualified for Ulster Schools in cross country and the 3000m, and has recently improved his PBs in track races, qualifying for the All-Ireland's in the 3000m. He is also part of the Antrim Soccer Academy U15 squad, training and playing matches with the team.

We are both looking forward to the All-Ireland's over the summer months before our focus turns to preparing for the cross country season ahead. During the summer, we get our runs out of the way early in the morning, so we can enjoy the rest of the day with our friends or relax in our time off school.

Aisling and Emmet Smith
Lower Sixth and Year 11



YEAR 8 INTERCLASS COMPETITION June 2024

In the final week of June, our Year 8 students showcased their skills and team spirit in an exciting interclass competition.

The atmosphere was electric as the classes battled it out for the ultimate bragging rights.

After a morning of fun and enthusiasm, 8 Lyndon emerged victorious in the girls' championship, while 8 Laragh clinched the title in the boys' title on penalties.

Well done to all participants for their incredible effort and sportsmanship.



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YEAR 8 POETRY

Cheetah

I am ready for you.
Waiting in the long grass, camouflaged.
I have spotted my new victim; you're just like a sitting duck.
Will I get to you quickly enough?

Oh yes, I will.
By the time you spot me
I will be tearing your throat off.
Your last memory will be the flash of
My fangs
And the whites of
My eyes.

Now that it's dinner time and I've got my kill
I will call my cubs to eat like kings and queens!
My cubs are running,
Dripping with hunger
But I must keep an eye out for them.

Although I'm the fastest
I'm certainly not the biggest
I need to ensure 'they' are not-
Lurking
Waiting
For me to slip
I'm faster but they are bigger.

They would love the opportunity to steal my kill,
Or even worse-kill my precious cubs.
Whenever they come, I must be ready!
Because they are the ENEMY-
The lion, hyena and tiger.

Cillian Gillespie & Lurig

Wolf

I sit and wait for you
I am waiting in the woods
Staring at you
Seeing the moon
Howling to scare you off.

I see you run from me.
I find a new spot
The wind blows my coat
Like it does the leaves on a tree
But I cannot move
For you might see me.

I spot you in the dead of night
I try and get closer but I'm frozen
I can't get to you.

I pry myself free and jump
I start the chase
I catch you.

I have done it.

By Cavan Thompson & Lurig

Jellyfish

I am floating
My translucent body gently moving
With the tide. Bobbing up and down
In rhythm with the big waves.

I am surrounded by a beautiful bright blue sky
And as the sun hits the water
Diamonds appear and glisten like
A sheet of jewels.

My long tentacles hang low
And glow amethyst.
Oh no! I now sense something
It's ...gritty, grainy, grimy!

Foamy water surrounds me
Soft, white and bubbling
I'm scared
I've swam too far
Please help...somebody
Anybody.

By Rachel McAuley & Lurig

Lion

I am a lion
No longer a cub.
A bushy mane, huge paws, thundering roar
I will mark my territory from this tree to that hill
If anyone dares to enter they will have second thoughts...

I am tired.
I am hungry.
Waiting for the moment to pounce like a wolf.
My jaws are drooling,
Getting ready to snap.

I am a lion
Strong like my pride,
King of the jungle, I don't mess around
I am strong and fierce
I have NO sympathy.
I wound my victims
And gloat as you stagger off into the horizon.

I see you
I can see you very clear,
Hiding in the tall grass.
Patiently waiting for the moment ...
SNAP. I skinned you clean
I let out a wild roar,
And leave your bones for the wind.
I am a Lion.

By Aoife Kelly & Lurig



Poetry



GREEN FLAG

It is with great pride and excitement that we announce St Louis Grammar has been awarded its first Eco-Schools Green Flag. This prestigious recognition marks a significant milestone in our ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability and education. The Eco-Schools Green Flag is an international symbol of excellence in environmental education and management, and obtaining this award reflects the hard work and dedication of our Eco-Council and the entire school community.

The Green Flag is the highest award given by Eco-Schools and is a testament to our school's environmental management and performance, curriculum work, and eco-friendly ethos.

Our journey towards achieving the Green Flag began in September 2023, when we formed our 52-member Eco-Council, composed of students and teachers. This Council played a crucial role in driving our eco-initiatives and ensuring that sustainability became an integral part of our school's culture. The key areas we focused on included:

Waste Resource Efficiency: Our school introduced comprehensive recycling programmes, including a battery recycling scheme, and encouraged the use of reusable materials. Students participated in waste audits to identify areas for improvement. Paper reduction schemes were also put in place to reduce paper usage across the school.

Biodiversity: We continue to enhance our school grounds by planting trees, creating vegetable gardens, and establishing wildlife habitats. These projects not only improve our school's biodiversity but also serve as outdoor classrooms for environmental education.

Litter: Weekly litter picks, involving students and staff, took place throughout the school year to raise awareness of the negative impacts littering can have on our environment and to keep our grounds litter-free. This effort aligned with our ongoing commitment to environmental sustainability and fostering a sense of responsibility and pride in our school environment.

Achieving the Eco-Schools Green Flag is a significant accomplishment that underscores our school's dedication to environmental stewardship. It is a reflection of the collaborative effort and unwavering commitment of our students and staff. We are proud of this achievement and remain committed to furthering our sustainability efforts.



ECO STUDENT OF THE YEAR

We are delighted to announce that our Year 10 student, Emily Crooks, has been awarded the prestigious Eco Student of the Year Award by Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council. This recognition celebrates Emily's outstanding contributions to environmental sustainability and her dedication to promoting eco-friendly practices within our school and the wider community.

Emily has been an exemplary advocate for environmental sustainability at our school. Her passion for the environment is evident through her involvement in numerous eco-friendly projects and initiatives.

The award ceremony was held on 20th June at Stranmillis University College, where Emily was honoured alongside other eco-champions from the region. During the ceremony, Emily was presented with a wooden plaque recognising her outstanding contributions to environmental sustainability.

Emily's recognition as Eco Student of the Year is a testament to what can be achieved through passion, dedication, and teamwork. As a school, we are incredibly proud of Emily's accomplishments and are committed to continuing our journey towards a more sustainable future.



Emily's award will undoubtedly motivate other students to take an active role in our eco-initiatives and strive for similar achievements. It highlights the importance of nurturing young environmental leaders and demonstrates the impact that dedicated individuals can have on their communities.

We congratulate Emily on this well-deserved honour and look forward to her continued contributions to our eco-efforts.





CENTENARY BOOK

Have you ever wondered about how St Louis was first established in Ballymena in 1924? How Kintullagh House became a convent and the first all girls Catholic school in the area? Now is your chance to find out. You can explore the history of St Louis Ballymena through the pages of a new hardback, commemorative book specially commissioned to mark our Centenary.

The new book will provide a unique insight into its development, from the arrival of the four founding Sisters of St Louis in 1924, to its position today as one of the top Grammar Schools in Northern Ireland.

With contributions from myriad voices with links to the school and edited by Derval Fitzsimons, a former pupil and renowned writer and broadcaster, the book explores the stories of those who have attended St Louis over the decades. The book also examines the history of Kintullagh House, the challenges of establishing the first all girls Catholic school in the area and recognises and pays tribute to those who have shaped our legacy.

Full of photographs and illustrations from the last 100 years, this is a must-have for everyone associated with St Louis.

We are also delighted to be able to offer you the opportunity to add your own name to this very special book. By becoming a subscriber you will have your name or your family's name included in the book, a testimony and record of the countless families and individuals the school has impacted over the last century.

Published at the beginning of November the book will be a perfect Christmas gift for those families and friends who have experienced the very special St Louis values system and the school's family centred approach to education.

Visit www.friendsofstlouisballymena.com to order your copy!

Please note that if you wish to have you or your family's name included in the book we need your order by 20th September.



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS OF ST LOUIS GRAMMAR WITH OUR CENTENARY JERSEY!

As we mark a century of excellence at St. Louis Grammar School, we are delighted to unveil our centenary jersey- a symbol of our rich heritage and vibrant future.

This iconic jersey has already been a tremendous success, resonating with current students and alumni alike. It embodies the pride, unity, and enduring legacy of SLG. We eagerly anticipate seeing our alumni wear this emblem of our collective journey, celebrating 100 years of educational achievement and community spirit.

To get your centenary top, check out our socials for the link to order!

St Louis Grammar School

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ST LOUIS GRAMMAR SCHOOL CENTENARY RUN/WALK

There was excitement and camaraderie as hundreds of pupils, staff, and alumni gathered on a sunny Saturday afternoon at the Ecos Hub in Ballymena.

The highly anticipated Centenary 5K Run/Walk was to celebrate 100 years of excellence on the Hill of Kintullagh. From the moment the event started off, there was a real sense of community spirit. Families, friends, and colleagues reunited, reminiscing about shared memories and the profound impact the school has had on their lives. Participants of all ages took to the track with enthusiasm. Some sprinted, eager to test their endurance, while others took a leisurely pace, enjoying the opportunity to catch up with old friends and former teachers. The diversity in participation was a true testament to the strong bonds that St Louis has fostered over the past century.

As entrants crossed the finish line and gathered for some refreshments, the crowd was treated to a delightful performance by St Louis pupils, who played traditional music that perfectly complemented the warm, community atmosphere.

The event highlighted the values of friendship, perseverance, and community that have been at the heart of our school for the past 100 years. The day was a poignant reminder of how much we have achieved together and a celebration of what lies ahead.

Thank you to all who contributed to this event and to those who made it an afternoon to remember. We look forward to continuing our celebrations throughout this centenary year, with more events and gatherings that honour our past and look forward to our future.

Congratulations to our Winners!

First male: Thomas Doherty

Second male: Bernard Brady (Past Pupil)

First female: Aisling Smith (Lower Sixth Pupil)

Second female: Esther McBride

Well done to everyone for their incredible achievements and contributions!



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CENTENARY GALA BALL

Featuring a selection of entertainment and performances from former pupils including the very talented 'Celtic Woman', Tara McNeill, it promises to be a spectacular night celebrating all that is good about St Louis.

The night will be compered by our past pupil Declan Lawn. Fresh from the success of series two of 'Blue Lights', Declan is encouraging as many past pupils from St Louis to attend as possible, "The Centenary Gala Ball is a chance for all involved with St Louis to connect, share memories and have fun, I'm really looking forward to catching up with old pals, teachers and staff from the Hill of Kintullagh".

The Gala Ball will be raising funds for a key project at St Louis as we look forward to the next 100 years. The demand for Science provision has grown exponentially over the last decade in the school and all proceeds from the Ball will go towards the refurbishment of two classrooms into new, modern, science rooms to help meet this need and to benefit all pupils.

We would encourage parents, past pupils and friends to put a table of 10 together and use the evening as your very own class reunion. You will be able to reminisce over old photos during the dinner and there may even be the opportunity to get your picture taken on the blue seat!

If you aren't in touch with old friends just let us know what year you left St Louis and we will, where possible, seat you beside classmates from your year. The hairstyles may have changed but the memories will still be there!

To book your tickets please visit
www.friendsofstlouisballymena.com





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100  **YEAR**
ANNIVERSARY

gala

9TH

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UPCOMING DATES

AS/A2 Results issued Thursday 15th August

GCSE Results issued Thursday 22nd August

Year 8 and Year 13 only return Monday 2nd September

Year 12 and Year 14 only return Tuesday 3rd September

Year 9, Year 10, Year 11 only return Wednesday 4th September

Whole School return Thursday 5th September

Excellence, Endeavour & Empowerment



1924-2024



Summer Edition | 2024

The Newsletter of St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena



1924-2024