

The Kintullagh Voice

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The Newsletter of St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena



N.I. Top Grammar School



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Farewell to the Class of 2025

This June, we bid a heartfelt farewell to the Class of 2025 – a year group of 160 students who have left a lasting impression on the St. Louis community. Over the past seven years, they have grown into confident, compassionate young adults, ready to embrace the opportunities and challenges ahead.

In September 2023, we welcomed 23 new students into Lower Sixth, each bringing fresh ideas and enthusiasm to the group. Their contributions- whether in the classroom, through support for peers, or in extra-curricular involvement- have helped shape a year group known for its strong sense of community and support for one another.

Our Head Girl and Head Boy, Erin and Paddy, alongside Deputy Head Prefects and the full team of prefects, have provided outstanding leadership, embodying the values of our school in all they have achieved. We thank them for their dedication and example.

We extend sincere gratitude to our parents and guardians, Sixth Form team, and non-teaching staff whose care and support have guided these students throughout their journey. Special thanks also go to the form teachers and pastoral staff who have supported Year 14 with compassion and commitment.

This year group leaves behind many cherished memories – from ski trips and London adventures to Gaeltacht visits and formal celebrations – as well as a strong legacy for younger students to follow.

As they move on to new paths, we are confident that the Class of 2025 will continue to grow, persevere, and make a difference. They will always remain a part of our St. Louis family, united in the spirit of *Ut Sint Unum – That We May Be One*.



J. Doherty



@SLGBallymena



www.stlouisgrammar.com



We May Be One

*You came as strangers, found your way,
Through laughter, storms, and brighter days.
A hundred and sixty paths crossed and spun,
Still in this heart—you will be one.*

*In crowded halls, in quiet grace,
You grew beyond this time and place.
Though now you part, the threads still run,
Through every soul—you will be one.*

*So chase the stars, go find your sky,
Let no fear ever pass you by.
But when you pause, when day is done,
Remember this—you will be one.*





Olympiad in Kosovo

Representing Ireland at the European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad in Kosovo

By Siobhán McGale

Representing Ireland at the European Girls' Mathematical Olympiad in Kosovo was an unforgettable experience.

Alongside three other talented girls from across Ireland, I had the opportunity to compete against some of the best young mathematicians from around the world. Our team was very successful — I was proud to win a bronze medal, and the rest of my team received honourable mentions. This was a historic moment for Ireland, as it was the first time everyone on our team won an award, making us the second most successful Irish team ever and marking Ireland's first medal in five years.

In preparation, I attended intensive training camps at UCD in Dublin and UCC in Cork. They were very challenging, but we had a lot of fun in the evenings and learned a great deal from the sessions. These camps really helped me improve my problem-solving skills and build confidence ahead of the competition.

The competition itself was extremely difficult, involving two challenging exams, each lasting four and a half hours, with three questions of increasing difficulty. It tested our problem-solving skills and perseverance, but the experience went far beyond the exams. During our trip, I made friends from all over the world — including some from as far away as Australia. I also got to reconnect with old friends I'd met at previous events, which was really lovely.

We also spent time with other teams — we toured the city with the Finnish team, which was a great way to see some of Kosovo's beautiful sights. After the exams, we enjoyed a buffet lunch, mocktails, and played cards with the Albanian team. We even took part in a workshop at Jane Street, which was incredibly interesting and gave us a fascinating glimpse into the world of finance and trading.

Aside from the competition, we explored some amazing places. A particular highlight was visiting **Prizren Fortress**, a site inhabited since the Bronze Age, offering a glimpse into Kosovo's rich history. We also had a fun day at **Prishtina Mall**, the largest shopping centre in Southeast Europe, where we tackled an escape room challenge.

Overall, this trip was one of the most incredible experiences I've ever had. It was not only a chance to compete in a subject I love but also a wonderful adventure, filled with new friendships and unforgettable memories.





Junior Prize Day

On Tuesday 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 Miss Ireland Finalist and past pupil Daniella Timperley. We would like to extend a huge thanks to Daniella 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.



100% Attendance



Academic Achievement



Academic Achievement



Academic Achievement



Accelerated Reader



Accelerated Reader



Bronze Junior Maths Challenge





Bronze Junior Maths Challenge

Endeavour Award



Endeavour Award



Exemplary Behaviour Award



Exemplary Behaviour Award

Extracurricular Achievement
Orchestra



Extracurricular Achievement
Art Club

Extracurricular Achievement
Choir

Extracurricular Achievement
Maths Challenge

Extracurricular Achievement
Camogie





Extracurricular Achievement
Camogie



Extracurricular Achievement
Traditional Group



Kindness and Co-Operation Award



Kindness and Co-Operation Award



Silver Junior Maths Award



SLG Core Value Faith



SLG Core Value Kindness



SLG Core Value Learning



SLG Core Value Community



SLG Core Value Respect



Special Achievement
Warhammer Club



Sporting Achievement



Word Millionaires



Word Multi-Millionaires



Year 8 Sports Day
Award



100% Attendance Awards

Academic Achievement



Accelerated Reader



Accelerated Reader

Bronze Junior Maths Challenge

Endeavour Award



Endeavour Award

Exemplary Behaviour Award

Extracurricular Award Camogie



Extracurricular Award Choir

Gold Level Reward Point Winners

Gold Level Reward Winners

Kindness and Co-Operation Award





Kindness and Co-Operation Award

Silver Junior Maths Challenge Award



SLG Core Value Community

SLG Core Value Kindness

SLG Core Value Learning

UK Maths Challenge



Attendance Award

Academic Achievement Award

Bronze Intermediate Maths Challenge



Exemplary Behaviour Award



Exemplary Behaviour Award

Extracurricular Award Art

Extracurricular Award Eco-Council

Extracurricular Award Football



Extracurricular Award
Orchestra



Extracurricular Award
Warhammer



Extracurricular Award
Orchestra



Extracurricular Award
Warhammer



Kindness and Co-Operation Award



Kindness and
Co-Operation Award



McKelvey Cup



Sporting Achievement Award



Top Achiever Award



Top Reader Awards



Top Reader Awards

Congratulations to all our prize winners!



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Jack & Fiontan Honoured at Ulster Schools GAA Hurling All-Star Awards

We were thrilled to celebrate the success of two of our Sixth Form students, Fiontan and Jack, who were recently honoured at the 2025 Danske Bank UK Ulster Schools GAA Hurling All-Star Awards, held at the Crowne Plaza in Belfast.

Fiontan, a Year 13 student and proud member of Ruairí Óg CLG, received his first All-Star award, marking a fantastic achievement in his hurling journey so far. His dedication, skill, and sportsmanship have stood out on the field this year, earning him this prestigious recognition.

Jack, from Dunloy Cuchullains, joined the St. Louis community at the start of Year 13. He now finishes his time at the school on a high note, having been awarded an All-Star for the half-back line – a fitting end to a strong season and a testament to his hard work and consistency.

We are incredibly proud of both students for their achievements and for the way they have represented St. Louis and their clubs with pride and excellence. Congratulations, Fiontan and Jack!





Eimhear Shines at McKeever Sports Future Stars Awards

At the fifth McKeever Sports Queen's University Future Stars Gala, held in April at the Whitla Hall, Antrim's emerging athletes made a lasting impression — and none more so than Eimhear McCloskey, a talented camogie player from Tír na nÓg.

Eimhear was proudly recognised on the evening for her outstanding contributions to camogie at St Louis, where her skill, commitment, and sportsmanship have stood out throughout the season. Her dedication to the sport and consistent performances have made her a vital part of the school's camogie success.

The event was a celebration of young talent across the province, particularly in hurling and camogie, and Eimhear's award reflects not only her personal achievements but also the strength of our school's sporting culture.

Her recognition at the Queen's University Future Stars Awards highlights the bright future that lies ahead for her and others like her. We are incredibly proud of Eimhear and congratulate her on this well-deserved honour.



Danske Bank Girls' School Rugby Player of the Year

We are so proud that Mary Rose McDonnell has been awarded the prestigious Danske Bank Girls' School Rugby Player of the Year.

This honour comes after a remarkable year with our Ladies' 7s Rugby Team, where Mary Rose's talent, determination, and rapid progress on the pitch made a lasting impression. What makes this achievement all the more inspiring is that Mary Rose only took up rugby in September.

In addition to her school success, Mary Rose plays her club rugby with Ballymena, where she has taken up the position of winger—a role she has embraced with enthusiasm and skill, making a great impact for her team.

Mary Rose's achievements have also been recognised at the provincial level, as she has been selected to join the Ulster U19 squad, alongside fellow school players Brianna and Kate. This is a fantastic accomplishment and an exciting next step in her rugby journey.

We are incredibly proud of Mary Rose and look forward to seeing what the future holds for her in rugby. Congratulations on this well-deserved recognition.





Literacy Day 2025

Literacy Fun Days Spark Creativity and Critical Thinking for Years 8 and 9!

At the beginning of June, our school hosted its annual Literacy Fun Days, designed to ignite imagination and strengthen key literacy skills among Year 8 and Year 9 students. These themed days blended fun, creativity and challenge, offering students an opportunity to explore language in dynamic and interactive ways through reading, writing, speaking and listening activities.

Year 8 students embarked on a thrilling Island Adventure, where they stretched their vocabulary muscles through a lively game of Desert Island Bingo. This was just the beginning of their journey, as students then unleashed their creativity by designing their own islands and crafting rich backstories. From candy-coated paradises to SpongeBob-inspired underwater realms and luxurious tropical getaways, the islands showcased impressive imagination and descriptive prowess. Students then put their writing and speaking skills to the test with a dramatic reading of a message in a bottle, writing heartfelt letters to their families from their fictional islands. The day concluded with a high-energy SPaG quiz, where students raced to build a raft and escape their island, reinforcing essential literacy skills in a competitive format.

Later in the week, Year 9 students stepped into the shoes of detectives for a gripping murder mystery set at the enigmatic Muchley Manor. The day began with Forensic Investigation Bingo, sharpening students' attention to detail and vocabulary. They then tackled a series of literacy-based challenges, decoding clues and solving puzzles to uncover the truth behind the manor's dark secret. The climax of the day saw students role-play the detective's final accusation, presenting their case with persuasive language and dramatic flair. This immersive experience not only honed their analytical and problem-solving skills but also encouraged confident speaking and structured writing.

Both Literacy Fun Days were a great success, offering students a memorable blend of entertainment and education. Through storytelling, role-play and collaborative challenges, students deepened their literacy skills in ways that were both meaningful and enjoyable. We look forward to next year's adventures!

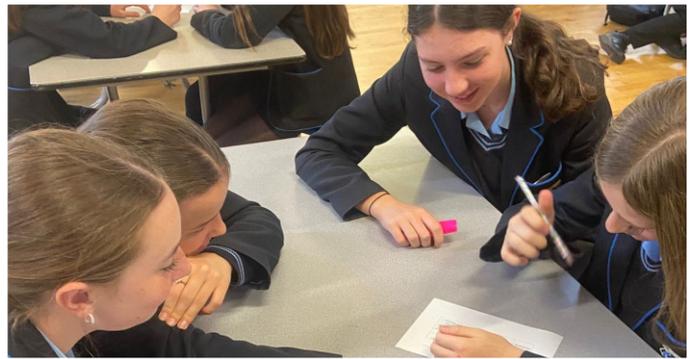
"In June, we had our literacy day. It lasted three periods, yet I didn't feel at any point that it was too long, nor did I feel bored at all. We started the day off with bingo using vocabulary words. Although I found that I didn't know some of the words, my team and I worked together and brainstormed what we thought they meant. It was a good use of teamwork and was enjoyable.

Then we moved on to the murder mystery. This was my favourite task as I enjoy cracking codes and using certain clues to figure out the answer.

Lastly, we had to write a monologue where we summarised our findings and explained who we thought did it and why. I love writing things like this, and although I didn't get it finished, I still enjoyed writing it.

It was a great day with my friends, doing some of my favourite tasks, and I hope I get to do it again next year."

Sophia Maguire, 9 Lyndon





Numeracy Days 2025

St Louis Grammar Celebrates Numeracy Days with Puzzles, Prizes and Plenty of Fun

Earlier this June, St Louis Grammar School hosted two exciting Numeracy Days for Year 8 and Year 9 pupils, designed and led by Miss Warnock. Held on 3 and 5 June respectively, the events promoted mathematical thinking, teamwork and problem-solving in a fun, engaging way.

Year 8 Numeracy Day – 3 June 2025

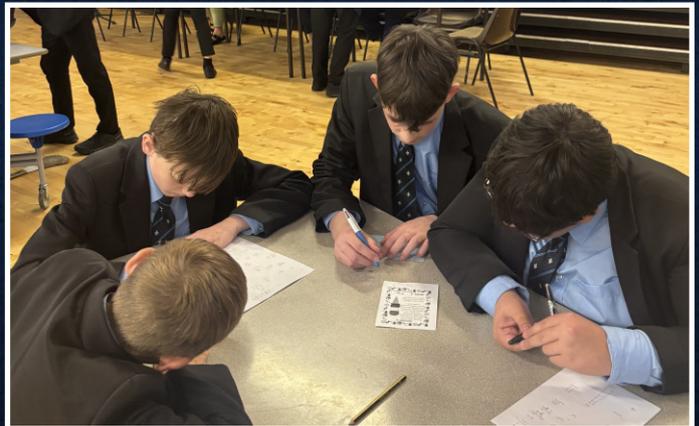
Year 8 began with a thrilling **Murder Mystery Challenge**, working in teams to solve five mathematical clues and crack the case. Next came the high-energy **Task Mathster** — a creative spin on Channel 4's Taskmaster. Pupils tackled a series of quirky, fast-paced challenges, from calculating Miss Warnock's age in minutes to folding the perfect paper plane and reciting the quadratic formula by heart. Creativity, accuracy and quick thinking were all put to the test, and prizes went to the highest-scoring and most imaginative teams.

Year 9 Numeracy Day – 5 June 2025

Year 9 pupils faced a trio of team-based challenges. The day opened with **Code-Breaking**, introducing the

pivotal role of mathematicians in cracking the Enigma cipher during the Second World War, before pupils attempted their own codes. Next came an immersive **Escape Room**, where teams solved mathematical problems to unlock five 'room keys' and escape St Louis Grammar. The finale was a fast-paced **Relay Round**, with pupils racing the clock to solve problems. Competitive spirit and collaboration shone through, with prizes for the top teams in each round.

Both days were a resounding success. Pupils were fully engaged from start to finish, reinforcing key numeracy skills while fostering teamwork, resilience and a genuine love of learning. We are already looking forward to next year!





Student Voice: My Favourite Part of Numeracy Day *By Aisling Blaney, Year 8*

The Year 8 Numeracy Day took place on Tuesday 3 June during periods 1–3. It was a brilliant way to spend the morning and everyone was excited to take part. Working in teams with our friends, we tackled two activities: a Murder Mystery and a game of Task Mathster.

The Murder Mystery made us think logically and work together, but my favourite part was definitely the estimating challenge in Task Mathster. Using our numeracy skills to estimate measurements — and then seeing how accurate we were — made maths feel practical and fun. If your group won a challenge, you even received a prize, which added to the excitement!

Overall, I loved the whole day. It was a fun, different way to learn and showed how maths can be used creatively and unexpectedly. I can't wait to see what challenges they dream up next year!

Student Voice: Cracking Codes and Winning Prizes on Year 9 Numeracy Day *By Aoife Kelly, Year 9*

I'm Aoife Kelly, and on Thursday 5 June St Louis Grammar held its Year 9 Numeracy Day during the last three periods. We worked in groups of four; my team — Niamh, Lucia and Rachel — threw ourselves into cracking codes and solving challenges.

The day was packed with activities such as escape rooms, brain-joggers and even some funny maths jokes. My highlight was the Escape Room: solving a series of maths problems to unlock each 'room' and move on. Even better, my team escaped first and won a tasty treat!

Prizes were handed out all day, making everything even more exciting. Numeracy Day was fantastic fun and a great way to use our maths skills outside the classroom.



We champion the rights of children and young people across Northern Ireland.

YOUR
EVERY CHILD, EVERY RIGHT, EVERY TIME,

DO YOU
YOUR
All children and young people
Adults
You must have
Your views matter
EVERY CHILD, EVERY RIGHT, EVERY TIME



Student Council Attend 'For Every Child...Every Right' Event

Members of our Student Council were delighted to attend the 'For Every Child...Every Right' event held recently at Ballymena Library. The event was led by Mr Chris Quinn, the Northern Ireland Commissioner for Children and Young People, and focused on raising awareness of children's rights.

Mr Quinn shared valuable insights into his role and the work of his office in championing the rights and wellbeing of young people across Northern Ireland.

He also facilitated an engaging and thought-provoking discussion with students on a range of topical issues affecting young people today.

The event provided a fantastic opportunity for our pupils to have their voices heard and to learn more about how their rights are protected and promoted. It was an inspiring day that highlighted the importance of youth advocacy and active participation in shaping a better future for all.



Gaelfast All-Stars Honoured at St Mary's University

It was a pleasure to celebrate the achievements of our Year 8, 9, and 10 pupils who were recognised yesterday at St Mary's University College as recipients of the Gaelfast All-Star Awards.

This prestigious event recognised the exceptional commitment, talent, and performance of young athletes across a range of Gaelic sports. It was a proud occasion for both the students and the school, highlighting the strength and depth of sporting talent within St Louis.

St Louis Gaelfast All-Star Award Winners 2024

Year 8 Hurling

- Cayden McGuckian
- Tomás Matthews

Year 8 Football

- PJ Marron
- Lir Hamill
- Conan McKeever
- Ronan Laverty
- Oisín Anyalechi
- Nicholas McCrory

Year 9 Camogie

- Eireann Johnston
- Aoife Kelly
- Molly Watson

Year 9 Ladies' Football

- Grace O'Boyle

Year 10 Hurling

- Harry McKay
- Dylan McMullan
- Cody McGarry
- Joe Casey

Year 10 Football

- Patrick O'Boyle

We extend our congratulations to each of our award winners. Their achievements are a testament to their hard work, dedication and efforts throughout the year for St Louis.

We look forward to seeing what the future holds for these talented young athletes.



Raising Funds for the Brain Tumour Charity

Big Breakfast Success

A big thank you to the HE Department and the U6-5 class for organising a Big Breakfast in support of The Brain Tumour Charity. The event attracted staff and pupils and raised an impressive total of £453.53. This fundraiser was especially meaningful as it was held in support of their classmate, Caolan McFerran, demonstrating solidarity and care within the school community.

Half Marathon

Continuing their fundraising efforts, Mr Gillan and Caolan took on a challenging half marathon along the stunning coastal route from Ballintoy to Portballintrae at the start of June. The run was made even more special by the company of Caolan's friends and family, who supported and cheered them on throughout. Their dedication to the cause is inspiring, and anyone wishing to support their challenge can find details on how to contribute via our social media accounts. Every donation helps make a difference in the fight against brain tumours.





Success at the 2025 Co. Antrim Fleadh – *Onwards to the Ulster Fleadh*

A massive congratulations to everyone who competed in the 2025 Co. Antrim Fleadh in Ballycastle recently, and a special well done to the St Louis Grammar School boys and girls who have qualified for the Ulster Fleadh in Warrenpoint this July.

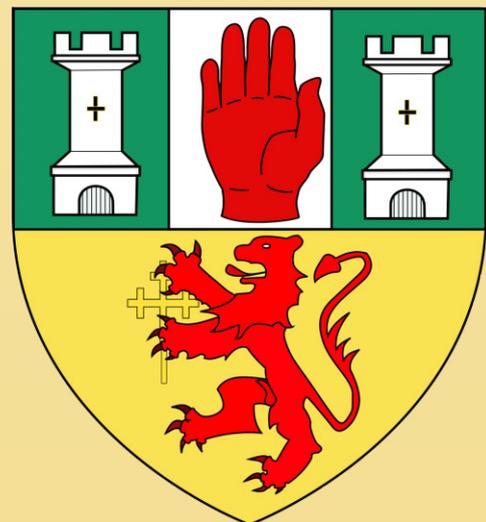
We are extremely proud of all our talented musicians and singers who represented the school so well:

- **Conor McDonnell** – 1st place, Under 12 Men's Singing (English) and awarded Most Promising Singer Under 18 Overall
- **Aoife Kelly** – 1st place, 12–15 Ladies' Singing (English)
- **Caoimhe Kelly** – 2nd place, 15–18 Ladies' Singing (English)
- **Faolán McTague** – 1st place, 12–15 Miscellaneous and Accompaniment
- **Erín Scullion** – 2nd place, 12–15 Singing (English)
- **Éibhleann Ardíff** – 1st place in: 15–18 Fiddle, Fiddle Slow Airs, Singing (English)
- **Carla O'Brien** – 2nd place, 12–15 Concertina
- **Ursula O'Loan** – 2nd place, 15–18 Fiddle
- **Erin McCloskey** – 1st place, 15–18 Tin Whistle and Tin Whistle Slow Airs
- **Erin McAleese, Mikey O'Brien, and Éibhleann Ardíff** – members of the winning 15–18 Crosskeys Grúpaí Cheoil

Special Congratulations to Our Past Pupils:

- **Tony O'Brien** – 1st place, Over 18 Fiddle and Over 18 Accompaniment
- **Pádraig Mac Amhlaóibh** – 1st place, Over 18 Flute, Flute Slow Airs, Whistle, and Tin Whistle Slow Airs

We wish all of our competitors the very best of luck as they prepare for the Ulster Fleadh in Warrenpoint this July.



Well done, everyone!





St Louis Golf Classic

St Louis was proud to host our first Golf Classic at the wonderful Galgorm Castle Golf Club on Tuesday 22nd April. Postponed from last August due to weather conditions, this was the last of our Centenary events to take place and we couldn't have asked for a better day.

On a warm sunny day, we were joined by over 100 participants, parents, staff and supporters taking part in a Texas Scramble format competition. We were pleased to welcome Tyrone GAA star, Niall Morgan and Antrim GAA Hurling Manager, Davy Fitzgerald, who led us out in the morning. We were also joined by players from Antrim GAA, Derry GAA and Tyrone GAA all showing off their golfing skills!

Thank you to everyone who took part and congratulations to all the winners:

1st - Niall Morgan & guests

2nd - Patrick O'Boyle & guests

Gross – Dallat Group

Longest Drive – Patrick Dallat and Peter McReynolds

Nearest the Pin (sponsored by Hill Vellacott) – Dominic McKay and Rory Gallagher

Thank you to all our sponsors for their support, including our main sponsors Clarke, Hill Vellacott, Ballymena Causeway Credit Union and McBride Contracts.

Well done to Mr Gillan for organising such a brilliant event and all the staff and pupils who helped make the day run so smoothly.







Caitlin Named Runner-Up in Diocesan Novena Cover Competition

Caitlin Ong has been recognised as a runner-up in the diocesan competition to design the front cover of the annual Novena to the Sacred Heart booklet.

At a presentation in St Joseph's College, prizes were presented by **Bishop Alan McGuckian**. The final judging was carried out by internationally recognised artist **Farhad O'Neill**, who also addressed the audience.

Caitlin's design appeared in the Novena booklet that was used during church celebrations of the Sacred Heart in June – especially fitting as June was traditionally dedicated to the Sacred Heart.

The school congratulates Caitlin on this achievement and thanks St Joseph's College, the diocese, and the competition organisers for the opportunity.



Community of Lifesavers

In June, Year 10 participated in the **Community of Lifesavers Programme** learning about how to respond to different medical emergencies people may encounter. The programme focused on teaching the key practical skills of the recovery position, CPR and the use of an AED.

Pupils had the opportunity to practice their skills on mannequins and were awarded their Lifesaving Certificates upon completion of the programme.





Chess Club Tournament Champions Crowned!

We're pleased to announce the winners of this year's Chess Club Tournament. After a season of competitive play and strong teamwork, our top players this term are:

- 🥇 1st Place – Paul McAuley
- 🥈 2nd Place – Cavan Thomson
- 🥉 3rd Place – Cristiano De Niro

Congratulations to all our winners, and to every student who took part throughout the year. Your enthusiasm and dedication have made the club a vibrant and competitive space for all.

A very special thank you goes to our incredible Chess Club Facilitator, Lorcan McQuitty, for his outstanding leadership and commitment. His passion for the game and support for our students have made this year's club and tournament a great success.

We look forward to seeing even more brilliant moves next year!



Gaelbhratach June 2025

St. Louis Grammar School Secures Gaelbhratach Award for Second Consecutive Year.

Celebrating a vibrant culture of Irish language and community spirit.

St. Louis Grammar School has once again proven itself a beacon of Irish language promotion, proudly receiving the prestigious 'Gaelbhratach' award for the second year in a row. This accolade, awarded to schools that demonstrate exceptional commitment to the Irish language, reflects a year of dynamic, pupil-led initiatives that have brought Gaeilge to life across the school community.

Throughout the academic year, students took the lead in organising a wide range of activities designed to celebrate and normalise the use of Irish in everyday school life. Highlights included a vibrant programme of events during 'Gaeilge 24' and 'Seachtain na Gaeilge', featuring music, quizzes, céilís, and games through Irish. Pupils also took part in conversation circles that brought the language to life in fun and engaging ways. The enthusiasm of the pupils has been both infectious and impactful.

"Our students have shown incredible leadership and creativity," said Miss O'Brien. *"Their passion for Gaeilge has created a ripple effect, inspiring their peers and even staff to embrace the language more fully."*

This dedication is also reflected in academic choices, with a growing number of pupils opting to study Irish at GCSE and post-16 level, a testament to the growing appreciation of the language's cultural and academic value.



Looking ahead to the summer, a record number of students are also preparing to attend Gaeltacht courses in Machaire Rabhartaigh and Bun an Inbhir, where they will immerse themselves in Irish-speaking communities and deepen their linguistic skills.

Mrs Campbell would like to extend her heartfelt thanks to the local parishes and GAA clubs, whose generous fundraising efforts have helped make these opportunities accessible to more students. *"The support from our wider community has been phenomenal. It highlights that the Irish language is more than just a subject in school—it's a vibrant, shared tradition that connects us all."*

As St. Louis Grammar School celebrates this well-earned recognition, it continues to set a shining example of how schools can foster a love for language, culture, and community.





Athletics Success

It's been a fantastic time for our student athletes, with outstanding performances across several major athletics events.

At the Ulster Athletics Championships, Aisling Smith delivered a remarkable run in the Senior Girls 1500m, securing 3rd place and, more importantly, qualifying for the All-Ireland Championships in Tullamore on 31st May. We wish her the very best as she prepares to compete at national level, well done, Aisling!

In the Inter Boys 3000m, Emmet Smith impressed with a determined race, finishing 8th and achieving a new personal best of 9:38. A fantastic achievement that reflects his dedication and training.

Meanwhile, at the NEBSSA Finals held at the Antrim Forum, we had more reason to celebrate. Both Lughan and Ewan earned 3rd place finishes in their respective events:

- Lughan Hardy – 3rd in the Under 15 Boys 800m
- Ewan McLoughney – 3rd in the Under 16 Boys 800m

These results marked a hugely successful week for our athletics team. We are incredibly proud of all the pupils who represented the school.





SLG Alumni *Daniella Timperley – Class of 2019*

Daniella left St Louis in 2019 and, after completing a degree in Broadcast Production at Queen's, is now working as a freelance Assistant Director in Film and Television.

Daniella described how her career has progressed since she left,

"I have worked on productions such as Universal Pictures 'How To Train Your Dragon', Paramount Pictures 'Dungeons and Dragons', BBC's 'World on Fire' Season 2 and A24's 'The Death of Robin Hood'.

I have also worked as a Production Assistant on reality series such as 'Come Dine With Me', 'The Voice UK' and 'Antiques Roadshow' as well as live events such as the BAFTA Film Awards".

Our Vice Principal, Mrs McGreevy, was particularly delighted to see her again and said that Daniella was always an inspiration at St Louis. Daniella was one of two young people from Ireland recognised with the Pramerica Spirit of Community Youth Volunteer Award in 2018 and went on to represent Ireland at an international event in Washington D.C.

Daniella told us that she has carried on this work,

"While at St Louis I advocated for women and children who were affected by domestic abuse on the BBC Children in Need Youth Panel from 2015 to 2019. After leaving school I went on to join the BBC Children in Need Northern Ireland Advisory Committee in 2020 until my time came to an end last year in 2024".

Daniella is also a Trustee and volunteer at White Ribbon NI, a charity dedicated to challenging the attitudes and beliefs that lead to male violence against women,

"I love travelling around the country and visiting organisations, sports teams and schools that are committed to helping us achieve our mission. We deliver our Listen, Learn, Lead workshops to young people from the age of 14 and have



challenging conversations with them about the attitudes and beliefs that lead to violence against women and girls.

I recently founded the White Ribbon NI Junior Board. I feel so passionate about guiding the next generation of young leaders. I started on a youth board at the age of 14 and know the benefits it can have. Our youngest member is 13 years old, and I really enjoy holding our meetings every month in the office and seeing their dedication, initiative, and drive.

We're committed to having young voices feed into our organisation and involving young people in changing harmful attitudes and to encourage respectful behaviours towards women".

Daniella has also been selected to represent County Antrim at this year's Miss Ireland Competition where she will be highlighting her work to end violence against women and girls as part of the competition's 'Beauty with a Purpose' initiative.

Good luck Daniella from all at St Louis!





French Club

Pupils in Year 9 have been attending French Club on Wednesday afternoons throughout the school year. They have had the opportunity to extend their language skills in a fun, creative way outside the classroom and have been exploring French culture, learning a few new skills along the way. We look forward to seeing what new and exciting opportunities next year brings!

"We have had a great time learning about French culture and immersing ourselves in the French language with our friends. With each festival throughout the year, we learnt all about French customs and celebrations (for example, Christmas, Mardi Gras, Lent, Easter) and used our creative skills to make displays, decorations, or different crafts.

Without a doubt, one of the highlights was having the opportunity to make and taste crêpes, following a recipe entirely in French and under the supervision of our very own experienced crêpe maker, Mr Quinn! C'était vraiment délicieux!

We particularly loved hearing about the tradition of Le Poisson d'Avril for April Fools' Day and the story behind it – pranking people by attaching a paper fish to their backs without them noticing!

We also thoroughly enjoyed learning how to play the traditional French game of bowls (boules) pétanque from the South of France, and playing other games in French, such as Guess Who, Twister, Dobble, etc. They certainly brought out our competitive side!"

(Regan & Emma – 9LD)





Hearts Set on Mission: Looking Ahead to Ghana

In June, a group of 14 students and 5 staff from St Louis Grammar School, Ballymena, will travel to Ghana for a mission immersion experience that promises to shape hearts and minds in profound ways. The visit will centre around the St Louis Sisters' vibrant community in Oku – a place that radiates the joy, hospitality, and dedication characteristic of St Louis missions across the globe.

This journey has not happened by chance. It has been the fruit of months of careful planning, fundraising, prayer, and generous support – both financial and spiritual – from our local parishes, families, and the wider Ballymena and North Antrim communities. We are deeply grateful. Every donation, every word of encouragement, every prayer offered has made this possible. The group of students travelling to Ghana has shown great commitment – dedicating themselves wholeheartedly to attending training, fundraising, organising events, raising awareness, and sharing the spirit of the mission with their local communities. I am immensely proud of the way they have prepared for this journey.

I would also like to thank their parents. I do not take lightly the trust they have placed in us to lead this trip and to care for their children for over two weeks. It is a profound responsibility and an honour. I am equally grateful to the staff members who have helped me prepare for this experience – all of whom are putting their own lives on hold and leaving their families behind to ensure our pupils can have this transformative opportunity. Their generosity of spirit and commitment to our school community is humbling.

At its heart, this trip is not just about travel. It is about mission – a word that runs deep through the life of the Church and our school community. Mission is about encounter, accompaniment, and the willingness to serve others, particularly those at the margins. It is a way of life that asks us to step beyond our own comfort zones and live out the Gospel through action.

Mission is at the heart of what we do at St Louis Grammar School – and it is also at the heart of our faith. The great missionary journeys of St Paul remind us that we are all called to go out, to serve, and to be Christ's hands and feet in the world. Like St Paul, our students will travel not simply to do, but to encounter – to meet others, to build relationships, and to witness the presence of God in unfamiliar places.

Our pupils and staff will be working closely with the school and clinic run by the St Louis Sisters in Oku. They'll assist in painting classrooms, planting crops, engaging with children through workshops on development education, and contributing to a small building project. But above all, they'll learn. They'll listen. And they'll return changed.

As a teacher and missionary, I've had the privilege of working in Brazil, Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Ghana, and Zambia. Each experience has confirmed something simple but powerful: that the people we think we are going to help often end up



Support Our Mission!

If you would like to help support the work of our pupils and the St Louis Sisters in Ghana, please scan the QR code or visit our JustGiving page (SLG BALLYMENA). Your donation – no matter the size – will go directly to the projects in Oku, helping us paint classrooms, plant crops, support education, and assist the local clinic.

Thank you for being part of our mission.

teaching us far more. They show us resilience, dignity, joy, and a deep sense of community – values that transcend borders and challenge how we live our own lives back home.

The mission of the St Louis Sisters in Ghana continues to thrive, decades after they first arrived. Their work in education, healthcare, and pastoral care brings real hope to communities who live with far less than we do materially, but whose faith and generosity are deeply enriching. Our pupils will walk alongside them this summer, sharing stories, work, laughter, and faith.

We are also inspired this year by the appointment of Pope Leo XIV, our new Holy Father, who himself served as a missionary in his earlier years. His deep understanding of the global Church and his call to walk with the poor and the forgotten remind us that mission is not a side-line of the Church – it is its very heart.

Mission reminds us of who we are and what we are called to be. It calls each one of us to look outwards – beyond our borders, beyond our assumptions – and to respond in love.

If you would like to help support the mission through a donation, please scan the QR code included in this edition of the Kintullagh Voice. All funds will go directly to supporting the projects we will be involved in while in Oku.

We look forward to sharing stories, photos, and pupil reflections in the next edition, once we return. For now, we ask for your continued prayers as we prepare to step into the footsteps of St Paul and countless missionaries before us – carrying light, hope, and love to where it is needed most.

Miss Pickering



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Learning and Teaching at St Louis: Highlights from 2024/25



This year at St Louis has been a rewarding one for Learning and Teaching, driven by a shared commitment to professional development, collaboration and new ideas.

We began the academic year in August 2024 by welcoming staff back with a vibrant and energising day of TEEP refresher training. TEEP has been firmly embedded in our school since our journey began in 2017, and this year we were keen to revisit and refresh our approach. It was a fantastic day of sharing best practice, collaborating across departments and trying out new strategies to bring into the classroom. We're proud to say that all new staff completed their TEEP Level 1 training by the end of the school year, ensuring a consistent, high-quality approach to teaching across the school.

In September, Mrs O'Neill was invited to one of our feeder primary schools, Millquarter Primary, where she led TEEP training for teaching staff and classroom assistants. It's lovely to know that some of our prospective pupils will already be familiar with the TEEP learning cycle before they even arrive at St Louis—helping to ease the transition and build continuity in learning.

During November, we hosted our first-ever TeachMeet, centred on exploring how AI can enhance Learning and Teaching. This informal, teacher-led event brought together colleagues from across departments to share practical tools and classroom experiences. Among the highlights were Mr McAleer's insights on using Quizizz for engaging formative assessment, Mr Bradley's demonstration of how TextBlaze can streamline workflows, Miss Barker's approach to creating immersive experiences using Humy AI and Mrs Morgan's tips on creating video content using InVideo. The event sparked real momentum and reflected our staff's enthusiasm for innovation and collaboration.

In January, we delivered assemblies on the TEEP cycle and effective learner behaviours to all Key Stages, helping pupils better understand how they learn and encouraging them to become more reflective and independent. That same month, our induction teachers took part in a 10-week 'Breakfast Bites' programme, meeting every Thursday morning with different members of staff who hold leadership and responsibility roles. These short, focused sessions gave our induction teachers valuable insights into the many facets of school life.



Also in January, staff engaged in a whole-school professional learning session on retrieval practice, our key learning focus for the year, and this session laid the foundation for further development. Mrs Stevenson delivered a presentation on how she used Retrieval Practice in an interactive way with her Year 8 History class.

In February, we hosted a follow-up TeachMeet where Mrs McDonald, Mrs Scott, Miss McNeill, Mrs McClintock and Mrs Morgan shared how they've embedded retrieval strategies into their teaching. A real highlight was hearing from sixth form students Emilie Arthur, Keira Young and Caoimhe Scullion who shared how retrieval practice supports their learning in class and at home. A Parents' Guide to Retrieval Practice was also distributed to Year 10 and Year 12 families and will be shared more widely next year—ensuring we continue to support our pupils together, in school and at home.

As Term 3 progressed and departments began planning and developing resources for the new academic year, refresher sessions were held on key aspects across the curriculum and wider school life. Staff voluntarily signed up to attend these optional sessions, reflecting a strong collective commitment to continuous improvement and peer learning. Additionally, regular updates from our Coordinators throughout the year have proven highly beneficial to our ongoing development and communication.

In May, St Louis was proud to host a TeachMeet specifically for Numeracy Coordinators, welcoming 21 Co-Ordinators from across a wide network of schools. The event was facilitated by Amanda O'Brien, our

EA link professional, and featured a talk from Danielle McKernan (Everway), who introduced an innovative app to improve accessibility and engagement in Numeracy. It was a valuable opportunity to exchange best practice, build connections and strengthen the trusted professional network across schools.

To round off the year, in June, staff were treated to an inspiring session on developing digital skills across the curriculum, led by Nicole O'Connor from Digi Know This and organised by Miss Scullion. The session offered practical strategies on how to empower pupils to become confident, responsible digital learners and supported our continued focus on preparing students for learning in a digital world.

Throughout the year, our staff have also engaged in a wide range of external professional learning opportunities through St Mary's University College, the Education Authority, LearnSpark and SSAT.

In addition, several teachers are pursuing Masters and Doctoral qualifications, reinforcing our culture of lifelong learning and evidence-based practice.

We're incredibly proud of the commitment, creativity and community spirit shown by both staff and students throughout the year. Their efforts truly embody our school mantra—Excellence, Endeavour and Empowerment—as well as one of our five core values: Learning.

We're grateful to the entire SLG community for their continued support and involvement and we look forward to building on this progress together in the year ahead.





St Louis 2025 Sports Days

The St. Louis Sports Days 2025 were once again a tremendous success, offering two action-packed days of athletics.

Year 8 opened proceedings on Tuesday, 10th June, with an energetic display of sportsmanship and commitment. Pupils took part in a variety of athletic challenges, from sprint races to long-distance events and field competitions. The students embraced each event with enthusiasm, showcasing both individual talent and class spirit throughout the day.

Year 9 followed on Wednesday, 11th June, bringing high energy and healthy competition to the track and field. Students gave their all, cheered each other on, and contributed to a lively, supportive atmosphere that captured the true essence of Sports Day.

Year 10 capped off events on the Wednesday with a strong showing of determination and teamwork. It was wonderful to see so many students challenging themselves, encouraging one another, and taking pride in their performances.

A special highlight across the two days was the welcome return of the ice cream van, which quickly became a favourite stop during breaks. Students gathered to enjoy a well-earned treat, creating a fun and social space to relax and celebrate their efforts.

The success of this year's Sports Days was down to the fantastic collaboration between staff, student volunteers, and organisers. Events ran smoothly, safety was prioritised, and a clear spirit of encouragement and inclusivity was felt throughout the school community.

We are incredibly proud of all our students for their determination, effort, and sportsmanship. We hope these memorable days will inspire continued participation in sport and physical activity both in and out of school.

Well done, everyone!





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BAFTA Success for St Louis Alumnus Declan Lawn

It was a privilege to congratulate St Louis alumnus Declan Lawn on the recent success of *Blue Lights*, which was awarded Best Drama at the BAFTA Awards!

Declan, co-creator of the critically acclaimed series, visited the school in October and we were delighted to welcome him back in June to speak with our Moving Image Arts students about his career in journalism and screenwriting. His insights into the creative process and the television industry were truly inspiring. Declan's knowledge was immensely

informative, encouraging our pupils and the next wave of film makers to consider a career in the ever-evolving industry. Declan's visit truly left a lasting impression on all who attended.

We're incredibly proud of Declan's achievements and hope to welcome him back with plenty more awards in the future.

Declan is pictured here with our students and staff as he brought his award to St Louis Grammar School for the day.





Congratulations Declan from all at St Louis!



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Mosaic Mural

Exciting news from our Creative Arts Department!

30 talented Year 10 pupils are working alongside visiting artist Anna O’Kane to create a stunning legacy mosaic mural, which will go on permanent display in our Creative Arts Building. The mural will celebrate the rich creativity across Art, MIA, Drama, and Music.

Anna, from the well-known O’Brien family (with past and present pupils including Mikey, Carla, and Charlie), has generously volunteered her time and expertise for the project. We’re also incredibly grateful to the O’Brien family for funding this special piece.

With guidance from Mrs McAuley, the mural is already starting to take shape. We can’t wait to see the finished result in the coming weeks. Keep an eye on our social media to see the final project.





Emily's Logo Leads the Way to Greenmount Tour

On Wednesday 18th June, Year 9 Home Economics students visited Greenmount College as part of a prize won by their class. The class had taken part in a logo design competition on Rural Food Sustainability, run by Mid and East Antrim Council, and the winning logo was designed by Emily Donnelly in 9 Layde.

As a reward, her Home Economics class was given the opportunity to tour the Greenmount campus, where they learned more about sustainable food practices and rural development. During the visit, the class were presented with a t-shirt featuring Emily's winning design- a proud moment for both Emily, her classmates and our school.

The visit was an excellent opportunity to celebrate creativity, sustainability, and the valuable links between education and local community initiatives.





World Champion Irish Dancers

We are incredibly proud of the outstanding achievements of our talented Irish dancers who recently competed at the World Championships!

World Champions

Rose McVeigh – U14 World Champion

Eimear Smith – U19 World Champion

Placements

Sarah Hasson – 2nd Place, U18 Girls

Elle Brown – 3rd Place, U18 Girls

Clíodhna Crawley – 4th Place, U17 Girls

Cody Loughran – 4th Place, U14 Girls

Katie Hasson – 11th Place, U13 Girls

Cayla Murray – 2nd Place, U14 Teams

Conor McDonnell – 4th Place, U13 Boys

Charlie O'Brien – 5th Place, U13 Boys

Niamh Smith – 17th Place, U13 Girls

A huge congratulations to all of our dancers for representing the school and their sport with such excellence.





Six-Time World Champion: A Reflection on the 2025 World Irish Dancing Championships

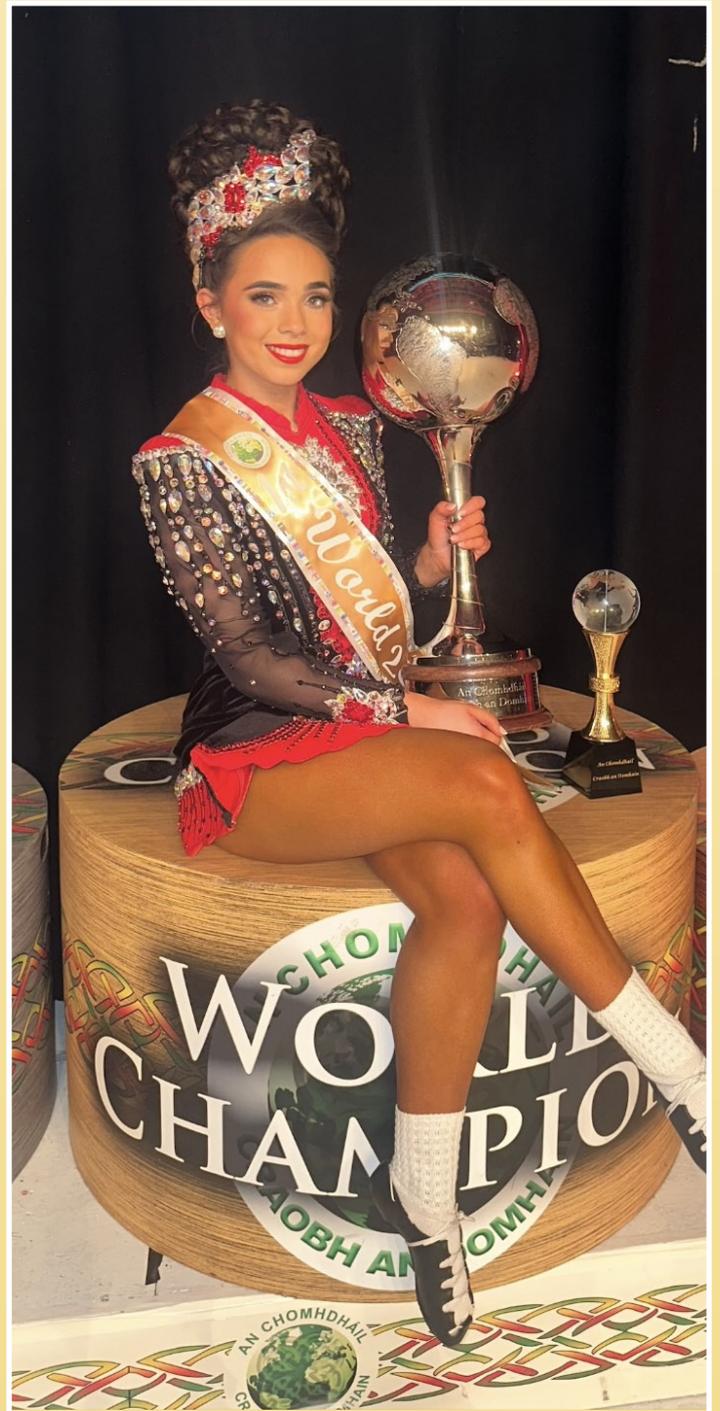
This Easter, I had the honour of competing at the World Irish Dancing Championships, held at the INEC in Killarney. I was absolutely delighted to come away with my sixth world title in the Under 19 Ladies category.

Preparing for the World Championships is no small feat - it takes months of dedication. In the lead-up to the competition, I was training almost every day, balancing the demands of both schoolwork and dance practice, and constantly striving to improve.

The standard at the Worlds is incredibly high, and each year the level of competition continues to rise. To win this sixth title truly means a great deal to me, and I'm deeply grateful to everyone who has supported me on this journey- especially my dance teacher, Clodagh Quinn, my family, and my friends.

I'm also incredibly thankful for all the opportunities Irish dancing has given me over the years. As I leave St Louis, I do so with dancing still at the heart of my life. I'm excited to see where it takes me next and look forward to the future with passion and determination.

Eimear Smith





Green Fingers in Action!

A big well done to Emily, Taisija, Isabella, and Emily, who have been hard at work weeding and tidying the Centenary Garden.

The team also planted tomatoes in our brand-new school greenhouse, made possible thanks to generous funding from a Live Here, Love Here grant. We'd like to extend our thanks to Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful for their continued support in helping us care for and enhance our school environment.





New Greenhouse Grows Opportunities for Learning and Sustainability

Our greenhouse is a fantastic new addition to our school grounds, made possible thanks to the generous support of **Live Here Love Here**.

The greenhouse will play a central role in our efforts to promote environmental awareness, hands-on learning, and sustainability across the school. Pupils will have the opportunity to grow fruit, vegetables, and flowers, gaining practical gardening skills while learning about plant life, healthy eating, and the importance of caring for our environment.

Whether it's part of a science lesson, an Eco Council project, or a lunchtime gardening club, the greenhouse will provide a dedicated space for students to get involved in growing and nurturing plants throughout the year.

This project has been made possible thanks to the funding and encouragement of **Live Here Love Here**, a community-focused organisation that supports environmental improvement and civic pride across Northern Ireland. We are incredibly grateful for their backing and belief in our school's vision.

The greenhouse marks another step forward in our commitment to environmental education and sustainability, and we can't wait to see what it helps us grow- both in the garden and in our young people.



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Uniform Exchange Shop Launching Soon

The Eco Council is delighted to announce the launch of our *Uniform Exchange Shop*, opening just before the end of term.

This new initiative aims to support both sustainability and our school community-offering an environmentally friendly way to reuse school uniforms while raising funds for a worthy cause.

We are asking families to donate **good quality, freshly washed** school uniform items that are no longer needed. These will be made available to other families at affordable prices, with all proceeds going to **The Brain Tumour Charity**, our chosen charity for the year.

Items We're Collecting:

- Blazers
- Shirts and PE kits
- Any other uniform pieces in good condition
- Trousers and skirts
- School shoes

Where and When:

Our first pop-up Uniform Exchange Shop will be held in the **Assembly Hall on 30th June from 11.30am – 1.30pm**, where families can browse and purchase items for a small suggested donation:

- Shirts – £1
- Trousers/Skirts – £2
- Blazers – £5



ECO COUNCIL CORNER



SUPPORTING A GOOD CAUSE!

All funds raised will go directly to support **The Brain Tumour Charity**, and the scheme is a fantastic way to reduce waste and make school uniform more affordable and accessible for all.

A Long-Term Initiative:

We intend for this to be an **ongoing initiative**, with a **permanent donation and collection point** available throughout the school year. Larger sales will also be held at key times, such as the end of term or the beginning of the new academic year.

Thank you for supporting this sustainable and charitable project.



Games Development Coordinator

BIG NEWS!



We're excited to announce a new partnership with Antrim GAA as we appoint a full-time Schools Games Development Coordinator for September 2025!

This role demonstrates the joint commitment between St Louis Grammar School and Antrim GAA to benefit and promote Gaelic Games within St Louis, through our local clubs and the wider Antrim community. The Games Development Coordinator will be responsible for the delivery of GAA games development policy and related programmes as contained in the county coaching and games development plan in St Louis and local clubs, as well as within the local geographic area. The role will also have a focus on establishing self-sufficient and sustainable clubs by building capacity and capability within the volunteer structure.

Our Principal, Jacqui O'Neill, welcomed the announcement:

"At St Louis we strive for excellence in all aspects of school life. This exciting new partnership with Antrim GAA is another sign that we are committed to building upon our tradition of success in Gaelic Games. With a Centre of Excellence for Sport and Wellness, a fully equipped gym, a floodlit 3G pitch and now a Games Development Coordinator, we are already excited and looking forward to 2025/26 at St Louis."

Our Director of Sport added:

"This new role will complement and enhance the existing provision within our school, including our strength and conditioning programmes, specialist coaching staff, and top-class sports facilities. It will provide a fantastic platform for our students to develop their skills, confidence, and passion for Gaelic Games. We look forward to working closely with Antrim GAA to help produce players of outstanding ability and character who will represent their school, club and county with pride."



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Lower Sixth Work Placement Success

This June, our Lower Sixth pupils embraced the world of work with enthusiasm and professionalism, making this year's work placement scheme one of the most successful to date. From local businesses to national institutions, students ventured far and wide to gain invaluable real-world experience across a diverse range of industries.

Many pupils chose to stay close to home, contributing their time and talents to local primary schools, where they supported teachers and engaged with young learners. Others explored the fast-paced world of retail, gaining insight into customer service and operations with major high street brands.

Engineering firms welcomed aspiring innovators, offering hands-on experience in design, manufacturing, and problem-solving. Meanwhile, those with an interest in the legal profession had the unique opportunity to shadow solicitors and barristers, with several even attending live court proceedings—an unforgettable glimpse into the justice system.

Politics also featured prominently this year, with several students securing placements with local representatives. A highlight for many was the chance to visit Stormont, where they observed the workings of government and policy making in action.

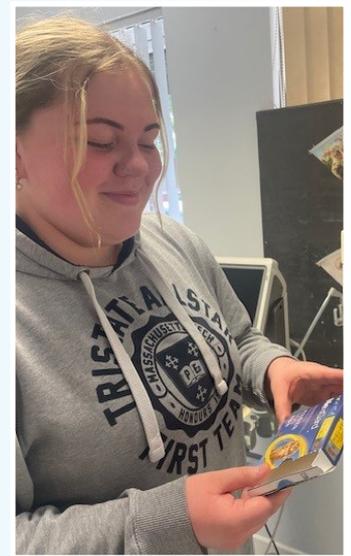
The healthcare sector proved especially popular, with placements in physiotherapy practices, hospitals, GP surgeries, and care homes. Pupils witnessed the dedication and compassion required in medical and support roles, gaining a deeper appreciation for the challenges and rewards of healthcare careers.

From architecture to accountancy, veterinary clinics to media and theatre companies, the breadth of placements this year was truly impressive. Each experience has helped our students develop confidence, communication skills, and a clearer sense of their future ambitions.

We are incredibly proud of all our pupils for their initiative and professionalism, and we extend our heartfelt thanks to the many employers, both local and further afield, who generously hosted and mentored them. Your support has made a lasting impact.



Aoife Conlan – Stormont



Aoife Johnston – The Mill Veterinary



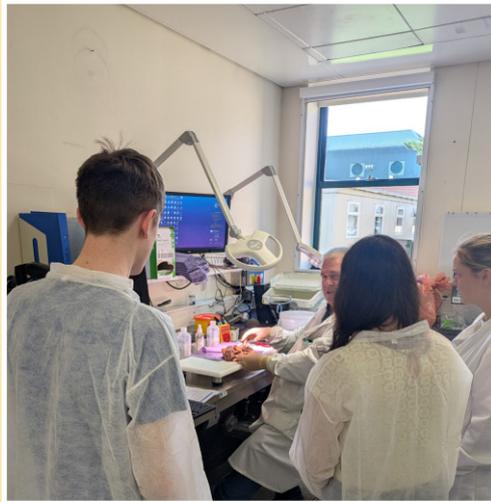
Charlie O'Neill – Stormont



Darragh Brennan – FP McCann



Erin Johnston – IKEA



Fearghal Higgins and Catriona Fyfe –
Haematology, Antrim Area Hospital



Grace Kelly – PWC



Jay McAlonan – Premier Electrics



Katie O'Boyle – Knocknagin PS



Oisín Murphy & Jack Patterson –
Amy Warwick Physio



Rory McLaughlin – Stormont



Shannon McNeilly – Mount St Michael's PS



Shay Lyness –
Mercedes Benz Truck and Van





Year 13 HYROX complete Gladiator SIM

What began as an enrichment opportunity in September turned into a journey of determination, perseverance, and achievement for our Year 13 HYROX squad.

From the start of the academic year to Christmas, the students trained hard to complete a half HYROX event in December. Not content with that achievement alone, they returned with renewed commitment after the Christmas break to take on a **full HYROX- this time alongside competitive athletes and members of Gladiator Gym** during a special HYROX SIM event hosted at the facility.

The day proved to be a great display of teamwork and athleticism, with our pupils competing in the men's and women's doubles, where they competed at a high level and delivered outstanding results:

Men's Doubles Results:

- 🥇 1st Place – Dylan McLarnon & Jude Storrie
- 🥈 2nd Place – James McVeigh & Matthew Watt
- 🥉 3rd Place – Sean O'Brien & Bobby Kennedy

Women's Doubles Results:

- 🥇 1st Place – Kate McGilligan & Sarah Hasson
- 🥈 2nd Place – Maria Higgins & Carragh Boyle

The event was not only a competitive success, but also an incredible learning experience. Working alongside seasoned coaches and athletes gave students a taste of top-class coaching and exposed them to the dynamic environment of a professional gym. Throughout the programme, they learned a wide range of **functional movements** that support long-term health and fitness.

This initiative has had a lasting impact, with many of the students going on to join Gladiator Gym independently to continue their training with the coaches.

Congratulations to all involved for their commitment throughout the block of 18 sessions and their achievements in the Hyrox Sim. The HYROX enrichment programme has truly been a great success.



St Louis pupils pictured with coach, Scott McGarry



Girls doubles pictured with Gladiator coach, Scott McGarry



Cahir and Ceallach
1 hour 23 minutes



Damian and Caolan
1 hour 27 minutes



Dylan and Jude
1 hour 8 minutes



Jack and Conan
1 hour 23 minutes



James and Matthew
1 hour 12 minutes



Kate and Sarah
1 hour 23 minutes



Maria and Carragh
1 hour 26 minutes



Sean and Bobby
1 hour 15 minutes



Congratulations to this year's Accelerated Reader Word Millionaires & Multi-Millionaires

Year 8 Word Millionaires

Erin Fawl – 8 Lisbreen , Elise Stevenson – 8 Laragh,
Darain Tugui – 8 Lir, Iosif Iwaisi – 8 Lurig,
Robert Burski – 8 Lyndon, Tom McDaid – 8 Lurig,
Isaac McNeill – 8 Layde, Liam Craig – 8 Laragh,
Faolan McTague – 8 Layde, Tilly O'Kane – 8 Lurig

Year 8 Word Multi-Millionaire

Erin McGregor – 8 Layde

Year 9 Word Millionaires

Erin Scullion – 9 Laragh, Caitlin Dougan – 9 Laragh,
John Rea – 9 Lisbreen

Year 9 Word Multi-Millionaire

Sophie Loughran – 9 Lisbreen



Erin Scullion, one of our Word Millionaires, has written a little bit about her experience of Accelerated Reader (AR) in Year 8 and 9.

I really enjoyed using AR in both Year 8 and 9. I love reading, but I also love statistics and figures! So AR lets me see how many words I've read, and sets personalised targets for me to reach. This encourages and motivates me to read even more. Reading so much and enjoying AR has opened up other opportunities for me, like being a Library Assistant. In both Year 8 and Year 9, I have become a word millionaire, earning gift cards along the way!

My favourite book that I've read so far would probably be Finding Wonder by Lauren St John. I love mystery books so I really enjoyed reading this novel. It was about a girl, Roo Thorn, who becomes an orphan and is forced to live with her aunt who her father didn't get along with.

Soon things change and Roo goes on a journey to win her dream horse, Wonder. I would really recommend this to anyone – you won't be able to put it down!

For anyone new to AR, my advice would be - don't feel you need to stick with a book if you don't enjoy it – move onto a different one.

Reading should be fun, so don't waste time on something you don't like when there are millions of wonderful books out there!

Erin Scullion, 9 Laragh



UPCOMING DATES

Ghana Trip 21st June – 7th July

Romania Trip 26th June – 3rd July

AS/A2 Results Issued Thursday 14th August

GCSE Results issued Thursday 21st August

New Year 8 Bonding Days 18th / 19th August

Bank Holiday Monday 25th August

Years 8 and 13 only Monday 1st September

Years 12 and 14 only Tuesday 2nd September

Years 9, 10 and 11 only Wednesday 3rd September

Whole school should attend Thursday 4th September

Excellence, Endeavour & Empowerment