

# THE

# KINTULLAGH

# VOICE



The newsletter of  
St Louis Grammar School  
Ballymena

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 9

DECEMBER 2014

## EXAM SUCCESS!

Yet again the class of 2013-2014 has achieved outstanding results! The school achieved an impressive 96.4% A\*-C grades in 7 or more GCSEs and 85.2% A\*-C grades in 3 or more subjects at A-Level. It is yet another show of excellence from our students as their hard work and dedication pays off.

A special congratulations must go to Cathan Gormley who was joint first in NI in GCSE Further Maths and Emma Devlin who achieved joint first in NI in GCSE Irish. Aisling Laverty deserves special mention also as she was awarded joint third in NI in GCSE Drama. These are just a few examples of the amazing results that the students at GCSE Level achieved and we couldn't be prouder! We further congratulate the year group, as 54 students achieved 7 or more A/A\* grades in their GCSEs.

At A Level congratulations must go to Hannah McCormick who was first in NI in A Level Applied Business Studies. Also well done to Michael Casey who not only achieved 4 A\*s at A Level but was also awarded 4 trophies at prize giving as top achiever in each of his subjects. In addition to Michael an amazing 22 students achieved 3 or more A/A\* grades at A Level.

We wish all of last year's GCSE students every success at AS Level and to last year's Upper Sixth students every success at university!

## ST LOUIS PUPILS TOP ONCE AGAIN

This year St Louis pupils have once again achieved outstanding results at both GCSE and GCE level.

Recent past pupils Hannah McCormick and Cora McKernan have excelled in Applied Business at A Level. Hannah was recognised as the top student in NI this year in Applied Business Studies while Cora came joint third place in the subject. Cora and Hannah are now both students at QUB, and we wish them all the best of luck for the future.

Meanwhile in GCSE results, Cathan Gormley who is currently studying his A Levels, came joint first place in NI Further Mathematics at GCSE, an outstanding result! Emma Devlin who is also studying her A levels this year, came joint first in Irish in NI. What an achievement for Emma to win this award against students from the Irish Medium Sector

In addition to this, Aisling Laverty who played a lead role in the school's production of Thoroughly Modern Millie also excelled in her results, coming joint third in Northern Ireland for Drama. Aisling is continuing her study of Drama & Theatre Studies at A Level.

Well done to all of the students and their teachers for their determination and hard work which resulted in these outstanding exam results. We wish each and every one of them the best of luck in the future.



# ST LOUIS BECOMES IQM CENTRE OF EXCELLENCE



In October, St Louis were guests of honour at a prestigious Awards Ceremony at Stormont Castle hosted by IQM and an array of local MLAs.

IQM, the Inclusion Quality Mark, is a recognition of our school's commitment to inclusive practices and a determination to break down any barriers that inhibit learning. The ceremony was held to honour and recognise St. Louis as one of the only schools in Northern Ireland to have been accredited as a Centre of Excellence for Inclusion.

David Ryan of IQM described St Louis as delivering cutting-edge education, world-class practice and being inclusive in every sense.

Mr Morgan, IQM Coordinator, said 'We are delighted with this acknowledgement of the outstanding educational provision within our school and the strong emphasis on pastoral care and inclusive practices, highlighted in the IQM Inspection Report.'

## YEAR 8 GAELIC



Shown above is the year 8 boys Gaelic squad who have been in training, twice a week, from the second week in September and are eagerly anticipating their first series of upcoming matches. Their development as a team is down to their commitment to the group, several of whom are new to Gaelic football.

## ROTARY LEADERSHIP SUCCESS

Congratulations to Ciara Dobbin who has won the regional final of the Rotary Youth Leadership Competition.

After several intensive interviews with Rotary members and members of the local business community Ciara's leadership qualities shone and she was selected as a deserving winner.

Ciara will now participate in a week long Leadership Development Programme (LDP) with twenty three other students from across Ireland.

LDP Week consists of three days in Belfast and Dublin before setting off for the **European Parliament in Strasbourg** to play a part in the Euroscola Programme early next year. The winners debate major EU issues in the European Parliament Building with 600 other students from countries across the European Union.



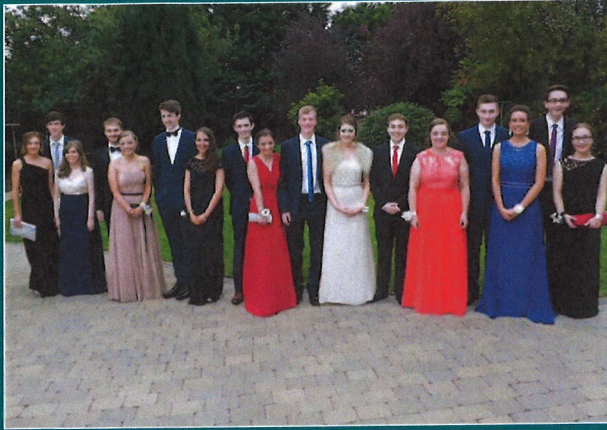
## INTERVIEW SKILLS EVENT 2014

On the evening of the 13th of November our Year 14s put on their professional clothes to attend an interview with professionals in their chosen field.

The pupils previously had filled out an application form which had been sent to the interviewers in advance.

The pupils were put through their paces by a panel of interviewers, giving them a taste of what a real interview might be like. All pupils received invaluable feedback which will be useful for interviews for university, placement and beyond.





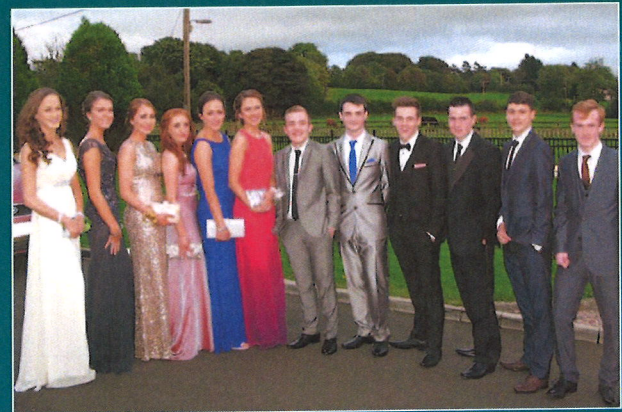
## UPPER SIXTH FORMAL

On 25th September, St Louis held their annual Upper Sixth Formal in Galgorm manor.

Students, staff, past pupils and partners gathered together on this occasion to celebrate the Upper Sixth's 7 years at St Louis. Taking place amongst the school's 90th Anniversary celebrations, it was a special night for all involved.

On arrival guests were served with fruit punch and soon after were seated in the dining area for a divine 3 course meal. After dinner was served, heartfelt speeches were given by head boy James McClintock and head girl Eimear Higgins. Following the speeches was an awards ceremony which had guests laughing and smiling as individuals in the year were awarded in light-hearted humour. Soon the tables were cleared and the dance floor was filled to the end of the night.

On behalf of all the Upper 6th we would like to thank Mrs O'Neill and the formal committee for all of the hard work, dedication and preparation they put in for a night that everyone who attended will never forget.



## WRIGHTBUS VISIT

On Friday 10th and Friday 17th October, the Year 13 and 14 Applied Business students went on a trip to Wrightbus Ballymena.

The students received a presentation outlining the history of Wrightbus, its current position within the market place, how it maintains this position and where they plan to be in the future. This information has helped a lot with the coursework that has been completed since being at Wrightbus.

Following the presentation the students were given a tour. Throughout this tour they observed the detailed production line showing how buses are manufactured. They were then given the opportunity to ask questions to specialised Wrightbus staff. This truly was a brilliant trip as the employees from Wrightbus delivered the information with great passion and enthusiasm which helped in making the trip enjoyable.

Students were engaged by all aspects of the business; for example the amount of workers within the factory, all their quality control measures and all the different types of buses they produce to all around the world. The students thoroughly enjoyed this trip and before leaving they received a unique gift from Wrightbus.



## HOME ECONOMICS VISIT INTO INDUSTRY

On Tuesday September 30th Year 13 and 14 Home Economics students visited McKee's Butchers, Maghera.

Only the best quality ingredients and fillings are used by the company to produce a full range of products to suit all tastes.

The products are all produced in a state of the art facility to extremely high standards. Students had the opportunity to tour this facility under the expert guidance of its proud owner, Mr George McKee.

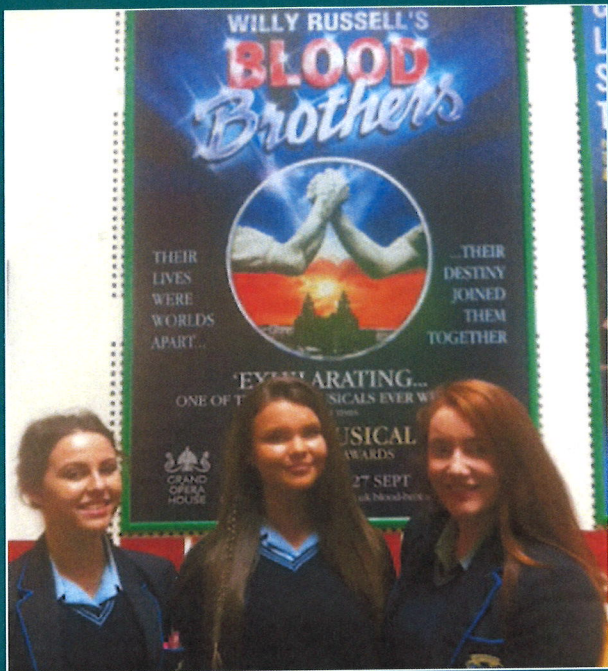
This visit provided students with an interesting and informative look at the manufacture, processing and production of the diverse range of products McKee's produce. Students had the opportunity to observe and participate in a range of demonstrations illustrating the various scientific techniques and technologies used to manufacture the range of products. An enjoyable morning was had by all - despite having to wear the disposable hair nets and coats!



## YEAR 12 TRIP TO SEE 'BLOOD BROTHERS'

On Thursday 25th September all of Year 12 along with the English Department attended a West End Production of 'Blood Brothers' in The Grand Opera House, Belfast.

Year 12 are studying 'Blood Brothers' as part of their GCSE English Literature course and this enthralling, mesmerising production allowed the play to come to life for the pupils. It gave students a new and vibrant perspective on the characters, the themes, the songs of the show and this will ensure that their engagement with the text and their exam responses are even better than before.



## SIXTH YEARS GET INVOLVED

Pupils from the Upper and Lower Sixth Government and Politics class had a rare opportunity to become involved in a project which is currently documenting the issues faced by people on all sides of the sectarian divide during the Troubles in Northern Ireland.

The project concentrates on the families involved and facilitates story-telling in order for us to engage in dialogue and understand the emotional impact of this dark time in our history. The pupils were treated to two guest speakers: Anne Broily and Ken Bamford. They spoke about their own personal experiences of the Troubles and answered challenging questions from our pupils. The overall experience was incredibly positive and resulted in very interesting and meaningful discussions. It was rewarding to see such bright young, political minds coming to the fore and we hope that these fresh ideas can contribute to the shared future of Northern Ireland as a whole.



## PUBLIC SPEAKING SUCCESS!

Two of our Year 13 pupils achieved great success at the regional Heat of the Soroptomist Public Speaking Competition.

Eimer McAuley and Sophie McLaughlin were placed 1st and 3rd respectively. The Soroptomist aim is 'Educating to Lead'; with 5 local schools taking part and 15 competitors there was a very high standard of public speaking.

Both girls chose to base their speeches on the title - 'Cyber World: Friend of Foe?' They each put a huge amount of time and effort into the writing and preparation of their speeches, both girls did themselves and St Louis proud on the night of the competition

Eimer will now go through to the Northern Ireland Final in February.



## UNIVERSITY VISITS

On Thursday 11th September our Year 14 students attended an open day at the University of Ulster Jordanstown.

Students were given the opportunity to move around the campus and listen to the university talks about the courses available to 2015 applicants. It provided pupils with the chance to speak to current and past students of the courses, as well as the lecturers themselves, and learn about their experiences so far. This experience has helped our Year 14 students to make more informed choices in preparation for their UCAS applications. The day was truly worthwhile and a positive experience for all those who attended.

Queens University, Belfast also had open days on both Friday 12th and Saturday 13th September. Year 13 students had the opportunity to explore the campus and the facilities that Queen's had to offer. Lecturers and student guides were on hand to help with any queries. The course talks were very informative and brilliantly put together for students, teachers and parents to understand. It was a brilliant day for all who attended both the student and family open day at Queen's University and definitely an insightful experience.





## MICHELIN INSPIRING FEMALES EVENT

In October, 8 of our Year 12 girls attended the "Michelin Inspiring Females Event" in Galgorm.

The girls were entertained by actress and comedian Nuala McKeever.

Our students met a variety of inspiring women, including the Mayor of Ballymena, Audrey Wales MBE, Detective Chief Inspector of the PSNI, Catherine Magee and physiotherapist Liz McGarry. The pupils met each guest and were given the opportunity to question them on their career, who inspired them and their views on women in the workplace.

Our pupils were really inspired by these women and they gained a valuable insight into the world of work and the career opportunities open to them.

## YEAR 14 BUSINESS ENTERPRISE

As part of the Year 14 Applied Business Studies coursework the two A2 classes were required to set up their own enterprising business.

Shauna Hughes, Managing Director of 'Business Bandits', and her team have created the 'Winter Warmers Kit' - a much needed winter survival pack which includes a stylish travel mug, touch screen gloves, candy canes, hot chocolate and marshmallows. Shauna and her team have been spreading Christmas cheer in their Christmas Jumpers and Santa hats, filling the St. Louis foyer with all our favourite Christmas songs as they sell their kit, the proceeds of which are all donated to the suicide awareness charity 'PIPS'.

The 'Business Bandits' rival business 'KT Enterprise', managed by Jack McCann are selling USB wristbands - an innovative way to make sure you never lose your USB again, as well as offering a free stylus pen with every purchase. 'KT Enterprise' are donating all profits to the 'Multiple Sclerosis Society'.

We wish both business groups the best of luck and look forward to using and enjoying both products!



## YEAR 8 HISTORY WORKSHOP



Year 8 pupils enjoyed an interactive workshop in the Assembly Hall run by the Armagh and City District Council.

Performers brought Norman shields, swords, axes, bows and other assorted examples of dangerous weapons. Pupils had the chance to try on chainmail (heavy!), helmets and even got to form a shield wall and stand firm against the enemy. The workshop finished with a live debate about which one of four men had the best claim to the throne of England in 1066. Depending on the classes involved, the answer was different every time!

It was an educational, fun-filled and engaging experience which brought History to life for our Year 8 pupils at St Louis.

## CREATE 2014

Ten lucky students studying Business and Economics travelled to Create 2014 on 17th September at An Culturlann in Derry.

Create 2014 is an amazing creative conference designed, curated and produced by six young people from Northern Ireland. The aim is to inspire the next generation of creative minds through thinking, talking and doing.

The Create 2014 day featured speakers including Michael Sayman, a US entrepreneur and the founder of 4Snaps. Now, he interns for Facebook after receiving a phonecall from Facebook founder Mark Zuckerberg. Another speaker was Diarmuid Murphy, a marketer and gamer. He works for Microsoft and helps app creators build apps and games for Windows Phone.

Kate O'Donnell (Lower Sixth) was one of the lucky ten. *'Getting the opportunity to be part of Create 2014 was a truly life changing experience. The speakers gave us their advice about business and how they made their money. In my head entrepreneurs were people who created unique products, people who were incredibly outgoing and always knew what they wanted in life. Create 2014 proved to me that it can be even more than that.'*



# IFS STUDENT INVESTOR CHALLENGE

48 sixth form students in St Louis who study Business Studies, Applied Business Studies and Economics are participating in the IFS Student Investor Challenge this year.

The IFS Student Investor Challenge is a game which consists of online trading – students work in teams to invest a virtual £100,000 on the Stock Exchange between 13th October 2014 and 30th January 2015. The challenge gives students the opportunity to develop their knowledge of trading shares and the Stock Exchange as well as various companies and the current economic climate.

Using virtual cash means that students are gaining the experience of trading shares, making profits and losses without real life stress. Students have the opportunity to win a top prize which is a trip to New York! Monthly prizes are also available for the most improved team.

Teams comprise of four members. At present, St Louis have twelve teams participating in the Challenge. Currently, the winning team within St Louis by a considerable amount is The Wolves of Church Street. Time is of the essence however, and team positions are constantly changing, as is the Stock Market!

We would like to wish all of our teams good luck for the challenge. If any students are interested and have not yet registered, they still have the opportunity to do so. See Miss P. McCann if you are a student who may be interested in participating.



## CAREERS RESOURCE AREA OPENS



Last year Charlie Henry and James Logan competed and won the Invest Northern Ireland's 2013 Step 'N' Zones Competition, with a business idea for football boots with deployable studs.

The competition was held during Global Entrepreneurship Week (18-22 November 2013) and attracted over 1,300 pupils from 40 schools across Northern Ireland. Charlie and James won £1,000 for the school and were asked what they would like to spend it on.

Both pupils asked for the money to be put into the Careers department, creating a facility for pupils to independently research at their leisure.

Work started over the summer months and the Careers Resource Area is now a fully functional, bookable room, complete with ICT access. Mrs McAllister welcomes and encourages pupils from all year groups to use the facility in order to assist with their personal career plan.

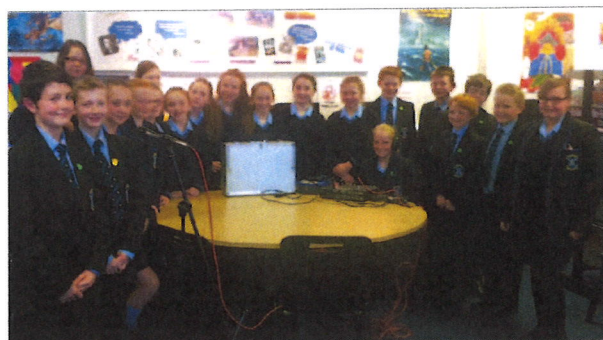
## POETRY IN MOTION

Since September one lucky Year 8 class has been working with the Arts Council of Northern Ireland in a programme called Poetry in Motion.

Over the course of the first term, pupils have participated in four poetry workshops with local poet Raquel McKee. Raquel is original from Jamaica and is an accomplished dub poet and experienced storyteller. 8 Lisbreen thrived in the workshops; working in groups to produce original and creative poetry which reveals the huge amount of talent in the class.

Poems were written on inspirational role models in our society such as Barack Obama and Martin Luther King. The class work was then performed and recorded by the Arts Council, some of which will appear on the programme's final CD and in their Poetry Anthology.

Pupils will attend the Waterfront Hall in the New Year to perform their work – an event which we are all looking forward to.



## MOUNTED GAMES

This summer 3 pupils from our school community have made extraordinary endeavours in the field of sport.

The 3 pupils, Brigid Delargy (8 Lyndon), Orla O'Kane (9 Lismoyle) and Patrick Doherty (10 Lismoyle) are all frequent competitors in the equestrian sport that is mounted games. Mounted Games is a sport where horse and rider take part in many different relay races, e.g. jousting and sword races, which require a huge amount of agility and dexterity.

In July they represented Northern Ireland at the European Championships in Belgium. All of Northern Ireland's teams got on well in Belgium with all involved having a great time.

In August, Brigid and Patrick also had the opportunity to play again in Brockenhurst, England, at the Home International Championship, this time representing All Ireland.

These achievements will have provided them with great memories as well as experience which will benefit them in their future sporting endeavours.

