

St Patrick's College NEWSLETTER

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Welcome



Dear Parent/Guardian

Welcome to our end of year 2018 Newsletter. As always, it is a great privilege for me to acknowledge all of the great work going on in the school. As the saying goes, "a picture is worth a thousand words." I think the pictures presented throughout our publication will give you a good indication of the variety of initiatives our staff and pupils have been involved in throughout the school year.

At the same time, a robust programme of teaching and learning has taken place and pupils have sat modules of formal examinations. At this point, we must mark Christmas tests and get reports out. We hope that you will be pleased with the progress your child is making as we strive hard to support their every need.

So as the year draws to a close, we wish you all a very merry Christmas and a happy and successful New Year. May God look down upon the St. Patrick's College community and guide us through the year ahead.

Yours faithfully

Martin Knox
Principal

St Patrick's College Prize-giving

Prize-giving St. Patrick's College 19th October 2018

Friday, October 19th, was one of the most important days in the school calendar. Dr Knox, in his address reflected on the significance of the day:

'Five, or perhaps seven years ago, many of our young people set foot in St. Patrick's for the first time to commence their journey through secondary school. That would have been a tenuous and sometimes overwhelming initial experience. A big school. Many students. New faces. Lots of staff. And yet, not only did they engage whole-heartedly in that journey, but excelled in it.

A journey that brought them here today so that we can reflect on and honour their achievements.

In all, 31 St Patrick's pupils celebrated seven or more GCSEs at grades A* to C, with 28 achieving eight or more at these grades. Students who took the Prince's Trust Programme and the Coaching Academy Award all achieved at Grade B. Between them our pupils achieved 16 A* grades, 36 A's and 177 B's. A tremendous outcome I'm sure you will agree. In Art, Construction, ICT, Performing Arts, Polish and PE Departments, we saw 100% of our students achieve grades at A*-C

73% of the College's Year 14 students obtained at least one A grade in their 'A' Level results with 43% also celebrating at least one A* grade.

Over their years in St. Patrick's College, the students have shown courage, determination, commitment and a selfless regard for others. I hope these attributes serve our students well in the years ahead.'

We were honoured to be joined by our guest of honour, Dr Bernadette Best, Lecturer, Queen's University Business School, former pupil of the school and wife of one of our esteemed members of the Board of Governors, Mr Colum Best. As she commended the students she spoke warmly of her days at St. Patrick's and reminisced about her teachers and their colourful nicknames!

She also reminded the students of the importance of hard work and self-discipline. Her many accolades are a testament to her diligence as she has achieved success at every academic level from first steps in St. Patrick's College to her PhD at Queen's University. The students benefited greatly from meeting this inspiring role-model.



Prize winners with Dr Bernadette Best



Prize winners with Mrs B Waide, Dr B Best and Dr M Knox, Principal



Prize winners with Cllr P Reid, Mrs B Waide, Dr B Best and Dr M Knox, Principal

Languages

European Day of Languages was celebrated in the College on the 26th September

To begin the day, breakfast was provided in the French room at 11am where the Year 11 and 12 GCSE students, dressed in National French Costume, sold pain au chocolat, chocolat chaud and croissants to pupils. A similar stall was set up in the Irish room where Irish produce such as soda bread, scones and tea were available.

In the English Department the life of Anne Frank was explored by Mrs O'Callaghan and her classes. Mrs McBride read short stories by Guy de Maupassant to Year 11 and Mrs McTaggart read extracts from Zlata's diary to her Year 10 classes

The Maths Department studied currency and conversion focusing on the Euro and the Technology department made mini models of the Eiffel Tower. In the History Department Mrs Fitzpatrick focused on famous Europeans and their contribution to the discovery of the New World. During lunch the staff of the Canteen got into the spirit of the day and offered Italian lasagne, French pizza, Spanish meatballs and of course Irish stew!

The day ended with a Céilí in the Sports Hall for Years 8 and 9, the day was a great success.



Students enjoying European Languages Day

Rotary Youth Leadership Awards



Dr Knox, R McArdle and Mr T McAuley

Congratulations to Rhiannon McArdle, who was successful in her Rotary Youth Leadership Awards interview. This was the zone final and as a result of her fantastic achievement she will join 23 other successful finalists from Ireland in a trip to Strasbourg in February. A special thanks to Mr Willie McKeen, Mr McAuley and Ballymena Rotary Club.



Rhiannon with fellow finalists



Mr McKeen, R McArdle and Mr T McAuley

St Patrick's College Formal



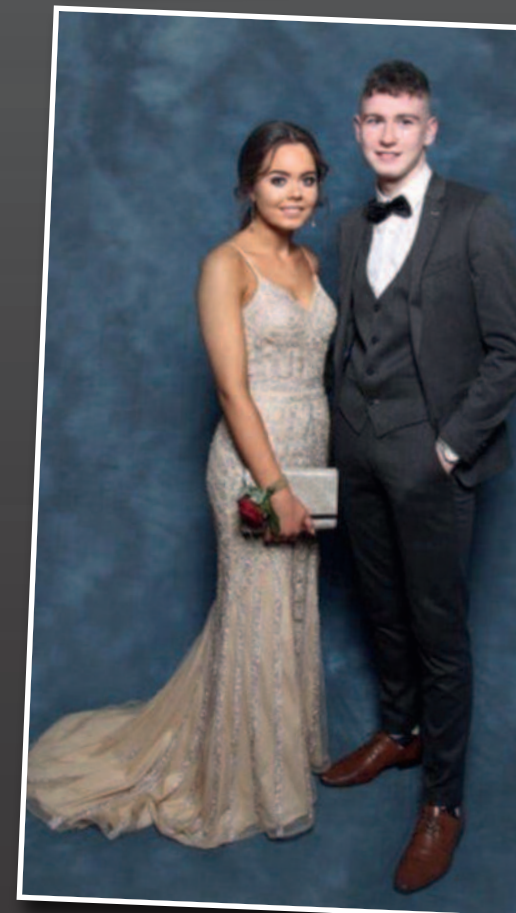
Glitz and glamour were on display when the Year 14 Students celebrated the College's annual Dinner Dance in Tullyglass House in October. Many thanks to the students and staff who helped to organise this stylish event.



Year 14 Students enjoying the Formal



Mr D Boylan and Mrs N McNamee with the Year 14 Students



Maths Trail at Carnfunnock Country Park

To celebrate 'Maths Week Ireland' the Maths Department took 8 Lagan and 9 Foyle to complete a Maths Trail in Carnfunnock Country Park, Larne.

An enjoyable day was had by all and the pupils were enthusiastic about using the skills they had learnt in the classroom, in an outdoor environment.



Year 8 Students at Carnfunnock

Road of Hope Appeal



Congratulations to the College students who helped raise £288.00 to support the Road of Hope Charity which gives Christmas gifts to needy families in Eastern Europe. Many thanks to all who supported the cause especially the Year 13 Students completing their Pope John Paul Awards who helped to co-ordinate the appeal, motivate the students and even packed shoe boxes during their Halloween holidays. Well Done.



Yr 10 Pupils:
Eoin Mitchell and
Finn Rogers hand
over a cheque for
£288.00 to Mrs
Fiona Kelly, ROH.



Joan Clail, Cara Esler, Kinga Biernat, Brianne Esler, Chloe McAuley and Niamh Clerkin.

Brackfield Wood



Eoin Mitchell, 10 Braid, who attended a ceremony for the creation of Brackfield Wood, near Derry City, in November. Brackfield Wood is one of four woods being created by the Woodland Trust to mark the centenary of the end of the First World War. At this event Eoin, whose great-great-grandfather was a prisoner-of-war, held by the Germans until after the War, read his poem 'The Poppy'.



Halloween Spooktacular!

The Science Department welcomed St. Brigid's and St. Colmcille's P7s for a spooky Halloween forensic challenge.

The students had to use their scientific know how to solve a mysterious murder!

Many thanks to all the students and staff who made the day so enjoyable.



University Road Show

This term the Sixth Form Students had the opportunity to experience the University NI Road Show. Students were able to speak to representatives from a wide range of universities throughout: Ireland, England, Scotland and Wales. This will help enable them to make informed decisions about the application process and their future careers.



Year 9 Soccer

Our Yr9's have played in the Mid-Antrim league this year and have participated with enthusiasm and tenacity. They have been beaten in two games by very strong opposition but did manage to score goals and keep the games close until the second half. Our game against Parkhall ended in a 2-2 draw and the team were extremely unlucky not to leave the field with a win as a last minute chance brought out a fine save from the opposition's goal keeper. With one game left before Christmas to play against the league favourites, our team will give it their all.



U14 Gaelic

The U14 Gaelic Footballers have been in impressive form as the season has progressed. Following a nervous start and an opening game defeat at the hands of Drumragh, they have shown a lot of improvement under former All Saints player and PE Teacher Aidan Walsh to qualify for the Ulster U 14 Semi-Final against Gaelcholaiste Dhoire!



Cross Country Championships

The NEBBSA Cross Country Championships took place at Coleraine University Playing Fields on Tuesday 20th November. 28 Pupils from the College competed over the one and two-mile courses. Unfortunately, due to a Gaelic Blitz on the same date, some of the school's top runners didn't get the chance to compete. Congratulations to all those runners who took part, in Fields of up to 100 competitors, the majority finished in the top half. Training will continue for the District Schools Championship on 30th January.

