



# St. Patrick's College Newsletter January 2021



Welcome to the New Year edition of our Newsletter. To say this has been a strange year for St. Patrick's is an understatement and I pay tribute to the students who have had to cope with such an upheaval: first, in terms of the abrupt change to their school life because of lockdown and then with all the added uncertainty around the process for issuing exam results. The way they have handled all of this has been commendable.

School may be back, but it's looking rather different. New signs, floor markings and a one-way system have been introduced to ensure that Year Groups are kept separate as far as possible and hand sanitiser stations and sanitising equipment is available throughout the school.

Students must remember to wear their face masks on public transport and are encouraged to sanitise their hands regularly and wear their masks in school when they cannot maintain social distancing.

The timetable has also been amended and arrival, lunch and home times have been staggered so students can safely remain in their Year Group 'bubbles' during break and lunch times.

I would like to pay tribute to our new Year 8 students, who have entered a strange new building, with a one-way system and encountered new staff (in masks!) with such confidence and resilience. Beginning second level education can be daunting under normal circumstances and I commend the Year 8 students who have made a very positive impression by dealing so well with all the challenges of the current situation.

Could I take this opportunity to wish you all peace, health and happiness in the New Year.

**Dr Martin Knox**

## Meet our new Head Girls!

Every year the College typically chooses a head pupil of each gender but decided this year that the two best candidates were girls!

In this age of gender equality it made sense to appoint the two pupils who were genuinely most suited to the role.



*Head Girls, Daria Barbu and Emily Hughes.*

The Head Students are responsible for leading the School Committee. In their roles they will be expected to perform weekly duties to ensure the safety and wellbeing of their fellow students.

They would normally also be required to participate in whole school events such as Prize Day and Open Night, leading parents and students around the various departments of the school. One of their duties, which is particularly important is the organising of the school formal for Year 12 and Year 14. However, in the present circumstances, these events will not be taking place this year.

Within their roles they should embody all the positive qualities that we would expect from our best students; dedication, resilience and positivity. This year we are confident that Daria and Emily are up to the task of leading

our students and exhibit all the necessary qualities to be successful in their roles.

## On-line Open Days



The traditional University Open Days gave prospective students the opportunity to visit campuses, chat with lecturers and ultimately choose their place of study for the next academic year.

But the unprecedented nationwide lockdown has seen nearly all open days postponed until further notice.

Universities have, as a result, got creative to ensure these vital events go ahead in some form or other.

In November students from the College used software and social media, such as Zoom, Facebook and Microsoft Teams, to attend these open days virtually.

Live video tours of campuses and one-to-one chats via Messenger with lecturers gave the students an idea of the college campuses and facilities as well as providing an insight into student finances and accommodation.

This proved very beneficial and we wish all our Year 14 students well as they embark on the next stage of their academic life.

## Careers News



As part of their careers education, Year 12s had the opportunity to participate in Careers Guidance Interviews this term.

These are confidential, informal discussions with an experienced careers adviser.

Their focus is on the students' individual needs and they help pupils clarify where they are in the careers decision making process, identify what they need to do next and develop ideas about transition choices.

These discussions will help learners assess their personal strengths and help them to think about how these relate to different career options as well as giving advice on career research strategies.

## St Patrick's Musical Talent

During lockdown many people took up new hobbies to occupy their time. For Year 10 student, Charlie Ward, after watching a performance of Fantaisie-Impromptu, Op. 66, composed by Chopin, he decided that he wanted to play it too!

When the video of his performance was posted on the College's Facebook page it received over 14,000 views! You

might think that Charlie has been playing the piano since he was a toddler, but in fact Charlie only began playing recently and is completely self-taught. Charlie told his music teacher, Mr Boylan, that he watches tutorial videos online, works out the left hand first, then the right hand before putting them together.

We are confident that we will be hearing more from Charlie in the future!



*Charlie Ward*

## Road Safety Awareness

A NI Road Policing and Safety Education Officer visited the Year 13 and 14 Students in November to emphasise the importance of road safety awareness.

The hard-hitting assembly focused on the consequences of dangerous driving, highlighting the dangers of young drivers and motorcyclists making certain choices, including the use of mobile phones and driving under the influence of drink or drugs.

National statistics show that one in five young drivers crash within one year of passing their test. Training and education are essential in helping young, inexperienced drivers

understand the risks of driving inappropriately.

Many thanks to the Road Policing Authority for giving such an important talk about the potential consequences of making poor decisions on the roads.



*Students at the Road Safety Assembly*

enjoy a little bit of the magic that comes with this season.

Thanks to Mrs McAteer for organising this festive event and to everyone who took part.



*Dr Knox and Mrs M Waide at Christmas Jumper Day*



As a festive event, we were encouraged to wear our Christmas Jumpers to school on 9th December.

Students and staff rose to the challenge, and for a few hours St. Patrick's was a sea of bright colours, Rudolf noses, snowflakes, robins and even some antlers! The college had fun doing this, and made a donation for wearing their yuletide sweaters to St. Vincent de Paul. This was presented to Mrs Mary Waide, Regional President of St. Vincent de Paul. The donation will help to alleviate the struggle of families facing difficulties at Christmas and help ensure everyone is safe and warm, and can



*Students enjoying their Christmas dinner*



*Aksa Sony*



## Sports News

Years 8-12 have been taking part in the Irish Life 'Run for Fun' Programme. This is a programme aimed to increase activity levels of entire schools by encouraging engagement in recreational running in students of all levels of fitness. It also aims to give students an increased awareness of the importance of living an active and healthy lifestyle. The 6-week programme took place during the students' PE lessons and the classes then undertook the one mile challenge at the Ecos Centre. Well done to all those who participated!



*Students completing their one mile challenge*





SAINT PATRICK'S

**Year 14 - Senior Prefects**

Sean Connelly	Lorenzo Melioli	Dominika Wojcieszak
Adela Polakova	Emily Hughes	Blathnaid Lindsay
Daria Barbu	Aoife Larkin	Andreea Florea
Raluca Barberu	Erin Rooney	Rachel McDonagh
Tiernagh Ward	Kinga Biernat	Blazej Lallowski
Jakub Bojanowski	Aoife Marr	Lauren McAllister
Bronagh McAuley	Zuzanna Jaskiewicz	



SAINT PATRICK'S

**Year 13 - School Committee**

Jude Casey	Joshua Blair	Caolan McCarroll
Lewis Doyle	Caragh Hamill	Jessica Lee
Milena Pietras	Krystian Gronski	Mateusz Las
Przemyslaw Zbojenski	Chloe Redmond	Chelsea Knowles
Lauren O'Brien	Paulius Volkovas	Keelan Agnew
Maddie McKergan	Sarah McErlane	Leah McErlane
Dara O'Lone	Julia Zawada	Jack Hamill
Owen Burke	Alex Clarke	Vanesa Meija
Texzera McWilliams	Lena Pytel	Rafal Adamiuk
Ewa Kolonska	Bartosz Deska	Kyle McDonagh
Katie Kirkpatrick	Maciej Gawlik	Callum O'Brien
Natalia Piwowarska	Christopher McFall	Callum Morrison
Mateusz Pietrucha	Ann Dennise Marquez	Der Greine Lindsay
Kiara Hutchinson	Naoise McAuley	Samara Vaughan
	Meadow McFall	

A.M.D.G.



## **NEW YEAR PRAYER:**

Thank You Lord for giving me  
The brand new year ahead.  
Help me live the way I should  
As each new day I tread.  
Give me gentle wisdom  
That I might help a friend,  
Give me strength and courage  
So a shoulder I might lend.  
The year ahead is empty,  
Help me fill it with good things  
Each new day filled with joy  
And happiness it brings.  
Amen.



### **Dates for your Diary:**

Spring Term 2021

#### **Term Breaks:**

Mon 15th- Friday 19th February

Wednesday 17th March

### **Easter Holidays:**

Friday 10th April-Friday 17th April

### **Staff Development Days:**

Wed 31st March