



St. Patrick's College Newsletter June 2022

Welcome to the summer edition of our Newsletter. I hope you will enjoy getting an insight into school life and be able to share with us our pride in all that our young people have achieved this term!



As the academic year draws to a close we say good luck and goodbye to our school leavers. We have had many of them from Year 8 and have enjoyed watching them grow and develop into confident young people.

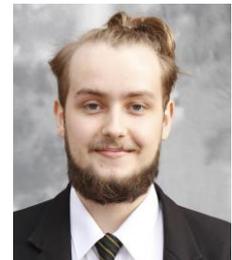
I would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your continued support and to wish you and your family a very pleasant summer holiday.

Dr M Knox,
Principal

Head Pupils appointed!

Congratulations to our new Head Students for 2022/23!

Our new Head Boy is Kuba Traczykowski and our Head Girl is Dominika Nowak. Our Deputy Head Pupils are Corey Hughes and Hannah O'Kane.



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.



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 the students exhibit all the necessary qualities to be successful in their roles!

Daria crowned Miss Northern Ireland!

Congratulations to our past pupil Daria Gapska who was recently crowned Miss Northern Ireland! Daria who is studying Nursing at Queen's University will now represent Northern Ireland at the 71st Miss World Pageant.

Daria's chosen charity is Bravehearts NI, founded by Clare Caulfield and her daughter Shealyn, a past pupil of the college. The charity helps those with congenital heart disease and supports young people by focusing on their pastoral welfare and mental health. Daria came to the school to participate in a sponsored walk with Year 9 which helped raise funds for the charity.



Daria is pictured with Miss World, Karolina Bielawska and Miss World Europe, Anna Leitch.

Literacy News

To celebrate World Book Day on Thursday 3rd March, the juniors enjoyed a book-themed challenge around the school. Teams had to complete a Bingo Sheet of teachers' favourite authors in order to win the top prize; followed by a second Bonus Sheet to see how sharp their observation skills really were. The students also participated in the D.E.A.R. (Drop everything and read scheme!) to inspire students to read, to help them enjoy a book, and to be able to discuss, predict and form opinions about what they read. The day was enjoyed by all.





Pupils are able to select their own books from the school library and then answer fun quizzes based around the book.



Our experience has been that by allowing children to follow their reading preferences and read at their own pace, they have made great progress. This was recognised in the AR Assembly!

The enthusiasm of our Year 8 pupils was clear; the top reading class was 8 Foyle and a close runner up was 8 Lagan. 25 pupils received certificates for reading 20-50,000 words; 10 received for 50-100,000 words; five for 100-200,000- and our top four readers all read over 200,000 words in an incredibly short space of time-Aksel Sony, Olivia Zdunczyk, Conor Tully and Agnieszka Marczewska. Well Done!



Accelerated Reading

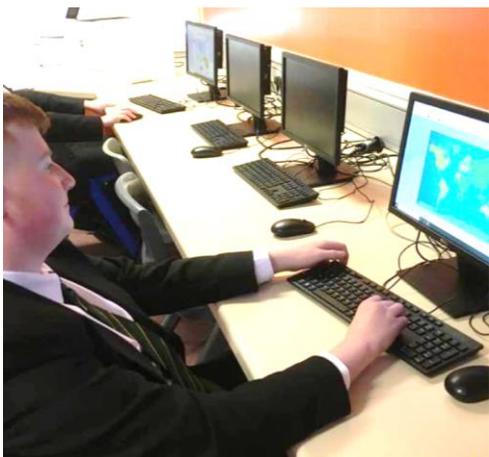
At St. Patrick's promoting literacy is a priority; we want our pupils to be good readers and to have a real joy for books. Our use of the Accelerated Reading system promotes these two goals and helps the students gain confidence.



Numeracy News



Pupils from Key Stage 3 competed in 'The World's Largest Online Maths Competition' this term, to celebrate World Maths Day. Mathletics is a fantastic resource to consolidate Maths skills and involves interactive activities, games and challenges. This is a learning tool where the children can learn independently or can opt to compete with children across the world. The day was enjoyed by all!



Fund Raising



The school was busy this year helping to raise and distribute donations of clothing and essentials to ease the plight of Ukrainians crossing the border into Poland. It is encouraging to see our young people help families who are experiencing a very difficult situation and an uncertain future. Donations were transported to Rockfield Medical Centre and were shipped to refugee centres located near Lublin.

A special thanks to our Sixth Form students who helped with sorting and loading items.

An amazing effort from everyone!





Well done to 10 Braid and 10 Maine, who took part in a sponsored walk around the Ecos raising over £300 for the UNICEF Ukraine Fund.

Many thanks to all who helped organise this successful event. We wish the students every success in the future. In the words of Pope Francis: ‘Young people, dream, rise up, take risks, look at life with a new smile, go forwards, do not be fearful.’

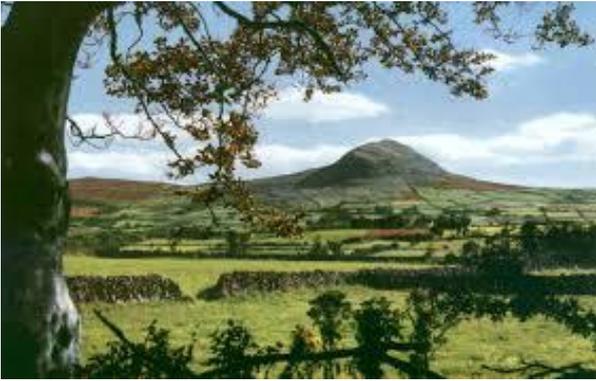
Year 12 Leavers’ Mass

Monday 9th May was a very important day in our school calendar as many of our Year 12s prepared to leave school. The day began with a ‘Big Breakfast’ provided by the Home Economics department, followed by Mass celebrated by Msgr. Delargy.

The Mass was an opportunity for the students and their parents to thank God for times they have spent together and for the friends they have made.



Year 14 Leavers' Mass



We were delighted this year to once again have Fr. O'Reilly, accompanied by Francesco and Marielle from the St John the Baptist Community, celebrate the 6th Form Mass on Slemish Mountain. The day concluded with a celebratory meal at the Adair Arms Hotel.

The day was an opportunity to experience in a very special way the presence of God.

The students found it a very rewarding and memorable event to mark their last days in St. Patrick's in a spiritual and serene setting. We should all try to live by Fr O'Reilly's advice to: "Be the best version of yourself!"



Prize Day

This term we held the College's prize day which provided the opportunity to recognise and reflect on the achievements of our pupils from last year.

Receiving an award is always a significant achievement that reflects dedication and hard work. Given the challenges the pandemic has created this academic year, makes the students' efforts even more momentous.

Congratulations to all the pupils of St Patrick's College, past and present: we wish you well in the journeys that lie ahead.



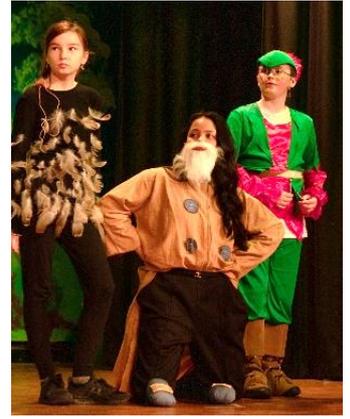
Performing Arts

After two years of having no opportunities to perform with other people or for audiences, it was clear that a huge number of our students were missing this vital outlet. We set to work in October once restrictions were eased a little to get the department back on its feet.

Have a look at the incredible work that pupils have performed in and created over the year.

The 39 Steps, Cabaret Bingo, Christmas talent competition, Shrek the Musical (Theatre for Youth Audiences version), GCSE performances, Year 13 AS level performances, Year 14 A2 level performances.

We also fitted in 4 theatre shows to the Lyric Theatre and the Grand Opera House!



A Word of Thanks!

We would like to say a huge thank you to our peripatetic tutors who have stuck with us through very tough times; to our Performing Arts Committee who have been amazing this year in helping us to do so much, and most especially to Sarah Irvine who gives up hours (probably weeks and months would be more accurate) of her time to direct and produce our shows.

I hope everyone has a good summer and returns in September ready to sing, dance, act and perform!



Sports Day

This year the College held Sports Day on Wednesday 31st May. We had perfect weather conditions on this day, for good performances. All participants had the opportunity to take part in track and field events with some fun novelty races added. Well done to all those who participated.



Under 14 Boys' Gaelic



In December the U-14 team competed in an Ulster Colleges' Blitz having progressed to a higher level than the previous year. However, the standard proved a challenge as they came up against two strong sides in Ballycastle and Randalstown, unfortunately losing to both. The team needs time to develop, as there are quite a few young players, and players who are only learning the sport.

They also had a Developmental Challenge game against Lismore Comprehensive School, which provided some much needed game time for the players. The key to improvement is by encouraging the boys to turn out for their local club

teams over the summer months to enable them to come back stronger next year.

Some promising performances from players such as Samuel Rogalski, Ryan Bruce and Robert Zebrowski give hope for the future!

Under 16 Boys' Gaelic



The under-16 team competed in a Blitz in March, where they made a promising start, defeating Lisburn in their first group game thanks in large part to a strong start and some good scores from Conlin Neill and Conlan Lyness. However, they came up against an experienced Shimna side who outclassed them in their second match.

The boys improved a great deal in their third game against local rivals Slemish, but fell narrowly short against a big physical Ballymena rival.

Unfortunately, the boys failed to qualify to the next stage despite strong performances from Lewis Devlin, Paidin Mitchell, Conlin Neill and Conlan Lyness.

Under 14 Girls' Gaelic



The girls were undoubtedly the success story of the year on the Gaelic field, succeeding all the way to the Ulster knockout phase of their competition.

The girls impressed in an early Challenge game, before their Blitz in April. They defeated local rivals Randalstown before narrowly losing out to both Dungiven teams. This strong win over Randalstown qualified them for an Ulster Knockout game against Deelee College from Donegal.

Unfortunately, the girls encountered some very strong Donegal County players, but were still only defeated by 2 points in a hard fought game.

A lot of credit is due to this squad because of their strong commitment to training; which will provide a great foundation for success in the future. I would encourage more girls to get involved with their local club teams.

NEBSSA

The athletics season started with the NEBSSA competition in April. Forty-one athletes represented the school, competing in running, jumping and throwing events.

The top three in each event qualified for the NEBSSA Finals which were held at the Antrim Forum in May.

Congratulations to finalists: Ella Mc Laughlin, Jack Dowds, Karolina Donovalova, Leon Sandrews, Maciej Gomula, Paidin Mitchell, Paola Parduraru, Phoebe Tully, Simon Crilly, Tierna Reynolds and Michael McIlveen.

We also had a number of pupils participating in the District Schools Athletics Competition in May. Again the pupils excelled with Lewis Devlin placing 3rd in the U17 triple jump and qualifying for the Ulster Final.

