



Welcome Message from the Principal

The 2017/18 school year has been particularly successful for St Mary's Secondary School with students excelling in their academic studies and in a wide variety of extra and co-curricular activities. Our Whole School Evaluation carried out by inspectors from the Department of Education and Skills in January was a particularly busy period for all members of the school community.

The key points from the report are as follows;

- The board of management's experience and expertise and their commitment to the quality of the educational experience provided by the school.
- The senior management team's effective leadership of change management, organisational structures, strategic planning and teaching and learning.
- The effective system of distributed leadership evident at middle-management level with teachers encouraged to take on leadership roles.
- The strong emphasis on student care and wellbeing and effective structures to support students.

- The identification of the school as a supportive learning community with an emphasis on the holistic development of each student.
- The very good teaching and learning with evidence of excellent practice.
- Teacher's high level of subject knowledge and enthusiasm for their subject.
- St. Mary's strong commitment to high academic standards.

Following the inspection the Board of Management has committed to the continued roll out of our Wellbeing Policy which will ensure increased provision of Physical Education and Social Personal Health Education for all students along with initiatives for student voice.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all members of the school community, Board of Management, staff, parents and students for their positive contribution to ensuring the receipt of such a positive report.

Finally I want to wish all students and their families a lovely and relaxing summer.

Yvonne Bane

LEAVING CERT CLASS, 2018



The Leaving Cert graduation mass took place on Tuesday 22nd May with 6th year students, their parents, family and teachers gathering together for this wonderful celebration. Students reflected on their unique contribution to school life with their personal memories expressed on balloons, ready to take flight but firmly anchored in our core values of family, friendship, love,

faith, hope, wisdom, wonder, joy, and kindness. The mass was celebrated by Fr Andrew Carvill, School Chaplin and it was a really moving ceremony with everyone entering into the spirit of the occasion. We wish the Leaving Cert class of 2018 every success in the future.



St Mary's Award Recipients 2018



Ella White, Yvonne Bane, Principal, Sarah Tarrant and Edel Doolin

SCHOOL AWARDS CEREMONY

The annual school awards ceremony took place on Monday 21st May. The main awards were the Student of the Year Awards, the Spirit of CEIST Award, and the Catherine McAuley Award. Awards were also given for student achievement, sport and contribution to school life. Well done to the award recipients and to all members of the St. Mary's community for making this past year a successful one.

ROLL OF HONOUR

Junior Student Achievement: Grainne Egan, 3rd Year Music; Éabha Sampson and Clíona O'Connor, Young Scientist

Senior Student Achievement: Shauna Murphy and Caoimhe Cronin, Young Scientist; Katie Dinan, Réiltín

Sports: Leah Maunsell, Senior Sports Person; Aoife O'Shea, Junior Sports Person

Contribution to School Life: Leah Cunningham, Sixth Year; Rose Joseph, Sixth Year; Laura Wilson, Sixth Year; Eva Lankford, Third Year, Emilia Seputyte, Second Year, Nicole Pinto, First Year

Student of the Year: Leah Corkery, LCA1; Rosie O'Donoghue, LCA2; Chloe Keniry, Réiltín; Marion Nana, First Year; Leah Barrett, Second Year; Sarah Scanlon, Third Year; Kate Hickey, Fifth Year; Sarah Tarrant, Sixth Year

Spirit of CEIST Award: Ella White, Sixth Year

Catherine McAuley Award: Edel Doolin, Sixth Year



Sixth Year students having fun

GERMAN NEWS



Congratulations to Queensy Erhabor who was recently awarded a three week scholarship to Germany by the German Embassy. This was granted on the basis of her excellent Junior Cert German result and a subsequent interview which took place in Dublin. There, she impressed her interviewers with her language skills. She will be traveling to Germany in June. Six TY German students successfully completed

the 'Fit in Deutsch' examination on February 7th at St. Munchin's Secondary School. The girls are: Denise Horgan, Niamh Creedon, Anna Kelleher, Mei Ming Cronin, Michaela Sheehan and Catherine Corbett. *Gut gemacht!*

BUILD A BANK

The Transition Year Build a Bank team, called 'Miss Piggy Bank' attended the National Final, RDS, Dublin on Wednesday 21st of March. The girls, along with 59 other teams, qualified from a total of 360 school banks.



Miss Piggy Bank team.

ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT



Students being presented with their Junior Cycle Profiles of Achievement (JCPA).

GOOGLE HQ VISIT

On Thursday, May 3rd, four Transition Year students involved in the School Digital Champions Programme, Alice O'Sullivan, Anna Kellegher, Queensly Erhabor and Ellen Murphy, got the wonderful opportunity to visit Google HQ in Dublin. They were accompanied by teacher, Miss Aisling O'Connor. The four students undertook a project which they called 'G-Suite Generation'. They helped with the roll out of G-Suite across the school community. While on the visit to Google HQ they got a tour of the offices, career talks by employees, talks on staying safe online, and a Virtual Reality experience. This gave them a great insight into an innovative, technology centred workplace.



Alice O'Sullivan, Anna Kellegher, Queensly Erhabor and Ellen Murphy

SEACHTAIN NA GAELIGE



Mar is eol do chách seo í Bliain > na Gaeilge agus tá go leor ar siúl i Scoil Mhuire i mbliana msh Cóisir Ghléasta i rith Sheachtain na Gaeilge agus go leor comórtas agus drámaíocht sa rang. Bainigí sult as an nGaeilge - tír gan teanga tír gan anam!

< Turas iontach chun na Ghaeltachta le linn Seachtain na Gaeilge. Muintir na hidirbhliana i nGaeiltacht na Rinne, Port Lairge. Cuimhní órga againn!



FRENCH NEWS

Leaving Cert French students, Laura Wilson and Ciara McCarthy, received prizes sponsored by the *Ambassade de France*. They wrote poems in French. 'Bon courage' to all Leaving Cert students in their June exams.

Ciara McCarthy and Laura Wilson



PEACE ADVOCACY

In October 2017, Rotary Mallow extended an invitation for three Transition Year students to attend a two day workshop hosted by husband and wife team Jean and Keith Best, piloting their Peace Advocacy programme in Mallow. Jean Best has been awarded a United Nations Peace Medal in recognition for her work. The three participating students were Anna Kellegher, Queensly Erhabor and Laoise Duane.

The students attended the two day workshop in November with their cooperating teacher Miss Caroline Murphy, students from nearby schools in North Cork, and local Rotarians. They were given an insight into how conflict occurs at all levels of society and how to deal with and/or prevent conflict. The students received certificates of completion and returned to school with great enthusiasm to develop and implement a Peace Advocacy Programme of their own.

Fast forward a couple of months, the girls piloted their own Peace Advocacy Programme with a group of first and second year students. Their 40 minute workshop was designed to give students an awareness of how they communicate both online and in person. In early May, Anna, Queensly and Laoise returned to Mallow College to present their programme to Minister David Stanton. The girls were highly commended by the Minister on their efforts. Rotary Mallow and Mallow College hope to host another Peace Advocacy Programme in September 2018 to expand the number of Peace Advocates in the area. Anna, Queensly and Laoise look forward to mentoring and supporting the new recruits!



Mad Batter



Bomb.com

MINI COMPANY

St. Mary's had four teams participate in Transition Year Mini Company this year:

Mad Batter: Maebh O'Riordan, Katelyn McCarthy, Roisin Palmer and Catherine Corbett

Bomb.Com: Oghale Onoriode, Serena Amechi, Jessica O'Donovan and Roneta Gilyte

Viva Las Vegans: Nicola Flynn, Ciara Fitzpatrick, Gemma Lane, Amelia Thornton and Clodagh Kearns

Truly Scrumptious: Gabriela Kosowska, Sarah Moloney, Shannon McCarthy, Faith Donnelly, Erin Murphy and Leah Ring



Viva Las Vegans



Truly Scrumptious

SISTER ACT

Transition Year girls staged their version of the musical, 'Sister Act', in February. The Aemilian Theatre was packed out for successive performances that were described by patrons as 'great fun', and 'hugely enjoyable'. This was a highlight in the year for all the school community. Well done to everyone involved!



Some of the Sister Act cast on stage

PHOTOGRAPHY CLUB



To mark the end of a successful year, the Photography Club went on an outing to the grounds of Mallow Castle. It was a beautiful May afternoon. On the outing they got the opportunity to put into practice all of the photography skills they had picked up over the course of the year. They used reflectors to create beautifully lit portraits of each other. They photographed the old and new architecture of the castle. They took close-up macro shots of flowers, plants and of the different textures of the barks of the old trees. They used the leading line of the pathway that runs down to the water fountain to draw the eye into the photo. Miss Aisling O'Connor was extremely impressed with the variety and the quality of images that the students captured on the day. The photographs were exhibited on the Photography Club noticeboard in the school.





Green Schools Committee

GREEN SCHOOLS

St. Mary's was recently awarded a green flag for the theme of energy. This is the school's second green flag. The first green flag was for litter and waste. This green flag is evidence of how our school is committed to reducing energy use. It also reflects the hard work put in by our Green School Committee members throughout the year. The Committee members are Emilia Seputyte, Katelyn Cremin, Zoe Moloney and Precious Ayodele. The Committee was supported by teachers, Miss Rachel Cotter, Miss Denise Galvin, Miss Niamh O'Connell and Miss Aisling O'Connor. The Committee attended the Green Schools awards ceremony in the Radisson Blu Hotel, Cork, Wednesday 2nd May.



5th year retreat to Glanstal Abbey, Co. Limerick. They were welcomed by Br. Pdraig McIntyre

RELIGION NEWS

On Friday 11th May, Transition Year students, accompanied by Sr. Anne Maria, Miss Carmel Curtin and Miss Louise Heavin undertook a pilgrimage to Knock. 3,000 young people, including girls from St. Mary's, attended a special gathering in the Basilica to honour the fifth anniversary of Donal Walsh's death. The LiveLife Foundation and Donal's parents, Elma and Finbarr, organised this event in order to share Donal's words and philosophy of life which was to live, appreciate life and never take it for granted. The day included workshops and motivational speakers, including Joe Schmidt, Ian McKinley and Fr. Philip Mulryne. The mass was celebrated by the Papal Nuncio. An excellent homily was given by Fr. Dermot Donnelly, brother of Dec, of 'Ant and Dec' fame. Lovely music and singing was provided by Mercy Mounthawk Secondary School, Tralee. The Mass was televised and shown on RTÉ at 11 o'clock on Sunday, May 13th.



Religion students in Knock

GLUCKSMAN GALLERY VISIT



Art students on a trip to the Glucksman Gallery

Make-A-Wish coffee morning



MAKE A WISH

The two Make-A-Wish classes in Transition Year, mentored by Miss Donna Crowley and Miss Valerie O'Regan, raised over €2000 for the charity. They did this by running small enterprises such as making and selling doughnuts, jewellery, hoodies, and running a coffee morning. They raised more money than any other school in the country and won an award for this. The slogan adopted by the Jewellery Group, 'Wear-A-Wish', will be used as part of a national campaign in the future.

RANG RÉILTÍN CONVENT VISIT

Rang Réiltín visited St. Mary's Convent on February 9th as a cross-curriculum activity for their Religion, ESS and Social Education classes. The students were given a guided tour. They learned about the history of the Sisters of Mercy in Mallow.

The sisters first came to Mallow in 1845 during the Famine. They rented a house in Chapel Lane near the town centre. One of the sisters died in the Famine, a novice, Sr. Xavier, she is buried under the Adoration Chapel on the grounds of St. Mary's Church. After the Famine the nuns set up an orphanage in Mallow as many children had lost their parents.

In 1850 the Parish Priest gave the Sisters of Mercy a house and land on the hill that overlooks the town. The convent is made from red sandstone, which was quarried locally in the Nagle Mountains. Later, the Sisters bought more land, twenty three acres in all. Some of this land has been used for the Convent Primary, the Convent Secondary and the Mercy Centre.

The students were impressed by the size of the convent; three floors housing sixteen bedrooms. The convent is a listed building which means that its beautiful red sandstone façade and gothic windows cannot be changed. The building is complimented by neatly presented gardens that feature religious statues and a grotto of Our Lady and St. Bernadette.

We all enjoyed a spiritual moment in the Chapel, with music and song led by Sr. Anne Maria. Afterwards, we were treated to a lovely tea and a chat with some of the Sisters.



Tea, cake and good conversation

RÉILTÍN PRODUCTIONS

This year was a very busy one for Rang Réiltín drama, as it marked the birth of Réiltín Productions. In early September the class decided to create their own adaptation of Shakespeare's 'Romeo and Juliet'. This took the form of a short film titled, 'John and Maureen', a tragic love story set in modern times. The students collaborated with one another to write the script, design a set and make costumes. Also, they used their talents to launch 'Réiltín's Got Talent'. To celebrate the completion of both productions Rang Réiltín hosted a wrap party on Wednesday 23rd May. Réiltín Productions will produce more drama next year, living up to their name, 'Little Stars'!

WELLBEING CSPE

As part of Wellbeing: CSPE, pupils of 1 Aisling decided to perform role-plays related to coursework themes. The focus was on acceptance, inclusion and standing up to bullying. Some of the class designed posters. The posters were displayed in the Aemilian Theatre, where the role plays were performed. Treats were provided to the audience.



*Ciara Hunt and Ciara O'Brien
whose job it was to display posters*

Thanks to all the students who organised the treats. Well done to all pupils in 1 Aisling who worked collaboratively to put on a very enjoyable performance in the Aemilian Theatre on Thursday May 17th.

WORLD BOOK DAY



Allie O'Keeffe

Miss Maria Foley, English teacher, organised a themed cake competition for World Book Day 2018. The students had great fun making their cakes. Their love of reading was clearly evident from their effort!

DONKEY SANCTUARY

On Friday May 4th, TY A and TY B visited the Donkey Sanctuary, Lisscarroll. The outing was organised by their teacher, Mr. Paul Carey.



SCHOOL TOUR TO ICELAND

At 5 am on Saturday, March 24th, 38 students and 5 Geography teachers began their journey to Iceland for the Geography trip of a lifetime. What an amazing start to their Easter break! They travelled by bus to Dublin airport. From there they flew to Keflavik airport. It was an action packed 3 day trip to the 'Land of Fire and Ice'. Iceland is a country of extreme geological contrasts. The first stop on the trip was the incredible Blue Lagoon geothermal spa. Bathing in geothermal water of over 30 degrees celsius, while sipping freshly made smoothies and taking in the spectacular scenery surrounding the lagoon, was the perfect way to unwind after the early flight.

On Sunday, there was a great line-up of sites to visit. Thingvellir National Park was the first stop of the day. The group walked through two tectonic plates and saw the place where Iceland's first parliament met. The next stop was the active Geysir Hot Spring area where the group witnessed boiling mud pits, exploding geysers and the lively Strokkur, which spouts water 30 metres into the air every 5 minutes or so. This was followed by a trip to Gullfoss Waterfall, one of Iceland's most iconic waterfalls, situated in the upper part of the Hvita River. Later that day, the group visited Kerid Crater Lake, a completely frozen lake, sitting in a volcano and surrounded by rare red volcanic rock. The final stop of the day was the Hellisheidi Geothermal Power Station (the third largest geothermal power station in the world). The interactive displays were highly informative and it was fascinating to learn that 90% of houses in Iceland are heated with geothermal energy.

On the final day of the trip, the group were faced with severe wind and rain, but it didn't dampen the spirits! Reynisfjara Black



Sands Beach was the first destination of the day. The jet black sand was created when lava flowed into the sea and cooled almost instantly. Also, there was an enormous natural pyramid made of basalt columns that looked like a staircase into the sky. Skogafoss Waterfall and Seljalandsfoss Waterfall were the next stops of the day with a viewing of the famous Eyjafjallajokull Volcano (responsible for that 2010 ash cloud) along the way. The final stop of the evening was to the Earthquake Experience Centre where the group got to experience what an earthquake of 6.6 magnitude feels like. They also got the opportunity to straddle two plates here, the North American and the European. It truly was the trip of a lifetime!

MALLOW SCIENCE FAIR



St. Mary's students at the Mallow Science Fair

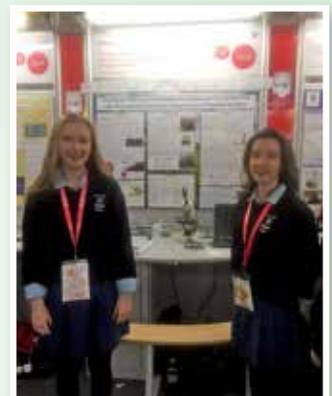


YOUNG SCIENTIST

St. Mary's were represented by two teams at this year's BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition. The exhibition was held in Dublin, 9th - 12th January. Junior students Éabha Sampson and Clíona O'Connor entered a project entitled, 'A study of the current status of the European hedgehog (*Erinaceus Europaeus*) in the North Cork area and factors affecting its decline in recent decades'. Their project was highly commended in the Biological and Ecological category. Senior students Caoimhe Cronin and Shauna Murphy entered a project entitled, 'Assessing the enhancement of radioactivity in plants grown in selected Cork soils; environmental implications of long-term use of Phosphate fertilizer'. They placed first in the Physical, Chemical and Mathematical Sciences category.



Éabha Sampson and Clíona O'Connor



Shauna Murphy and Caoimhe Cronin

Caoimhe and Shauna were invited to present their work at the State Laboratory, Celbridge, Co. Kildare. Well done to all the St. Mary's students who participated in Young Scientist this year and many thanks to their hard working teachers.

NEWS IN SPORT



U14 camogie panel



First Year footballers, winners of the Mallow Blitz, May 2nd



All Ireland Orienteering Finals, 25th April, Emo Woods, Co. Laois

PHYSICAL EDUCATION (PE)

It has been a very busy time, since Christmas, for the PE Department. First years, second years and third years had fun and exercise participating in mini sports days. TYs got to hit the waves, surfing in Banna Beach, Co. Kerry. TY A and LCA got the chance to go horse riding in Glen Aire Stables, Lavally. Also, TY A were very lucky to do a short course of Pilates. Fifth years burnt off energy in Zumba and also practiced some Yoga. Rang Réiltín showed off their mermaid skills in the pool.



Irene Kellegher, Aniela B. Hogan and Aoife O'Connor, Munster Schools Cross Country medal winners

SOCCER

The St. Mary's junior soccer team enjoyed a great year. Numerous games were played, home and away. The team trained on a weekly basis. The first game away was to Middleton College. The girls played with extreme dedication and heart. They played at home against St. Mary's, Midleton. Their last game was away to Carrigtwohill. They represented the school superbly. Well done on a great year!



Junior soccer team

RUGBY

St. Mary's has a newly formed rugby team. They entered two under 15 blitzes during the year. The girls trained with Freddie Franklin, coach, Mr. Conor O'Leary, PE teacher, Laura O'Callaghan, past pupil, and Ian Vaughan, coach. We are very grateful for the time and effort the players and the coaching volunteers give! We are looking forward to next year's school season already!



Newly formed rugby team competing in a blitz hosted by the University of Limerick (UL)

BASKETBALL

Basketball is a popular sport in St. Mary's. A big thank you to Paula Conlon for coaching the cadette team and junior team. Also, thank you to Chloe Ferris and Laoise Duane for helping with the administrative side of basketball. Finally, a fond farewell to Emily Brosnan and Tara Finn who represented the school so well over the last six years. Super job girls!



Basketball panel



Swim Team awarded Mayoral reception. Winners of Munster Senior and Junior 200 metre individual medley

HANDBALL

Sarah Walsh, First Year, represented St. Mary's in Cork County Colleges Handball. She won the Munster Handball First Year Colleges 40x20 title for 2018. Also, she came second in Ireland in the 13 and Under, One Wall Nationals and came second in the Munster One Wall U15 Championship. Sarah will travel, as part of the Irish contingent, to Minneapolis, USA this August to compete in the World Handball Championship Games.



Sarah Walsh, handball champion