



St. Farnan's Post-Primary School Summer Newsletter 2023.



Well done everyone. As students, staff members, parents or guardians, we have completed another year in St. Farnan's PPS. What a busy whirlwind of a year!

Huge successes in the classrooms, on the corridors, in the staff rooms and the sports field (and devastating final defeats too!) were experienced throughout the year by all members of our community. Friendships were forged, great learning and wisdom taken on board, professional collaboration grew and a sense of pride, purpose and success emanated from our students and staff. This was so clear to see during the wonderful TY and 6th year Graduating evenings last week. The reflection on good times in school always trumps the negative agenda.

Our students are extremely lucky to have so many opportunities to experience learning in so many different guises in St. Farnan's. The huge value that we place on out of school experiences; trips, tours, workshops, extracurricular activities are testament to the unrivalled support from our staff towards our students. I know that this is hugely appreciated from our students and their families too.

We are looking forward to welcoming our 142 students into First Year in August. This huge group will add a vibrant energy to our school and we are busy timetabling, recruiting teachers and getting extra classroom accommodation ready for our vastly increased numbers. We are also looking forward to our new school meals provider, Rafter's, who will be providing hot dinners etc. at a hugely subsidised price for students who wish to avail of this.

Thanks to all the staff, admin, SNA, caretaking team, Year Heads, Assistant Principals, teachers, our Parents' Association, Board of Management and those who support us in KWETB Head Office in making the running of the school as efficient and effective as possible whilst still placing all our students at the centre of everything that we do.

A special thanks to Cormac McGovern, Science teacher and musical maestro, who is transferring to Athy College. To our students, we wish you a safe, sunny and happy summer and to all our third and sixth years the best of luck in your Junior Cycle and Leaving Cert exams. Put your best effort in and you will be rewarded.

Andrew Purcell, Principal.

Some of the Events & Successes celebrated this term!

- Breakfast Club welcomes students every morning
- Career Talks to 6th year students from TUS Athlone & St. Conleth's
- 5th year European Tour to Barcelona
- Transition Year and 6th year Graduation ceremonies
- JGSP Awards Ceremony
- TY trips to Kippure, Carlingford, Dublin
- 5th year Study Skills Workshop
- Room 26 trip to Dublin Zoo
- Room 25 trip to the cinema and Whitewater Shopping Centre
- 2nd year CSPE trip to Dublin Zoo
- Talk by representatives from Cuan Mhuire for 6th years
- Bake Sale fundraiser for JGSP activities
- Plant & Flower sale fundraiser for activities in Rooms 25 & 26
- TY EPAS & Politics webinar with Maria Walsh MEP & talk with Cllr. Brendan Wyse
- TYs awarded the European Parliament Ambassador Schools award for the school's fifth year running
- 2nd year Home Economics Fashion Focus Environmental Workshop
- 5th & 6th year Art Tour to the National Gallery in Dublin
- Jersey Day fundraiser held on May 16th organised by the PTA
- 5th year Business & LGVP trip to Emerald Park
- End of Year lunch for 6th year students and staff
- Information Evening for incoming 1st year students and their parents
- 1st year end of year trip to CP Adventure Centre, Blessington
- 2nd year end of year trip to Redhills Adventure Centre, Kildare
- 5th year end of year breakfast morning
- Mentoring Programme launched with 1st & 5th year students
- Sports Day will be held on June 1st
- An end of year Awards ceremony will be held on June 2nd



Irish Boxing Champion's visit

We were delighted to welcome Irish boxing champion, Grainne Walsh, to meet with the TY students recently as part of the Dare to Believe campaign. Emma Swords in TY writes—"It was great to meet Grainne Walsh when she came into the school, she was very inspirational and entertaining telling us about all her injuries and showcasing her medals.

Even though she has suffered from many unfortunate injuries, she has continued to prove that she is worthy of a spot in the Olympics representing Ireland". Grainne was so impressed with our TY students that she sent them a special message on the evening of their Graduation and she promised to come back again to St. Farnan's—we hope to be all cheering for her next year in Paris!



Archie wins national award in Italian Competition

Our warmest congratulations to 1st year student, Archie Earley Moran, who was awarded third prize in the national competition for schools which offer Italian as a curricular

language option. Organised by the ATI, the association of Italian teachers in Ireland, 1st year students had to record a video of themselves presenting an Italian person they admire. Five video entries were submitted from each school and Archie's entry, in which he introduced the legendary Italian goalkeeper, Gianluigi Buffon, was commended by the judges. We are particularly delighted that one of our students was so successful as this is the first year that we have Italian as a curricular option for first years. Archie received his prize in the Italian Cultural Institute in Dublin from Salvo Cacciato, President of the ATI.

1st Year End of Year Trip to CP Adventure Centre in Russborough House



Key Dates for next term

- June 7th:** State Examinations begin
- Aug. 25th:** Leaving Cert. results available
- Aug. 25th:** 1st years Induction Day
- Aug. 29th:** 2nd & 6th year students return to school
- Aug. 30th:** 3rd, TY & 5th year students return to school
- Aug. 30th:** EISHT Workshop for 6th years
- Sept. 1st & 20th:** EISHT Workshop for 5th years
- Sept. 22nd:** 6th years visit to the Higher Options Fair



New Creative Cluster Programme

We are delighted to announce that we have been accepted onto the Creative Cluster Programme for 2023-2025 in conjunction with Kildare Education Centre.

Our successful proposal in the area of literacy development will give us the opportunity to work collaboratively with our feeder schools, Scoil an Linbh Iosa, Prosperous, Allen NS, Robertstown NS and Coill Dubh NS. Jointly, we will plan and implement initiatives to support our students' literacy development. - Ms. Cassidy.

TY Update The students in TY classes Druid and Abbey have had a very busy final term. There was a wide variety of workshops and trips which everyone loved. Among the trips during this term were trips to the Leinster Schools Summit in Dublin, the Geography trip to Kippure and the Gaisce overnight trip to Carlingford. The students' final trip of the year was a beautiful sunny day in Dublin when we collected the school's fifth EPAS award in Europe House and also did a treasure hunt in St. Stephen's Green, courtesy of the Little Museum of Dublin. We also had a truly inspirational visit from Irish Boxing Champion, Grainne Walsh and a great presentation by Cllr. Brendan Wyse as part of our Politics module. All TY students did a week of Community Work Experience, the theme of which was "Giving Back" and they represented us brilliantly. They all worked helping local charities, clubs, care settings, voluntary associations and older or younger family members. The TY Graduation was held on May 24th and all students assisted in the ceremony. The evening began with a display of their work from during the year. All guests then were treated to a presentation by the students of their highlights of the year in the areas of Personal Development, Teamwork, Preparation for the world of work, Life Skills, Citizenship, Physical Education, Creativity, Music and Wellbeing. In recognition of their outstanding participation and embodiment of the school's Ethos, special awards were given to a number of students: Excellence in Education—Ellen Kenna, Care—Hannah Price, Respect—Hugh Tighe, Equality—Emma Swords and Community—Christopher Bagnall McGinley. The Students of the Year Awards were presented to Christopher Bagnall McGinley, Emma Swords and Hugh Tighe.



Community Woodwork Project

Mr. Sinnott did a lovely project with his 1st year woodwork class during



the year. They upcycled old pallets to make 20 nesting box kits suitable for 4-6 year olds to build. The wood was cut, sanded and drilled for the Naas Ladybirds, Girl Guides. Well done everyone!

6th year Graduation & Awards

Congratulations to all our Leaving Cert. students who graduated on May 25th at a beautiful ceremony attended by staff, guests and family and friends. Very special congratulations to Paul Kenna, who was awarded the first ever Student of the Year Award. Other awards were presented to the Prefects and for Citizenship, excellence in the Arts, Music, Gaeilge and Sport.



Sports Update -

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1st year Girls Basketball:

We have had a great girls basketball season this year. We entered four teams into the midlands league - senior girls, junior girls, 2nd year girls and 1st year girls. We got off to a great start with the senior girls reaching the final of the cup competition by winning all their games. All the girls played with such heart, determination and enjoyment. The 1st year girls finished the season on a high note by reaching the final on the plate competition. Well done to all involved. We are looking forward to next year!



1st & 2nd Year Hurling:

Our first and second year hurlers got their competitions underway in March when the first years played Naas community college. Conditions underfoot were quite heavy and the side narrowly lost out in their opening fixture. They followed this up with a comprehensive victory over Moate CC in the shield semi-final. They then faced the daunting task of traveling to Athlone to face Marist College on their home ground. Despite taking an early lead, the team could not capitalise on numerous goal chances and saw the ball cleared off the line on numerous occasions. Unfortunately, it was not to be our day and Marist College were worthy winners in the end. The second years got their competition off to a flying start with a win over St Paul's Monasterevan who had gotten the better of them in the final last year. They then travelled to St Brigid's to face Ashbourne CC in the final which was played on Astro turf. Ashbourne were much more comfortable playing on that surface and they ran out winners in the end. Hopefully the experiences will stand to the lads for next year's competitions. Well done to all those who took part, especially those who were new to hurling. Congratulations to all of our players who were called in for trials and made county panels this year. Best of luck to everyone in their club competitions for the summer!

European Tour 2024



We would like to confirm that there are plans for a European Tour for next year's 5th year students. Thank you to those who have already indicated their interest. The deposit of €200 will be payable at the end of September. Further details of the destination, itinerary and price will be confirmed in the autumn. For any queries, please contact Mr. Little or Mr. Kenna.



HSCL Update

2022-2023 has been a fast and busy year.

This academic year has seen the reengagement of parents and guardians back into our school building following on from Covid restrictions. This has seen over 100 parents and guardians welcomed into the school to complete a range of courses. These courses have included; Mental Health First Aid, Healthy Food Made Easy, SafeTalk, Suicide awareness and Parents Plus.

We have begun our transition programme in welcoming our biggest cohort of incoming first year students, with an information night and multiple visits to feeder Primary schools.

I am already planning for next year and I hope to welcome as many parents back for a range of courses. All suggestions are welcome and you can contact me on 0877554770. A special mention to those families who are new to the area - I am looking forward to working in partnership with you and your young people in the upcoming academic year in making school a positive experience for your child. I wish all parents an enjoyable and safe summer. - Jennifer



Wishing all our students, parents and staff a very happy and restful summer. We look forward to welcoming you all back to school at the end of August!