



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



Dear Students & Parents/Guardians,

Our staff and our students are all working very hard. From the end of this week the Easter holidays are upon us; it is time for a break for most but we wish the best of luck to all the Leaving Cert 6th year students with their upcoming oral exams and practicals. The remainder of 1st, 2nd and 5th year students should begin to plan and study for their Summer assessments.

While it has been a hugely busy term with so many sports and extra-curricular activities and trips, there has also been a huge emphasis on teaching and learning since the return after Christmas. Our History Subject Inspection went well also. Again, I ask all our students to look out for each other, to be kind, inclusive and friendly over the holidays and into the busy and fun summer term.

The mock exams reports are available on line and I hope that they will give you a good flavour of the progress your son/daughter has been making. Enjoy the break.

Andrew Purcell,
Principal.

New Curriculum Options for next year

We are pleased to announce an expanded curriculum here in St. Farnan's PPS for 2023-2024. This is to compliment the introduction of Italian and Applied Technology for our current first years. Both of these subjects have been very successful in 2022-2023 with first years.

Next year will see the introduction of Physical Education (LCPE) and Politics & Society for our fifth year cohort of students. In addition, we will be offering new specialisms to fifth year LCA for 2023-2024.

We look forward to the further expansion of the school curriculum over the coming years in line with our schools population expansion and move to a new school building with enhanced facilities.

Queries in relation to the subjects offered by the school and option subjects for 1st and 5th year can be directed to Mr. Little by email alittle@stfarnans.ie

EU Model Debate

Our warmest congratulations to Leah Spain and Emma Swords from TY who represented the school with great distinction at the EU Model Debate in Dublin City Hall organised by the European Commission Representation in Ireland on March 21st. Only 27 schools were selected nationwide to participate in this prestigious event and each one had to represent an EU Member State and debate the issue of *Accelerating the EU's Renewable Energy Transition*. St. Farnan's represented Italy and the girls both spoke excellently and with great confidence.

The students prepared for the debate as part of the European Studies Module in TY.



Some of the Events & Successes celebrated this term!

- Breakfast Club welcomes students every morning
- Career Talk to 6th year students from TUS Athlone
- Student Council meetings held * Ethos Week celebrated in our school
- DEAR—Drop Everything and Read Initiative week Feb. 27-March 3
- Very successful Attendance Drive in February & March
- Seachtain na Gaeilge celebrated with many events
- 1st year students attended Internet Safety & Social Media talks and Personal Development Workshops
- TY workshops in Percussion, Barista Skills, Spanish Dance, Creative Writing, Skincare and Special Effects Make Up, Local History, Segways & First Aid
- TYs & 5th years attended the Just I Life event in Newbridge
- Manual Handling Course for 5LCA
- Zoe, Sarah & Paul from 6th year participated in the European Commission Aistriúcháin Competition
- Green Schools Committee established & organising Recycling Initiative
- Iceskating trip for 3rd year students to Dundrum
- 6th year Biology Trip to Dublin Zoo
- 6th year students attended Chemistry Experiment day in Maynooth University
- TY trips to IIMS, Dail Eireann and the National Museum, the EU Model Debate, Leinster Driving Campus, Riverbank Theatre & the YSI Conference
- 3rd year Music Trip to the National Concert Hall
- JGSP Trips to Butlers Chocolate Factory and Dublin Zoo
- Very popular Open Mic sessions every week
- Healthy Eating workshops organised for Parents & Guardians
- 5LCA Trip to Kilmainham Gaol
- Senior Cycle Information Morning held for 3rd year & TY students and evening event organised for their parents and guardians
- 5th & 6th year Agricultural Science students visited the Farmers Journal farm
- TY, 5th & 6th year students attended Co. Kildare Chamber Apprenticeships Presentation on March 31st



3rd Year Music Trip

Pictured below are Ms. Jardine's Music students who enjoyed a trip to the National Concert Hall recently.



Key Dates for next term

- Apr. 13th:** SUSI Grants Applications Opens
- Apr. 17th:** 6th year Careers Talk from ATU
- Apr. 20th:** TY Geography Field Trip to Kippure
- Apr. 25th:** Leaving Cert. Engineering Practical Exam
- Apr. 27th:** Leaving Cert. Art Practical Exam
- May 1st:** Bank Holiday Monday
- May 3/4/5:** Leaving Cert. Construction Studies Practicals
- May 12th:** EPAS Awards Ceremony
- May 24th:** TY Graduation
- May 25th:** 6th year Graduation
- May 26th:** House Exams begin for 1st, 2nd & 5th years
- June 7th:** State Examinations begin



Teaching & Learning Grant Awarded to St. Farnan's

Great news for Teaching and Learning in St Farnan's this week! Our school has been awarded the KWETB grant for Innovation in Teaching, Learning & Assessment. This award is a fantastic achievement and a great recognition of the current level of innovation in Teaching and Learning practiced in St Farnan's. The funding we have secured will facilitate further collaborative practice and whole school initiatives. We look forward to all members of our school community benefiting from this accomplishment. - *Ms. Dawling.*

TY Update The students in TY classes Druid and Abbey have had a very exciting and fun packed term. There was a wide variety of workshops and trips which everyone loved. As well as the changing of senior cycle taster modules, we experienced many workshops such as a percussion, barista skills, Spanish dance class, a Writing workshop with Fighting Words, Skin-care and special effects workshop, First aid course and a Segways workshop. These workshops not only unlocked creativity but also taught us new skills. There were a number of trips this term such as Just One Life Road Safety Event in Odeon cinema, Ms McGee's Spanish class went to Picadero's in Maynooth, Ms Finlay's French class went to the Riverbank to watch the French movie "King", Students returned to the Riverbank again to see "An Calín Ciuin. We had a visit to the Dail and we also went to the Leinster Driving School Campus. We also had a visit from past Principal, Mr Tom Crehan, who told us about the rich history which surrounds us and the school. All students got involved in Seachtain Na Gaeilge where we helped Ms O'Shea with a First year quiz as Gaeilge. One of the highlights of the year was the trip to the Irish Institute of Music and Song. Students stayed two nights and three days and we learned a variety of new skills and interests. Leah and Emma spoke at the EU Model Debate that took place in Dublin City Hall and they represented us brilliantly. YSI students along with their teacher Ms Delaney attended the YSI Speak Out Tour in Griffith College Dublin. All students continued their work experience every Wednesday, completing their suite of online courses and the Gaisce challenges. - *Ellen Kenna, Class Druid.*

Celebration of the WDW programme with SAP Ireland

We had a wonderful celebration on March 3rd of the 9th year of our partnership with SAP Ireland Ltd. SAP are our mentors in the World of Work (WDW) programme and this year over forty 2nd year students had the opportunity to learn about SAP and take part in a varied programme of visits and workshops. The students presented their reflections on the programme in the presence of SAP Managing Director, Liam Ryan, SAP Company Coordinator, Flor Martin, Jo Sayers from the Schools Business Partnership, Mr. Purcell and their Year Head, Mr. Dockery. Mr. Hayes also showed Liam the new STEM equipment we have in the Technology room, some of the funding for which was generously sponsored by the SAP Community Foundation. The students helped with every aspect of the event and the speakers especially were highly complimented by our guests. Liam was presented with a beautiful wooden plaque made by Mr. Malone in recognition of their cooperation and support over the last nine years.



Wishing all our students, parents and staff a very happy and Easter! St. Farnan's will reopen on Monday, April 17th, 2023.



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Sports Update -

1st & 2nd year Boys Basketball:

Well done to our 1st and 2nd year Boys Basketball teams who represented the school extremely well in the Midlands League. The 1st years made it to the Midlands semi-final where they had a narrow defeat to Colaiste Naomh Cormac 22-18. There were some star performances from Paul O'Connor, John Price and Rian Kelly, to name but a few. The heart and togetherness of this group means that we will be in a good position next year for the 2nd year competition.

Our 2nd years had a nail biting finish to their first game where they lost on a score line of 17-15. They showed great spirit in their next few games but it wasn't to be and we bowed out in the group stages. There were stand out performances from Tadhg Cashman, Joe Morrissey, Sean Greene and Ben Byrne Symes. Thank you to the coaches, Pierce Bolger Hinds, Ben Kelly and James Hayes for the time they put in coaching the students.



1st & 2nd Year Hurling: Both Junior Hurling teams are back up and running and they played in a blitz against Naas Community College and Columba College on March 30th in Coill Dubh.

Ally Club

The school's Ally Club has enjoyed a busy year with lunch and discussions on Tuesdays in room 16. Our senior students have been the backbone and driving force of Ally Club and we will miss them when they graduate in May! Lots of ideas and enthusiasm for Stand Up week next year already. Anyone interested in coming to Ally Club, please talk to Ms Finlay, Mr Furey or Ms Reilly.



HSCCL Update

Life in the HSCCL role has been busy this term. We welcomed Healthy Food Ireland for a 6 week 'Healthy Food Made Easy' course for parents and guardians. Friday mornings provided great smells and tastes coming from our Home Economics room.

Along with Caroline, SCP coordinator, we launched an attendance campaign after February midterm. Well done parents and guardians, we had an average of 88% attendance over the ten days. A special word needs to go to Alannah Kennedy (1st year), Erin McArdle, Cillian Walsh and Liam Meehan (2nd Year) who haven't missed a school day from the start of this year. Our prize winning families from the campaign were Senan Florea (1st yr), Paul Herbert-Kane (2nd yr), Rhys Connolly (3rd yr), Niamh Kirwan (TY), Ryll Montes (5th yr), Rachell Rogers-Collins (6th yr) - enjoy your evening's bowling in KBowl!

Heading into our last term - there are still places available on Friday, 25th April for SafeTalk training and 7 weeks of 'Parents Plus' will begin after Easter.

Wishing you all a nice break! - *Jennifer*