

Principal's Report

Issue Three

January to February 2023





Dear Parents / Guardians,

Welcome to issue three of the Principal's Report, I hope it will give you a sense of the huge breadth of activities that are continually taking place in St. Louis Community School.

One of the highlights of the past two months was the 1st Year Open Evening, we were all in awe at the crowds that came to meet our staff and students, and to view our facilities.

We are heading into a very busy school term, the Home Economics Practical exams are taking place before Easter, the French, Spanish and Irish Oral exams are taking place during the Easter holidays and the remaining practical exams will take place in April and May.

We are looking forward to welcoming our Incoming 1st year students to our school on Saturday 6th May for the CAT4 tests.

With best wishes,

Ms. Regina Anderson

Principal

Additional Accommodation Progress Report



We are making slow but steady progress with our additional accommodation project. The eTenders process to appoint the Design Team was completed in early January, however, I will not be in a position to announce who the Design Team are until the appeals process is complete.

We are looking forward to appointing a team of mechanical and electrical engineers, architects, civil engineers and quantity surveyors to lead our building project. We will also be appointing a project supervisor to oversee the design process.

There are exciting times ahead for St. Louis CS!

Emergency Works

OMD Design have been approved as the successful Design Team to lead our project on the replacement of some of our footpaths, this work will be carried out during the summer months.

We are still awaiting a decision from the Department of Education regarding the essential works that are required on the barge copping stones.



Home Economics Equipment

- The Department of Education have been very good attending to our request for additional Home Economics equipment.
- Almost €10,000.00 has been allocated for the purchasing of new equipment, which was delivered and installed in the New Year.





1st Year Enrolment Night

Thank you to everyone who attended our Open Night and thank you to our students and staff for doing such a great job showcasing our wonderful school.





1st Year Enrolment Night 2023



1st Year Enrolment Night



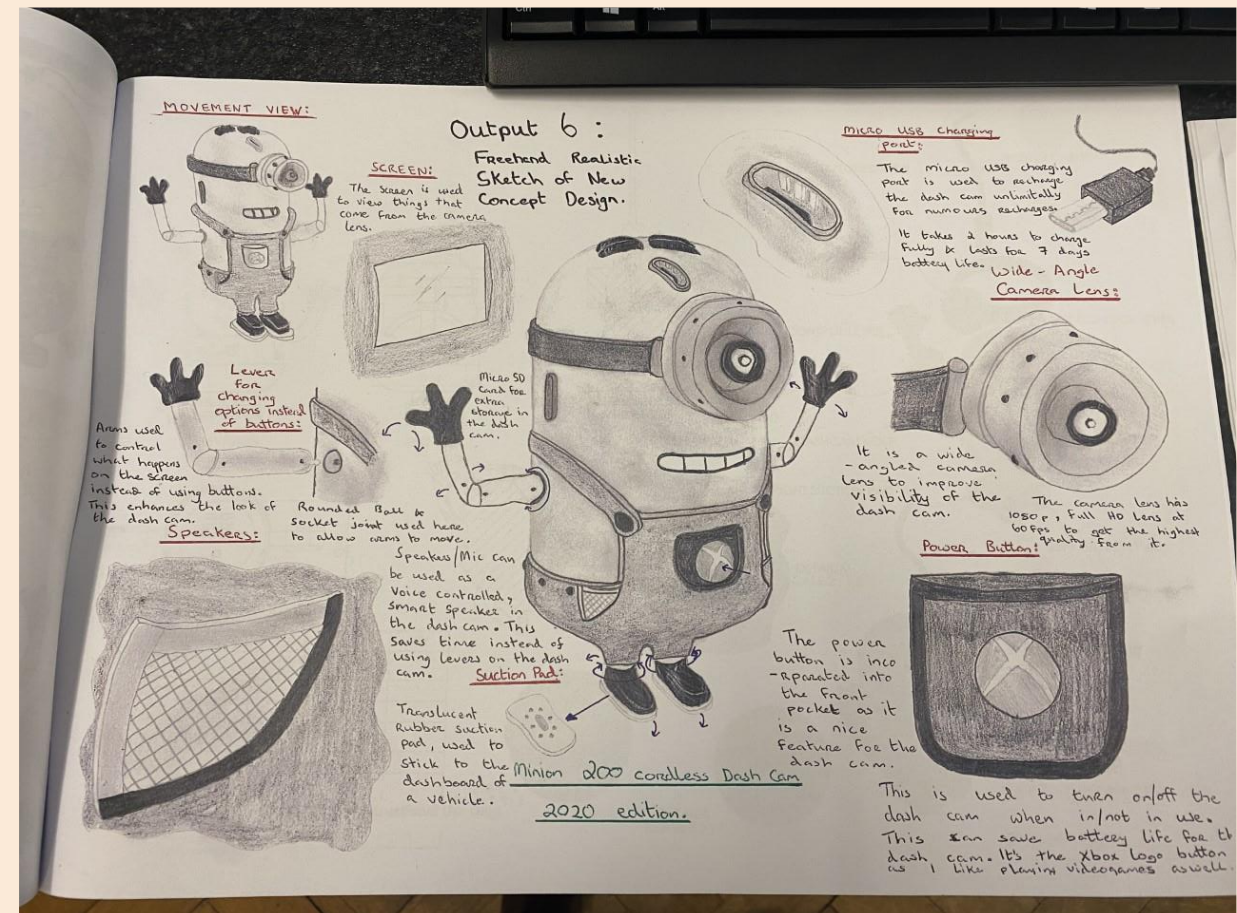
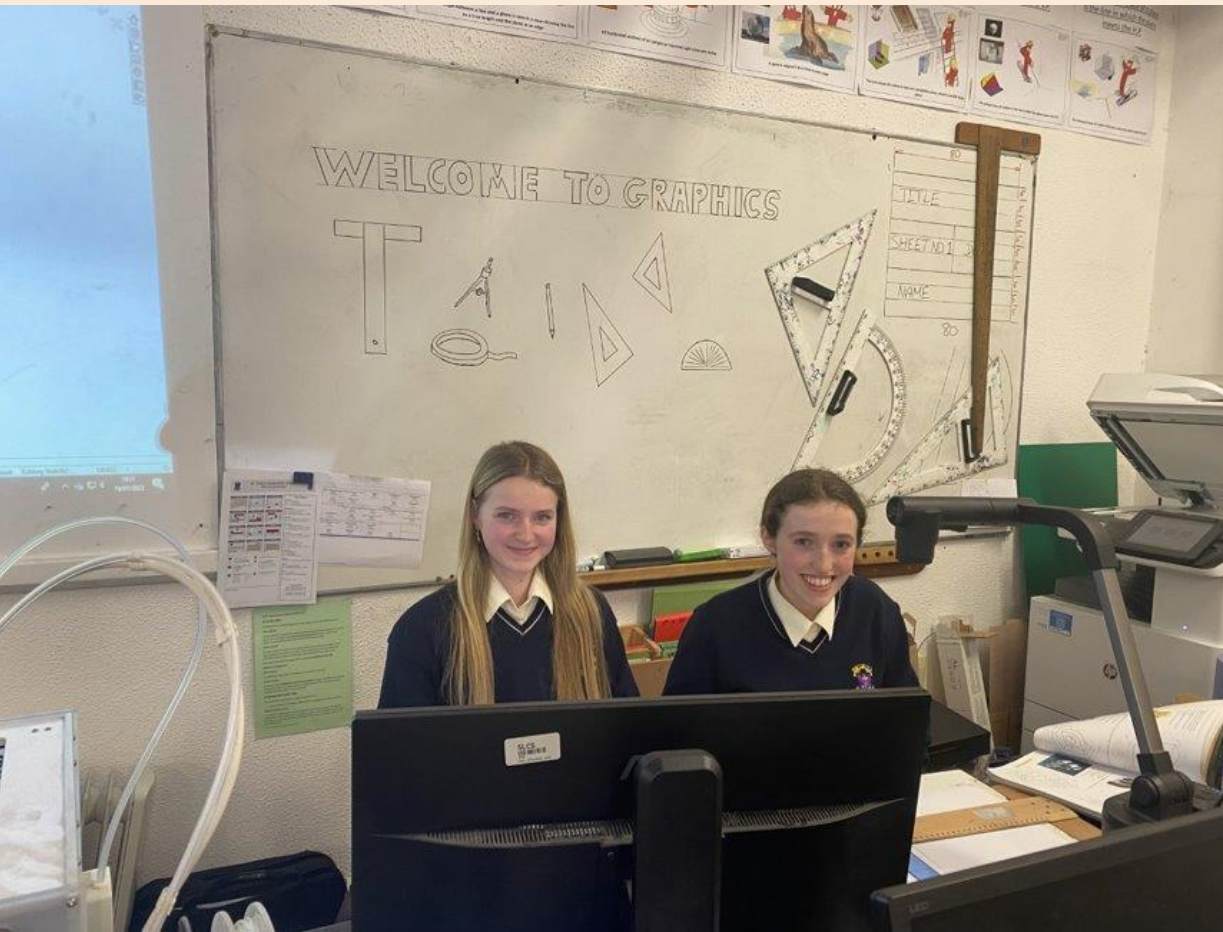
Student Council



Chaplaincy Team



Design Communication Graphics



Head Girl and Boy



Eabha and Joe are two great ambassadors for St. Louis.



Prefects

Our brilliant team of Prefects, who assist with the management of St. Louis, are a pleasure to work with. Thank you to Ms. Whelan for coordinating this group of students.



Career Guidance Section on School website



Please take a few minutes to visit the new Career Guidance section of the school website.
www.stlouiscs.com

Thank you to Ms. Ruane and Ms. Kenny for developing this valuable resource.

The screenshot shows the website's header with contact information (094 9381228, admin@stlouiscs.com) and navigation links (CAO, UCAS, EUNICAS, HEAR/DARE, Qualifax, Careers A-Z, Careers Portal Courses, Apprenticeships, University of Galway, ATU, Mayo CFE). Below the header is a sub-navigation bar with 'Main School Website' and 'Guidance Home'. The main content area features a photo of two women, Walburg Ruane and Tracey Kenny, identified as Guidance Counsellors. A blue button labeled 'Book Appointment' with a calendar icon is visible. The right side of the page contains the title 'Career Guidance and Counselling at St Louis Community School' and a section titled 'Guidance Services' which describes the school's offerings for students in Junior and Senior Cycle, focusing on Personal & Social, Educational, and Vocational/Career areas. A 'Counselling' section is also present, stating it is available to all students to help them achieve their potential.

094 9381228 admin@stlouiscs.com

CAO UCAS EUNICAS HEAR/DARE Qualifax Careers A-Z Careers Portal Courses Apprenticeships University of Galway ATU Mayo CFE

Main School Website Guidance Home Video Guides Events News Testing Mental Health Supports

Career Guidance and Counselling at St Louis Community School

Guidance Services

St. Louis Community School offers students a broad range of subjects in Junior and Senior Cycle. It also offers a full array of services, activities and interventions which aid students in making important life decisions as well as supporting them in the many challenges and difficulties students face in this ever-changing world. Upholding the ethos of our school, we aim to help the students reach their fullest potential in each facet of their development focusing on three key areas:

- Personal & Social
- Educational
- Vocational/Career

Guidance and Counselling aim to support students as they progress through their second-level education.

Counselling is available to all students in St Louis Community School. The aim is to help students to achieve their potential and to support their happiness in school. This is achieved by giving students the opportunity and space to discuss problems which are creating difficulty in their lives.

Walburg Ruane & Tracey Kenny
Guidance Counsellors

Book Appointment

Senior Cycle

Le Cheile Conference



We were honoured to have been asked by the Le Cheile Trustees to nominate a student to speak at the Le Cheile conference in Mullingar last month.

Niamh Grego was selected to take part in a panel discussion on Faith in Action. Needless to say, Niamh represented her school in an excellent manner.



Blast



We are delighted that our application for a fully funded 20 hour BLAST artist in resident was successful. This initiative is funded by the Department of Education and it is supported by the ESCI Education Centre Network.

Thank you to Ms. Flanagan and Ms. M. Walsh for working on this initiative with our students.



LCA Art



Our LCA students proudly displaying their General Education task, thank you to their teacher Ms. Horan for working with these students.



1st Year Business Studies

Ms. Larkin's Business students are busy working on learning outcome 1.2, identify and classify sources of income and expenditure.



Board of Management



Agreed Report from the meeting on 14th December 2022

Prior to the Board meeting, Ms. Tracey Kenny and Ms. Mary Dunne made a presentation on the Special Educational Needs provision in St. Louis Community School. The Board highly commended Tracey, Mary, Heather and the staff of St. Louis for all the work they do in the area of Special Educational Needs.

The Minutes and Agreed Report for the meeting of 11th October 2022 were adopted.

- All correspondence (that was received on time) was addressed.
- The Anti Bullying report was presented.
- The Admissions policy was ratified, and the other policies were discussed.
- An update was given on the pitch development, school development and teaching and learning.

Board of Management



Agreed Report from the meeting on 11th January 2023

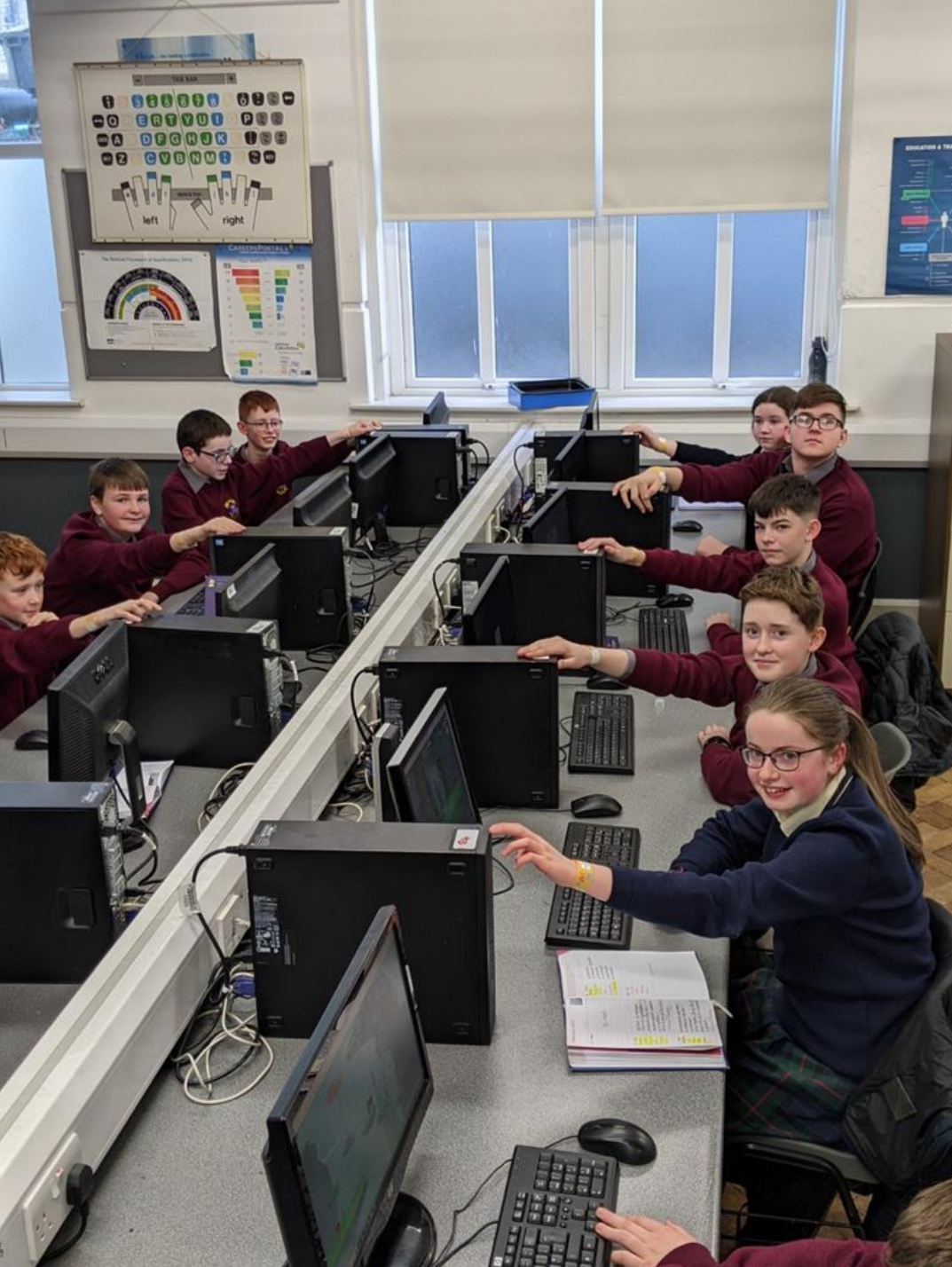
- The Minutes and Agreed Report for the meeting of 14th December 2022 were adopted.
- All correspondence, relevant to the BOM was addressed.
- The Child Protection Oversight report and the Anti Bullying report were presented.
- The Health and Safety statement, LCA Programme policy and the Whole School Guidance policy were ratified. The staff involved in the drafting of these policies were complimented for working on them.
- The board were briefed on the structure of the Junior Cycle timetable and the allocation of the Wellbeing hours.
- A financial report was presented.

LCVP Trip to Hollister



Thank you to Mr. Gallagher for organising an educational trip to Hollister in Ballina for our LCVP students.





Safer Internet Day 2023

Mr. O'Hara's 1st year ICT class who participated in Safer Internet day 2023. The students are learning all about the important topic of online safety.



Best Wishes to Alexei



The staff and students of St. Louis wished Alexei the best of luck as he travelled back to the Ukraine, his home country. Alexei was a pleasure to have in St. Louis and he will be missed by all in our school community. We were delighted to hear he arrived home safely.





Classroom Based Assessments (CBAS)

Classroom based assessments are specific assessments undertaken by second and third year students during class time. They are designed in consultation with the students and can be produced in written, digital, visual or audio format.

The CBA calendar for this academic year is available on the school website www.stlouiscs.com and there are samples of CBAs there also.

The powerpoint presentation from the recent Junior Cycle webinar is also available on the school website.

Policy Updates



The following policies were reviewed by the stakeholders and ratified by the Board of Management during this past term.

- Whole School Guidance
- Health and Safety policy
- LCA Programme policy

The following policies are currently being reviewed;

- Strategic Plan
- Assessment policy
- SNA Policy
- Intimate Care policy.



School Library

Our school library is progressing well. We welcome any donations of used books in good condition that are suitable for teenagers.





LCA trip to Mountbellow

Thank you to Mr. Gallagher for bringing our LCA students to the Open day in Mountbellow Agricultural college, as part of their Agriculture Horticulture studies.



Sustainability Workshop

John, Maeve, Ella and Abbie were delighted to get the opportunity to attend the sustainability workshop in the Mary Robinson Centre in Ballina. Thank you to Ms. Ruane for organising this trip.



Personal Safety

Thank you to Mr. Alex Walsh from Personal Safety Ireland for delivering workshops to our TY students on important issues such as consent and personal space. Special thanks to Mr. Dunleavy for organising this important talk for our students and their parents.



School Self Evaluation



In the area of school self-evaluation, we are currently reviewing two important aspects of school life.

The Student of the Year awards are being reviewed by staff, students and parents, surveys will be issued to all the stakeholders in the coming days. A focus group will be formed to discuss the results of the survey and plan for the future.

We are also evaluating our assessment procedures, there is growing concern that junior students are being over assessed, particularly in light of the workload that is attached to the classroom based assessments.

LC and JC Mock Examinations



The mock exams for the Leaving Certificate and Junior Cycle students took place just before the mid-term break. Ms. Haran spent a lot of time drafting timetables and liaising with staff and students to ensure they ran smoothly.

Ms. Kenny, along with the SEN team organised two special centres and three shared centres for the students who were granted reasonable accommodations. It proved difficult sourcing staff to supervise these centres due to the shortage of substitute teachers, thankfully all worked out in the end.

All 206 students who sat the exams are to be complimented, as always, for their exemplary behaviour, in what can only be regarded as a stressful and anxious time.





TY Tour to Madrid

Special thanks to Mr. Dunleavy for organising a very enjoyable trip to Madrid for our TY students. Thank you also to the team of teachers who accompanied and assisted Mr. Dunleavy; Mr. Kilduff, Mr. Harrington, Ms. Hopkins, Ms. Ryan and Ms. O'Brien.





This video of our student's ice skating in Madrid was viewed 2,800 times on our Instagram page.



Junk Kouture



The Junk Kouture team wanted to raise awareness about how harmful glitter is to the environment. Most of their classmates did not know that glitter is a plastic that finds its way into the ecosystems where it pollutes habitats and harms wildlife.

As glitter is so tiny, it does this much faster than other plastics. They wanted the dress to highlight this problem and so this provided the theme 'Nature Vs Glitter'.

The beautiful bird on the head piece represents nature's struggle against pollution and the importance of protecting wildlife.



SOAR Workshop

Thank you to Mr. Dunleavy and Ms. O'Brien for organising the SOAR workshops for the TY students.



Cycle Against Suicide Mental Health Congress.



We are currently working towards our 10th award for promoting positive mental health in our school. Fifty of our students travelled to Dublin for the congress with Ms. Ruane and Ms. Boyle.



Advice

Inspirational
Stories

Music

Ice cream



Shout Out Workshops



Thank you to Ms. Kenny for organising the Shout Out workshops for our 3rd and Transition Year students.

Shoutout provides educational programmes for teenagers in the area of LGBT.

French Cookery



Our 2nd year French students got the opportunity to prepare a French breakfast with their teacher Ms. McNamara.



Wood Technology



Peter Killeen is pictured demonstrating how to use the new lathe in the Woodwork room.

Wood Technology



A sample of last year's Junior Cycle projects.





Wood Technology



The Junior Cycle written exam is worth 30% of the overall result.



The Junior Cycle project is worth 70% of the overall result.



Junior Cycle Home Economics



The Home Economics practical exam is worth 50% of the final Junior Cycle exam result.

Active learning



Practical Life Skills





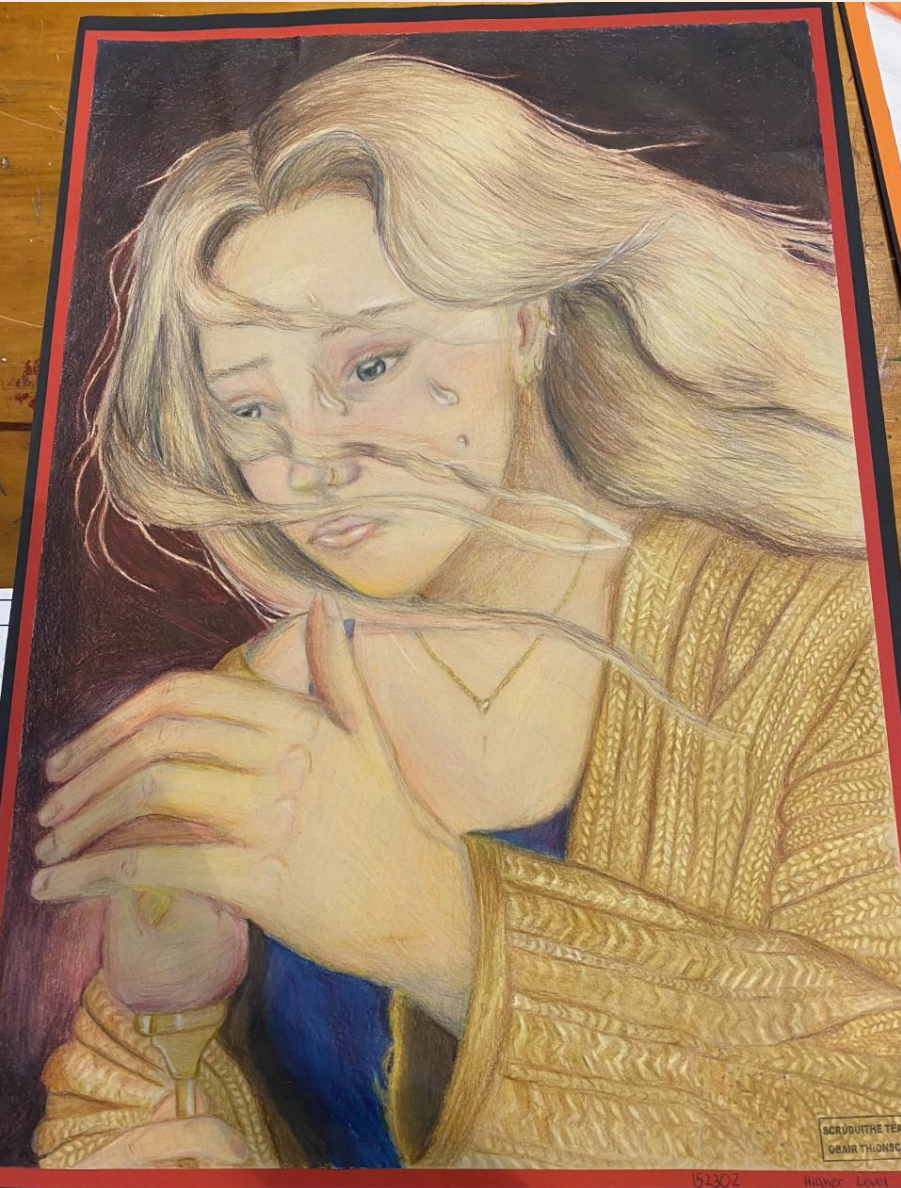
JCSP Cookery Demonstration



Thank you to our Home Economics teachers Ms. Whelan, Ms. Murtagh and Ms. Callaghan for organising Ms. Eimear Lusson, a local chef, to demonstrate some practical healthy dinners for teenagers and their families.

Eimear has been working with St. Louis for many years and her demonstrations are always excellent.

Stunning Art Paintings



ART

Well done to our 2nd year Art students and their teacher Ms. Ueno for the beautiful photos of their needle felting and final sketches.



2nd Year Art



Needle Felting



St. Louis Rugby Team

Our 1st year boys enjoyed the recent rugby blitz in Ballina, thank you to their coach Mr. Ben Miles and the TY students for training this young team.

Rugby training takes place every Wednesday after school.



Junior Gaelic Team



Round 1:

Our first Junior match was against St. Joseph's Secondary School. We lost this match, however considering it was our first match we believed we could improve at our next match by putting a lot of effort into our training. The score in this match was 3-9 (St. Joseph's Secondary School) to 0-6 (St. Louis C.S). We lost this game by 12 points.

Round 2:

Our second match was against Davitt College. We saw a huge improvement in this match in comparison to our first match. Unfortunately, we lost this match, but we scored 4 goals and 9 points which was an amazing improvement from our last match, when we only scored 6 points. The final score in this match was 9-11 (Davitt College) to 4-9 (St. Louis C.S).

Round 3:

Our third match was against Balla Secondary School. This match was very similar to our previous match against Davitt College. The final score was almost the same with a total of 4 goals and 8 points for St Louis. We put up a very hard battle throughout this game but unfortunately it didn't go our way. The final score for our third game was 4-8 (St. Louis C.S) to 9-15 (Balla Secondary School)



Round 4:

Our fourth match was against Ballinrobe Community School. This match was extremely tough. We learned a lot in this match and found places we needed to focus on at training to improve. The score in this game was 7-13 (Ballinrobe Community School) to 1-3 (St. Louis C.S). We did not score much in this match compared to other matches, but we tried to work on this at training.

Round 5:

Our fifth and final match was against Mount St Michael. Sadly, we lost this match, but this match does not reflect on all the hard work we had put in. The final score was 7-13 (Mount St Michael) to 0-1 (St. Louise C.S). This match was extremely tough and although we were losing, we did not give up and kept on fighting until the final whistle.

As a team we can say that we never gave up during any of our matches and always kept our heads up. We always kept trying to improve at training, but it never went our way at the matches.

Report by Louise Ward, thank you to Ms. Hopkins for coaching this team.

Athletics



Well done to all of our 1st and 2nd year athletes who competed in the North Connaught Cross Country Finals and qualified for the Connacht Finals in February. Thank you to Ms. Walsh for working with these students.

Athletics



Well done to James Duffy in 1st year who qualified for the Minor Boys Cross Country All-Irelands after a brilliant race in Connacht finals in Loughrea recently.

James will compete in the All-Ireland Finals in Waterford on 11th March.

1st Years Boys Basketball Team



Thank you to Ms. Hopkins for training the basketball teams.

2nd Year Boys Basketball Team



Pancake Tuesday

Well done to the Student Council, Ms. O'Brien and Eimear Lusson for making hundreds of pancakes for our students on the 21st February.



Pancake Tuesday



Thank you to Olivia for making and delivering delicious pancakes to the Senior Management team. She is pictured with Leanne, her Special Needs Assistant.



Ash Wednesday

Chloe and Cillian from the Chaplaincy team pictured distributing the ashes on Ash Wednesday



Western People



Congratulations to Ronan Clarke, one of our 5th year students, who was awarded the Western People Young Sportsman of the Year at a banquet gala in Breaaffy House Resort on 24th February. Everyone in St. Louis is very proud of Ronan's sporting achievements with our school, his local club and the Mayo Minor team. We all wish him continued success on the sports fields.



Western People



Congratulations to Adam Conlon, one of our TY students who collected the GAA For All award on behalf of Moy Davitts GAA team at the Western People Sports Star awards in Breaaffy House Resort on 24th February.

Adam is one of the coaches for this inclusive team and everyone in St. Louis is very proud of Adam for giving up his free time for the good of others.



Mindout



5th year students took part in the Mindout programme which was delivered by the Mayo Mental Health Association.

Thank you to Ms. Kenny for organising this workshop.



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Website
www.stlouiscs.com