

PATRICIAN



Cover design by S. Fitzgerald

Fundraising Club



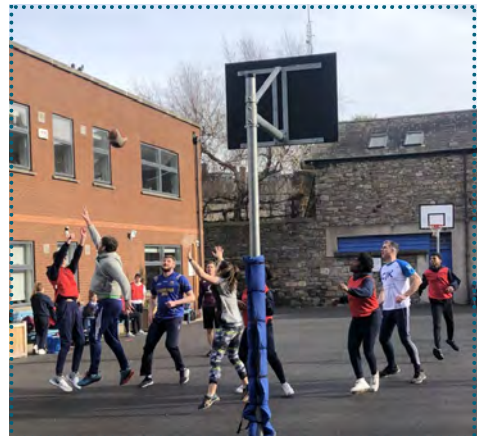
The Fundraising Club aims to encourage students to give back to the wider community. It provides an opportunity for students to raise awareness and funds for a variety of good causes. Through organising, promoting and holding various events and campaigns, students can get a real sense of achievement and generate much needed funds for those who need it most. It has had a really successful first year in existence.



Examples of events held include Bake Sales and Sponsored Walks. The Club also organised Shoeboxes for the Hope Foundation Christmas appeal. Recently a student v staff basketball match was arranged for the Young Person's Mental Health Charity Jigsaw as part of our school's application for an Amber Flag. For Valentine's Day, funds were raised for the Irish Heart Foundation with a Valentine's Day card competition.

The Club met every Friday, usually in Room 6 and each month a new plan was created. Roles were evenly dispersed among the group – some had to create posters, request permission from school management and promote the events. Next year the group hopes to expand and they have many exciting ideas for the future.

The group aims to be student lead and students should learn a wide variety of skills by participating. Another benefit is of course it all counts for students' Junior Cycle Profile of Achievement and their Other Areas of Learning.



Student Council 2019-2020

The Student Council held its first meeting of the school year after the annual elections in September 2019. One boy and one girl were elected from each class group by secret ballot, giving a total of 16 members. The role of the student council is to represent students' views to management, to be consulted prior to the implementation of new policies, to contribute to developing new and existing policies in the school, to be a resource working in partnership with the management of the school, to improve the school atmosphere, conditions and facilities, and to generate good relations between students, staff and management.

The Student Council always strives to actively support students, consulting them in every decision we make. Meetings take place between the Student Council and the liaison teacher fortnightly to address concerns among the student body and improve school life. The student council are consulted on policy changes or reviews and provide the students with a voice on these matters.

The first issues of the year raised were the lack of clocks in classrooms and lunch areas and problems with the locks in the boys' toilets. These issues were promptly resolved by school management. In November, friendship lollipops were handed out to raise awareness of anti-bullying week. In December, the Student Council hosted the first annual Christmas Jumper appeal. Teachers and students were encouraged to wear Christmas jumpers in school and give a €2 donation. The Student Council also organised a Christmas Bake Sale in aid of the Inner City Helping Homeless charity raising €255.

In January 2020, the Student Council set up a brand new Student Council notice board to facilitate new information for students regarding the school such as extra-curricular activities and special events. The Student Council established and ran a board games club at Thursday lunch-time. They also hosted a stand at Open Day. In February, the Student Council reviewed school policies and made minor amendments to the Student Council Constitution.



Student Council Bake Sale

Despite the reduced school year, I feel we made a small but concrete difference to school life. We may have taken baby steps but as Lao Tzu said "A journey of a thousand miles must begin with a single step". I hope that the Student Council will continue to advocate for students' interests long into the future.

Rory McElligott
Assistant Secretary



Christmas Jumper Appeal

Form 1

1P Finn Buckley, Hazel Walsh
1K David Lindsay, Victoria Ogbata

Form 2

2P Matthew Parminter, Saoirse Graham
2K Daniel McNally, Mia Crotty

Form 3

Jools McAuley Pratt (Vice-Chairperson), Sarah Moore

Form 4

Rory McElligott (Assistant Secretary), Georgia McCormick

Form 5

James Parminter, Sadie Ní Cheirígh

Form 6

Sammy Barsoum (Chairperson), Holly Urwin (Secretary)

Chess

A big push to promote chess began in August in St. Patrick's led by Principal Tim Gill who had made contact with one of the country's leading coaches, the recently retired Principal of St. Catherine's, April Cronin. She kindly agreed to come into the school once a week in order to coach the budding chess players in St. Patrick's. We also made contact with a Croatian chess coach, Hector, who agreed to lead the redevelopment of the Leinster Chess League. Other allies of the development of Chess in the school were John Alfred who invited our teams back to participate in his league and a past pupil, Warwick Harte, who together with his brother relaunched the internal school trophy. Together with the weekly coaching for students there were three competitions for the students to participate in, two external and one internal.

The first tournament our chess team attended was the massive Leinster Schools Chess Championship which had schools from all around the country packed into a huge hall in Kildare. We assembled early in Heuston station and headed down for a wonderful day of chess. Our team secured a team victory in one of the opening games which got our chess programme off to a flying start. Once again, the behaviour of our team was impeccable.

As Christmas approached our great chess patron, Warwick came into the school one evening and outlined his plans for the Past Pupil's Association to sponsor an internal school trophy which was an old tradition in St. Patrick's going back many years. He would provide a trophy and a prize for the best players in an internal league where students from all years would play each other at lunch time and during other free slots. Once this tournament was up and running there was great interest from all the students enticed to play for silverware.

The final tournament our teams played in was the inter schools chess championship. Our Elite Team came second and our Novice Team came third. We also had the second best overall elite player in Daniel Lawless, the best novice player in Luke Yurchenko and the second best placed girl in Victoria Ogbata.

The great thing about this final tournament was that new players emerged in the lead up to it. Chess at St. Patrick's is always open for new players to join in.



Champions, 2nd - St Patricks Grammar School-A



Novices, 3rd - St Patricks Grammar School

Model United Nations

St. Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School participated in one Model United Nations tournament during this academic year, the Terenure College Model United Nations. We had great participation from a number of year groups but most importantly our first year group got involved.



While being a lot of fun, MUN is a very complex undertaking for any student and it was great that the first years jumped in with such enthusiasm. As they move into second year, they may be able to drive the participation of the school in MUN. A big thank you to everyone for trying it and even though it's a big challenge it's really worth it. Irish political leaders are excelling on a world stage now and MUN is the ideal training for budding politicians.

COLLEGE AWARENESS WEEK

Between the 18th-22nd of November, our school hosted College Awareness Week 2019. Each year group received an activity, which created awareness about College, Careers, College life and the importance of having a career path.

Teachers shared their personal college journeys every morning during that week and this allowed students to gain some information into college life, how to complete research and how to gain an insight into picking something you will enjoy! Ruth Daly from NUIM informed our Senior Cycle Students about the transition process from Post Primary to 3rd Level and the CAO process. Our Junior Cycle students participated in activities such as "Who wants to be a millionaire College Terms" and "Drop Everything and Talk College". These Literacy and Numeracy activities allowed students to learn about research, understand the importance of compiling your own interests and why every student should have a goal when entering Sixth Year.

2nd Year Trip to Causey Farm

As part of the new Junior Cycle, students are encouraged to get practical experiences but also to make cross-curricular links between their different subjects. An area that has always facilitated students getting “hands-on” and applying skills has been in fieldwork. This is a component of both the science syllabus (ecology) and geography syllabus.

On the 26th September we set out for Causey Farm, near Navan in Co. Meath with all of 2nd form, Ms McCarthy, Mr Brady and Ms. Kennington. When we arrived the 2 classes were divided into two mixed groups. With one group starting with the geography farm study, while the other set off to complete their ecology field study.



As part of the farm study students were taken on a tour of the farm and introduced to the type of work that is done on a day-to-day basis. The inputs and outputs of farm production and how the work that must be done changes from season to season.

Whilst walking through fields, students were introduced to sheep herding (2nd year might not have a future as shepherds) and got to see a sheep dog at work. They were brought into a field of cattle and discussed beef production. On our way back to the main yard we encountered horses and a foal. However, the highlight for most was in the shed, where the new sheepdog puppies were picked up and universally doted on. More than one student wanted to smuggle one home!

As part of the ecology fieldwork students looked at a portion of grassland habitat. As part of this they used equipment such as pooters, quadrats, magnification boxes and beating trays. Identification keys were used to distinguish insects and plants from each other. They were given booklets to fill out and looked at the possible threats to this habitat and the individual plants and animals growing in it.

After lunch students were loaded into a trailer pulled by a tractor, with hay bales for seats, and taken to the bog. On the way we were treated to much singing from 2nd form. Eventually we reached the bog. We were given an introduction to the nature of the bog, how it was formed and why it is a unique ecosystem. After a brief safety talk the students, were encouraged to get stuck in – literally. Some really embraced it, others were not too keen, but it certainly was an experience! Once most of them had covered themselves and their clothes in as much bog mud as possible we plodded back onto the trailer. A bit of changing and cleaning up was required before getting on the bus and making our way back to school.

A very enjoyable trip for all concerned and something we would look at doing again in the future. Special thanks to Mr Macari for organising the trip.





Rugby Team

First Year Girls Soccer



On the 28th January the 1st year girls' soccer team had their 1st match for the school. Their opposition: Woodlands Academy travelling from Wicklow for the morning fixture, on the astroturf pitch in Brickfield Park. For some of the girls this was their first competitive football match.

At half time we made the call to put Sarah in goal, as she had performed well in this position in training. We needed to do something different so that we could score, so

Aoibh was put in as striker and we encouraged her to play high.

Every time Woodlands got control they pushed up towards our goal. With the wind being so strong, players were just trying to boot it in the direction of the goal. A Woodlands' strike sent the ball up in the air. The wind caught it pulling it high and towards the goal, just slipping under the crossbar. Sarah had no chance of getting to it and Woodlands had got a fluky goal and the first score of the match.

The girls didn't give up, Kyra made some great runs in from the wing, getting herself in a position to score but the ball just wasn't getting to her. Victoria was clearing the ball in defence and making runs forward from the back line. There was not a lot of time left though and we desperately wanted a score. We went on the attack once again, Aoibh made a great run in on goal and just minutes from the final whistle we finally had a goal. The game ended in a 1-1 draw and so would go to penalties.

Woodlands Academy took the first penalty and started proceedings with a score. Captain Ella was first to step up for St Patrick's Cathedral. Her cool and confident strike going right of the goalkeeper - our first penalty scored.



The next penalty from the opposition went wide. Next up was Scarlett, the wind was so strong that the ball had to be reset on the penalty spot a number of times. She got good power behind her strike, but it drifted over the cross bar. The opposition missed their next penalty. Victoria's effort went slightly to the left of the keeper but was saved. The next Woodlands penalty was taken well, Sarah just about got her hands to it overhead but couldn't keep it out and Woodlands had their second penalty.

Next up for St Patrick's was Aoibh, she struck it confidently and scored in the bottom left; her second score of the day. The next effort for Woodland's went wide. Freya was last up, if she scored we would go home with a win. She had a good strike but the Woodlands keeper managed to save it overhead. The penalties finished 2 a piece, it would now go to sudden death.

Woodland's were first up and scored. Sarah having played so well in goal all day decided to take a penalty of her own. The wind gusted up again and the ball wouldn't stay on the penalty spot. Eventually with the help of the referee the ball was positioned. Sarah struck the ball perfectly and scored in the bottom right corner.

Woodlands replied with another successful penalty. Next up was Cherry she booted it to the right of the keeper and scored. Still nothing to separate the two sides. Woodlands were up again, the ball popped up and Sarah easily gathered it in. If we scored the next goal, we would win the game. Isabella was reluctant to take a penalty, but we convinced her to go for it. She went up to the penalty spot and struck the ball. Isabella's effort went left, the keeper dived for it, got a finger to it, but it went into the back of the net – we had won! It had been a real team effort and we were now headed for the final.

On the 13th February the final of the 1st Year B Cup took place in Leicester Celtic Football Club.

Our opposition were St Kilian's German School. Having met early that morning before school started, we set out with most of the team.

A kick ahead on the right wing from St Kilian's got through our defence and with one striker in chase, she managed to get enough on it to send it into the goal. The St Patrick's Cathedral girls had had all the chances, had looked like they were in the driving seat but were now one nil down.

They didn't let their heads drop and kept working at it, creating goal opportunities, but just couldn't seem to capitalise on them. The first half ended, the girls came in to the dugout, tired, but keen to get back out and get a goal.

We made one change at half time, swapping Ella from centre-mid to striker, with Aoibh replacing her in midfield. We tried and tried to get the ball up to Ella but she was unlucky and only managed to get 1 or 2 shots on goal which were saved. We were well into the second half; the ball was intercepted in mid-field and with a gap in the backline St Kilian's got through for their second goal.

The game finished with St Kilian's winning 2-0, all players shook hands and our team photo was taken. St Kilian's were presented with the cup. The St Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School 1st year girls' team were each awarded runner-up medals. They have shown great spirit and good potential as a team. We hope to build on this year's performance and continue in competition.



Girls basketball



Registered basketball competition started for girls this year. Ms Sweeney had laid the foundations last year, introducing the girls to the basics in training sessions after school, which had generated a lot of interest.

The senior and junior girls' teams were in action in the first part of the school year. Many of the teams they were playing against had had a lot more court time and had been playing together a lot longer. It was certainly a learning experience and the junior girls team showed some real promise, which should bode well for the senior girls' team in the future. The highlight was their match against Tallaght Community School on 23rd October, where the junior girls put in a great performance and showed their tenacity and determination to come out with a win. Every girl stepping up their game and working hard. Their skills, teamwork and game awareness had clearly improved from previous games.

While many of our 2nd year players had got some court time with the junior team before Christmas; the 2nd year team began their own league campaign on Wednesday the 15th January. Their first match was against New Cross College in Finglas.

The girls started off a little shaky and took a few minutes to find their shape and settle themselves. Once they got some form, they began to play much better and by the end of the 1st quarter we were ahead. By the 2nd quarter the girls had started to really work together and now had some shape. They were becoming more confident on court and more focused, getting themselves into good positions and not making the same mistakes as earlier in the game.

By the 2nd half the girls were comfortable and were making good attacking runs into the basket and began to dominate the game. A very good first outing in the league competition, the girls showed how much they had learnt, but equally it allowed us to focus on things we needed to work on in training.

Final Score: St Patrick's Cathedral GS 26 – 4 New Cross College

Most baskets: Aoife Power

Our next fixture was 5 days later, with another trip out to Finglas, this time against St Michael's Holy Faith. We knew this would be a challenging game as the other team had a number of more experienced players. The girls got an early first basket, but the pressure was on from the start. The score remained tight throughout the game. Every time we went ahead it was evened up shortly after. The girls had to fight for every ball and their fitness and determination were tested. It wasn't until the last quarter that things started to really work for us. Leena got 2 free throws and scored the 1st. Shortly after Bianca also got two free throws, with the girls going in after the 2nd and scoring from the rebound. The girls finished out the game with a hard fought win.

Final Score: St Patrick's Cathedral GS 13 – 10 St Michael's Holy Faith

Most baskets: Bianca Akpotor



We hadn't far to travel for our third match and on a windy and bitter morning we set out for Aughrim Street Sports Hall. We got a good warm-up in and practiced a number of plays, so we were well ready when the opposition arrived. The game started off tense with the two sides appearing to be evenly matched. St Joseph's, Stanhope Street started well and got the first basket of the game, shortly followed by another.

Our team were struggling to find their shape. Timeout was called and we regrouped. The girls went out fighting and got on the scoreboard. The first quarter finished with both teams very close on scores. Our 2nd five went out on court with determination, Leena driving in for 4 baskets and our fast break working much better. We came off the court at half time leading.

In the 2nd half we had found our rhythm and kept plugging away, scoring a number of baskets without reply from the opposition. We began to pull away and continued to score baskets. In the end we finished well ahead.

Final Score: St Patrick's Cathedral GS 26 – 4 Stanhope Street Most baskets: Leena May

Our last game was against Scoil Chaitríona, St Mobhi Road, once again we headed to Aughrim Street Sports Hall. The girls knew that if we won this game we would likely progress to the next stage of competition. Nerves were high and within the first few minutes it was clear that the two teams were very evenly matched. The first quarter was very tense, and a few errors were made.

Our 2nd five came out on court, knowing what they had to do. They held their shape and gained composure on court. We were working our way into more attacking positions and getting in close to the basket. It was still all to play for at half time.

Scoil Chaitríona were excellent on the fast break and used it against us on more than one occasion leaving our defence to chase back. Their players were constantly getting in positions to shoot and were always ready to counter-attack. They intercepted a lot of our passes and were good at whipping the ball. We spent more time defending than we had in any game previously. Unfortunately, it wasn't to be and the game finished 8-4 to Scoil Chaitríona, we would not progress to the next stage.

Many thanks to Ms Sweeney & Ms Kennington for their dedication and skill in coaching all the girls. They have all learnt a lot over the course of this year, but particularly the team of committed 2nd year players. Well done on such a good first season and we hope they continue to grow as players and improve next year.



Extra Curricular

Name of activity: Maths Clinic

Year group(s) involved: Form 1-6

Brief Description of activity: The Maths Clinic is available to all students from 1st year to 6th year who would like to receive extra assistance with Maths topics. Students can use this time to revise certain topics, to go back over homework or tests, work on exam papers or go back over topics/sections missed.

Teacher Coordinator: Ms. Kavanagh

Name of activity: School Choir

Year group(s) involved: Form 2-6

Brief Description of activity: 4 part choir - Soprano, Alto, Tenor and Bass. The choir is by audition only. The choir perform at all school services and events. They also compete at local and national choir competitions.

Teacher Coordinator: Ms. Balfe

Name of activity: Student Council

Year group(s) involved: Form 1-6

Brief Description of activity: An elected representation from the student body. There representatives discuss important student issues and give a voice to the study body.

Teacher Coordinator: Ms. Balfe

Name of activity: Book Club

Year group(s) involved: Form 1-6

Brief Description of activity: reading and discussing variety of novels.

Teacher Coordinators: Ms. Cullen and Ms. Condon.

Name of activity: School Orchestra

Year group(s) involved: Form 1-6

Brief Description of activity: An opportunity for students who play an instrument to play in an ensemble. They perform classical arrangements, film music, popular and jazz standards.

Teacher Coordinator: Ms. Balfe

Name of activity: Chess

Year group(s) involved: Form 1-6

Brief Description of activity: Chess practice and tuition.

Teacher Coordinators: Mr. Doyle/Ms. Cronin

Name of activity: Fundraising Club

Year group(s) involved: Form 1-6

Brief Description of activity: To organise a charitable activity every month. In October, there will be a bake sale for DogsTrust and in November the students will do the shoebox appeal

Teacher / coordinator: Ms Condon

Name of activity: Traditional Group

Year group(s) involved: Form 1-6

Brief Description of activity: An opportunity for students who play an instrument to play Irish traditional music.

Teacher Coordinator: Ms. Balfe

an activities

Name of activity: Model United Nations and Debate
Year group(s) involved: Form 1-6

Brief Description of activity: Political research and public speaking.

Teacher Coordinators: Mr. Doyle/Mr. Macari

Name of activity: BoardGames Club
Year group(s) involved: Form 1-6
Brief Description of activity: A student led programme run by the Student Council.

Name of activity: Green Schools
Year group(s) involved: Form 1-6
Brief Description of activity: A student-led program promoting long-term, whole-school action for the environment. Emphasis this year is on reducing waste, composting, crisp packet recycling and sorting rubbish appropriately.

Teacher Coordinator: Ms. Kennington

Name of activity: Athletics
Year group(s) involved: Form 1-6
Brief Description of activity: Training for track and throwing events for competing in the East Leinster Schools Athletics Competition.
Teacher Coordinator: Ms. Kennington

Name of activity: Gaisce
Year group(s) involved: Form 4-5
Brief Description of activity: Students undertake to complete three activities each week for one hour. The three activities are under the headings of; Community, Personal Skill, Physical Activity. Students can work towards a bronze medal award or a silver medal award. Both groups also take part in an adventure journey.
Teacher Coordinators: Ms. McCarthy/ Ms. Sweeney

Name of activity: Drama Club
Year group(s) involved: Form 1-6
Brief Description of activity: Working for fun on performance and acting skills.
Teacher Coordinators: Mr. Lynch, Ms. McCarthy and Ms. Condon

Name of activity: Basketball
Year group(s) involved: Forms 2-6
Brief Description of activity: Girls from basketball training, developing key skills and techniques for the game.
Teacher Coordinator: Ms. Sweeney

Name of activity: Rugby
Year group(s) involved: Boys from forms 2 6
Brief Description of activity: Rugby training outdoors.
Teacher Coordinators: Mr. Doyle/ Mr. Whyte

Name of activity: Football/Soccer
Year group(s) involved: Boys football will rotate between seniors (Form 3-6) and juniors (Form 1-3).
Brief Description of activity: It will take place in the cabbage patch and all students will meet in the GP room at 12:35. Students must wear runners and football gear.
Teacher Coordinators: Mr. Brady, Mr. Lynch, Mr. Doyle and Mr. Whyte.

Aladdin-the musical

As soon as we returned to school in September there was already talk about our musical. One week later we found out that we were going to be doing the musical Aladdin, Everybody was excited to get started on our musical we knew that there was a lot of work going to be involved and we all had to put in an equal effort. We started off on our work by getting into groups. Each group had a different role to play in making this musical work. There was a set design team, a make up and hair team, a sponsorship and fundraising team and a costume design team.



There were four main teachers involved in this musical and these teachers were also our TY coordinators for the year. Mr Brady was involved in sponsorship, fundraising and handling money to organise this stage set up and all the costs for the musical. Ms Sweeney and Mr Lynch were involved in rehearsals, acting and making sure everybody knew their lines. Mr Lynch was also really good at motivating all of us with his excitement! Ms Balfe was in charge of the music part of things she organised a

choir and an orchestra and she also looked after the main characters and went through their songs so they knew all the lines exactly. As this was not a play but a musical there was a lot of singing involved so a good teacher who knew about music was really a necessity and Ms Balfe was really excellent at her job. We also had the help of an amazing pianist, Luke Lally Maguire, who was a past pupil in our school.

For the dancing side of things we had an excellent past pupil Callum Martin. Callum is a professional dancer who is currently in London studying music and he was a great help for all of the musical even though he still had a lot of college work to do and he was back and forth



from Dublin to London, he always found the time to come in and work with us even on his weeks off from college. Callum was a really enthusiastic teacher and this helped us a lot with our musical. Callum also always made sure we knew our dances and ran over everything a hundred times until we got it perfect.

The dates for our musical were the 20th and the 21st of November this meant we had about 12 weeks to organise a whole musical. There was a lot of pressure on us to get this done We wanted everything to work out, run smoothly and look good.

Everybody had a big part to play in the musical, there was a role for everyone—nobody was left out.

By the time the the first show came around we were more than prepared, there was so much excitement in the air! Everyone stood around going over their lines, making sure they knew when to change the set and have the right props ready. Many of us were very nervous to go on stage and for a lot of us it would be our first time.

The first show was the matinee and even then the room was packed. We all got on stage and got in place for our opening dance and the lights shone on us, luckily it ran so well and everyone's nerves calmed down after the first show. We really got into it then and everything seemed so exciting. The next two shows got better each time and we were all quite sad when the last show that was over, I think we would've been happy performing it again and again.

The musical really helped a lot of students I believe, it gives you a chance to really show your talent and it doesn't matter what role you have. You gain confidence you didn't even think you had and I believe that is so important when you're going into 5th and 6th year. It brought our class together and the teamwork was just brilliant. We are definitely all very grateful for the help from our teachers and for pushing us to step out of our boundaries. They showed us that everyone has something to offer no matter how big or small the role.

We are also really indebted to Rev Oxley on the euphonium, Ms Balfe on the flute, Jessica Sweeney and Oliver Woods on the clarinet, Heather Sweeney on the French horn and Daniel McNally and Dylan Woods on trumpets.

By Renee Ryan & Georgia McCormick



Killary Adventure Centre

Our Transition Year class spent a week staying at the Killary adventure centre in October. It's in Galway, by Ireland's only fjord. We learned a lot and had a really good time. The week was spent doing outdoor activities and enjoying ourselves.

On the Monday morning that we left for Killary we had to be at Heuston Station at half past seven. We caught two trains to Galway. From there we were picked up by a coach to bring us to the centre. The whole journey took about four hours.



When we arrived, one of the instructors talked to us about what we would be doing during the week. Every day we were to get up at half past eight to have breakfast. After that we would go down to our first activity of the day, and then come back for lunch. We'd then have some time to rest in the afternoon before we went to our second activity. Then it was dinner and more time to rest afterwards. From half seven until ten we did 'evening games', and then went to bed at half eleven. After this introduction we had lunch, and then we went to do our first activity of the week (there was only one on the first day).

The first thing we did was the turf challenge. This involved getting into a wetsuit and wading through a bog for two hours. It was one of the best activities we did, it was really really fun. There were obstacles along the way that had to be avoided, and there were a lot of places you could get stuck for quite a while. It was a great activity to start with to get us all involved.

There were two main areas in the centre. The main building was where we ate, where evening games were held, and where our rooms were. Most of the daytime activities happened around a second area about a ten minute walk away, this was where the high ropes courses were, the climbing walls, the big swing, and where we got into our wetsuits. After the turf challenge on the first day, we walked back up to the main building to have our dinner.

The food was one of the best bits about Killary (in my opin-



ion). Breakfast was fairly normal, but it was very nice, we had toast, cereal, and tea. Lunch was always sandwiches we made ourselves. They were really good, and always seemed to end up getting very big. There was also soup for lunch, but the most important part was the flapjacks. They made the most amazing flapjacks. They tasted like cinnamon flavoured cardboard, but in a really good way. Dinner was a different hot meal every day, and it was generally very nice. I ended up being hungry in the evenings, so I started stealing toast from breakfast for later on.



For activities during the day we were split into three groups. We all got around to doing the same things, but we did them on different days. One of the best ones was the big swing. It was a two person swing that you're strapped into. It had to be pulled up with a winch, and was released by pulling a string. A few people didn't do it, but I'm glad I did, it was very enjoyable. Another thing we did was walking across quite a long rope bridge to a wooden tower. From there we abseiled down the side. We got to control the speed we fell at, and some people ended up with rope burn on their hands. Other activities included kayaking and raft building. A fun one was the cliff jump, where we jumped off a cliff into the fjord. After that we went gorge walking, we walked up a very cold gorge in wetsuits. On one of the days we did orienteering. We had to find various places around the centre with a map.

After dinner we did different things most nights for evening games. On the first night we played Mafia, which is where everyone is in a circle, and some people are in the mafia and someone is a detective. On other nights we played other games where we sat in a big circle. One night there were a few different challenges which we did in teams. One was to move a stick around your body in a specific way in a very short time. Another was to try to pick different cereal boxes of different heights off the ground with your mouth. A different night we had to try to climb around the bottom of a small table without touching the ground.

The rooms that we stayed in were quite nice. There were from 3 to 5 in each room. They all had bunk beds and toilets and not much else. They were good to spend time in when we had time to relax in the afternoon and evenings. There was also a pool table.

We had great fun over the week, and got to know each other better. It was a lot of fun, and I think everybody is glad that we got the opportunity to go.

By Gavin Dunphy



The Criminal Courts of Justice TY Visit

On the 22nd of January, half of our transition year class visited the criminal courts. Because we would get in the way of all going on there, we went on different days, boys on one and girls on the other. The courts are always full and hectic, with people running from court to office to court constantly. When the girls went, we were there on a lucky day with lots of interesting cases and trials running.



It was a Wednesday and we headed over early. The courts typically start running around 10-11 and start to slow down at 2-3. The group walked from our school down to the Phoenix Park gates where the building was situated. It was gorgeous architecturally especially when you stepped inside. The Criminal Courts of Justice were established in 2010. Criminal trials used to take place in the four courts along with the other civic cases. This building contains 22 courtrooms, each for different matters. Ranging from the lower courts which handle traffic violations and petty theft to the Special Criminal Court, which handles terrorism and organised crime.

We were allowed to go and sit in whatever court we wanted, as long as the door didn't say "in camera" which meant it was private and public weren't allowed in.

There were lots of hearings first thing, which was in a room packed full of people. There were barristers, solicitors, defendants and public too waiting to get a chance to set dates for trials or fix a technical problem from the paperwork. After a while, Miss McCarthy came to tell everyone there was a murder trial going on in court 13.

We headed up and quietly sat on the benches at the back of the court by the door. When we came in the prosecution was reading out a transcript of the interview detectives had with the person being charged with the murder. It was so interesting to see how the court functioned. A jury was sat in the trial and seeing their reactions to everything the prosecutor said was really insightful to how they would make their decision when it came to it.

Most of the day was spent in court 13 listening to the case. Trials take weeks to months to finish, so it would be impossible to see one from start to finish unless you were a lawyer, but it was great to see what we did that day. Afterwards, I actually organised another week of work experience there because I enjoyed it so much. It was a great experience and the whole class thought it was fascinating and a great trip.

Lily McDonagh



Irish Department



Is fear an tsláinte ná na táinte.

Ní bhíonn saoi gan lecht - mbeo is fear.

Is maith an scéalai an aimsir

Cleachtadh a Dhéanann Máistreach

Is Binn Béal Thu Thast



Nuair a bhíonn an cat amuigh, bíonn na lucht ag damhsa.

Nuair a bhíonn an cat amuigh bíonn na lucht ag damhsa.



Nuair A Bhíonn An Cat Amuigh Bíonn Na Lucht Ag Damhsa



IS MAITH AN YOCRAS



Seachtain na Gaeilge 2020



Is fear an tsláinte ná na táinte

Cleachtadh a dhéanann Máistreach

Níl aon tinteán mar do thinteán Fein



Christmas Bake- Off Competition



Amber Flag



During Mental Health Day and Antibullying week, SPCGS endorsed its commitment to support the positive mental health of its students with the launch of *The Amber Flag Initiative*. On Tuesday 13th December 2019, we launched the flag and we are very excited to take on this initiative for our school community's happiness, health and wellbeing. On Monday 13th January, Finbar Walsh a motivational speaker from the Donal Walsh Livelife foundation gave an inspirational talk to all our students and gave us support in our project for the year ahead.

This initiative was developed by Suicide Aware with the support of The Institute of Guidance Counsellors, Cork GAA and Red FM. The idea behind the initiative is to present clubs, societies and schools all over the country with a clear framework from which to channel and co-ordinate their efforts at improving and encouraging the positive mental health of their members or students.

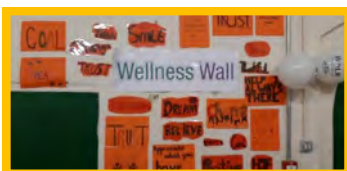


We began this process in school by establishing an Amber Flag Project Team which included both SPHE teachers, Form teachers and dedicated students. The co-ordinator of the project was Ms. Patricia Harrington (Guidance Counsellor). Students involved are Maisie Lunson, Alice Jack, Max Dundon Hanan, Holly Urwin, Eleanor Fox, Jessica Sweeney, Aoife Carroll, Joey Andrews, Darragh Cole, Julia

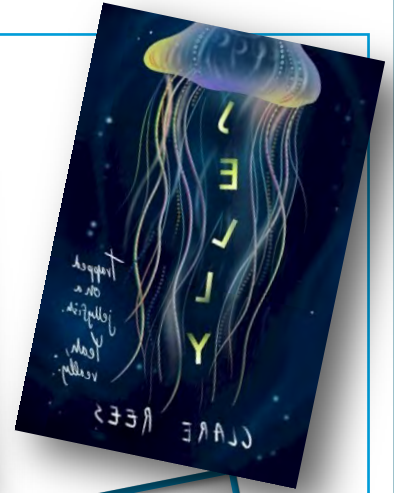
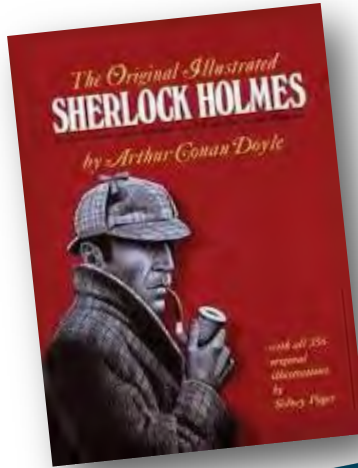
Meleut, Sarah Dooley, Ramona Dinneen, Sarah Batt, Heather Nicholson, and Lily Timmins.

Our project team set three tasks, to be completed during the academic year to promote mental health and we were very excited to carry out these tasks during the year. The three tasks involved inviting a motivational speaker to our school, organising a fundraiser for a local mental health agency through a highly anticipated student versus teacher basketball match, in conjunction with the Fundraising Club, and creating a wellness noticeboard in our school for all our community.

We look forward to receiving our flag when Pieta House can run this awards event in line with the health and safety guidelines. SPCGS will be very proud to 'fly the flag' high for our school community's happiness, health and wellbeing.

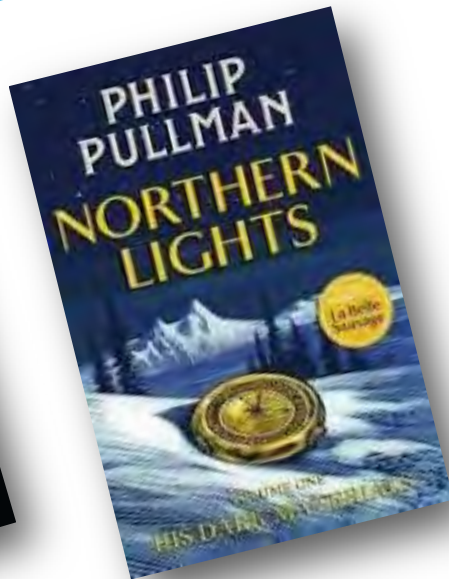
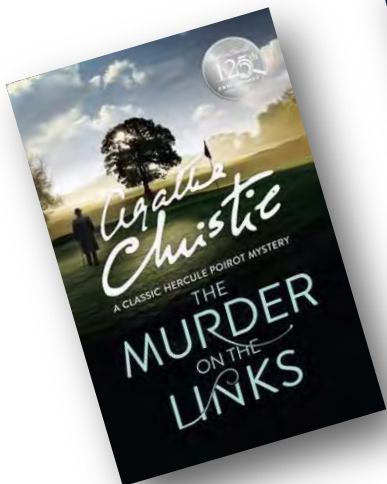


BOOK CLUB



The book club has become a lot more popular this year with many new members from first year! We meet every Monday at lunchtime in the library to discuss the book assigned to that particular fortnight. We aim to finish a book in 2-3 weeks and discuss it along the way but everyone can read the book at their own pace and every week we talk about the parts that everyone has reached. Every few months we discuss what books we will read for the next few weeks with everyone contributing a few ideas and every genre, from romance to sci-fi being incorporated. Most weeks we just discuss books that we are reading individually and give recommendations to other members. This year our school won a prize as part of the WellRead initiative and a few members of the book club went to accept it with Ms. Cullen. A few examples of books we have read this year are:

- To All The Boys I've Loved Before* by Jenny Han
- Jelly* by Clare Rees
- Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens
- Northern lights* by Philip Pullman
- When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* by Judith Kerr



The Cathedral Roof Project



Photo: Scott Hayes

Most of you will have seen the cathedral swathed in scaffolding for the last while and possibly wondered what was going on. When the cathedral architect, Mr John Beauchamp did his 2013 quinquennial inspection of the cathedral, it was noted that numerous slates had slipped, were damaged or were missing and it highlighted a major problem with the roof coverings.

Research at the RCB showed that the roof is very old, having been repaired in phases in 1812, the Guinness restoration in the 1860s and in 1901. Every storm brought more significant damage to the roof so in 2019 the decision was finally made to launch a full-scale restoration programme both to secure the future of the building & re-roof the cathedral.

This is one of the biggest conservation projects ever undertaken in the state and it will cost approximately €9.2 million and last about two years. The contract was awarded to Clancy Con-

struction and work began on the site in September 2019. A temporary roof was installed in February 2020, so enabling work to continue no matter what the weather was (see accompanying photo by past pupil of the Grammar School, Scott Hayes). On 10th February 2020, the dean, Very Rev Dr William Morton removed the first of the old slates, leaving a mere 20,000 to go! Everything was going according to plan and great progress was being made when along came Covid-19 and in March all construction work had to be suspended. It is hoped that this temporary setback will not be too disruptive and that our finish date will not be extended by too much.

By A Fenton



Photo: Clancy Construction

Charleswood Girls' Choir

The Charles Wood Girls' Choir is a summer program as part of the Charles Wood Festival of Music. It is for girl choristers aged 12-18, from all across the country. I have had the privilege of attending this summer camp for the past two years, and I enjoyed it immensely both times.

The camp takes place in the Royal School of Armagh.

The dorms are comfortable, and it's a great way to make friends with your fellow choristers. The staff are absolutely lovely and incredibly helpful, and arrange lots of fun activities for us throughout the week, such as cinema trips, talent shows, dance workshops, games, and more!

The course itself is a week-long in August, filled with practices, performances, and fun! The rehearsals were very professional, and we had the pleasure of working with some incredible people, such as our conductor Ian Keatley and organist Stephen Disley, the world-renowned conductor Dr David Hill, celebrity vocal coach Paul Farrington, and the Westminster Cathedral Master of Music, Martin Baker. We also had a piece commissioned for us each year, and performed several times at services, concerts and other events. We even recorded a broadcast for BBC Radio!

This camp has seriously helped me improve my repertoire, technique, and overall sound, while having fun!

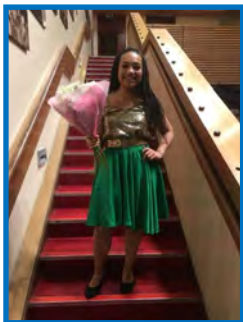
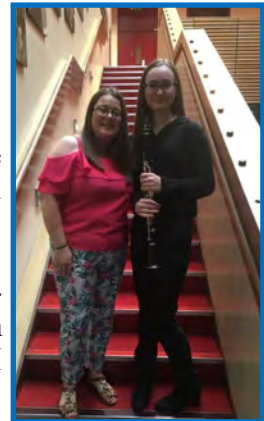
Heather Sweeney



Irish Youth Wind Ensemble

Last summer, I took part in a course with the Irish Youth Wind Ensemble. The group consists of 75 wind, brass and percussion players between the ages 16-25. It was a weeklong residential course which took place at the University of Limerick. The week started off with sectional rehearsals and after a few days we had ensemble rehearsals. These were conducted by Ronan O' Reilly and Dr Ken Dye. We played a huge variety of pieces including *A Silent Movie Suite*, *A Festive Overture*, *Suite of Old American Dances* and a medley from *Porgy and Bess*. The week ended with concerts in Limerick and Dublin. Although I couldn't feel my lips for a week after, I really enjoyed the music course and made some amazing friends.

Jessica Sweeney



Jennifer Yusuf

Form 5 student Jenny Yusuf has been very busy this year. She blew everyone away with her unreal performance of Queen's *Bohemian Rhapsody* in the final of The XFactor: The Band in November 2019. Unfortunately, this wasn't meant to be but undeterred she successfully competed in the national competition Teen Star in early 2020. In April 2020, Jenny was invited to perform the vocals on *From a Distance* with the Belvedere College Jazz Band. The virtual video was created as a thank-you to all the frontline workers during the Covid-19 pandemic. The video has been viewed over a 1,000 times on YouTube.

Educational Trips and Concerts; Form 3 and 6 Music Classes

On Monday March 9th 2020 form 3 music class walked to the National Concert Hall to attend a concert entitled 'A Junior Certificate Music Guide'. *Spring from the Four Seasons* by Vivaldi, *Farnadole* and *Intermezzo* from the *L'Arlessienne Suite* were performed by the RTÉ National Symphony orchestra. The orchestra surprised the students with other famous pieces by Dvořák, Shostakovich and John Williams. The narrator Tom Redmond guided the students through the concert giving them helpful tips to remember specific parts of



each work aided by a PowerPoint presentation to follow the score. Schools from all over the country attended this amazing concert. This is the final year of the Junior Certificate Music course.



On Tuesday March 10th 2020 form 6 music class went to the National Concert Hall. The internationally praised music educationalist Tom Redmond and the RTÉ National Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Maestro Gavin Maloney presented a step by step guide to Berlioz's *Symphony Fantastique* and Mozart's *Piano Concerto in A major*, highlighting key themes, excerpts and concluding with a full performance of both pieces. It was presented with full symphonic forces and a big screen for musical illustrations.

Irish Chamber Orchestra Academy

On Thursday 7th November 2019 music students from form 1, 2 and 5 accompanied by Ms. Balfe, Mr. Gill and Ms. Kennington attended a free lunchtime concert by the Irish Chamber Orchestra Academy at the Gleeson Hall, DIT Kevin street. The ICOA, directed by Dr Diane Daly, brings together members of the Irish Chamber Orchestra and a group of exceptionally talented students from conservatoires across the world. The concert The programme featured the beautiful Brahms String Sextet in Bb major and as a rare treat, a very special performance of *Winter* from Vivaldi's Four Seasons integrating movement and theatre.

SPCGS joined the world's most diverse community of creators on SoundCloud. In absence of the Spring Concert 2020 (due to the Covid-19 pandemic and subsequent school closure) forty tracks of solos, duets, chamber groups, choir performances and student's own compositions were shared on the school SoundCloud page for all in the SPCGS community to enjoy!



Réalta agus Gaolta



In November 2019, we were given the opportunity to take part in a televised talent competition called Réalta agus Gaolta on TG4 after we entered with an Irish song on harp and fiddle. The whole experience was amaz-

ing; from being in the studio and practicing, to performing in front of the live audience and crew. Upon arriving at the TV studios, we were directed to a room where the other contestants were waiting to go into the recording studio. We were then escorted to the hair and makeup department and out to the stage to re-

hearse our piece *Talkin' About a Revolution* by Tracy Chapman. Even though we were a bit nervous about being filmed by so many cameras and having to repeat lines, we really enjoyed being on stage and performing in a different environment than what we were used to. We got the chance to meet Christy Digman, the lead singer in Aslan who was the celebrity judge that night. He commended our performance and gave us very positive comments. Near the end of our competition we came tied with another group and the judges had to decide who would go on to the semifinals, the finals, and the winners will play on the Nathan Carter Tour. Even though we didn't get into the next round, we really enjoyed talking with the other competitors and the overall experience of performing in the studio.



Eleanor and Sofia Fox



Music Composition Workshop

On Thursday 27th February 2020 JJ O' Riordain, a Composer based in Cork gave a composition workshop to the form 1 music class composing with Found Sounds. Over the eighty-minute workshop, the students collaborated and collected sounds from the classroom without using any musical instruments. JJ demonstrated the recording equipment necessary to rec-

ord sounds, how to record and the students discussed sounds in current popular music. By the end of the music class the students composed a really cool piece of music which you can listen to on the school Sound Cloud page.



School Chamber Orchestra

Ever since our humble roots back in 2014, the SPCGS orchestra has gone from strength to strength, reaching new heights as we strive for peak stardom. Regarded as one of the most influential groups of the 21st century, the orchestra has flourished into the show-stopping ensemble you know and love today. We have grown in both numbers and popularity and hope to inspire generations to come. This year we were blessed with new members in form 1, including Charlie Casey-Carney, Aoibh Crowley, Roisín Farrelly, Séamus Kelly, David Lindsay, Victoria Ogbata, Sarah O’ Sullivan, Freya Reddington and David Zubarevs. These exciting new additions include the celestial, captivating, cool, cracking cello, the terrific, thrilling, tremendous, theatrical, trombone and the surprisingly stupendous, sensational, spectacular, stunning saxophone. We may be separated into our succulent string, wicked woodwind, breathtakingly bad brass and pungent percussion families, but truth is, our outstanding orchestra is the REAL family. We share a beautiful connection!

This year, the SPCGS orchestra made the crowds go wild on our nationwide tour. We stunned the tourists outside of the crazy cathedral with our crackin’ carolling at Christmas time – featuring fan-favourite *Patapan*. We put music teachers to shame with our mind-blowing performance at the Post-Primary Music Teachers Association Annual Conference at Malahide in October 2019 and we commenced proceedings at the SPCGS Open Day 2020 with our hit song *Best Day of My Life*. When we're not losing music and breaking clocks, we amaze ourselves and our adoring fans with our talent. We've formed a close-knit family and have influenced the student body to strive for perfection. But unfortunately, all good things must come to an end. We will sadly be saying goodbye to our beloved 6th years; Alice Jack, Eleanor Fox and Jessica Sweeney. The orchestra will not be the same without you all.





Singing into Christmas

RTÉ Lyric FM Choirs for Christmas Competition

In early December, just before the Christmas exams the School Choir recorded *In the Bleak Midwinter* by Gustav Holst for the annual RTÉ Lyric Fm Choirs for Christmas competition. Now in its 21st year, the competition has gone from strength to strength. For the sixth year in a row, the school choir were selected as finalists in the competition.

Carolling for Inner City Helping Homelessness

On Tuesday December 17th, the school choir and orchestra carolled outside the Cathedral. A whole school effort from teachers' and students' ensured morning and afternoon carolling sessions ran smoothly. With Santa hats and t-shirts, 1st and 2nd year students collected for the Inner City Helping Homelessness charity. The choir and orchestra raised €1100 for the Inner City Helping Homeless.



Forget Me Nots Concert

On Tuesday December 17th, The Forget-Me-Nots Choir, an all-inclusive community choir for older people, family, friends and neighbours and especially welcoming to those affected by dementia and memory loss, had their Christmas lunchtime concert in St. Patrick's Cathedral. Musicians from the Grammar school were invited to perform in the concert. Sisters Eleanor Fox and Sofia Fox performed the traditional tune *Flying to the Fleadh* on fiddle and harp. Transition Year



students Saibh Fitzgerald

(Aladdin) and Lavinia Stoppani (Jasmine) sang *A Whole New World* from their TY musical *Aladdin*. Jools McAuley-Pratt and Joanna Yusuf sang *Shallow* from hit movie *A Star is Born*. Davide Antochi, a chorister of St. Patrick's Cathedral, sang the Christmas classic *Walking in the Air* accompanied by David Leigh on piano. Transition Year students were on hand to guide the members of the choir to the Lady Chapel for refreshments after the concert.

Carols For All

On Sunday December 15th 2019 the Cathedral Choir and the choir of St. Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School joined forces for the annual Carols for All service in St Patrick's cathedral. The service consisted of congregational hymns, prayers, readings and various anthems sung by both the Cathedral Choir and the school choir. The

Grammar School Choir sang *In the Bleak Mid-Winter* by Gustav Holst and *Lully, Lulla, Lullay* by Philip Stopford. The Cathedral was packed to maximum capacity with friends and family in attendance



who all enjoyed the service very much. This is the fifth year that the Grammar School Choir have been invited to take part in the Carols For All and thoroughly enjoyed it!



Wesley Interschools Music Festival 2020; Individual and Chamber Music Competitions

Early on Saturday 7th March, thirty-eight students from SPCGS competed in individual, duo, band and chamber music competitions. It was a record-breaking year with SPCGS receiving six 1st place prizes including six perpetual cups, six 2nd place prizes, eight 1st Class Honours and two Highly Commended certificates. We are so very proud of all our musicians and vocalists- wishing them all the heartiest congratulations!

-Awards-

Competition	Performer(s)	Award(s)
Unaccompanied 16	SPCGS Chamber Choir	1 st place & <i>Marathon Cup</i>
3 Part Choir SAB Choir	SPCGS School Choir	2 nd place
Classical Singing U-16	Davide Antochi	2 nd place
Classical Singing U-16	Joanna Yusuf	1 st Class Honours
Popular Singing U-16	Saibh Fitzgerald	1 st Class Honours
Popular Singing U-16	Joanna Yusuf	1 st Class Honours
Popular Singing U-16	Jools McAuley Pratt	Highly Commended
Brass U-16	Daniel McNally	2 nd place
Strings U-14	David Lindsay	1 st Class Honours
Vocal Duet U-15	Davide Antochi & Matthew Antochi	2 nd place
Vocal Duet U-15	Lilac Carters & Lilas Bailey	Highly Commended
Vocal Duet O-15	Jenny Yusuf & Angel Akpotor	1 st Class Honours
Solo Singing Classical O-17	Jenny Yusuf	1 st Class Honours
Popular Singing O-17	Jenny Yusuf	1 st place
Popular Singing O-17	Shawn Arshad	1 st Class Honours
Unaccompanied Irish Song U-15	Ramona Dinneen	1 st place
Unaccompanied Irish Song U-15	Davide Antochi	2 nd place
Unaccompanied Irish Song O-15	Sofia Fox	1 st place & <i>The Irish Cup</i>
Chamber Music U-15		
<u>SPCGS Junior Chamber Group</u>		1 st place & <i>Junior Chamber Music Cup</i>
Davide Antochi, David Lindsay, Leena May, Angelo Morales, Daniel McNally, Heather Sweeney and Oliver Woods		
Chamber Music U-15	<u>SPCGS Junior Chamber Ensemble</u>	1 st Class Honours
Charlie Casey-Carney, Aoibh Crowley, Roisín Farrelly, Saoirse Graham, David Lindsay, Victoria Ogbata, Sarah O' Sullivan, Freya Reddington Daniel McNally, Angelo Morales, Heather Sweeney, Oliver Woods and David Zubarevs		
Classical Guitar U-15	Leena May	2 nd place
Classical Guitar U-15	Davide Antochi	1 st Class Honours
Rock Bands O-15	In Altitude (Michael Kelly)	1 st place
Piano Duet U-15	Saoirse Graham & Angelo Morales	1 st place & <i>Piano Duet U-15 Cup</i>

Wesley Interschools Music Festival 2020; Choral Competitions

The Interschools Music festival took place at Wesley College, Ballinteer on March 6th and 7th. The school choirs performed in three choral competitions. To start off the evening, the School Choir sang *Cantar* by Jay Althouse featuring solos from 6th year students Brad Hennessey, and Eleanor Fox. The choir were delighted to receive 2nd place, narrowly beaten by the choir of Moate Community College. In the mixed choir competition, the School Choir performed the exquisite and complex *Sure on this Shining Night* by Morten Lauridsen. The Chamber Choir (senior students) competed in the unaccompanied choir competition. They gave a memorising performance of the spiritual *Wade in the Water* arranged by Moses Hogan which featured a mesmerising



solo from Jenny Yusuf. The room filled with applause when the adjudicator announced St. Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School the winner of this competition. Overall, the adjudicator Kevin O'Connell complimented the St. Patrick's Cathedral Grammar School Choirs on their mature sound, professionalism and excellent communication. In particular, he commended the choir for performing music which really suited them!



Junior Musician Perpetual Cup



The Junior Musician Perpetual Cup is awarded to a student in Fourth Year who, in addition to studying Junior Certificate Music in the school, has contributed to all aspects of extra-curricular performing activities during First to Third year. The selected student made a valuable contribution to the School Orchestra and School Choir. He has shown great leadership and commitment in his flawless attendance at all rehearsals. He has contributed to many solo and group performances and inspires his fellow musicians with his musicality. The 2019 winner of the Junior Musician Perpetual Cup is Gavin Dunphy.

Senior Musician Perpetual Cup

The Senior Musician Perpetual Cup is awarded to a student in the previous Sixth Year who in addition to studying Leaving Certificate Music in the school, has contributed to all aspects of extra-curricular performing activities at the Grammar School. This student consistently strove for excellence in every performance. She made a valuable contribution to the orchestra and all choirs in the school and as a chorister of the Cathedral Girls' Choir. She showed dedication and commitment in her attendance at rehearsals. She is a virtuosic pianist and a fabulous singer and gave many wonderful performances at school services, concerts, and external competitions while inspiring those around her. The 2019 winner of the Senior Musician Perpetual Cup is Oonagh O' Malley



Principal's address—Christmas Service and Prize Day 2019

On the 27th February 2019 the Kevin Street building was officially opened by the minister for education, Joe McHugh. Given that the opening took place on the anniversary of the “Beast from the East” we were extremely fortunate with the weather! The opening ceremony took place in the school yard and was preceded by a special service here in the Cathedral. It was a wonderful occasion and I would like to thank all those who participated and all those who attended. The Kevin Street building has completely transformed the school. The classrooms and particularly the specialist rooms for science, home economics, music and art have made a hugely positive impact on daily school life. But, it is also the circulation spaces, the new lockers and bathrooms that have made the difference. The school yard now has a proper basketball court, and the parents’ association continue to work on improving the environment of the yard by providing seating and planting. Pupil numbers are now at a high of 200 with an additional 20 pupils due to start in September.



Our increased numbers attract more government funding and an increased teacher allocation, but they also give us a bigger pool of people to participate in sports and extra-curricular activities making these activities more viable. The increased numbers also allow us to enter more competitions, this year we have had teams in the Irish teachers’ schools quiz, and just this week, five Transition Year students were invited to the second round of the UCD maths Olympiad.

This year the school has also been successful in a number of whole school activities. In September the school was awarded a special merit in the DCC National neighbourhood competition. And, in November, the school was given the PDST Wellread award which was an initiative involving the whole school community, parents, pupils and teachers with a focus on promoting a love of reading in the school community.

I could go on, and there is so much more that I could refer to but, the details of all these activities and programmes can be found on our regularly updated website and twitter feed and in our excellently produced yearbook, the Patrician. So, our school continues to grow, not just in numbers but in the range of activities both in and out of the classroom. However, we are still a small school and the sense of community traditionally associated with our small school is something we continue to place a high value on. For the last number of years the school has been focusing not just on improving the built environment but also exploring ways to improve





the teaching and learning environment. Through the process of self-evaluation we are currently looking at ways to ensure that students grow as learners through respectful interactions and experiences that are challenging and at the same time supportive. We are also looking at ways to respond to the different learning needs of individual pupils by differentiating teaching and learning activities. This process has helped us to become an even more inclusive school,



something that is central to our ethos.

I am delighted to see so many parents here today. The PA have been involved in a number of fundraising activities this year including the book and uniform sale and the highly successful table quiz, they have also generously sponsored a significant number of books for our growing library. I would also like to thank the PA for their practical support particularly with catering for events such as the recent TY musical.

It is great pleasure to see some of our past pupils here today. They were a talented bunch in a variety of different ways. Academically, of course, but also musically with a number of very talented musicians and we also had, last year, a number of very talented artists. Indeed, we were delighted when three of the class gained highly coveted places to attend the National College of Art and Design this year. And, with this in mind, I am delighted that we have another talented artist with us here today. James Earley is a local artist, has a distinctive style that celebrates his family's rich artistic past within Irish stained-glass art. He has been producing artworks in public spaces since 1997. He was involved in the design of the skate park in Weaver Square which is just up the road from us here on Cork Street. And, if any of the students are not familiar with James' work you soon will be because he is in the process of completing a series of three beautiful stained glass windows which are to be installed in the Kevin Street building. It is a privilege for us to have him working on this project and a great honour that he is here today to present the prizes.

We will hear from James in a moment but, before I finish I would like to refer back to the activities that I mentioned earlier and to acknowledge the fact that none of this could happen without the teachers of the Grammar school and I would like to thank them for everything that they do for the children in our care. For their commitment to pastoral care and to extra-curricular activities. For embracing the many changes that they have had to face in recent years and for coming up with new ideas or new ways to do things. They display great enthusiasm for what they do and it seems that no matter what they have to face, they face it with good humour. So, I would like to thank them all. I would like to thank the administrative staff Avril, Heather and David for all that they give to the school and I would like to thank Siyka for looking after our school every day after the rest of us have all gone home. Thank you.

