



# Newsletter

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## **Tribute**

**We wish to acknowledge the tremendous contribution of our former Principal Mrs. Cathy Wyer. Mrs. Wyer was Principal at St. Mary's for nine years and has now advanced to the next stage of her career. We wish her every success in her future endeavours. In honour of Mrs Wyer's contribution and dedication to the school during her tenure, the Parents' Association planted a tree in the school's Memory Garden.**

## **Ethos**

St. Mary's Holy Faith Secondary School is a Catholic All Girls' Secondary School under the management of the Le Chéile Trust, a Trust made up of several congregations throughout Ireland including the Sisters of the Holy Faith. The underlying motivation for all activities in the school originates from the Gospel of Jesus Christ. The management and staff aim to promote the values of the Gospel in their individual and collective roles as educators of the students under their care. The Code of Discipline seeks to develop in the students values of respect for themselves, others and the school environment together with a positive attitude to learning and the possibility of realising their full potential as young people. All teachers seek to develop self-reliant young people who are well-balanced and able to cope with the pressures of life and work into the future.

The Pastoral Care Programme followed in the school aims to support students with difficulties that are either related to their personal lives or to their academic performance. Due care is taken to ensure that all students are treated fairly and with respect. We aim to create an environment where all students get a chance to achieve to a level appropriate to their ability. Every effort is made to ensure that students learn from their mistakes and then start anew as they continue in school. The cooperation of parents and guardians in this process is vital towards producing an outcome that satisfies all and brings contentment to students as members of the school community.

## **Junior Certificate Results**

Congratulations to all 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> year students who received their outstanding Junior Certificate results in September. Well done to each of you, you did us proud!

## **Open Night**

An Open Night for prospective students and their parents was held in the school on September 13<sup>th</sup>. The event was very well attended and we thank all the girls who helped on the night.

## **E-Portal**

A new attendance system which records and monitors attendance and punctuality has been introduced at the school. Each class tutor now records absences at 8.55am using a computer in each classroom. This is then updated throughout the day in all classes by subject teachers.

It's a fact that students who attend school regularly are more successful in school and in their exams than students who do not attend regularly. We appreciate your ongoing cooperation in this regard. You will find a print out of your daughter's attendance enclosed with this newsletter.

### **Christmas Exams**

Christmas exams start on Monday, **November 28<sup>th</sup>** for one week. This is just 3 weeks after the midterm break so some revision over the break would be advisable.

### **Art Club**

A visit to the National Art gallery was organized on Friday, November 21<sup>st</sup> for Junior Cycle students. This proved to be a great success and the gallery was most complimentary of the girls' enthusiasm and interest.

### **Uniform**

Parents are reminded that girls must attend school in full uniform, Runners are not acceptable as part of the school uniform only black shoes. P.E. uniform can only be worn to school when P.E. is first class.

### **Student Council**

The Students' Council has been meeting regularly with Mrs. Mc Cabe to discuss issues that they would like to have addressed in the school.

### **German Trip**

Following the success of last year's trip to Germany it is proposed that another trip will take place in April 2012 for any 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> year German student who is interested. Deposits of €150 should be paid to Ms Muldoon by November 11<sup>th</sup>.

### **Maths Week**

A most successful and enjoyable *Maths Week* took place in the school from October 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>. Students participated in a range of Maths related activities including a 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> year poster competition, TY treasure hunt and 1<sup>st</sup> Year bingo. Well done to all the winners.

### **Assemblies**

Each Year Group participated in an assembly on Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup> focusing on the school's core values 'Respect yourself, respect others, respect the environment'.

### **Mobile Phones**

Following consultation with the Parents' Association, Board of Management and Teaching staff a new policy on mobile phones has been agreed. In future girls will be allowed to bring mobile phones to school in the interest of personal safety but phones must be kept switched off for the duration of the day and not turned on again until the girls leave the school grounds.

If a student is found to be using her phone during school hours or within the school grounds:

- 1<sup>st</sup> offence - phone will be confiscated for a week.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> offence - phone will be confiscated for the term.
- 3<sup>rd</sup> offence - phone will be confiscated for the year.

### **Examination classes**

A reminder to all parents/guardians of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> year students that examination fees for the Junior and Leaving Certificate classes will be due in the New Year. Last years fees were €105 (JC) and €110 (LC) approximately so it is advisable to plan for this payment. Candidates with a current medical card are exempt from this payment.

## **Voluntary Contribution**

Parents are reminded that voluntary contributions can be made to the school office in full payment or in installments.

## **Glendalough**

1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Year students participated in a trip to Glendalough at the beginning of the school term. Well done to all the girls for completing the hike!

## **Musical**

Preparations for our musical 'Legally Blond' are well underway. TY students are learning the songs and dance routines for what will no doubt be a great show in February. Girls from TY have also attended auditions in St. Paul's and Chanel Colleges for female roles in their musicals.

## **Website**

A new school website is currently being developed and will be on line soon. We are looking forward to being able to provide news, information and promote the school on the World Wide Web. From time to time we would like to post group photos of the girls on our website to highlight news items of interest and achievements. At no time will the names of girls be used nor will individual photographs be posted. Please contact the school if you do **not** want your daughter to appear in a group photograph on our website.

## **French**

Céad Mile Fáilte or *Bienvenue* to our new French Assistant Cindy Manière. The school is most fortunate to have been granted Cindy by the Department of Education and Skills to assist in the French Department. Cindy will help the girls to learn about French culture and will enable them to develop their oral language skills which will be of huge benefit to them in preparation for their oral and aural exams.

2<sup>nd</sup> Year classes and their teachers hosted a French morning where the girls had the opportunity to sample some typical French food.

## **PE Department / extra curricular**

The school's sports leagues are just beginning and will be in full swing after the mid-term. This year we have entered 4 teams in basketball, 2 teams in soccer and 2 teams in Gaelic Football. The up-graded fitness suite is proving very popular. Many students use this facility after-school which is great to see. We hope to have a weights' room for the students to avail of after the mid-term and new changing facilities. It is important that all students bring their correct PE uniform to lessons as students will not be allowed to do PE after the mid-term if they do not have the correct gear.

The following are the activities on offer after school:

<b>Monday</b>	1st and 2nd year Basketball
<b>Tuesday</b>	Dance and Aerobics
<b>Wednesday</b>	Soccer and GAA
<b>Thursday</b>	U16 and u19 Basketball

The gym is open for students everyday after school until 5pm - why not join after the mid-term break.

### CSPE Action Project

On Monday 17th October, Rang Fiachra visited the Irish Aid Centre in O'Connell Street. This was for their CSPE Action Research Project which is worth 60% of the total marks in the Junior Certificate Exam. Each student had a particular task to do in planning this visit. In two groups students learned about hunger, diet and economic issues in a local village in Malawi. The hands-on activities included a short film about the daily life of an 18 year old girl and the girls got to handle agricultural tools, baskets, grain, other local food supplies. The visit concluded with an interactive game simulating the daily food and economic choices and challenges for local families. Each of the students found the visit interesting and informative

### Fashion Show

The LCVF enterprise class will present a 'Fashion Show' in the Gowan Hall on Friday 28<sup>th</sup> October in aid of charity.

### Guidance News

- Any student who wishes to talk to about issues regarding school, career or concerns of a personal nature can make an appointment with Ms. Rogers the Guidance Counsellor.
- Guidance interviews are underway for 6<sup>th</sup> Year students as well as a programme of activities including study skills, goal setting, time management, visiting speakers and Open Days.
- 6<sup>th</sup> Year students are preparing for their CAO applications which must be in the system by February 1st.
- A number of students from TY and 5<sup>th</sup> Year received awards in DCU on October 14<sup>th</sup> as follows:

Name	Award
Sophie Kavangh	Arts and Culture
Caitriona Flynn	Academic
Nicole Higgins	Special Award
Aoife Shorthall	Sport
Gemma Lambe	Sport
Alex Cooling	Sport
Annmarie Mc Donough	Sport
Lauren Keegan	Community Spirit
Kelly-Anne Byrne	Special Award
Sarah Ormsby	Community Spirit
Jessica Spencer	Academic
Hannah Joyce	Sport
Lauren Kelly	Community Spirit
Sarah Kearney	Special Award
Katelynne Melia	Community Spirit
Ayisat Titilayo Okunola	Academic
Shannon Darcy	Academic
Kim Walton	Arts and Culture
Alicja Wuczynska	Academic
Sarah Melsk	Community Spirit

# T.Y. NEWS

## **Induction**

A very successful induction day was held on the 1<sup>st</sup> of September. It concluded with a most enjoyable picnic in St. Anne's park. Sunshine, fun and games !

## **Fees**

Parents are reminded that the fee for transition year is €300 and can be paid to the school office in full payment or in installments.

## **Glendalough Trip**

On the 28<sup>th</sup> of September we headed off to Glendalough for an overnight stay and some serious hill walking ! The positive attitude and cooperation of the girls was greatly appreciated by all involved. Well done to the students who have taken on the challenge of "An Gaisce" bronze medal. This trip will count as their venture module.

## **Daisy Days**

The girls showed their caring side by volunteering to fundraise for Daisy Days. A text has been received from Aware commending the students for their participation in this fundraising event.

## **Flashmob**

As part of the Aware campaign the girls prepared a flashmob event which they staged in Glendalough and in the school. This was a very successful and enjoyable team building exercise and special thanks to Sophie Kavanagh, Gemma Lambe and Jessica Flynn.

## **Older Women's Network**

Callan and Tyndall did St. Mary's proud again when they participated in a discussion about ageism and the role of the older women in society. Their comments were very insightful and their maturity was remarked on by the event organisers. A return visit to the school was held on Monday, October 25<sup>th</sup> where the girls hosted the ladies to lunch and entertainment. There will be a flashmob with the Older Women's Network in a location in the city centre on November 24<sup>th</sup> – lots of rehearsing required!!!!

Looking forward to a great year ahead, with this remarkable group of students.

*T.Y. coordinator A McCormack and R. Harte*

## **Gaisce**

### **The President's Award**

The President's Award was established in Ireland in 1985. It is the nations highest recognition for young people between the ages of 15 – 20 years. The Award is non competitive and is designed to encourage young people to participate and challenge themselves in 4 key areas highlighted below. These four challenges help to develop key skills in the area of leadership, communication and collaboration.

- Community Involvement
- Personal Skill
- Physical Recreation
- Venture Project

The Venture Project is an exciting part of the Award for students. Each year a group of students, accompanied by Teachers and President Award Leaders challenge themselves over two days on walks of varying length through Glendalough. This is the most challenging but worthwhile aspect of the Award as the student walks away, despite the blisters, sore limbs and tired muscles with an immense sense of achievement and pride in what they have completed on the path to receiving the President's Award.

Kay Durkin [P.A.L.]