

Issue 1: October 8th 2018



St Mary's Secondary School, Edenderry Newsletter

Gaisce Awards

We are delighted to announce that more than 30 students were in receipt of the Bronze medal Gaisce Award last Friday. Also known as the President's Award, the yearlong programme delivered under the guidance of Mr T Reehill, has seen the participants take on 3 main tasks.



Delighted Gaisce Bronze medal recipients: Tara Dunne, Angela Brady, Sarah Rickard, Tessa Kane and Rachel Mahon.

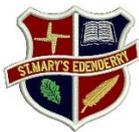
These are learning a new skill, volunteering with local community based organisations and taking on a physical challenge. Students develop key skills and confidence and all while making a really positive contribution to their local community. As the Gaisce slogan says 'A medal of recognition. An achievement for life.'

Cross Country



Isabelle Lyons and Sadie Cullinane who represented the combined Offaly Schools team in the Intercounty XC race last Friday, 5th October.

The annual Offaly School Invitational Cross Country race for 1st year students took place on Wednesday, October 3rd last at Tullamore Harriers. Our girls' team did fantastically well with Isobel Lyons, Sadie Cullinan, Tara Choudhury, Evie Denehan, Abbi Coogan, Amy Butler and Bethaney Dunne all finishing in the top 30 and qualifying the team for the Intercounty CC race on Friday night. Our Boys' team, comprised of Aaron McNamara, Antonio Marcu, Titas Sventotaitais and Emilis Levickas were narrowly beaten out of the team placings but can each be proud of their efforts especially given that it was, for each of them their first ever XC race.



Maths Week

Maths Week runs from Monday 15th to Friday 19th October and the Maths Department at St Mary's has compiled a really exciting schedule of events for this week long celebration of all things mathematical. Speaking last Friday at the launch of *St Mary's Maths Week 2018*, Mr McEvoy, Head of the Maths Department, unveiled some of the maths activities that St Mary's students can look forward to next week.

First up is a real treat, a talk for our Transition Years on Monday by Dr. Ciaran Mac an Bhaird entitled 'Maths Hacks and Real World Statistics.' Dr Mac an Bhaird is a lecturer in the Maths and Statistics Department at Maynooth University and is also the Head of their Maths Support Centre which acts as a template for our own Support Centre which operates every Friday at lunch time.

On Tuesday all our students will be busy with the 'Build the Dice' Challenge while the TY's have the extra challenge of some maths bingo before the First Years tackle the Problem Solving Table Quiz on Thursday.

The NUI Galway Maths P.R.I.S.M. Challenge for 3rd Years and TYs and the Maths Week Number Hunt take place on Friday. Each lunchtime during Maths Week there will be a Manga High Maths Week Ninja Challenge for 1st and 2nd years while there is special prize on offer for the 'Estimate the number of plastic balls in the net' competition.

DEPARTMENT OF MATHEMATICS
MATHS WEEK 2018

Monday 15th Oct
2pm – 3pm

Maths talk by Dr. Ciaran Mac an Bhaird

Tuesday 16th Oct
Lunchtime 1:15pm-1:50pm

BUILD THE DICE CHALLENGE

1:50pm – 3:50pm

MATHS BINGO

Thursday 18th Oct
11:55am – 1:15pm

PROBLEM SOLVING TABLE QUIZ

Friday 19th Oct
Lunchtime 1:15pm-1:50pm

MATHS WEEK NUMBER HUNT

2:30pm – 3:50pm

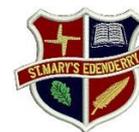
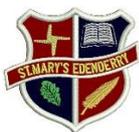
NUIG P.R.I.S.M. Mathematics Challenge

Monday 15th - Friday 19th Oct

DAILY PROBLEM SOLVING CHALLENGE

The Maths Support Centre will hold the MANGA HIGH MATHS WEEK NINJA CHALLENGE

Estimate the number of balls in the net



TY Field Trip

On Friday 12th October two of our TY groups are heading on a very exciting Geography field trip to Co. Clare. Taking in the Ailwee Caves, the Burren, the Cliffs of Moher and Kilfenora it promises to be a great opportunity to learn about this unique and beautiful landscape. The chance to bring back real data to analyse in the classroom adds even more to what will no doubt be a memorable trip.

School Awards

This annual celebration of the academic excellence achieved by our Junior Cert, Leaving Cert and Leaving Cert Applied students takes place on Friday October 12th at 7.00pm. St Mary's students once again achieved outstanding grades across all subjects in 2018 and this special occasion recognises our student's diligence, commitment and hard work in attaining their magnificent results.

JP2 Award

Students from St. Marys Secondary School have, for the first time taken part in the John Paul II awards. **Síle Holton** wrote the following short report:

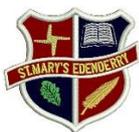
The JP2 Award encourages young people in every diocese in Ireland to become more involved in their local parishes and communities. In total, participants do a total of 46 hours comprised of 20 hours of Parish Involvement, 20 hours of Social Awareness work and a further 6 hours of follow-up work.



JP2 Gold Medal Award recipients 2018. Back Row: Avril Donegan, Michaela Killeen, Samuel Denehan, Agata Drabik and Shay Evans. Front Row: Ms R McCann, Bernard McVeigh, Emma Norman, Eoin Tyrrell, Evelyn Coughlan and Ms G McDonnell.

Ten students from St Mary's have taken on tasks in both the school and the parish such as organising Lenten masses and participating in a reader's course. They will be presented with their Gold medal awards on the 14th of November in Carlow Cathedral.

The students who achieved this award are Evelyn Coughlan, Michaela Killeen, Síle Holton, Eoin Tyrrell, Samuel Denehan, Bernard McVeigh, Avril Donegan, Agata Drabik, Emma Norman and Shay Evans. All of us want to thank Ms McDonnell and Ms McCann for all their help and time that they have given in preparing us for this award.



Spanish Exchange Students

Each year St Mary's is thrilled to welcome students from Spain who spend the school year with us in their attempt to master their use of the English language. This year is no different and we are delighted to welcome Inés Sánchez Pontes, Victor Nuñez Suárez, Paula Fernandez Barros and Álvaro López Valverde to St Mary's and Ireland. All four are taking part in Transition year and this week they sat down to discuss how things have gone so far and how they compare to life back home in Spain.

Inés is just 14 years old and hails from the small town of Navalcarnero, about 30 km outside Madrid. Inés loves music, swimming and cooking and while she is not a big fan of football she supports Real Madrid. The beautiful green landscapes are what Inés admires most about Ireland so far but the weather is not so nice. It is cold and raining all the time compared to the 27°C in Madrid last week but she is really hopeful that she will see snow in her time in Ireland. Inés is very happy in St Mary's describing it 'as a very good place to have this experience' and commented that the students and teachers are very nice and always want to help.



Spanish exchange students Ines Sanchez Pontes, Paula Fernandez Barros, Victor Nunez Suarez and Alvaro Lopez Valverde who are attending Transition Year at St Mary's.

Coming to us from the capital city Madrid is 15 year old, Fortnite fan, Alvaro who has been studying English for 10 years. He loves to play football and is a huge Real Madrid fan. Alvaro has found the Irish food and weather to be the biggest differences compared to back home but he has found the Irish people to be very nice. Life at St Mary's is quite similar to his old school but class sizes here are much smaller and lessons are a little shorter at 40mins long compared to the 45mins in Spain.

Victor, also hails from Madrid and is also a huge Real Madrid supporter. He loves Ireland and the friendly people. Victor finds the weather the hardest thing to adjust here as he is used to far hotter conditions and lots more sunshine back home. Apart from football, Victor also loves running.

Paula is also 15 years old and comes from La Coruña in the north of Spain, just inside the border with Portugal. She loves English and like Alvaro has been studying the language since she was 5 years old. Paula lists surfing, horse riding and volleyball among her hobbies but anything outdoors will do. Although Paula is from La Coruña, Atletico Madrid is her favourite football team. Paula says that the weather in Ireland is actually very similar to her own home town at this time of year.