



Saint Aloysius' Secondary School

Sharman Crawford Street, Cork

Summer Newsletter 2017

"Education is all a matter of building bridges" Ralph Ellison

WELCOME MESSAGE FROM PRINCIPAL

As the 2016/2017 academic year draws to an end, we would like to thank all our students for their commitment to the academic programme and their full engagement in the many opportunities available at St. Aloysius Secondary School. This would not be possible without the constant support of parents and unstinting commitment of the staff to ensuring that all students achieve their potential and beyond. The experience of school community was very evident in our traditional end-of-year events including the School Walk, Transition Year trips to Kenmare and Dingle, continued in a more formal manner at the Graduation Mass for the Class of 2017 and Junior Certificate Mass in St. Marie's of the Isle Convent. These ceremonies offered us the opportunity to say farewell to our 6th Years but also to our staff members who are retiring this year – Ms. Noreen Donovan, Ms. Margaret Higgins, Ms. Margaret O' Donovan and Mr. Gerald Barry. We would like to thank these staff members for their valuable contribution to the education of our students and wish them every happiness in the years ahead. Each of our colleagues leave with our affection, admiration and blessing in the new phase of life. Through the month of June, our thoughts and prayers will be with our Junior and Leaving Cert students who will be sitting exams. We wish all our staff, students and their families a safe and happy summer.

Ms. Richel Long, Principal.



HEAD GIRL REBECCA
AHERN O LOGHLEN



STUDENT COUNCIL 2016/2017



COMPUTER CODING



St. Aloysius are fortunate to have Dr. Alan Morrisson from UCC visiting us to give students weekly lessons in computer coding. The girls have learned how to code using Python, software that is widely used in industry. They have used it to solve Maths problems and to do some graphic design. Keep up the good work, girls!

LANGUAGES

We would like to thank our two language assistants, Maria Wander from Germany, and Natasha Angot from France, for their excellent work with the pupils in all year groups this year. We wish them the very best of luck in their future careers. A very active year has been had in modern languages with our participation in various activities such as the interschool French quiz, and our annual trip to the French film festival.



BASKETBALL

St. Aloysius Minor Team (u16) entered the 2016/17 League along with a first year team. The Minor team were hugely energetic and ambitious in competing against more experienced and advanced teams. They were unfortunate to be knocked out of their league but Emma McCarthy, Emily Murphy and Chloe O'Mahony were determined figures at every match contributing to the scoreboard and defending with endless effort and stamina. The team benefitted hugely from our second year addition Joelle-Cleo Gomes who also gave a huge amount of time during the year to help train our first years.

The First year team was made up of beginners and some club players all of whom deserve massive credit for their outstanding effort to train and compete on behalf of the school but also who made the decision to be active and enjoy this new sport for fun. Kellie O'Shea superbly assisted scores, steals and a tenacious defence, Jade and Alex Deady-Mathews were fiery shows of speed and determination with great scores throughout the league, Amy Murphy, Tija Tony and Cáit McSweeney fought tirelessly to defend and support the team to victory on a number of occasions. All players made St. Al's very proud and showed great potential for next year.



Women In Technology

"This year we were a part of the WIT (Women in Technology) Project 2016-2017 which took place in the Johnson Controls building in Albert Quay. Every Thursday from September to April we had the opportunity to go to the company for a period of two hours to work on our assigned project.

Our project was focused on an audio robot while the other two groups were given the tasks of creating a mobile phone app and a website. The aim of our project was to design a programme that would enable an audio robot to navigate effectively using sensors on a standard office floor. They explained the concept of programming such as structure, syntax and conditions which provided us with the basic knowledge required to commence the project. We were also given instructions on reading the robot API and we looked at examples including how API functions are implemented in accurate code. It was a really worthwhile and enjoyable opportunity. It is a brilliant opportunity for any student interested in a career in technology, as this project is all about encouraging women to choose a career with the sector. Not only were we given sessions about our project, we learned how to write a good CV, how to attend an interview successfully, career guidance and also presentation techniques. It was a very enjoyable and worthwhile experience."

Tina Tony, Neasa Ferry and Emma Rose Sweeney, TY.



CREDIT UNION

The school's association with the Lough Credit Union continued this year. As usual the Credit Union team was drawn from Fifth Year. This year's team, Marianne Beatriz de Jesus, Heather Harrington, Rayna O'Connell and Kinga Olszewska, met in the student foyer at 12:20 every Friday with their credit union mentor, past pupil Nicole Mc Carthy, and did an excellent job promoting good saving habits in the school.

The Credit Union also ran a competition this year for a promotional video. Congratulations to Kinga Olszewska who won the prize (a Samsung Tablet) for her entry.



MEITHEAL TEAM

The Meitheal team for 2016/2017 was made up of seven fifth years. The girls who undertook the role were Leah Collins, Nicole Power, Emma O'Donnell, Aoife O'Sullivan, Katie Curtin, Heather Harrington and Caoibhne McSweeney. Their duties for the year involved mentoring the first years. They welcomed them to the school, helped them find their way and feel a part of the school body. They facilitated their making friends and each member of the team acted as a friendly face to the first years if they needed guidance.

The activities they held for the first years throughout the year were weekly gatherings at lunchtime on Fridays to play games and chat. They held bake sales to raise funds for Meitheal with the help of the first years, which went towards a pizza party. For the end of the year, they held a disco with music and sweets for the first years to enjoy before concluding the year.



VARIETY SHOW 2016

This year all music students took part in the Variety Show, which was a huge success. The Variety Show was a great opportunity for the talented students of St. Aloysius to showcase their abilities. There was great excitement in the school in the run up to the performances. The Matinee performance was hugely successful as students from the local Primary schools came together to watch the show.

Our 1st year students performed two numbers from the much-loved movie *The Lion King*. They sang *Can you Feel the Love Tonight* and *The Circle of Life*. The students put on a fantastic performance, which had everyone singing along.

2nd year students displayed a heart-warming performance of Adele's song *Make you Feel my Love*. With beautiful solos and rich harmonies the performance had the audience in awe. Jasmine Odabi, Chelsea Awaziem, Eva Wunobun from 2nd year and Jael Wini from 1st year sang the most beautiful Gospel song entitled "You are the Pillar", accompanied by Diamond Nzekwe from 2nd year on vocals and piano.

3rd Year students sang a variety of carols and the U2 hit *With or Without You*. These pieces were great as they got the audience into the Christmas spirit. Avril Creedon and Chloe O Mahony sang together "*All I Want*" with rich harmonies.

Our Transition Year students performed a variety of different pieces. Rebecca Twomey sang a beautiful solo of *I Have Nothing* by Whitney Houston. Some students also performed *Naughty* from the hit Musical 'Matilda'. The full year group performed a number of songs from the famous musical 'Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat'. Some of the songs were *Jacob and Sons*, *Josephs Coat* and *Any Dream Will Do*. TY students also put together a truly laugh out loud drama piece based on people in a retirement home. This had everyone in the audience and backstage laughing.

5th Year Students performed an energetic rendition of *Time Warp*.

Some of our 6th year students Ciara O' Neill, Lauren O Hora, Alva de Luis Quinlan, Kyra Rochford, Jennifer Clifford and Amy Kent displayed an outstanding performance of *Hev Bie Spender*. Other acts on the night included orchestra performances and an Indian dance. A great night was had by all.



S.H.A.R.E.

S.H.A.R.E (Students Harness Aid for Relief of Elderly) is a charitable organisation founded in 1970 by Brother Jerome Kelly dedicated to providing housing and support for Cork's elderly. Every year, two 5th year students are selected from participating schools and become an active part of the organisation for the duration of the academic year. This year's S.H.A.R.E representatives from St. Als are Katie Curtin and Aoife O'Sullivan.

"During our time with S.H.A.R.E we had the opportunity to meet an extremely wide range of people, make new friends who we are now very close with and most importantly help the elderly residents. We visited the residents every Wednesday afternoon for tea and a good chat, hosted a Christmas party in the Brother Jerome Kelly Day Care Centre and participated in the annual Christmas collection. The collection lasted a total of 10 days from 8am to 6pm daily, ending on Christmas Eve and is the sole source of funding for S.H.A.R.E. We found standing in town for 10 hours a day extremely challenging and draining but the feeling of accomplishment and pride that met us at the end of the day more than made up for it. There were many highlights in our year with S.H.A.R.E., the most prominent being getting to know the residents in the Day Care Centre such as Nora, John and Kitty. The overall experience was amazing and we could not have imagined the level of fun, enjoyment and pride that would come with it. We will miss our time with S.H.A.R.E very much and hope the future St. Als representatives have an experience as exciting and fulfilling as ours, which we're very sure they will!"



Blessing of the Home Economics Room



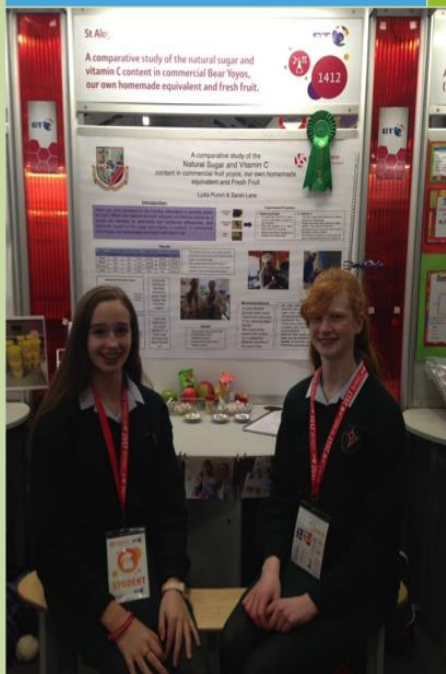
TY pupils who took part in the Debating Competition



2016/2017



Competitions



BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition

Lydia Punch and Sarah Lane of second year got through to the finals of the BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition 2017, with their project, which compared the sugar and vitamin C content of bear fruit yoyo with their own homemade equivalent. The two were successful in achieving a Highly Commended award for their project. The finals took place in the RDS in Dublin for four days where the girls got to discuss their project, learn about other projects and make friends.

SciFest 2017

This year we had 15 students from first to fifth year take part in the 2017 SciFest competition in CIT. We had projects varying from “a statistical analysis of the effect of launch angle on the range of a projectile” to “Is Henna an alternative to chemical hair products?”

Our Junior Science Quiz Team (Shradha Neupane, Rameen Siddique, Jasmine Odabi and Sarah Lane) took part in the ISTA Junior Quiz this May in UCC. It was lots of fun and great preparation for their Junior Cert.



HOME ECONOMICS



Junior Cert Cookery Exams



Junior Cert Crafts



St. AIs Bake Off

ALL IRELAND CHAMPION!

A huge congratulations to Leaving Cert student Wictoria Morawiec, who won the volleyball Mixed Recreational All-Ireland Championships on the 14th of May in Mountmellick. Wictoria trains weekly with Impact VC in Macroom, and first began learning volleyball at the age of 12. She is hoping to join the volleyball team in college next year. Well done Wictoria!

