



ST. ALOYSIUS SCHOOL



Summer Newsletter 2018

"Education is the foundation upon which we build our future" - (Christine Gregoire)

Welcome to our annual school newsletter. So much has occurred in the past nine months; from exceptional weather events such as Storm Ophelia and Storm Emma to impressive and varied student achievements. This newsletter gives a small flavour of school life in St. Aloysius' Secondary School, but unfortunately it is impossible to recreate the energy and enthusiasm that was palpable at so many of our activities and events.

I believe what makes St. Aloysius different from many other schools is the unwavering respect that students, parents and staff have for each other. Two of my colleagues are retiring this year; Ms. Eileen Kelleher from the position of Deputy Principal, and Mrs. Anne Roche-Cagney from her position as múinteoir Gaeilge and Geography. Both Ms. Kelleher and Mrs. Roche-Cagney joined St. Aloysius as students and have dedicated their full teaching careers to generations of Aloysians. We acknowledge the immeasurable love, care and commitment they have shown to our students. I wish these two great teachers, who have given so much to St. Aloysius, the very best in their retirement.

To those involved in our active Parents Association, and to all who help in any way, we say a sincere thank you. I greatly appreciate the support that you, the parents, give to us all in St. Aloysius. We enjoy a wonderful working relationship and I value our partnership, as do the wider staff. Reflecting on the year, I have greatly enjoyed working with your children. I love the variety, the spark and the buzz that they bring to the school; each in their own unique way. Success in life is varied and this newsletter celebrates the wide range of activities our students have engaged in.

In St. Aloysius, we constantly strive to improve our facilities. In this way, the outdoor seating, recently gifted to the school, will be enjoyed by students for years to come. We also look forward to returning to a refurbished school hall in September, following the fundraising efforts of our school walk and fashion show.

Once again, thank you for your continued support. I wish you all a safe summer.

Le mór buíochas dóibh as bhúr dtacaíocht tríd an bliain ar fad,

Ms. Richel Long



Many thanks to our Head Girl Caoibhne McSweeney for all of her hard work and dedication throughout the school year. Best wishes to Caoibhne and all of our graduating class!

Class of 2018





BT Young Scientist

On 10th January, we headed to Dublin with Ms. K. O'Donovan to the BT Young Scientist. The size of the RDS was overwhelming. After preparing for months the moment for the judging finally came. It was a challenging but enjoyable experience to explain and defend our work. Even though we did not win we

made lots of new friends from around the country and were proud of our project. *Hazel Harrington and Amy Wallace*

Vex Robotics

Our most memorable experience from TY was participating in VEX Robotics. We learned how to build a structurally sound robot that could pick up cones and ride over bumps. Preparing for the competition in January took a lot of work. We built a total of 6 robots before we were happy with the final product. Excitingly we were able to hold our own practice scrimmage here in St. Aloysius which saw schools from all over Cork come to our school. We placed 4th in the final competition held in CIT in January. *Faye Moore and Zoe Marnane*



Sci Challenge

Having competed in the national BT Young Scientist, 2017, we entered the international SciChallenge competition in April 2017. Our project, comparing the sugar and vitamin C content of commercial fruit Yoyos, a homemade equivalent and fresh fruit, was chosen to enter the second round with 190 projects. A winner was chosen by international judges from each category, and in June we were thrilled to learn that we were one of the chosen winners. We attended the award ceremony in Vienna, Austria, in July with Ms. K. O'Donovan. We thoroughly enjoyed our time in Vienna and came away with experiences we will remember forever.

Congratulations to Ms. K. O'Donovan who was recently awarded the title of "Ireland's Most Inspiring Teacher" at the National Teacher Awards.



Well done to this year's Student Council, who surpassed this year's fundraising goal of €5,000. Class representatives met each Monday at lunch time to work together to plan fundraisers which included our non-uniform days, which were very popular! Everyone in St. Als would like to thank Ms. Roche-Cagney for her time and dedication to our Student Council over the years.

Many thanks for the hard work that our Meitheal Team 2017/ 18 has completed over the past year. Wishing our new Meitheal 2018/ 19 team every success next year!



Catholic Schools Week

Our religious ethos here in St. Aloysius rests at the centre of all we do. It is a constant companion in our daily lives. In this way Catholic Schools Week was an important part of school life at the beginning of the second term. During the week students were given the opportunity for prayer each morning in our prayer room. This was complimented by a mass in our local church on Wednesday for first and second year students along with their parents, guardians and grandparents.



Fashion Show 2018



On the 9th of May, the school hall was transformed into a catwalk fit for Fashion Week. This event was an excellent opportunity to showcase some of the amazing talents of our students and collaborate with local and large retail stores and although this was organised by staff it could not have happened without the student body. *Elizabeth and Shauna*



O'Donnell worked as managers for the make-up team who created a flawless look with the help of students from other year groups, *Jazz Gomes and Pratibha Sapkota* managed the hair stylists who were, again, from all year groups and they styled the models' hair with glamorous curls for the show. The night was coordinated and strictly run by a Front of House team and Backstage Managers, *Emma Sweeney* of fifth year played a vital role backstage on the night alongside a hardworking team of students. The models, with too many people name, worked both inside and outside of school hours



to perform a nerve-racking, daunting and brave role on the night, they were all an absolute credit to themselves, the teachers involved and the shops and clothes they were wearing. They provided us with an event packed with entertainment but the music producers helped the show to be a real success and the lighting crew were equally responsible for the shows seamless delivery, these two teams consisted of *Chloe O'Mahony, Sorcha Conway,*



Zoe Marnane and Faye Moore. The musical performances were complimentary additions throughout, *Diamond Nzekwe* wowed the crowd with her trumpet performance, *Jael Wini* and *Nutsa Bidzishvili* sang beautifully while the TY classes

collaborated on a dramatic creative dance to successfully open the show for the fashion element with other



performances at the intervals and the choir brought a brilliant night to a fantastic close



Just 9 months ago, our Transition Year students were all fresh and tired from their Junior Certificate Examinations. They were each an unmoulded piece of clay; filled with so much potential but not knowing where to focus it after their three years of study. Not only did this year help shape them as people but also gave them so many memories that they will cherish forever. Through the various trips in Transition Year including adventures to Zip-It, the English Market, The Ploughing Championships and many others, our girls learned skills including teamwork, project planning and trust building. These activities really brought students together and formed new and long-lasting relationships.

Of course, Transition Year isn't all about trips and study-less nights; St Als keeps a fine balance between work and play, something that the girls truly appreciate. As the girls reflect on their year and graduate into Leaving Cert, they would like to thank everyone involved in making their year so good and urge others to try it! *Aoife Foley*

Our TY students showed off their inspiration and imagination this year through Junk Kouture. This national competition provides an outlet for the creativity found amongst the youth in Ireland while highlighting the need to care for our environment by recycling or upcycling.



The French department were delighted that Transition years got the opportunity to practice their French skills in February at UCC's annual inter-school's French quiz this year. Students from all non-exam classes also had the pleasure of experiencing a different side to French culture by attending the French Film Festival in March via the Gate Cinema.



Composer in the Classroom

Composer in the Classroom has been a great experience for me because I love writing songs and have been for a very long time. It was great being able to work with others and an actual composer to improve the lyrics and melody of our songs. It was a pleasure being able to work with Paul Lenihan - he improved our songs a lot. I think we all struggled to think of something at the beginning, but it was handy to pick a theme and discuss what we wanted our songs to be. I was able to improve my teamwork skills which is important because I am a person who prefers to work alone. Overall, I think Composer in the Classroom improved our musical skills and our confidence, even for people who don't do music as a subject - they were able to take in a lot from it.



TY Ambassador

Heading into Transition Year I was shocked by the amount of amazing initiatives one could participate in. I decided early in the year that I would apply to be Ireland's TY Ambassador. I knew it would be a challenge but wanted the opportunity. My role as TY Ambassador has opened my eyes to so many new things. I have now had the opportunity to give speeches, write articles and meet so many enthusiastic and inspiring young people. I hope that the incoming TY students will have a fabulous year and make the most of TY. It is a year of opportunity, all you have to do is chose to take them. *Jiang O'Neill*



Well Read

The Wellread committee has built on the rich culture of reading in our school community since October 2017 to achieve the PDST Wellread Award. Our wide range of activities in 2017/18 began with a TY visit to Cork City Library to meet YA author Moira Fowley-Doyle. The regular opening of our library allowed us to launch the 'Book in Bag' campaign. This encouraged us all to carry a book in our bag at all times. The highlight of our year was the World Book Day inspired non-uniform event which saw our favourite fictional characters roaming the halls of St. Als. It has been an exciting year of reading and initiatives but the journey has only just begun!



Lydia Punch placed third at the Munster Schools Swimming Gala in 200m Individual Medley



Basketball Team Success



The 1st year team came at the top of the league to further them into the championship where they were unfortunately beaten in the semi-final round.

Kellie O'Gorman who won two Cork county titles, two Munster titles and was an All-Ireland finalist in the Junior 1, 57kg category. Kellie is involved in Spartans Boxing Club and we wish her continued success.



Aoife Hegarty also achieved boxing success through winning a Cork county title, Munster title and a place in an All-Ireland final in the Junior 2, 75kg category. Aoife is involved in Togher Boxing Club and we wish her continued success.



A Look Back on Our Year

