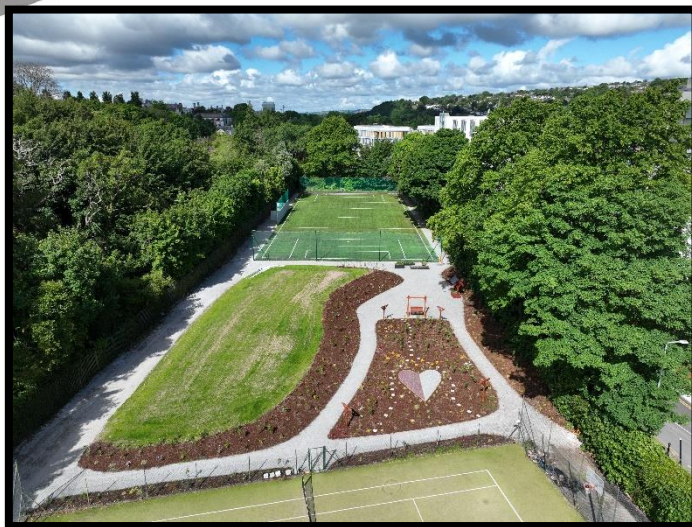




# St Aloysius School

## Summer Newsletter 2022



St Aloysius School students and staff enjoyed many highlights this year as we emerged from lockdowns and online learning environments and embraced opportunities to be together again in the school and in the wider community. One of the highlights of the year was the newly instated astro pitch and sensory garden. We watched progress as the old field was transformed in March and April and took full advantage of our new facilities for the final term. Camogie and football training took on a new lease of life with hurleys and footballs out at lunchtimes as well as for the usual weekly training sessions. Students embraced the walking pathways and swing to take time to refresh themselves at lunchtimes for their afternoons work. TY gardeners got stuck into planting, watering and tending the garden spaces, PE classes enjoyed the new surroundings and the whole school came together to cheer on an end of year game of rounders: staff v's 6<sup>th</sup> years.... The staff remain undefeated! We look forward to many years of enjoyment in these new outdoor spaces that we are blessed with in the heart of the city.





## Welcome to the St Aloysius School Newsletter 2022

It is a pleasure to introduce our 2022 school newsletter. St. Aloysius is a dynamic school with a wonderful school community spirit, it is a privilege to witness this school spirit each and every day. We hope that this newsletter gives you an insight into school life here in St. Als, which is a lovely balance of academic achievement, success, happiness, fulfilment, engagement, care, support and kindness.

During the past year we have enjoyed and celebrated many events, activities, awards, wellbeing days and school achievements. We have tried to include as many of these in this newsletter as possible. Our new astro and sensory garden have brought great life to our outdoor facilities and we look forward to many years of enjoying these facilities.

This May we were delighted to fly our Green Flag for the first time which was richly deserved following the consistent work of our Green Schools Committee alongside their teachers, Ms Lernihan, Ms Mills and Mr Lee. We celebrated the superb achievements of our students at Awards day including our Leaving Cert Class of 2021 who received scholarships to UCC, Trinity and The Naughton Scholarship. We celebrated Manahil in 5th year for her success in receiving a silver medal with the Irish team at the European Olympiad of Experimental Sciences.

Our student council work tirelessly in organising our non-uniform days through which we have raised funding for St. Vincent de Paul, the Red Cross and so many more worthy charities. We celebrated our first St. Als Multi-Cultural day, our first Well-being week, our first online St. Als Lip Sync battle to name but a few of our events of the year. All of these brought joy, fun and a sense of community to our students and staff.

We congratulate all of our Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate students on completing the state examinations in June. We wish our Leaving Cert students, our new alumni members, every success in the next step of their journey. We thank most sincerely our teachers, staff, parents, our Board of Management, our trustees CEIST and our Parents Association for your continued support. Together we share a mutual commitment and dedication in providing a holistic education for all our students, allowing each student the opportunity to reach their potential.

We look forward to the 2022/23 school year and welcoming our staff and students back into St. Aloysius School.

*Alexandria Savage & Kathy Mc Glade*  
Principal Deputy Principal



From left: Ms Kathy McGlade, Deputy Principal, Alma Krause, Deputy Head Girl, Christina Maher, Head Girl and Ms Alex Savage, Principal.

### Leaving Cert Class of 2022



## Meitheal Team 2021/2022

Meitheal is a 5<sup>th</sup> year group who, with the training of Scala and guidance of their teacher Ms White, help incoming first year students settle into secondary school life.

*My name is Saoirse and I was the secretary of the Meitheal team 2021/2022. Having reflected on the lasting impact the Meitheal team had on my own school experience, I knew that it was something I wanted to be a part of. I was delighted to have been chosen as a member of the team to help the first year's in their transition into secondary school. I am honoured to have been able to pass on what the Meitheal team did for me in my first year along with my fellow team members.*

*At the beginning of the year we undertook training with Scala. Although the majority of our meetings were held online, we were fortunate to have had an in-person training day with Megan from Scala, which we all found extremely beneficial. It allowed us to bond as a team and explore ideas of activities we could do with the first years during the year. We all had an enjoyable day and I would like to thank Scala for it. On behalf of myself, the chairperson Tijana, and the rest of the Meitheal team, I would like to extend my gratitude to Ms White, Ms Savage, Ms McGlade, Ms Coen and the class teachers for their support for us and the first years throughout the year. The activities we have undertaken this year would not have been possible without your constant support and encouragement. We would also like to say a big thank you to the girls in first year for always engaging and cooperating with us during the year. We hope you enjoyed the year and that we helped in making your entry into secondary school easier, despite the challenges. Finally, I would like to congratulate next year's Meitheal team and wish them the best of luck, we know that you will all do an amazing job with the incoming first years.*



## 1<sup>st</sup> year school trip 2021/2022

Our 1<sup>st</sup> years were rewarded for their year of hard work with a trip to West Cork Secrets in May. The sun shone on them which was fortunate considering the range and nature of the bonding activities enjoyed. They were a muddy year group by the end of the day... as were some of the teachers that had the pleasure of joining them for their day out!





## Wellbeing Wall

Our *Wellbeing Wall* has taken centre stage in our school foyer since our return to school in August. It is regularly updated with positive messages, photos of students, information on activities and general wellbeing tips. During *Wellbeing Week* we had a daily challenge for all staff and students.



## Wellbeing Art Competition



Well done to Blessing for her winning design for the Wellbeing art competition; pictured here receiving her prize from Mr Meehan.

## Wellbeing Activity Week

Community spirit and care for the whole school community have always been central to the ethos of St. Aloysius' School. For Wellbeing Activity Week, the Wellbeing Committee collaborated with the Student Council, the Smile Committee and numerous teachers and students to produce a week of activities. St. Als was a hub of activity hosting a table tennis tournament in the gym with the PE department, a quiz in the library, tours of the school garden by the Green Schools Committee, the 'There's Nobody Like Me' art competition by the Art department, a 'Creative Classroom' competition and 'Bright Colours' non-uniform day organised by the Student Council, lunchtime activities organised by the Smile Committee, the Games Club organised by the Transition Years, screenings of David Attenborough's 'A Life On Our Planet' and much more. Great fun was had, but the 'The Great St. Als Bake Off' organised by the Home Economics department with Mr. Bergin, Mr. Foran, Mr. Lee and Mr. Meehan testing their culinary skills was particularly enjoyed by staff and students and brought a big smile to our faces!



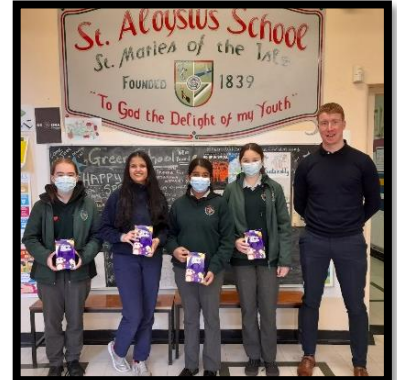
## Seachtain na Gaeilge



Bhí Seachtain na Gaeilge 2022 ana-ghnóthach againn i Scoil Naomh Alabhaois - idir Zumba trí Ghaeilge, cúpla tráth na gceist, comórtas bÁCála agus comórtas grianghrafadóireachta ...bhain gach éinne sult as an seachtain.



We enjoyed a busy Seachtain na Gaeilge 2022 with a variety of events to celebrate the Irish language.



## MFL 2021 2022

Congratulations to Ali and Jael (both Leaving Certificate 2021), joint recipients of the Dr. Mary Barry Wall Award, presented to them recently by their teachers Ms Dempsey, Ms O'Mahony and Ms Clancy. They received this award for their deep interest and accomplishments in the German and French languages and cultures during their time in St. Als. Both are pursuing languages in their studies at university. It is great to see this love of languages carried through to third level. Well deserved!



## St Aloysius School Debating Society

Our St Aloysius Debating Society enjoyed another successful year with weekly meetings taking place for all year groups and great fun had debating in the November Leagues, the Cork Schools Junior Mace and our own Junior Mace held here in St Aloysius School



in May. Participants and judges came from schools throughout the city and county to attend what was a wonderful day of debating, discussion, learning and fun! Well done to Alma, Eve, Niamh & Sian on all the work that goes into running such a successful and vibrant society.

## Kaffee und Kuchen

First Years enjoyed Kaffee und Kuchen with their teacher, Ms Dempsey, in March after learning about the traditional food in German-speaking countries. Some students even tried out recipes - with delicious results!





## Go-Girls Karting & STEM Initiative



In March, Transition Years spent a day in Kartworld in Watergrasshill for the Motorsport Ireland Go Girls Karting & STEM Initiative. They raced the cars, changed tyres in the pit and learned about the science of the track. Everyone agreed it was a fantastic day of fun and activities.



**VEX**  
ROBOTICS

**Go Girls**  
Karting Initiative



## An Post Brainbusters!



Congratulations to Elisa in 2nd year who reached the final of the An Post Brainbusters competition which requires students to engage with various numeracy and literacy tasks. The final took place in St Als where we were joined by celebrity Muinteoir Emer from RTE's Home School Hub!



## Silver medal at the European Olympiad of Experimental Sciences 2022



5<sup>th</sup> year student, Manahil Sabir competed in the Irish Olympiad of Experiential Sciences at Dublin City University with round 1 beginning in November 2021. Following 3 rounds of competition Manahil was chosen for the Irish team to compete against teams from 19 European countries in the Czech Republic in May 2022. We were beyond proud to welcome Manahil and her team home with a silver medal from the EOES 2022. What an incredible achievement!



## Women in STEM at St Als

Sr. Mercedes celebrated her 100th birthday this May. She has dedicated her life to learning and in particular to the enhancement of science education in Cork. She was one of the founding members of the Irish Science Teachers Association (ISTA) who held weekly meetings at St. Als for many years. Sr. Mercedes made the progressive move to introduce physics to an all girls school in the 1960's. Physics, Chemistry and Biology are still deeply rooted in the core of the curriculum at St. Als and this is no doubt down to her legacy. We celebrate her life and thank her for her enlightened forward thinking.

St Aloysius School has a long history of success in the field of STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths) and we are particularly grateful to the role that Sr Mercedes played in promoting science and maths for young girls of Cork city at a time when girls were not generally offered or encouraged to study these subjects. Sr Mercedes birthday coincided with the amazing success of Manahil and her team in representing their schools and country at the EOES 2022 in the Czech Republic and bringing home a silver medal for their hard work. Both women are an inspiration to the students of St Al's as we continue the great tradition of pursuing an interest in and careers in STEM!



## Young Social Innovators (YSI)



This was St. Als first year taking part in Young Social Innovators (YSI). We must congratulate and thank our passionate, dedicated students for making it such a success! YSI is a fantastic programme allowing students to explore social issues before choosing one issue to reduce, eliminate or spread awareness about. Here is a message from the YSI team explaining what their project was about:

***"Our social innovation was to help create a fairer world for all creatures and to help preserve habitats in our community. We did this by making posters that we displayed in school to educate students on the importance of wild animals in the ecosystem, to remind them that we are part of the ecosystem and to give them tips on how they can look after the wild animals in their area. We also raised money to give to the Irish Wildlife Trust and painted a mural at the front of the school to remind people of the importance of looking after our local wildlife. We also want to improve wildlife habitats on our school grounds so we asked that native tree and plant that support bees and butterflies be planted in our new garden."***

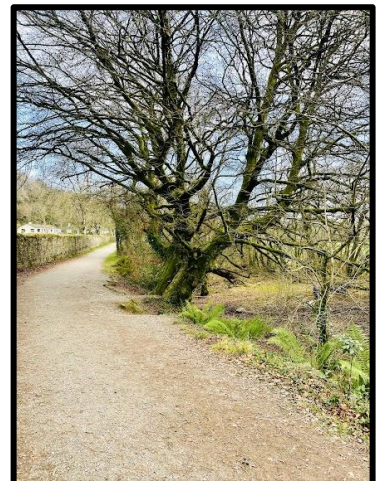
***Climate change is a huge problem which cannot be solved with our project alone. However, our innovation promotes positive environmental changes. Our project focused on promoting life on land and life below water as we educated people on how to care for these animals that work together to keep our world healthy. For example: bees, butterflies and bats are all pollinators. They pollinate plants and help in food production so we should care for them by maintaining habitats, avoiding pesticide use and minimizing our waste and pollution. If we didn't have these cute, little animals and insects we would not be able to grow food and our natural world would become even more unbalanced.***

***Social change takes time but we feel like we made a difference in our community with our project and we learned so much in the process".***



Mr Lee and the YSI Team

### Photography Club at St. Als





## BLAST

St. Aloysius School were delighted to have been chosen as one of the schools to take part in the BLAST initiative. The students of TY art worked alongside artist Carol Healy who is a visual artist that lives in Cork City.

Carol worked with us over a series of drawing workshop classes from February to April 2022. These workshops included a wide variety of activities such as large-scale expressive drawings, sensory drawings invoking touch, sight and sound, tactile self-portraits through touch and blind drawing with the use of mirrors

Zinah commented on the overall experience *"It was a different take on traditional art classes. Very interesting to see a different side of art that we normally wouldn't study. Very fun experience"*. Viktoria and Elizabeth commented on their experience of drawing with a partner: Viktoria *"I thought drawing with a partner was fun because you could interact with other classmates while enjoying art"*. Elizabeth *"In my opinion drawing with a partner was a good way to start the class. It was fun and enjoyable"*.



In addition to bringing artists into the classroom this year we took advantage of our surroundings and brought our students out to visit galleries and street art during the year. Left are some images of the girls out and about in Cork enjoying our artistic surroundings.

## Creative Schools Week

For *Creative Schools Week* under the theme, *Art Lives Here*, the Art Department coordinated the creation of an exhibition comprised of creative, exciting work from both student & teacher, created at home and in school. Thank you to the St. Als' Community for their help.



*"Do you feel stressed after six classes of just work, work, and work... just wishing to have at least a few minutes of freedom? Well, I've been going to Art Club since the beginning and I highly recommend it after being drained for six classes straight, it's like a sweet treat. In Art Club, we have the freedom to draw, paint or make anything we want, but we don't only do art; We chat often about anything and everything, listen to music, make friends and create closer bonds. For me personally, it clears my mind and makes me happier, but for you? Well, you'll have to tag along and see it all for yourself!"*

Dina, 3<sup>rd</sup> Year Testimony



Congratulations to Janessa, 2<sup>nd</sup> Year on their winning design for the new student journal for the coming year.





# St. Als Musicians and Singers

## Home Economics Practical's



## Visiting Speakers and trips out for our Business & LCVP students



Past pupil Fiona Donnelly from Nexus Consulting spoke to students on a range of business related topics with students on her visit to the school during the year.



5th year LCVP students took part in a very enjoyable visit out to neighbours in the River Lee Hotel to tour the facilities and learn about opportunities in the hospitality sector as well as job seeking skills in general.

## Enterprise students



The TY Enterprise class were awarded their certificate of achievement following a very successful enterprise module. Well done to all the students involved in setting up and running their own business, SEODRA, we hope you enjoy your share of the profits!





## Junior Football in Review

This year's first years took part in two first year football blitz's and the girls most certainly did St. Als proud on both occasions! Our first outing was a seven-a-side blitz which took place in Bandon GAA on a wintery day in October. The girls battled through three matches against tough opposition to come away with our first win together as a team. This was all the more impressive as some of the girls on the team had only started learning how to play Gaelic football a few weeks previous!

This sparked further interest among the group and we got the chance to play in a larger 9 a side blitz in Ballincollig GAA at the end of April. The team gave it their all in a very demanding day of football! It was great to see them display their skills and compete against various schools from around Cork - some even encountered familiar faces from primary school! As is the case with all our footballers and camogie players this year, this year's first years were an absolute pleasure to coach with their commitment and willingness to learn pointing towards a bright future for sport in the years to come!



This year's Junior football team consisted of students from 2nd to 5th year which gave the girls the unique opportunity of training and playing with older and younger students. The commitment and dedication our students showed throughout the year was fantastic to see - the number of girls who put themselves forward to try Gaelic football for the first time was particularly impressive. The highlight of the year was our 2nd and 3rd Year blitz with 2 teams heading to Mallow GAA grounds for some excellent team performances as well a great day out with their friends. Another highlight was the introduction of the all weather pitch which was used as our training ground for the last 4 sessions of the year. It ensured training could go ahead on the days our old pitch would have been too wet to train on and ensured the girls didn't go home covered in muck! Again we would like to thank the girls for their commitment and hard work throughout the year and encourage them to stay involved in sport or physical activity over the summer months!

## Camogie news

We took great strides in developing our camogie team this year as we had girls playing from beginners to advanced in all year groups. It was great to see so many students trying camogie for the first time and enjoying themselves.

Our team had a great day out against Kinsale Community School, the team showed a fine display of skill and teamwork.

In addition, lunchtime camogie began to take off after the Christmas break. Wonderful to see such dedication to the game!

Overall, we had a fantastic year in both camogie and football. Skills were developed and great fun was had in the process. Thanks to Mr. Bergin, Mr. Foran, and Mr. Killeen, for coaching and mentoring our players throughout the year.



## Student Council



The Student Council has had a very active year meeting each Monday to plan and prepare for events, discuss issues and policies and help find solutions to be part of making the school an inclusive and caring place. The group was made up of over 30 representatives from across all six year groups with meetings chaired by the Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl, Christiana and Alma. Every representative helped to bring ideas and highlight student issues at our weekly meetings and to act as the formal messenger between students and staff.

It was a difficult year with pandemic stresses and Covid restrictions still in place, the Student Council played its part to keep up school spirits and get students talking about other things. On a more formal level, we gave feedback on the **code of behaviour**, worked on the **role of the prefects**, members were involved with the **10:20 small break bell**; the **borrowing of sports equipment** at breaktime; the **supply of sanitary products** in more convenient places for students; and the **CEIST conference**.

A wide range of activities and fundraising events were organised by the student council. Over the course of this year we organised 10 no-uniform days which raised over €5,000 for school funds and charities including the Vincent de Paul and the Irish Red Cross. In November, we organised the **"Creative Classrooms Competition"** with winning classes getting a pizza party for their stunning classrooms. Our no-uniform day in January was celebrated with **"Culture Day"**. While all of our students live in Cork, many of our students have connections to other countries. On Culture Day, students dressed up in traditional clothes, cooked food from their countries and talked to their classes about traditions and celebrations from these countries not forgetting Cork and Ireland. In February, they organised a tribute to friendship and love for **St. Valentine's Day** with a heart for each student. There was an 80's/90's no-uniform day organised in conjunction with the Smile Committee for **Wellbeing Week**. In March, **Lá Fheile Pádraig** was to be celebrated but the war in Ukraine had just started. Our students have a great sense of social justice and immediately asked that the money raised would go to the **Irish Red Cross** to help with the humanitarian crisis in Ukraine, €1,000 was generously donated. In April, we teamed up with the Green Schools Committee had been working tirelessly to obtain a Green Flag. We themed this no-uniform day as **"Green Day"** to help raise awareness on recycling and sustainability. In May, our last no-uniform day of the year we had the theme of **friendship and summer colours**. We wanted students to reflect and remember the friendships they kindled over the year and the friends that were moving on from St. Als particularly our Leaving Certificate students.

The Student Council play a hugely important role in the St. Als community creating a steadfast and trusted student voice. Thank you to Ms S O'Donovan and all the students that give so much of their time for the school community.



2nd, TY and 6th year

1st, 3rd and 5th year



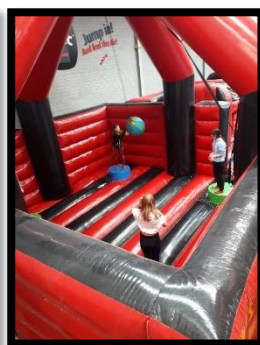


## TY 2021/22 Trips and Activities!



### TY Trip to Gougane Barra

Transition Years spent a beautiful sunny day in March exploring the Gougane Barra Forest Park, enjoying the panoramic views of the wild and beautiful scenery, discovering the source of the River Lee, and exploring St Finbarr's monastery from the 6th century.



TY students enjoyed a range of outdoor activities both in school and out including surfing, Airtastic, Zip-It, adventure walks and more....

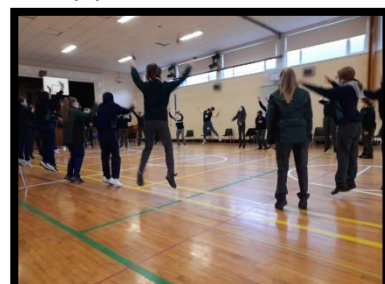
### Activity trips, training and Workshops

Students took part in a variety of training and workshops including First-Aid, self defence and the successful Graffiti Drama Workshop pictured below



### Visit from past pupil

TY and LCVP students enjoyed a visit from past pupil Aoife Durrity of Ms Diva's Lash Academy and Salon. Aoife talked about her enterprise journey, the ups and the downs, and gave practical advice as well as a superb demonstration. It was wonderful to welcome Aoife back to St. Als!.



### Local trips

TY students were out and about the city all year visiting galleries, UCC, Fitzgerald's Park, Elizabeth Fort to name just a few locations.



### Poetry in TY

Great work by our TY students who worked so hard this year with the fabulous poet and mentor Dean on the **Unfinished Book of Poetry** project. The book launch which took place in the city library in May was a great end to all the hard work done by the team throughout the year. Thanks so much to **Ó Bhéal** for giving us this opportunity





## Annual Awards Day

On the 20th May, St. Als celebrated the wonderful talents and achievements of students across all year groups. Students received well-deserved recognition in four categories: Academic Awards, Leadership Awards, Special Category (Subject) Awards and finally, Sport and School Spirit Awards. This was the first time the awards were held since 2019 as preparation for the 2020 awards were disrupted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The awards ceremony this year sought to commend students for their resilience, skill and tenacity during what has been a very challenging two years.



**Leaving Certificate 2021 High Achievement**  
Salma, Amy, Shradha, Lily, Sarah, Lana, Aleksa,  
Martyna, Ali, Nika, J.C.



**Junior Cycle 2021 High Achievement -**  
Elizabeth, Manahil, Maria, Niamh



**Junior High Achievers - Xelaya, Ly, Aoibh,**  
Tara, Aoibhe, Mariam



**Ms Roche-Cagney Perpetual Cup for**  
Leadership and Initiative - Beth



**Junior Maths achievement -**  
Maeve, Sara & Julia



**Contributions to Sport**  
Dionne & Tijana



**Public Speaking Award**  
Tija



**Care for the Environment**  
Emma Rose, Dolly and Chloe





# Annual Awards Day



**Vex Robotics students commended for their achievements during the year**



**Manahil & Meghan awarded for their work with SHARE**



**Some of the Smile Committee members acknowledged at the Awards Day**



**High Achievers Senior – Miracle, Amy & Tija**



**Gradam an Phriomhoide Junior - Dolly**



**Leadership Awards – Rachelle, Tijana, Beth, Katie, Doan, Saoirse, Anna, Catherine & Katie**



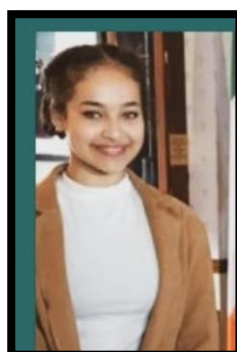
**Excellence in Music  
Above: Mary, Sofia & Martha  
Below: Donna & Nutsa**



**Excellence in Art  
Above: Jayne & Elizabeth  
Below: Amy**



**School Spirit Awards – Rebecca, Leah, Dayna, Gemma, Katie & Valentina**



**Salma Waleed,  
Entrance Exhibition  
Award winner for  
Trinity College Dublin  
based on results in  
Leaving Cert 2021**



**Sarah Lane, Naughton  
Scholarship Award  
winner and UCC  
Entrance Scholarship  
Award based on results  
in Leaving Cert 2021**





## Green Schools / Green Flag



On Wednesday, 25 May, the Green School's Committee proudly hoisted St. Al's first Green Flag. The flag represents years of work on reducing litter, improving recycling and composting in the school, and generally raising awareness around litter and waste. Students gathered in front of the school for the ceremony, with their teachers and invited guests Councillor Michael Finn, Council representative Dymphna Murphy, and Sisters Joan, Imelda and Dolores.

Speeches by Ms Lernihan and Green School's Committee members Dolly and Julia were followed by a passing of the flag from youngest to oldest student, to represent the passing of time since this project was launched and the continuity of the project in years to come. This initiative was started by Ms Whalley and continued by Ms Lernihan, Ms Mills, Mr Lee and, of course, the current Green School's Committee: First Years Lena and Julia, Second Years Katie, Kaci, Beth, Catherine, Aoibhe and Aoibh, Third Years Emma-Rose, Dolly and Chloe; Transition Years Zinah and Sian; Fifth Year Saoirse; and Sixth Year Alma.

The Committee will continue its work to maintain the Green Flag and address other environmental issues. If you're interested in joining the group, come along to the meetings on Mondays at 1pm in Ms Lernihan's room.

