



ST. PATRICK'S COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL

NEWSLETTER



SUMMER 2018



2018/19 Re-opening

First Years: Tuesday 28th August

Third Year, Fifth Year & LCA2: Wednesday 29th August

Second Year, Fourth Year & LCA1: Thursday 30th August

Transition Year: Friday 31st August

2018/19 Calendar

Term 1

- **Halloween Break**
Monday 29th October to Friday 2nd November
- **Christmas Holidays**
Monday 24th December to Friday 4th January

Term 2

- **School re-opening**
Monday 7th January
- **Spring Break**
Monday 18th February to Friday 22nd February
- **Easter Holidays**
Monday 15th April to Friday 26th April

Term 3

- **School re-opening**
Monday 29th April
- **May Bank Holiday**
Monday 6th May
- **Summer Holiday**
Friday 31st May

State examinations begin Wednesday 5th June



Examination Fees

State Examinations (based on 2018)

Leaving Certificate: €116

Leaving Certificate Applied: €116

Repeat Leaving Certificate: €301

Junior Certificate: €109



Exemptions:

Candidates who hold a current medical card or who are dependent on a parent/guardian who holds a current medical card are exempt from paying state examination fees.

Mock Examinations:

Leaving Certificate: €90

Junior Certificate: €90

Please note that the medical card exemption does not apply to mock examinations. Fees must be paid in full by Friday 1st February.

House Exams

CHRISTMAS

Third and Fifth Years:

Week beginning Monday 5th November

First, Second & Fourth Years:

Week beginning Monday 10th December

MOCKS

Monday 4th February to Friday 15th February

SUMMER

Week beginning Monday 20th May



Year Heads

Year	Teacher
1	Ms. Colleran
2	Ms. Shannon
3	Mr. Daly
4	Ms. Magee
5	Ms. Meehan
TY	Ms. Dinneen
LCA	Ms. Hickey



Open Night



Our Open Night for 6th Class pupils and their parents will be held on Thursday 25th October from 7 pm to 9 pm.

The principal's address to parents will begin at 7.15 pm and pupils attending the Open Night must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Parents Association



Chairperson: Siobhan Punch

Treasurer: Fiona O'Brien Maxwell

Secretary: Fiona Carrig

Telephone: 086 2615851

The PA is committed to providing opportunities and resources which benefit the students of the school. These include the Breakfast Club, Study Seminars and safe and secure evening entertainment for Junior Cycle students.

The PA does a small amount of fundraising each year and often collaborates with TY students for such events.

The PA is always open to new members and to new ideas and suggestions. Meetings are held monthly and dates of meetings can be found on the school website.

If you would like to find out more please contact the above number or go along to the next meeting.

School Website

Log on to our website for up to date information, links and photographs.



www.stpatrickscomprehensive.ie

Lost and Found



Please note that personal belongings found in the school are stored for a limited period of time after which they are given to charity.

Students who have lost clothes or other items should contact Ms. Brooks.

Parent/Teacher Meetings



Year	Date
1	Thursday 10th January
2	Thursday 31st January
3 & TY	Wednesday 28th November
4 & LCA1	Wednesday 23rd January
5 & LCA2	Thursday 22nd November

Ploughing Championships 2017



Keeping with tradition Mr Heaphy, Ms Hayes and Ms O'Grady accompanied some of our LCA, TY and 4th Year students on a trip to the National Ploughing Championships in Tullamore.

Our budding agricultural enthusiasts got to experience a wide variety of stalls, exhibits and competitions. A fantastic day was had by all!

German Exchange



Some of our students learning German were fortunate to have participated in our annual German Exchange. They set off to a former medieval German town in southern Germany called Lichtenfels where they spent a fun-packed week with our German exchange partners.

From the minute we arrived our lives changed. We were bombarded with the German language in an accent unfamiliar to us all, but we soon adapted to the quaint 'Fränkisch' accent and even gave our exchange partners a couple of lessons on our Clare accent! Every morning from 6.30am it was 'los geht's'!! A delicious breakfast followed by a rendezvous at the school, hopping then on to the S-Bahn to take us off to Bamberg or Nurnberg, sightseeing followed by endless consumption of scrumptious ice-cream, return journey back home and then dinner with our lovely 'Gastfamilie'. We also had the opportunity to attend classes in the German school and it was a wonderful opportunity to experience German school life.

In our 12th successful year of running the German Exchange we are now all looking forward to welcoming our German exchange students to the Comp in September 2018.

Auf Wiedersehen und Alles Gute.

Choral Music Workshop

In September one of our music teachers Ms Hickey and 50 music students took part in a Choral Choir Workshop. It was facilitated by well-known vocal coach Gemma Sugrue. Gemma is renowned for her performances with RTÉ 2FM DJ Jenny Greene and the RTÉ Concert Orchestra. We were thrilled her to our school and our students thoroughly enjoyed the workshop.

'Life without choir would B flat'.



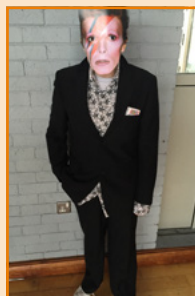
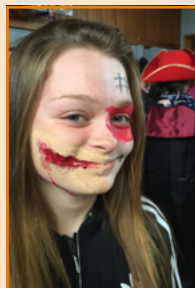
Our New Extension & Official Opening

This year marked the beginning of a new chapter at St Patrick's Comprehensive with the opening of our new building. The state of the art extension includes an ASD unit, a new student canteen, a new computer suite and new practical rooms and classrooms. The building has been in operation since October and on the 27th of April we had the pleasure of welcoming Minister for Education and Skills Richard Bruton to perform the official opening. Also in attendance were Bishop Fintan Monahan, George O'Callaghan CE of LCETB and the first principal of St Patrick's Comprehensive, Diarmaid Ó Donnabháin.



Halloween Fancy Dress

Our annual fancy dress day for Halloween this year was influenced by our upcoming musical 'All Shook Up' and featured a 50s theme. It's fair to say our students and teachers outdid themselves this year and we are already looking forward to what tricks or treats lie in store for us next Halloween!



Fundraising and Volunteering



Transition and 4th Year students helped raise €1000 at the Christmas Market for **St. Vincent de Paul**.



To celebrate **St. Brigid's Day** some of our 3rd Year students (Jade, Adana, Abbey O'Connell, Emma Connolly and Lisa Quinn) made **St. Brigid's Crosses** in school which were distributed by 4th Year and TY students in Carrigoran Nursing Home after morning prayer. The students had time to chat with the residents, many of whom are neighbours and family while also taking the opportunity to indulge in a 'session' of traditional music and song.



This year again **John Paul II Awards** were presented to three of our students in recognition of their work in the community and parish. Caoilinn Kirby and Eoin Riordan received gold awards and Magen Nolan received the highest award -The Papal Award.



In June of 2017 Eoin Riordan, Lucia Dunne and Alisha Mullins participated in the **Lourdes Diocesan Pilgrimage** where they acted as youth volunteers with the sick and disabled of the Diocese. In June of this year 2018, Caoilinn Kirby, Julita Fox and Rebecca Mc Evoy plan to take up the 'baton' and continue this tradition in the school.

their lifesaving skills if and when someone calls on their help. Bridé 3 & Ms. Gammell's 1st Years all received their 'Adam's Gift' certificates.



Order of Malta Visit

We welcomed Shannon Order of Malta to the school in October as part of the 'Adam's Gift' initiative. It is an awareness initiative supported by the Order of Malta Ireland Ambulance Corps, with the aim of helping as many people as possible recognise the signs of cardiac arrest and to have the knowledge, training and confidence to offer

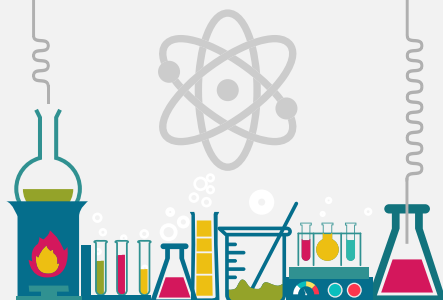
Maths Week

We had a very competitive Maths week this year with various challenges, quizzes and catch phrases to partake in.

Both our students and teachers really got into the spirit of things and challenged themselves. It is safe to say we have some budding mathletes in our school proving you can have your π and eat it too!



Science Week



Another very successful science week took place in November. Students from all years took part in various exciting science challenges and experiments throughout the week such as the treasure hunt, the table quiz, the egg drop competition and even a spectacular experiment setting Ms Hayes on fire! The week was rounded off brilliantly with students getting to experience our very own planetarium in the gym, getting to learn more about telescopes, planets and galaxies. A great week was had by all – well done to all who participated!





Christmas Market & Craft Fair

This year saw the return of our Christmas Market and Craft Fair on the 22nd of November, ringing in the festive season a little early! We welcomed over sixty stalls selling crafts, gifts, accessories, candles, jewellery, ceramics, flowers, knitwear and festive treats.



We even had a visit from the man in the big red suit himself, who arrived in style abseiling down from the roof of our new extension! Visitors had the opportunity to meet and get a photo with him in our very own Santa's grotto. The event was a great success and really got everyone into the festive spirit!

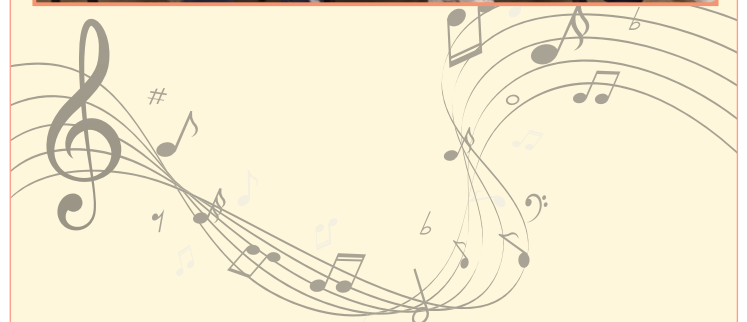


Scór na nÓg

Some of our school musical stars represented their club Wolfe Tones na Sionna in the Scór na nÓg competition as a ballad group. The group did fantastically well winning the Clare county final and going on to compete in the Munster final.



Congratulations to Eoin Riordan, Julita Fox, Sally Fox, Alanna Willetts and JP O'Shea. We are lucky to have such fantastic musical ambassadors in our school.





'ALL SHOOK UP' Our School Musical 2017

For four unforgettable nights in December we were stars! We amazed those around us, including ourselves, with our brilliant talent and realised a dream we could never have imagined would be as rewarding as it was.

When we began our **All Shook Up** journey in September we had no idea of how much we would gain as individuals and as a group over the next 12 weeks.



We made new friends in the years above and below us, we cemented friendships with people already in our circle, we marvelled at the dedication and commitment of our teachers and Production Team who happily put in hours of overtime just so that we could get it 'just right'. We groaned with frustration when our feet went left instead of right, yelled with delight when our harmonies sounded just perfect, fizzed with excitement as Opening Night approached and cried bittersweet tears at the Wrap party when it was all over.

But above all we were proud. Proud that our weeks of hard work after school and at weekends paid off. Proud to have made the most of the opportunities given to us by our school. Proud to have put on such a spectacular show for our school and the wider community. Proud of the applause, ovations and glowing feedback from the audiences.

One Question remains: **What's the next show going to be!???**



St. Nikolaus Celebration

Our 2nd Year German classes celebrated St. Nikolaus' Day on the 6th December with their German teachers. Our students received treats as is the tradition in Germany and sang German Christmas carols.

Saint Nikolaus was a bishop who lived in the 4th century and became famous for his good deeds. One story tells of how he secretly helped three poor sisters. He did not want the sisters to find out that he was helping them, so he climbed onto the roof of their house and dropped three lumps of gold down the chimney. In Germany, the story goes that the three pieces of gold fell into three shoes. This is the reason why children in Germany get their presents from St. Nikolaus in shoes.



Senior Citizens' Christmas Party 2017



We had a wonderful afternoon of tea, delicious food and great entertainment at our annual Senior Citizens Christmas Party. This wonderful event is organised every year by our LCA classes. It is a fantastic opportunity to get to know the people in our community and to kick-start the festive season. Thank you to all the wonderful people who helped out, baked food, entertained and came along to enjoy the atmosphere! We are already looking forward to following up on this party next year.



Community Work & Leadership

- Jessie O'Mara Harty -



Shannon youth worker Jessie Harty, a student here in LCA2, received a Clare Garda Divisional Award in December.

Jessie has been with the Clare Youth Service since 2013 when she joined her local youth club and youth care committee in Rineanna Hall, Shannon. She now holds a leadership role in the Youth Service helping out with her peer group during the school term.

Chief Superintendent John Kerin of the Clare Garda Division commented, "We are three years into these awards and are once again reminded of the outstanding calibre of young people in our county. We congratulate all on their achievements."

The annual Youth Awards are sponsored by Shannon Airport and speaking at the ceremony Shannon Group chairperson Rose Hynes said they shed a light on the caring and civic nature of these young people.

The awards recognise outstanding young people like Jessie for leadership in their community and for overcoming challenges.

Congratulations Jessie, you are a fantastic role model for our school!

VEX Robotics Team

Earlier this year a team of our students were busy working on a robot challenge. They built a robot the 'Conebine Garvester' to enter into a Dell-sponsored competition in January. Their team robot got to battle other robots from all over the country. The team got to the quarter finals in Cork and won the award for best sportsmanship!

The students involved spoke of the infectious team spirit that developed from the competition and the engineering experience they gained from it. Congratulations and well done to all involved.



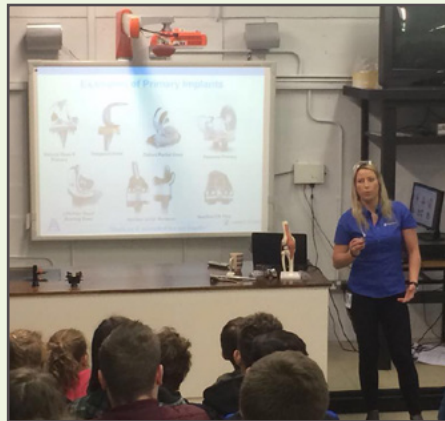
Design & Engineering Week 2018

In March we had our Design and Engineering Week, which featured a variety of talks and workshops for our design and engineering students. Some of our engineering students previously had the opportunity to visit the engineering department in LIT earlier in the year.

We were delighted to welcome speakers from various engineering companies to our school as well as facilitating our own Solidworks workshops, a robotics and programming demo from our VEX Robotics team and even a visit out to Modular Automation.



Our guest speakers included Noel Marshall, inventor of 'Backballer', Sandra Gunning, process engineer at Zimmer Biomet and past pupil Christy Carey who is pursuing a career with Atlantic Aviation. Each offered a fantastic presentation to our students about subject choices and career paths in engineering. The week was a great success and has no doubt paved the way for some budding engineers of the future.



Valentine's Day Fundraiser

Our LCA 1 students put on a great display of goodies as part of their mini-company to mark Valentine's Day this year. Students had been working hard all term to create and bake gifts in order to organise a 'Valentine's Day' themed event. In total €250 was raised for their chosen charity 'The Shannon Angel Sisters'.

Following on from their LCA 1 'mini company', the students welcomed the ladies from 'The Shannon Angel Sisters' to our school. Noreen and her colleagues volunteered their time to share with and show students all the work that they do. 'The Shannon Angel Sisters' is a non-profit organisation who work tirelessly to provide beautiful garments for 'sleeping babies'.

Thank you to all who supported the event and well done to all involved.



PIC-COLLAGE

Student Council

We, the Student Council have had yet another very successful year 2017/18. Following elections in early October our Student Council representatives were as follows:

First year: Lucy Huynh and Mieszko Wojtania

Second Year: Sally Fox and Conor McInerney

Third Year: Allia-Jai Marren-O'Callaghan and Jehmarl Pelearco

Transition Year: Áine Sweeny and Kai Downes

Fourth Year: Amy O'Connor and Michael Hartigan

Fifth Year: Rachel Murphy and Daire Kiely

Leaving Cert Applied: Jaundre Dippenaar

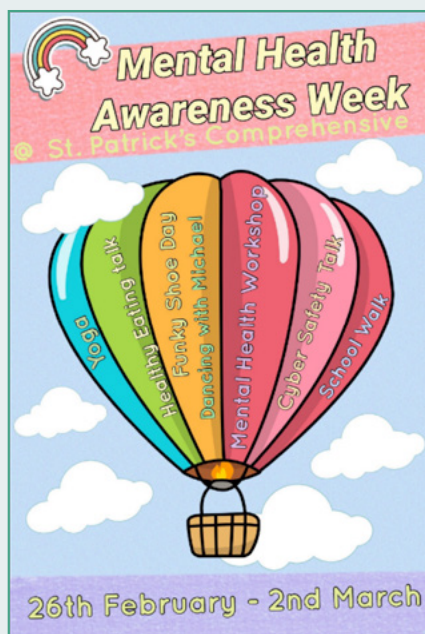
I was appointed Chairperson this year and I am delighted with all we achieved through our hard work this year. We began our year with a proposal for a Mental Health Awareness Week. We thought this would be valuable to students and organised for it to run from the 26th of February to the 2nd of March. Activities included a yoga class, an Irish dancing class, and a talk from Clare Youth Service for Junior Certificate and Leaving Certificate students. We also had talks from Mental Health Ireland for our Second year and Transition Year students. During our Mental Health Awareness week students in the school could also benefit from a special rate in the Shannon Leisure Centre. The week culminated in a 'Funky Shoe Day' to raise money for positive mental health awareness and promotion in the school. Keychains were also sold during lunchtimes during the week and the students' council were available every lunchtime to provide information on all the events during the week.



At the start of the year, as a result of a survey carried out by the students' council in the last academic year, we came up with a design for a school top as there was a big demand for a school top to be made available to students. We then sold these school tops at lunchtime and the students had the opportunity to get their initials on the top and also if they were involved in the musical they could also get 'All Shook Up' put on the top.

This year a large change occurred in the school with regards to food and healthy eating. To remain more in line with the school's healthy eating policy, the decision was made by to close the Tuck shops in the school. An external catering company 'The School Food Company' came into the school and now provides a wide variety of lunches each day. The Student Council met with the caterers on multiple occasions to discuss food options and pricing. This information was then passed on to each year group so that all students became familiar with the new system.

During the Easter Holidays in March, Áine, Kai and I were lucky enough to be able to attend the Irish Second-Level Students' Union's AGM in Liberty Hall, Dublin, accompanied by our Student Council liaison teacher, Ms. McDonnell. Here we voted in the national elections and contributed to the debates about ISSU policy. This was a very fulfilling day and we learned a lot, which we brought back to our fellow Student Council members.



Other items which were brought to and dealt with by the Student Council were the request for more outdoor seating, leading to the placing of picnic benches in the courtyard between the original building and the extension, and the request for more water fountains which we spoke to Mr. Heaphy about. He has informed us that work will be carried out during the summer to facilitate this.

Overall, we are immensely satisfied with our work done this year, and, on behalf of the whole Student Council, I would like to extend our thanks to Ms. McDonnell for her tireless work throughout the year. A big 'thank you' as well to my fellow Student Council members for helping to make 2017/18 a fantastic, fulfilling year.

Allia-Jai Marren O'Callaghan - 3rd Year

Some of our student council members also got the opportunity to go and network with student council members from other schools.

Áine Sweeney, Kai Downes and Allia-Jai Marren O'Callaghan took time out of their Easter holidays to attend the ISSU conference at Liberty Hall in Dublin today. Well done to these exemplary student council members!

Leaving Certificate Physical Education

St. Patrick's Comprehensive School is once again proudly leading the way in innovative education! We are delighted to have been chosen as one of two Co. Clare schools to take part in the first phase of the new Leaving Certificate Physical Education programme. 369 schools applied to teach this programme nationwide and we are one of the 80 schools chosen. Students entering 4th year in 2018 will be the first to be examined in 2020. We are both delighted and privileged to be one of the chosen schools offering this exciting new programme to our students.



Seachtain na Gaeilge 2018

Bhí seachtain den scoth againn I mbliana! Our first years all took part in a Tráth na gCeist in our lovely leabharlann. Some of our students taught us how to do the 'Siege of Ennis'.



As always, many of our talented musicians came together for a 'seisiún ceoil' and a wonderful sing song was had. We had many other activities; cluichí, spórt, amhráin, dánta agus scéalta. Chríochnaíomar le Lá Glas arís I mbliana.

Táimid ag tnúth go mór le SNAG19!



Clare Youth Service

Clare Youth Service

We were very fortunate this year to be able to avail of the excellent support services offered by Clare Youth Service, Shannon for students in our school this year.

We are very conscious of the many challenges facing young people in Ireland today and are committed to assisting our students and their parents in negotiating these.

These programmes offered support, open discussion and advice in a wide range of areas including mental health, anxiety during exams, drugs and alcohol awareness, making positive choices and 'Lunchtime Club' for junior students.

It is hoped to continue and expand these programmes next year to include T.Y. Mentoring for incoming 1st Years and robotics classes for those with an interest in technology, design and programming.

Apprenticeships Open Evening 2018

We were both proud and excited to be working in conjunction with Shannon Chamber to hold an information evening highlighting apprenticeships available in our locality. This was the first event of its kind in our school and it was a fantastic opportunity for our students to learn more about possible career paths through apprenticeships.





APPRENTICESHIPS INFORMATION EVENING

@ St. Patrick's Comprehensive School

Wednesday 14th March - 6pm to 8pm

Shannon Chamber of Commerce is organising an apprenticeship-focused information evening with short presentations by companies.

With thanks to:
Shannon Chamber
Advancing business together



Each company will have a stand at the event to facilitate one-to-one discussions with people.

Learn & Earn



Attendance is free of charge and open to anybody in the community

Agricultural Science Quiz Team

Some of our Leaving Certificate students took part in the All Ireland IASTA Agricultural Science quiz in Portlaoise back in March. Well done to all involved in the competition!



Canteen

The School Food Company are now providing students and staff with healthy options at very reasonable prices in our new state of the art canteen.



Promoting Healthy Lifestyle Choices

WELCOME ALL PROSPECTIVE STUDENTS AND FAMILY MEMBERS.

We would like to take this opportunity to give you a sense of how we are working with the staff and management to promote healthier food and lifestyle choices within the school.

The School Food Company in conjunction with the school are dedicated to providing a healthy, nutritious food service to students.

As of this year there is an on-site canteen offering a full fresh food service to students.

Furthermore a range of strategies are being put in place to help empower young people to choose healthy options, including:

- Prominent display of fresh seasonal fruit
- Pricing strategies to promote the healthiest choices
- Promotional materials to promote healthy choices
- Lifestyle workshops for students
- A School Lifestyle Policy is being developed

SAMPLE menu

Some of the choices available to students

Hot Options	
Pasta Dishes	from €3.00
Rice Dishes	from €3.00
Selection of toasted wraps	from €3.00
Soups	from €1.50

Chilled Options	
Selection of small filled rolls	from €1.00
Selection of filled baps	from €3.00
Selection of filled wraps	from €3.00
Selection of salads	from €3.00

Beverages	
Water	€0.80
Juice	€0.90
Milk	€0.80
Selection of Teas and Coffees	from €1.00

Snacks	
Fruit pots	€1.00
Yoghurt	€0.90
Seed and Nut mixes	€1.30
Scones	€1.20



TOP TIPS FOR INCREASING FRUIT & VEG CONSUMPTION

- Keep a well-stocked fruit bowl and encourage the family to snack on fruit
- Don't force kids to eat fruit & veg - this is always a bad idea
- Do praise your children when they try a new fruit or vegetable
- Cut back on junk food - if you don't buy it, they won't eat it
- Be a role model - set a good example and eat plenty of fruit & veg yourself!

Drumming Music Workshop

Ms. Golden's and Ms. Hickey's 1st Year and 2nd Year music classes attended a drumming workshop back in March in the Shannon Library. A huge thank you to John Bowker of Tribal Spirit Drumming and to our local Shannon library for providing us with a fun filled afternoon of music. Well done to all students involved who were complimented on their talent and participation.



1st Year Easter Egg Hunt

Transition Years organised an Easter Egg hunt for 1st Years on the day of the Easter holidays. This was part of their Buddy activities and lots of planning and preparation went into getting the event up and running. It was a lovely way to start the holidays! Thanks to all the T.Ys and teachers involved.



School Talent Show

Our Transition Years organised and hosted a wonderful display of school talent at a show in March. The talent show was in aid of the TY European Studies Trip to Berlin. The TY students did a fantastic job putting this event together. It must have been a very tough choice to pick our winner but in the end Karolina Popis announced that the overall winner was Jack Ryan. Well done to Jack and all the other students who displayed their wide range of talents on the day. We were blown away!



Student Achievement Excellence in Business

Congratulations to Éanna Crimmins 4th Year and Colin Morris TY who were awarded by the Kemmy Business School in UL for having achieved an A grade in Higher Level Business Studies in their Junior Certificate last year. They are pictured here with the Dean of the Kemmy Business School and their teacher Ms. Magee. Well done on a fantastic achievement.



Musical Trip to 'Matilda'

On the 11th of April 50 students, cast and crew from the school musical 'All Shook Up' attended the Bord Gáis Theatre to see the musical 'Matilda'. The day started off with the students going to Liffey Valley for some lunch and a bit of shopping and from there proceeded on to the Bord Gáis theatre. Everybody thoroughly enjoyed the wonderful display of talent and returned to school with some great ideas and suggestions for our next school musical! A great day was had by all.



World Book Week 2018

Following on in our school tradition, World Book Week was another great success this year.

Thanks to some of our wonderful Transition Year students our 1st Year students took part in a variety of activities and competitions throughout the week including the bookmark competition, creative writing exercises, 'Don't Judge a Book by Its Cover', creating comic strips and a 'World Book Week' quiz.

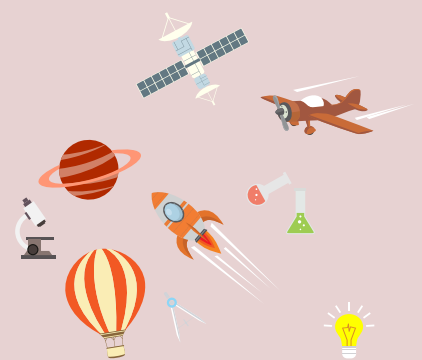


WORLD BOOK WEEK 2018



The TY students visited each 1st Year English class every day and organised different activities.

Thank you to all the TY students who worked tirelessly to create this event and to all the First Year students who participated.



Clare Comhairle na n-Óg

My name is Shane Quinn. I am a member of Comhairle na n-Og in Clare. In Comhairle na n-Óg - a youth council, we meet regularly, having fun but also building our awareness of more serious issues that are important to young people. This year we are working on cyber safety. Some of our members have taken the opportunity to train on this topic with McAfee Cyber Security, and with the support of the youth coordinators at Clare youth service we have had the opportunity to present this course to first year student teachers in NUIG.

This year I was honoured to be voted to represent Clare Comhairle na n-Óg on the National Executive. This involves attending a monthly meeting in Dublin. I am joined on that committee by 30 other members from all over the 26 counties. This is a two- year term. Our theme for this term is equality in schools where we will focus on individuality and student voice. This is coordinated by a team from the department of children's and youth affairs. This has given me great opportunities and I was lucky to be part of a sub group that presented to the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the Sale and Exploitation of children.

I enjoy my time in Comhairle na n-Óg. Along with dealing with serious issues we get to go on residential weekends, meet many new people and have lots of fun.



Student Achievement German Language Scholarship Winner

Congratulations to Éanna Crimmins, 4th Year, who received a PAD scholarship to take part in a fully sponsored language course in Germany. Éanna will spend three weeks in Germany in June 2018 and attend a German school. We wish Éanna a great time and fantastic experiences in Germany.

The PAD scholarship is provided by the German Pedagogical Exchange Service and is funded by the German Foreign Office. The selection is based on the students' performances in German in the previous Junior Certificate Examination. The best 40 students are invited by the Department of Education and Skills to an interview/language test at the Goethe Institute in Dublin in March each year. Gut gemacht Éanna!



Careers Day 2018

Our 4th Years took part in our annual 'Careers Day' in April. Students listened to talks from NUIG, LIT, Mary Immaculate College, UCC, GMIT, UL, Shannon College of Hotel Management and the National Learning Network. It was a fantastic day as students had the opportunity to gather information on courses, campus life, accommodation, scholarships and clubs & societies. Well done to all involved!

4th Year Cultural Visit to France

'Paris est toujours une bonne idée.'



On the 23rd April, 51 students and 6 teachers travelled to Paris for a cultural visit of the city. We flew from Cork airport to Charles de Gaulle. We were picked up by Gent our lovely driver and we didn't waste a minute. We headed straight for the Eiffel Tower and then a guided tour of Paris. We saw all the sites and learned a lot about the history of the city. We learned that the "New Bridge" (Le Pont Neuf) is the oldest bridge in the city, we learned that the Louvre was once home to the Kings and Queens of France, that Louis XIV was the Sun King, that the Eiffel Tower was sold twice for scrap metal and that French drivers are fearless. We saw le musée du Louvre, l'Assemblée Nationale, Place de la Concorde and l'Arc de Triomphe. We ate in a little crêperie near Notre Dame Cathedral and tasted sweet and savory crêpes.

When we checked into the hotel we were delighted to find a common room with air hockey and a pool table and even a petting zoo at the back. The following morning we were up really early for breakfast and we were spoiled for choice with fresh fruit, cereals, hot food, croissants and pain au chocolat.

After breakfast, we went straight to Versailles which was, for many, the highlight of our trip. The castle is spectacular with magnificent art and sculptures. Each salon is breath-taking and based on a different theme and the famous Hall of Mirrors is so impressive and steeped in history. Some of us even skipped lunch so that we could continue to explore the castle and the grounds. We then enjoyed a cruise on the Seine on a Bateau Mouche. The sun was shining and we all sat on the top deck taking pictures and enjoying the scenery.

Following the boat trip, we made our way towards Montmartre and the Basilique du Sacré Cœur. Some of us climbed the hundreds of steps to experience the best views of the city from the beautiful basilica, others wandered the winding streets buying souvenirs and treats, the rest found a sunny spot to watch the world go by. After dinner we rushed back to the hotel to see the Champions League final and to get an early night before our day at Disneyland.

We were awake at the crack of dawn because everybody was really looking forward to the theme park. There was something for everybody in Disneyland- many of us spent the day going from rollercoaster to rollercoaster but the park itself was gorgeous and lovely to walk around. The parade and firework shows were spectacular and we were exhausted by the time the park closed.

The following morning, we were up early to say goodbye to the animals in the petting zoo and get a little bit of shopping done before going to the airport to fly home. We had a great trip and everybody really enjoyed themselves, for some of us it was our first time in France and we have all vowed that it won't be our last.

Thank you to our parents and teachers for giving us the opportunity to visit Paris, it was a wonderful experience.



Student Achievement Our Students Set Sail



Well done to three of our students who took part in an epic sailing journey recently through Sail-Training Ireland. Ciara Sunderland, Áine Harrison and Jack Broaders were among 12 international teenagers to be on-board the 'Maybe' and sailed 343 nautical miles on a 6 day long trip. Four crew members and a youth mentor were also part of the journey from Cork to Dublin and then to the Isle of Man before concluding in Belfast! Well done to our seafarers!



Community Work & Leadership

Abby McInerney

We are so proud of our LCA 1 student, Abby McInerney. Abby is pictured here with the Younger Voices Group from the Clare Youth Service. Abby, along with her group, visited the Mansion House in April for the Youth Work Ireland Oireachtas Briefing. Abby spoke to TDs Pat Breen, Dr. Michael Harty and Senator Martin Conway on the concerns and hopes of young people in Clare.

Well done Abby!



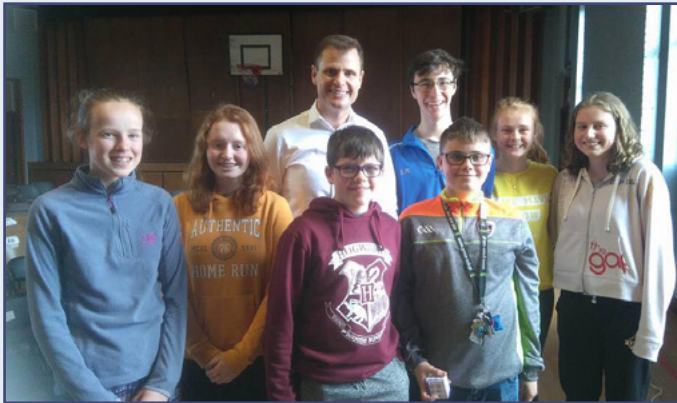
Rising Stars – Réalta agus Gaolta

This year saw two of our rising stars, sister-duo Julita and Sally Fox take part in TG4 programme 'Réalta agus Gaolta'. The show is all about talented families and the Fox sisters really impressed the judges with their fantastic performances. What an achievement for these talented young girls, we are very proud of you here in the Comp!

Maith sibh cailíní!



An Inspirational Visit from John Burke



On May 10th we were extremely fortunate to have a visit to our school from John Burke who was recently named Clare Person of the Year. John reached the summit of Mount Everest on May 16th, 2017 after 10 years of gruelling preparation, training and sheer determination.

He shared his fascinating journey of self-discovery with us as well as insights into the demanding physical and mental challenges associated with conquering Everest.

He spoke about the battle he had within himself to conquer his own fears and self-doubt and how, in order to succeed, he had to transform his negative thoughts into positive ones.

The ability to do this and the will to simply keep “putting one foot in front of the other” enabled him to overcome many setbacks and ultimately to succeed.

As well as his mountaineering exploits, John is also founder of Elevate, an organisation which aims to promote and provide mental health wellness programmes for young people in Co. Clare.

John also returned to our school for the graduation of our Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied students. John gave yet another inspirational speech and we thoroughly enjoyed motivational and enlightening speech.



TY European Studies Trip to Berlin



As part of the TY European Studies programme we go on a European trip every year. This year our destination was Berlin, the capital of Germany. We waited in eager anticipation all year for the most fun-filled and action packed experience so far. When the day finally came we were all buzzing and filled excitement for the upcoming few days we were about to experience.

On Monday the 30th of April we set off to Berlin. The flight was smooth but the landing was fairly rocky. After a long walk we hopped on a train and made our way to the hostel. Upon arriving at the hostel we were given a brief lecture on the rules and regulations of the hostel and went up to our rooms.

The next morning we met in the lobby and headed for Berlin Zoo. We had a couple of hours to look around and we saw many unique animals such as the pandas and the seals. After meeting back at the entrance we set off towards our next destination, the Brandenburg Gate. The Brandenburg Gate was a sight to behold and it's amazing how it's so well preserved after all these years. When we reached the gate we took our photo ops and headed to the Jewish Memorial two minutes away. We were then given some time to look around, get something to eat and get some hennas! We met back at the gate and headed off to our next destination only ten minutes away, The Reichstag. After being escorted up to the dome we were allowed to hang out for a while where some of us slept in the sun and others chatted among themselves. After a fairly long stroll down to Alexanderplatz we met up at the centre of the complex. At 8.30pm, tired and cranky, we boarded the train back to the hostel.



Wednesday morning we woke up bright and early and met down in the lobby. Another long exhausting trip of both train and foot we arrived at our first stop of the day, Sachsenhausen Concentration Camp. Jamie our



tour guide introduced himself and gave an educational and honestly quite overwhelming tour of Sachsenhausen. At the end of our tour our feet were crying out for a break but our next destination was looming ever closer. We stepped off our next train at the Mall of Berlin. We were all very eager to explore and check out the shops and restaurants in this famous mall. Exhausted from shopping we pulled out Google maps and navigated our way to Checkpoint Charlie, where we got photos of the American soldiers and a group shot in front of a section of the Berlin Wall.

The next morning we headed for the Eastside Gallery to see the longest remaining stretch of the Berlin Wall which is covered in murals. It was truly a spectacle to behold with different styles of art all along it to enjoy. We met at the end of the wall and headed off together to Kreuzberg Markthalle Neun which had lots of food and market stalls. After the market to headed to the Olympic stadium. We got to walk around and see whatever we wanted, although some were more extreme than others and the lads went for a dip in

the Olympic swimming pool! Dried off and ready again we set off towards to DDR Interactive Museum. Inside there was a lot to do and see among the exhibitions and simulations. As the day was coming to an end we went to Alexanderplatz for some dinner and shopping before heading back to the hostel.

Friday! The end! Sullen faces piled into the games room that morning as we all knew it was the day of our departure back to Ireland. The teachers gave a brief heart-warming speech before we headed off to Alexanderplatz to do some last minute shopping before catching our flight home.

All in all, our trip was an amazing experience and we all had a great time.

Second Year End of Year Trip



On Tuesday 15th May, our 2nd Year students embarked on their traditional end of year trip. This trip encompassed some history, geography and local amenities. Along with three of our teachers; Ms Graham, Ms Ryan, Ms Colleran and one of our SNAs Lorraine we set off. We ventured to Cragganowen, the Ailwee Caves and had our lunch in Lahinch. Whilst relaxing in Lahinch some of our students braved the Atlantic Ocean! We had a wonderful memorable day together. We would like to thank our teachers for organising the trip.



First Year End of Year Trip



It has become school tradition that 1st Year students celebrate a successful year by going to the Crescent Shopping Centre in Limerick. This year Ms Graham organised for the students to watch the movie, *Wonder*, in the Omniplex Cinema; students were then given time to browse the shops and get lunch. The trip celebrates student's attendance, behaviour and overall effort throughout the year. A great day was had by all. Thank you to Ms Shannon (Year Head), Ms Graham, Ms McInerney, and Mr. Conlon (Class teachers) and our amazing SNAs- Tracy, Lorraine, Rose and Rosemary for making the day so memorable.



Transition Year Table Quiz

Our TY1 group held a Geography and History table quiz for our 1st Years on Wednesday 16th May. The quiz was used as a revision exercise to help students prepare for their end of year exams. The TY1 students put a lot of time and effort into organising the quiz and creating fabulous prizes. Well done all those involved. Congratulations to the winning team of Orlaith Ahern, Keeva Hanrahan, Emma O'Connor and Erin Grillo.



Active Schools Week 2018

The Tuesday after the May bank holiday kick started this year's Active Schools Week with our enthusiastic Transition Years hitting the ground running by holding a school soccer tournament throughout the day. Teams were made up of members from various years and a great day was had by all.

Table tennis tournaments featured as a lunchtime activity throughout the week and each day at 12.30pm we had 'Drop Everything & Move' where teachers and students performed different sets of activities each day.

Wednesday saw the return of our annual whole school 5K walk/10K run. Although the weather played havoc with our plans, this didn't dampen our spirits and our fantastic students and teachers braved the elements to take part in the event.

Rained off and postponed to the following week, the TYs yet again organised and held another



fantastic event, the 1st Year sports day. The event was very well organised with first years getting a chance to play basketball, soccer, rounders and take part in fun runs such as the wheelbarrow race and the three-legged race!

Some events were also organised for the teachers throughout the week, with circuit training and yoga taking place after school.

We also had fantastic support from the Shannon Leisure Centre who offered discount gym passes for €1 for all our students for the duration of the week.

Overall the week was a great success and a great opportunity for our students and teachers alike to get active. A big thank you to everyone who took part and supported it and we look forward to Active Schools Week 2019!



Second Year Awards

Congratulations to Mr. Daly's 2nd Year students who received their Exemplary Behaviour awards & Outstanding Attendance awards. Well done to all .



Transition Year 2017-2018

Transition Year students had another fantastic, action-packed year. They were involved in various exciting projects and initiatives both in school and in the wider community, developing and enhancing new and existing skills. As a group they both organised and took part in a variety of events:

- Bonding Trip to Lahinch
- Trip to Glór Theatre
- Active Schools Week
- Work Experience
- World Book Week
- Seachtain na Gaeilge
- Bakesales
- Iceskating
- School Talent Show
- Christmas Market & Craft Fair
- Spring Clean
- History and Geography Quiz
- First Year Buddy System
- Wheelchair basketball
- European Studies Trip to Berlin
- School musical (behind the scenes and on stage!!)
- Drug and alcohol awareness workshop
- Molex STEM visit
- Denim Day fundraiser
- Easter Egg Hunt
- Trip to local library
- Junior achievement -Enterprise in Action-Zimmer
- No-phone fundraiser



On Thursday the 24th of May our Transition Years graduated. Family, teachers and students gathered in the library to celebrate and recap on a wonderful year. Caoilinn Kirby and Eoin Petticrew spoke on behalf of their classes, Kai Downes, Caoimhe



Tree Planting An Update One Year On

Following on from their C.S.P.E Action Project last year, our 2nd Year students have been keeping a watchful eye on their trees. Here we see class group 1de checking on the progress of the trees they planted last year. It is very exciting to watch and record our trees growing every year!



McAllister and Lee Deegan provided reflections while Cathal Culloo and Abbie Kelly gave a beautiful musical performance. Mr Heaphy presented the students with their certificates and Ms Dinneen gave an address as TY Year Head. This was all rounded off with a collage of TY memories and some fantastic music from our TY classes. Congratulations to the TY classes of 2018 and thank you for all your hard work, enthusiasm and dedication throughout the year.

Setting Sail - Graduation 2018



On Friday the 25th of May our Leaving Certificate and Leaving Certificate Applied classes of 2018 graduated. Our school gym was transformed by our teachers and students to set the scene for this special occasion and reflect this year's theme of hope, wisdom and gratitude.

The ceremony included incredible musical performances from some of our very talented 5th year students. The speakers included Mr Heaphy, Ms Hickey, Mr David Deighan, Chairperson of our Board of Management and Mr John Burke of the Elevate Foundation. Rachel Glynn, Jessie O'Mara Harty, Hazel Meaney and Gavin Higgins spoke on behalf of the student cohort. First years Leah Halpin and Darragh Riordan also delivered an address to the class of 2018 offering them sage advice as they transition into the next chapter of their lives.

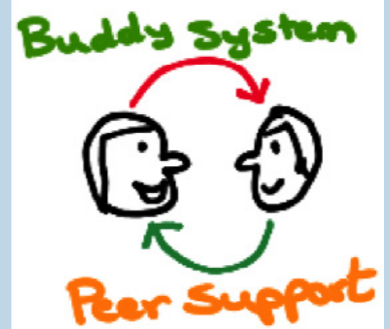
Congratulations to all of our students. We wish you success, health and happiness in all that you do in the future. We will miss you and hope you call to see us again. As Mr Heaphy says 'Our door is always open!' A huge thank you to John Burke for his words of wisdom and encouragement. Many thanks to our amazing staff and students for their tireless work to make it such a fantastic day.



TY Buddy System



At the beginning of the year Ms Ryan and Ms Graham approached all TY students to see if we would like to partake in the school's first Buddy System. The aim of this Buddy system is for TY students to help 1st Years to transition and adjust to secondary school life. We had various information sessions and workshops with our teachers and peers. Our first meeting with the 1st Years was daunting and nerve wracking, but we knew this was going to be a learning process. We devised some activities and planned events that would take place throughout the year. These activities included a movie day and an Easter egg hunt. At the end of the year we carried out a survey and were delighted with all the positive feedback. We invited the 1st Years to write letters to their future selves reflecting on their first year in our school. This was a valuable and memorable learning experience. We would like to thank our teachers for providing us with this opportunity and all the first year students to taking part in all the activities.



Leaving Certificate Applied

We have a very active and well-rounded Leaving Certificate Applied programme here in St. Patrick's Comprehensive, all spearheaded by the wonderful Ms Hickey. This year's cohort of LCA students were no different. Students were involved in various workshops, fundraising events and tasks all whilst managing their course work and deadlines.



LCA 1 & 2 activities

- First Aid
- Trip to Glór
- Drug & Alcohol awareness workshop
- Visit to local library
- Iceskating
- GAA coaching course
- Valentine's Day mini- company for the Shannon Angel Sisters
- Teaching first years
- Coaching in the local primary schools
- Fire station visit
- Hike- 12 o'clock hills
- Visit from entrepreneur & past pupil Jodie Finlay

Congratulations to our LCA 2 students who received their First Aid Certificates for completing a first aid course as part of their Active Leisure module with Ms Cooney.

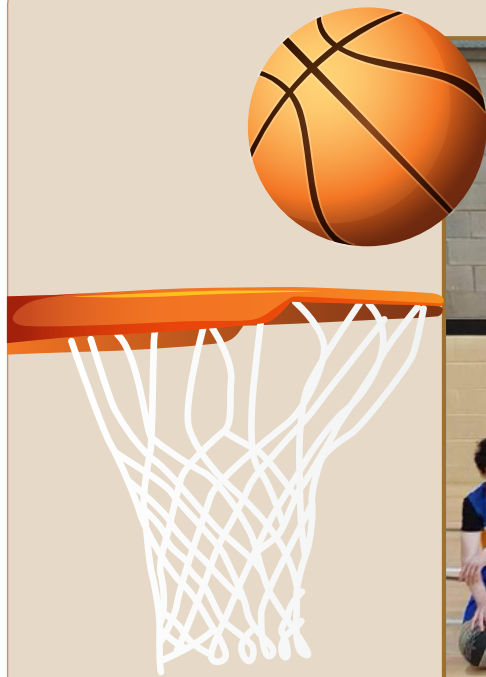


Well done to our LCA 1 and LCA 2 students on their excellent results in their tasks and key assignments ending in January 2018, with many students achieving the full 10 credits for their tasks. As well as completing projects, they compiled task reports and did interviews with external examiners. We are very proud of you.



Sports at St Patrick's Comprehensive

We have had another busy year of sports here in the school. From GAA to basketball, athletics to rugby, there was always something happening and a variety of activities to partake in.



Basketball

Our boys' basketball teams put in a massive effort throughout the school year, proving the future is very bright for basketball at the Comp. Both our U16 and U19 teams did very well in their regional competitions, with our U19 team winning their regional final and our U16 team just pipped at the post in their regional final. Well done to both teams. This year marks the end of an era as we say goodbye to some of our faithful Leaving Cert players such as Tommy Walsh, Aaron Gavin, David O'Dea, Liam Alford, Pierce Sambo and Patrick Murphy. We commend your dedication to our school team over the years and look forward to following your basketball careers in the future. You will be missed!





Hurling & Gaelic Football

It was another busy year for boys GAA with our school fielding 1st & 2nd year, U16 and senior teams in both codes. The boys competed in both Clare and Munster competitions and did a fantastic job representing our school. Well done to all involved.



Ladies Football

Our Junior Ladies Football team started the season off early this year with their first outing in September. Our games included meetings with St Caimin's, St Joseph's Tulla, Ennistymon Vocational School and Coláiste Mhuire in the final. Well done to this fantastic group of girls for their dedication and enthusiasm throughout the year.



Athletics

Comp athletics has never had a massive following but there were always some old and new! Fourth year Jamie Kelly started the season with a 1st place in the Clare Co Schools Athletics Championships senior race but was away for the North Munsters. He organised a team of senior boys for the counties race and they came away with a team bronze medal, all proud. Jamie, Stephen Moran, Jason McAuley, Jordan Duggan and Lenon Keogh made the team, well done Lads!

The North Munster Track & Field Championships took place over 2 days in Castleisland. Orla Fitzgerald (2nd year) won silver in the Junior Girls Walk, Niall Fleming (3rd year) took silver in the Javelin and Jamie started the track season well with a gold medal in the senior boys 5000m. Well done to all!



Rugby

September's initial meeting of the new rugby group found a few big losses from last year so we were glad to see a couple of 1st years make their appearance.

The Comp made a comeback to cup rugby after a few years off. We had teams entered at both U16 and U19.

The U19's took to the pitch early with a 'friendly' against St. Caimin's, old rivalry continued and we were beaten by a whisker..... their return to cup rugby didn't go so well either as we found ourselves facing a strong Villiers side at St Senan's RFC, a good effort and some very positive plays were not enough. Star newcomer must go to Shane Lynch (animal on the pitch!), with old stalwarts Shane Donaghy (captain fantastic!) Adam Mc (twinkle toes!), Jordan Duggan (RUN STRAIGHT!) and Jason McAuley (please play club rugby!) stood up to the test. Other contributions were positive but I haven't all day!

Off to the O'Gorman cup we went with a first round meeting with our old friends St. Caimin's. The weather (it has to appear in every Irish report no matter what the topic!) didn't help fixtures and eventually we were given the match and progressed to a meeting with our other Clare friends Rice College. They were a strong team but we fought hard. However, we felt the absence of Jeff and the lack of training as a team was evident and Rice came out on top. A good effort but a lesson in the value of training, I think!

The U16's started out their cup campaign against a tough campaigner in Croom, the Bruff fixture saw strong performances from our newcomer Craig Riordan and Joey O'Donoghue and the usual suspects: Mark O'Sullivan, Darragh Treacy, Matthew Hurley and Cathal Culloo, but the outcome didn't go our way.

We moved on to a Giles Shield fixture at home against Cashel where we were well beaten but everyone played well. Thomond Park beckoned again for our U-15 and our U17's. The younger team improved as they played their three games and came out on top in their last of 3 matches. The older team played a tough couple of matches and despite the poor outcomes the team put it up to each opponent and did us proud.

The comp game of the year was the Annual U19 colours match v St. Caimin's. We were strong victors in that encounter and Shane Donaghy was all smiles receiving the trophy from the ref (Bertie!) at the end of the match. Well done to all involved, a well-earned victory. We saw tries from Adam Mc and Mark McEvoy (proud ex St Caimin's student in his Comp jersey) while also witnessing Jordan Duggan run straight during a match in the Comp jersey..... We don't think he has recovered yet!

This year saw the introduction of what will hopefully be an annual award for Player of the Year. There were two awards one for Junior and one for Senior.



The Players voted overwhelmingly for Junior Player John Paz who we welcomed back following a shoulder injury which kept him out of the school game last year. His dedication and ability to motivate made his stand out as inspirational to his team mates. Senior Player of the year went to a very popular Shane Lynch. Shane broke every 1st tackle this year and left lots of bruises in the opposition in the wake of the big hits he put in. Both were worthy recipients.

This year we say goodbye to many of the Comp rugby stalwarts in: Shane Donaghy, Jordan Duggan, Jason McAuley, Adam McNamara, Rhys Reynolds, Kaymen Birmingham, Kian Downes; and Shane Lynch, Mark McEvoy, Jayme O'Sullivan, Jeff Reynolds and Conor Hassett.

The girls will be in the contact game next year, for which their skills are developing nicely and we will have U15 and U17 Blitz teams along with a senior and junior cup rugby representation. But for now, have a good summer and good luck in your rugby life! ☺ - Ms O'Keeffe

Booklist Information 2018

Our booklists are now available on the school website for the upcoming school year. Please follow the link below to view.

Don't forget our book loan scheme is available to all incoming 1st Years at a cost of just €150.
<http://www.stpatrickscomprehensive.ie/book-lists.html>



2018/2019

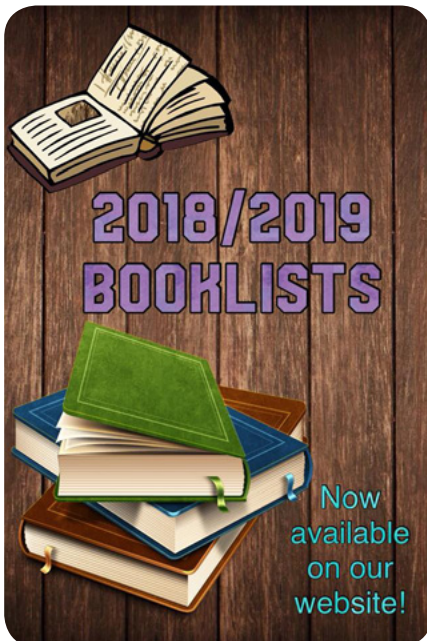


Texts for 1st Year

- | | |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1. ALMOND, David | Skellig |
| 2. BABBITT, Nicole | Tuck Everlasting |
| 3. CAREY, Anna | The Real Rebecca |
| 4. COLFER, Eoin | Artemis Fowl |
| 5. DOYLE, Roddy | Wilderness |
| 6. GAIMAN, Neil | Coraline |
| 7. GRISHAM, John Theodore | Boone: Half the Man, Twice the Lawyer |
| 8. HENRY, April | Girl Stolen |
| 9. HINTON, Nigel | Buddy |
| 10. LANDY, Derek | Skulduggery Pleasant |
| 11. McKENZIE, Sophie | Girl, Missing |
| 12. MORPURGO, Michael | Private Peaceful |
| 13. PALACIO, R.J. | Wonder |
| 14. PAULSEN, Gary | Nightjohn |
| 15. PULLMAN, Philip | The Scarecrow and his Servant |
| 16. SACHAR, Louis | The Boy Who Lost His Face |
| 17. SHAN, Darren | Cirque Du Freak |
| 18. TAYLOR, Theodore | The Cay |
| 19. TOLKEIN, J.R.R. | The Hobbit |

Texts for 2nd and 3rd year

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. BLACKMAN, Malorie | Noughts and Crosses |
| 2. BOYNE, John | The Dare |
| 3. CATHER, Willa | My Antonia |
| 4. CONNOLLY, John | The Book of Lost Things |
| 5. CROSSAN, Sarah | The Weight of Water |
| 6. GLEITZMAN, Morris | Once |
| 7. GOLDING, William | Lord of the Flies |
| 8. HINTON, S.E. | The Outsiders |
| 9. JOHNSTON, Jennifer | Shadows on our Skin |
| 10. KIERNAN, Celine | Into the Grey |
| 11. LEE, Harper | To Kill a Mockingbird |
| 12. MITCHELL, Jane | Chalkline |
| 13. MULLIGAN, Andy | Trash |
| 14. NESS, Patrick | The Knife of Never Letting Go |
| 15. NICHOLSON, William | The Wind Singer |
| 16. ORWELL, George | Animal Farm |
| 17. PORTIS, Charles | True Grit |
| 18. STEINBECK, John | Of Mice and Men |
| 19. SWINDELLS, Robert | Stone Cold |



Senior Cycle Reading List

Title	Author
Life of Pi	Y. Martell
The Fault in Our Stars	J. Green
The Ocean at the End of the Lane	N. Gaiman
The Great Gatsby	S.F Scott
Great Expectations	C.Dickens
Emma	J.Austen
The Uncommon Reader	A.Bennett
Circle of friends	M. Binchy
Wuthering Heights	E. Bronte
The Perks of Being a Wallflower	S. CHBOSKY
The Book Thief	M. Zusak



Supervised Study

Weekly Study

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Breaks
4:15- 6:15	4:15- 6:15	3:30- 5:30	3:30 - 5:30	3:30 - 5:30	10 mins

Students pay on a termly basis, the cost will be announced in September.

Contact: Ms Dinneen

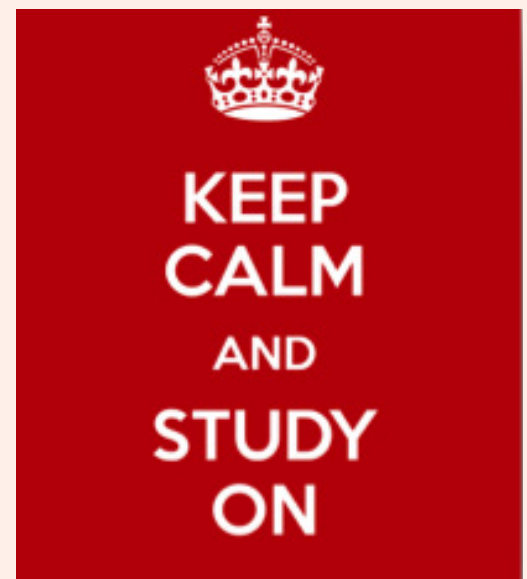
Saturday Study

Study runs every Saturday from 10am – 1pm.

Break: 11:15-11:30

The cost is €5.

Contact: Ms Graham



Tips for our incoming 1st Years

First day in school: 28th August

Time: 9:00-16:00

Checklist:

- Bring a copy and pen
- School bag
- Snack for break and a lunch

There is no need to bring your books.

Please don't be nervous.

We are all ready and excited to meet you ☺



