



# ST. PATRICK'S COMPREHENSIVE SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

AUTUMN 2015



## 2015/16 Calendar

### Term 1

- **Halloween Break:**  
Monday 26th to Friday 30th October.
- **Christmas Holidays:**  
Wednesday 23rd December to Tuesday 5th January.



### Term 2

- **School re-opening:**  
Wednesday 6th January.
- **Spring Break:**  
Monday 15th to Friday 19th February.
- **Easter Holidays:**  
Thursday 17th March to Friday 1st April.

### Term 3

- **School re-opening:**  
Monday 4th April.
- **May Bank Holiday:**  
Closed Monday 2nd and Tuesday 3rd May.
- **Summer Holidays:**  
Friday 27th May.
- **State Examinations:**  
Wednesday 8th June.

## Examination Fees

**State Examinations** (based on last year)

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 examinations fees.

### Mock Examinations:

Leaving Certificate: €80  
Junior Certificate: €80

Please note that the medical card exemption does not apply to the mock examinations. Fees must be fully paid before Monday 8th February.

## Year Heads

1st Year: Mr. Chesser  
2nd Year: Ms. Shannon  
3rd Year: Ms. Brooks  
4th Year: Ms. Davoren  
5th Year: Ms. Howard\*  
LCA: Mr. Heaphy  
TY: Ms. Dinneen

\* Assistant Year Head



## Parents Association



**Chairperson:** Ingrid McLaughlin

**Treasurer:** Caroline Halpin

**Secretary:** Sharon Murray

**Telephone:** 0862615851

The PA is formed by the parents of the school and always welcomes new members. They are committed to providing events which benefit the students of the school, such as the breakfast club, study seminars, safe and secure evening entertainment for the Junior Cycle students. The PA does a small amount of fundraising during the year and often collaborate with TYs for such events. The PA is always open to new ideas and views of parents. Meetings are held once a month and the 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.

## Parent/Teacher Meetings



Year	Date	Time
1st Year	14th January	4.15 pm - 6.45 pm
2nd Year	4th February	4.15 pm - 6.45 pm
3rd Year	2nd December	4.15 pm - 6.45 pm
4th Year, LCA1 & TY	27th January	4.15 pm - 6.45 pm
5th Year & LCA2	19th November	4.15 pm - 6.45 pm

Please note that you should arrive not later than 5.45pm to allow sufficient time to meet all teachers.

## House Exams



### Christmas

3rd and 5th Years: Week beginning Monday 2nd November.

1st, 2nd and 4th Years: Week beginning Monday 14th December.

### Mocks

5th Years: Monday 8th to Friday 26th February  
3rd Years: Monday 22nd February to Friday 4th March.

### Summer

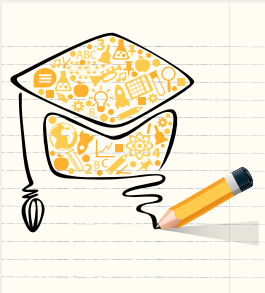
Week beginning Monday 23rd May.

Careers

The final year of school is one of the busiest and most challenging times in a young person’s life. While studying, there is the added stress of having to decide the next step on the career journey. Students should take the time to fully research their options (check entry requirements, course content etc) and always ensure to have a “Plan B”.

Below are some important dates and websites to assist students and parents. In addition we will host an information evening later in the term on the CAO application process. Students should consult our Guidance Counsellor Ms. Schous and also the Guidance Notice Board in the school and the “Careers” section of the school website.

A 4th year Careers Day will be held again later this year.



CAO - Important Dates

5th November (12.00)	CAO online application facility opens CAO Change of Course choices facility opens
20th January (17.15)	Apply online by this date to avail of the discounted applicants fee €25
1st February (17.15)	Normal closing date for applications
5th February (12.00)	Online facility to amend course choices becomes available (€10 Fee)
Before 15th February	Paper Applicants will be sent a Statement of Course Choices (Contact CAO if you do not receive it)
28th February	HPAT Test - Undergraduate entry to Medicine
1st March (17.15)	Closing date for amending course choices Closing date for final completion of online HEAR/DARE forms
1st April (17.15)	Latest date for HEAR/DARE supporting documentation to arrive in CAO
1ST May (17.15)	Closing date for late applications
5th May (12.00)	Online Change of Mind facility becomes available (Free)
1st July (17.15)	Change of Mind closes

Important Websites

www.qualifax.ie | www.cao.ie | www.careersportal.ie | www.accesscollege.ie (HEAR & DARE schemes)  
www.ucas.ie (Study in England) | www.studentfinance.e (SUSI Grant Information)

Breakfast Club

Our Breakfast Club is open from 8.30 am to 9 am each morning. All students can avail of tea and toast free of charge compliments of the Parents Association.



Student Council Members

- Allia-Jai Marren O Callaghan
- Leon Pino
- Kai Downes
- Asha Murray
- Adam Ryan
- Eve Wise
- Tommy Walsh
- Rebekah Conway
- Keith Carrig
- Molly O Dea
- Alisha Ryan
- Denas Kulpis
- Luke O Leary
- Stuart O Donnell



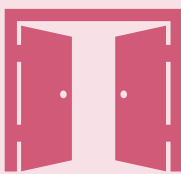
Lost and Found



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 Mrs. Davoren.

Open Night



Thursday 12th November 7pm to 9pm  
Principals address to parents will begin at 7.15

Please note that 6th class pupils must be accompanied by a parent/guardian.

Study Skills

On Friday 4th December all 3rd and 5th year students will attend an in-school seminar on study skills and techniques. The seminar is being delivered by Student Enrichment Services and is being funded by the Board of Management and the Parents Association.



German Exchange 2015



In September students from TY, 3rd and 4th year jetted off to Lichtenfels in Bavaria to partake on the annual German exchange. St.Patrick’s Comprehensive School and the Meranier Gymnasium in Lichtenfels established a student exchange programme in 2005. The exchange programme has proved a very rewarding experience to participants: the challenge of learning a new language, living with a host family and adapting to a new culture, presents students with a unique experience from which they will derive lifelong benefits.

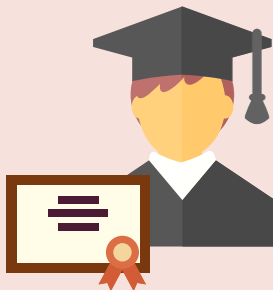
The first day comprised of team building exercises with their exchange partners in an obstacle park. They ‘armoured’ themselves with helmets and safety harnesses and enthusiastically conquered six challenging obstacle courses. Students accompanied their exchange partner to school and took part in their classes. They went on a very interesting guided tour of Nurnberg Castle which has been rebuilt to its former glory after being 70% destroyed during WW2. They also went on a ‘spooky’ tour of the hidden underworld of Lichtenfels. These hidden passageways were used in the middle ages to store beer and as shelters for the locals during the allied bombings in 1945. Some students went to Germany with hurling sticks and sloithars and taught the PE classes hurling skills. And one Irish student received a standing ovation for his Irish dancing.

On the day the students departed Lichtenfels there were tears all round, as many a firm friendship had been formed via the exchange. We look forward to welcoming the German students to Shannon in September 2016.

High Achievers

Excellent results were again achieved by our Junior and Leaving Certificate students with the majority of subjects being well above the national average.

A special mention must go to Leaving Certificate students Fionnan Cremmins, Robbie Meaney and Jack Lynch who each achieve 575 points. Fionnan and Jack are now studying in UL and Robbie has gone to UCC.



John Paul 11 Awards



(L TO R) Kara Kirby, Sinead Quinn, Roisin Fitzgerald

This year three of our students will receive the John Paul II Award at a ceremony to be held at the Inn at Dromoland on Thursday November 5th. The awards will be presented by Mr. Gary Brennan, Clare Senior Football captain. The students being presented with the Gold

Award in recognition of outstanding involvement at community and parish level are Roisin Fitzgerald, Sinead Quinn and Kara Kirby. All three girls have undertaken and completed a minimum of 26 weeks voluntary work in a variety of areas. These include regular involvement in weekend masses as choristers, musicians and servers. In the wider community the girls visited nursing homes, day care centres and the special needs club in Shannon. They also raised money for Trocaire. A final written presentation had to be prepared by each of the girls as they reflected on their experience and the part that faith plays in their lives. We are very proud of their achievements and wish them well as they proceed to the level of the Papal Cross Award.

Texting Service

If you are not receiving text messages from the school please contact reception and we will rectify the problem. Also, please contact reception if you have changed your mobile number.

Musical

Rehearsals are progressing well for this year’s musical “Hairspray”. The show will run from the 2nd to 5th December and is being directed and choreographed by passed pupils Aidan Fox and Karen Barrett. With a cast of over 80 students this promises to be a great show and one definitely not to be missed. Tickets will cost €10.



Principal cast members



## Middletown Centre for Autism

The Department of Education and Skills (ROI) and the Department of Education (NI) jointly fund Middletown Centre for Autism to provide training and support to parents and teachers living and working with children and young people with autism.

Middletown Centre for Autism will be holding workshops for parents and educators at St. Patrick's Comprehensive School on the following dates.

### Parent and Professional Training Post Primary (5-Week Programme, 4.30pm – 6.30pm)

12 January	Autism, Relationships and Sexuality Education Autism and Sensory Processing
19 January 26 January	Post Primary School and the Transition to Further/Higher Education and Work Autism and Anxiety Management
02 February 09 February	Autism and the Promotion of Positive Behaviour

To book a place on all or any of these sessions, please visit [www.middletownautism.com](http://www.middletownautism.com)



### Gaisce Awards

Congratulations to Stuart McLaughlin for his outstanding achievement in receiving his Gaisce Award during Transition Year.

Gaisce, The President's Award is an award earned by young people between the ages of 15 and 25 for participating in several

activities for a certain period. There are three awards; bronze, silver and gold.

The term "gaisce" is from the Irish language and can be translated as "achievement". The award was established by a trust deed under the patronage of the President of Ireland on 28 March 1985. In 1988 the award became part of the Duke of Edinburgh's International Award Association. The profile of the award was raised substantially following the first award ceremonies performed by President Hillery in 1989.

**School website:** Log on to our website at [www.stpatrickskomprehensive.ie](http://www.stpatrickskomprehensive.ie) for up to date information, news links and photographs.

## 1916 Rising



In order to mark the upcoming centenary of 1916, the History department decided to go to Dublin on Tuesday October 20th. They departed from Limerick on an early train and on arrival went to Collins Barracks to view the 1916 Exhibition. Afterwards they took the long walk to Merrion Square for a 1916 tour in a converted military truck. This tour visited all the key locations of the Rising in the company of two passionate tour guides dressed in 1916 military uniforms. Students were able to wear and see the military equipment and really engaged with the whole process. An enjoyable and adventurous day was had by all.



## Extension

At long last we are nearly there. The tortuous design, planning and tendering processes have now been completed and with the imminent signing of contracts in the coming week's we are confident that construction will begin early in the New Year if not sooner. The budget for the extension is €4 million.



### The extension will include:

- Large canteen/general purpose area
- Special Education Unit
- Music/Drama Area
- Multimedia Laboratory
- Science Laboratory
- Art Room
- Home Economics Room
- Business/Computer Room
- Engineering Room
- 2 Lecture Rooms
- Offices
- Toilets
- Locker Areas

### The Special Education Unit will included

- Central Activity Space
- 2 Classrooms
- 2 Withdrawal Rooms
- Multi-Sensory Room
- Para-Education Room
- Practical Activity Room
- Daily Living Skills Room
- Toilets
- Offices

## Supervised Study

Supervised study sessions are provided for two hours after school from Monday to Friday.

Subject to demand supervised study is also provided on Saturdays and during holiday periods.

For further information contact Ms. Dinneen, Ms. Magee or Ms. Murphy



## GAEILGE 24 Speak Irish for a day

"Speak Irish for a day" is been held on 10th November for all staff and students. This is the first year that we have undertaken this challenge and we hope it will become an annual event.

Gaeilge24 is being run by Conradh na Gaeilge. All participants will receive a pack containing a t-shirt, a sponsorship card, an Irish wrist band to show participation and phrase sheet to survive the day!

All students interested should meet with Mr Ó Domhnaill or Ms Murphy to sign up. Beidh píosa craic againn gan dabht!

## Active Schools Flag

The Physical Education Department are making efforts to promote physical activity amongst the school community.

As part of this we have registered for the Active Schools Flag. The Active Schools Flag (ASF) is a national initiative which aims to promote physical activity and wellbeing throughout second level communities.

As well as promoting students' engagement in physical activity through PE we aim to incorporate physical activity into other areas of the curriculum. One of the initiatives we are working towards at present is the '4 Week Step Challenge'. This involves students monitoring and recording the amount of steps they take over a four week period with hopes that this will raise awareness of and promote the benefit of physical activity. This will link in with Junior Cycle SPHE and Senior Cycle PE classes.

Other initiatives we hope to implement include linking up with our local communities. Information on local clubs and leisure facilities will be readily available to the students and parents both on our Active Schools noticeboard and the Active Schools link on the website.

Our PE department will be creating an Active Schools link on the school website which will provide information on both physical activity and nutrition and also updates on the ASF initiatives.

## Book Loan Scheme

Parents can still avail of our Junior Cycle Book Loan Scheme. Under this scheme all text books are provided over the 3 years for a total cost of €150.

Please contact reception for more information.





## Elverys POWER Team Visit the School

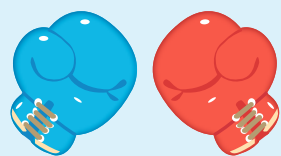
On Tuesday October 6th we were delighted to have the Elverys POWER Team visit the school. This inspiring team travel the country, visiting race events, companies, gyms, universities and schools, giving motivational talks, expert advice to one and all on sport, exercise, sports products and healthy living.

Throughout the day the POWER team ran workshops with different class groups in our school PE hall to discuss their POWER principle (Positivity, Optimum Hydration, Wholesome Diet, Exercise and Recovery). The interactive presentation engaged students in various exercises as well as offering expert advice on physical activity, sport and nutrition. The workshops were a great success and students and teachers alike thoroughly enjoyed them. Huge thanks to Jason & Patrick for coming in and talking to us.



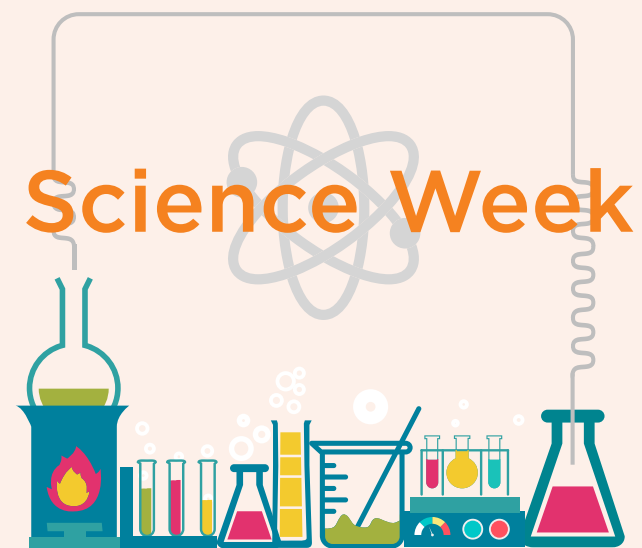
## Que tengas buen viaje!!

Congratulations and best wishes to Liam Alford who will be heading off to Benidorm, Spain on 3rd November as part of the Irish Kickboxing team participating in the World Championships.



## Golfers through to All Ireland Final

Lisa and Leanne O Shea brought great honour to the school by winning the Senior Girls Munster Schools Cup in Adare in September. This competition has rarely been won outside of Cork schools over the past ten years and is a first for our school. The girls will now go on to represent St. Patrick's Comprehensive and Munster in the All Ireland final in April in Dublin.



### Inflatable Planetarium to visit The Comp

An inflatable planetarium should prove to be one of the highlights of this year's Science Week which will run from 8th to 15th November. The planetarium which can accommodate 30 students will be set up in the gym for a full day and will be visited by all 1st and 2nd year students.

Other activities will include a Treasure Hunt, Egg-Drop Challenge and Fun Experiment Demos.

All students are welcome to lunchtime activities.

## Halloween Fancy Dress



## New CAO Points System

The Leaving Certificate is set to get a major overhaul with a new CAO points system that reduces the number of grades from 14 to eight.

The new points scale, first announced in April, was confirmed recently by education minister Jan O'Sullivan.

Bonus points will still be available for higher-level maths under the revised scale, which will apply to students entering fifth year this week.

Scores will range from H1 to H7 at higher level, and O1 to O7 at ordinary level. Source: Department of Education

### Additional points

Another major feature of the reforms is the awarding of CAO points for higher-level grades in the new H7 band, which comprises marks between 30% and 40%.

Under the current grading system, students are awarded no points for higher-level marks below 40%.

Students who achieved an E grade (25-39%) under the current scale will be awarded an additional 37 points due to the change.

Higher		Ordinary	
Grade	Points	Grade	Points
H1	100		
H2	88		
H3	77		
H4	66		
H5	56	O1	56
H6	46	O2	46
H7	37	O3	37
	0	O4	28
		O5	20
		O6	12
		O7	0
		O8	0

The extra points will be valid for entry into higher education from 2017.





# Renunion

The "70's Reunion Bash" was a resounding success. Past pupils came from the length and breadth of not only Ireland, but from all over the World; Canada, USA, UK, Italy and Germany. Hat's off to the power of Facebook and networking!

The sound of teachers and pupils reminiscing about "The Comp" in the sixties and seventies competed with the music and the hearty conversations and catch ups won out - with dancing to the seventies music not starting until late in the night (early morning). There were many hoarse voices and sore feet the next morning

Among the many highlights of the evening was the re-convening of Mr. Garvey's Choir, and everyone was treated to a rendition of "Non nobis, Domine, non nobis, sed nomini tuo da gloriam"

There is a video recording of this somewhere!

The conversations amongst the past pupils were all agreed on one point, how privileged we all were to be associated with the very first Comprehensive School in Ireland under the guidance and leadership of the best and most forward thinking teachers in the country at the time.

The facebook page is still active, you can find the photo's of the evening there as well as many archive photo's as well. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/331110619880/?fref=ts>

What a great night and what an honour for us that so many teachers were able to come , thanks to all who attended and assisted in any way. Friendships were rekindled, contacts exchanged, and EVERYONE is asking when is the next one!

