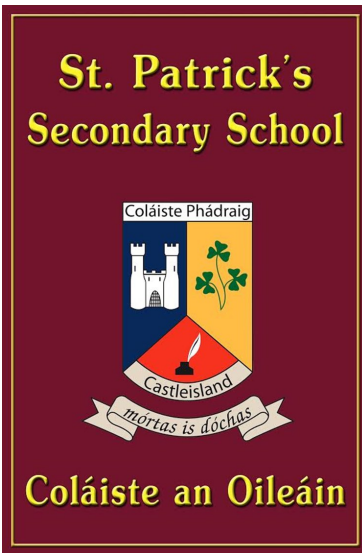


SUMMER NEWSLETTER



"Learning never exhausts the mind."

I am very pleased to introduce you to our Summer 2023 newsletter. This **e-newsletter** will allow you to see a small selection of some of our school events since Christmas. It gives us a chance to reflect on and explore some of the learning opportunities that students have partaken in throughout recent terms. Through a combination of trips out, guest speakers in and participation in a number of national learning initiatives, active learning is woven into every day of school life. I encourage you to take the time to browse through and click in to the many links to get a feel for events here in "St Pats".



In sporting terms this year has been very successful for the school. We are very proud of the achievements of all of our school teams who won Munster titles in Rugby, Basketball and Football. Our senior football team winning the All-Ireland title in Carlow back in March is a day that will live long in the memories of all involved. Our sustained progress in Soccer was also rewarded with an invite to the World School Games in Barcelona in October 2023. These sporting achievements are testament to the high level of learning and training that our students partake in each week. These activities imbue values and a sense of community that helps them engage in all aspects of school life.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank my dedicated and talented colleagues for all of their hard work throughout the year. They help to create and guide the culture of our school, where students are welcomed to an environment that is enjoyable, inclusive and supportive for all. We look forward to returning after the summer break and welcoming our incoming First Years. Lastly, I wish our Junior Cycle and Leaving Certificate students all the very best in their upcoming state exams.

Mórtas is Dóchas.

Tim Long, Deputy Principal.

All-Ireland Champions

It was a historic year for St. Patrick's Secondary school who won the All-Ireland PPS SFC 'C' final in Netwatch Park Carlow on the 11th of March. The all conquering senior team were undefeated all year and added All-Ireland success to the Munster and Kerry titles they had won throughout the year. A massive congratulations to an amazing group of players and talented coaches. A number of match reports and footage of the homecoming can be found on the school social media platforms.



Football

The U16.5 football team also made history on the football field this year when they won the U16.5 “B” Munster title. The match was played on the 29th of March in the 4G pitch in UL against Our Lady’s Templemore. To view highlights of this game you can click the link below. Thanks to our Transition Year Future Leaders students for creating the video.

[St Pats Castleisland 2.15— Our Lady’s Templemore 3.9](#)



Our 1st and 2nd years have been involved in a number of blitzes since January and have played Tarbert, Causeway, Ballybunion, Listowel and Gaelcholaiste Tralee. Our Transition Year students as part of their Future Leader module have ran a number of blitzes for 1st and 2nd years. Well done to all involved in the running and playing of these matches.



Our U15 footballers played a number of games in the U15 Kerry ‘B’ Competition against Mounthawk, Causeway and were narrowly defeated by Milltown in a Kerry semi-final.



Basketball

A major highlight in the Basketball season was the All-Ireland U16 “A” Basketball final. Following on from winning the South-West Region crown we faced Coláiste Éanna in the National Basketball stadium in Tallaght on the 21st of February. St. Pats put on an excellent display and led at half time on a score line of 33—26. However, Colaiste Eanna found another gear in the final quarter and won the match on a scoreline of 51—60.

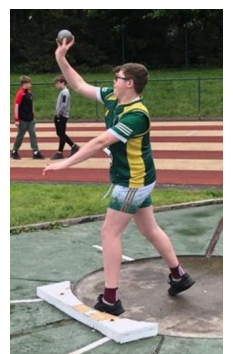
A big event for the school annually is the Maurice Downey basketball tournament. This is in an in-house basketball tournament consisting of teams made up of 1st and 2nd year students. To see some photos from the event you can click [here](#).

Well done all the players who played throughout the year and a special thanks to Mr. Hayes and Denny Porter for all the work they put in throughout the year.



Athletics

The school also took part in Cross Country and Athletics in the Junior and Minor categories. We competed in the following events: 100m, 200m, 400m, 800m, 1500m, cross country, long jump and shot put. The school also competed in 400m relays.



Soccer

There is huge excitement in the sporting community in St. Patrick's secondary school. A U17 soccer team has been invited to an International soccer event called the World School Games (WCG). On the back of these consistent performances across a number of age grades, St. Pat's has been chosen to take on schools from all over the world in Barcelona this coming October. "The World School Games is the jewel in the crown of the international school sports calendar," said Scott McFarlan, director of World School Games.

"Since its inaugural event in 2018, the WSG series now sees over 200 schools from every corner of the world compete in a range of events in the world's best facilities," said Mr. McFarlan.

"It is a brilliant opportunity for our students and players going up against schools from other countries. They will get to test themselves against the different styles of play from other countries and we are looking forward to the challenge," said team coach Kevin Fitzgerald.

"Soccer is a really thriving sport in the school so we are delighted that students of St Pats are being rewarded with such an honour. "Sharing an experience like this with their friends while also competing in a sport they enjoy is massive for lads of their age. It will stand to them in the future and give them great memories to look back on," said Mr. Fitzgerald.

Wishing Them Well

The whole school community is wishing them every success and looking forward to hearing many a rendition of Olé, Olé, Olé ringing out around the soccer stadiums of Barcelona supporting St. Patrick's Secondary School this October.



Rugby:

The U16 Rugby team topped off an incredible year of sporting success in St. Patrick's Secondary School by winning the 'Giles Shield' in Musgrave Park on the 8th of May. This competition was named in honour of Tralee man Gary Giles. St. Patrick's played St. Clements of Limerick in the final. St. Patrick's got off to a great start scoring 2 tries in the opening 18 minutes courtesy of Daniel McCarthy and Shane Kelliher with Michael Horan scoring the conversions. St. Clements had a fight back in the middle of the first half leaving it a one score game on 14-12 to St. Pats after 24 minutes. St. Pats finished the half much stronger with tries from Michael Horan and Rory O' Connor leaving the score 26-12 at the half time whistle.

St. Pats continued the momentum from the first half and added another try from Danny Hickey and a penalty to leave the final score St. Pats 36 - St. Clements 17. An impressive win for the team who lead the game from start to finish. Well done to players and coaches Mr. O Sullivan and Mr. Griffin on the success.

'This was extra special, we've been chasing this trophy for almost twenty years, it's a very proud moment.' said Mr. O Sullivan on winning the competition.

Highlights of the match can be found by clicking the image.



EXTRA - CURRICULAR ACHIEVEMENTS

The second part of the academic year saw the culmination of students hard work on some extra-curricular projects. Below are some information on some of the projects students were involved in during the year:

2023 Student Enterprise Programme

Business students in the school took part in the Kerry Student Enterprise competition again this year. In this competition students are tasked with creating business ideas, plans and prototypes. Well done to all the 1st and 2nd year students involved.



The Big Idea

TY students have been engaging in a creativity project since January called 'The Big Idea'. Students were tasked with creating solutions for some of the challenges society face today such as 'homelessness, mental health, climate change etc. As part of this project students developed a proposal, a solution and a video. The Big Idea virtual showcase was held on the 12th of May. You can view the students work on the virtual showcase by [clicking here](#).



Climate Detectives

The culmination of the Climate Detectives national pilot programme was a national symposium in Athlone IT. Here students presented their research projects to other teams and members of the science community. The students work can find [online here](#).

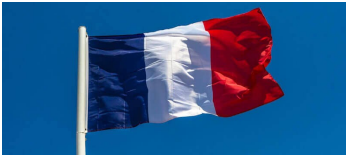


Find your Fun — Virtual Exhibition

First year Graphics students have contributed to an online virtual exhibition in collaboration called 'Find your Fun'. Here students were tasked with sketching objects that they associate with fun and enjoyment using their sketching and rendering skills. To explore the interactive art gallery and view some of the students work you can [click here](#) or [the image across](#).



TRANSITION YEAR



The Transition Year class of 2023 had a wide range of learning experiences in class as well as a number of different trips outside the classroom. In Transition Year we strive to blend classroom learning with hands on learning. This was very evident with the class trip Tys' took to France during the Easter holidays. Below is a written piece by 2 TY students on the trip to France.

Mon voyage en France — *Written by Evan Nash and Killian Butler*

At the beginning of this year, our year head told us about a class trip to France during Easter. In preparation for this trip, we looked at places we would be visiting as well as historical monuments from those areas during French class.

On the first day of the trip, we had to get up early around 2am to catch the bus to Dublin Airport for our flight at 8.50am. We landed in Paris at around 11.30a.m. Once we arrived in Paris airport, we took a private bus from the airport to the capital. Then, once we arrived, we visited the city and saw famous places, such as the Eiffel Tower. We then stopped at our first historical site, the Chateau de Versailles building, which inside showed famous French paintings, statues and the glass room. The building had a huge courtyard with a water fountain and a large grass field running from the building to the entrance. We stayed in a youth hostel for the first and only night in Paris before going to Cherbourg.

On day 2 we visited the famous Louvre, we saw some of the most famous paintings in France. We stopped at our hotel and then on day 3, headed to a French school located in the city named 'Lycée Victor Grignard'. We were able to see what it was like in French school, how each subject is learned and how it is spoken. We were learning similar subjects that we learn at home in Ireland, but it is harder to understand more when it is in French.

For the last 5 days, we were in Cherbourg, we travelled to many places in the city, such as the La cite de la Men, which included a memorial and experience of the Titanic, as well as an aquarium, a range of submarines used for deep water travel, and a visit to a ship used during World War 2. The final location we visited was S  int   M  re Eglise and Batterie d'Azeville, where the famous WW2 gun trenches were used by French soldiers and others fighting alongside them during WW2. We were able to see inside the trenches. and once we were done, we took the bus back to our hotel, where we stayed one night. The last day we travelled home by ferry, we took the Cherbourg to Rosslare ferry, which took us up to 15 hours in total to return. Overall, we thought the trip was very enjoyable and very interesting as we got to learn the subject better and be able to visit some of France's most historical places. A highlight for us was the boat tour across the city of Paris and visiting the Louvre.



TY Showcase:

As part of the end of year assessments Transition Year students created a showcase of their work that they completed in different subjects. Student also had a showcase focus to show an area of learning they most enjoyed. Click the image across to see a snapshot of the showcase.



EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES



Extra-curricular activities are a very important part of life in our school. Here are some highlights from the year. Click the images for more information.



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CLICK!

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STUDENTS' VOICE

In this section of the newsletter we have some pieces created by students on some highlights of the year as well as some insight into a subject they are studying this year. Thanks to all students for taking the time to complete these pieces.

Sean Dennehy: 2nd Year Student

Highlights of the year: Seniors winning the all Ireland/ Playing sports with the school

Subject under the spotlight: Graphics

What does a typical class look like?

In a graphics class we will be taught a new drawing technique such as orthographic projection, pictorial, drawing conics and will then do drawing questions in the book about it and find examples of it outside the classroom.

Favourite activity you have completed in class so far?

We recently did a desk tidy project where we designed a model on Onshape a CAD software. Afterwards we were able to print out our design using the schools 3d printer or laser cutter.

What new skills have you learnt since you started studying this subject?

So far I have learned conics, polygons, isometric drawing, orthographic projection, constructions, transformation geometry and sketching. We were also taught how to use Onshape and modelling using card.



Patrick O' Shea: 5th Year Student

Highlights of the year:

Winning the all-Ireland with the Seniors

Subject under the spotlight: Physics

Our year was one of the first years to have Physics as a subject choice, There is only 5 in our class but we all enjoy the subject.

What does a typical class look like?

There is not necessarily a typical class but usually we are either doing theory, experiments or calculations, On average we do one experiment per week. This year we have covered Mechanics, Heat, Light and Sound. The calculation we do our very interesting also for example on our summer test we had to calculate the speed, time taken, and force of a cricket ball after being struck by a bat.

Favourite activity you have completed in class so far?

My favourite thing we have done in class in mechanics. Mechanics is basically the maths behind every day objects it is a mixture of theory, experiment and calculation. It is really interesting seeing the equations you study happen before your eyes.



James Burke: 1st Year Student

Highlights of the year: Playing the U15 Kerry Semi-Final

Subject under the spotlight: Art

What does a typical class look like?

So far this year we have done lots of different things in art such as sketching, painting, clay modelling, blending colours, learning about artists and much more.

A typical class in art is usually dedicated to working on whatever project we are doing at that time. The project always has something new to learn from it like a new shading technique.

How many classes do have a week? We have 3 Art classes a week

Favourite activity you have completed in class so far?

To be honest my favourite thing to do in art is to sketch. It could be a person, an object or whatever I just need a pencil and a page and I'm happy. Even though sketching is my favourite I still enjoy everything else we do in class, It's never boring.



Andres Garcia and Guillermo Matas: TY Exchange students

What brought ye to Ireland?

We came to Ireland with the main reason to learn more English and try something new and also to get out of our comfort zone.

What is the difference between school in Spain and school in Ireland?

School was easier for the year in comparison to Spain which is much more difficult. Adjusting to school in Ireland was complicated at first since adapting to a new language was not easy.

What other differences did you experience when you first came to Ireland?

Another difficult part of adapting to Ireland was the gastronomy(food) since it is very different from the food we eat in Spain.

What have you learnt throughout the year?

This year we have learned many things that we would not have learned in Spain such as Irish history in areas such as the great famine and the revolution, we also learned to work with wood and metal in technology class. We also learnt a lot about English from all our experiences and subjects.

What are your favourite things to do in Ireland?

Our favourite things to do after school are meet with my friends in town and spending the afternoon there, where we go to many unusual places like for example the Nana Beas or the gym. At the weekends we go to Tralee or Killarney the weekends and spend the day there and play rugby.

What was your favourite school experience?

Our favourite experience with the school were the eclipse adventure where we did some activities like canoes, the surf was very enjoyable and exciting and we went to a drive academy where we could see how a drive test goes. We also learnt about the alcohol effects and, we drove a car in a small circuit with a teacher that taught us how to drive.



WEBSITE UPDATE – SENIOR CYCLE SUBJECTS

The school website has been further updated this academic year with a full list of Leaving Certificate subjects which the school offers students. Each subject has a dedicated page on the website which gives a general overview of the subject as well as the exam structure and core learning throughout the course. In St. Patrick's Secondary School students can avail of 19 Leaving Certificate Subjects.

066-7141963 info@stpatcastleisland.com			
About Students JC Subjects ▾ LC Subjects ▾ Information ▾ Contact			
Agricultural Science	Art	Biology	Business
Computer Science	Chemistry	Design and Communication Graphics	English
French	Guidance	Geography	History
Home Economics	Information Technology (IT)	LCVP	Maths
Music	Physics	Physical Education (P.E.)	Spanish
Technology			



Staying in touch

We have a number of ways for you to stay in touch with all the latest news and updates from St. Patrick's Secondary School. Click the icons to go to the different platforms the school has to offer.



Website

<https://stpatcastleisland.com/>



Email

info@stpatcastleisland.com



Twitter

[@StStpatricksss](https://twitter.com/StStpatricksss)



Instagram

<https://www.instagram.com/st.patrickssecondary/>

WE AT ST. PATRICK'S SECONDARY SCHOOL WOULD LIKE TO WISH YOU A HAPPY AND HEALTHY SUMMER HOLIDAY.

