



School Newsletter

St Paul's Secondary School, Greenhills



SCHOOL OF DISTINCTION

We are delighted to have been awarded the Trinity College, Schools of Distinction Innovation Award for 2023.



RANG GENEVIEVE

We were delighted this year to open our first Autism Class, Rang Genevieve. The students have settled in really well and are making good progress.



ALL-IRELAND CHAMPION

Congratulations to 2nd Year student, Caoimhe on winning the Boccia All-Ireland Championships

HAPPY NEW YEAR FROM ST PAUL'S

A message from Ms Troy

Dear Parents / Guardians

Happy New Year, and I hope that you and your family managed some rest and relaxation during the Christmas period.

This newsletter will give you a sense of all that happened in St Paul's since last August, although not everything is captured. St Paul's is a busy school community where much happens every single day. There have been too many highlights to select any one event, but we are very pleased with the success of our class for students with autism. We just await the opening of the new classroom area and expect that to happen in the coming weeks.

If you read about some club or event in the newsletter and feel it would suit your daughter, please encourage her to join. Busy students are happy students in our experience.

The next highlight on our calendar is the production of 'Hairspray', the TY musical. It will take place on 24th, 25th and 26th January and tickets go on sale later this week. Looking forward to seeing you there with your daughter!

My very best wishes for a happy and peaceful 2024.

Geraldine Troy (Principal)

TRANSITION YEAR BUDDIES HELP FIRST YEARS WITH THEIR TRANSITION

Congratulations to all the 1st years on completing your first term in St Paul's. You have been great!

A big thank you to the TY buddies for all the work, help and friendship they have given to the 1st years. They are a wonderful bunch of girls and should be very proud of themselves.

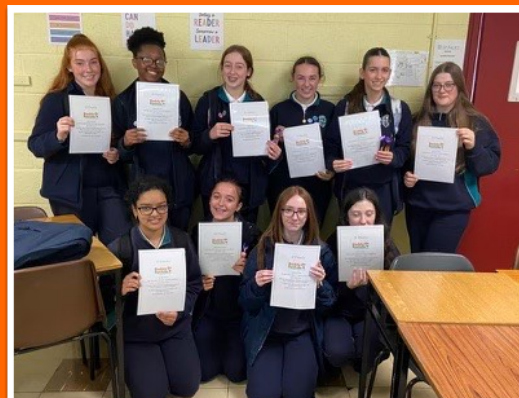
Back in September the buddies met with the 1st years and gave them tips on starting school and told them about their own experiences starting secondary school.

In October, they all got together and did a quiz called "What we know about St Paul's". They were all amazing, they knew so much about the school, the teachers, the rooms and the different subjects. There were 60 questions and none of the 1st years would have known any of these questions at the start of September and only a few weeks later they knew them all!! They are so clever; the buddies and I were so impressed!

During College Awareness Week in November, the girls all got together and played games and interviewed each other about jobs and different careers. They were terrific and worked so well together. And had lots of fun!!

Every Friday we have a homework club. The buddies help the 1st years with their homework and any other schoolwork they want a little help with. They have lunch together and a nice chat and everyone is welcome.

But for now, Christmas is here and a lovely break from schoolwork and homework. I wish all the 1st years and all the buddies a very happy Christmas and look forward to seeing you all again for the chats, fun and the homework club in 2024.



TEAMHOPE SHOEBOX APPEAL – FILLING BOXES WITH LOVE AND HOPE

The students and staff of St. Paul's Secondary School showed great generosity again this year when we held our annual appeal for Team Hope. Rang Bríd assisted the RE dept in organising, advertising and collecting for the shoebox appeal.

We successfully filled 80 shoeboxes in our school and are very grateful to all those who donated. Team Hope recently contacted us to thank us for our donation and to let us know that our shoeboxes were sent to Eswatini (formerly Swaziland).



CLASS OF 2023 – TOP PROGRESSION RATES!

Congratulations to the Class of 2023! 89.1% of the Class of 2023 are now engaged in Further and Higher Education.

These courses in a range of Universities and Colleges include studies in Accounting, Advertising and Marketing, Arts, Beauty Therapy, Business and Management, Chemical Science, Computer Science, Computing, Dental Nursing, Early Childhood Studies, Education, Film Studies, Fine Art, Human Resources, Law and Criminology, Marketing, Modern Languages, Nursing, Pastry and Baking Arts, Performance Arts, Pharmaceutical and Biomedical Science, Physiotherapy, Primary Teaching, Psychology and Disruptive Technology, Science, Social Care, Social Policy and Sociology, Social Science, Spanish and Sociology, Sports and Leisure Management, Technical Stage and Theatre Management, and Veterinary Medicine.

We are immensely proud of each and everyone of you and your superb achievements. We wish you the very best in your studies and future careers!



INNOVATION AWARD

St. Paul's Secondary School

School of Distinction 2023

COMMUNITY • INNOVATION • TRANSFORMATION

THE CHAMBER CHOIR FEATURED ON NATIONAL AIRWAVES

St. Paul's Chamber Choir comprises a small group of 20 singers who all share a love and passion for choral music, enjoy the stimulus and satisfaction of regular practice and rehearsal as well as the challenges of harmony and part-singing. Rehearsals take place at lunchtimes weekly where the girls prepare for various events throughout the school year including School Masses, Christmas Carol Services and lunchtime concerts to celebrate Sing Ireland's National Singing Week. All senior members starred in our school musical last year, 'The Sound of Music' and in January many of our members will star in our upcoming musical 'Hairspray'. The Chamber Choir loves to perform and celebrate positive effects singing and music-making as a group can have on our mental health and well-being, as well as the warmth and friendship associated with being part of a choir.

Ms Duffy and The Chamber Choir have had a busy term so far, beginning with the addition of some Mozart and Karl Jenkins to their repertoire, which they sang for our September School Mass.

With Sing Ireland's National Singing Week and World Mental Health Day being celebrated in October, Ms Duffy and the wonderful Chamber Choir decided again this year to embark on planning a lunchtime concert for all students and staff.

This concert aimed to show the overwhelmingly positive benefits and effects singing and music making as groups has on our mental health and well-being. The Chamber Choir sang their much-loved song which captured the message for the week, 'This is why we Sing' as well as their favourite and beautiful arrangement of Take That's "Rule the World" in Classical choral style. Along with choral music, St. Paul's was treated to performances on guitar, piano, vocal ensemble pieces, duets and solos from music students across the year groups. A hugely positive and successful concert finished having shown the wonderful talents of our students and lifting the spirits of all present. Well done and thank you to all performers!

Ms Duffy and Chamber Choir received the most exciting news of our performance career to date when we were contacted by RTÉ Lyric FM to say that we had been chosen as one of the finalists of Choirs for Christmas and that we would be part of a small number of choir entries chosen for airplay on the Weekend Drive show with Evelyn Grant on Saturday 9th December. The Chamber Choir had set out to learn the beautiful, yet very challenging, three-part piece 'Balulalow' from Benjamin Britten's 'A Ceremony of Carols', for our upcoming Carol Service but after hearing an ad for Choirs for Christmas Ms Duffy presented the girls with an option to enter our piece to Lyricfm. Despite this being the Chamber Choir's first time ever to record and submit our recording to Lyric Fm, as well as the deadline for entries only being a few days away, all wonderful choir singers and talented soloists Ava Mooney, Romy Quinlan and Brónagh Farrell worked so hard to complete and perfect this beautiful piece in time for the competition! Our fabulous recording would not have been possible without our very own onsite sound engineer and technical expert, Mr Brett, to whom we are most grateful for making this all possible for Ms Duffy and the Chamber Choir. What a brilliant experience it was to record our sound, listen back and to send to national radio! Ms Duffy and the Chamber Choir members were so excited and thrilled to listen as Lyric FM played our recording on the radio. Ms Duffy wishes to congratulate the wonderful chamber choir members on this fantastic achievement and to commend and thank them for their great commitment and interest. We cannot wait to see what 2024 holds for this hugely talented, musical and dedicated group of students!



CAREER GUIDANCE UPDATE – COLLEGE AWARENESS WEEK

- All Transition Year students completed Aptitude Testing. The results of these will help them in January to choose their subjects for senior cycle.
- We held our CAO presentation to 6th year parents/guardians on the 14th November via Zoom. We hope you all found it an informative evening.
- CAO: The majority of 6th year students have now completed their CAO applications. Just a reminder the early closing date is the 20th January for a reduced fee.
- PLC: Post Leaving Certificate course applications are now open in most colleges. It is really important to apply early to these as they are in high demand.
- 6th Year students have had speakers from NUI Maynooth, Trinity College Dublin, TU Dublin, St Patrick's Pontifical University, DCU, Crumlin CFE and Greenhills CFE. We hope these presentations have given students an insight to the many courses and options available to them.
- We had a successful College Awareness Week from 20th to 24th November with events for students in all year groups.



CREATIVE SCHOOLS TEAM UPDATE

Creative Schools is a program funded by the Arts Council and over the past year, a team of students have been documenting various student contributions to student life.

The Creative Schools Team, with the support of our creative associate, Ciara Power, settled on two goals this year, the first was to promote student voice and the second was to create a new space within the school where students can engage with their subjects and CBAs in alternative ways.



This term, the creative schools team have been involved in filming, editing and producing videos for Open Night, Sing Ireland concert, Basketball and Football matches and have begun recording a series of podcasts. The students, with the incredible support of Ms Colleton, Ms Gough and the incredible art department, have also been involved with the redesign of our Mac Room. We have two newly painted walls, a Podcast station, a greenscreen, VR headset and a giant new Whiteboard. Our hope is to allow students to explore their Creativity in this room and in the new year we will celebrate Creative Spirit week in March!

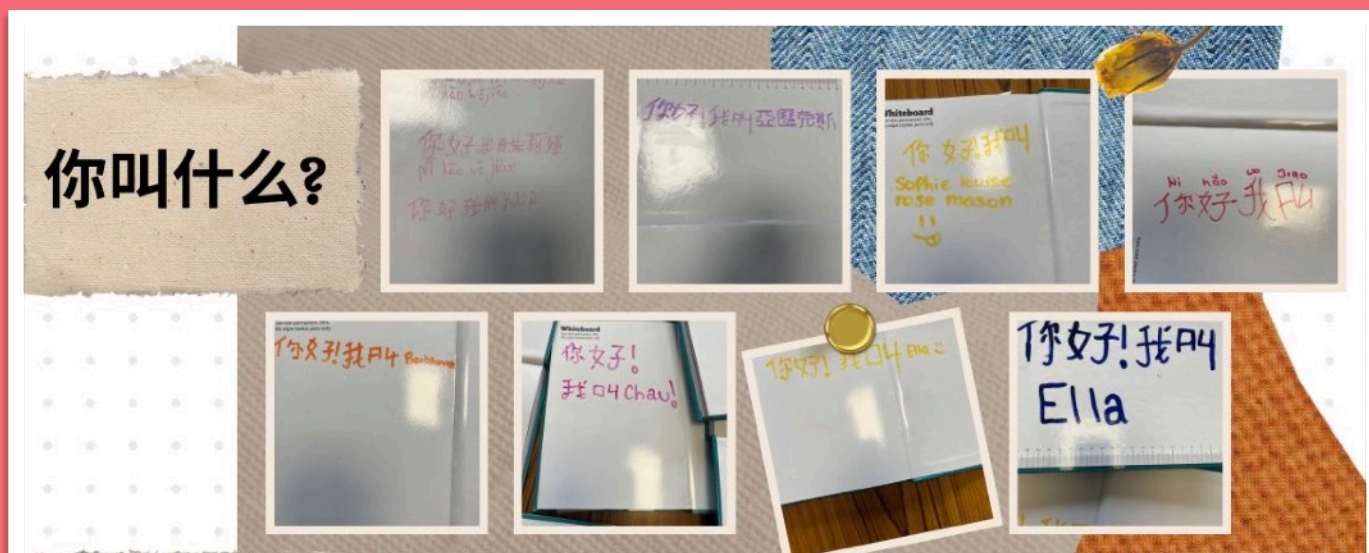
CHINESE CLUB – BUDDING FILM STARS AND PRODUCERS!

We were delighted to welcome our new Rotations in 1st, 2nd, 3rd and 4th Year to Chinese Language and Culture at the beginning of September.

Rotation 1 revolved around Mid-Autumn Festival. To mark this occasion, our students watched a video of a puppet show depicting the Legend of Chang'e (The Moon Goddess). This puppet show was particularly special, as it was told by our 6th Year students, after creating the set and characters during their Chinese module in November 2021. In late September, our Chinese Club brought the story of Mid-Autumn Festival to life for our new 1st Year members, while enjoying mooncakes. This was nicely timed with our Open Evening, where there were plenty of mooncakes for our prospective Chinese Club members and their siblings.

Our October Chinese Club event took on a spooky theme, where students learned about Chinese superstitions. One such superstition was lucky and unlucky numbers. Chinese people prefer to have plenty of 8s in their phone numbers and car registration plates as the pronunciation of 8 (bā 八) bears similarities to the pronunciation of wealth (fā发). Contrastingly, they prefer not to have the number 4 (sì 四), as this word sounds very similar to the Chinese word for death (sǐ 死).

Rotation 2 students were immersed in Chinese language, learning how to order food from restaurants, state one's nationality, count numbers and ask for directions. Their personal favourite was ordering from a restaurant. Several students have admitted to feeling confident to take their new-found skills into their local Chinese takeaways.



CHINESE CLUB – BUDDING FILM STARS AND PRODUCERS!

On November 16th, our Chinese Club marked its third anniversary. It is difficult to comprehend that on that very day three years ago, five enthusiastic 1st Year students formed the Chinese Club during a pandemic. It was a moment to reflect on what these students have helped build, – Chinese Weeks, St Paul's Chinatown, and helping during Open Evening. We are lucky to have such dedicated and talented students, who, without fail, are so eager to help promote Chinese, here in St. Paul's.

We cannot close 2023 without mentioning our latest undertaking, our whole-school Chinese film project which is currently in the works. Our Chinese Club are keeping the storyline under wraps. Students across all year groups are encouraged to attend our Chinese Club monthly meetings at lunchtime on Thursdays, to see how they can be part of it. It promises to feature project work from students across all Chinese Rotations.

On behalf of our Chinese Club, we wish you a very Merry Christmas or Shèngdàn Kuàilè 圣诞快乐 (pronounced: shen-dan kw-eye-luh), and we look forward to welcoming Rotation 3 students from 1st, 2nd and 3rd Year in January 2024, who will learn about the biggest holiday in China, Spring Festival. Be sure to follow us on Instagram and on X @stpaulsgchinese for the latest information on class projects, Chinese Club meetings and upcoming school events.



SIXTH YEAR GEOGRAPHY FIELD TRIP TO KIPPURE

It was a crisp sunny day on the 10th November when the Leaving Cert Geography students embarked on their trip to Kippure to carry out an investigation of Athdown Brook. This entailed students embarking on different objectives both in the river and along the river's edge in order to facilitate the requirements of the Leaving Certificate Programme. This practical element is worth 20% of the Leaving Certificate Geography examination.

When we arrived at Kippure, we were greeted by the lovely guides, who were taking us on our investigation.

While we were there, we tested the speed of the river using a tennis ball. It was fun to watch the girls chase it around as it floated away. Some girls also had to cross all the way to the other side which was hard but we did it with some teamwork. We supported each other, because wading through the water is not for the faint of heart!

Well done to all the students who participated in an enthusiastic manner. It was a day to remember as we worked as part of a team to ensure all aspects of the programme were achieved. No doubt this will contribute to the basis for a great result in geography!



HISTORY CLUB – TREKKING THROUGH STREETS BROAD AND NARROW

This term saw the establishment of “The Molly Maloners”: St. Paul’s Senior History Club. The aim is to foster an interest in senior cycle history by getting up close and personal with Dublin—a city where the rich layers of history quite literally sit on top of each other, daring us to take a closer look. The Mollies took to the streets of town and followed a loop inspired by the “Hidden Histories” Walking Tour. (Designed by Dervilla Roche, one of the excellent Dublin City Council’s Historians-in-Residence). The girls enjoyed the experience of investigating the landscape of the city centre, seeing for the first time the plaques and clues that they had walked past tens of times without ever noticing; learning to read and interpret the stories of their capital city from the walls and architecture of the place. By the time we were finished, the girls had come one step closer to taking ownership of their heritage. (Several of them had also gained a new P.B. record in distance walked in a day! Don’t worry Mollies, next time I might even bring a wheelbarrow for a few of you!!)

Next term promises to be great fun. We’re hoping for a tour of 14 Henrietta Street, a visit from the utterly brilliant Cathy Skuffil (Historian-in-Residence for South Central Dublin) and another day or two of investigative rambling.

In school, we’ll continue our ramblings on site. Among other things, I plan to take you “up to Monto” to explore how and why Dublin came to have the biggest “red light district” in Europe in the late 19th-early 20th century. We’ll also explore the lives of other working girls in “Factory Girls (and Boys)”: the lives of working-class Dubliners and “Pride in your City”—the history of Gay Pride in Dublin.

The “Molly Maloners” meet on Tuesdays at lunchtime in the History Room. New members (4th-6th year) are always welcome. Ms. J.O’ Neill



The moment
you discover
what
became of
James
Joyce’s Volta
picture
house....
“Penneys
Hun!!”

STUDENT COUNCIL

The Student Council were formed in September following school elections. The Student Council had an induction training day with Ms Gallagher and Mr Carroll to prepare them for the responsibilities of their role. They organised and delivered the Halloween Quiz to students at the end of term. It was a great success and their first real experience of teamwork. The Student Council have been holding monthly meetings where they address issues that arise for students in school. The reps for each Year Group went to their Form Classes of their Year Group and asked them what issues they would like to raise at Student Council Level.

Students can also individually email suggestion to a Student Council Suggestions e-mail. The most recent task undertaken by the Student Council is to undertake the annual candygram delivery. This spreads great joy and happiness throughout our school in the lead up to Christmas.



SENIOR PREFECTS

Our 12 Senior Prefects are carrying out their Senior Prefect duties in St Paul's. Senior Prefects are linked with the Junior Classes and they are checking in on their classes to be a friendly and supportive mentor to these students. Two Sports Prefects are supporting the PE Department in the Volleyball afterschool club on a Friday. Four are Library prefects supporting the lunchtime arrangements for students in the library. All Senior Prefects assist each morning in the Pavilion Café. Bronagh and Shauna, our Head Girl and Deputy Head Girl are our student leaders in St Paul's. We are very grateful for their time and dedication to St Paul's.



A ST PAUL'S SPOOKTACULAR HALLOWEEN

This year marked the return of the P.E. department Halloween Spooktacular event. On the day of the Halloween midterm holidays all students and teachers dressed up in Halloween costumes as part of the tradition in St. Paul's. Throughout the day, year groups came to the P.E. hall, took part and played some new and classic Halloween games, even some of the teachers took part and won some spooky prizes.

With the help of transition year and second year students who made posters, sold tokens at break times and on the door on the day which to enable students to play the games. Some transition year students were also the game masters on the day.

All enjoyed the day as they could bob for apples, enter the haunted house, go ghost bowling, pin the spider on the web, throw rats in buckets, witches ring toss, jelly pong and guess the marbles in the jar.

A great but spooky day for all involved and one we won't forget about.



ST PAUL'S – THE SCARIEST SCHOOL COMMUNITY

WHO DO YOU RECOGNISE?



SCHOOL BUSINESS PARTNERSHIP AMAZON DELIVERS FOR ST PAUL'S!

This year we launched our fourth year of the 'World of Work' programme. Twenty Five students from Second Year participate in this programme which is run in partnership with Business in the Community Ireland and Amazon Web Services. This programme really connects with students and introduces them to the possibilities that lie ahead for them in the workplace.



We have had three sessions so far this year. The first introduced the students to the programme and to AWS. They learned that AWS was much more than online shopping, but about its role in Data Centres etc. The second session was an fantastic session on sustainability. It was really interactive and the girls enjoyed the participation. They displayed great understanding of the ways in which they can be sustainable in their daily lives. For the third, we were privileged to be joined by four AWS employees who each spoke to the girls about their career and college pathways to their jobs now. The students really loved this session, as their minds were opened up to the potential that they also had.

We look forward to the third session which will be a site visit to AWS Head Offices on 23rd January.

CNP SANTANDER 'INSURES' STRONG MENTORSHIP OF FIFTH YEARS!

This year we launched the second year of our partnership programme with Business in the Community and Senior Cycle Students. We were fortunate to be partnered with a finance company, CNP Santander. Nine of their employees were trained by Business in the Community to mentor nine of our students in six sessions throughout the coming year.

This is such a wonderful opportunity for our Senior Cycle students to have this one-to-one support and guidance as they navigate the challenges and decisions of Senior Cycle.

We would like to congratulate the nine students who have been selected; Yohanna, Niranjana, Tanya, Ruby, Ella, Alaine, Gabriella, Ananya and Joanna. We had a launch event on 25th October in CNP Santander. Ms Gallagher and the nine students attended this event. It was clear how much commitment and energy CNP Santander were bringing to this partnership. We are very excited to see this partnership grow and to see the impact it will have on the students.



THE EMBER TEAM FANS THE FLAME OF KINDNESS AND GENEROSITY IN ST PAUL'S AND BEYOND!

This year saw the second year of an Ember Team in St Paul's. Congratulations to Erin, Nyah, Maedbh, Emma Jo, Alvia, Nellet, Katie, Romy, Megan and Ruby who were appointed as Ember Team members. This is a Faith Leadership programme that is run through the Dublin Diocese. We offered this leadership role to 5th Year students in St Paul's. Students were invited to apply, and we selected ten students to join The Ember Team. We had a three day retreat for the students induction in Ovoca Manor. It was concluded with a commissioning service on Tuesday 15th November.



They have been busy this term launching their 'St Paul's Good Deeds Advent Calendar'. This was given to all students and asked them to focus on small acts of kindness and helpfulness throughout Advent. They led a November We Remember Service in the Oratory where students were invited to write the names of loved ones who had passed away on a leaf and place it on our St Paul's Remembrance Tree.



In the last week the Ember Team successfully coordinated the Christmas Hamper Appeal. We were honoured to deliver 15 hampers to elderly people that lived in the roads beside our school. The Ember Team delivered the hampers and got to witness first hand, the joy and gratitude of the people who received them. This is a very special tradition in St Paul's; one that we are so proud of. Thank you to the kindness and generosity of all students who brought in an item for their class hamper.



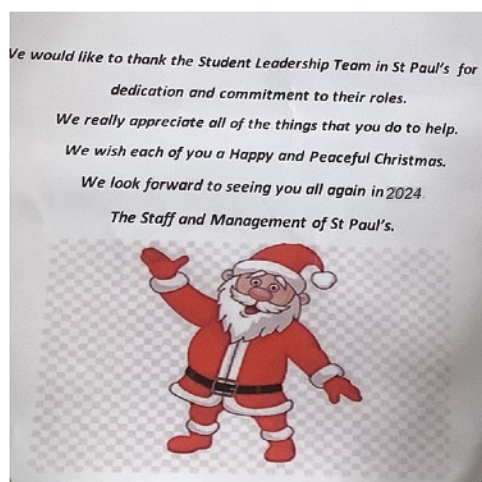
A highlight for the Ember Team was the visit of The Andrews Club to St Paul's for some festive entertainment. It was a magical afternoon of festive entertainment and sharing of stories. It was thoroughly enjoyed by all and will be remembered fondly for years to come. Many thanks to Ms Weldon and the Folk Group who stole the show with their ballads and festive hits and melodies. The impact they have made in such a short time, has been immense. Well done The Ember Team. They look forward to joining other Ember Teams from across Dublin in a convention on January in DCU.

STUDENT LEADERSHIP PARTY

On Thursday 22nd December, a party was held for all student leaders in St Paul's. This was a way in which we could thank the students for the duties they do every day, that help so much in the school.

One hundred students attended this party. They included Class Captains, Vice Captains, Sports Prefects, Senior Prefects, TY Buddies and the Ember Team. Christmas Crackers were pulled, Christmas Hats were worn by all and everybody enjoyed the occasion.

Student Leadership is deeply valued in St Paul's, so this Student Leaders Christmas Party was a very important way in which we can mark the contribution that these students make in St Paul's.



EXTRA CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES IN ST PAUL'S - THERE IS DEFINITELY SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE!!!

Clubs and Societies Day

Clubs and Societies Day took place on the 6th of September and it was a great success once again and is a tradition of St Paul's over the last few years. Students and members of clubs got to showcase the different clubs and sports that were running in St Paul's during the year. There was a great buzz around the quad and students really enjoyed the day and it was a successful launch of our vast extra-curricular program in the school. An updated extra-curricular timetable is posted every month on our school twitter page and MS Teams page and we are all looking forward to a fun-filled year in 2024!



Gaelic Football

The Junior and Senior Gaelic Football Teams in St Paul's have had a great year on the pitch. The Junior Team started the year with a fantastic win over Griffen College in their first game, they showed great team work and came out on top on the game played on the schools GAA pitch.

Their next game was against a very good Colaiste Pobail Setanta and unfortunately they lost by 4 points which meant they did not qualify from the group. It is a very young team and they are looking forward to many years of success in the school jersey.



The Senior Gaelic Team are still going strong in their competition. They had a great win in their first game against Tallaght Community School. Their second game was against St Mark's which was played in awful conditions up in Tallaght but the girls showed great fight and great determination to come out on top. They will be playing Kingswood Community College in the quarter final the first week back after the Christmas break and we wish them the best of luck and hopefully they can keep their winning streak up!





Basketball

Our U16 basketball team under the guidance of Mr Carroll had a great year. They started the year with a narrow loss to Harold's Cross ETSS by 2 points. This was their only loss of the campaign, they then played Firhouse Educate Together and after a very competitive game and great teamwork they came out on top by 1 point.

Their next game was against Mount Seskin which the girls really showed their class and won on a score line of 28-6. Their final game of the year was against Clogher Road and they also performed very well and came out on top once again on a score line of 26-5.



Unfortunately it was not enough as the first loss in the group meant they did not qualify for the knockout stages but everyone in St Paul's are very proud of the team and Mr Carroll for their efforts throughout the year.

Soccer

Our Junior soccer team have started training hard under the watchful eye of Ms Denehan and Mr McLoughlin.



Training takes place after school on a Wednesday and we are always looking for new members from 1st, 2nd and 3rd year. It is great to see so many first years involved in their first year in the school and making new friends.

The girls will have 2 games in January against St Colmcille's Community School and St Mac Dara's.



Badminton

Badminton Club has been a great hit on a Tuesday morning from 8am-8:30am. The students love being able to play a new sport and it is a great way to wake up on a Tuesday morning. They are hoping to organise an in school competition in the new year to show off their skills they have learned so far this year.



Volleyball and Chess Club

Our Chess Club meets in Room 22 every Wednesday after school. This is a student led club and it has been growing over the last 3 years thanks to the great work of our students. They are always looking for new students to



join, so why not come up and see can you find your checkmate!

The Volleyball club is a new club that students asked for this year and it is growing every week. It takes place in the Sports Pavilion after school and it is also a student run club under the supervision of Mr McLoughlin. TY students help our younger students learn some new volleyball skills and techniques and it would be great to



see the school competing in competitions in the years to come.

The Volleyball and Chess club joined forces and ran a bake sale to fundraise and it was a great success, the Volleyball club got to invest in some new volleyballs and the chess club got some new timers and some treats they can enjoy on a Wednesday after school.



HSCL / PARENTS' ASSOCIATION UPDATE FROM MRS LINDA LESLIE

FIRST YEAR PARENTS COFFEE MORNING

Our first year coffee morning took place on 21st November. This was a wonderful opportunity to meet informally with parents to ensure that their daughter is settling well into first year. Parents met with their daughter's Year Head, form tutors and guidance counsellors to ensure that their daughter's transition to Secondary school was as smooth as possible. Our PA showed their support to the parents of first year students by attending the first year coffee morning and speaking about the positive impact of their connection with the school. Our chairperson, Denise McCarthy encouraged parents to get involved with the various initiatives organised to raise funds for our school. We always welcome new members to our PA.

LIBERTY RECYCLING INITIATIVE

The Parents' Association have had a very productive term. Our Parents' Association organised a most successful fundraiser in collaboration with Liberties Clothes Recycling Collection. This was our best collection to date and a huge thank you to all the students, staff, our caretaker Fergus and parents who cleared out their wardrobes to support the school. This fundraiser raised over €600 and we are delighted to be able to support outings for Rang Genevieve with the money raised. We hope to run this event again after Easter.



CHRISTMAS RAFFLE

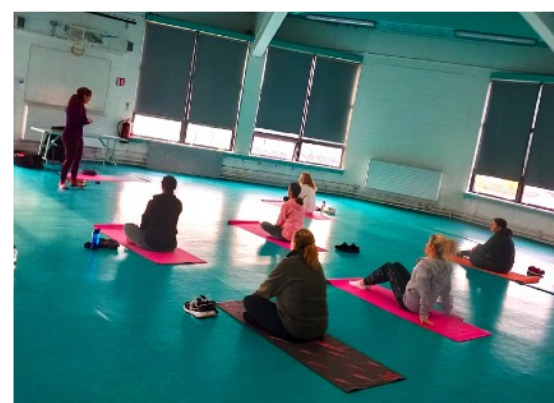
The Parents' Association have just concluded their most successful Christmas Raffle to date. We are delighted to have raised over €1,700. Once again, this would not have been possible without the generous donations of raffle prizes and vouchers from local businesses combined with the good will of all the parents who gave of their free time to gather gifts, wrap hampers, sell tickets and conduct the raffle. A sincere thank you to the Parents' Association for all your hard work and commitment to St. Paul's.



CLASSES FOR PARENTS

We have had a variety of classes available to our parents this term. Latin Ballroom classes took place each Monday, followed on Wednesday by our Yoga classes. We also ran a six week cooking course and our parents dished up lamb kofta kebabs, chicken curry, salmon teriyaki alongside tiramisu, profiteroles, Eton mess and banoffee pie. In our last cookery class of the term, we invited the students of the parents to help make delicious homemade pizzas. This was such an enjoyable experience for all involved. Culinary delights mingled with meaningful connections between parents and students made this experience very meaningful. Our chef, Dietmar was exemplary and we hope to have him back to recreate the experience again.

Parents were also invited to participate in a water colour paint class and our weekly Friday walk in Tymon Park. It was fantastic to see some grandparents at some of our classes too!



TRANSITION YEARS OUT AND ABOUT!

Our TYs have been very busy since the year began. Here you can read about some of the various activities and trips the TY students have had the opportunity to do over the last term - all while they are busy preparing for this year's musical 'Hairspray'. Get ready to say Good Morning, Baltimore!

Microsoft Stem Passport

Our wonderful TY got the opportunity to take part in this years STEM Passport in conjunction with Microsoft and Maynooth University. The students were wowed by the Microsoft Dreamspace offices in Sandy mount and were delighted to experience coding, AI and robotics not to mention the working environment of a Microsoft employee with many reporting that they had found their future career! The TYs got to work side by side with Microsoft engineers and programmers and it was truly a wonderful experience.



Glasnevin Cemetery

The whole TY group hightailed it to Glasnevin for a day of Historical enlightenment. The girls were led on a tour, touched the coffin of O'Connell and were treated to some spooky stories of how Glasnevin cemetery interconnects with the history of Dublin and Ireland.



An Tobar Nua and Teamworks

The busy schedule kept on trucking with the visit An Tobar Nua and Teamworks for the TY bonding sessions. The girls were involved in a myriad of mini-games from juggling to karaoke and really enjoyed getting to know girls from different classes. During each of these sessions, the TYs learned the benefits of teamwork, enthusiasm and belief - important values for TY and beyond!



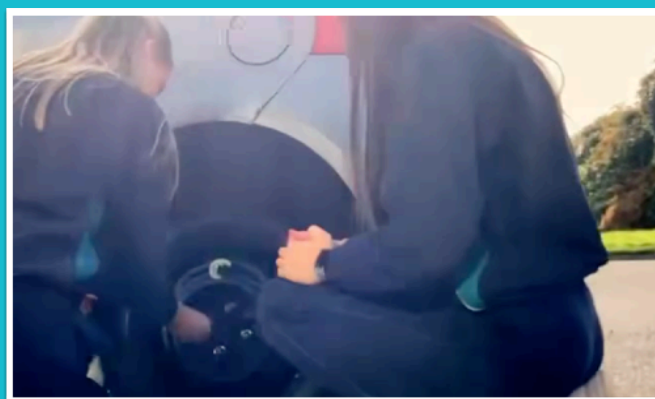
St Patrick's Cathedral

The hectic scheduled continued with a trip to the beautiful St Patrick's Cathedral. The girls took in the historic and architectural wonders of the Dublin landmark and some were even spotted lighting candles in anticipation for their upcoming Junior Cycle results!



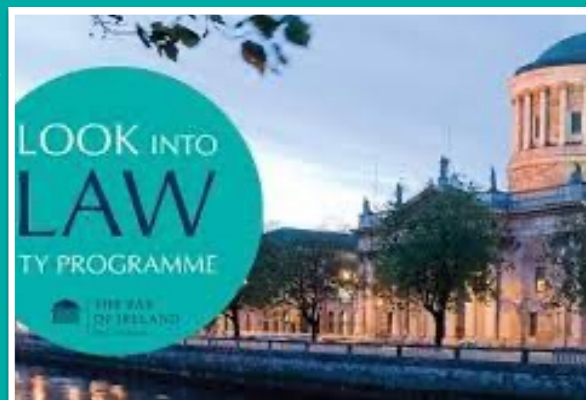
Beep Beep – Driving School in St Paul's

The ISOE driving school paid a visit to St Paul's and took over the school carpark for two busy days, where every TY student was schooled in road safety, mechanics and had the opportunity to take a the wheel of a car under careful instruction from the ever patient driving instructor. The girls really got a feel for the importance of safety and gained the confidence of getting in the driver's seat.



TYs are Looking into Law

We were privileged to have the visit of TCD law students to give the TYs a feel for the study of law. They got to involve themselves in the nitty gritty of legal debate and really enjoyed the course. As a result of the visit 10 students were selected to attend Trinity College, Dublin as guests of the Law Society and our students were blown away by the experience. Definitely some future barristers amongst our TY cohort!



TY SKATE INTO CHRISTMAS

2023 skated to a close with the visit to Dundrum Shopping Centre and Ice Rink for some freezing, festive fun. The girls slipped, slid and smiled their way around the rink - guided by Olympic standard figure skater Ms Colleton before heading off for hot chocolate and a round of Christmas shopping. We can guarantee no penguin was injured in this excursion, luckily enough no students and teachers were either!



Thank you for your support & kindness for

CHRISTMAS JUMPER DAY

A total of €541.89 raised for Children's Health Ireland!