

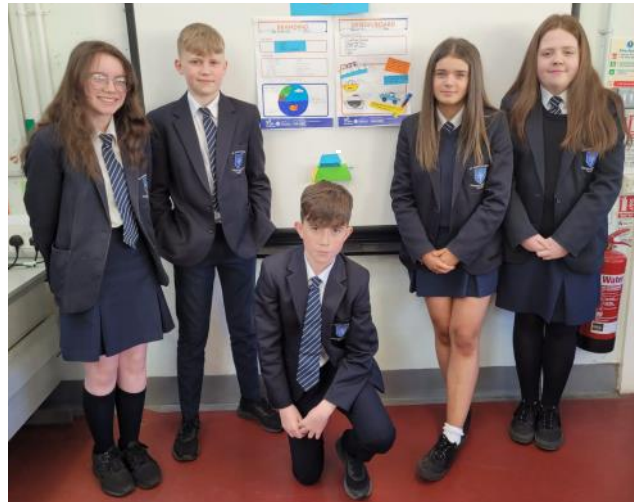


HILL TOP NEWS



89th Edition
APRIL 2022

YOUNG ENTERPRISE INNOVATION 2021 “Runners-up”



Congratulations to our Year 10 students Chloe McWilliams, Liam Dillon, Alex Boyle, Leah McBride & Edel McWilliams.

Pupils in Year 10 developed a futuristic vehicle as part of the “Imagine the Future” schools’ competition. Innovation 2021 is an initiative from the Department of Education and Young Enterprise NI to challenge students to shape Northern Ireland’s next 100 years.

St. John’s College was placed in the top four schools in N. Ireland and the Design & Technology Department was awarded £3,000 to go towards introducing new technologies to the department. The team included Liam Dillon, Edel McWilliams, Chloe McWilliams, Leah McBride and Alex Boyle. They designed and developed a futuristic vehicle which could travel on water and use the ocean’s rubbish to power itself. Their idea will be displayed in the Museum of Innovation at the Ulster Transport Museum. The Year 10 students also received an all-expenses paid visit to the Museum of Innovation to be organised later this year.

The programme inspired creative thinking in the pupils. It allowed pupils to develop critical skills such as design, research and being able to “think outside the box”. Many brilliant, imaginative ideas were put forward. Congratulations to all involved.

More photographs inside

SCHOOL DETAILS

PRINCIPAL:

Ms C Doherty

SCHOOL ADDRESS:

37 Omagh Road
Dromore
Co Tyrone
BT 78 3AL

Telephone: 02882 898284

SCHOOL CLOSINGS

Easter Holidays

Thursday 14th -
Friday 22th April
(inclusive)



WALK WITH US - DARKNESS INTO LIGHT 2022

‘Darkness Into Light’ Walk for our area returns again on Saturday 7th May @ 4.15am. Almost 250,000 participants in over 200 venues across 19 countries and 5 continents will walk from Darkness Into Light. ‘Darkness into Light’ is organised by Pieta, and since 2013 has been proudly supported by Electric Ireland. It is a global movement dedicated to ending suicide/depression and supporting those who engage in self-harm. Dromore’s charity to benefit this year is the Tara Centre in Omagh.



Spring has sprung

With the burst of warm March weather, students have been busy preparing the ground and planting. In the school garden, Year 10 used a rotavator to turn the soil and created drills for the seed potatoes and lettuce. Year 8 planted daffodils and primroses at the front of the school. They are already seeing signs of life as the crocuses that they planted last year begin to emerge. Year 11 students, working with Mr Logue, laid a laurel hedge along the new school driveway and carpark.

GCSE Summer Examinations 2022

The Summer term is fast approaching and so exam time is almost here. The first GCSE examination is set for Wednesday 11th May. Bearing this in mind, we would like to remind all students that the Easter Holidays are the perfect opportunity to set up a revision timetable for home. This will help to get them into the correct frame of mind for studying. Please use the holidays wisely to encourage your child to adopt a positive attitude towards their studies. They will reap the rewards in August when their results are published.



Fail to Prepare - Prepare to Fail



St Brigid's Crosses

Students had fun learning how to make St Brigid's Crosses in Art class. Saint Brigid of Kildare or Brigid of Ireland is the patroness saint of Ireland. St Brigid's Crosses are said to protect a house and drive evil, fire, and hunger away.



MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS

St. John's were delighted to receive a visit from Mr Michael McLean of Action Mental Health who delivered a workshop entitled "Provoking Thought" to Years 8, 9 and 10, as part of the school's Health and Wellbeing Programme. The focus of the workshop was to explore issues, facilitate discussion and build resilience in the areas of mental and emotional wellbeing. It proved to be a valuable learning experience for the students.



DAERA Poster Competition

From 1st April 2022, the Carrier Bag Levy charge in Northern Ireland will increase from 5 pence to 25 pence. DAERA launched a poster competition to raise awareness. The main aim of the levy is to protect the environment by greatly cutting the number of carrier bags used. Reusing carrier bags saves natural resources and cuts the need for landfill. The proceeds made are used to deliver local projects to both enhance and improve the environment. Year 9 students were asked to design a poster in Art and Design. In Geography students then had to explain their thoughts behind their poster design and the messaging to the public.

All students made a fantastic effort. Maria McDonagh, Narine Hareza, and Katie Maguire received Easter eggs for their posters designs. Felicity Murphy, Rory Partington and Maria McDonagh also received prizes for their written explanations. All entries have been forwarded to DAERA. Good luck everyone.



YEAR 12 RETREAT

On Monday 21st of March Year 12 students took part in a retreat. The retreat team known as Siolta are a faith development team led by Bosco Mc Shane. The aim of the retreat was to plant the seed of faith for those doubting their faith, to nourish faith in those struggling to find God in their lives and to help those firm in their faith to connect and grow in love with God in new ways. The group were involved in group work, prayers and mediation. Canon MacEntee closed the retreat by celebrating a beautiful mass with Year 12 students.



International Women's Day

St John's marked International Women's Day by showing each year group a film that told the true stories of women in history overcoming adversity.

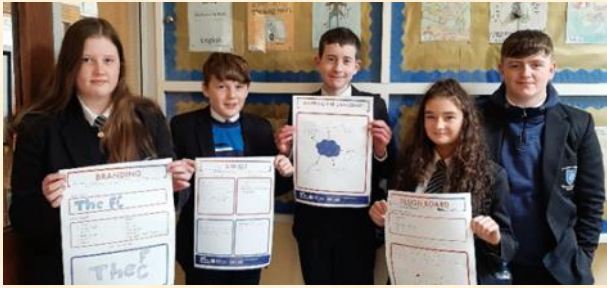
Year 10 watched **Suffragette**, a 2015 film about women's suffrage in the United Kingdom. Women were only given the same voting rights as men in 1928.

Year 9 watched **Harriet**, a 2019 film that tells the true story of Harriet Tubman, a black woman born into slavery in 1840's America. She goes on to escape slavery and personally free more than 70 slaves and lead 150 black soldiers in the American Civil War, freeing over 750 slaves.

Year 8 watched **Miss Potter**, which tells the story of English writer, illustrator, natural scientist and conservationist, Beatrix Potter. She is also credited with preserving much of the land that now constitutes the Lake District National Park.



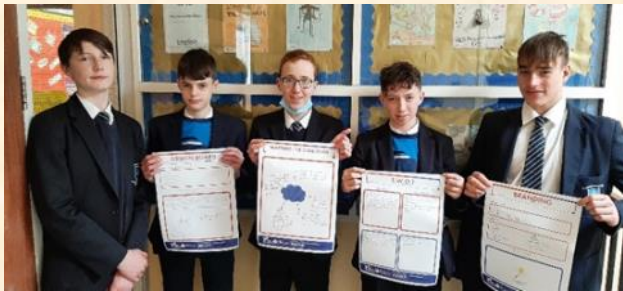
MORE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE YOUNG ENTERPRISE INNOVATION COMPETITION



Sinead, Michael, Malachi, Chloe and Shane with their flying car idea called "The FC".



Pearse, Odhran, Aine, Weronika and Ciaran with their "POWAC Yoke".



Luke, Emmet, Sean, Emmett and Patryk with their innovative idea called "Sky Piercer".



Ruairi, Calum, Ava, Killian and Fergus with their "Hover Track" idea.



Tiernan and Odhran worked with Tom and Amelia (absent from photo) to develop their futuristic idea called "John".



Fiannia, Aimee and Tyler worked with Breeanna (absent from photo) to develop their innovative transport idea called "TUWC".

A huge well done to all our students who took part

It was great to welcome Teresa Taggart back into St John's, to speak to Year 12 students about their options for next Year in South West College. Teresa gave an inspirational insight into the life of the student studying in the college and how to apply for courses which can be studied there.

Many thanks Teresa.



St Patrick's Day

In Art and Design Year 8 pupils made St Patrick's Day Gonks. Gonks stem from Nordic and Scandinavian mythology. They are meant to be something like a mix of a gnome and a hobgoblin. The pupils recycled their old socks to make the body and the hat, adding fur for the beard.



There have been some issues lately with the EA transport buses for students from some areas. Parents are reminded to regularly check the EA transport website for disruptions as often the school is not informed of these.



Health and Well being Day

Year 10 students had the opportunity to go to Lurgaboy Adventure Centre, Co. Armagh and participate in a number of outdoor activities. They were taken out of their comfort zone when they had to climb a 14m pole and stand on a small platform. They then had to take the 'leap of faith' by reaching out for a trapeze bar in front of them. Not as easy as it sounds whilst balancing on a wobbly pole! Other activities included archery, orienteering, and team-building games. All students thoroughly enjoyed their time at Lurgaboy Adventure Centre, as you can see in the photographs below.



Flynn Cup - Under 13.5

St John's Under 13.5 team took part in the Flynn Cup blitz in Omagh on the 11th of April. The team ended up with 3 wins out of 3 games and have progressed to the semi-final of the competition. The date is yet to be confirmed.

In the first game of the day they faced off against a strong St Catherine's team from Armagh. After trailing for most of the game St John's finished very strongly with goals from Darragh McCann and Niall McCann sealing the win. In the second game we faced St Mary's Irvinestown and came out comfortable winners. Aidan Robertson, Harry McMenamin and Aaron McGirr were the scorers in that game.

And in the final game of the day we played Drumragh Integrated and again won comfortably with a final whistle score of 5-8 to 1-2. Overall it was a very good performance from the whole squad on the day. We now look forward to an Ulster semi-final in the near future.



Digital Workshops

On Friday 10th December, Luke from the Nerve Centre, Derry, delivered a Harry Potter Digital Soundtrack workshop via Zoom for Year 10. During the 2 hour sessions, pupils had the opportunity to use the apps iMovie and Garageband on the iPads. They added sound effects, music, recorded voiceovers and titles to a short movie. Thanks to Mrs Hughes, our PGCE student and Mrs Boyle, who assisted the pupils during the workshops.



Art and Science

As part of the NI Science Festival, our Year 10 students attended a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Mathematics) workshop at the AMMA Centre, Armagh. Students got the opportunity to work with Armagh-based artist and jewellery designer, Mary Murphy. During this hands-on session, participants saw SCIENCE and ART in action as they use electricity, salt water, wax and copper to create their own unique image on tin. They then inked up their plate and put it through a printing press and printed their image on paper.



Guitar Lessons

Beginners or Improvers

Owen McNulty is in the school each week continuing to give Guitar lessons. The school supply the guitars or you can bring your own!

Let the office know if you are interested



FOREST SCHOOL WIN FOR THE SCHOOL

St John's College won a Forest School Award's programme through Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. A Forest School is based on a Scandinavian idea that considers children's contact with nature to be extremely important. Brian Poots from Clandeboye Estate came to our school and trained a teacher over two days on how to deliver the programme. Out in the school grounds, Year 8 students had to work in teams to construct maps of the town using the natural materials that lay around them e.g. leaves, twigs. They also built dens using bamboo and tarpaulins. They then used natural materials to construct 3D shapes and calculate the height and age of the trees using only wool and sticks.



Cillian McClenaghan & Mateusz Watroba measuring the trees on our school grounds



Leona McCrory & Paudge McKenna



St Valentine's Day

On the build up to Valentine's Day students wrote a short message to someone that matters in their life. These messages were displayed in the front hall. Year 8 pupils enjoyed making cards to send to family members. St Valentine's Day reminds us that the simple act of letting someone know you care about them can really make a huge difference in someone's life.



“St John’s College Dromore U16.5 Team reach Ulster Final”

Excitement is building in St John's Dromore as our under U16.5 Gaelic team have reached the Bearnageeha Cup Ulster final. The game against Edmund Rice College Belfast will take place at the Ballymacnabb ground just outside Armagh City on Wednesday 27th April. Throw in at 11.30am

OUR PATH TO THE FINAL

In the 1st round blitz which was played at MUSA in Cookstown St John’s won all their games defeating St Mary’s Irvinestown, St John the Baptist Portadown and Drumragh Integrated. This saw them qualify for the Ulster Quarter Final where they played Sperrin Integrated from Magherafelt. After a great all-round team performance St John’s had a comfortable victory on a scoreline of 6-13 to 3-10. Team Captain Callum Welsh was the standout performer on the day and finished with a personal tally of 3-8 to his name. Others to shine were Calum Hunter who scored 1-4, Fabian Healy scoring 1-1. Donal Mc Quaid 0-2 and Ryan Campbell 0-2 had a great game in the half-forward line while Nathan Hunter gave a commanding performance in midfield and Edward Liggett was the star performer in the defence.

The Semi-Final which took place at Clann Na nGael's pitch in Dunamanagh was played on Tuesday 29th March against Our Lady of Lourdes College Ballymoney. This was a tight affair with Ballymoney starting very well but the St John’s boys hit a purple patch just before half time with Callum Welsh and Nathan Hunter hitting 1-2 apiece to restore the lead and go into the break 3-6 to 3-1 ahead. The second half saw an overall improved performance from St John’s and with Eoghan McCann moved to full forward he hit a personal tally of 1-3 to help St John’s to victory on a final score-line of 5-13 to 3-10. The contribution of team captain Callum Welsh finishing with 2-2 to his name and Nathan Hunter who gave an excellent display dominating midfield was pivotal to the outcome. There were also strong performances from Edward Liggett and Marcus Kelly who both kept the defence well marshalled at the back throughout. We can now look forward with confidence to the final on the 27th April.



L to R Back row Brian McCarron, Darragh McQuaid, Paschal Donnelly, Marcus Kelly, Ethan McGirr, Michael McCrystal, Oisin McKenna, Charlie Garrity, Donal McQuaid, Edward Liggett, Ryan Campbell, James Moore, Pearse Marlow, Colm McCann, Jimmy McCloughan, Aidan Logue

Front row Nathan Hunter, Tomas Tolan, Cormac O'Neill, Christy McGurran, Ruairi Maguire, Calum Hunter, Callum Welsh (Capt.), Fabian Healy, Patryk Dubiel, Eoghan McCann.

Management Team: Brian McCarron, Jimmy McCloughan and Aidan Logue