



HILL TOP NEWS



94th Edition
APRIL 2023

** ECO SCHOOLS **

Peter Erlean and Anna Green, Field Officers with Keep Northern Ireland Beautiful, came to our school in March to deliver a workshop as part of Eco schools. They spoke to Year 8 on the growing issue of clothing and textile waste.

Across the UK, including Northern Ireland, we throw away 1,000,000 tonnes of textile waste each year with 300,000 tonnes ending up in landfill. We buy more clothes than any other EU country and we have 5 times more clothes than our grandparents.

“Fast Fashion” has a negative effect on our environment, creating carbon emissions, water, chemical and plastic pollution. Each Year 8 pupil brought in an unwanted T-shirt and transformed it into a tote bag. We must stop putting unwanted clothes in the bin and start thinking about how we can: REPAIR REIMAGINE REUSE.



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 6th -
Friday 14th April
(inclusive)



WALK WITH US - DARKNESS INTO LIGHT 2023

The ‘Darkness Into Light’ Walk for our area returns again on Saturday 6th 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 AWARE NI.

St. Patrick's Day Quiz

On Wednesday 15th of March, a very exciting and fun-filled quiz was held in St. John's. It was organised and led by our three student teachers, Miss Sinead Grimes (Business Studies, History & RE) Miss Maeve McGirr (Business & Communications, ICT & RE) from St. Mary's University, Belfast and Miss Tara Kelly (Design and Technology) from Stranmillis University, Belfast.



GCSE Summer Examinations 2023

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



New

****** Mentoring Room and Sensory Room ******

New

Staff have been working hard to refurbish and equip our new Mentoring and Sensory Room. This facility comprises a Chill-out zone, Quiet Reading area and library, a working area with Interactive whiteboard, lego area, laptops and a kitchen. Mrs Tierney, our Learning Support teacher, in liaison with Mrs McCrory (SENCO), will work with individuals and groups in this mentoring room. PJ, our school counsellor, will also have access to this inviting new space.



Legacy Garden

As we move into Spring, our school garden is beginning to take shape. Last year the gardening contractors, Mountain Hill Contracts in Trillick, levelled our garden site and reseeded it. They also put a floor in the greenhouse and fixed the path. Kevin Logue, from Dromore Glass & Glazing, replaced the broken panes in our greenhouse. Polytunnels Direct from Co. Meath installed our polytunnel and the raised beds are now ready for plants.

Thank you to all involved for their great work. This year St John's signed up to the Live Here Love Here's "Adopt-A-Spot" scheme and committed to keeping the school grounds clean and litter free. We also plan to improve the biodiversity by planting flowers and vegetables and stop mowing grassed areas, increasing habitats for wildlife. Peter Erlean, the Field Officer with Live Here Love Here, very generously supplied the school with flowerpots, bulbs, bird boxes, tools and litter pickers to help Claire-Louise Doyle and the after-school Gardening club complete their tasks.

Within the school grounds the students also planted 20 free fruit trees from the Woodland Trust. These will provide vital food for birds and insects throughout the year.



~~~ Shared Education ~~~

This year's Shared education programme has been very successful. We have had P5, P6 and P7 students from Dromore, Drumlish and Tummery Primary Schools all working together with our Year 8 students.

They have all been studying a variety of topics including Technology, where they all made birdhouses and Home Economics where they learned how to cook healthy meal options. They also completed a 'Getting to Know You' Unit where they learned all about each other and their different backgrounds and religious beliefs.

The children have thoroughly enjoyed all aspects of the course so far and are looking forward to the Sports Day that they will all be taking part in during the Summer term.



Accelerated Reading

We are currently in our eighth year running the Accelerated Reading programme, a key strategy in our commitment to improving literacy standards. We are always keen to build on the great work being done at primary school. Pictured are two of our recent 'Word Millionaires' Livia Gardi, Year 10 & Sophie Garrity, Year 8.





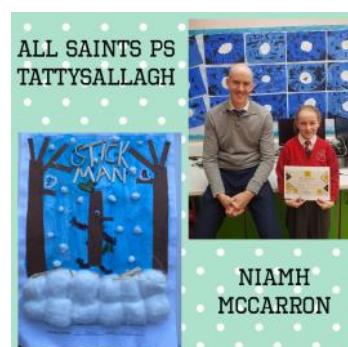
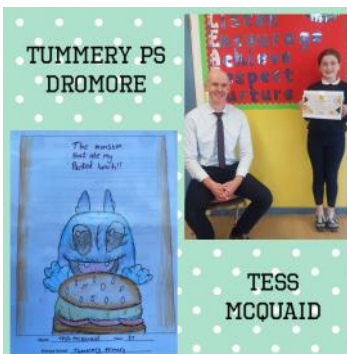
There have been some issues lately with the EA transport buses for students from some areas. Parents are reminded to regularly check the EA transport website for disruptions as often the school is not informed of these.

Poetry Competition

Year 11 students Chloe McWilliams and Sinead Monaghan have been recognised by the 'Young Writers' competition for their outstanding poetry. We are confident that this will be the first of many awards!!

World Book Day

We were delighted to see the fantastic artwork produced by our local primary schools as part of our 'World Book Day' competition. Students designed a book cover for their favourite novel and the finished products were a credit to both the schools and the students. Our own KS3 students also took part in the competition and again demonstrated the wonderful artists we currently have residing in St. John's!!! Thank you to Mr Nelson, Head of English, for organising the competition and presenting the awards.



St John's Soccer Team

On Monday 3rd April, our Year 10 soccer team (sporting their new kit) played a friendly against St. Mary's, Irvinestown. This team has trained diligently over the past year and it is great to see their skills developing.



"St John's Has Talent" Show

Congratulations to all the students who took part in "St John's Has Talent" on Monday 3rd April. The performances included dancing, singing, gymnastics & sketches. There was certainly a lot of laughs especially when Ms Clare took part in the eating challenge in "I'm a celebrity get me out of here!" A massive thankyou to Miss McCarroll & Miss Simmonds for all their hard work in helping to prepare the acts.



Under 16 Bearnegeeha cup

Our Under 16.5 boys have had another year of disappointment in the Bearnegeeha cup. After coming so close and losing out in a very tight final last year we had our hopes set on going for the cup again. It all looked good when we qualified from our group in the Blitz and then won our Quarter final against a very strong Lagan College despite needing a replay to confirm our semi-final slot. We were to face a very strong and fit St Joseph's college from Derry in the Semi and in the end they proved too strong for our boys and we bowed out at this stage.

Despite the loss our boys have done themselves proud and should be congratulated on their achievements. We have had some outstanding performances this year embodied by our Captain Christy McGurran who went on to receive trials in Belfast for the Queen's University Young Allstars GAA award. Well done to all involved.



~ New soccer jersey for St John's ~

St John's recently purchased a brand new soccer jersey for our team. The boys were delighted with the new gear which will help them stand out on the pitch!



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



MANCHESTER FOOTBALL TRIP

On Wednesday 15th March KS3 students and staff embarked on a trip to see Man City play in Manchester. What an amazing time our students had. The 7—0 win for Man City for a real bonus.

We travelled via coach to Dublin and boarded the ferry to Wales. The students enjoyed the overnight stay in the Premier Inn and the shopping in the huge Trafford Centre.

It was so nice to hear all the fantastic, positive comments regarding the students' behaviour from the public we met along the way, from the hotel staff & guests to the stadium goers, passengers & staff on the boat & members of the public in the shopping centre. You are all a credit to your family & to our College. This is such an experience for our students, both socially and educationally.

