



# HILL TOP NEWS



99th Edition  
MARCH 2024

## EXTENDED SCHOOLS

Through the Extended Schools funding, our Year 9 girls got the opportunity to attend several sewing workshops, delivered by Sheila Doyle in Trillick Leisure Centre. The girls were taught to use a sewing machine and some hand-stitching. Each student produced a patchwork pillow with a zip.

They also made individual pieces that were connected, to create a stunning wall hanging that is on display in the school foyer. The students really loved the experience. A big thank you goes to Sheila Doyle and Mary Devenney for delivering these workshops and we hope that the students will continue practising their newfound skills at home and in school.



### 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 28th March -

Friday 6th April

(inclusive)



## WALK WITH US - DARKNESS INTO LIGHT 2024

The 'Darkness Into Light' Walk for our area returns again on Saturday 11th 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 again is AWARE NI.

## St. Patrick's Day Quiz

On Wednesday 15<sup>th</sup> of March, a very exciting and fun-filled quiz was held in St. John's. It was organised and led by our student teacher, Ms Aoife Bogle, from Stranmillis University, alongside Mr Nelson, Mrs Maguire, Mrs Donnelly, Mrs McCrory & Mrs McLaughlin. Congratulations to all the students who took part.



**First Place:** Amelia Quinn, Abigail Rodziewicz, Maya-Rose McManus, Ryan McQuaid, Rhys Garrity & Sean Treanor.



**Joint Second Place:**  
**Team 1:** Edel McWilliams, Mabel Regan, Rory Partington, Aidan Robinson, Aaron McGinn & Ella McGrenaghan.



**Team 2:** Cayden Anthony, James Lafferty, Cillian McClenaghan, Ava Connolly & Ciaran



**Third Place:**  
Ruairi Maguire, Fergus McCaughey, Ciaran Warnock, Mason Maguire, Emmett McQuaid & Peadar Barrett.

## GCSE Summer Examinations 2024

The Summer term is fast approaching and so exam time is almost here. The first GCSE examination is set for Tuesday 7th May 2024. 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**





# Climate Champions

Reece England, the Education Officer with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council delivered a follow up workshop with our Year 9 Climate Champions. Reece discussed Climate Change and how our everyday life is impacting on the world around us. The students drew up action plans and suggested ways that they could take environmental action such as putting litter in the bin, recycling and buying less.

Reece also assisted the students to plant five Rowan trees in the school grounds. These will replace some trees that came down after recent storms. The trees provide much needed food for lots of different species. They also trap carbon, reducing carbon emissions, which is key to helping to tackle global warming.





## Dromore Health and Well-Being Wins Award



Mary McCoy receives the award on behalf of the Dromore Health and Well-being Group.

On 29th February 2024, the 'Live Here Love Here' Community Awards took place in Belfast Harbour Commissioners Office, to celebrate and recognise dedicated volunteer action across the country. Congratulations to '**Dromore Health & Well-being Group**' who were the winners of the 'Live Here Love Here' Champions Awards, Fermanagh & Omagh. This award recognises an individual or group that has demonstrated exceptional dedication to their local council, displayed values embodied by LHLH and consistent hard work.

Some of the Dromore Health and Well-being Group members have offered to assist our students with flower and vegetable planting this year in the polytunnel. We will really value their expertise and know how.

'Live Here Love Here' is supported by 9 local councils, the Department of Agriculture, Environment and Rural Affairs and the Northern Ireland Housing Executive.

On Tuesday we welcomed the children from Dromore Community Playgroup to the college to celebrate Easter. They enjoyed various activities which included an egg hunt, colouring in, playing with lego in the sensory room and decorating cookies. Thank you to Claire and the staff for bringing up the children and to our own staff and students for helping make it a memorable day.





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.

## INTERNATIONAL WOMENS DAY

On 8th March, KS3 girls marked International Women's Day by watching the Marvel movie Wonder Woman. Wonder Woman is a 2017 superhero film based on the DC Comics character. The film was directed by a woman, Patty Jenkins and written by Allan Heinberg. In Wonder Woman, the Amazon princess Diana sets out to stop World War I.



## Northern Ireland Apprenticeships Week 2024

Our Year 12 students recently attended a 'Further Education Courses and Apprenticeships' showcase in the South West College, Omagh. Thanks so much to Michelle and Teresa from SWC for their very informative session for our students, as they consider their options for next year. A very well organised and worthwhile event.

#NIAW2024





Some of our Year 12 GCSE Art and Design students have been busy painting inspirational murals and signage in our new revamped library. A fantastic accomplishment which really lifts the space and will be there for years to come.

A big thank you goes to Chloe McWilliams, Weronika Watroba and Amelia Quinn.



## 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



## ~~CLOCKS GO FORWARD THIS WEEKEND~~

This marks the beginning of British Summer Time (BST). In 2024 the clocks go forward on **31 March at 1.00am**



## STUDENT TEACHER

We wish Aoife the best of luck as she begins her teaching career in September. Aoife Bogle, from Stranmillis University, was part of the St. John's teaching team for the past 8 weeks. With a ready smile on her face, she welcomed each day and each lesson with relish. She will be missed among the staff and student population.



Thankyou Aoife for the delicious "goodbye" cake.

It was most welcomed!



# Year 8 South West College Workshops

As part of the South West College 'Sustainable Future's Initiative', Year 8 were invited to attend two workshops in the college in Omagh. The first of these were **Plants, Pollinators and Biodiversity**. Supriya Foster, Sustainability Officer with SWC, delivered an interactive and informative workshop where pupils learned how insects search for food through colour and scent. They learned about providing habitats that are rich in food for our pollinators through planting more native flowers and trees.



The second workshop was **Renewables and Water Conservation**. Pupils looked at where our water comes from and the many ways it is becoming contaminated through affluent run off, industry, microplastics and litter. Humans rely on biodiversity to survive. We are intertwined in a big natural system, and each element supports and enables all of us to thrive. Everyone can play their part in the fight against climate change. Supriya presented each pupil with wildflower seeds and a certificate for participating in the workshops. We hope to get these seeds planted soon in our school garden.





## MANCHESTER FOOTBALL TRIP

On Wednesday 6th March KS3 students and staff embarked on a trip to see Man City play in Manchester. What an amazing time our students had. The 4 - 3 win for Man City was 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.

