

HILL TOP NEWS



103rd Edition

February 2025

A Newsletter from St John's College

UNDER 16 ULSTER CHAMPIONS!!

Tuesday 4th February 2025 will live long in the memory of St. John's College and all those associated with the school. Our Under 16.5 boys were crowned Ulster Champions as they ran out 2-6 0-10 winners over Dominican College, Portstewart in the Bearnageeha Cup Final. In a fiercely contested game where our opponents led until 5 minutes from time, the boys of St. John's never gave up. This was a performance to be proud of, characterised by resilience and a 'never say die' attitude and in the end their collective spirit and will to win was enough to secure the victory! Well done boys!!!



SCHOOL DETAILS

PRINCIPAL:

Ms C Doherty

SCHOOL ADDRESS:

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MID TERM BREAK

Monday 10th February to Friday 14th February (Inclusive)

MFC Sports

A huge thank you to the team at MFC Sports for kitting our boys out with a new team top for match day. MFC have been providing us with top quality sportswear for years and the Loyalty15 scheme has allowed us to ensure all our sports teams have their own uniquely designed gear. The MFC team pulled out all the stops on this occasion to get our boys their new tops on time for the big match























Trip to the North Antrim Coast with our Swiss Guests
On Saturday 25th, a day after Storm Éowyn, Janine Burkhart and Sayuri Nakamura from University of Zurich toured the North Antrim Coast on a dry day with our Teacher Tutor, Ann-Marie Clare-Kelly. A brilliant time was had by all, and our Swiss guests were in awe of the coastal scenery at Mussenden Temple, Downhill Strand, Portstewart, Dunluce Castle, The Giant's Causeway and Ballintoy Harbour. The waves were spectacular, and even a day after Storm Éowyn, were still majestic, strong and crashing.









Year 8 Coding at the Ulster Museum

Year 8 students travelled to Belfast for a STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts and Maths) Studio Workshop at the Ulster Museum. The Ulster Museum, Liberty IT and the Nerve Centre have developed a schools' programme to upskill students in coding and enable them to design, code and create their own arcade game inspired by the art collection at the museum. The students first used the iPads to photograph some items in the Applied Arts Gallery. They then drew these using pixel art. Using Microsoft MakeCode Arcade, they built a game that controlled sprites in a virtual museum. They downloaded the code to a Game Boy and tested their game. The staff were very friendly and helpful and the students really enjoyed learning about code.









Year 8 Outside enjoying the snow

We saw a lot of snow on our return to school after the Christmas holidays. This did not stop our Year 8 students getting outside into the winter sun.







Year 10 Tyrone & Fermanagh Netball league

On January 31st we hosted the first round of the Year 10 Tyrone & Fermanagh Netball league at Dromore Sports Complex. The St. John's girls took to the court along with girls from Sacred Heart College, St. Ciaran's College, Drumragh Integrated & Omagh High. It was a highly energetic tournament with fantastic skill on display throughout the day. Well done to all the players and their coaches for an excellent tournament. We look forward to the Year 10 finals on 12th March.



Year 9 Blood Models

Miss McSorley's Year 9 science students had a fantastic time learning about the components of blood by creating their own models. Using plastic bottles, food dye, Cheerios, and marshmallows, they explored how red blood cells, white blood cells, platelets, and plasma work together. A fun, hands-on way to bring biology to life!





OPEN NIGHT AT ST JOHN'S

On Thursday, 23rd January the staff and students of St. John's welcomed current P6 & P7 students to our annual Open Night. The night started with the Principal's address at 7.30pm, followed by a video highlighting some of the activities undertaken by our current Year 8 students. We thought the P6 & P7 students might like to hear more about the school, so we knew the best way to do this was to invite some of our 1st Year students to detail their initial experiences in St John's. They spoke confidently and succinctly. The guided tours for P6 & P7 students and their families were hosted by students from Years 9 to 12, who were brilliant on the night. All the students who assisted staff in their rooms were a credit to St. John's and their families. They were helpful, interactive and innovative, and made us proud!













Swiss cuisine 'Alplermagronen'

Our student teachers from Zurich, Switzerland, Miss Burkhart & Miss Nakamura, led our Yr 9 Home Economics class, assisted by Mrs Murphy & Mrs Mallon. They helped to prepare the traditional Swiss cuisine 'Alplermagronen', translated as 'Macaroni from the Alps.' Thank you for this brilliant experience.







