



Issue 108
April '26

HILL TOP NEWS

Under 16 Girls - Erne Shield Champions!!!!

A massive congratulations to the St John's/St Mary's Under 16 girls who won the Erne Shield Final with a superb win over St Colmcille's, Crossgar at the Mid-Ulster Sports Arena in Cookstown.

A huge congratulations and thank you to Mrs Gavin (St John's) and Mrs Dolan (St Mary's) for their leadership, commitment and belief in these girls.

The girls put in an incredible performance and dominated the game with some ruthless finishing!

This team is a textbook example of what collaboration can achieve. Two schools working together, supporting one another and building something special that partnership delivered in style

Full-Time score:
St John's/St Mary's 3-20 - St Colmcille's Crossgar 2:01



We would like to express our thanks to our three trainee teachers. First, we extend our gratitude to Mollie O'Hanlon, a second-year Technology and Design trainee from St. Mary's University. She has recently travelled to Budapest, Hungary as part of the Erasmus programme, and we wish her every success



We are also pleased to welcome Róise Dolan (RE) and Brendan Quinn (Maths), also from St. Mary's University, who have completed their eight-week teaching placement with us. We hope they both enjoyed their time at the College and wish them every success.



STUDENT TEACHER RECOGNITION



On 12th January, St. John's College had the pleasure of hosting Orkan Agirbas from Zurich University, Switzerland, for a four-week Teachership programme. During his time with us, Orkan worked with KS3 pupils in English and German, also exploring aspects of Swiss history and culture. We hope he gained a valuable insight into life at St. John's, and developed a deeper understanding of Northern Ireland's culture.

Our Year 9 students enjoyed a fantastic visit to Omagh for the opening of the 72nd Texaco Children's Art Competition at the Strule Arts Centre. This prestigious event, open to young artists up to 18 years old, celebrates an outstanding range of creative talent from across the region.

Upon arrival, the group received a warm welcome from Bernie Kirrane, Arts and Engagement Officer with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. Students then explored the impressive exhibition, taking in the diverse selection of drawings and paintings on display.

To round off the day, the students were treated to a delicious lunch before returning to school—making the trip both inspiring and memorable.



Year 9 Texaco Art Competition



Student Spotlight

*Celebrating the success of our students here
at St. John's!!*



Well done to our Year 12 Head Boy Niall McCann who was selected to play for Under-17 Tyrone Hurling.



Congratulations to Amy and Leah Williamson who have both been selected to play for Tyrone u16s



Congratulations to Aoife O'Kane who has recently been selected as part of an Ulster Select Squad who took on a Dublin squad!



Congratulations to Mary McCaffrey who achieved an amazing 1st place in Fiddle and 1st place in Accordion at the Glenfarne Feis.



Catholic Schools Week

The theme for this year's Catholic Schools Week was 'Normal Lives, Called to Holiness'. During our assembly, Miss Maguire and the Year 12 pupils led the whole school in prayer, reflecting on the unique contribution our schools make at the service of our pupils, communities and our Church, guiding us all towards holiness in our thoughts, words and actions.



Eco-Schools Bee-Hotels

Students take part in Eco-Schools' activities during Enrichment time on Friday afternoons. These workshops help to promote and improve the natural environment while contributing towards our Green Flag application.

This term, students created bee hotels using tree stumps. We would like to thank Balcas for generously providing the logs which students used for their work.



E District Cross-Country

Well done to the 9 students who participated in the E District Cross-Country meeting.

Course conditions were very good on the day and thankfully the rain stayed away during the competition.

Our pupils gave huge individual efforts, showed great determination and every one of them did us proud.

Individual Shout-Outs

• Minor Girls:

Aoife and Tiarna were outstanding.

– Aoife delivered a fantastic performance, finishing 19th overall.

– Tiarna ran an exceptional race, finishing 9th and qualifying for the Ulsters on 18th February.

• Mini Boys:

Padraig Fleming had a brilliant run in his first major event, finishing 45th out of 110 competitors

• Junior Boys:

Dylan Leonard and Ollie Gilmour completed their race with real determination

– Ollie secured a strong 38th-place finish.

• Intermediate Boys:

Caolan Donnelly, Sean McMackin, Aaron McGinn and Brian Czupis gave everything in a very challenging race.

– A special mention to Caolan Donnelly, who delivered an excellent performance, finishing 30th in demanding conditions

A fantastic day of effort, resilience and teamwork – well done to everyone involved!





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WORK Experience

Recently Mrs Murphy, Head of Careers, visited a number of our Year 11 & 12 pupils who take part in weekly work placements. Employers shared fantastic feedback, highlighting how well the pupils are doing. This programme plays an important role in building confidence and real-world skills, and it's brilliant to see such strong development.





Ski Trip 2026

DIMARO, ITALY

Back in January, our pupils travelled to Dimaro, Italy, for skiing. The pupils, accompanied by Ms Bogue, took off in the early hours of the morning and landed in Italy to begin their skiing lessons. From early starts to tired legs at the end of the day, they've been brilliant ambassadors for St John's. Huge credit to the staff team for making this opportunity possible and for looking after everyone so well. This was an amazing experience and our pupils truly enjoyed it.





OPEN NIGHT 2026

Thank you to everyone who came along to our Open Night. The turnout was incredible, with unprecedented numbers, and the atmosphere throughout the evening said it all.

Our pupils were outstanding. They showcased St John's with confidence, pride and warmth, supported every step of the way by our staff, who truly pulled out all the stops.

A sincere thank you to the entire St John's team for the work, care and commitment that went into making the night such a success.

And finally, thank you to all the Year 6 and Year 7 pupils and their families who joined us. It was a pleasure to welcome you, and we hope you enjoyed your evening with us as much as we did.



THANK YOU!



Manchester Trip 2026

St. John's College Trip to the Etihad Stadium!

Recently our pupils enjoyed an amazing evening at the Etihad Stadium watching Manchester City vs. Nottingham Forest!

The match ended 2-2, with an electric atmosphere throughout – especially in the second half! Our pupils fully embraced the excitement, the crowd and the incredible stadium environment. Their behaviour was outstanding and they represented St. John's College brilliantly. A fantastic night of football, fun and unforgettable memories!



Thank You!

A huge thank you to Dromore Health and Wellbeing Group for their very generous donation of £1,000 towards health and wellbeing programmes for our pupils.

This money was raised through the Dromore Health and Wellbeing Group's 5k and 10k events over the summer, and we are very grateful that the funds have been shared with our school community.

The donation will be put to good use through our bespoke enrichment programme, allowing us to develop more targeted activities that support pupils' physical health, mental wellbeing, confidence and overall engagement in school life.

St John's is proud to support and partner with the Dromore Health and Wellbeing Group, and we look forward to continuing to work together in the future for the benefit of our young people and the wider community.

A huge thank you from all of us!



Netball Cup Final – Year 10 Girls

Our Year 10 girls competed in the Tyrone & Fermanagh Netball Cup Final today at St. Patrick's Academy, Dungannon. After qualifying from the first round alongside five other strong teams, the standard was extremely high.

Competing Schools:

- St Patrick's Academy, Dungannon
- St John's, Dromore
- St Ciaran's, Ballygawley
- Enniskillen Royal Grammar
- Erne Integrated College
- St Aidan's, Derrylin

Although the girls didn't secure a medal this time, they can be very proud of their performances. They showed hard work, resilience, determination, teamwork and commitment throughout the day.

They also gained valuable experience, enjoyed the event and represented the school with real pride and positivity.

As always, they were a pleasure to take out and a credit to themselves and the school.

Well done, girls – keep building and believing



Cinema Trip Reward

The students who helped out on Open Night were rewarded with a trip to Omagh Cinema. The students watched 'Mercy' in the MAXX studio and everyone thoroughly enjoyed it.

This was a "Thank You" as the students helped tirelessly on Open Night making sure everything went smoothly.



The Big Schools' Birdwatch 2026

Recently our school welcomed Jimena Diaz de Rivera from the RSPB PeacePlus Nature team. She met with a Year 8 class to introduce the Big Schools' Birdwatch, taking place from 7 January to 13 February 2026.

The Birdwatch is a nationwide survey where schools across the UK record birds spotted around their grounds, helping the RSPB track changes in bird populations.

Braving the cold weather, our Year 8 pupils headed outdoors with binoculars to identify and record different species. Their teamwork, curiosity and careful observations made the activity both enjoyable and valuable, contributing to important wildlife monitoring.



Recently in Year 8 Science, pupils prepared onion cell slides and used microscopes to observe plant cells.

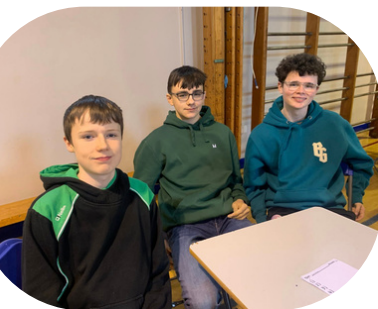
A straightforward practical that builds essential lab skills and careful scientific observation.



Our Year 10 student Mya-Rose McManus and Year 8 students Aoife Dunne and Grace O Kane competed in the annual Omagh Academy Schools Show at Castle Irvine, Necarne on the 10th March. Mya Rose jumped in the 95cm -1m category on Tornado, Aoife was on Rusty and jumped 60cm and Grace was on Small Barney, jumping 65cm -70cm. The students also raised vital funds for the Air Ambulance NI on the day.



Everyone joined in for our “Wear Green” non-uniform day organised by the Year 12 students to raise money for Trocaire. KS3 and KS4 students also took part in a brilliant St Patrick’s Day Quiz , organised by our amazing student teachers Mr Quinn and Miss Dolan
 Later in class, our Year 10 students also had a go at set dancing led by Mrs McCann.
 A fantastic day filled with fun, teamwork and St Patrick’s Day spirit.



Congratulations to our well-deserved KS3 winners of the Design a Book Cover competition!

This exciting competition was run in collaboration between the English Department and the Art & Design Department, and the creativity on display was truly fantastic.

- Year 8 - 1st place Dany Garcia Bell, 2nd place Mary McCaffrey, 3rd place Alivia Anish
- Year 9 - 1st place Darcey Donnelly, 2nd place Deena Duffy, 3rd place Emma Campbell
- Year 10 - 1st place Emilia Stozik, 2nd place Dylan Leonard, 3rd place Kyle Farry



On Friday 27th March we welcomed a range of different interviewers from local organisations and businesses to support our Yr 12s as they took part in their 'Interview Skills Day.' This day formed the final part of their careers-focused enrichment block in St John's College.

During focused sessions, led by Ms McNamee & Mrs Murphy, pupils developed confidence and essential employability skills in preparation for future applications and interviews.

Many thanks to all who took part -your involvement makes a significant difference to the experience and development of our pupils, and we are extremely grateful for your continued support



Our 'Futures in Focus' KS4 Options event took place in St John's College on Wednesday 18th March. The main focus of this event was to make Year 10 pupils and their families aware of the curriculum offer available to them in St John's College.

Our 'Subject Showcase' allowed pupils and their families to meet with subject lead teachers and to become more informed of the choices which are available to them at KS4. It was great to see Year 10s and their families take part in this event





Thanks to Fintona Credit Union for their donation towards the Greenpower Team!



Eoghan McQuaid, one of the drivers of the car!



Thanks to Frank Kelly for coming in and visiting the students! Frank is also a team sponsor!



Thanks to Michelle & Owen McMackin for their kind donation towards the Greenpower Team.



Thanks to Dromore Credit Union for their donation towards the Greenpower Team!

ST JOHN'S COLLEGE *Greenpower Motorsport Team!*



Thanks to Terex - one of the main sponsors of the Greenpower team for their generous donation and support!



Thanks to TuffMac Trailers for their donation towards the school's Greenpower Team! TuffMac are the main sponsor for our team.

Our Year 12 pupils travelled to The Waterfoot Hotel in Derry to attend the Northern Ireland Youth Forum's 'Why Voting Matters' event.

With government plans to lower the voting age, our pupils will soon be engaging directly with the democratic process. Through 'Learning for Life and Work (LLW)', pupils study 'Citizenship' and examine how they can be active participants in society.

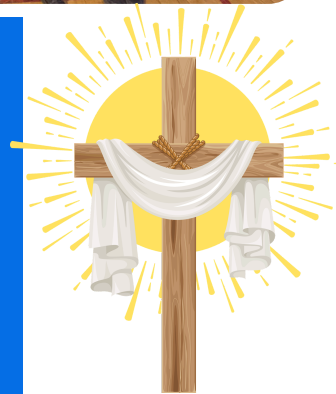


Easter Service



On Monday 30th March we had our Easter Service in the College. A big thanks to Mrs Corry and her Form Class for performing the lovely service and thanks also to Mrs McCann/Mrs McCrory with the choir who performed at the service.

We extend thanks also to Fr. Joseph and Fr. Dolan for their attendance.





College Representation Award winners!



Going the Extra Mile Award winners!



Principal's Commendation Award winner - Katie McGuigan!

Easter Rewards Assembly



Community Representation Award winners!



Academic Excellence Award winners!



Personal Progress Winners!



Academic Progress Award winners!

100 Club Draw: Week 1 Winners

- £100 **1** Aaron McGinn
Sold by: Aaron McGinn
- £50 **2** Justin McCann
Sold by: Liam McCann
- £25 **3** Fiona Corry
Sold by: Una Carney

100 Club Draw: Week 2 Winners

- £100 **1** Nuala Gallagher
Sold by: Aoife McMackin
- £50 **2** Cathal Goulding
Sold by: Cathal McSorley
- £25 **3** Eimear Logue
Sold by: James Logue

100 Club Draw: Week 3 Winners

- £100 **1** Phillip McCaffrey
Sold by: Mary McCaffrey
- £50 **2** Josephine McKeague
Sold by: K McLaughlin
- £25 **3** Catherine Robertson
Sold by: Sean Robertson

100 Club Draw: Week 4 Winner

- £100 **1** Barry Pearson
Sold by: Niall Pearson
- £50 **2** Dany Bell
Sold by: Dany Bell
- £25 **3** Cathal McSorley
Sold by: Cathal McSorley

100 Club Draw: Week 5 Winners

- £100 **1** Emma McGinn
Sold by: Aaron McGinn
- £50 **2** Seamus McQuaid
Sold by: Emma Louise McNulty
- £25 **3** Denise Kelly
Sold by: Ellen Kelly

100 CLUB WINNERS!

100 Club Draw: Week 6 Winner

- £100 **1** Sheena Donnelly
Sold by: Caoian Donnelly
- £50 **2** Pat McDonnell
Sold by: Caoian Donnelly
- £25 **3** Trixie Bell
Sold by: Dany Bell

100 Club Draw: Week 7 Winners

- £100 **1** Shane Knox
Sold by: Shane Knox
- £50 **2** Gary Kelly
Sold by: Martina Kelly
- £25 **3** Katie McGuigan
Sold by: Katie McGuigan

100 Club Draw: Week 8 Winners

- £100 **1** Susan McCloughan
Sold by: Jimmy McCloughan
- £50 **2** Nuala Kelly
Sold by: Nuala Kelly
- £25 **3** Una Carney
Sold by: Una Carney

100 Club Draw: Week 9 Winners

- £100 **1** Charlene McDonnell
Sold by: Caoian Donnelly
- £50 **2** Cliona McClenaghan
Sold by: Cahir McClenaghan
- £25 **3** Melissa McQuaid
Sold by: Emma-Louise McNulty

100 Club Draw: Week 10 Winners

- £200 **1** Liz Ferguson
Sold by: Conan Harte
- £100 **2** Bernie Kelly
Sold by: Nuala Kelly
- £50 **3** Siobhan McGinn
Sold by: Aaron McGinn

St. John's College, Dromore

Coláiste Naomh Eoin, An Droim Mór

